

# Feral cats not to blame in Southern California murine typhus scare

SANTA ANA, California—Fear of “Typhus moggie” appeared to be receding in Orange County, California by June 1, 2012, just a few days after emerging, but anti-neuter/return bloggers had already amplified misleading claims far and wide about an alleged link of feral cats to murine typhus.

In truth there was no cause to associate either of two cases of murine typhus occurring three months apart with feral cats.

Murine typhus is a rare flea-borne

disease, easily cured by antibiotics, which is entirely unrelated to typhoid fever, the once common and often deadly disease of which “Typhoid Mary” Mallon, 1869-1938, was the first known immune carrier.

Traps provided by Orange County Vector Control to catch feral cats on the grounds of the Frances E. Willard Intermediate School and El Sol Science & Arts Academy were removed three days after they were set, Santa Ana city spokesman Jose Gonzalez told Denisse Salazar of the *Orange County Register*.

“No cats were trapped, tested or euthanized,” Salazar reported. “The plan to corral feral cats living on the campuses was an effort to reduce the flea population and stave off the spread of typhus,” after a child who lives near the two Santa Ana schools developed murine typhus in April 2012.

Santa Ana is the Orange County seat. “An adult living in [the neighboring city of] Orange was diagnosed in January. Both have recovered,” Salazar continued.

“We are changing our focus and attacking the real problem, which are the fleas,” Gonzalez said.

(continued on page 8)



Contrast the smooth but relaxed gait of the unshod walking horse in the photo, trained by Rebecca Gimenez, DVM, of Georgia, with the exaggerated high-stepping gait shown in the “Tennessee Walker XING” sign sold by Amazon.com.

## Pepsi drops the “Big Lick”

SHELBYVILLE, Tennessee—Walking horse trainers are still trying to force horses into taking the “big lick,” the equine

equivalent of a goosetstep, but Pepsi will no longer be paying the Walking Horse National Celebration to associate the “big lick” with Pepsi beverages.

A sponsor of the Walking Horse National Celebration since 2010, Pepsi had paid \$25,000 per year for exclusive rights to sell an estimated \$50,000 worth of soft drinks during the event. Pepsi dropped support of the prestigious “big lick” show on May 17, 2012, less than 24 hours after the ABC News programs *Night-line* and *Good Morning America* aired videotape obtained by an undercover investigator for the Humane Society of the U.S. showing extensive abuse of horses at Whittier Stables in Collierville. The Whittier Stables owner is walking horse trainer Jackie McConnell.

The 2012 Walking Horse National (continued on page 9)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

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## Sierra Club national board takes stand against body-grip trapping

SAN FRANCISCO—The Sierra Club national board of directors on May 19, 2012 adopted a new “Policy on Trapping of Wildlife” which may be the 110-year-old organization’s strongest statement yet against any form of hunting.

States the policy, “Use of body-gripping devices—including leghold traps, snares, and Conibear traps—are indiscriminate to age, sex and species and typically result in injury, pain, suffering, and/or death of target and non-target animals. The Sierra Club considers body-gripping, restraining and killing traps and snares to be ecologically indiscriminate and unnecessarily inhumane and therefore opposes their use. The Sierra Club promotes and supports humane, practical and effective

methods of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and actively discourages the use of inhumane and indiscriminate methods. The Sierra Club recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples under federal laws and treaties granting rights of self-determination and rights to pursue subsistence taking of wildlife.”

The policy statement stipulates that the phrase “body-gripping device includes, but is not limited to, any snare (neck, body, or leg), kill-type trap (such as the Conibear), leghold trap (including steel-jaw, padded, offset), and any other device designed to grip a body or body part. This definition includes any device that may result in injury or death because of the mechanism of entrapment. Live cage and box traps, and common rat and mousetraps shall not be considered body-gripping devices.”

Said Project Coyote founder Camilla Fox, “I served on the task force of experts appointed by the Sierra Club board to help develop this policy, as did Project Coyote advisory board member Paul Paquet. For 18 months we worked on this—and our hard work paid off. Hundreds of thousands of coyotes, wolves, foxes and other wild animals are trapped in cruel and indiscriminate leghold traps and snares each year.”

Glue traps are not covered by the new Sierra Club policy, Fox told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, because it applies only to trapping methods used against “free-ranging wildlife,” not to “pest control devices” used indoors.

Fox credited Pulitzer Prize-winning *Sacramento Bee* reporter Tom Knudsen with helping to raise Sierra Club board awareness of leghold trapping with a multi-part exposé of USDA Wildlife Services, published in the week preceding the board vote. “Because of this exposé,” Fox said, “members of Congress

(continued on page 15)



Indian street dog and pups. (Kim Bartlett)

## New Indian data cuts worldwide human rabies death toll by 40%

DELHI, CHENNAI, VISAKHAPATNAM—New Indian data on April 29, 2012 cut the estimated worldwide human death toll from rabies by more than 40%, with global repercussions for street dog population control, public health, and disease eradication funding priorities that are just beginning to be felt as rabies control experts become aware of the finding.

Presenting the most recent Indian government statistics on mortality from all causes to the Lok Sabha, the Indian parliament, Indian health minister Gulam Nabi Azad mentioned almost in passing, after discussing heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, that only 223 human rabies deaths were recorded in India in 2011, barely 1% of the

2002 government estimate, and just a seventh of the Indian toll from snakebites.

Snakebites killed 1,440 Indians in 2011, more than were killed by tigers, lions, leopards, elephants, bears, wolves, and all other wild mammals combined.

India has long been thought to lead the world in human deaths from canine rabies, but now appears to have far fewer human rabies deaths than Pakistan, believed to have about 5,000 human deaths from rabies per year; China, with about 2,400; Indonesia, whose toll is variously reported at 900 to 5,000; Bangladesh, acknowledging about 2,000; and Nigeria, with about 1,000.

The drastic reduction in estimated (continued on page 12)

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Editorial feature

Seeking an end to animal sacrifice

Among all the many uses and abuses of animals which persist for a cultural pretext, animal sacrifice is perhaps the most widely practiced, in a variety of different forms and contexts, and the most difficult to address in an effective manner, leading to fewer animals being killed—or ideally, none.

The difficulty of stopping animal sacrifice occurs in part because the perspective of people who practice animal sacrifice tends to be almost incomprehensible to those who oppose it. Opponents are sometimes many generations and often oceans away from any ancestors who ever sacrificed animals. Killing animals to be eaten at traditional holidays remains as ubiquitous as the slaughter of turkeys at the U.S. Thanksgiving. Yet, from the perspective of people who believe in a just and merciful god, which includes about 85% of humanity according to recent global surveys of religious belief, the theology of practitioners of overt animal sacrifice might seem to many to be blasphemous.

What sort of god would demand that animals be killed? Even the priests of the Spanish Inquisition, who accompanied the conquistadors to the New World and “converted” Native Americans to Catholicism through genocidal use of sword and flame, theorized that animal and human sacrifices were so self-evidently evil that the gods of the practitioners of such sacrifices must be diabolical.

From a secular perspective, animal sacrifice is relatively easily recognized as a set of rituals which permit the practitioners to kill and eat animals without guilt—whereas, in other societies, killing and eating animals is rationalized by arguments which draw exaggerated distinctions between the sentience of animals and humans.

Secular observers may notice that seasonal sacrificial occasions tend to coincide with the needs of herding cultures to cull surplus male animals after the spring birthing season and to thin the numbers of animals they must feed through the winter. The efforts of priests to perpetuate animal sacrifice as a method of obtaining meat, or of controlling the distribution of meat in some manner, is seemingly obvious.

But from a perspective of belief, the economic aspects of animal sacrifice may be no more than fortuitous coincidence. The primary purpose of animal sacrifice, to believers, may be an urgent need to appease a deity or demon who may be seen as even more real and threatening than death and taxes. Indeed, the abstract realities of government, recognized by almost every educated person in modern society, may have little meaning to people who perceive taxes as tribute extracted by overlords, much as the deities ruling their daily lives are believed to require offerings of food or blood.

Worldwide, about 13% of humanity observe religions or variants of religions which practice animal sacrifice. Another 13%, mostly Hindus, practice non-animal sacrificing versions of religions that also include an animal-sacrificing variant. A further 21% practice Islam, which features an annual mass slaughter of animals at the Eid (Feast of Atonement) that is widely perceived and described even by some prominent Imams as a sacrificial duty.

As in opposing sport hunting here in the U.S., where under 4% of the population hunts, animal advocates who oppose animal sacrifice are challenging the participation of millions of people in activities which for many participants are a matter of self-definition, practiced by all their family and friends, and continued for millennia by their ancestors.

