



Poster lion for Chris Mercer's anti-hunting speaking tour. (www.CannedLion.com)

## South Africa moves on canned hunts—can rules be enforced?

**PRETORIA**—Six weeks of public comment on government proposals to reform the South African trophy hunting industry are expected to end in mid-June 2006 with the recommended reforms on the fast track to adoption—almost 10 years after the British TV expose series “The Cooke Report” brought to light the abuses that the proposals address.

Introducing the proposed “National Norms and Standards for the Regulation of the Hunting Industry” and accompanying “Threatened and Protected Species” on May 1 at the De Wildt Cheetah & Wildlife Centre, west of Pretoria, Environmental Affairs Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk predicted that they might be in effect before the end of the year.

Among the proposed reforms, breeding threatened or endangered large predators such as cheetahs, lions, or leopards expressly for any type of hunting would be prohibited. Captive-bred predators who are released to the wild would have to be at large for at least two years before they could be hunted. Hunting on private land that borders national or provincial wildlife reserves would require ministerial author-

ization. Hunters could no longer use weapons that might cause animals prolonged suffering.

“We are making sure that the hunting industry is based on integrity and the best practices that we can defend,” Van Schalkwyk said. “Canned hunting, especially of lions, have done South Africa a lot of damage. We have heard of examples,” Van Schalkwyk added, “where rhinos have

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## Progress on dog & cat fur in China (page 3)

## Humane success makes market for mixed-breed pups

**TACOMA**—Why did the Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County fire one 15-year employee on May 25, and suspend another without pay for three days, for mistakenly euthanizing five Labrador-mix puppies?

Why did Joseph P. “Jo Jo the Dog Man” O’Neill, 70, die alone of a heart attack on June 22, 2005 aboard a train in Poland, after 40-odd years of rounding up surplus puppies in rural Ohio for sale in New Jersey?

Why are puppies suddenly the hottest animal commodity crossing the Mexican border, supplanting the traffic in parrots?

After a decade of rumors about an impending puppy shortage, mostly disregarded by animal advocates as breeder propaganda, the U.S. and western Europe are experiencing a puppy scarcity so severe that even some young dogs considered utterly unadoptable just a few years ago are quickly finding homes.

Breeders and brokers, like the notorious O’Neill, are finding profit in strategies that



formerly would have looked like economic suicide, including deliberately breeding small mongrels and importing dogs from overseas.

With the penalty for smuggling a puppy much lower than the penalty for smuggling a parrot, while the rewards may be comparable, street dog pups in Mexican border towns are, if not scarce, at least fewer than at any time anyone remembers. As well as seeking a human “coyote” [people-smuggler] to take them into the U.S., would-be migrant workers are seeking non-human *peros* to sell as

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# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

June 2006  
Volume XVI, #5

## ST. PETERSBURG G8 SUMMIT MEET BRINGS WAR AGAINST STREET DOGS

**ST. PETERSBURG**—Tight security precautions for the G8 Summit to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, July 15-17, include “exterminating street animals with utmost cruelty,” Baltic Care of Animals members Elena Bobrova, Marina Ermakova, Svetlana Los, and Tatiana Goritcheva alleged in a June 2 joint statement relayed to western media by North Kent Animal Welfare founder Mark Johnson, of Britain.

The BCA members’ joint statement echoed and amplified exposés by St. Petersburg journalists Yelena Andreyeva and Galina Stolyarova, published on December 2, 2005 by the *St. Petersburg Times* and on May 5, 2006 by *PetersburgCity*.

The extermination effort is administered by the waste disposal firm SPETSTRANS, the BCA members stated. “SPETSTRANS staff kill street animals on the spot using dithylinum (succinyl choline), a powerful curare type poison,” which “paralyzes the respiratory system, so the animal dies slowly and silently of asphyxiation, experiencing great suffering and agony, which may last up to an hour.”

Paralytic drugs are not listed by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s 2003 *Report on Euthanasia* (the most recent edition) as an acceptable method of killing animals. A variety of references on killing laboratory animals, published for the guidance of laboratory technicians and Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees in accordance with the U.S. Animal Welfare Act, agree that succinyl choline is acceptably used as a killing

agent only if the animal is already under deep general anesthesia.

“The corpses of animals are then taken to the Municipal Veterinary Center at 2nd Zernovskaya Street,” said the BCA members. “Here,” they alleged, “animals still alive will be burned alive. SPETSTRANS employees are stingy with their poison,” the BCA members charged, “so they will not expend it on puppies, instead cracking their heads open against a wall or cutting their throats. They catch cats with baited hooks, and then pull their entrails out. The city’s animal rights activists have photographs and eyewitness accounts to prove this,” the BCA statement claimed.

The practice of catching small carnivores with baited hooks is commonly used in “denning” by USDA Wildlife Services trappers, in which the object is to draw a hidden litter out of a hole to ensure that all are killed.

“Animal rights activists in September 2005 finally convinced city hall to adopt a policy on stray animals that replaces extermination with sterilization, pounds, and returning animals to their former habitats after social adaptation,” the BCA members recounted. “But the policy exists on paper only. According to an action plan finalized on January 16, 2006, extermination of homeless animals will continue until mid-July,” after the G8 Summit.

“The city has earmarked 2,237,000 rubles, approximately \$83,000, more this year for animal extermination, but not a penny will

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Goat who survived the Java earthquake. (Yudisthira Foundation)

## Animal advocacy rumbles to life in the Islamic world

**BALI**—“Humane Society International disaster response assessment teams have been on the ground in Yogyakarta, Bentul, and Klaten,” in Java, Indonesia, “since May 28, one day after the 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck,” HSI Asia consultant Dawn Peacock e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on May 31.

“Today,” Peacock added, “HSI sent a vet to join the already tired assessment team, and we are making a plan based on the information we get back. The most likely needs so far are food, water and basic first aid and shelter for stray or lost animals.

“Preliminary assessments have found that there is a need to help animals who have survived the earthquake and are left without guardians to provide adequate food and water,” Peacock continued. “Shelters for the animals have been destroyed. Two days of rain following the earthquake intensified the need for action. Immediate action is also

needed to provide first aid and medical care to injured and distressed animals.”

Peacock previously helped to lead the HSI Asia response to the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the October 2005 Pakistan earthquake.

HSI Asia had foreseen a possible need for disaster relief help in Java for about two weeks, after volcanic activity began on Mount Merapi. “Animals in this area were not in 100% good condition pre-earthquake,” said HSI Asia coordinator Sherry Grant, “and just don’t have enough body resources to get them through without food and water.”

HSI Asia is partnering in Java with the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the Yudisthira Foundation, founded by Grant in 1998. Best known for the Bali Street Dog Project, Yudisthira has also worked since 2003 to introduce humane slaughter to the Javanese livestock industry.

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“Sigh” had  
a good life  
with us . . .  
thanks to  
people like  
you, and our  
Super-sanctu-



June 2006 (re-print from June 1998)

Dear Partner,

Imagine getting a sliver in your finger . . . how much it hurts! Now imagine getting one in your shoulder. How about one under your arm?

Well, what if you had over 200 slivers, each about an inch long . . . in your arms & legs, under your arms, in your chest and abdomen, your back, your neck . . . even your face?

And with that many slivers, if just one enters a vein, it would go straight to your heart . . . killing you instantly.

“Sigh” doesn’t have to imagine this . . . it happened to him.

“Foftails” are the “slivers” . . . but they’re even worse. They have many barbs that won’t allow them to be pulled out backwards.

Foftails got into Sigh’s coat and worked their way into his skin. Sigh was obviously living in somebody’s overgrown yard and never let into the house.

And the foftails made painful abscesses under Sigh’s skin. When the abscesses burst, he looked awful and he felt even worse.

It was then that his “humans” were either embarrassed or angry at Sigh’s condition . . . for it was then that they drove out to the forest and abandoned him.

When I first found Sigh, he was laying in the midst of garbage bags and piles of rags at an illegal dumpsite.

I almost missed him!

Sigh was so thin and scroungy, I thought he was another rag until

he opened his eyes. When he looked up at me, he pleaded for any help I could give him.

His brow was furled and his eyes were glazed over in pain and hunger. I picked him up . . . he was scared, but he hurt so badly he soon forgot his fear.

Carefully I put him in a thick bed of blankets for the ride back to our Super-sanctuary hospital. If you got my free video tape (now on our website), you can see where we worked on poor Sigh.

After surgery to remove about 80 foftails, Sigh rested. But not for long. Two weeks later he had another surgery to remove over 100 more foftails from those abscesses. And he still needs at least one more operation.

Through it all, Sigh wagged his little tail at us and devoured every dish of food, and every treat, that we gave him. We know he hasn’t felt so good in at least a year.

Sigh is a very special little dog, having suffered alone for so long. But thanks to you, he won’t ever go hungry or be alone or afraid again.

Every one of our dogs is a hero, for having fought to stay alive against all odds. And Sigh not only pushed his tattered body onward toward life, he did it while suffering excruciating pain every waking and sleeping moment of his life.

We have a lot to make up to Sigh . . . and with your help, we’ll give him a safe, happy, long life filled with love.

For the animals,

Le  
Leo Grillo, founder

**TODAY:** Sigh had eight wonderful years with us before he passed away, and he knew how much we loved him. Near the end he needed lots of attention and medical care, which we lovingly gave him. At D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, each animal is treated like the special little person he is. Please send your best gift to all our 1,500 dogs & cats today.

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



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



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



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



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



One village at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue. Two dogs per yard, and a deluxe house for both!

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

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

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

Editorial feature

Progress against dog & cat fur in China

“Senior officials in the Chinese government yesterday vowed to stamp out the trade in cat and dog fur which they described as ‘illegal and barbaric,’” European Parliament member Struan Stevenson’s office announced from Brussels on May 24, 2006.

The announcement appeared to represent a major milestone in the long march toward the passage of humane laws in the world’s most populous nation.

According to Stevenson, the officials he met with described the cruelties of the cat and dog fur trade as violations of general humane statutes which do not yet exist.

From a western perspective, pledging to enforce laws which do not exist might be taken as an empty propaganda ploy. In the Confucian context of Chinese government, the ploy might be as much toward the Chinese public as toward the outsiders.

Either way, the Chinese officials reportedly acknowledged the importance of humane concerns.

At the State Forestry Administration headquarters in Beijing, Stevenson met with deputy forestry administration chair Zhao Xuemin and five other senior officials, including Chen Runsheng, secretary general of the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

Chen Runsheng has already facilitated the phase-out of many of China’s oldest and most abusive bear bile farms. He has also enabled the Animals Asia Foundation to operate a sanctuary for retired bile farm bears near Chengdu, has curtailed feeding live prey to large carnivores at zoos, has worked to suppress the use of rare species in traditional Chinese medicine, and has pursued many other actions seeking to reduce animal suffering and exploitation.

“The State Forestry Administration in China is the government department responsible for all animal welfare issues,” Stevenson said. “I met with the top officials who deal with these policy areas, and gave them a copy of a graphic DVD filmed recently at an animal market outside Beijing, which shows dogs and cats being skinned alive. They were horrified by this evidence.

“Mr Zhao said to me, ‘Chinese law prohibits the barbarian practice of skinning animals alive or indeed any kind of cruelty. We have no tradition in China of wearing fur made from dogs and cats and for centuries have regarded such animals as friends and pets. However, we cannot deny that incidents of cruelty do occur, such as those you have brought to our attention. Sadly this barbaric trade is driven by economic factors. But, these cases you have mentioned have made a strong impression on us and we will make renewed efforts to stamp out these barbaric practices.’”

Zhao Xuemin, Chen Runsheng, and the others were almost certainly already aware of the actions shown on the DVD, first exposed to the world on February 2, 2005 at press conferences convened by Swiss Animal Protection, the Environment & Animal Society of Taiwan, and Care For The Wild, of Britain. The video actually depicts the Shangcun Market in Hebei province, relatively far from Beijing. The market reputedly handles about 60% of the Chinese fur trade.

On April 5, 2005, *Beijing News* photographer Chen Jie and reporter Wu Xuejan unflinchingly affirmed the authenticity of the video, after visiting the market themselves. They added critical coverage of the conditions under which tanuki dogs and foxes are raised for fur. “At present China has no national animal welfare legislation,” Wu Xuejan wrote. “Only the China Wildlife Protection Law and the Regulations on the Licensing of the Rearing and Breeding of Protected Wildlife of National Importance contain some sections covering the management of wildlife breeding.”

The *Beijing News* exposé of live skinning was only one of many exposés of cruelty published in Chinese government media in recent years, with escalating frequency since the Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic of 2004 brought home to many officials that ill treatment of animals has effects that ripple destructively throughout human society.

The emergence and rapid suppression of so-called “crush” videos at a Chinese web site earlier in 2006 was especially noteworthy for the public outrage roused by the torture killing of just one kitten. Twenty-three delegates to the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference cosponsored a resolution by member Han Wei calling for the passage of national anti-cruelty legislation.

The Hainan Animal Protection Association announced amid the furor that it expects the Hainan government to introduce the first humane law in China before the end of the year. Similar reports indicate that the city of Beijing may have a humane law in place before the 2008 Olympic Games. The official Xinhua News Agency prominently mentioned both the Hainan and Beijing legislative interest.

Cats have been boiled and eaten in Guangdong since circa 1350, but the practice did not catch on elsewhere in China. The public response on behalf of the kitten killed in the

“crush” video may have significantly strengthened Beijing in dealing with Guangdong, the economic hub of southern mainland China, but a city whose globally notorious treatment of animals has long been a national embarrassment.

Historically, the Guangdong attitude toward direction from Beijing, on any topic, has been that “The mountains are high, and the emperor is far away.” Managed famines meant to starve Guangdong into submission killed millions of people as recently as the 1950s, and helped to reinforce the regional habit of eating “everything with legs except the table.”

Now that Guangdong has become among the most affluent parts of China, dictating policy to the region has become especially sensitive, lest orders be defied and the defiant attitude spread. Thus, before Beijing moves against anything Guangdong does, the rulers like to be sure that the Beijing recommendations have broad national support.

Both SARS and the H5N1 avian flu are known to have jumped into humans from the Guangdong region. The dog meat and fur farms of the region appear to be the last major reservoirs of canine rabies in China, and conservationists have charged for more than 15 years that the Guangdong live markets are sucking wildlife out of the whole of South Asia, even depleting turtle populations as far away as the Carolinas in the U.S.

All of this, however, was beyond the scope of Stevenson’s meeting.

Summarized Stevenson, “I will now report to Commissioner Kyprianou, the European Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, that there will be no opposition in China to his proposed directive banning the import, export and trade in cat and dog skins across the European Union. Indeed, the senior government officials in Beijing made quite clear that they would regard an E.U. ban as helpful in their fight to stamp out this cruel trade. Commissioner Kyprianou can now proceed with all possible speed to get approval for an outright ban.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** received the Struan Stevenson e-mail first from actor/director Dennis Erdman, whom we knew as a committed animal advocate long before becoming aware of his celebrity status.

“I just received this and wanted you to see it immediately,” Erdman said. “As you know, I have been working on this with the McCartneys [*Paul and Heather*] and Struan Stevenson for about three years. My trajectory started with my correspondence with you. Let’s hope this is the real thing.”

Minutes later, Erdman forwarded Stevenson’s complete minutes of his meeting in Beijing, which provided more about the larger context.

Zhao Xuemin “thanked me for my concern which, he said, the Chinese share,” Stevenson began.

“‘In China, plants and animals have rights,’ he said, ‘just as they have in the E.U. We have laws to protect and preserve them,’ he said. ‘Cats and dogs are our friends, and many families in China have these animals as pets. But we have never encouraged farming cats and dogs for their fur. However, there is clearly demand in the EU for these products, which encourages illegal smuggling.

“I am against the export of such items,” Zhao Xuemin told Stevenson, “but although our law strictly prohibits this trade, market demand in the EU keeps it going.”

Added Chen Runsheng, “In the media we occasionally see cases of animals being skinned alive. These are isolated cases, because skinning an animal alive negatively affects the quality of the fur, so it is a practice which is simply avoided by people in the fur trade. It could be that some of these films and stories in the media are made for some ulterior motive,” Chen Runsheng suggested. “But even for these isolated cases the Chinese government takes action and has laws to solve these problems. We carry out spot checks and inspections of fur farms, and we prosecute anyone transgressing the law.

“In China,” Chen Runsheng continued, “cats and dogs cannot be reared for their fur. Only specified animals are approved for this purpose. I reiterate, cats and dogs are our friends and pets. There is no market for these cat and dog fur items in China. Coats and other items made from cat and dog fur are against our tradition. You should do something in the E.U. to outlaw this trade.”

What the announcement means

The Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng statements, while welcomed globally, were somewhat perplexing to much of the animal protection community, including the Animals Asia Foundation, founded by Jill Robinson in 1998, after she had spent 12 years as Hong Kong representative for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

“We called Chen Runsheng yesterday,” Robinson e-mailed on May 25, “and confirm the positive news that China welcomes the E.U. ban of trade in dog and cat fur. This means that the government does not encourage the industry. The sticking point,” Robinson anticipated, “will be banning such trade within China. Whilst Chen Runsheng stated that [the government] is against animal cruelty and abuse, and therefore strongly against the live skinning of dogs and cats, there is no law or regulation prohibiting the use of their fur. It seems that this issue does not fall under either State Forestry or China Wildlife Conservation Association remit and there are no moves to implement any action within the country at all.

“What is particularly worrying are the stories coming out of this where ‘humane slaughter’ is raised,” Robinson continued. “If China brings in ‘humane slaughter’ of dogs and cats for food or fur, we have lost everything, and compromise decades of work by groups in other countries of Asia.”

“China exports the vast majority of the world’s fur,” added Animals Asia Foundation executive director Anne Mather. “Currently there are no animal welfare laws [in China] to protect fur-bearing animals, including domestic dogs and cats, from the most barbaric treatment imaginable. The Animals Asia team have routinely witnessed first hand unbearably small barren cages, violent handling, inhumane transport, and brutal slaughter.”

Contrary to several of Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng’s statements, there has been a secondary market for dog and cat pelts in parts of China for centuries, as a byproduct of the dog and cat meat industry. Recently the demand for cheap fur has allegedly expanded enough that some producers are now raising dogs and cats more for pelts than for meat.

But Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng were both right on the money in pointing out that this development was fueled by European demand.

European indulgence in cheap fur has been fed in the past by the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt in the 1970s, muskrats and nutria trapped in the U.S. in record volume during the 1980s, dog and cat fur from the pelt-selling *budkas* [pounds] of eastern Europe, and the live markets of China after most of the old-style budkas were replaced in recent years by western-style humane societies and animal control agencies.

“Cheap Chinese fur, including the pelts of cats and dogs, is flooding into Britain and the E.U.,” Care For The Wild charged on April 15, 2006. “The rise of Internet shopping and the anonymity it affords have led to a shocking increase in the availability of Asian fur online.” Care For The Wild chief executive Barbara Maas claimed she was “able to purchase the skins of household pets over the Internet, paying less than £10 for a dog pelt.

“We were also offered skins of domestic cats for less than £2.60,” Maas testified.

“In a two-hour snap survey conducted this spring, I found more garments and accessories made from, or containing Chinese fur than I was able to carry home,” Maas continued. “They included coats, shawls, t-shirts, handbags, shoes and scarves. Some items were on sale for as little as £5.00. Despite industry denials, one retailer admitted that “Everyone sources [fur] from China now—it is much easier and cheaper to obtain.”

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# Progress against Chinese dog & cat fur trade *(from page 3)*

British Fur Trade Association figures show that Britain has in recent years imported more fur than any other nation. Care For The Wild charged. British retail fur sales fell from £80 million in 1984 to £11 million in 1989, bringing the closure of 175 of the then-200 British retail fur stores. Britain eventually banned mink farming. Yet the British Fur Trade Association claimed a 35% sales increase in 2000-2001, seemingly reversing many years of pro-animal progress.

The partial recovery of the British fur trade illustrates the difficulty of lastingly changing human behavior toward animals in either Britain, widely considered the most animal-loving of nations, or China, parts of which may be among the most animal-abusive.

Even though the overwhelming majority of British people don't buy or wear fur, and never did, fur is again seen in London because fur-wearing is an entrenched habit among a high percentage of those who ever wore it, reinforced by the approval of their peer group, little affected by the norms of society beyond their peers.

Fur-wearing might be suppressed in Britain if the non-fur-wearing majority chose to outlaw fur, including imports of real fur products that are mistaken for fake, but while most British people have already been moved to not wear fur, for various reasons of culture, compassion, and economics, the number of fur-wearers probably still exceeds the number of voters and taxpayers who would commit government resources to putting the British fur trade out of business.