Though sport hunters and practitioners of animal sacrifice may be small minorities, they are numerous enough to form insular and self-reinforcing communities which resist external pressure to change, and politically dominate many rural areas. Like sport hunters, practitioners of animal sacrifice are often neither well-educated nor affluent, though some are, but they tend to be well-connected. Often practitioners of animal sacrifice collectively hold the balance of power in societies fractured between the traditional status quo and rapid progress, impeded by technological change.

Typically practitioners of animal sacrifice, again like sport hunters, are reliably allied with socially conservative power-holders.

Further like sport hunters, practitioners of animal sacrifice have typically long ago extracted legal concessions which virtually exempt anything they do from prosecution as cruelty, and recognize what they do as a “right,” even in societies which recognize few if any rights for women, economic underclasses, and ethnic and religious minorities.

This presents a particular paradox in India, where conflict between the traditionally

vegetarian third or more of society and practitioners of animal sacrifice has been more-or-less continuous for more than 2,300 years. Article 51A of the Indian constitution asserts that, “It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to have compassion for all living creatures,” which would appear to provide a constitutional basis for prohibiting animal sacrifice. Citing Article 51A, seven Indian states—Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Puducherry—have adopted laws against animal sacrifice.

However, these laws are lightly enforced, if enforced at all, because Article 51A is superseded by Article 25, which states that “Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.”

A subordinate clause adds that “Nothing in this article shall...prevent the State from making any law...regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice.”

Thus animal sacrifice is regulated in parts of India, but may not be banned outright, in keeping with a tradition of religious tolerance introduced by King Ashoka (304-232 BCE). Ashoka established the Mauryan Empire through mayhem deemed atrocious even by the standards of his own time, but after conquering almost the whole Indian subcontinent, he became a Buddhist vegetarian circa 269 BCE, and promoted peace by proclaiming “One must not exalt one’s creed, discrediting all others, nor must one degrade these others.”

Similar views were expressed about 1,800 years later by the Mogul emperor Akbar the Great, who decreed, “No man should be interfered with on account of his religion, and everyone should be allowed to change his religion, if he likes...People should not be molested, if they wish to build churches and prayer rooms, or idol temples, or fire temples.”

Both Ashoka and Akbar were also known for their love of animals and encouragement of animal welfare, but found themselves constrained in confronting animal sacrifice for essentially the same reasons that confounded the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1993 landmark decision *Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah*. Testimony in this case revealed that practitioners of animal sacrifice kill as many as 18,000 animals per year in greater Miami alone. The Supreme Court verdict affirmed the right of Americans to practice animal sacrifice, subject to the same sorts of zoning, environmental, and humane restrictions which would apply to killing animals legally for any other reason, but not to any law specifically and distinctly targeting animal sacrifice.

The fundamental problem in attempting to stop animal sacrifice, whether by law or social criticism, is that ritually killing animals is not only intrinsic to the self-identity of practitioners, but intrinsic to their relationship with a perceived higher power. This relationship, practitioners of animal sacrifice believe, governs all of their success in life—and afterlife—and may have effects extending to all of their descendants.

So long as the believer in animal sacrifice continues to believe that animal sacrifice is demanded by a deity or demon, any attempt by anyone else to intervene to prevent animal sacrifice will be perceived as an attempt to prevent the practitioner from enjoying divine favor, and/or escaping demonic torment.

Sacrifice & self-interest

This problem is compounded when, as is usually the case, the opponents of animal sacrifice are members of an economically and culturally privileged class. Americans, Europeans, and educated people in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and other parts of the world where animal sacrifice persists tend to realize that our relative affluence and influence results from an understanding of science, economics, and advanced communications.

To people of less education, however, much that we do may look quite a lot like pursuing our own superstitious rituals to appease our own gods, or demons, or both. Moreover, many of the major religions which do not actually incorporate animal sacrifice still include elements that echo sacrificial ritual. Though Christianity has never included animal sacrifice, central to Christian theology is the idea that Jesus offered himself in sacrifice on behalf of humanity, as a final sacrifice to end the sacrifice of animals in Judaism. Though Judaism abandoned animal sacrifice after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple just a few decades later, kosher slaughter is still overseen by a rabbi, and some Jewish sects would support the resumption of animal sacrifice if the temple was to be rebuilt.

The actual religious teaching behind the Eid slaughter practiced by Muslims is that the faithful who are affluent enough to slaughter an animal at the end of Ramadan should share meat with the poor. As the January/February 2008 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial explored in depth, mainstream Islamic interpretation has agreed since the mid-20th century that slaughter is not actually required: that any gift or deed of charity fulfills the obligation to perform the charitable act called Qurbani. Yet this view is not universally held, especially in the more conservative societies of the Middle East and Central Asia. The web page of the Islamic university Darul-Uloom, in Karachi, Pakistan, holds that Qurbani is “confined to the sacrifice of an animal slaughtered for the sake of Allah,” and must be performed regardless of those who “make it out to be a wastage of money, resources, and livestock.”

Reports from Saudi Arabia, where the Eid marks the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, indicate that the numbers of animals killed at the Eid have trended slightly downward for several decades as the notion of doing charitable deeds gains traction against the concept of mandatory sacrifice. But this trend is an economic threat to the herding societies of Central Asia and North Africa, for whom Eid slaughter is a major source of income. To secular outsiders, the arguments of clerics from the herding cultures that animal slaughter is essential to Qurbani represent an example of theology following economic self-interest. From within those cultures, however, the prevailing view may be simply that of course obeying the perceived will of Allah brings economic benefit.

Most religions, including those featuring animal sacrifice, armor themselves against changes of practice through proscriptions against “apostacy,” meaning the possibility that a practitioner might adopt differing beliefs. Followers of religions who try to change traditional religious practice are persecuted or shunned as heretics.

But attempting to change from outside the theology that impels animal sacrifice typically only reinforces the determination of the believers to continue in their ways. Even today, in parts of India, Africa, and perhaps elsewhere, outsiders who challenge religious dogmas or intervene to stop sacrificial ceremonies may be putting themselves in serious danger.

But this scarcely means that animal advocates can do nothing against animal sacrifice, including the every-fifth-year massacre of upward of 200,000 buffalo, sheep, goats, and even mice and rats at Bariyarpur, Nepal, in honor of the local goddess Gadhimai. The event attracts as many as five million visitors, mostly from nearby parts of India. Commonly said to be one of the Hindu goddesses of power, Gadhimai is not mentioned in any standard Hindu scriptural text, but may be an incarnation of the goddess Kali.

Initiated circa 1750 by a feudal warlord named Bhagwan Chaudary, who was temporarily jailed in Kathmandu, the Gadhimai sacrifice from the beginning had both a religious pretext and a political context, enabling Chaudary to curry the favor of the farmers whose animals he bought to kill, the priesthood who supervised the killing, and the poor who ate the meat. Nepalese rulers have subsidized the Gadhimai sacrifice ever since. Gyanendra, the last Nepalese king to actually rule the nation, escalated the scale of the Gadhimai killing in 2004 and attended the ceremonies in person.

A Maoist-dominated secular government deposed and succeeded Gyanendra in 2006. The new government spent 4.5 million rupees to build new facilities for the slaughter, then

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Editorial feature: Seeking an end to animal sacrifice

(from page 3)

made the money back in 2009, reported Laxmi Sah and Pawan Yadav of the *Kathmandu Post*, after “Contractors paid 5.1 million rupees for the use of flesh, hide and bones of the animals,” who were brought to the slaughter mostly at the cost of the participants.

Complained sacrifice committee vice chair Dhenukh Chaurasiya, “Earlier, the festival management committee used to earn nearly two million rupees selling hides, while the local dalits [poorest of the poor] ate the flesh.”

The faith of those who sacrifice animals at their own expense may not be shaken by exposure of the money-making aspects of the Gadhimai sacrifice. Questioning the use of public funds in a desperately poor nation in support of the Gadhimai sacrifice may not stop it, either. But illuminating the economic context can at least help to demystify it. The more it is demystified, the greater the possibility that the theology of the participants will evolve away from perceiving a need to join in practices which tend to help keep most of them poor.

There is also value in helping to develop alternative rituals which help to preserve the life-stabilizing cultural aspects of animal sacrifice, without the bloodshed. Our own society long ago took a similar direction, for example in the evolution of “bone fires” in which alleged witches were immolated alive, with their animals, into bonfires involving harm to nothing more sentient than a marshmallow.

A combination of theology following self-interest and promotion of alternatives to animal sacrifice in fall 2010 turned drought in the northern Indian state of Bihar into “a blessing in disguise for hundreds of goats,” the Indo-Asian News Service

reported in September 2010, as “many financially-battered people” refrained from slaughtering them during the Durga Puja and Dussehra festivals.