## Confucian approach

It is axiomatic in politics that a candidate may be elected with only 51% support from a constituency, and legislation may be passed with only 51% support from a governing body, but legislation cannot be effectively enforced unless fewer than 5% of the public are either actively violating it, or are inclined to ignore and even assist violators. Otherwise the enforcement burden becomes much greater than the society is willing to sustain.

Few governments are more aware of this reality than the rulers of China. While China is far from a democracy in any respect, including outward pretense, it is a "People's Republic" in the sense that almost everyone in political authority understands that the people must be willing to cooperate with any sort of successful change. Most Chinese old enough to hold senior governing positions have personal memories of the Cultural Revolution and the Great Leap Forward, as omnipresent reminders of what can happen when a government tries to impose sweeping change by mandate, instead of allowing the society to grow into it.

If there is one political consensus in China, shared by both the most ardent proponents of democracy and the most conservative wing of the Communist Party, it is that no one wants to live through those "interesting times" again.

Post-Mao tse Tung, the once radical and fanatical Chinese variant of Communism has morphed back toward the Confucian philosophy of governance which has historically been the only approach to succeed in a geographically unified China. Characteristic of Confucian government is day-to-day rule by bureaucracy, which prevents instability through regulating the pace of change. The goal of Confucian rulers is not to deny change, but rather to introduce it element by element, bringing the pieces together at just the right time to avoid resistance. The institutional goal is to facilitate change, which Confucianism sees as inevitable, without provoking conflict.

As an authoritarian system of government, Confucianism expects laws to be obeyed. Yet because Confucianism seeks to impose only laws which will be obeyed, it shares with democracy an inclination to draw authority from what the U.S. Declaration of Independence calls "the just consent of the governed."

All of this is context for understanding the importance of the Chinese federal government response to the live skinning of animals for fur, farming bears for their bile, and the rising clamor from individual Chinese for the passage of national anti-cruelty legislation.

Western animal advocates are often frustrated by Chinese leaders who speculate about whether China is "ready" for an anti-cruelty law, because from the western perspective, the mere existence of an abuse is reason enough to pass a law now, and worry about enforcement later.

From the Confucian perspective, however, an unenforced law is a demonstration of governmental weakness. When a law is introduced, Chinese leadership wants to feel assured that the overwhelming majority of Chinese citizens will obey it, will put peer pressure on those who do not, will cooperate with law enforcement in crackdowns against scofflaws, and will not complain that the enforcement effort is drawing attention and resources away from other serious problems.

The latter is relatively more important in China than in western democracies, because in western democracies the existence of institutional opposition accommodates perpetual dissent. Incorporating dissent into the governing structure may be the most stabilizing aspect of western-style democracy. There is no similar feature in Confucian government, which treats dissent as a potential prelude to conflict, either to be suppressed if the dissenters are few, or avoided if they are many.

In this light, the statements of Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng that live skinning and other forms of cruelty to animals are already illegal in China bear further scrutiny. From a Confucian perspective, Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng may have been saying that China is ready at last for humane legislation to be enforced. By claiming that humane legislation already exists, Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng may be creating the expectation of enforcement. Their remarks might be taken as implying that any new legislation will be to reinforce existing norms and values, not to change them.

By portraying a big change as no change, Zhao Xuemin and Chen Runsheng defined those who practice cruelty as the people who dissent from the norm and introduce conflict.

This, in a Confucian society, is a great leap forward in achieving a genuine cultural revolution.

*(continued on page 6)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Corrections and more info about the Ghana SPCA

On behalf of the Ghana SPCA, thank you very much for publishing an article in your May 2006 edition about the work we are doing in Accra, Kumasi, and in some of the rural areas of Ghana.

While we appreciate your interest in the GSPCA, I am writing to correct a few errors in the article.

Most importantly, Roland Azantilow and David Nyoagbe are co-founders of the GSPCA; it was very much a joint effort. While the article focused on Azantilow, David Nyoagbe is chair of the Ghana SPCA, and has been in that position since the organization started. Azantilow is vice chair. Nyoagbe oversees activities in the Accra area; Azantilow oversees the Kumasi area.

Nyoagbe's interest in animal welfare was first sparked by the World Society for the Protection of Animals Kindness Clubs. For over 20 years he was a leader in first a school Kindness Club, and later in a community club. Gill Richardson of

WSPA registered the Ghana SPCA after working with both Nyoagbe and Azantilow as coordinators of about 200 Kindness Clubs in Ghana.

In the article, you stated that the GSPCA is at the "forefront of vigilance" against the avian flu H5N1. While we are of course concerned about avian flu appearing in nearby countries, we are not at the forefront of avian flu surveillance and management. Avian flu surveillance has taken on a life of its own in Ghana. Donors, government, and the private sector have raised this issue to a level beyond the Ghana SPCA's reach. The Ghana SPCA has been unable to get a chair at the table. We do keep apprised of the situation. One of the Ghana SPCA's greatest supporters is a vet from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture's Veterinary Services Directorate, who is *at the forefront*, but our input and impact, I'm afraid, will be small if H5N1 does appear inside Ghana.

I was curious about why

you gave rabies data for 20 and 30 years ago, but did not update this information with more recent statistics. [Editor's note: I had the data but misplaced it in editing.]

The Veterinary Services Directorate, sometimes with help from the Ghana SPCA, has done a highly commendable job in reducing rabies prevalence in Ghana. In 2004 there were 32 cases of rabies in dogs, and were six human deaths attributed to rabies. There were 1,038 dog bites reported in Ghana. The Veterinary Services Directorate vaccinated 113,150 dogs, 9,478 cats, and 218 monkeys.

—Karen Menczer  
Secretary/treasurer  
Ghana SPCA

Accra Branch:  
Phone: 233-21-0244-254-286  
<nyoagbe@wwwplus.com>  
or <perros2@earthlink.net>  
Kumasi Branch:  
Phone: 233-20-812-993  
<razants@yahoo.com>



### New dog policy pledged in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, though a largely Buddhist country, has a bad record with regard to cruelty to animals, especially dogs. Under the Rabies Prevention Law of 1893, dogs are still routinely seized and killed.

Rabies cases have markedly dropped due to increased vaccination in recent years, but appeals to local officials and politicians to adopt more humane methods and sterilize dogs to control dog population growth have usually fallen on deaf ears. In cities such as Colombo and Kandy, the municipal authorities seize and kill even dogs who have been vaccinated and sterilized, with red collars to show it.

Sri Lanka's new President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, in keeping with an election pledge to introduce strict laws against cruelty to animals, in May 2006, as part of the celebrations to mark the 2550th birthday of the Buddha, ordered that cruelly killing dogs for rabies eradication and dog population control should be stopped.

To strengthen the hand of the President, against political forces and vested interests who are keen to continue the outdated cruel seize-and-kill policy, we appeal for letters to be sent to him, showing appreciation of

his initiative against cruelty to animals, especially dogs, and urging him to bring in new legislation that will recommend modern, scientific and humane methods for rabies eradication and dog population control.

Please address your letters to: H. E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka, Temple Trees, Colombo, Sri Lanka; or e-mail to <addlcos@president-office.lk>; or fax to 94-11-2542919.

—Sathva Mithra  
Friends of Animals (Sri Lanka)  
73/28 Sri Saranankara Place  
Dehiwela, Sri Lanka  
Phone: 94-11-2735182  
<sathvamithralanka@yahoo.com>



## Himalayas

VetCharity is planning to commence an Animal Birth Control and rabies vaccination program in Ladakh, in the Indian Himalayas, in July 2006. Ladakh is the largest district of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, renowned for remote mountain beauty and Tibetan Buddhist culture. VetCharity is seeking veterinary volunteers to help from July through September with catching, neutering, vaccinating, and releasing street dogs in Leh, the state capital.

—Dr. Catherine Schuetze  
Secretary, VetCharityOrg  
Animal Health & Welfare  
Programs in  
Asia, Australia and the Pacific  
Phone: +61-404-003982  
<info@vetcharity.org>  
<www.vetcharity.org>

## Bullock cart races

Re your May 2006 article "Blue Cross of India wins case vs. bullock cart racing," which explained that Justice R. Banumathi of the Madras High Court on March 29 directed the Tamil Nadu state government to prevent cruelty to animals in connection with bullock cart racing, the case was not filed by the Blue Cross. The cart racers asked the court to direct the police to give the petitioners permission to hold the races, which the police gave for some time after the application was made.

—Chinny Krishna  
Blue Cross of India  
1-A Eldams Rd.  
Chennai  
Tamil Nadu 600018  
India  
Phone: 91-44-234-1399  
<drkrishna@aspick.com>  
<www.BlueCross.org.in>



## Using car as sign for s/n in Ethiopia

We have seen your May 2006 article "From Youth for Conservation to the Africa Network for Animal Welfare," through the Africa Animal Protection Network e-list, <www.africananimal.org>.

We hope we can do more for animal welfare in Africa in collaboration with ANAW. We are also very happy that ANIMAL PEOPLE is funding AfricAPN.

We have just covered the whole body of our car with information and pictures that show what HAPS is and is doing. Within just a few days many people started to give us their appreciation, after stopping us, asking for further information about our activity.

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—Efrem Legese  
Chair

HAPS Ethiopia

P.O. Box 2495

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: 251-011-654-47-56

<haps-eth@ethionet.et>

<www.an-group.org/x\_haps.htm>



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## No Milk of Human Kindness Found Here

**T**hreemile Canyon Farms in Morrow County, Oregon likes to boast about how big it is: 20,000 cows crowded into one gigantic milk factory. Another 25,000 replacements wait in the wings. The buildings used to confine such a vast number of animals are a half mile long. The waste generated from all of these animals reaches an estimated 800 tons per day.

Threemile Canyon Farms touts its handling of waste as a model of water conservation. But it's really a model for crippling and often fatal disease.

Environmental hazards mount when "water" is flushed through the buildings. The accumulated manure and urine is supposed to be washed into a nearby lagoon. Liquid from this lagoon is used over and over to flush the sheds. This recircled "water" is a sickly black liquid that can irritate and burn the skin of the confined cows.



Cows are forced to stand or lie down in their own waste and become infected with painful mastitis.

Alerted by whistleblowers within the facility, investigators from the Humane Farming Association (HFA) obtained statements from Threemile's own workers. Along with graphic photo documentation, these worker statements detail filthy conditions caused by negligence, insufficient manpower, and broken down flushing equipment which leaves the floors covered with manure, urine, and standing flush water.

### The Unkindest Cut

These horrendous conditions cause cows to become more susceptible to mastitis. This is a painful and sometimes fatal infection and swelling of the udder and teats. Threemile Canyon Farms has its own grisly way of dealing with its mastitis problem: the workers cut off a portion of the infected teat with a razor like device.

This cruel and excruciating procedure is performed without any anesthetic.

According to one worker, "When I first started out there and saw them cutting the teats off, I didn't know what to think. There were a bunch of teats piled up on the floor. Then it was explained to me that the cows out here got mastitis so bad that they have to cut the teats to drain all the pus and blood out. It really hurts them." Needless to say, this is not a medically appropriate form of treatment.



The remains of a cow's teat that has been sliced off.

### Mistreatment of Calves

Fifty percent of calves born at Threemile Canyon (the male calves) are considered an unwanted "by-product" since they produce no milk. Some of these unwanted calves are simply abandoned to slowly starve to death. "The managers don't want them fed," said one worker. "They figure it's a waste of time and money to feed the male Jersey calves. They let them starve first, then shoot those who haven't starved to death."

Those that are shot are hit with rounds from a .22 caliber rifle. "If a calf runs away after being shot," said another, "sometimes the supervisors just start shooting, hitting it anywhere they can." Other calves are killed by bashing their heads with a 2 x 4 or swinging the animal by its hind legs and pounding its head on the concrete floor.

Making matters even worse, some of the calves survive these shootings and beatings. According to several workers, "They don't die right away. Some have lived for three hours and are still alive after shooting. There is usually always one alive in the dead pile."

### "Pusturized" Milk

Threemile Canyon's concern for human health and safety is also woefully lacking. It doesn't help that the USDA's restrictions on blood and pus in milk are not nearly as stringent as those in Europe.

One worker stated, "If the mastitis is not too bad, the cow will stay in the dairy and the blood and pus coming from the teat will go into the milk when the cow is milked. This is the milk you are drinking." According to another, "The boss tells us to milk the cows even if they know the milk is bad. The milk will look like pieces of cheese." Workers say that the tainted milk is simply mixed in with the rest of the milk supply.

### Please Help Stop the Cruelty

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) has petitioned Oregon's Attorney General to prosecute Threemile Canyon Farms for its pervasive pattern of abuse potentially affecting thousands of animals. Attorney General Hardy Myers has been provided with worker statements, as well as extensive photographic documentation.

Shockingly, after sitting on this evidence for months now, Attorney General Myers has thus far failed to take appropriate action. Some believe that Myers is fearful of investigating a well-funded and politically influential agribusiness corporation. As the state's ranking law enforcement officer, however, his duty is to enforce state law and to protect the citizens of Oregon—regardless of his own personal political interests.



A calf is abandoned to die from starvation.

Please contact the Attorney General and urge him to stop the cruelty at Threemile Canyon Farms. You can reach him by writing or calling:

The Honorable Hardy Myers  
Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
1162 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4096  
Tel: (503) 378-4400  
Fax: (503) 378-4017  
E-mail: [doginfo@dog.state.or.us](mailto:doginfo@dog.state.or.us)

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) - P.O.Box 3577 - San Rafael - CA 94912  
For further information, please visit [www.hfa.org](http://www.hfa.org)  
Free newsletter upon request

# Progress against dog & cat fur trade in China (from page 4)

From a western perspective, there is reason for anxiety and mistrust.

Around the world, animal advocates have had decades and in some nations centuries of experience with laws being passed with so many structural weaknesses that they either codify the status quo or cannot be enforced—like the 1991 South Korean law against public consumption of unsightly and disgusting foods. Supposedly passed to curtail dog and cat eating, the 1991 law preceded booms in both, driven by rising affluence.

The boom has now receded, as the dog-and-cat-eating portion of the South Korean population ages and diminishes. Yet there are still enough dog and cat eaters in positions of influence to have stalled efforts to pass a stronger general humane law for more than three years. At issue is whether the new law will distinguish between dogs and cats raised as pets and those raised as meat. Recognizing a distinction would in effect legalize eating dogs and cats.

The 1996 Philippine law against dog-eating, providing an exemption for traditional Igarot ritual practices, is another example. Although authentic Igarot dog-eating is rare, as Igarot guest columnist Bing Dawang explained in the November 2003 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the exemption became a pretext for the continued existence of a dog meat restaurant trade which was never part of Igarot culture. In April 2006 the Animals Asia Foundation helped Philippine groups to fight off an attempt by dog meat restaurateurs—who should have been long gone—to repeal the 1996 law.

## Implementing change

Jill Robinson is accordingly rightly worried about the Chinese discussion of “humane” methods of killing dogs and cats for fur and meat. The Chinese government might compromise to avoid conflict with the relatively small but influential dog-and-cat-eating population, strongest in southern regions and coastal provinces close to Korea. A Chinese humane law might accept that dogs and cats may be killed, skinned, and eaten, if the killing is done in a prescribed manner.

Robinson’s concern is that this might legitimize a trade that animal advocates would prefer to see abolished.

Public opinion surveying in both China and Korea has already established that the numbers of dog and cat eaters in both nations have already fallen close to the threshold at which abolition could be enforced in a western democracy.

But the same could be said of wearing fur, sport hunting, and fur trapping in the U.S. and Europe.

While as few as 6% to 10% of South Koreans and Chinese eat either dogs or cats, and under 6% of Americans wear fur, hunt, or trap, these activities are still culturally accepted by most of the friends and family of the participants.

With the base of acceptance at 30% or more of society, and with many of the participants (including fur buyers) tending to be older males, holding disproportionate political

influence, abolition may still be a generation away.

Only with active participation down to about 1%, and with cultural acceptance down to 5%, is overt prohibition of anything really likely to succeed.

What may be accomplished, meanwhile, is reducing the levels of cruelty involved in dog-eating, cat-eating, the fur trade, hunting, and trapping, while continuing to expand awareness that these are all inherently cruel practices, no matter what may be done to mitigate the suffering they cause.

This is a gamble. In China, as Robinson and others fear, there is the risk that the economic interest of dog and cat meat and fur marketers will prevail over humane considerations if laws exist which say that what they do is “humane.”

In the U.S., we have had 47 years of precautionary experience with the never adequately enforced Humane Slaughter Act, and 40 years of comparably sobering experience with the often amended Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, which became the broader reaching Animal Welfare Act of today in 1971.

The Animal Welfare Act is among the most successful national humane laws worldwide, rivaled only by the laws of Britain and India. Yet the standards it enforces are so low and so limited that many animal advocates tend to see it as a failure. Overlooked is that it has been invoked thousands of times to help put out of business more than 90% of the sellers of dogs and cats to laboratories, traveling circuses and animal shows, and substandard roadside zoos that existed when it came into effect. Eliminating most of these obvious repositories of institutional animal neglect has in turn contributed to raising public expectations of other animal use industries—and has enabled animal advocates to challenge forms of use and abuse which were scarcely noticed a generation ago.

Whatever anti-cruelty legislation is eventually adopted in China will almost certainly exempt much that we wish to prohibit, with frustratingly long phase-ins of enforcement and much need for strengthening amendment. Like the Humane Slaughter Act, it may be ineffective, or like the Animal Welfare Act, it may seem to be enforced so slowly that the real changes it brings about are almost invisible from year to year.

Yet the Confucian way is to take the long view. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorially pointed out in March 2006, there are already believed to be more than one million pet dogs in Beijing alone, an estimated 150 million dog-keeping homes throughout China, and up to 300 million total pet dogs, according to the highest official estimates. That would be 30 times more dogs than are eaten—and almost five times as many dogs as there are in the U.S., which has the third largest dog population of any nation. The Chinese ratio of pet dogs to humans is already not less than the ratio in Britain, and may be comparable to the ratio in the U.S. and Costa Rica, the most dog-friendly of nations.

Pet cat-keeping, while less documented, is believed to be likewise rapidly expanding. Cats even seem to be achiev-

ing new status in Guangdong, according to a *Times of India* news brief issued on April 14, 2006, which recounted that “Residents of Sanjiang, in Guangdong province,” held a ceremony “to thank cats for eradicating rats from their farms. The village committee spent about \$860 to purchase cats,” the *Times of India* recounted, “whom they released to control the rats. The move was a success and villagers decided to reward the cats for the good harvest they expect this year as a result.”

The rats arrived, necessitating the cat release, “after snakes were caught and slaughtered by local residents in previous years,” the *Times of India* concluded.

## Agrarian utilitarianism

Agrarian utilitarianism is the official Chinese policy toward all animals other than endangered wildlife.

One recent example would be the defense of the bear bile industry issued on January 12, 2006 by Wang Wei, deputy director-general of the Chinese department of wildlife conservation, after the European Union passed a resolution asking China to end bile farming.

Another example of agrarian utilitarian thinking would be the recent move of the *foie gras* industry into northeastern Jilin province. The Chinese industry leader, the Jifa Grou, partners with Delpeyrat, the second largest *foie gras* producer in France, which keeps about 4.5 million ducks.

“For the past two years we have produced about 100 metric tons of *foie gras* in our Changchun factory,” Jifa Group managing director Qi Mingce told Agence France Presse in April 2006. “That’s about two-thirds of Chinese production, force-feeding some 200,000 geese. Our aim is to reach 1,000 metric tons over the next five years with two million geese.”

Endangered species appear to have been protected in China during the past 20-odd years largely as a matter of pragmatic choice: westerners were willing to foot the expense—creating jobs, introducing technology, and bringing foreign exchange to China.

While endangered species received special status, with poachers in some cases getting the death penalty, ruthless crackdowns on unauthorized dog-keeping repeatedly reiterated the “Great Leap Forward” view of pets as parasites.

As keeping pet dogs becomes ever more popular, however, while recent dog purges have produced increasing internal dissent, the Confucian way would be for Chinese leadership to accept that pet-keeping is rapidly transforming Chinese life and attitudes, just as occurred earlier in the U.S. and Europe, when economic growth enabled ever more of our populations to distance themselves from agrarian utilitarianism.

The Confucian way would be to strive to integrate the new paradigm with tradition, while letting obsolescent practices wither.

There is much work to be done in China to end dog and cat slaughter, and to outlaw extreme forms of cruelty to other species as well, but there is reason to be hopeful.

## The Bible’s Message of Kindness to

Johan van der Merwe is certainly correct in his commentary on *Animals, Ethics & Christianity* by Matthew Priebe, published in your April 2006 edition, that “God expects us to treat animals with kindness and deep respect.”

Indeed, the Bible is full of admonitions and commandments to protect animals, nature, and the environment.

God’s very first commandment (Genesis 1:22) was to the birds, whales, fish, and other creatures to “be fruitful and multiply,” and fill the seas and the skies. God’s first Commandment to humans (Genesis 1:28) was to “replenish the earth, and have dominion over other creatures.”

These commandments concern the welfare and survival of animals, and human stewardship responsibilities towards them. So the Almighty must have considered this very important.

After God made each creature, God blessed them, “saw” that each “was good,” and pronounced the entire Creation, when it was completed, “very good.”

Later, when God promised Noah and generations to come that the earth would never again be destroyed with a flood, God included in the Covenant “every living creature—the fowl, the cattle, and every beast of

the earth.” (Genesis 9: 12-17).

Psalm 36 states, “Man and beast thou savest, O Lord. How precious is thy steadfast love.” Proverbs 12:10 suggests there are two types of people: “A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”

Psalm 104 extols the creatures of “This great and wide sea...O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom thou hast made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever.”

Kindness to animals is stressed throughout the Bible, and is even required in The Ten Commandments, wherein God forbids us to make our farm animals work on the Sabbath. We must give them, too, a day of rest (Exodus 20:10; 23:12).

Jesus is twice quoted (Luke 12:6, Matthew 10:29) as saying that the Lord cares for all creatures: “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.”

In light of the enormous abuse to which we subject billions of animals, people of faith should consider if this is how God intended for us to treat Creation, when declaring, “every beast of the earth, and every fowl of the air, all that moveth upon the earth, and all the fishes of the sea: into your hand are they delivered.” (Genesis 9:2).

—Lewis Regenstein  
President  
Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals & Nature  
(An affiliate of the Humane Society of the U.S.)  
Atlanta, Georgia  
<regenstein@mindspring.com>



Lewis Regenstein is author of *Replenish The Earth (1991, Crossroads)*, and of *The Bible’s Teachings on Protecting Animals and Nature*, a booklet that he has offered to send a copy of, free on request, to any **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader.

“We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and the winding streams with tangled growth as ‘wild.’ Only to the white man was nature a ‘wilderness’ and only to him was the land ‘infested’ with wild animals and ‘savage’ people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded by the blessings of the great mystery. Not until the hairy man from the east came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and the

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## ST. PETERSBURG G8 SUMMIT BRINGS WAR AGAINST STREET DOGS *(from 1)*

be available for sterilization," the BCA members charged.

"Although City Hall adopted a sterilization plan for stray animals in September 2005, no funding has yet been allocated," confirmed Stolyarova.

"The last massive extermination campaign," the BCA members recalled, "was waged in the run-up to St. Petersburg's 300th anniversary in 2003, when poisoned bait was scattered in the neighborhoods where vagrant animals had been spotted. At the moment," the BCA members noted, "there is an emergency rat extermination campaign underway in St. Petersburg, also killing many cats and dogs, both strays and pets."

Wrote Andreyeva, "According to Yuri Andreyev, St. Petersburg's chief veterinary surgeon, of a total of 250,000 dogs in the city, 10,000 are homeless. Others put the

homeless count as high as 20,000."

BCA member Bobrova estimated that St. Petersburg kills 4,000 to 6,000 dogs per year. "By killing stray animals," the BCA members contend, "City Hall violates Article 245 of the Penal Code, Articles 137, 230 and 231 of the Civil Code, the Federal Fauna Act, and even the municipal directive of January 15, 1998 *Re: Controlling and Keeping Homeless Animals in St. Petersburg.*"

The activists said they and others had repeatedly cited the relevant laws in "appeals to the President of Russia, the Governor of St. Petersburg, and the Prosecutor General's Office, but all complaints and petitions always bounce back to a lower authority, so all replies come from the Veterinary Authority or the Improvement Committee," who are responsible for the killing.

Baltic Care of Animals provides free dog and cat sterilization through several cooperating veterinarians, "but then the exterminators come and butcher animals who have already been sterilized," the four women said.

Bobrova told Andreyeva that BCA veterinarian Yuri Mikityuk "has sterilized 200

strays, and the organization itself has carried out 100 sterilization operations every month for the past three years," but more than half of the sterilized dogs were later killed by animal control contractors.

"From July through September 2005," the four BCA members' joint statement added, "a non-governmental organization called the Society for the Revival of Mercy collected upward of 20,000 petition signatures demanding that animal control employees act in accordance with the law. The authorities simply ignored the petition."

The BCA members provided detailed descriptions of massacres of sterilized, vaccinated, and identification-tagged dogs allegedly conducted by SPETSTRANS at Makarov Naval Engineering Academy on February 11, 2006, and a subway station on February 18, 2006. The BCA members also furnished a copy of coverage of the latter by the St. Petersburg newspaper *SMENA*.

"In Russia there is no history of legislation protecting animals," summarized Stolyarova. "A federal law passed by the State Duma in 1999 was vetoed by ex-president

Boris Yeltsin on the grounds that the document 'was lacking a subject.' The Moscow City Duma has been debating the issue for three years without any tangible results.

"Igor Rimmer, deputy head of the Judicial Commission of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly, has recommended studying the western experience of special police task forces dealing with crimes committed against animals," Stolyarova added. "According to statistics collected by the Moscow-based Serbsky Institute for Forensic Psychiatry, 85 percent of prisoners serving terms for murders and other severe crimes were reported as having tortured animals."

"At present," finished Stolyarova, "there are no state-run shelters for lost or stray animals in St. Petersburg. The several small shelters funded by local charities are unable to deal with the scale of the problem."

"There is not a single animal pound in St. Petersburg, a city of five million," affirmed the BCA members. "We have fear that a pound City Hall has promised to open at Bolshoi Smolensky Prospekt will operate as an extermination facility."

### Against corvid traps

Just a short note to give you details of a new group: <[www.against-corvidtraps.co.uk](http://www.against-corvidtraps.co.uk)>.

(Corvids are the family including crows, ravens, jays, and magpies.)

I've always believed there should be an initiative against these traps. Animal Concern has campaigned against traps which have been brought to our attention, but we have never had the resources to tackle this issue properly.

I have seen these traps all over Scotland, and not just in rural areas. You may have read about a woman in Bearsden who has one in her garden to catch magpies, which she kills by dashing them against a wall. Sadly there are dozens more like her.

—John F. Robins  
Campaigns Consultant  
Animal Concern

P.O. Box 5178

Dumbarton G82 5YJ

Scotland, U.K.

Phone: 01389-841-639

<[animals@jfrobins.force9.co.uk](mailto:animals@jfrobins.force9.co.uk)>

<[www.animalconcern.com](http://www.animalconcern.com)>



### Bear escape, mauling, & deadly fire may bring tougher Ohio exotic regs

**CLEVELAND**—Ohio state senator Tim Grendell (R-Geauga County) on May 26, 2006 pledged to introduce a bill to increase restrictions on keeping exotic pets and wildlife. "State law now requires wild-animal breeders to obtain a license and keep records, but does not require cages," observed Cleveland *Plain Dealer* reporter John Horton.

Two incidents in three days may at last have brought legislative attention to the hazards of keeping exotic and wild animals, more than 22 years after the first such incident involving one of the keepers involved.

On May 22, 2006 a 500-pound black bear escaped from a cage at the Grand River Fur Exchange in Harts Grove Township, one of 57 businesses in Ohio that hold permits to breed a total of 137 captive black bears. The bear mauled Rachel Supplee, 36.

"The victim was attacked in her

home when her 15-year-old daughter, Daphne, opened a door to let the family dog out," reported Ashtabula *Star-Beacon* staff writer Doris Cook. "The bear stormed past the daughter, and headed for the mother. Daphne probably saved her mother's life when she began tossing meat to the bear. The injured woman managed to get out of the house. According to the sheriff's report, the daughter escaped through a window to call 911."

Grand River Fur Exchange owner Mark Gutman later shot the bear.

"Gutman's license applications shows he had 692 animals: 322 foxes, 150 coyotes, 12 bobcats, seven wolf-hybrids, four black bears, two mountain lions and a lynx," said Associated Press.

Two nights later, Horton reported, "A black bear cub and two tiger cubs died inside their cages as flames swept through

the Summit County home of wild animal breeder Lorenza Pearson, but did not damage the nearby pens of [his] L&L Exotic Animal Farm, fire Chief Todd Chambers said. State records show Pearson held eight black bears on the property," Horton wrote.

"Pearson's son said 10 large cats—including lions and tigers—also share the property. A pending USDA case against Pearson claims numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act at his Copley Township farm between May 1998 and November 2001," Horton wrote. "In 2004, officials removed bears, tigers and lions—from Pearson's farm after a judge deemed the operation a public nuisance. The issue involved the handling of animal waste."

"In 1983," Horton added, "a 250-pound Bengal tiger killed Pearson's 2-year-old son inside the family's home."

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## **South Africa moves on canned hunts—could proposed rules be enforced? (from page 1)**

been killed with crossbows or bows and arrows, which is totally inhumane.”

Van Schalkwyk spoke a week before Mike Cadman of *The Sunday Independent* disclosed the March 10 shooting of one of the best-known lions in South Africa by an unsportsmanlike trophy hunter. The case became a *cause célèbre*.

“Property owners and conservation staff at the exclusive Umbabat, Timbavati, and Klaserie private nature reserves that border Kruger National Park told *The Sunday Independent* about their anger at the killing of the lion, considered to be a major tourist attraction, and the subsequent wounding of a one-tusked bull elephant by a Spanish hunter,” Cadman wrote. “The lion, one of a well-known pair dubbed the ‘Sohebele brothers,’ had been photographed by thousands of foreign tourists and featured regularly in e-mails sent out by several lodges to their former guests around the world.”

While the lions had wandered into an area where they could legally be shot, they spent most of their time in protected habitat, and were accustomed to human observers.

The surviving “Sohebele brother” reportedly defended his fatally injured comrade, even when the hunter “repeatedly drove a tractor at the lions in attempt to separate them,” said Cadman. “Rangers later reported that the remaining male had become so afraid that in one instance it had swum across a river to avoid game-viewing 4x4s.”

The elephant, shot three times in the head on March 24, disappeared into thick brush and was neither dispatched nor retrieved.

The furor over the lion and elephant shootings overshadowed allegations of poaching against two Kruger National Park field guides, after two carcasses of rhinos were

found in early May with their horns removed. Van Schalkwyk told the South African parliament that 79 animals were poached within Kruger during fiscal year 2005-2006, up slightly from 73 poached in the preceding year.

The major question that poaching in Kruger raises is whether hunting regulations can be enforced anywhere in South Africa.

### **Response**

Early response to the Van Schalkwyk proposals from both animal advocates and hunting promoters appeared to be mostly guardedly positive, but the size of South Africa and size of the hunting industry make enforcing any regulations difficult without overwhelming cooperation from within the industry itself.

Approximately 9,000 hunting ranches and game farms in South Africa provide from 39,000 to 54,000 animals per year (sources differ) to be killed by an average of about 7,000 visiting hunters each year—more than half of them from the U.S.

Generating revenues of about \$280 million a year, the South African hunting industry employs about 70,000 people.

Lion hunting is among the smallest parts of the industry, in numbers of animals killed. Just 190 lions were shot in 2004, and 209 in 2005, of about 2,500 to 3,000 believed to be held in captivity.

About as many lions remain in the wild in South Africa, more than 2,000 of them in Kruger National Park and adjacent nature areas. Hunting is not allowed in the South African National Parks, but hunting concessionaires often set up beside parks to take advantage of animals, like the “Sohebele brothers,” who cross the boundaries. “The Cooke Report” documented hunting conces-

sionaires in the act of luring trophy animals past downed park fences.

As the typical cost of shooting a lion in South Africa is about \$17,000, lion hunting alone is worth about \$3.3 million per year.

Leopards are less commonly shot, with only 45 killed by visiting hunters in 2004, according to the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, but the cost of killing a leopard is circa \$5,500.

Other animals targeted on South African hunting ranches include captive-bred pigeons and quail, baboons, giraffes, elephants, hippopotamuses, mongooses, porcupines, warthogs and zebras.

### **Looming disaster**

The most immediate concern of animal advocates in response to the Van Schalkwyk proposals was what would become of all the lions, leopards, cheetahs, and other captive-bred predators who are now at hunting ranches and game farms.

“That’s a looming animal welfare disaster,” SanWild director Louise Joubert told Cadman of *The Sunday Independent*. “If the government is really serious about shutting down the canned hunting industry, I can’t see how they can handle all these animals—there is no space for them. One breeder called and said that if the regulations forced him to close down his operation, he would dump 80 lions between the ages of a month and a year at my gate. I’m not sure if he was joking but that shows just how big the problem is.”

“The government needs to clean up the mess it has allowed to develop,” said Jason Leask-Bell, South Africa director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, “but if animals must be destroyed, it must be done humanely. The industry must be closed

down,” Leask-Bell emphasized, “but it has been allowed to grow so big that we now have another animal welfare issue to deal with.”

“The first aim is to stop breeding predators for hunting,” Endangered Wildlife Trust director Nick King told Cadman. “It may be possible to place some of the animals in sanctuaries or zoos,” King suggested, at best a faint hope. “Killing them should be considered only as a last resort.”

What to do with surplus lions was already an issue.

“South Africa’s game reserves have secretly started culling lions in an attempt to tackle what they claim is a growing population crisis,” revealed Steven Bevan of the *Sunday Telegraph* in December 2005. “One of the largest private reserves in the country, Welgevonden in Limpopo province, covering more than 130 square miles, has confirmed that it has destroyed a lioness and her four young.”

“Two other reserves—Entabeni, also in Limpopo, and Phinda in KwaZulu-Natal—said they will be forced to cull if they cannot sell surplus animals. Madikwe in North West Province confirmed it is an option they will have to consider. The reserves say they have no choice but to kill healthy animals as numbers have grown beyond their capacity—and they cannot sell them because there are too many on the market.”

### **Public relations**

Harsher criticism of the Van Schalkwyk proposals came from Chris Mercer of <[www.cannedlion.com](http://www.cannedlion.com)>, a retired attorney and frequent **ANIMAL PEOPLE** book reviewer, who formerly co-directed the Kalahari Raptor Centre.

Mercer called the new hunting regu-  
(continued on page 10)

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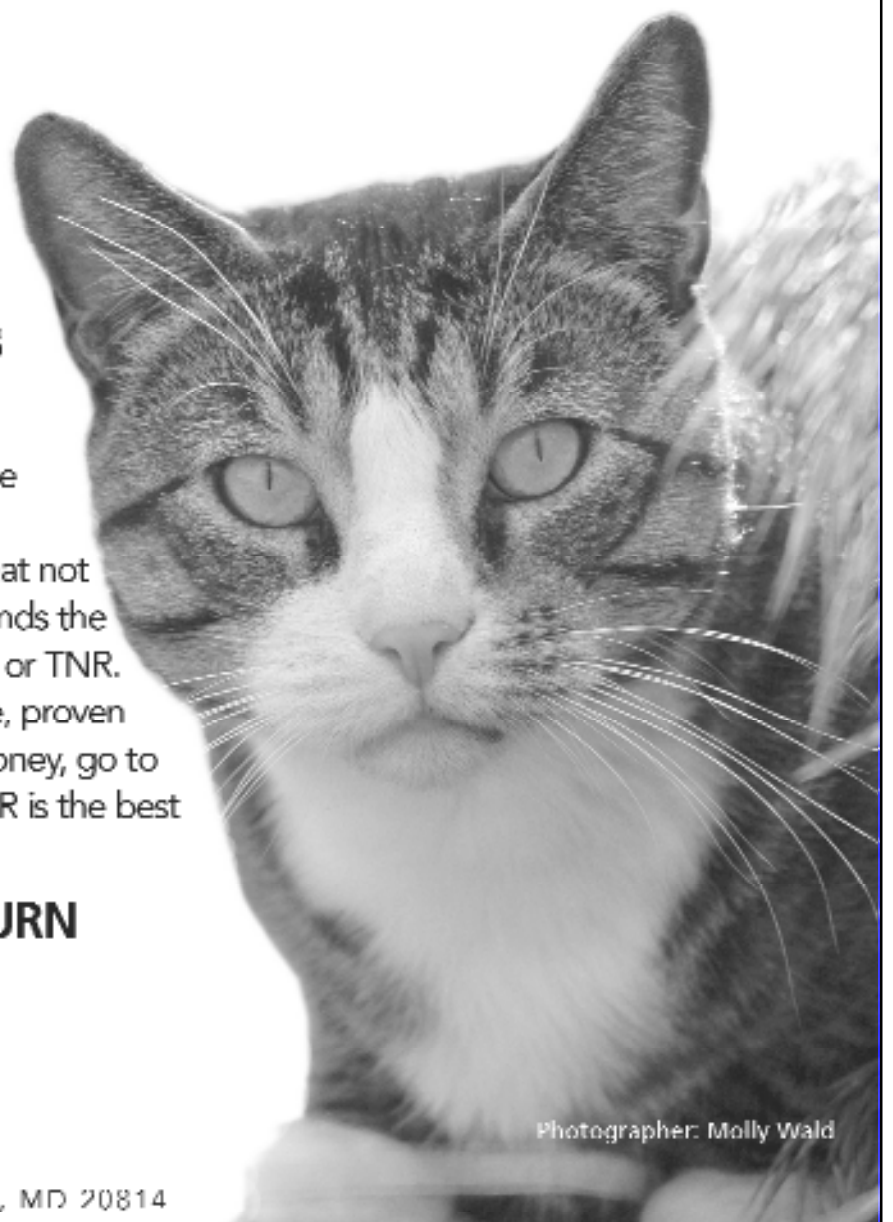
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## *S. Africa moves on canned hunts* (from 9)

lations "an elaborate public relations exercise.

"Originally the South African government tried to bypass the new laws requiring public participation, in order to protect the hunting industry," Mercer charged. "We commenced legal proceedings. At the last minute before service of legal process, the Government announced the public participation process" now underway.

"However, regulations which entrenched and expanded canned hunting had already been drafted," Mercer alleged. With the use of cunning legal drafting artifices which give the appearance of banning the most cruel practices, nothing will change. You can still shoot captive bred lions for pleasure and a trophy. You can still set a pack of dogs on them. You can still bait them with a carcass and hide nearby with your bow and arrow or hand gun. Restrictions which look good on paper are utterly unenforceable, and therefore meaningless—which is exactly why they have been included in the new regulations.

"It is the cruelty which offends the public," Mercer said, calling for "a complete ban on all trophy hunting."

"It is important to define canned hunting accurately in order to meet public concerns," Mercer continued. "Canned hunting is hunting of an animal who is unfairly prevented from escaping the hunter, because of either physical or mental constraints," including

both fencing and habituation to humans.

"All trophy hunting is canned," Mercer said, "because there is no true wilderness left in South Africa and all hunting takes place in fenced areas from which the animal cannot escape."

Van Schalkwyk introduced his proposed reforms shortly after Mercer and partner Beverly Pervan "dipped into our savings to pay for me to travel around the U.K." on a 30-stop speaking tour, Mercer recounted, "because no other wildlife organization was pro-actively campaigning against all trophy hunting, and it seemed to us that the plight of the lions was being lost among all the other animal welfare issues worldwide.

## Canned hunts for rare imported "trophy" species are booming in Spain

Only U.S. hunters visit South Africa more than Spaniards, who make up about 8.5% of the South Africa hunting traffic—and Spanish hunting ranch proprietors are trying to keep them home, even if it requires stocking rare species in violation of the law.

"In January 2006, 12 Indian black-buck antelope were confiscated from a farm near Cáceres, Extremadura," recently wrote *Sunday Telegraph* correspondent David Harrison. "Guardia Civil officers said they had found evidence that exotic beasts had been hunted illegally on at least six reserves. During the first half of last year the Guardia



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"There was a clear need to expose the doctrine of sustainable use for what it is: a policy devised for the worldwide benefit of an obscenely wealthy but harmful hunting industry," Mercer asserted.

"We hoped that my visit might act as a catalyst for change, galvanizing the various animal rights and animal welfare organizations in Britain and Europe to take action to ban the import of all wildlife trophies from Africa."

Civil game protection unit confiscated 678 illegally imported live animals across Spain."

In the most sensational case, the Guardia Civil in December 2005 arrested seven people allegedly in the act of starting to illegally "hunt" a semi-tame lion and a tiger at the Lunares reserve, near Monterrubio de la Serena in the Sierra del Oro mountains, near the Portuguese border.

The suspects—three hunters, the land owner, and three staff—were reportedly carrying .22 rifles, considered much too light to quickly kill a big cat.

The lion and tiger, apparently

bought from a traveling circus, were sent to a zoo near Malaga.

A raid on the same farm a month earlier found the remains of a tiger cub and several wolves, but not sufficient evidence to link the killings to any one suspect.