“Sacrifice is an essential aspect of the Puja,” explained *purohit* (priest) Ranjit Bhattacharya to the *Times of India*. “Since we are worshipping Durga, who is the embodiment of *shakti* (power), it is essential to incorporate *bali* (the spirit of evil over whom the goddess Durga triumphed), but [the sacrifice representing the evil spirit] does not have to be an animal. Earlier, people here preferred animal sacrifice because of certain socio-economic reasons,” Ranjit Bhattacharya acknowledged, “but now most of the Puja committees prefer to use vegetables or fruits.”

A success story

Nanditha Krishna, director of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation in Chennai, India, claims to have persuaded the worshippers at 53 temples in rural Tamil Nadu to abandon animal sacrifice during more than 40 years of promoting charitable projects in the region.

For example, she wrote recently to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and the Vasanth J. Sheth Foundation of Mumbai several months ago built a playground and amphitheatre for the children of Anumanthaikuppam, a fishing village that was all but destroyed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

“The temple at Anumanthaikuppam serves two local goddesses—the boundary goddess Ellai-amma and the blood-thirsty goddess Kali-amma,” Nanditha Krishna related.

“While work on the playground was going on, I spent my time telling the fisher folk that they should not sacrifice animals and even extracted a promise from them to stop, which I did not expect them to keep.”

But after the villagers rebuilt the temple, Nanditha Krishna continued, “they came to inform me that they had stopped animal sacrifices. The original stone figures of the two goddesses—very fierce-looking, as I remember—were buried under the temple. New smiling and peaceful-visaged goddesses were installed in their place. The *poosaari* (priest) who sacrificed animals has been replaced by Vedic Brahmin priests. If they are Brahmins, there cannot be any blood sacrifice. It was a pleasure to watch the 10,000-strong fishing community mingling with the Brahmin priests—more than 50 of them. There were lots of shops selling odds and ends. But no fish was sold on the premises. The village headman came to me and said that out of respect for my desire to stop animal sacrifice, the entire temple premises had become vegetarian.”

Ending animal sacrifice entirely, whether in India, Nepal, the animist regions of West Africa, the Middle East, or greater Miami, will require tens of thousands of similar local and regional transitions. Whether encouraged by changing weather patterns, changing patterns of commerce and political influence, or simply the desire to please a benefactor, transitions away from animal sacrifice can be accomplished.

The difficult part, for animal advocates, is finding opportunities to help practitioners of animal sacrifice toward recognizing for themselves that ritually killing animals is not the surest path toward the better lives and afterlives they seek.

LETTERS

“Proposal for an Accord” & cost/benefit

The April 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** included an article entitled “Proposal for an Accord between Animal Advocates and the Biomedical Research Community.” A number of responses to the proposal were published in the May 2012 edition.

Based on my experience with the science and ethics of animal research, described in my 1998 book *Human Models of Animal Psychology*, I support much of and welcome the “Proposal for an Accord.”

However, there is one issue that I would like to examine and underscore because it has enormous implications, and the document is arguably inconsistent in addressing it.

Most contemporary legislation and regulation of animal research uses the language of cost/benefit. Although at one point the “Proposal for an Accord” accepts that limited frame, stating that “the use of animals is approved only when any harm done to the animals is greatly outweighed by the anticipated benefits of their use,” at another it states, “Compulsory guidelines would specify the types of experiments and levels of pain that would *not be permissible regardless of potential benefit* (emphasis added).”

These are radically different positions, for the latter preempts or trumps the

cost/benefit or utilitarian frame by asserting that some procedures are inherently objectionable, independent of usefulness. Much as the U.S. Bill of Rights prevents the tyranny of majority rule, the prohibition of certain research procedures overrides any calculus of costs and benefits.

This is critical at several levels. Study has shown that cost/benefit analysis is notoriously impractical and of questionable reliability, and that politics tend to carry the day. As the “Proposal for an Accord” points out, the composition of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees is biased toward those who take a “research first” position.

Even more importantly, the acceptance of a regulatory frame that defines certain procedures involving nonhuman animals as inherently objectionable, independent of their usefulness to us, greatly enhances the status of animals and opens the door to significantly more progressive policy in the several areas of their current exploitation.



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No charges in Thai “found” orangutans case

I was informed a few weeks ago that 11 orangutans who were found illegally kept in a zoo on Phuket Island were not confiscated after a government raid on the zoo. Instead the 11 orangutans were “found along the highway” and taken in by the DNP as “a donation.”

The Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand complained about three years ago about the illegal possession of 11 orangutans at the crocodile and tiger zoo on Phuket. We had a complaint from a tourist who had seen four baby orangutans, but one of our staff also saw some sub-adults at the zoo. While interviewing one of the zoo workers we found out that there were 11 orangutans in total, and that the zoo owners imported them from Indonesia. It took us a few visits to the zoo on different days to find and photograph all of the animals.

We sent an official complaint to the Department of National Parks on December 16, 2008, but until the first week of January 2009 we did not see any action taken. We were finally informed in February 2009 that a raid found not one orangutan at the zoo. The officials from the DNP region 5 office told us there never were any orangutans at all. This despite the fact that we attached pictures of the orangutans to the complaint and included a DVD with video images of the location where the animals were kept.

It was clear that the zoo knew about the raid in advance and therefore had time to move out the orangutans. The Department of National Parks told us that since no orangutans were found, the case was closed. Our photos and video, however, proved them wrong. We asked for an official investigation. Two weeks later we were told that all 11 orangutans were

found and confiscated in early March 2009. The orangutans were sent to the Kao Prathapchang wildlife breeding center, and were to be returned to Indonesia, their country of origin, but Indonesia refused to take them back.

I have asked the authorities for a copy of the criminal charges laid against the owner of the zoo on Phuket. On several occasions I was told that the case was with the local police on Phuket. For more than three years now I was under the impression that the zoo would be prosecuted for illegal possession of protected wildlife and illegally smuggling CITES-protected species. I have been informed, however, that because the 11 orangutans were found “along the highway between Phuket and Phangnga without any owner present,” and were taken in as “donated,” no charges were ever filed, even though the pictures of the orangutans at the zoo in our complaint exactly matched the ones “found” along the road. Case closed.

A 2004 case in Samutprakarn province involving eight orangutans and a 2003 case at a Bangkok safari park with 78 illegal orangutans among a total of over 115 also resulted in no prosecution. We are still awaiting the prosecution and even the confiscation of two orangutans found in February 2012 at a wildlife trader’s house in Sraburi.



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Irish National Lottery funds pro-hunting org

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports has asked the National Lottery to clarify its stance on bloodsports after learning that funds have been given to Horse Sport Ireland, the governing body for equestrian sport in Ireland. Regulating activities including show jumping, dressage, the Pony Club, and riding clubs, Horse Sport Ireland presents hunting as an “equestrian discipline” and includes a claim on its web site that “the hunting field is an ideal nursery for both horse and rider.”

We pointed out to the National Lottery that hunting is one of Ireland’s most appalling forms of cruelty to animals. In fox-hunting, foxes and vixens are disturbed from their habitats, chased to exhaustion and are literally ripped apart by packs of hounds. Fox cubs are also targeted. In the weeks before the foxhunting season, dens are surrounded by foxhunters who goad their hounds into attack-

ing and biting the cubs to death. In hare hunting, hares are chased to exhaustion and torn apart by dogs.


A majority of Irish people—including, undoubtedly, a majority of lotto players—are firmly opposed to hunting and want it outlawed. They would share our disgust that “good causes” lottery cash is benefiting a pro-hunting group.

We have previously complained to the National Lottery about “good causes” money totalling at least 48,000 Euro being handed over to gun clubs.

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Amelia Needs Heart Surgery



Amelia, a sweet young tabby cat, arrived at the Animal League as a result of our partnership with Cat's Cradle, a rescue group in Virginia. During a routine examination by our medical team, it was discovered that Amelia had a heart murmur. An echocardiogram uncovered something much worse: Amelia is suffering from patent ductus arteriosus, or PDA. In this congenital and dangerous heart condition, a major blood vessel that connects the two main arteries of the body remains open, when it should have closed naturally during the first few days of life.

If left untreated, more than half of cats with PDA die before their first birthday. And for those who survive, the chances of developing heart failure or suffering irreversible damage to the heart muscle increase rapidly, almost always resulting in premature death.

The good news: When PDA is caught early and the opening is repaired, most cats live a normal life.


Amelia's prognosis is very good—but only if she undergoes the intricate heart surgery that is the only cure for PDA.