While hunting internationally recognized endangered and threatened species in Spain is illegal, hunting captive-reared animals is not. Hunting ranches in the region where the canned hunt was raided commonly offer the opportunity to shoot captive-reared stag, boar, partridge, rabbits, and thrushes, wrote Elizabeth Nash of *The Independent*.

## Events

**June 20, 21, or 22: Animals In Disasters Preparedness Training**, offered by HSUS, Humane Assn. of Ga., Ga. Emergency Mgmt. Auth., & Ga. Dept. of Ag., Tifton, Perry, & Statesboro. Info:

<www.humane-associationofGeorgia.org>

**June 22-24: Feline Forum**, one day each in Gulfport, Miss., Metairie, La., and New Orleans. Info: Alley Cat Allies, 601-749-5084; <nolaleycat@yahoo.com>; <www.alley-cat.org>

**June 27: Creature Comforts: Ensuring Animal Welfare** conf., Edinburgh, Scotland. Info: <www.advocatesforanimals.org>

**July 1-4: Dogs Deserve Better/Mothers Against Dog Chaining contest**: 15 people to live chained for up to 2 weeks, last chained to win new car. Altoona, Pennsylvania. Info: 1-877-636-1408; <tammy@dogsdeservebetter.org>; <www.dogs-deservebetter.org>

**July 15-16: PETA Helping Animals 101, Miami**. Info: <www.HelpingAnimals-101.com> or 323-644-7388. To be repeated in Seattle, Sept. 30-Oct. 1; Dallas, Oct. 21-22; and Boston, Nov. 4-5.

**July 16-21: Dog People** conf. on animal management in indigenous communities, Darwin, Australia. Info: <conference@dogpeople.com.au>

**August 6: Walk for Country Critters**, Animal



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## Rabies strikes Namibian kudu

**WINDHOEK**—Veterinarians Otto Zapke and Beate Voights in mid-May 2006 reportedly confirmed that a rare outbreak of rabies spreading from herbivore to herbivore during the past two years was responsible for the deaths of “thousands” of kudu in the Omaruru region of Namibia.

“Sources in the industry have voiced concern that the outbreak could impact negatively on the hunting season,” reported Chrispin Inambao of the Windhoek *New Era*. “People come to Namibia because of kudus,” Inambao said a hunting industry source told him. About 5,000 hunters per year visit Namibia.

“Namibia Professional Hunting Association sources revealed the contagion was initially detected at a farm in the Wilhelmstal area before it spread north, east, and scattered south. Cases have been reported at Omitara. From there it spread toward Botswana,” Inambao added. “Some farms around Windhoek have also reported cases of kudu frothing at the mouth and not being afraid of people.”

There is a precedent for a

rabies outbreak among Namibia kudu. Recalled three moderators of the International Society of Infectious Diseases’ ProMed electronic bulletin board, in a joint posting, “A unique outbreak of rabies in kudu began in central Namibia in 1977, apparently involving oral spread of infection between individuals. It peaked in 1980 and eventually subsided in 1985, by which time it had caused an estimated loss of 30,000 to 50,000 antelope, or 20% of the population.”

But the report drew skepticism from rabies expert Henry Wilde, M.D., of the Queen Saovabha Memorial Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. “Herbivore to herbivore transmission would be unlikely,” Wilde told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, explaining that the Namibian climate would quickly kill any live rabies virus in dripping saliva from the victim animals.

“The most likely explanation is that there is another epidemic disease that causes most of the kudu deaths, and/or that a small undetected biting mammal is the vector for the kudu rabies cases,” Wilde said.

A team of British, Nami-

bian, and South African researchers headed by Karen Mansfield of the World Health Organization reported in January 2006 that “37 rabies virus isolates...originating mainly from the northern and central regions of Namibia between 1980 and 2003... suggest that jackal and kudu may form part of the same epidemiological cycle of rabies,” with the predators apparently doing the actual disease transmission.

Hunting publications mentioned the rabies outbreak among kudu, but business was still brisk at a wildlife auction held on June 1 by the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism. About 30 game farmers and hunting ranch owners bid on 40 buffalo, 22 roan antelope, 30 impala, eight black rhinos, 11 sable antelope and 21 giraffes, said Frederick Philander of the *New Era*.

### Locals hunt seals

While visitors hunt mainly so-called trophy species, Namibians will be hunting seals. The 2006 Namibian sealing season, to start in July, has quotas of 60,000 baby fur seals, who will mostly be clubbed, and 7,000 bulls, who will be shot.

## Zimbabwe running out of “trophies”

**HARARE**—The Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority in April 2006 suspended hunting in game conservancies, just three months after nationalizing the hunting industry amid reports that profiteering Robert Mugabe regime insiders were allowing visiting hunters to annihilate the “trophy” animal population of the country.

“We want the animals to be more mature before hunting can resume,” said parks public relations

manager Edward Mbewe. “We want to improve the trophy quality.”

All lion hunting was suspended in Matabeleland North. “Villagers should report any stray lions instead of killing the animals,” Mbewe said. “Lions are favoured by hunters and thus generate a lot of foreign currency.”

Mbewe acknowledged that tourists had complained about seeing few animals in drought-stricken Hwange National Park.

## Tuli elephant case reprised

Eight years after video of the capture and holding conditions endured by 30 baby elephants became the globally notorious “Tuli elephants” case, a similar incident occurred in April 2006 at the Selati Game Reserve in Limpopo state, South Africa, Michele Pickover of Xwe African Wild Life told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Six young elephants were cruelly separated from their families for use by the elephant-back safari industry,” Pick-over wrote. “Helicopters, guns, and electric prods were used. The young elephants went to Howard Blight’s Elephants for Africa Forever in

Mooketsi, near Duiwelskloof.

“On the EFAF website, Blight claims that, ‘Animal welfare is the most critical issue,’” Pickover noted, “but this kind of capture has nothing to do with animal welfare and certainly shows no respect for elephant family structures.”

The Pretoria High Court on March 27, 2006 heard an appeal by Richard Ghiazza, who imported the Tuli elephants from Botswana to South Africa. Ghiazza contends he was not responsible for actions of staff that he never saw. Ghiazza and former employee Wayne Stockigt were fined and given six-month suspended jail sentences in 2003.

### More events (from page 10)

Acres, Venice Beach Boardwalk, Calif. Info: <info@animalacres.org>.

**August 6-10: Wildlife Disease Assn.** & American Assn. of Wildlife Vets conf., Storrs, Conn. Info: <wda.2006@gmail.com>

(continued on page 11)

**August 10-14: Animal Rights 2006 Natl. Conf.**, Washington, D.C. Info: 800-632-8688; <register@ar-conference.org>; <www.arconference.org>.

**Sept. 2-5: Taking Action for Animals** conf., Washington, D.C. Info: <www.TakingActionForAnimals.org>.

**Sept. 10-16: World Vegetarian Congress**, Goa, India. Info: <www.ivu.org/congress>.

**Sept. 14-17: So. Reg. Spay/Neuter Leadership Conf.**, Memphis. Info: 203-377-1116; <www.spay-neuterconference.org>.

**Sept. 28-30: American Humane** annual conf., Schaumburg, Ill. Info: <www.AmericanHumane.org>.

**Sept. 30: Trail ride benefit for Meadow Haven Horse Rescue**, Bandera, Texas. Info: 830-589-2400; <www.horse-adoption.net>.

**October 5th-17: Friends of Roman Cats** tour of Italy. Info: 415-334-8036; <www.friendsofromanecats.org>.

**Oct. 6-8: The Strength of Many** conf., Los Angeles. Info: Animals & Soc. Inst., <www.animalsandsociety.org>.

**Oct. 16-18: Intl. Congress on Concepts in Animal Welfare**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Info: <wspabrzi@iis.com.br> or <www.wspabr.org>.

**Oct. 25-27: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conf.**, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Info: 44-020-7837 0006; <mailto:tina.barker@dogstrust.org.uk>; <www.icawc.org.uk>.

**Oct. 30-Nov. 2: Intl Colloquium on Working Equines in Ethiopia**,

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A donkey is de-wormed in Afghanistan. (Brooke Fund for Animals)

## Turkish serum lab is caught killing horses

**ANKARA**—Undercover video aired in Turkey and parts of Europe in March 2006, posted by PETA in April, showed workers at the government-run Refik Saydam Hygiene Center in Ankara slashing the throats of terrified horses and slowly bleeding them to death to take blood for use in serum products.

A spokesperson for Refik Saydam told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on June 6, 2006 that the video was made in 2005, and that as of

October 29, 2005 the company had switched to drawing horse blood just as blood is drawn from humans. Several litres of blood may be taken from each horse.

The spokesperson said that the nine horses from whom blood was drawn on October 29, 2005 are still at the center, "in natural and proper life conditions, with regular care and feeding." If the horses are properly looked after, they can give blood weekly for decades.

## Educational items in Arabic

**LONDON**—The International Network for Humane Education in February 2006 launched an Arabic version of the InterNICHE web site providing alternatives to animal use in life science education.

First posted by InterNICHE founder Nick Jukes in 1997, with many subsequent updates and expansions, the site is already used worldwide, but Cairo University professor Fawzy El-Nady anticipated that the Arabic version might reach an especially receptive audience which has had little previous access to antivivisection materials.

"In Islam," said El-Nady, "imprisoning animals is a sin, and cutting or injuring animals whilst alive is also forbidden. By analogy and inference, this applies to science and science education. It is also specifically forbidden [*in Islam*] to harm frogs," El-Nady added. "The use of alternatives fits well with Islamic science."

Jukes in unveiling the site acknowledged the work of Muslim developers of non-animal research methods, including Emad Aboud, M.D., of Syria, who promotes surgery practice using perfused human cadavers, and M.A. Akbarsha, of Bharathidasan University in Tamil Nadu, India, who helped to develop models that have replaced the use of animals for dissection.

**[Contact Inter-NICHE at 44-116-210-9652; <coordinator@interniche.org>; or <www.interniche.org>.]**

Also now available in Arabic is *The Mediterranean Sea: A source of life*, an environmental education kit developed in 2005 by the Mediterranean Association to Save Sea Turtles. Previous editions were distributed in Greek and English.

## Brooke outreach in Pakistan, Afghanistan

**MULTAN**—Often the young pro-animal organizations of the Islamic world can do little beyond raising awareness, with proclamations such as a June 3, 2006 resolution by the Animal Save Movement of Multan, Pakistan, objecting to overdriving oxen, donkeys, and horses in the summer heat.

But Pakistan is among the seven nations, four predominantly Muslim and two others with substantial Muslim minorities, in which the British-based Brooke Fund for Animals operates equine clinics—including a clinic in Multan.

The Brooke began working in Pakistan in 1991 with a mobile clinic operating out of Peshawar in 1991. That project rapidly expanded into a base clinic, two field clinics, and six mobile veterinary teams.

"Our work spread to Lahore in April 1993," recounts the Brooke web site. "There are now ten mobile teams working from two field clinics in Lahore. Our Multan clinic opened in 1995, and in 1996 our Dutch Supporters' Group helped to raise enough money to open another clinic in Mardan. In 1997 we began operations in Gujranwala."

In addition, "A mobile team now provides free veterinary care for working horses and donkeys in the southern Afghan city of Jalalabad, as well as saddlery and farriery training and equine education programmes for owners," the web site says.

Altogether, the Brooke treats about 250,000 animals per year in Pakistan.

After several months of helping Afghan refugees' animals in camps along the Pakistan border, the Brooke in February 2003 began working within Afghanistan, in partnership with the Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and the American Zoo Association.

"Since the start of the Shahzada Health Equine Foundation for Afghanistan project, i.e. February 2003, our vets have de-wormed more than 35,000 equines, and nearly 14,000 equine owners have been educated about equine management," Brooke publicist Niki Austin told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

"For 2006-2007," Austin said, "we aim to continue to support our five teams, four of which cover Nangahar Province from Jalalabad. One works in the areas around Kabul. Routine treatment numbers in established areas of work have dropped dramatically over the period of the project, as the community education programs have developed."

"In Kunduz Province," Austin added, "where many horses are used for ploughing, the Brooke has sunk four wells—for use by both people and animals. Three wayside stations offer places of rest and water on the roadside. In Kabul Province, two wells have been sunk in the brick kiln areas."

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Islamic animal advocacy (from 1)

"Animals [in Java] are valued," said Yudisthira farm animal rescue team coordinator I Wayan Mudiarta. "The people just need time to get on their feet, and still have animals and a livelihood to come back to."

Grant acknowledges the paradoxes of keeping animals alive in a crisis, only to be slaughtered soon afterward, and of seeking to make slaughter more efficient when HSI policy now opposes killing animals for human consumption. But Grant also believes that developing a humane ethic in Indonesia must begin by encouraging residents to recognize moral obligations to the animals in whom they already have a personal interest. Most often the animals in an Indonesian home are livestock, kept for eventual slaughter, not pets. Most dogs are street dogs; most cats are feral.

The HSI/Yudisthira team represents perhaps the most ambitious humane project serving the world's fourth most populous nation, struggling to respond to recent disasters also including the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and recurring outbreaks of the avian influenza strain H5N1.

"We are concerned that people using poultry sheds as shelter are at risk from avian flu and possibly salmonella infection," said Yolanda Bayugo, health director for the London-based aid group Merlin, in statements to Agence France-Presse and Associated Press, but World Health Organization epidemiologist Peter Mala disagreed.

"I don't think the emergency has placed people at closer risk of avian flu," said Mala, who was already doing disease surveillance in the area when the earthquake hit. "I don't think the disaster has brought people closer to poultry than they were before," Mala elaborated.

H5N1 as of June 1, 2006 had killed 37 Indonesians, 26 of them in 2006, among 127 human fatalities worldwide. As at the scenes of other H5N1 outbreaks throughout Asia, Europe, and parts of Africa, caged chickens and other poultry were killed by any means available to try to keep the potentially deadly disease from afflicting either more humans or more birds.

Almost none of the killing was done with humane oversight.

Indonesian agriculture ministry animal health director Syamsul Bahri told Reuters in mid-May 2006 that fighting

cocks possibly smuggled to Papua from neighboring Sulawesi island caused the first H5N1 outbreak in Papua, in April. Gamecocks were killed along with other domestic birds known to have been exposed to H5N1, but there was no reported effort to halt cockfighting.

Indonesia has almost no organized humane community, let alone organizations strong enough to challenge cockfighting and

(continued on page 14)



Left: SPARE founder Amina Abaza, of Egypt; top center, Fethiyea Friends of Animals founder Perihan Agnelli, of Turkey; below, a volunteer at the Center for Animal Lovers, in Iran.



Center for Animal Lovers active in Iran

ANIMAL PEOPLE profiled the debut of the Center for Animal Lovers in the suburbs of Tehran, Iran, in January/February 2005.

"We recently opened the first Iranian shelter for dogs in Kooshkezar, and the first for cats in Karadj. Both cities are suburbs of Tehran," wrote Center for Animal Lovers founder Fatemeh Motamedi, whose efforts were encouraged by the Best Friends Animal Society.

In September 2005, ANIMAL PEOPLE helped Motamedi to obtain training from the Helen Woodward Animal Center in Rancho Santa Fe, California, and at the Conference on Homeless Animal Management & Policy in Anaheim, sponsored by the North Shore Animal League America.

In early 2006, political conflict obliged the Motamedi family to relocate to Canada. Despite the disruption of leadership and funding, the Center for Animal Lovers' shelters remained open, now sponsored by a U.S. support group, Friends of Center for Animal Lovers, 3614 Fessenden St. NW, Washington, DC 20008; <info@friendsofcal.org>.

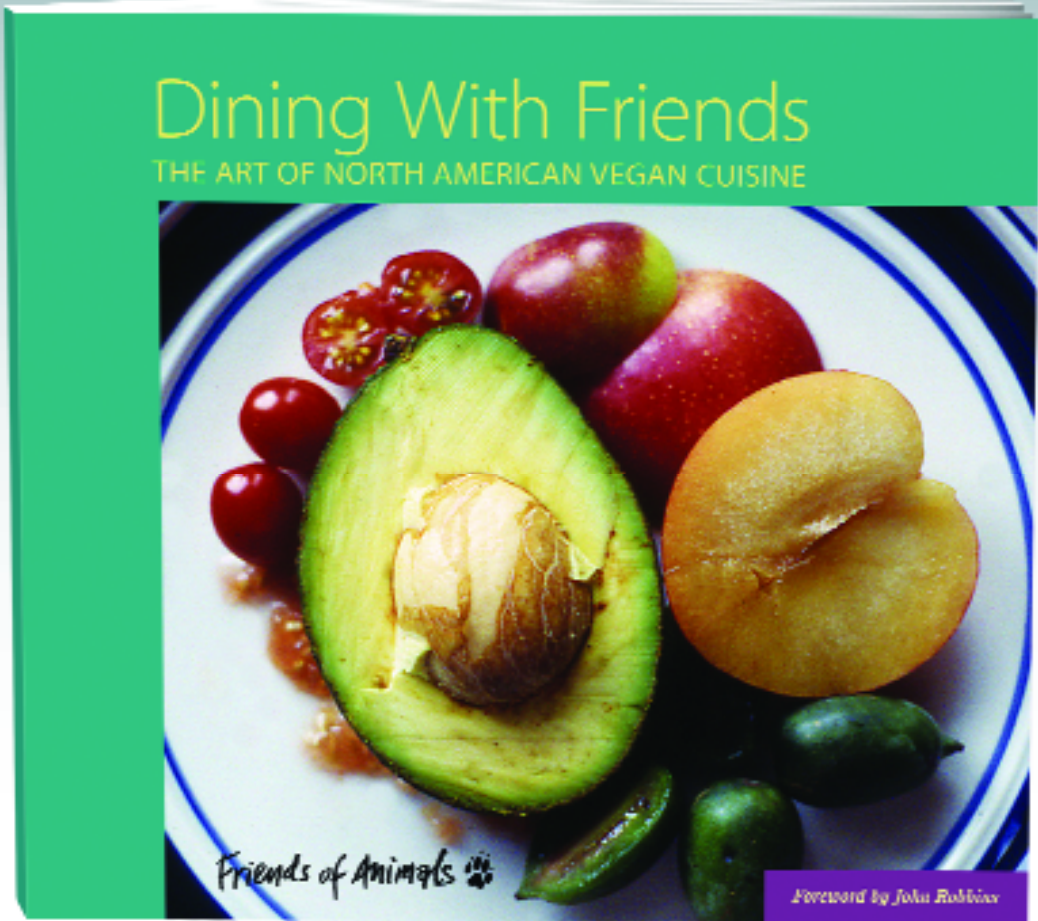
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### Animal advocacy rumples to life in the Islamic world (from 13)

the poultry industry.

Neither is there a deep tradition of organized humane work in most of the rest of the Islamic world. Most majority Islamic nations have at least one humane society, often founded by British, French, German, or American expatriates close to a century ago. But few of the expatriate organizations have successfully used the many pro-animal teachings of Mohammed and the rich tradition of pro-animal Islamic literature to develop authentic cultural resonance. Many are instead perceived as Christian missionary outposts, or hobbies of dilettantes, who are far removed from the day-to-day struggles of poor people.

#### Barrier issues

Barrier issues have included lack of ability to reach out in fluent Arabic; conflict over *halla* slaughter, especially at the Feast of Atonement, when amateur slaughter is often practiced in public; and, most of all, pervasive fear of dogs in much of the Islamic world, overlapping many of the regions with the most persistent endemic rabies.

Often hostility toward dogs is mistakenly believed by both locals and expatriates to have a foundation in Islam.

Mohammed was certainly concerned about rabies. On one occasion, during a rabies outbreak within a walled city, recalled in Hadith 4:539, Mohammed ordered that all dogs within the walls should be killed, to stop the outbreak by killing the disease vector.

This is exactly what most of the world still does to combat H5N1 and other serious diseases of poultry and livestock. Futile in open

habitat, where animals can freely migrate, "stamping out" succeeds in closed habitats such as barns and stockyards.

Before vaccines were developed, "stamping out" was the only way that anyone knew to fight rabies and many other contagious zoonotic illnesses.

But Mohammed was not anti-dog. He taught in Hadith 4:538 that a prostitute was forgiven by Allah for untying her head covering and using it as a rope to drop her shoe to draw water from a well for a dog who was dying of thirst.

Besides directly contradicting several of the most rigid behavioral proscriptions of Islam, the woman put herself at risk if the dog was "hydrophobic," a Greek term for rabies which literally means "afraid of water," but actually refers to the inability of thirsty rabid animals to drink.

#### Internet

The advent of the Internet appears to be sparking a humane awakening throughout the Islamic world, in part by enabling women to do things for animals even when their freedom of movement remains restricted.

In the western world, women do more than 85% of the household pet care, and may do even more in the Islamic world, where relatively few women work outside the home. From the beginnings of the organized humane movement about 200 years ago, women have also formed more than 80% of both the animal protection donor base and the animal advocacy volunteer workforce—but in societies where women have had little

ability to organize activities beyond their own neighborhoods, few have found ways to donate and volunteer to help animals, beyond doorstep dog and cat feeding.

Now the isolated doorstep dog and cat feeders are beginning to find each other, exchange information, and reach out for help.

Often the appeal comes too late, exemplified by frantic requests for e-mails of protest against dog poisonings or shootings which have already occurred, for which no one in authority admits responsibility.

Equally often, the appeal is for financial help with futile projects, such as trying to shelter all of the dogs at risk in a particular city, lest they be poisoned or shot.

However, through correspondence with the outside world, Islamic world activists are beginning to learn about humane animal control strategy, including ways and means of providing affordable high-volume dog and cat sterilization.

Turkey, largely through the efforts of Friends of Fethiyea Animals founder Perihan Agnelli, has since 2004 had a law making neuter/return dog and cat population control the official national policy. The law also requires shelters to have a veterinarian, and mandates a 10-day holding period for strays, to permit keepers to reclaim them. If the animals are not claimed, they are to be sterilized, vaccinated, and returned to the locations where they were captured.

The Society for the Protection of Animal Rights in Egypt, Egyptian Society of Animal Friends, and Egyptian Federation for Animal Welfare, headed by attorney Ahmed

El Sherbiny, hope to emulate the Turkish success.

As in Turkey, Egyptian city governments still tend to favor poisoning, which keeps patronage employees on the payroll, and is done repeatedly, since the surviving animals quickly breed back up to the carrying capacity of the habitat.

"In an article today in the *El Masry El Youm* daily newspaper on the last page," related SPARE board member Mona Khalil on May 4, 2006, "Cairo Veterinary Authority chief Dr. Hussein Khalafalla announced that in cooperation with the mounted police department and Cairo cleaning sanitation department they will start a new dog and cat poisoning campaign," delayed while the officials involved were killing birds to combat H5N1.

Though expected, this was a disappointment, as animal advocates had hoped that the hiatus would illustrate the futility of killing dogs and cats for population control.

"In January 2006," Khalil continued, "the Cairo Veterinary Authority killed 3,000 dogs, but due to their work on the avian flu, they only killed 183 dogs and 971 cats in February, and 124 dogs and 935 cats in March."

The killing is done with strychnine baits.

#### Pakistan

Also on May 4, 2006, the *Daily Times*, of Karachi, Pakistan, reported that, "City Naib Nazim Nasreen Jalil [has] suggested to Korean consul general Suckchul Chang the possibility of sending the stray dogs of the city to Korea. She said that if this proposal materialized, it would help rid the city of the

dog menace."

"Coincidentally, I met Nasreen Jalil at a play last night," Pakistan Animal Welfare Society representative Mahera Omar e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Her statement from yesterday did not come up as it was a fleeting meeting, but I did mention that I would like to interview her for my animal show on Geo TV. I will ask her about the stray dog issue then."

Omar mentioned that Karachi officials "keep carrying on the poisonings on and off" that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** exposed in a June 2005 cover feature entitled "'Madness' in Karachi rabies response."

Meanwhile, Internet activists, including Pakistan-born computer industry professionals, are informing as many officials as have e-mail that poisoning dogs is not acceptable to the best-educated and most economically successful part of the officials' constituency.

#### Turkey

Even in Turkey, the law against dog-killing is still widely disregarded, and not yet actively enforced by the federal government. The implementation rules were only introduced at the beginning of June 2006, and reportedly leave the fate of the thousands of dogs who are already in pounds unclear. Reports of dogs being rounded up and starved or killed routinely reach **ANIMAL PEOPLE** from Ankara, Bahcesehir, Erdek, Marmek, and elsewhere.

But the Friends of Fethiyea Animals sterilization campaign is training ever more veterinarians and educating ever more mayors, in more cities, while perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the continuing dog massacres is that many of them are being reported and protested.

Pre-Internet, they were little noted beyond where they occurred, and no one was advancing an alternative on a viable scale.

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## French veterinarian becomes legend in Saudi Arabia

**JEDDAH**—Asked by *Arab News* to comment about avian influenza H5N1, Tahlia International Veterinary Clinic owner Deborah Zahid was characteristically direct and professional.

"Most city dwellers don't realize how much feces surround them every day," Zahid remarked. Then Zahid described the fecal habits of caged pigeons.

Raised and educated in France, Zahid married into an influential Saudi family known for investments in the travel, transportation, and heavy equipment industries.

A small woman, she dresses conservatively, with just a wisp of blonde hair escaping from under her head covering in a much reprinted *Arab News* photo showing her with a baby bear. The photo was taken in May 2003 when Zahid donated emergency care to the

neglected animals of the Jeddah Zoo, whose plight *Arab News* exposed.

Zahid says little about herself in frequent *Arab News* interviews. Her renowned Tahlia Clinic cannot even be found on the web—but stays busy, with additional veterinarians helping Zahid to keep up with the work.

Her work includes adopting out dogs from her clinic and at times sterilizing feral cats for free, both still unusual practices in Saudi Arabia, taking the opportunity to educate the public about pet overpopulation. She denounces fur-wearing and animal trafficking, and rebukes exotic pet faddists.

Her most remarkable accomplishment, however, may have been persuading performing strongman Jalal Al-Gharbi to quit beheading and eating snakes as part of a nightclub act.

"Is he crazy? He is not normal. This is barbaric," exploded Zahid when informed about the act by *Arab News*. "Instead of promoting our children's education what Al-Gharbi and Al-Abraj (a rival) are doing is traumatizing them. I am going to do everything to stop it," Zahid pledged. "It is against our religion, and it is hurting our children and the snakes. Admittedly," Zahid added, "snakes are unpopular here, 'but nonetheless they do still feel pain,' she pointed out.

Al-Gharbi had agreed to eat a live cobra next, but did not want to fight Zahid.

"Come to my show," he told *Arab News* after hearing of her comments. "I won't be killing any snakes, I promise. If you ever see me eat another snake, then proceed with complaints, but in the meantime," he asked, "give me a chance to show my good intentions."

## Islamic PETA attorney leads D.C. demonstration

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—PETA attorney Bina Ahmed in early May 2006 won extensive exposure for pro-animal Islamic teachings in *Arab News*, an internationally distributed print and electronic newspaper based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by staging a protest in Washington D.C. against Australian live exports of sheep and cattle for slaughter in the Middle East.

Ahmed told Barbara Ferguson of *Arab News* that she became involved in animal rights "because of lessons we are taught in Islam about kindness to people and ani-

mals and all living things."

"It is un-Islamic," Ahmed said, "to drag animals off the transport ships by their ears, kick them in the face, and stab them in the eyes," as was recently captured on video by Lyn White of Animals Australia, "and then slit their throats several times and let them slowly bleed to death in front of other sheep. Halal slaughter is based on trying to make slaughter as painless as possible, so that includes not only feeding and watering the animal properly, but also not killing them in front of other animals,

because it terrifies them," she said.

Mohammed specifically spoke against slaughtering animals in front of each other.

The Council of American Islamic Relations endorsed Ahmed's position. "I think that Muslims have to support all efforts to ensure humane and proper treatment of animals before their slaughter, and they should care about the well-being of the animals in the same way they should pay attention and care of the well being of human beings," CAIR executive director Nihad Awad told Ferguson.

## What's become of Persian Gulf bird habitat?

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Iraq was known for attracting some of the world's largest and most varied congregations of migratory birds, before becoming a war zone, and especially before former dictator Saddam Hussein drained the northern swamps to crush political foes.

Sergeant First Class Jonathan Trouern-Trend of the Connecticut National Guard, 38, wondered what might be left when he started a year-long deployment to Iraq in March 2004. He found many species still thriving amid the destruction.

A birder since age 12, Trouern-Trend began a web log devoted to his sightings in Iraq, continued with frequent postings until his rotation home to Marlborough, Connecticut, in February 2005.

Excerpts from the web log were compiled as a book at the suggestion of Sierra Club executive director Carl Pope, and published

by Sierra Club Books in May 2006 as *Birding Babylon: A Soldier's Journal from Iraq*.

While swamp restoration is underway in Iraq, and old landmines and other disincentives to human use often cause former no-man's-land to become wildlife habitat by default, birders are now anxious about the fate of the Khor al-Beidah lagoon in the United Arab Emirates. The threat there is not war, but peace, prosperity, and development.

"The Khor al-Beidah lagoon is a pristine tidal flat teeming with wildlife, including endangered birds, sea turtles, and dugongs who swim among its tangles of mangroves," wrote Associated Press correspondent Jim Krane from Um Al-Quwain in August 2005, then a city of 35,000, but soon to be sur-

rounded by a planned metropolis of 500,000.

"The once empty Emirates coast is awash in construction that has buried coral reefs, mangrove, and other wildlife zones," Krane lamented. "The tidal lagoon here is one of the last such areas in the country."

"We've seen it happen everywhere else. When you start to dredge and build marinas, that's the end of it," said *Emirates Bird Report* author Colin Richardson, a 30-year resident of Dubai.

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## Dogs & donkeys carry bombs

**BAGHDAD**—"Even the most virulent clerical opponents of the U.S. presence in Iraq have decried the use of canines as proxies in the war," *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Borzou Daragahi reported from Baghdad in August 2005, after several incidents in which insurgents used dogs to carry bombs.

"Our religion does not permit us to hurt animals, either by using them as explosive devices, or in any other manner," Muslim Scholars Association spokesperson Abdel Salam Kubaisi told Daragahi.

Daragahi described the MSA as "a hard-line Sunni Arab clerical organization sympathetic to insurgents."

The bombings by dog reportedly occurred in Latifiya, south of Baghdad; in Baqubah, in central Iraq; and in and around the northern city of Kirkuk. Neither the Sunnis nor the Shi'ites seemed eager to claim the bombings.

"The daily newspaper *Al Mada* recently published an editorial cartoon showing an insurgent who

strongly resembled [deposed dictator] Saddam Hussein trying to persuade a dog to strap on a belt bomb to advance the cause of the Baath Party, which once ruled Iraq," Daragahi wrote.

"It is such a simple task," the insurgent tells the terrified dog. "All you have to do is to put on this explosives belt, repeat the party's slogans, and may Allah have mercy on your father's soul!"

A donkey was used to carry a bomb to attack Israelis near Palestinian territory in 2003, prompting PETA to protest to the late Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat. After the bombings by dog in Iraq, a donkey in December 2005 carried a land mine close to a German aid agency vehicle in the northern Afghanistan city of Faizabad. That bomb only killed the donkey.

The isolated nature of the incidents, their timing, and their geography make possible that a single terrorist might have been responsible for all of them, wandering from one theatre of jihad to another.

## Used dogs to terrorize prisoners

**FORT MEADE, Md.**—A court martial jury of four officers and three enlisted soldiers on June 1, 2006 convicted former U.S. Army dog handler Sergeant Santos A. Cardona of aggravated assault and dereliction of duty.

Cardona, 32, of Fullerton, California, in 2003-2004 allegedly used his dog to terrorize inmates at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. A 12-year veteran, Cardona was acquitted of improperly allowing his dog to bite a prisoner, and of conspiring with another dog handler to terrify prisoners into urinating or defecating on themselves.

More sensational allegations about U.S. troops using animals to frighten prisoners during interro-

gation may surface as result of a case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First against U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in November 2005, on behalf of Iraqi businessmen Thahe Mohammed Sabbar, 37, and Sherzad Kamal Khalid, 35.

Sabbar and Khalid claim U.S. troops pushed them into a cage of lions at one of Saddam Hussein's Baghdad palaces in July 2003. The men survived uninjured.

Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday reportedly fed two rivals to the same lions, before Uday was killed and the lions were impounded.

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## Two major donations

**Bob Barker**, 83, host of *The Price Is Right* TV game show since 1972, on May 5, 2006 donated \$1 million to the Georgetown University Law Center for the study of animal rights law. Barker previously established \$1 million endowments for the study of animal rights law at Harvard, Columbia, UCLA, Stanford, Northwestern, and Duke universities. "Barker's donation will be used to strengthen and expand the Law Center's animal rights law curriculum, provide opportunities for students to work in the field, support student-initiated animal rights projects, and sponsor conferences and symposia on subjects related to animal protection," said **Elissa Free**, who made the announcement for the university. Her mother, the late **Ann Cottrell Free**, devoted much of her life to advancing legal protection for animals.

**Houston realtor Bernard Aptaker**, 80, recently donated 60 acres to the Houston SPCA to become the future site of Freedom Farm, a refuge for rescued farm animals. Houston SPCA director Patty Mercer announced in early June. The gift is in memory of a special dog and her pups. "Born in the largely Jewish village of Zakrzowek, Poland, not far from Lublin, Aptaker was 13 when the Germans invaded in 1939," wrote Allan Turner of the *Houston Chronicle*. Aptaker's mother and one brother died in Nazi gas chambers, but Aptaker, his father, and another brother survived in concentration camps. "Two German soldiers knocked on our door," recalled Aptaker, "With them were three Polish firemen, showing the Germans where the Jews lived. I had a small dog. She had three puppies. The little dog tried to defend me. A German shot her. The firemen stomped the puppies."

## New laws on dogs, s/n, bestiality, factory farming

**Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich** on May 31 signed three bills into law which create a felony penalty for allowing dangerous dogs to run loose or failing to keep them securely enclosed; also create a felony penalty for failing to sterilize a dog defined as dangerous by past behavior; add a felony penalty for failing to follow orders pertaining to keeping a dangerous dog; allow civil penalties for possession of dangerous dogs; prohibit convicted felons from keeping dangerous dogs or any unsterilized dog; add penalties for using dogs in the commission of crimes; increase the penalties for attending dog fights; add a felony penalty for taking children to dog fights; and ease the requirements for convicting a person of illegal dog fighting.

**Virginia Governor Tim Kaine** on May 26, 2006 signed into law a bill that allows owners of a dog who causes serious bodily harm to a person to be charged with a felony. The new law also creates a misdemeanor penalty for keeping dogs who attack a person, imposes security requirements for keeping dangerous dogs, and establishes a registry of dangerous dogs. The bill was passed through the lobbying efforts of the family of Dorothy Sullivan, 82, who was killed by a neighbor's pit bull terriers in March 2005. The neighbor, Deanna Large, 37, is appealing a March 2006 conviction for involuntary manslaughter, including a three-year prison sentence.

**Vermont Governor James Douglas** on May 26, 2006 endorsed into law a bill allowing judges to issue protective orders covering the pets of people who are trying to leave abusive relationships. Maine Governor John Baldacci signed a similar bill into law earlier in 2006.

An Alabama law requiring shelters to sterilize dogs and cats offered for adoption takes effect on July 1, 2006. Governor Bob Riley signed the law on April 27, 2006.

## ANIMAL ADVOCACY COURT CALENDAR

A Utah law requiring a two-thirds majority to pass a wildlife-related ballot initiative is constitutional, the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on May 17, 2006, upholding a 2001 verdict by Utah U.S. District Court Judge Tena Campbell. The law was itself passed by ballot initiative, gaining 56% of the vote.

**U.S. District Judge William Shubb** ruled in late May 2006 that **Alfredo Kuba** of **In Defense of Animals** and up to 10 other activists could protest in front of **Six Flags Marine World** over the Memorial Day weekend despite a Six Flags policy against permitting protests on high-traffic days.

## People & organizations

**Horst Kleinschmidt**, 60, former deputy director general of the South African environment department and former deputy chair of the International Whaling Commission, has joined the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society advisory board and became a sitting member of Sea Shepherd South Africa. Sea Shepherd founder **Paul Watson** announced on May 15, 2006. "In 1998, Horst was awarded the Order of the Polar Star, First Class, and was knighted by the King of Sweden," Watson recalled. "In 1991, he was awarded the **Bruno Kreisky Prize for Services to Human Rights**, in recognition of his decades of struggles against apartheid in South Africa."

**The Philadelphia Zoo** in early May announced that longtime banking executive **Vikram H. Dewan**, 51, would succeed **Pete Hoskins**, 58, as executive director, effective June 12. Hoskins headed the zoo for 13 years, after serving as the Philadelphia city streets commissioner.

**Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano** on May 24, 2006 signed into law a bill specifically prohibiting bestiality. The bill replaces a law against committing an "infamous crime against nature" which was repealed in 2001. The bill was introduced after Mesa deputy fire chief Leroy Johnson, 52, was booked in March 2006 on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct, trespassing and public sexual indecency, but could not be charged with bestiality for allegedly attempting intercourse with a neighbor's lamb. Johnson retired from the fire department after his arrest, Associated Press reported.

**The Rhode Island legislature** on May 24, 2006 sent to Governor **Don Carcieri** a bill which if signed into law would require people who keep cats to have them sterilized by six months of age, or obtain an intact animal permit costing \$100. Violators would be fined \$75 a month. Three Rhode Island cities—East Providence, Pawtucket, and Warwick—already have similar ordinances. Attempted "breeding ban" legislation has historically failed either because enforcement was unsustainable or because the legislation failed to recognize that the right to breed animals was clearly among the rights left "to the people" by the Ninth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Rhode Island legislation is believed to be constitutional, since it recognizes a right to breed animals if a person meets the permit requirements, but not clear is whether it can be enforced against people who deny "owning" free-roaming cats.

**Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack** on June 2, 2006 vetoed a part of a budget bill that would have defined "canines from licensed facilities" as a "farm product." The practical effect of the bill would have been to exempt commercial dog breed-

**Compassionate Consumers** founder **Adam Durand**, 26, on May 16 drew six months in jail, a fine of \$1,500, 100 hours of community service, and a year on probation for making three night visits to the Wegmans egg farm in Wolcott, New York, to document the conditions. Durand aired his findings in a video entitled *Wegmans Cruelty*. Durand and two women who accompanied him removed 11 hens during their visits, he testified, "because in every case they were sick or dying and there was just this feeling that they needed veterinary care." Durand was acquitted of felony burglary, for which he could have received seven years in prison.

**Pamela Ferdin**, 48, and **Jerry Vasek**, 49, were convicted on May 25, 2006 of misdemeanor trespassing and "targeted demonstration" for leafleting outside the home of **Los Angeles Department of Animal Services** director of field operations **David Diliberto** in June 2004. Sentencing was set for June 22. Ferdin, the voice of "Lucy" in several "Peanuts" television specials, in 2004 became head of the U.S. branch of **Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty**, after founder **Kevin Kjonaas** was indicted for conspiracy to commit animal enterprise terrorism and interstate stalking. Kjonaas was convicted in March 2006. Vasek was barred in 2004 from visiting England to address an animal rights conference, because of remarks he made in 2003 that seemed to endorse killing vivisectioners. In April 2005, while a member of the **Sea Shepherd Conservation Society** board of directors, Vasek allegedly said similar things about sealers in a radio interview, and was removed from the Sea Shepherd board after allegedly posting personal details about a sealer on the Sea Shepherd web site.

## Alaska steps up predator killing

**The Alaska Board of Game** at a three-day mid-May 2006 meeting expanded predator killing to increase huntable moose and caribou populations to cover about 9% of the state; eased restrictions on land-and-shoot bear hunting using aircraft and bait piles; expanded five areas that are open to land-and-shoot and aerial wolf-killing, tripling one of them; added incentives for killing grizzly bears in two areas; and adopted amendments intended to limit the ability of opponents of predator killing to challenge the changes in court. Alaska is now persecuting predators more aggressively than at any time in approximately 30 years.

ers from some sales taxes, and to overturn some local zoning ordinances that have been adopted to keep puppy mills out. Vilsack vetoed a similar bill in 2004. Earlier, on May 31, 2006, Vilsack vetoed a bill which would have limited the ability of the state Department of Natural Resources to deny licenses to confinement livestock facilities, or to require them to follow prescribed manure management plans.

**South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford** on May 30, 2006 allowed a bill stripping local governments of authority to regulate poultry farms to become law without his signature. The bill is a boon to the 1,107 egg farms, 426 broiler farms, and 331 turkey farms in South Carolina, but impedes the ability of communities to keep factory farms out.



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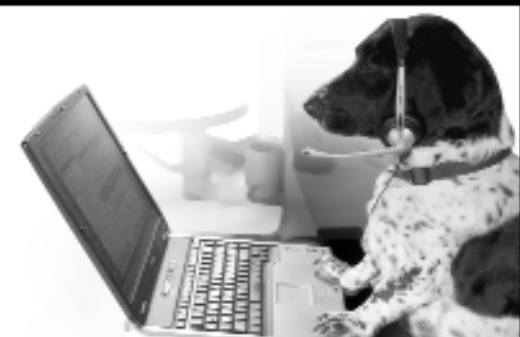
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# NOAH's ark on Puget Sound

**STANWOOD, Washington**—A starling swooped through the last daylight across the northbound lane of I-5, toward a gap in the young alders on the inland side. Braking to avoid the starling, I saw the sunset glinting off a sign through the trees, saying something about spay/neuter—and beyond the sign, caught a glimpse of a new animal shelter.