Amelia is scheduled to receive her life-saving procedure soon—but it's a costly operation that must be performed by a heart specialist. The ailing kitten is now in a loving foster home awaiting her surgery, but she needs your help.


Your dedicated support of the life-saving Help Me Heal Program allows us to give animals, like Amelia, the care they need to heal.

To ensure the continued care for Amelia and the many other animals in our Help Me Heal Program, please visit [AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal](http://AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal).

"North Shore Animal League America's Help Me Heal Program Cares for Pets in Need!"



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# UEP Legislation Would Keep Hens *In Cages Forever*



**"We got HSUS to endorse these cages. And that's priceless!"**

— United Egg Producers (UEP)

*Photo: An "enriched" battery cage, according to the egg industry.*

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) and a coalition of animal protection organizations are expressing outrage over Senator Dianne Feinstein's introduction of "The Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012" (S. 3239).

This Rotten Egg Bill is modeled on similar legislation (H.R. 3798) that was introduced by Rep. Kurt Schrader in the House earlier this year over the vehement objections of animal advocates nationwide.

"The egg industry is seeking to establish egg factory cages as a national standard that could never be challenged or changed by state law or public vote," said Bradley Miller, National Director of the Humane Farming Association. "This bill would preempt state laws, such as California's Proposition 2, and is a direct assault upon egg laying hens, voters, and states' rights."

## Most Activists Not Fooled

"There is no such thing as an 'enriched' battery cage. This is an outrageous attempt by the egg industry and its cohorts to enrich themselves at the expense of laying hens and the public at large," said Priscilla Feral, President of Friends of Animals.

"Even if the legislation passes, the majority of hens will remain entombed in battery cages on factory farms," said Karen Davis, Ph.D, President of United Poultry Concerns. "They will be locked into a federal law administered by the USDA, which does not even enforce the 54-year-old 'Humane Slaughter Act.'"

Rather than outlawing cages as voters demand, this cynical measure would **outlaw the banning of cages**.

## The Battery Cage Flip-Flop

### BEFORE:

"So-called enriched cages are **unable** to provide an acceptable level of welfare for hens." — HSUS

"Egg Producer Falsely Claims That **Inhumane Confinement System** Will Comply With Prop 2." — HSUS

"Post-Election Radical Re-Interpretation of Popular Ballot Measure Won't Fly. **California will be a cage-free state.**" — HSUS

### AFTER:

"We welcome the recognition by HSUS that California's use of the enriched colony system is indeed a safe and superior hen habitat." — Association of California Egg Farmers

### BEFORE AND AFTER:

A cage is a cage. No responsible organization would ever endorse these abusive systems — nor agree to *eliminate* the public's right to outlaw battery cages. — StopTheRottenEggBill.org

To make it appear as if laying hens would benefit, the Rotten Egg Bill contains several diversionary provisions. None of them holds up to scrutiny.

**Ammonia Levels:** While claiming to improve air quality, the bill contains *nothing* that alters current ammonia levels in egg factories. It merely adopts UEP's existing standards which *allow* unhealthful conditions.

**Molting:** Proponents also claim that the bill would stop the supposed "starvation" molting of "tens of millions" of hens. Remarkably, they provide no evidence that this is occurring — let alone that it would ever justify keeping hens locked in battery cages and preempting our state laws. Far from changing anything, the bill once again merely adopts UEP's *existing standards*.

**UEP's Game of Inches:** The egg industry has already passed state legislation calling for 116 square inches of cage space per hen. With a mere 8 square-inch adjustment, UEP's federal bill calls for a still cruel and depriving 124 square inches per hen — "phased-in"

over 18 years. The bill's own proponents have stated that a hen needs at least 216 square inches just to spread her wings.

**Fraudulent Labeling:** As far as labeling egg cartons, the bill *would* do that. For the very first time, the fraudulent and grossly misleading euphemism "enriched cages" would begin appearing on egg cartons nationwide — in order to *deflect public concern* and to **increase egg sales from caged hens**.

In addition to the Humane Farming Association, opponents of HR 3798 / S 3239 include Friends of Animals, United Poultry Concerns, Last Chance for Animals, Action for Animals, Northwest Animal Rights Network, Defend Animals Coalition, Political Animals, Georgia Animal Rights and Protection, Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals, Sunnyside Bird and Animal Sanctuary, SAFE, Animals Unlimited, Massachusetts Animal Rights Coalition, Chicken Run Rescue, Associated Humane Societies, and the vast majority of rank-and-file animal advocates.

**Please visit: [StopTheRottenEggBill.org](http://StopTheRottenEggBill.org)**

**Help stop this outrageous bill that would keep hens in cages forever — while taking away *our* voting rights.**

How Arizona ranchers won a partial exemption from cruelty laws by Debra J. White

Under the headline “Legislation in the cowboy states,” the May 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported that Arizona Governor Jan Brewer in mid-April endorsed into law a bill by state representative Peggy Judd (R-Wilcox), HB 2780, which exempts dogs used in ranching and herding from anti-cruelty laws. Judd introduced the bill after one of her constituents, a Cochise County rancher, was charged for leaving two dogs in a horse trailer for two days without food or water. Three others were left tied without clean water.

There was much more involved in the passage of HB 2780. Judd pushed HB 2780 specifically to overturn the Pima County anti-tethering ordinance. Within Arizona, only Pima County and Tucson have anti-tethering ordinances. The rancher told Judd that he just wanted to be able to tie his dogs up while herding cattle without risk of being cited. Judd, who grew up on a ranch, said she wanted to protect the rights of farmers and ranchers. The Judd bill was promptly endorsed by the Arizona Cattlemen’s Association, a powerful lobbying group. Patrick Bray, the association president, said there had been numerous complaints from ranchers about burdens posed by the Pima County anti-tethering ordinance.

However, the Pima County anti-tethering ordinance has been in effect since 1997. Public records, which I accessed under the Arizona freedom of information act, reveal no complaints to public officials about the Pima County anti-tethering ordinance—ever. Why the rush now to pursue legislation? And if there was a problem with the Pima County ordinance, why address it at the state level and not just with Pima County?

As it happened, the rancher omitted salient facts when he approached Judd. The rancher had been cited on June 2, 2011 for animal neglect. A neighbor called Pima County animal control because no one had been seen at the ranch since at least May 31, 2011. Animal control officers arrived when the outside temperature registered 93 degrees Fahrenheit. Three dogs were on tie-outs in the sun. They had water but according to the animal control report, it was “green with algae

and you could not see into it as the water was so viscous with dirt.” One dog had shelter of sorts in a blue plastic drum, situated without shade. The other two dogs left outdoors shared partial shade from a tree. Another two dogs were inside the horse trailer, which—besides the dogs—contained only manure, the animal control report said. The charges were supported by evidentiary photographs, which have by now been widely distributed by both electronic and print media.

Animal control officers impounded the five dogs. The rancher subsequently displayed abusive behavior toward animal control staff, according to public records, which mention that on June 7, 2011 he “got angry” at least twice, and at one point threw a telephone “through the licensing window.”

Judd and Bray in promoting HB 2780 claimed that Pima County “killed” one of the rancher’s dogs. According to public records obtained from the Pima County Animal Care Center, the rancher reclaimed four dogs, but declined return of the fifth dog. Shelter officials euthanized the dog due to aggressive behavior, after performing behavioral assessment.

Even after all of this was exposed by major Arizona news media, HB 2780 proceeded through the legislature. Promoted mostly by Republicans, HB 2780 as originally written would have pre-empted all cruelty laws, thus depriving farm dogs of any legal protection in Arizona. At least six hearings and/or committee meetings were held in the Arizona legislature to hash out the details, at unknown cost to taxpayers.

HB 2780 received an inadvertent boost on March 2, 2012 from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, when an ALDF web posting urged support of an amendment to HB 2780 offered by Arizona legislator Steve Farley which would have created a statewide registry of convicted animal abusers. The Farley amendment failed later on March 2, 2012. The ALDF posting was taken down that same day, at request of ADLA, but third party postings soliciting support of HB 2780 and/or the Farley amendment to it, were still online on March 8, 2012, when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** noticed that some animal

advocates were mistakenly urging passage of HB 2780 and began making inquiries as to why. Some of those postings were still online toward the end of June 2012.

HB 2780 was vigorously opposed by Animal Defense League of Arizona, the Humane Society of the U.S., the national anti-chaining organization Dogs Deserve Better, Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall, the editorial board of the *Arizona Republic*, the Arizona League of Cities & Towns, Maricopa County sheriff Joe Arpaio, animal shelters statewide, many ordinary citizens, and some state legislators. Op-ed articles opposing the bill appeared in newspapers in Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma. Said state senator Paula Aboud, D-Tucson, “I think we’re sending a really bad message when we exempt a certain category of dog. Cruelty is cruelty.”

Finally, there was a compromise. Of sorts. Arizona senator Ron Gould (R-Lake Havasu) offered an amendment that caused the Arizona League of Cities and Towns and Arpaio to withdraw their opposition. The new language says that “any ordinance adopted shall not prohibit or restrict any activity involving a dog, whether the dog is restrained or not, if the activity is directly related to the business of shepherding or herding livestock, and the activity is necessary for the safety of a human, the dog, or livestock or is permitted by or pursuant to Title 3.” Title 3 is Arizona’s Agricultural Code, governing all farm and ranch activity. It already includes a wide range of exemptions for ranches from the state animal cruelty laws.

How did HB 2780 pass a legislative body with 90 members? Didn’t anyone who voted “yes” even check the facts about it? Why did no legislator demand from the Arizona Cattlemen’s Association and others supporting HB 2780 that they produce verification of their claim that the Pima County anti-tethering ordinance had generated complaints?

Apparently a disgruntled rancher convinced almost the entire Arizona Legislature to pass HB 2780—but the rancher did not escape prosecution. The neglect case against him is still pending.

Conflict in Serbia over the use of neuter/return

The city authorities in Belgrade, Serbia, have been abusing street dogs and the people who take care of them for months now, and it gets worse every day. The media have not reported a thing about it. I send you three reports, *Belgrade Street Dog Situation 2006-2012*, *Dogcatchers’ Safari in New Belgrade*, and *Street Dog Extermination in Belgrade*, with the hope that you will inform the world public about these crimes against animal welfare and maybe find some way to help the dogs. Please contact me if you have a question of any kind.

—Natasia Polovina  
Belgrade, Serbia  
Phone: 381-642-851-231  
<anima1621@yahoo.com>

Editor’s note:

The three reports that Natasia Polovina sent, *Belgrade Street Dog Situation 2006-2012*, *Dogcatchers’ Safari in New Belgrade*, and *Street Dog Extermination in Belgrade*, together describe a situation which differs only in detail from conflicts occurring almost everywhere that has both abundant street dogs or feral cats and people trying to help them. Some people feed the animals, and activists sterilize and vaccinate as many animals as they can, but the animals remain a nuisance to other people. While the activists try to limit the animal population through the combination of neuter/return and attrition, this approach—even when successful over time—does not resolve immediate grievances.

People who feed street dogs and/or feral cats meanwhile tend to inflame grievances by inadvertently conditioning the animals to become more visible and more inclined to approach passers-by in hopes of

Feline Friends in Ontario

Even though I run my own organization, the Feline Friends Network of Stratford, I still want to support others who I feel do a wonderful job, and you do. I often refer to your articles and editorials, and always find them well-researched and objective.

—Cheryl Simpson  
Stratford, Ontario, Canada  
<simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca>

“No overpopulation of wild horses” says biologist

As a biologist and advocate of the wild horses and burros in the American west, I have had the experience of observing and studying these creatures in the wild, both in Montana and Nevada. These intelligent and very family-oriented animals are not just a beautiful example of freedom and all that entails, but are an absolutely necessary component of ecological balance on the range.

I have witnessed the effort on the part of the Bureau of Land Management to remove thousands of wild horses and burros from legally designated herd management areas. This removal is based upon unsci-

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

being fed. As the typical tenure of elected officials tends to be shorter than the time required for even the best-managed neuter/return project to eliminate street dogs and/or feral cats from a problematic habitat, government tends to favor approaches that officials believe might bring faster results at less expense, such as killing the animals, incarcerating them in quasi-shelters to die of neglect, or insisting that every animal must have an “owner,” accountable for the animal’s behavior, and that anyone who helps an animal, including by sterilizing and vaccinating the animal, thereby becomes the animal’s “owner.”

The initial **ANIMAL PEOPLE** project, in 1992, was the largest and best documented feral cat sterilization campaign undertaken to that point in the U.S. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** continues to encourage the use of neuter/return wherever practicable, as a humane and ecologically sound response to the presence of street dogs and feral cats in habitats where they are not persecuted and have adequate food and shelter.

However, as the April 2010 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial “How to introduce neuter/return & make it work” discussed in depth, neuter/return really only succeeds where most people tolerate free-roaming animals; where there are no politically influential people who benefit from killing the animals—for example, by using animal control as a pretext for hiring their friends and supporters at public expense; and where animal advocates refrain from behavior which makes neuter/return problematic. Such counterproductive behavior can include feeding animals in public areas; feeding excessive numbers of animals; feeding in a manner that encourages dogs to form loitering packs and/or bark excessively, especially at night; feeding at locations that contribute to animals defecating in playgrounds, food handling areas, and walkways; and returning sterilized animals to protected wildlife habitat.

Successful neuter/return projects may require spending as much time educating the public, politicians, media, pet keepers, and participants as are spent working with the animals—because the underlying issue is not animal behavior so much as human behavior in response to animals.

entific methods and false data, motivated by the cattle and sheep industry and old prejudice. In virtually every environmental assessment made public to explain the need for a roundup, the BLM will cite what it calls the Appropriate Management Level. This it does to impress upon the public what it considers overpopulation of these creatures, always stating that the removal of wild horses and burros is to maintain a “thriving ecological balance.”

In truth there is no overpopulation of wild horses and burros, nor has there ever been such a state. I can assert, as a biologist, that almost every wild horse and burro in the BLM holding facilities, approximately 50,000 now, could be released back into the wild from which they were taken without having any negative impact on the land. Their presence would help to bring balance back to the range.

—Robert C. Bauer  
New Albany, Indiana

“Eye-opener” about WWF, HSUS

Your May 2012 issue was an eye-opener about two animal-welfare organizations I’ve contributed to for many years.

One, the World Wildlife Fund, has been a recipient of my modest annual donation since 1988. But why? More or less as a habit, since it does nothing of particular value that other groups don’t do as well or better. The WWF newsletter is mostly public relations boilerplate. I did take one spectacularly informative trip that WWF sponsored, to Brazil’s national parks back in 1988, but nothing since has sounded worthwhile. (And all of the WWF tours are outlandishly overpriced.) **ANIMAL PEOPLE**’s report on the King Juan Carlos hunting debacle was not news to me, but some of your related coverage of WWF activities further tarnished its image. You have convinced me to let my longtime membership lapse. They won’t miss my \$50 yearly check and I certainly won’t miss their efforts on behalf of the planet’s wildlife.

The other revealing story was your lengthy obituary for former Humane Society of the U.S. president John Hoyt. Again, I have been a donor to HSUS for more than a quarter-century. During the lengthy tenure

of Hoyt and his overpaid sanctimonious successor Paul Irwin, I always felt some uncomfortable vibes emanating from their junk mail and annual reports. Your background history makes clear why.

Now, with the current management of HSUS, I agree with nearly all of their priorities and policy objectives and am comfortable offering them as much support as I can afford. So **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reinforced my positive view of one animal charity even as it dealt a knockout punch to my regard for another.

I think some of your readers with a strong interest in companion animals will find a subscription to one HSUS publication, the bimonthly *Animal Sheltering* magazine, well worth the modest investment.

—Susan M. Seidman  
East Hampton, New York  
<sseidman@verizon.net>

Editor’s note:

Susan M. Seidman is author of *Cat Companions: A memoir of loving and learning*, reviewed in the September 2011 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“I’m an alley cat ally.”

Hundreds of thousands of Americans provide care for stray and feral cats and advocate on their behalf. Learn more at [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org).

Alley Cat Allies

## The race to revive horse slaughter

**RIVERTON, Wyoming**—Trying to become the first U.S. entrepreneur to kill horses for meat since 2007, Unified Equine company founder and Wyoming state representative Sue Wallis (R-Recluse) hopes to open a horse slaughterhouse near Riverton within the next year, she told Jeremy Pelzer of the *Casper Star-Tribune* on May 22, 2012—but first Wallis has to find the investment capital.

“Wallis said Unified Equine, is looking to bring in local investors to help finance the plant, which she said could cost between \$2 million and \$6 million and would initially create about 50 jobs. The facility would process up to 200 horses a day for sale abroad and to ethnic markets within the U.S., she said,” reported Pelzer.

“Unified Equine is already moving on controversial plans to build horse slaughter plants in Oklahoma and Missouri,” Pelzer added. “Work on the Riverton facility won’t start until those facilities are up and running, Wallis said.”