Just short of the Snohomish/Skagit county line, as close to the middle of nowhere as I-5 goes between Seattle and British Columbia, the starling had helped **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to quite accidentally discover the three-year-old NOAH Center.

It looked like a must to turn around and investigate.

Approaching past a cluster of off-leash dog exercise yards, I met executive director Austin Gates walking one last dog before locking up for the evening. Other late-working staff were just going home.

A public obedience class was ending in the NOAH Center training arena.

Many executive directors would have said, "Now that you know the way here, come back another time."

Gates said, "Come on in."

Built by the Northwest Organization for Animal Help with substantial support from the Edson Foundation, the no-kill NOAH Center went through a few years of shake-down, testing and improving the new facilities and developing programs.

Now the NOAH Center is ready, Gates explained, to grow into the teaching and training mission that the shelter directors had in mind all along. Hosting a recent visit by 35 members of the Washington Animal Control Association was the start, the directors hope, of inspiring a whole new approach to animal sheltering in the Puget Sound region and perhaps beyond.

Accomplishments include averaging more than 2,500 dog and cat sterilizations per year, and more than 1,000 adoptions, recruiting and managing 280 volunteers with a paid staff of just 13.

The human population of Stanwood, the nearest town, is only 4,000, with only 50,000 people in the four nearest towns.

Inconspicuous and seemingly out-of-the-way as it is, the NOAH Center draws adopters and volunteers from well beyond the usual service radius of an animal shelter, even without advertising, by offering a combination of attractive facilities, positive energy, and convenient access, once one knows about it.

The importance of education to the NOAH mission is immediately evident. The adoption desk is straight ahead from the main entrance, a pet supply boutique is to the right, and behind the adoption desk, visible through a corridor, is a classroom-and-library area

occupying half or more of the space between the two wings of a building resembling a National Park lodge.

The NOAH board members traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad, Gates explained, collecting ideas.

The closest apparent inspiration is the much larger five-year-old Oregon Humane Society shelter in Portland. Other probable sources of ideas include the nine-year-old Maddie's Adoption Center in San Francisco; the five-year-old Pet Network of North Lake Tahoe shelter in Incline Village, Nevada; the Hong Kong SPCA; and the Best Friends Animal Society, of Kanab, Utah.

Gates attributes to Best Friends much of the management philosophy, and also credits her own early experience with the Denver Dumb Friends League. A 17-year shelter veteran, Gates later directed both the Ottawa Shores Humane Society and the animal control department in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before coming to NOAH.

Gates found the serve-the-public Dumb Friends League attitude particularly hard to instill in the Grand Rapids animal control staff, she admits, where many of the staff were career civil servants.

Coming to NOAH with the opportunity to build a first-rate organization from the start was, Gates says, the big break every animal shelter director dreams of.

## "Shopping mall"

The NOAH Center houses cats to the left of the main entrance, dogs to the right.

"There's no stench here," marveled Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* reporter M.L. Lyke in 2003, when the NOAH Center opened. "Industrial-size laundry machines and constant scrubdowns make sure of that. And there is none of the dead-end dog-pound blues yelping heard at other shelters. NOAH dogs are trained to de-stress through calming exercises. There is also no euthanasia room."

The building is still library-quiet and odor-free, demonstrating the advantages of using storefront-grade window glass instead of chain link to divide animal quarters, maintaining constant air exchange, ducting air from the bottoms of rooms instead of the tops, and using well-placed sound baffles.

The NOAH staff rules include immediate poop removal at all times and no use of the term "cages" to refer to animal housing on the premises. Indeed, there are no animal quarters resembling cages.

The design concept, Gates said, is for the NOAH Center to resemble a shopping mall as much as possible: clean, quiet, comfortable, a place where neither animals nor staff nor visitors feel stressed.

A separate entrance for the public



*The NOAH Center in Stanwood, Washington.*

low-cost sterilization clinic is entered from the far end of the cat wing, where animals are least likely to become aware of the presence of other animals.

How low is low-cost?

"We will perform the procedure on pets of qualifying families for \$25," Gates said. "We do feral cats for \$25, or for 25¢ on Monday mornings."

The NOAH Center also loans out traps to feral cat colony caretakers.

## Matchmaking

Animals for adoption are drawn from local animal control agencies, where most were on death row after exhausting their holding time. The NOAH Center does not accept animals directly from the public.

"Not every pound pup is NOAH material," Lyke explained. "The staff carefully screens incoming animals to make sure they're family-friendly. A healthy animal with three legs and one eye might make the grade. But an aggressive dog that fails the center's temperament test is out of luck."

"The animals may get more screening than the families who come to adopt them," Lyke wrote with evident surprise. "NOAH has a guilt-free adoption policy that avoids human interrogation. There are no investigations into animals who passed away, no requests for character references from three vets. The NOAH process simply involves meeting with a matchmaker to find the right two-legged and four-legged connection."

As most incoming animals have not yet been sterilized, they arrive through the clinic. Cats then go through the back door into comfortable "kitty condominiums." Dogs get their first walk through part of the 17-acre NOAH grounds. Later, volunteers will take them for at least one walk per day and usually several, over looping nature trails.

The 4,800-square-foot dog training area is just beyond a British-style parasol kennel that forms a turret at the north end of the dog wing. The training area was recently

refloored at cost of \$10,000 with a material made from recycled tires, usually used to surface indoor tracks. The price is competitive for the area covered, and the floor is at once soft on dogs' paws and resistant to wear.

Gates points out that a soft floor was a necessity for offering agility training, in which dogs jump a lot.

## How it came about

While the NOAH Center is only three years old, the Northwest Organization for Animal Help "was founded in 1986 by Nancy Gebhardt, Anne Belovich, Fran Osawa and a group of caring volunteers," the NOAH Center web site acknowledges. Belovich is now listed as director emeritus.

Initially a shelterless rescue network, NOAH eventually ran a small shelter on Camano Island, outgrew it, and opened a thrift store in Stanwood to raise funds for bigger premises. The going was slow until early 2000, when Bayliner boat company founders Orin and Charlene Edson donated \$1.5 million toward the construction of the NOAH Center, and put up a \$1.5 million matching challenge grant to start an endowment fund.

Though that sounds like a lot of money, the NOAH Center actually cost no more to build than many conventional shelters of comparable size—and cost much less than most of the shelters from which the NOAH Center borrows ideas.

Gates told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that the NOAH Center will provide sets of blueprints to other organizations for \$50, which is their cost per set.

The NOAH Center scored 100 on the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** point scale, detailed in the June 2004 edition. Based upon how well a shelter fulfills the "Five Freedoms" articulated by the British Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee in 1967, with nine further considerations specific to dog and cat sheltering, the scale is designed to evaluate all types of shelter on an equal footing, regardless of size, function, or budget.

—Merritt Clifton

## Humane success makes a booming market for mixed-breed pups

(from page 1)

their grubstake for getting started in the U.S..

For two weeks preceding Christmas 2005 the Border Puppy Task Force, formed by 14 California animal welfare and law enforcement agencies, tried to get a sense of the size of the puppy traffic.

"Agents at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa border crossings" in southern California "ordered vehicles carrying anything with 'feathers, fleas, fur or fangs' to a separate area for more thorough inspections," reported Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat. "The searches turned up 362 puppies under 3 months old, 155 between three and six months, and 1,061 adult dogs," for a total of 1,579 animals in 1,157 vehicles.

"It's unclear exactly how many of those dogs were smuggled," Spagat continued. "It's legal to ferry dogs if they are declared at the border and they have rabies shots and health records—but Captain Aaron

Reyes, director of operations at the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority in Los Angeles County, said the 'vast majority' of those under three months were probably contraband. About half the puppies between three and six months old were likely smuggled, he said.

"Typically small breeds like poodles and Chihuahuas," Spagat wrote, "the puppies are believed to be purchased in Mexico for between \$50 and \$150, then sold at street corners, parking lots and flea markets in Southern California for between \$300 and \$1,000 each."

## Meanwhile...

The Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County may have had little choice but to fire someone after the mistaken euthanasia case hit the news. Discussion of the case among online dog rescuers was fast and furious. Most commentators were sure they could have saved

those puppies, had they been offered the chance.

Before e-mail, those messages might have been telephone calls. Outrage might have simmered locally, but probably would not have spread beyond the community.

Today, word of such cases circles the globe in under 24 hours. A local error can become an international incident—and astute shelter directors know they must respond to the online buzz, because the people buzzing are collectively a network of tens of thousands, whose e-mailed descriptions and photos of animals often help to find homes for the hardest cases.

More than a third and perhaps half of all adoptions nationally are Internet-assisted, including

about 3.2 million adoptions (about 11.5% of the total) achieved through PetSmart Charities' Luv-A-Pet boutiques in Petsmart stores.

When the fostering and adoption volunteers who make that record possible become irate because puppies were killed who could have been saved, assuaging their anger becomes priority #1.

Shelters took mistaken euthanasia seriously even when shelter killing was at a peak 30 to 40 years ago. Saving animals who could be saved was what kept donors giving and kept workers on the job.

Yet as recently as 15 years ago, a case like the one in Tacoma would rarely have been a mistake. Conventional shelter management belief was that large, dark mixed-

breed puppies had almost no chance to be reclaimed or adopted.

Pet overpopulation was still equated with surplus litters. Found litters and owner-surrendered litters of large mixed-breed pups were often killed immediately, to keep cage space open for dogs who might have had better prospects and required less care.

"The 7-week-old mixed-breed puppies were euthanized less

(continued on page 18)



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# Humane success makes a booming market for mixed-breed pups (from 17)

than six hours after a Good Samaritan neighbor took them to the shelter,” reported Kris Sherman of the Tacoma *News-Tribune*. “Greg Stillwell, the puppies’ owner, said they somehow escaped from his Point Defiance-area home. He learned they’d been taken to the shelter when he returned home from work, but by the time he got there first thing Saturday, they were gone.”

By law, the humane society was supposed to have kept the pups for at least 48 hours. Shelter policy is to hold all animals for at least 72 hours.

The presumption now is that all dogs found at large have a home. Fifteen years ago, that was not always believed to be true of found mixed-breed pups. Most often they had just been dumped by someone who wanted to “give them a chance” better than their prospects in typical shelters.

Today, most puppies can be saved, regardless of breeding, if they are healthy or can be brought to health. Many shelters have more people willing to foster dogs, of any age, than they have dogs to be fostered.

Most shelters are still coping with too many dogs.



At Jo Jo the Dog Man’s kennels. (Libby Willams)

## Dogs as drug mules

Among the grimmest indicators of the rising value of puppies is the increasing use of their bodies as live containers for smuggled illegal drugs—a dodge that can only work if the animals are in sufficient demand at high prices that import inspectors are not surprised to see them in transit.

Such a case shocked France in early May after the remains of 15 dogs were found among the trash left after the annual Teknikval rave music festival at Chavanne, near Bourges. “Most of the animals had their bellies cut open,” reported John Lichfield of *The Independent*. “The Société Protectrice des Animaux for the département of Cher said that it hoped to trace the owners of the dead dogs and investigate the deaths.”

“Some of the dogs were tattooed with official identification numbers,” an SPA investigator told Lichfield. “We are going to track down the owners and bring prosecutions against them.”

Wrote Lichfield, “Cases of dogs being made to swallow packages of drugs have also been reported in South America, Belgium and the Netherlands. This is the first case of its kind in France.”

John P. Gillbridge, New York City field division chief for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, testified in Brooklyn on February 1, 2006 that an early 2005 raid on a farm near Medellin, Columbia, rescued 10 purebred puppies from a makeshift veterinary clinic. Six had already had about a pound of liquid heroin apiece surgically implanted in their bellies. Three of the six later died from infected surgical wounds. The other puppies were awaiting the operation.

While the use of dogs as “drug mules” is relatively new, humans have long transported smuggled drugs in ingested plastic bags or hidden in body cavities, and have sometimes died of overdoses from leaking drug residues.

A safer tactic, traffickers discovered decades ago, was to induce exotic cats, snakes, and other potentially dangerous animals to ingest plastic bags of contraband. The animals would typically pass through border checkpoints without close physical examination, and the bags could be collected later from their feces.

Larger amounts of drugs could be surgically implanted in the animals, and then be surgically removed, but this is believed to have been done less, because surgical scars tended to give away the procedure.

The exotic pet import business and the transborder drug traffic expanded rapidly together from the 1960s to the 1990s. Among the best known traffickers known to have moved both animals and drugs were reputed Medellin cocaine king Pablo Escobar, killed in a 1994 shootout with police, and Mario Tabraue, of Miami, who in 1989 drew a sentence of 100 years in prison for allegedly dismembering and burning the remains of former federal informant Larry Vance Nash. Nash was allegedly killed by Tabraue associate Miguel A. Ramirez in 1980.

Both Tabraue and Ramirez won early release from prison by testifying against other drug dealers. After his release, Tabraue returned to operating his animal importing firm, Zoological Imports in Miami.

But between the success of pet sterilization and electronic adoption promotion, through services such as Pets-911, even large dark mixed breeds are no longer in oversupply as acute as even a few years ago.

The glut in the early 21st century is of pit bull terriers and pit bull mixes, mostly of unknown breeding and training. Though pit bulls and pit mixes make up under 6% of the U.S. dog population, they account for about a fourth of all dog admissions to shelters.

Because pit bulls and pit mixes also account for more than half of all the insurance industry payout for dog attacks, they are essentially uninsurable adoptions in many cities, and still have a euthanasia rate believed to exceed 90%.

But a 90% death rate was the norm for all shelter dogs circa 1980.

Even in that atmosphere, “Jo Jo the Dog Man” O’Neill accurately perceived and exploited a puppy shortage.

## Jo Jo the Dog Man

O’Neill, proprietor of J.P. O’Neill Kennels in Princeton, was a dog breeder. But more than a breeder, O’Neill was a seller.

J.P. O’Neill Kennels happened to be at the western end of the most heavily traveled highway corridor crossing central New Jersey east/west before the construction of I-195. At the other end was the first low-cost sterilization clinic in the U.S., opened in Neptune, New Jersey in 1957 by Friends of Animals founder Alice Herrington. Somehow O’Neill became aware, well ahead of most of the pet industry, that many of his clients just wanted inexpensive pups, regardless of breed, and suddenly couldn’t find them in the Neptune area.

The quickest way to turn a profit in dog-selling, O’Neill discovered, was to collect free-to-good-home puppies from rural Pennsylvania, Ohio, and other nearby states, sell as many as he could in New Jersey while they were still small and cute, then dump unsold surplus at shelters—most often, apparently, the North Shore Animal League, in Port Washington, New York, and the four shelters of the Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey.

When asked about his business, O’Neill often alleged, including to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, that he was a puppy broker for North Shore. This claim created a deep rift for a time between North Shore and the Associated Humane Societies. Eventually North Shore threatened to sue O’Neill.

By the mid-1980s, as the giveaway puppy volume diminished, O’Neill began advertising in rural newspapers, actively seeking pups. He began paying up to \$10 each for pups. He drove ever farther to get pups.

O’Neill collected the most pups in the Amish districts of Ohio—but the Amish discovered his markets. Amish families by the dozens gave up Ohio dairy farms during the 1980s, taking advantage of federally subsidized whole-herd buyouts undertaken to stabilize milk prices, and moved to the outer New York and Philadelphia suburbs to breed dogs.

Near the end of O’Neill’s long career in dog-selling, he became aware that dogs of exotic background offered by rescue groups often fetch premium adoption fees, and that western European dealers had for at least a decade been profitably exploiting puppy surpluses in the former Communist nations.

As dog sterilization has gradually caught on in eastern Europe, U.S.-style puppy mills have become established in Poland and Hungary, producing high-priced purebreds cheaply enough that some are commercially imported to the U.S.

A landmark of sorts was achieved in early May 2006 when the head prosecutor of Gyor-Moson-Sopron County, Hungary, initiated criminal charges against the 63-year-old owner of a puppy mill in Sopron, where 209 dogs were discovered in conditions of alleged severe neglect after a March 2006 demonstration by local animal activists.

While eastern Europeans are managing to match the worst abuses of U.S. puppy-millers, no one has figured out yet how to efficiently import dogs of ordinary market value for either sale or adoption in the U.S.

The North Shore Animal League America has led the U.S. for decades in developing humane relocation to help dogs and cats find homes. Pioneering high-volume adoption since the late 1960s, North Shore initially placed mostly animals from local pounds, then brought animals from farther afield as the local supply ran out.

By the early 1990s North Shore collected animals from shelters as far away as Alabama in a fleet of air-conditioned vans. The shelters providing the animals, then and now, receive subsidies for sterilization and adoption promotion.

North Shore has experimented with similar arrangements involving shelters in China and several other nations, but even though the imported animals have been quickly rehomed, the high cost of air transport has thwarted hopes of expanding the import volume.

Many smaller all-volunteer charities such as Save-A-Sato and the Taiwan Abandoned Animal Rescue Foundation have for more than 10 years successfully imported animals for adoption from Puerto Rico, Taiwan, and other nations by persuading travelers to take dogs and cats as part of their baggage allowances.

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That works well for individual rescuers who rehome animals just one or two at a time, but not for organizations placing dozens or even hundreds of animals per weekend, who need a reliable supply to keep prospective adopters from going to breeders or stores that sell puppy-mill animals.

Whatever idea O’Neill had for profitably importing puppies from Poland apparently went to his grave with him. Yet few who knew him doubt that he was there because he thought he saw significant easy profits—and as O’Neill was never in the high-end market, he must have seen a way to import dogs less expensively than anyone else.

“His family soon after his death gave up the business,” New Jersey activist Libby Williams told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Our organization, New Jersey Consumers Against Pet Shop Abuse, was contacted by O’Neill’s wife, a week after he died. Approximately 80 four-to-six-month old mixed-breed puppies were left behind. Mrs. O’Neill offered us 40 puppies,” placed with the help of the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter, “with the remainder going to North Shore.”

“The era of Jo Jo the Dogman is finally over,” Williams summarized. “Unfortunately, there are many others who are operating the same way.”

## Puppy millers

However, Jo Jo clones are the least of the worries of the humane community about the effects of unfilled demand for pups. Of much greater concern is the migration of high-volume breeding—“puppy-milling”—from economically struggling parts of the Midwest to the edges of affluent suburbs.

The neighbors are noticing.

“These despicable places, where dogs are bred and raised in unsanitary, crowded and disease-prone conditions, flourish in Pennsylvania, specifically in Lancaster County,” fulminated a Philadelphia *Daily News* editorial on March 29, 2006. “Known for lush farms and its Amish population, the county and its more than 240 puppy mills have helped make Pennsylvania the puppy mill capitol of the east.

“It’s a shameful reputation,” the *Daily News* continued. “Puppy mills are not pretty places.”

The *Daily News* called for “steps from the Legislature, changes in administrative policy, and in regulations. More dog wardens, with greater enforcement power and more responsibilities, are needed. So too are prosecutors whose specific job is to handle these and other related cases.”

The *Daily News* even envisioned “an animal-control version of a SWAT team that can quickly swoop down on mills and take breeders who are violating the law into custody.”

Fifteen years ago that would have been radical talk from an animal rights group, let alone mainstream media.

Puppy-millers are also running into fierce resistance in Minnesota, a longtime hub of the industry despite the opposition of several generations of Minnesota politicians, beginning with former U.S. Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the 1950s.

Long associated with the Happy Tails kennel in Little Falls, Minnesota, best known for selling a pup named Spike to singer Donny Osmond in 1999, Gary McDuffee expected little opposition when in late 2005 he sought to build a bigger facility in Labelle Prairie Township.

The Morrison County commissioners quickly issued a conditional use permit allowing McDuffee to keep up to 600 dogs on 40 acres, waiving an environmental review.

McDuffee, 52, testified that he had enjoyed an excellent inspection record during his 25 years as a dog breeder, and pledged to have his breeding dogs surgically debarked to avoid disturbing his neighbors.

As of January 25, 2006, when Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reporter Paul Levy described McDuffee’s plans, the visible opponents included Vicki Davis, executive director of the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud; neighbor Roger Nelson, 69, and other neighbors who signed a petition that Nelson circulated; and Prior Lake breeder Joyce Borglund, in business 11 years, who keeps 25 dogs or fewer.

“There is no controversy at all,” McDuffee said of Happy Tails.

Then the *Star Tribune* article hit the Internet.

By January 30, Morrison County administrator Tim Houle told the Duluth *News-Tribune*, the volume of complaints was “unlike anything we’ve seen here.”

An online petition attracted 15,000 electronic signatures in just two weeks.

The *Star Tribune* discovered USDA reports on Happy Tails describing “plastic walls behind the dog runs lined with urine and waste buildup. Some kennels were below standard size; others had exposed, sharp edges. Expired medical drugs were found.”