Wallis and the Belgian horsemeat seller Chevideco are “still looking for a site in southwest Missouri,” Donald Bradley of the *Kansas City Star* reported in March 2012, after a public meeting in Mountain Grove “shouted down her plan for an operation that would kill up to 400 horses a day.” But if Wallis and Chevideco have found any commu-

nity in Missouri that wants a horse slaughterhouse, word has yet to reach news media.

A would-be rival to Wallis, Rick de los Santos of Roswell, New Mexico, “has spent tens of thousands of dollars to retrofit his slaughterhouse,” according to Bill Whitaker of CBC News. De los Santos began looking toward horse slaughter, Whitaker reported, after losing more than \$200,000 since 2010.

“De los Santos was delighted to learn his would be the first American slaughterhouse cleared to sell horsemeat to Mexico, Belgium and other countries,” said Whitaker. “Now relief has turned to frustration.”

“It’s cost us about \$75,000, that’s what it’s cost us, just to get ready to slaughter horses,” de los Santos told Whitaker. As of the beginning of June 2012, de los Santos said, he had been waiting four months to get his final government inspection and horse slaughtering license. “De los Santos thinks the delay is deliberate since he’s become a focal point in the anti-horse slaughter movement,” Whitaker concluded. “A bill has been introduced on Capitol Hill to ban horse slaughter for good. And even the governor of New Mexico released a statement about his business, saying ‘creating a slaughterhouse in New Mexico is wrong.’”

Meanwhile, six weeks after the New Mexico Livestock Board reportedly completed an investigation into the deaths of four starving

## Paul Watson arrested on Costa Rican warrant

**FRANKFURT**—Season five of the Animal Planet series *Whale Wars*, following the exploits of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in confrontation with Japanese whalers off Antarctica, debuted on June 1, 2012 with Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson awaiting an extradition hearing in Germany.

Watson was arrested in Frankfurt on May 13, 2012 on a 10-year-old Costa Rican warrant as he tried to board a flight to attend the Cannes film festival in France.

The warrant was issued after the Sea Shepherds intercepted a Costa Rican ves-

sel that was allegedly catching sharks, cutting off their fins for sale to Asian buyers, and tossing the rest of the still living sharks overboard. Video of the incident appeared in the 2007 Rob Stewart documentary *Sharkwater*.

The Guatemalan government sent a gunboat to obtain the release of the fishing vessel, while Costa Rica charged Watson with attempted murder.

Watson has alleged that the charges were originally an extortion attempt, and that the warrant was revived through the influence of the Japanese government.

South Valley,” recalled Heild.

But Chavez beat the rap. “All but one of the 16 misdemeanor counts were dismissed, and he was acquitted of the remaining charge,” Heild finished.

The New Jersey Assembly on May 22, 2012 approved a bipartisan bill to ban the slaughter or sale of horses—the state animal—for human consumption.

“Violators would be guilty of a disorderly persons offense, with penalties up to \$100 and 30 days imprisonment, plus civil fines between \$500 and \$1,000 for each horse slaughtered or each carcass or meat product sold,” summarized Don E. Woods of the *News of Cumberland County*. “The penalties and fines are consistent with the current state law in effect that bans the slaughter of dogs for human consumption,” Woods added.

## Events

**June 16: Wines, Tigers & Beers** benefit for Performing Animal Welfare Soc., Galt, Calif. Info: 209-745-2606; <info@pawsweb.org>.

**June 16: Farm Sanctuary Celebration**, Beverly Hills. Info: <mwasserman@farmsanctuary.org>.

**June 21: Universities Fed. for Animal Welfare** conf., York, U.K. Info: <www.ufaw.org.uk/animal-welfareconference.php>.

**June 23: Richmond Vegetarian Festival**, Richmond, VA. Info: <Brenda\_RVF\_Coordinator@mail.vresp.com>.

**July 4-6: Minding Animals** conf., Utrecht/Leusden, The Netherlands. Info: <www.mindinganimals.com>.

**July 11-13: Arts & Sci. of Human/Animal Interaction** conf., Cambridge, U.K. Info: <www.isaz-2012.com>.

**July 14: Twin Cities Veg Fest**, Minneapolis. Info: <www.tcvegfest.com>.

**July 21: Jim Messina concert** to benefit Rational Animal, New York City. Info: 212-965-5102; <www.rational-animal.org>.

**July 21: Wine & Whiskers Event** for the Animal Care Scty. of E. Smithfield, Pa. Info: 570-596-2200 or <rhigam@animalcaresanctuary.org>.

**July 27-30: HSUS Taking Action for Animals** conf., Washington, DC. Info: <taking-actionforanimals.org>.

**August 2-5: AR 2012** conf., Washington D.C. Info: <www.arconference.org>.

**Aug. 3-7: AVMA** conference, San Diego. Info: <www.avmaconvention.org>.

**August 18-20: Vegan Festival 2012**, Udupi, Karnataka, India. Info: <www.indianvegansociety.com>.

(continued on page 11)

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

## Maddie's Fund Adoptathon saves 2,200 lives in a single weekend!

Forty-six shelter and rescue organizations at more than 70 locations throughout the Bay Area's Alameda and Contra Costa Counties participated in this year's Maddie's® Matchmaker Adoptathon on June 4th and 5th.

Pets were free to adopters, but Maddie's Fund offered a “stimulus package” to shelters for each adoption: \$500 for healthy cats and dogs; \$1,000 for older pet placements (7 years-old and up) or for pets who had been treated for a medical condition; \$1,500 for pets who were both older and treated for a medical condition.

To read more visit:  
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Houndsmen are convicted by video in Maine & worried in Indiana

BELFAST, Maine; LINTON, Indiana—A Superior Court jury in Waldo County, Maine on April 23, 2012 deliberated for less than an hour before convicting Randall Carl of Knox, 46, of aggravated cruelty for setting four bluetick coonhounds on an illegally trapped and tethered bobcat in February 2009. The bobcat was killed.

A Master Maine Guide, Carl “will lose his job with the state Department of Corrections because he is now a convicted felon, was sentenced to 15 months in prison with all but 10 days suspended, will pay \$1,325 in fines and fees, and will spend two years on probation, during which time he will be prohibited from using or possessing hunting dogs or hunting or trapping equipment. He also will be barred from hunting, trapping or guiding activities during this time,” reported Bangor Daily News staff writer Abigail Curtis. Carl was convicted seven months after fellow prison guard Corey Robinson, 30, of Montville, “was found guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals and a closed-season trapping violation by a different Waldo County jury,” Curtis continued. “Robinson received the same sentence but is appealing the verdict.” Both Carl and Robinson were convicted after the juries viewed video of the purported “training accident” taken by Vernon Travis Smith of Burnham, who “pleaded guilty to a closed-season trapping charge and paid a fine,” Curtis wrote.

The verdicts were noteworthy not only for convicting hunters of what they contended was not a deliberate outcome but also for coming in a state which has long had one of the highest rates of hunting participation in the U.S.

Becoming aware of a Showing Animals Respect & Kindness drone helicopter overhead, videotaping the proceedings, houndsmen participating in a “field trial” at the 300-acre Indiana Fox Hunters’ Association facility near Linton, Indiana on June 2, 2012 called off their dogs for hours. Cameras mounted on the drone helicopter clearly showed several coyotes seeking cover ahead of large packs of hounds. Further chases proceeded only at long intervals, SHARK founder Steve Hindi told ANIMAL PEOPLE. Pressured in 2010 by animal advocates to close the Linton facility, which had operated for about 20 years without permits, the Indiana Natural Resources Commission instead voted 9-2 to create a permit to keep the site open.

ANIMAL PEOPLE thanks you for your generous support

Honoring the parable of the widow's mite—in which a poor woman gives but one coin to charity, yet that is all she possesses—we do not list our donors by how much they give, but we greatly appreciate large gifts that help us do more for animals.



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Feral cats not to blame in Southern California murine typhus scare (from page 1)

Amid concern that traps had been set in schoolyards, KABC-TV reported that “the traps were placed in areas not accessible by students.”

Observed Vox Felina blogger Peter Wolf, “One wonders just how accessible the cats are.”

The cat trapping was misguided from the start, said University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health epidemiologist Deborah L. Ackerman. Ackerman serves on the advisory board of the Stray Cat Alliance, founded by longtime southern California animal advocate Christi Metropole.

Reviewing past outbreaks, Ackerman recalled that, “An investigation of an outbreak in Los Angeles County found that of 30 people who contracted murine typhus, 87% had cats and dogs. Only 50% were exposed to free-roaming neighborhood cats.”

Within the outbreak area involved in that episode, Ackerman said, “90% of pet cats were seropositive for typhus, but only 11.5% of neighborhood cats. No cats from control areas, such as impounds at local animal shelters, were seropositive. Thus pet cats were the most likely source of infected fleas.