The Morrison County commissioners sought compromise by suspending approval of any new kennels for one year. They asked the state to regulate breeding kennels. But the commissioners did not rescind the permit granted to McDuffee.

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## Humane success makes market for puppies (from 18)

Neighbors sued the county in February 2006 for approving the permit. The Minnesota Federated Humane Societies in March 2006 asked the state Court of Appeals to overturn the permit on grounds that debarking the dogs would constitute cruelty.

### Shifting positions

Opposing debarking and high-volume breeding is the traditional and virtually unanimous position of the humane community—but these are relatively difficult issues to legislatively deal with, because they involve either local or state jurisdictions. Thus each political battle must be fought at least 50 times, often against deeply entrenched local interests, to fully reform or at least regulate current practice.

Federal legislation, once achieved, applies to all 50 states, and there is a clear history of precedent for federal intervention to ensure the health and welfare of animals moving between states in commerce, or entering the U.S. from abroad.

Seeking stronger federal laws and more funding for enforcement of existing laws to curb puppy-milling has had demonstrable donor appeal ever since the 1969 privatization of the U.S. Postal Service introduced bulk mail discounts for non-profit fundraising.

Back then, however, humane societies and local breeders tended to neatly align themselves in opposition to any interstate puppy transport. The possibility of anyone ever doing significant numbers of out-of-state adoptions was apparently completely unforeseen.

The hope of the humane community was that if the sale of inexpensive volume-bred puppies could be curtailed, dealing with the cast-offs from small-time local breeders might become manageable. Local breeders mostly just did not want big commercial breeders undercutting their prices.

One result of that long-ago alliance is that to this day the federal Animal Welfare Act still does not regulate breeders who sell pups directly to the public.

“If you call yourself a kennel and sell to the public, irrespective of the number of puppies sold, you don’t require a [federal] permit,” USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service spokesperson Darby Holladay explained recently to Karen Dandurant of the *Portsmouth Herald*. “If you come to me as a dealer and are buying wholesale, you need a license.”

The growth of Internet-assisted humane relocation for adoption and direct-to-consumer puppy sales by commercial breeders have confusingly shifted the alliances that created the Animal Welfare Act in 1971, as a major expansion of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966.

Local breeders are still fighting a losing battle against humane relocation and interstate commercial traffic in pups, led by Oregon breeder and National Animal Interest Alliance founder Patti Strand.

Some humane societies and animal control agencies remain skeptical of humane relocation, but mostly no longer oppose it, if only to avoid conflict with Internet-using rescuers.

Internet-using rescuers and high-volume adoption shelters tend to be vociferous arch-foes of puppy millers, but fight any proposals that might inhibit humane relocation.

Puppy-millers have discovered that hiding behind the concerns of humane relocaters tends to be their best defense.

Including exemptions for nonprofit organizations is not really a way to bypass the problem, because most individual rescuers do not have nonprofit status, while establishing bogus nonprofit fronts to evade taxation and regulation is an increasingly often used trick of profit-seeking industries.

### The Santorum PAWS bill

The paradoxes of political alignment in the Internet era have inflamed web sites, e-mail lists, and chat boards since U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) on May 26, 2005 introduced S. 1139, called the Pet Animal Welfare Statute.

“The bill is meant to modernize the Animal Welfare Act to assure compliance with minimum animal welfare standards in the commercial pet trade, as Congress originally intended,” Santorum said.

On March 16, 2006, after more than nine months of acrimony, Santorum unveiled a discussion draft of an amended

version of the PAWS bill. The “core principles,” explains Santorum’s web site, are that persons who breed and/or sell a high volume of dogs and cats at retail should be regulated, while persons who import dogs and cats into the United States for resale should be subject to regulations that protect the health and welfare of the imported animals.

“There is a need for additional statutory authority for the Secretary of Agriculture,” the Santorum web site summarizes. “The Centers for Disease Control monitors the import of dogs and cats for zoonotic diseases (diseases that can affect humans), but the CDC does not monitor the import of dogs and cats for animal health and animal welfare purposes,” and lacks the infrastructure to do so.

The USDA has the requisite infrastructure, but lacks jurisdictional authority “to establish or enforce standards to protect animal health and welfare with respect to mass import of dogs and cats for resale.”

PAWS seeks to “limit the importation of puppies to those who are more than six months of age,” and to “require that imported dogs and cats be in good health and have all necessary vaccinations.”

Within the humane community, the most controversial aspect of PAWS is that it would permit “certified third party inspections” in place of inspection by APHIS personnel.

“It is essential to alleviate the inspection burden placed on APHIS,” Santorum argues. “APHIS is currently struggling to maintain its current inspection program. Bringing high volume retailers under coverage of the Animal Welfare Act and strengthening enforcement provisions so as to increase compliance will further increase the APHIS inspection burden.”

“In many instances,” Santorum asserts, “there are duplicate inspections of compliant facilities...by private entities, APHIS, and state or local authorities...Accordingly,” the present version of PAWS adds an “exemption for persons who sell dogs or cats solely at retail, and are determined to be in compliance with the standards of a nonprofit organization which has been certified by the Secretary as having standards and inspection protocols that are at least as protective of animal welfare as those required under the Animal Welfare Act.”

“In addition,” Santorum adds, “persons who are dealers under the Act may opt for inspection by a certified third party inspector in lieu of inspection” by APHIS.

“The certified third party inspector would have to undergo a rigorous certification process, and would be subject to ongoing surveillance” by APHIS, says Santorum.

The March 2006 edition of PAWS also “removes from the dealer definition in the Animal Welfare Act all references to the sale of ‘hunting, security, or breeding’ dogs,” Santorum explains, to “preclude potential litigation arguing that the dealer definition currently in the Act requires that sellers of hunting, security or breeding dogs be regulated on a more stringent basis than persons who sell dogs as pets.”

The March 2006 PAWS draft “clarifies that not-for-profit animal shelters, rescue organizations and other persons who do not sell dogs imported into the U.S. for resale and do not operate for profit are excluded from coverage as a dealer. The sponsors of PAWS do not intend to change the status of nonprofits with regard to Animal Welfare Act regulation,” Santorum emphasizes.

Heavily promoted by the Humane Society of the U.S., Doris Day Animal League, and other national animal advocacy groups in original form, PAWS no longer enjoys the strength of support from the humane community that it had in 2005.

“Third party inspections of puppy mills by industry groups such as the American Kennel Club...sets a dangerous precedent of empowerment for other industry oversight bodies such as the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care,” points out the American Anti-Vivisection Society.

In addition, notes AAVS executive director Tracie Letterman, PAWS “now excludes most animal dealers selling to research facilities.”

“We expect the new version to be introduced soon in the Senate,” Animal Welfare Institute president Cathy Liss told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in mid-May 2006. “I don’t think the bill can move as a free-standing measure, but with Santorum able to demonstrate widespread support, anything can happen,” such as PAWS being adopted as a rider to a USDA budget bill.

“While the House Agriculture Committee is against any animal welfare measures,” Liss added, “they may like this one because it is so helpful to industry.”

### Lawsuits & buying power

Meanwhile, using existing legislation, the Humane Society of the U.S. and several individual puppy purchasers on February 9, 2006 filed suit against the online puppy dealer Jim Anderson, doing business as Wizard of Claws in Pembroke Pines, Florida. Explained an HSUS news release, “The suit alleges that Wizard of Claws defrauds customers by misrepresenting the origin of puppies sold, and by selling puppy mill dogs that suffer from a wide array of health problems, including contagious diseases and genetic disorders.”

Following a five-part NBC investigative series reported by Jeff Burnside and produced by Scott Zamost, Florida attorney general Charlie Crist on March 1, 2006 announced that his office would also probe Wizard of Claws. The business “looks like it could violate Florida statute 501, which is unfair trade and deceptive practice,” Crist told NBC.

Historically the humane community has understood that puppy-millers could not be bought out of business, though attempts have been made at times to buy out individual breeders who seemed unlikely to resume. The idea of competing with commercial dealers to buy dogs at auction has also been rejected as economically unviable, even when the circumstances might not give breeders an incentive to breed more.

## Poll shows loss on testing

**LONDON**—“The proportion of people approving of animal testing in medical research is at an all-time high. More than three quarters believe that the more extreme elements among animal rights activists deserve to be called terrorists,” wrote Anthony King of *The Daily Telegraph* on May 29, 2006.

Agreed *Daily Telegraph* home affairs editor Philip Johnston, “Campaigns such as intimidating scientists and threatening shareholders in pharmaceutical companies appear to have backfired badly.”

King and Johnston based their analysis on a May 2006 YouGov poll of 2,102 British adults, sponsored by *The Daily Telegraph*.

“With one exception,” King wrote, “opinion on the issue differs scarcely at all from one social group to another. People in all age groups and all parts of the country, and supporters of all political parties, are united in believing that testing new medical treatments on live animals is morally acceptable. The exception is that among women, 59% favour animal testing, but among men the corresponding proportion is far higher: 82%. Conversely,” King continued, “where 25% of women are opposed to animal testing under any circumstances, the figure among men is a modest 10%.”

Added King, “72% are also persuaded that the big pharmaceutical companies mean what they say when they threaten to transfer medical research to other countries, if the research environment in Britain becomes, from their point of view, unduly repressive. A mere 14% think that the companies are bluffing and simply want to conduct research on animals free of effective restrictions.”

The poll was taken shortly after Prime Minister Tony Blair on May 14, 2006 endorsed animal testing in a guest essay for *The Daily Telegraph*, and blasted activists who had issued anonymous threats to about 50 shareholders in GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

But the changing economics of supply-and-demand helped to make rescuers the most aggressive bidders on April 29, 2006 at the Bartow County Animal Shelter near Cartersville, Georgia. By order of Probate Judge Mitchell Scoggins, 128 dogs from the estate of breeder Katherine Culberson went on the block. Another 28 dogs, considered beyond sale, were given outright to rescue groups.

“Many of the dogs were in poor health and unaccustomed to humans because they had spent their lives in cages,” reported Jeffry Scott of the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution*.

Guy Bilyeu, 46, executive director of the Chattanooga-based Humane Educational Society, showed up with a group of supporters and \$16,000. He bought more than 60 dogs,” Scott wrote. “Richard Dubé, 56, of Southern Comfort Maltese Rescue, said he brought about \$12,000 and planned to buy about 20 Malteses, give them medical treatment and neuter them, and adopt them out for \$200 to \$300 each.”

The North Shore Animal League also participated.

“We’re making sure these dogs don’t get bought by other breeders and find homes,” Bilyeu told Scott.

Breeders were present and bidding, but appeared to have been shut out.

### Designer pups

“In my community,” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** guest columnist Margaret Anne Cleek wrote in November 1993, “some individuals are purposely breeding small mixed-breed dogs and selling them for up to \$125. There is a wanted ad for small mixed pups run continuously in our paper by a local pet store. We have created a shortage of small dogs and easily adaptable family mutts. And when a demand is created, people will produce pups to meet the demand.

Irate readers disbelieved that puppies were no longer in substantial oversupply.

But Cleek’s projections were validated in 1994-1996 by the National Council on Pet Population Study—though the findings were not published until 2005.

The National Council established that the U.S. puppy birth rate appeared to have stabilized at about six million per year. Puppy births in households exceeded pet dog attrition by only 2.4%, while the pet dog population was growing, then and now, by about 1.5% per year.

That left surplus puppy births in homes at under 1%. Puppies produced by breeders appeared to be competing for homes successfully against adult shelter dogs, not shelter pups.

About 6% of the U.S. dog population passed through animal shelters, both in 1996 and now—but even in 1996, puppies were only about 17% of the total shelter dog traffic.

In December 2006 the pet store price of especially cute small mixed-breed “designer pups” in Tom’s River, New Jersey, reportedly soared to \$1,600. The breeder price was \$800, wrote *Asbury Park Press* correspondent Cheryl Miller.

Miller’s article alarmed Virginia Merry, vice president of Animal Birth Control Inc. in nearby Pine Beach.

“Our volunteers as well as others have worked hard for the past few decades to bring down the population of unwanted and abandoned pups bred by careless owners,” Merry wrote. “Then along comes a thoughtless article like Miller’s, in which greedy people are given a blueprint of how to make big bucks breeding puppies.

“Animal welfare groups have been fighting against puppy mill animals sold in pet shops for years,” Merry continued, “pointing out the wisdom and joy of rescuing animals at shelters instead. So now we have a new trend: designer dogs, bred mutt to mutt, in addition to the many pedigree dogs born with genetic diseases due to inbreeding and over-breeding. Shelters will soon be filled with designer dogs, whom nobody will want once they pass the cuddly stage.”

But the public wants pups, and if the humane community can’t fill the demand, breeders will. —Merritt Clifton



Pound dog photographed for adoption. (Diana Nolen)

**A Shepherd's Watch:**  
*Through the Seasons with  
One Man and His Dogs*  
by David Kennard  
St. Martin's Press (175 5th Ave.,  
NY 10010), 2005.  
184 pages, hardcover. \$30.00.

On turning the first pages of *A Shepherd's Watch* and looking at the pictures of the faces of five happy sheep dogs, we knew intuitively that we would enjoy this book. As animal rights activists, we were pleasantly surprised to read how author David Kennard admired for her beauty and cunning a fox he saw trying to hunt a lamb, instead of shooting her on sight. Here in South Africa, such an attack would most likely have resulted in the fox being shot, under an official declaration that foxes are a problem species, to be exterminated or risk prosecution.

With humour and rare authenticity, Kennard relates one year in the life of a North Devon sheep farmer. He takes us through the cycle of the seasons, each with its own unique charm, natural beauty and hardships. Toiling through lambing, weaning, tugging, and all the other seasonal chores, Kennard reveals how dependent the British sheep farmer is upon his faithful and hard-working sheep dogs. The industry would collapse without the dogs, and Kennard's book is as much about his dogs as about himself. His five dogs, each with an individual personality, bring expertise to work each and every day.

Representing England in international sheep dog trials, Kennard describes a difficult exercise where, "Greg [*one of his dogs*] was obviously aware that this was a brace run, and on arriving at the sheep, had lain down and waited for a minute or so for his partner to arrive without a command from me. When Swift appeared, he simply got to his feet and moved across to his side of the sheep. I don't know how many people noticed his reaction, but it was something that I'll never forget."

The two dogs had to move together and Greg knew instinctively that he had to wait for his partner to get into position before he could begin his own run.

Also of interest to us was the progress of a young and inexperienced dog named Ernie.

Terms of trade have moved against the traditional sheep farmer, whose flocks roam the fields and enjoy a relatively happy

**One Day With  
A Goat Herd**  
by C.J. Stevens  
John Wade, Publisher (P.O. Box 303,  
Phillips, ME 04966), 2005.  
100 pages, hard cover. \$15.00.

This concise little book offers an hour-by-hour description of a day in the life of a herd of domestic milk goats in California. It will encourage people, especially children, to look at goats in a different light. Of most interest to me is the history included about how goats became domesticated and began to interact with humans. I would prefer to have become better acquainted with the goats as individual personalities.  
—Bev Pervan

life eating natural food in natural surroundings. Factory farmed imports drive down the price of lamb to the immediate detriment of the livestock farmer, and to the ultimate detriment of the health of the consumer. Wafer-thin profit margins prohibit paying attractive wages, driving away farm laborers, making the farmer reliant upon his own family, on seasonal veterinary volunteers, and upon his dogs.

Having farmed sheep ourselves, we know only too well how much hard work is involved. At least the sheep enjoy some quality of life before their shortened lives come to an abrupt end, in contrast to the pitiless cruelty of factory farming. Yet some of the methods employed by traditional livestock farmers are also to our minds questionable. When there is a conflict between the welfare of the animal and the financial constraints of the farmer, the animal loses every time.

For instance Kennard castrates his lambs by the common method of placing a tight rubber ring over the scrotum. This cuts off the blood supply to the testes, causing them to shrivel over a period of weeks and eventually, to drop off. This method is popular because it is quick, cheap, and effective. But we have seen how much discomfort the ring causes to ram lambs. Vasectomy under local anaesthetic would be better for the rams—but far too costly and slow for farming.

Kennard is well aware of the decline of the sheep industry in recent decades, and the reasons for it. Indeed, his book could be the swan-song of a way of life which is no longer feasible in an overpopulated world.

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

**Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby**  
Tom Doherty Associates (175 5th Ave., New York, NY 10010),  
2006. 267 pages, hardcover. \$17.95

"I called all over trying to find a place, but there are hundreds of chimps in need of a place to go, and they were especially uninterested in a chimp who can't be housed with other chimps."

This is the age-old problem of keeping baby "wild" animals as pets: what to do when they grow older and stronger, and can no longer live with humans in their homes.

*Hurt Go Happy* is the story of such a chimp. Although fiction, the novel is based on the true story of an ill-fated chimp named Lucy, who was raised as a human child in Oklahoma, as part of a language experiment. Rehabilitated and returned to the wild in 1977, as one of Gambia-based sanctuarian Janis Carter's early projects, Lucy was killed by poachers in 1987.

*Hurt Go Happy* begins with the tragic childhood of a young girl named Joey. Beaten by her father, she suffers a loss of

hearing. Instead of helping her to overcome her disability, her mother, wishing her to seem normal, refuses to allow her to learn sign language. Living a marginalized life, Joey finds salvation in a chance meeting with an elderly doctor, Charles Mansell, who is caring for a baby chimpanzee, whom he rescued from the bushmeat trade in Africa.

Joey falls in love with the baby chimp, who is lonely like her. Mansell encourages Joey to use sign language to communicate with the chimp. This brings conflict between Joey and her mother.

Joey's love for the little chimp will eventually take her on a journey which is both sad and uplifting, with many lessons for younger readers about what really happens to too many cute and cuddly baby animals who fall into human hands, and the importance of personally acting to alleviate the suffering of animals.  
—Beverley Pervan

**Animal Passions & Beastly Virtues:**  
*Reflections in Redecorating Nature*  
by Marc Bekoff  
Temple University Press (1601 North Broad Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19122), 2005. 290 pages, paperback. \$26.95.

Marc Bekoff, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, is among the best known scientists and scholars in animal welfare.

*Animal Passions & Beastly Virtues*, his latest of many books, covers topics ranging from the behavioral ecology of carnivores to the moral issues surrounding the use of animals in science.

We especially enjoyed Bekoff's essays on coyotes, since our own wildlife rehabilitation work during the years we ran the Kalahari Raptor Centre involved black-backed jackals, the comparably persecuted African and Asian coyote counterpart.

We found everything Bekoff observed in coyote behaviour to be relevant to our own jackals. Like Bekoff, whose pioneering field studies helped to turn American attitudes toward coyotes from fear and hatred to appreciation, we found jackals to be among the most lovable of wildlife species, remarkable for their intelligence, affectionate nature, and propensity for having fun.

As for "problem animal control," a euphemism for inflicting ghastly cruelty on animals to protect bad livestock farmers from paying for their own ignorance and callousness, Bekoff is in our view quite wrong to state on page 95 that "Failure of predation

control is due to a lack of basic knowledge about predatory species, a problem that can be remedied by further studies..."

In our own experience, as livestock farmers and wildlife rehabbers, predators are simply a test of management skills. We solved our predation problems not with traps, guns and poisons, like other farmers, but by changing the breed of our flock toward indigenous, agile animals, corralling the flock every night, and keeping lambs in safe camps until old enough to survive out in the veld.

In our view there is really no such thing as a problem animal, only problem farmers. The remedy for that is to uplift the ethical and intellectual capacity of farmers. In short, change the farmer, not the wildlife.

Other Bekoff essays deal with ethology, animal emotions, social play and communication, and human-animal interactions, particularly the adverse impact of human study upon animal subjects.

If we have a criticism, it is that the author tends to repeat himself. Certain themes, such as the need to wage peace with nature, can legitimately be stressed, but excessive repetition leads to tedium.

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



From *Cairo Cats*, by Lorraine Chittock.

**Cairo Cats: Egypt's Enduring Legacy**  
Photos by Lorraine Chittock  
Camel Caravan Press 1999, reissued 2001, 2006.  
Order c/o <www.CairoCats.com>. 96 pages, paperback. \$18.95.

Itinerant photographer and animal welfare volunteer Lorraine Chittock has sold out two editions of *Cairo Cats* during the past seven years, donating part of each press run and some of the proceeds as well to the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends.

This is the third edition.

The content consists chiefly of photos of Cairo street cats, captioned with appropriate quotes from Islamic literature. The photos illustrate that while Cairo street cats often lead hard lives and die young, they are at home in their native habitat, with little evident sense that they are "suffering" by mostly living outdoors on birds and mice. Many seem to see themselves as the rulers of their domain.