“A 2005 investigation of an outbreak of six cases of flea-borne typhus on one block in Pasadena,” Ackerman added, “found that three out of four households representing four out of six [human] cases had indoor/outdoor cats, and reported the presence of opossums.

“In Texas,” Ackerman said, “where outbreaks of flea-born typhus also occur, officials have found that fleas on pet dogs rather than on cats are more likely to harbor the infection.”

There were no cases of murine typhus reported in Orange County from 1993 to 2006. One case was identified in 2006; 15 were identified in 2011.

“Every year the numbers have gone up,” Orange County health department spokesperson Nicole Stanfield told NBC Los Angeles.

But there was never any clear reason to associate murine typhus with feral cats in particular.

“Murine typhus, also called endemic typhus, occurs when fleas that carry Rickettsia typhi bite a person. These pests live on animals including rats, cats, skunks, raccoons, and opossums,” explained Matthew Levison, bacterial disease moderator for the International Society for Infectious Diseases’ Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases.

“Murine typhus is similar to epidemic or human louse-borne typhus that is caused by Rickettsia prowazekii, but murine typhus is much milder and the fatality rate in untreated cases is under 2%,” continued Levison, who was formerly chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia.

The National Institutes of Health web site Medline warns that murine typhus is characterized by very high fevers of 105 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit, which may last as long as two weeks, accompanied by abdominal pain, backache, diarrhea, and a red rash that radiates from the middle of the victim’s body. But the NIH adds that prompt antibiotic treatment will cure nearly all patients.

“Although murine typhus in the United States in the first half of the 20th century was maintained by infected rats and rat fleas,” Levison commented to ProMED participants in 2007, “absence of these infected components of the transmission cycle subsequently suggested alternate reservoirs and vectors. Sero-positivity for R. typhi in opossums and domestic cats associated with human cases of typhus, and heavy infestation of the animals with cat fleas, which readily bite humans, suggested these as alternate components of the transmission cycle in suburban environments.”

“The cat flea, Ctenocephalides felis, is an important vector [for murine typhus] both in Texas and California,” offered Tel Aviv Medical Center director of geographic medicine and clinical microbiology Steve Berger, M.D., in a July 1997 ProMED commentary. In addition, Berger noted, cat fleas can transmit “Another rickettsial disease, Rickettsia felis, with similar clinical features and cross-reactive serology. Infested fleas have been identified in Texas, California, Louisiana,

and New York state.”

But Berger cautioned that, “Endemic typhus must not be confused with the more severe disease, epidemic or louse-borne typhus, last reported in the U.S. in 1922. Epidemic typhus is caused by Rickettsia prowazekii and is transmitted human-to-human by the body louse, Pediculus. A putative reservoir has been suggested in the American flying squirrel, with enzootic transmission by squirrel fleas. The epidemic typhus case-fatality rate for untreated cases is 10% to 20%. Two deaths were ascribed to endemic typhus during 1982 to 1991. Fifteen cases of sylvatic typhus, with reservoir in the flying squirrel, were reported in North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Sylvatic typhus is believed to erupt most often in winter, when hibernating squirrels are most vulnerable to fleas.

Murine typhus has actually approached eradication even as the U.S. cat population grew from circa 20 million in 1937, according to data collected by National Family Opinion Survey founders Howard and Clara Trumbull under the pseudonym John Marbanks, to circa 100 million today, including about 60 million indoor pet cats, 30 million free-roaming pet cats, and six to twelve million feral cats.

Between 1944 and 1953, Berger

recounted, 19,663 murine typhus cases were reported in the U.S., 5,401 of them in 1944 alone, the peak year for the World War II housing shortage around rapidly expanded military installations along the West Coast and coastal Southeast.

As human living conditions improved, 1954-1964, the reported murine typhus caseload declined to just 812—and then fell to 315 between 1964 and 1973.

Both the number of pets in U.S. households and the murine typhus caseload nearly doubled from 1974 to 1983, a span when 588 cases were reported, but the advent of preventive flea treatments for household pets had already begun rapidly eliminating most reservoirs of infected Ctenocephalides felis fleas. Indeed, Los Angeles appeared to be the last major murine typhus reservoir in the U.S., with 33 reported cases in 1984-1988.

By 1990 there were just 50 reported murine typhus cases nationwide—and only 25 in 1993. As murine typhus appeared to be practically extinct in the U.S., national tracking ended in 1994—but another reservoir had become evident, as more than half of the known cases during the last five years of national tracking occurred in the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas.

Berger received the 2011 ProMED Award for Excellence in Outbreak Reporting on the Internet. The 2010 winner was ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton.



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Pepsi drops the “Big Lick” amid walking horse soring scandal (from page 1)

Celebration is scheduled for August 22 to September 1. “We have ended our sponsorship of the event,” said Pepsi spokesperson Vincent Bozek, offering no further specifics.

“Neither Pepsi nor officials of the horse show would confirm the reason for the cancellation,” reported Tim Ghianni of Reuters. “But an expert on the Tennessee walking horse show circuit, who asked not to be identified, said he believed it was because of the ABC News report, which showed an abusive practice known as ‘soring.’”

Elaborated Duane W. Gang of the Nashville *Tennessean*, “Inside a West Tennessee barn, the horses were whipped and beaten. Trainers dragged them by their heads. Some were kicked. Chemicals were dripped on their ankles, which were then bound tightly with plastic wrap. It was all done in an effort to accentuate the well-known high leg kick of the Tennessee walking horse,” by forcing them, “because of pain, to lift their legs higher when they walk.”

As well as being sored to produce the “big lick” goosetstep, the horses were reportedly trained to resist flinching when their legs and hooves were handled by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service inspectors.

Ex-Hall of Famer

The HSUS investigator produced the video in 2011 during a seven-week stint as a stable hand. HSUS shared the video with USDA-APHIS, which has responsibility for enforcing the Horse Protection Act. The video was released to ABC more than six weeks after McConnell, 60, and alleged co-conspirators Jeff Dockery, 54, John Mays, 50, and Joseph R. Abernathy, 30, were charged in a 52-count federal indictment. The alleged co-conspirators were employees of McConnell.

“In a notice filed in federal court, McConnell stated he intends to plead guilty to a single count of conspiracy to violate the HPA. The notice stated that federal prosecutors intend to move for dismissal of all remaining charges,” wrote Brian Mosely of the Shelbyville *Times-Gazette* on May 11, 2012. McConnell’s codefendants reportedly accepted similar deals.

McConnell, 60, had reportedly already been suspended for five years from exhibiting horses at events inspected by USDA-APHIS, due to past violations of a similar nature, and had not exhibited horses at the Walking Horse National Celebration since 2007. The Tennessee Walking Horse Trainers Association on May 17, 2012 revoked McConnell’s license to exhibit, reported Duane W. Gang and Heidi Hall of the *Tennessean*.

On May 23, 2012 McConnell was banned for life from the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, and was evicted from membership in the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, added Scott Stroud of the *Tennessean*. “A review of records by the *Tennessean* found that McConnell had a history of civil [i.e. not criminal] violations dating back to 1979,” wrote Stroud.

The crackdown on

McConnell came soon after walking horse trainer Barney Davis, 39, of Lewisburg, Tenn-essie on February 28, 2012 became the first walking horse trainer in 20 years to be criminally convicted of violations of the Horse Protection Act. Pleading guilty to conspiracy to violate the HPA, transporting and entering a sored horse into a show, and conspiring to commit witness tampering, Davis was sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$4,000 by U.S. District Judge Harry “Sandy” Mattice.

“Every walking horse that enters into a show is sored,” Davis told Judge Mattice. “They’ve got to be sored to walk. There ain’t no good way to put it, but that’s how it is.”

Reported Todd South of the Chattanooga *Times-Free Press*, “Davis’ co-defendants—Christen Altman, 26, of Shelbyville, and Jeffery Bradford, 33, of Lewisburg—each received one year of probation and \$1,000 fines. A fourth co-defendant, Paul Blackburn, 35, was sentenced to one year on probation and a \$1,000 fine in January.”

Disrespect of law

Added South, “The allegations of widespread horse abuse,” recited by Davis, “astounded Mattice, who likened the abuse to cockfighting. If the practice is as pervasive as Davis described, Mattice said, Congress has promoted disrespect for the law by criminalizing the conduct but not enforcing it.”

Recalled South, “Former U.S. Senator Joe Tydings of Maryland wrote the Horse Protection Act and submitted it to become law in 1968. The lifelong equestrian and member of the last U.S. Army horse cavalry unit was disgusted when he learned of the practice” of soring walking horses. “Tydings

lost re-election to the Senate in 1970, shortly after the bill became law,” South continued. “He went on to work as a private lawyer and only learned decades later that his bill had been funded by only \$500,000 annually and had not received a budget increase since the 1970s until last year, when funding rose to about \$700,000.”