While *Cairo Cats* enjoys enduring popularity, Chittock has journeyed on to volunteer stints with the Best Friends Animal Society and Kenya SPCA, and has helped **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to cover the post-Hurricane Katrina rescue effort in New Orleans. At last word she was investigating animal welfare in Belize and Costa Rica. —Merritt Clifton

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# The Price of a Pedigree:

## Dog Breed Standards & Breed-Related Illnesses

Advocates for Animals (10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4PG, Scotland, U.K.), 2006. 25 pages, paperback, no price listed.

Members of the dog and cat fancies, as breeders and exhibitors of purebreds style themselves, like to pretend that there was a time when the humane community endorsed their obsession with “improving” dogs by selective inbreeding. Yet there has always been tension between those who recognize a moral obligation toward all animals and those who would distinguish between upper and lower classes, based on pedigree.

From the beginning of humane involvement in animal control, some fanciers have adopted prime specimens of their favorite breeds from death row in shelters, while humane workers have struggled with conflicting emotions—grateful that some animals are saved, but frustrated that even a biting purebred will almost always have a better chance of rescue, as a presumed “better” animal, than the nicest large mongrel or domestic shorthair.

Increasingly since dog and cat sterilization became widely available, humane workers have come to resent breeding of any kind. Purebred dogs conspicuously make up 25% to 33% of shelter admissions. This is well under half the percentage of purebreds in the general pet population, indicating that purebreds have a better-than-average chance of staying in homes, but shelter workers almost universally believe that all dogs could have homes if only breeding could be stopped.

Once generally true, this long since became demonstrably false. Twenty-odd years ago, when most dogs arriving at shelters were cast-off litters, “pet overpopulation” was an accurate term, as most shelter dogs were admitted as surplus. Today, in much of the U.S., most incoming dogs have flunked out of homes. They have become waste products, yet were not surplus when they were born and then deliberately bought by someone.

Stopping the supply-and-demand cycle that produces surplus dogs today requires intervention to keep dogs in homes.

One could accurately argue that breeding often amounts to practicing planned obsolescence. Producers of purebreds, especially puppy-millers who raise unsocialized

pups by the hundreds or even thousands, often sell animals with inbred health and behavior problems, which may result in the dogs or cats being replaced long before living out their natural lifespan. But producing purebreds is such a competitive and fragmented field that this could scarcely be anyone’s deliberate plot.

What is really going on is that the concept of “perfecting” dogs through selective breeding is inherently self-contradictory. Breeders purport to seek stable temperament. Yet they also seek repetitively predictable conformation among dogs who often are at extreme ends of variability within the species.

In general, the farther the breed standard is from the generic norms for all dogs, the greater the incidence of genetic defects and behavioral abnormality.

The humane community has compiled and published lists of the excesses of fancy-breeding for at least 80 years.

Among the most succinct is the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights’ *Guide to Congenital and Heritable Disorders in Dogs*, by Jean Dodds, DVM, originally issued in 1994, updated and reissued earlier in 2006. It sells for just \$1.00, from AVAR, P.O. Box 208, Davis, CA 95617; <www.AVAR.org>.

Also of note is a May 2006 report by the Companion Animal Welfare Council to British minister for environment, food, and rural affairs Ben Bradshaw. Co-authored by a committee headed by Universities Federation for Animal Welfare scientific director James Kirkwood, the CAWC report covers many species, not just dogs, and recommends banning intensive inbreeding, writes London *Times* environment editor Jonathan Leake.

*The Price of a Pedigree: Dog Breed Standards & Breed-Related Illnesses*, from Animal Advocates, is likewise oriented toward possible legislation, and stands out as the most thorough guide to genetic defects in purebred dogs that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has seen (having not yet seen the CAWC report).

Yet *The Price of a Pedigree*—and the entire debate—may soon be outdated.

## Paix pour les Dauphins

## OneVoiceDolphinProject.com

## Peace for the Dolphins

## Caribou Rising by Rick Bass

Sierra Club Books (85 Second Street, San , CA 944105), 2004.

164 pages, hard cover. \$19.95.

Rick Bass is a hunter. He sees the natural world through the crosshairs, but considers himself an ethical hunter, as opposed to a slob hunter, because he measures the success of a hunt by his “quality of experience,” rather than by the volume of dead meat he recovers. He thereby considers himself a conservationist, though the relationship of hunting fraternity notions of fair chase to protecting biodiversity is at best indirect.

On a hunting trip to Alaska, Bass finds an indigenous native American community, the Gwich’in, living off a herd of caribou whose numbers have fallen from nearly 200,000 to about 129,000 in recent years.

Bass’s book about the Gwich’in and the caribou aims to raise awareness of the damage which might be done to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by oil extraction as proposed by the George W. Bush administration. Bass argues that the impact of oil

extraction in such a fragile wilderness would have a devastating effect upon caribou numbers, to the detriment of the culture and survival of the Gwich’in.

Few **ANIMAL PEOPLE** readers would argue against Bass’s plea to preserve the Arctic refuge, or against his argument that sensible measures to minimize oil consumption could save many times the existing oil reserves in Alaska, which in all would satisfy American consumption for no more than six months.

Yet, though Bass objects to ruthless exploiting the refuge’s mineral resources, he sees nothing wrong with ruthlessly exploiting the wildlife. His argument boils down to wanting to prevent the oil barons from brutally plundering the finite mineral resources so that he and the Gwich’in can continue to brutally plunder the declining caribou herds.

—Chris Mercer

whether they intend to or not.

While dog breeding in the 19th and 20th centuries trended toward ever-increasing specialization and differentiation among dog lines, dog breeding in the 21st century might go in some directions that were unimaginable just a few decades ago. For example, genetic manipulation may give us dogs who easily learn to use litter boxes, are born sterile, and are resistant to most common in-bred physical defects. “Improving the breed” may pass from a pursuit of fanciers to a pursuit of science, backed by pet industry megabucks.

If genetically modified dogs become “improved” enough to seldom land in shelters, public attitudes toward dogs may shift to the detriment of shelter dogs and street dogs, who more than ever may be perceived as inferior.

That is likely to soon be a much bigger problem than the incidence of inbred physical problems so severe as to cause a dog premature death or disability. —Merritt Clifton

## Falcon by Helen MacDonald

## Bee by Claire Preston

## Parrot by Paul Carter

Reaktion Books Ltd. (33 Great Sutton St., London, EC1V 0DX), 2005. 208, 224, and 224 pages, paperback. \$19.95 each.

Reaktion Books’ new natural history book series explores not only the natural history of animals, but also their places in human history, culture, and current affairs. The authors discuss the differences between the real-life behavior of each animal and the behavior attributed to the animal as used in political, military, and commercial symbolism.

Helen MacDonald’s compelling book on *Falcons*, for example, explains falcon myths and legends, the sport of falconry, how the pesticide DDT nearly exterminated raptors through food chain buildup, how falcons and humans interact in cities, and how falcons have been used as mascots and weapons of war. Falconry is making a comeback, MacDonald says, arguing that this is partly because masculine qualities considered lost or marginalised in modern life are being projected onto falconry. Falconry, MacDonald believes, has become a romantic, anti-urban, anti-modern pursuit.

An alternate explanation would be that the explosive growth of interest in wildlife rehabilitation in recent decades has resulted in thousands of people trying to teach rescued young raptors how to fly and hunt. This requires learning the skills of falconry, and obtaining the same permits as falconers.

Claire Preston’s book *Bee* is a heavily intellectualised study of the complex role played by bees in the art, politics and social thought of human cultures. There are chapters on the biology of bees and beekeeping, but Preston goes much wider in her search for the less obvious influences of bees upon society, studying the aesthetic bee, the folkloric bee, the futile bee, and the retired bee, among others.

Paul Carter’s book *Parrot* is beautifully illustrated. Carter divides his work into three sections: Parrotics, Parroterialia, and Parrotology. Much of the treatment is abstruse, and difficult for the general reader.

—Chris Mercer & Bev Pervan

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

## Wildlife Demography: Analysis of Sex, Age, & Count Data

by John R. Skalski, Kristen E. Ryding, & Joshua J. Millsap

Elsevier Academic Press (30 Corp. Dr., Suite 400, Burlington, MA 01803), 2005. 656 pages, hardcover, \$69.95.

As the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** statistician as well as the editor, I jumped at the chance to review *Wildlife Demography: Analysis of Sex, Age, & Count Data*, for two reasons.

First, at times I feel as if I spend half my life explaining to people in humane work and animal control the basics of animal population analysis. Humane workers and animal control officers have a constant need to estimate and compare populations of street dogs, pet dogs, feral cats, pet cats, raccoons, deer, nonmigratory vs. migratory Canada geese, *et al.*

Effective techniques of counting animals and estimating unseen num-

bers are not terribly complicated, and do not require knowledge of advanced math. They do require a clear understanding of how to judge whether a sample is representative, what conditions are conducive to population growth or reduction, how to project longevity, and how to account for mortality resulting from the various common causes.

I hoped that *Wildlife Demography* would be a comprehensive primer, to which I could refer callers.

I also hoped to learn something from it myself.

Unfortunately, *Wildlife Demography* is impenetrable geek-speak. What isn’t written in dense academic jar-

gon is written in algebraic symbols. Even a would-be reader who routinely helps a teenager decipher algebra homework will find his/her head swimming.

Each process described in *Wildlife Demography* for getting from observation to outcome could have been explained as a step-by-step problem-solving walk-through. It could have been as easy to use as *The National Animal Control Association Training Manual*, or any of our own downloadable manuals on such topics as rabies control, keeping shelter cats healthy, fundraising, and accountability.

Maybe some day it will be translated into English. —Merritt Clifton

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OBITUARIES

**Trina Bellak**, 47, died on May 28, 2006, from complications arising from cancer. "I have been involved with horses for over 35 years," Bellak told California radio station KWMR in July 2005. "My interest was sparked at the age of two when I was read *Black Beauty*," by 19th century horse advocate Anna Sewell, "and insisted on being read the story weekly for years. At age nine, I began riding classes, which led to participation in many different types of competitions and shows. At age twelve, I was horrified to learn that the federal government was rounding up and killing our wild horses. With several close friends I held bake sales and used book sales to raise money to help pass the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Protection Act. This experience developed my interest in horse and animal welfare, and taught me that animals can suffer at the hands of the government." Bellak was associate director of federal affairs for the Humane Society of the U.S. for six years in the 1990s, then formed the American Horse Defense Fund in 2000. She counted as her most distinguished achievement winning passage of the Humane Transport of Horses to Slaughter Act, which took effect in February 2002. Bellak relocated to Captain Cook, Hawaii, in 2003.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Alfred the Great Cat.  
—Love from Ann & Bill Koros,  
Lucy, & Buddy the Cat

In memory of Tin Tin, offspring of a pedigreed pet and Indian street dog, rescued from being flushed down a toilet, who became beloved companion to Rudra Krishna, son of Chinny and Nanditha of the Blue Cross of India.

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



**Vicky O. Armel**, 40, a detective employed for nine years by the Fairfax County Police Department, was fatally shot on May 8, 2006 outside the Sully Police Station in Chantilly, Virginia, by Michael W. Kennedy, 18, of Centerville, Virginia. Armel left two young children and her husband, a fellow Fairfax County police officer. In the attack, Kennedy wounded two other officers, who rushed outside after hearing that an armed man had hijacked a van in the parking lot. "Dressed in camouflage and a black face mask, armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, five handguns, and a high-powered hunting rifle, Kennedy fired at least 70 rounds before he was shot and killed," reported Ian Urbina of *The New York Times*. "Though the authorities said they did not believe that Mr. Kennedy had intended to hit specific officers, this was not the first time he and Detective Armel had met," Urbina added. "In February, Detective Armel served a criminal warrant on Kennedy resulting from an argument in which a dog was killed, county officials said." *Washington Post* staff writer Tom Jackman described the incident as "the nonfatal shooting of the family dog. Sources close to the investigation said Kennedy told officers he had been holding a gun because he was suicidal." Jackman added, "but decided against killing himself, then accidentally fired it." Police were not allowed to see the family gun collection then, Jackman wrote. In addition to the seven guns Kennedy used in the police station attack, nine more guns were found in the family home afterward. Kennedy voluntarily committed himself to the Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health Center in April 2006, but fled soon afterward, hijacked a truck, and held the driver at gunpoint. Surrendering to police on April 19, he was released on bail three days later. The son of a butcher, Kennedy "used to joke about wanting to kill animals," high school friend Peter Kirschner, 18, told Urbina.

**Colin Watson**, 63, of Selby, Britain, fell to his death from a 40-foot larch tree circa May 25, 2006, near Campsall, Doncaster. Described by Alan Hamilton of the *London Times* as "Britain's most notorious illegal collector of rare birds' eggs," Watson was a retired power station worker who was "believed to have specialised in the eggs of birds of prey and rare crows," Hamilton wrote. "The height of his infamy was when he travelled to Loch Garten in Scotland and took a chainsaw to a tree that contained the nest—and probably the eggs—of an osprey. After a raid on his home in 1985, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds found more than 2,200 eggs in his house and in that of his disabled son. Specimens included golden eagle, osprey, sparrowhawk, and red kite." Convicted six times of related offenses during the past 20 years, Watson was fined the cumulative equivalent of more than \$10,000.

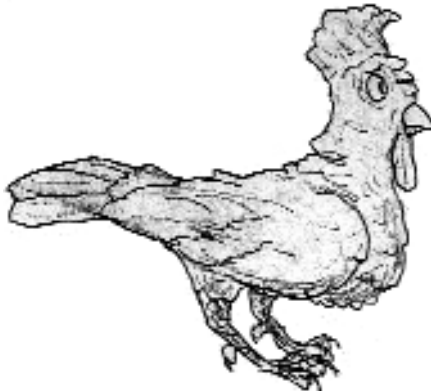
ANIMAL OBITS

**Squeak**, 14, the Jack Russell terrier who on March 18, 2002 defended Zimbabwean farmer Terry Ford from land invaders, and refused to leave Ford's side after Ford was killed, died on May 9, 2006 at the home of Ford's son Mark. The North Shore Animal League America and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** honored Squeak with the July/August 2002 Lewyt Award for Heroic & Compassionate Animals.

**Lynn, Marty, and Arthur**, three ex-laboratory chimpanzees who were longtime residents of Primarily Primates, all in their mid-thirties, died in May from causes respectively identified as osteomyelitis, a neurological disorder, and acute peritonitis. Their deaths followed the deaths soon after arrival of former Ohio State University chimps Kermit, 35, and Bobby, 16. "Chimps have been known to live to 50," Primarily Primates president Wally Swett told Susan Pagani of the *San Antonio Current*, "but even though that is quoted a lot, it's very rare. "Chimps who have been used in research are much more susceptible to disease than those that have not, because of the stress and isolation they have endured."

**Stella**, 62, one of 1,400 Kenyan elephants named by the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, died due to effects of drought in February 2006 while struggling to follow her family from the Kajiado District in Kenya to greener pastures in Tanzania.

**Luna**, 6, a male orca whale who had lived alone in the Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island since 2001, was killed on March 9 when he swam too close to the idling propeller of a tugboat that was waiting out a storm near Bligh Island, and was sucked into the blades. "For the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation, he had a spiritual significance," recalled Jonathan Woodward of the *Toronto Globe & Mail*. "Their chief, Ambrose Maquinna, expected to return after death as a killer whale. Just days after Mr. Maquinna died, Luna surfaced. Scientists tried to reunite the whale with his family in 2004, but were thwarted when the natives took to the waters, luring him far from the pen they set up."



**Andrew**, the first bile farm bear rescued by Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson, died on February 9, 2006 from liver cancer, "possibly originating from damage caused on the farms," Robinson said. He was rescued in February 2000.

**Hal**, a young male coyote who was captured in Central Park, New York City, on March 22, 2006, died on March 30 from secondary poisoning apparently caused by eating poisoned rodents, en route to be released upstate. Some activists and wildlife rescuers had attributed his death to alleged rough handling and excessive restraint. Whatever the cause, New York City parks commissioner Adrian Benepe said a second coyote seen in Central Park would be left alone. The second coyote was named Jacobus Van Cortlandt, after an 18th century mayor who helped to found Central Park.

**Jackie**, a male duck who waited beside the pen of his injured mate Heckle at the Bell Trace retirement community in Bloomington, Indiana, while Heckle recovered from a broken leg, was beheaded on May 20 by an unknown assailant. Heckle, whose leg was treated by WildCare Inc., was returned to WildCare for safe release.

**Rufus**, a wild turkey who for six months was "unofficial greeter, pet and tourist attraction at the Jacques Spur Junction Cafe" in Culdesac, Idaho, according to Associated Press, was grabbed on April 15, the opening day of turkey hunting season, by an older man who threw him alive through the open hatch of an older model Chevy Blazer with Idaho plates and raced away.

**Boris**, at least 20, a bull bison who migrated more than 200 miles annually between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, was found dead from probable starvation in March 2006. "No other bison has been recorded migrating 200-plus miles since the park icon was nearly exterminated a century ago," wrote Rebecca Huntington of the *Jackson Hole News & Guide*. Initially Boris migrated with two other bulls, then in 1997 led a herd of 10. Neither of the other bulls survived 1997, but Boris and the cows were "a tremendous conservation asset in terms of introducing Yellowstone genes into the Jackson herd," said Grand Teton National Park biologist Steve Cain.

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# North Shore Animal League America Presents the Lewyt Award to Tommy

**Tommy-  
A strong dog  
and devoted  
mom who  
saved her  
puppy and  
brought a  
community  
together**



Tommy, a female mixed breed from Nepal, is an amazing creature. When Animal Nepal, an animal welfare organization, first met Tommy she was suffering from severe mange. She had many open sores from scratching and infections and appeared dehydrated and severely malnourished. Although Tommy had an owner she scavenged for food in the neighborhood. The neglectful owner also

threatened neighbors that he would soon dispose of Tommy by throwing her in the river.

The staff of Ganjala Children's Home, located nearby, agreed to treat Tommy. For three weeks she received food and medical care. Soon, Tommy figured out that her caretakers drove a white car and blocked the road whenever they would try to pass. She only let them go after receiving some food or a cuddle. Obviously, Tommy is amazingly bright.



Tommy's condition improved quickly, but her belly began to grow disproportionately large. The staff soon realized she was pregnant and she gave birth to four healthy, furry puppies. When the puppies were only two weeks old, the owner put three of them in a plastic bag and threw them in a nearby river. None of the neighbors knew

what was happening, but Tommy followed him and when she heard the cries of her babies she jumped in and managed to rescue one puppy and carry it back to her hideout.

Tommy now has two surviving puppies, a male and a female. The children's home is looking for good homes for them. To celebrate the amazing rescue event, Animal Nepal, an animal welfare organization based in Kathmandu Valley, had Tommy spayed at a local vet clinic so she will never have to go through the traumatic experience of losing her puppies again.

Today, Tommy looks after her pups and enjoys playing with children in the neighborhood. She continues to block the road whenever the Ganjala Children's Home car tries to pass. The staff does not mind; they realize Tommy is a courageous dog who deserves the extra nourishment and attention.

The story of Tommy explains some of the hardships abandoned and neglected dogs encounter. It also shows that with a little help the hard lives of neglected dogs such as Tommy can be improved. In the process, Tommy has enriched the lives of her caregivers and neighbors. Tommy and her pups are a favorite of all the neighbors who are surprised at her amazing transformation to a playful, happy dog. Hopefully, next time a dog like Tommy enters the neighborhood, people's first thought will not be to chase the dog away, but to see what can be done to improve its health.

The Lewyt Award for June 2006 has been presented to Tommy to honor the strength and devotion she showed in saving her young pups, as well as her ability to bring a community together. In honor of this remarkable dog, North Shore Animal League America will present a check for \$500 to Ganjala Children's Home and a matching check for \$500 to Animal Nepal in recognition of their organization's rescue and care of Tommy.

In a world plagued with human injustice and violence, North Shore Animal League America takes great pride in rewarding heroic and compassionate pets and the shelters that keep them safe. There are many dogs and cats that are loving, caring, and compassionate. If you have a pet that has shown unbelievable courage or amazing tenderness to another ani-

mal or person, nominate your furry friend for a future Lewyt Award. Let the world know the exceptional dedication and affection pets have for those they love as well as for those who love them. The League hopes that many more animal lovers will look upon our special mixed breeds as valued loyal companions and adopt from a local shelter.

## Nomination Form

Please complete this form, attach written description, photo and documentation and send to: Merritt Clifton @ Animal People • P.O. Box 960 • Clinton, WA 98236-0960

The following pet has demonstrated extraordinary heroism or compassion. I would like to nominate him/her for North Shore Animal League America's Lewyt Award. Attached is a description of the pet's remarkable deed as well as a publishable photograph and documentation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of pet \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a matching award to the following nonprofit shelter.

Name of Shelter \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ /ip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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