With the additional funding, USDA-APHIS visited 83 horse shows in 2011, up from about 50 in 2010, out of about 450 shows held per year. Among 11,638 horses examined, 683 soring violations were found—a violation rate of about 6%, afflicting slightly more than one horse in 20.

Walking horse industry spokespersons argued, contrary to Davis’ testimony, that the violations were rare and aberrant.

But Friends of Sound Horses found that “Eight of the last 10 winners of the Trainer of the Year award from the Walking Horse Trainers’ Association have been suspended for soring at least once,” Duane W. Gong and Brian Wilson of *The Tennessean* reported.

Recurring pattern

Hall noted a recurring pattern in walking horse exhibition: “Someone exposes soring, a local scandal ensues, then business as usual resumes. In 2006,” Hall remembered, “the Walking Horse National Celebration canceled the Grand Champion contest after USDA investigators disqualified seven of 10 horses for soring violations.”

Three years later, Hall continued, “The Celebration assembled the inspection agency SHOW—an acronym for sound horses, honest judging, objective inspections, winning

fairly—to self-regulate the trainers. It fired nine inspectors from a former [industry] group. A check of USDA Horse Protection Act violations for 2010-11 reveals that SHOW issued more citations to Shelbyville trainers than any other horse industry organization. Citations from USDA veterinarians at the Celebration dropped from 13.5% of horses in 2009 to 1% in 2011,” Celebration chief executive Doyle Meadows told Hall.

But SHOW president Stephen Mullins, DVM, noted that the number of shows contracting for SHOW inspections has dropped since 2009 from more than 150 to fewer than 100.

“The group keeps running on money from the Celebration—\$750,000 over three years,” Hall wrote. “The Celebration brings an estimated \$41 million in direct spending to Shelbyville. Harder to quantify are the millions more that walking horse owners and their employees contribute indirectly. The industry is Bedford County’s number one sales tax generator,” county mayor Eugene Ray said.

Sought “ag-gag”

*Memphis Commercial Appeal* reporter Richard Locker observed that “Two West Tennessee state legislators tried to pass a bill this year that would have made it a crime to conduct the kind of undercover investigation that produced the video of horse abuse” that brought McConnell’s guilty plea. “The bill was filed in January 2012 by state senator Dolores Gresham (R-Somerville), and representative Andy Holt (R-Dresden), and appeared en route to passage in the Senate until it ran into opposition in a House subcommittee and died for the year.”

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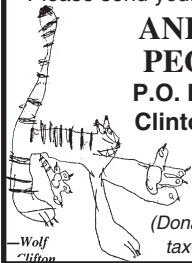
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**Exotic cat exhibitor Joe Schreibvogel responds to HSUS exposé with threat of “a small Waco” if cats are confiscated**

**WYNNEWOOD, Oklahoma**—National television broadcasts on May 16, 2012 featured longtime traveling tiger exhibitor Joe Schreibvogel and his GW Exotic Animal Park at Wynnewood in central Oklahoma, but the self-described “Joe Exotic” probably did not enjoy the spotlight.

“With Congress and the state of Ohio considering bills to restrict private ownership of dangerous exotic animals, CBS *This Morning* broke news of another Humane Society of the U.S. undercover investigation,” blogged HSUS president Wayne Pacelle, describing Schreibvogel as “perhaps the largest private owner of tigers in the nation.”

GW Exotic Animal Park “may have as many as 200 tigers,” Pacelle said. Schreibvogel has claimed to have more than 1,000 animals in all.

Pacelle called GW Exotic Animal Park “a mix of a roadside menagerie and a petting zoo, masquerading as a rescue operation and conservation center. While GW Exotics bills itself as providing homes for ‘abandoned, misplaced and abused animals,’” Pacelle said, “it is currently under investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the deaths of 23 tiger cubs in 2009-2010. Joe Schreibvogel, continues to breed tigers as well as controversial hybrids,” Pacelle charged. “Staff reported that once tiger cubs outgrew their usefulness to the park, Schreibvogel ‘donated’ them to other facilities in exchange for donations to GW Exotics.”

Earlier media reports have said Schreibvogel has acknowledged selling tigers to other exhibition facilities for as much as \$5,000 apiece.

“During our investigation, five tigers died,” Pacelle said.

Elaborated HSUS spokesperson Raul Arce-Contreras, “Two of the tigers had been sick for months and may have been shot by GW employees. A 6-year-old tiger named Hobbes died without receiving veterinary care. A 6-week-old cub being raised inside the GW owner’s house somehow sustained head injuries and had to be euthanized.

“The HSUS investigator witnessed or heard reports about numerous dangerous public interactions at GW,” Contreras added, “including at least six cases where visitors were bitten or scratched. In August 2011, according to GW’s assistant park manager, three people suffered tiger bites at a fair, including one child whose bite became infected. On September 3, 2011, a tiger reportedly bit a young girl on her leg. On September 11, 2011, a tiger cub scratched a young child while the child was posing for a picture. On September 17, 2011, a 20-week-old tiger named Dre knocked down and bit a small child. The next day, the same tiger was used for photo shoots at GW and photographers posed a small child bottle-feeding the tiger.”

Contreras said HSUS had filed complaints about GW with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, alleging potential violations of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Act; with the USDA, alleging violations of the Animal Welfare Act; and with the Oklahoma

Department of Wildlife Conservation, alleging violations of state permit requirements.

The HSUS undercover video “shows a tiger being hit on the nose and a tiger being dragged on gravel. In another incident on tape, a boy was suddenly attacked while interacting with a young tiger, and began screaming,” summarized CBS News chief investigative correspondent Armen Keteyian. “CBS News showed the undercover video to Schreibvogel, who charged the incident with the boy was ‘set up.’” Keteyian asked Schreibvogel if he really believed that HSUS “would put a little boy in harm’s way?”

Replied Schreibvogel, “Oh, hell yeah, in a heartbeat. I am saying Wayne Pacelle would stoop low enough to put a little kid at risk to get his agenda, so he could continue to get money.”

Continued Keteyian, “Told that Pacelle had called GW Exotic ‘a ticking time bomb,’ Schreibvogel responded, ‘It is a ticking time bomb—if somebody thinks they’re going to walk in here and take my animals away, it’s going to be a small Waco.’”

Schreibvogel referenced the 1993 siege of the Branch Davidian cult compound near Waco, which opened with the deaths of four U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms agents and six Branch Davidians in the initial BATF attempt to serve a search warrant, and ended 50 days later with a fire that killed 75 compound residents, including sect leader David Koresh.

Pressed to elaborate, Schreibvogel said, “Nobody is sgoing to walk in here and freely shut me down and take my rights away from me as long as I am not breaking the law.”

**Ohio updates law**

The Ohio legislature just a week later changed the state law governing possession of dangerous exotic animals. Ohio Governor John Kasich signed the new law on June 5, 2012. Introduced after Terry Thompson of Zanesville, Ohio, freed 56 lions, tigers, bears, wolves, and chimpanzees on October 18, 2011, before shooting himself, the Ohio bill passed despite Schreibvogel’s efforts as president of the U.S. Zoological Association. The USZA represents exotic animal keepers who do not qualify for membership in either the American Zoo Association or the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

The Ohio bill “would immediately ban people from buying new dangerous exotic animals, such as cheetahs and crocodiles,” summarized Ann Sanner of Associated Press. “Current owners could keep their creatures by obtaining a new state-issued permit by 2014. They would have to pass a background check, pay permit fees, obtain liability insurance, and show inspectors that they can properly contain the animal and adhere to other standards. Within 60 days after the bill’s effective date, owners would have to microchip their dangerous wildlife and register them. They will have to tell the state where the animals are, how many they have, what the creatures look like, and who their veterinarian is, among other details.”

Two hours before an April 16, 2012

**USDA-APHIS to regulate online pet breeders**

**RIVERDALE, Maryland**—The USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service on May 16, 2012 proposed “to revise the definition of retail pet store and related regulations to bring more pet animals sold at retail under the protection of the Animal Welfare Act. Specifically,” USDA-APHIS stated in the *Federal Register*, “we would narrow the definition of retail pet store so that it means a place of business or residence that each buyer physically enters in order to personally observe the animals available for sale prior to purchase and/or to take custody of the animals after purchase, and where only certain animals are sold or offered for sale, at retail, for use as pets. Retail pet stores are not required to be licensed and inspected under the AWA.” Publication of the proposed change opened a 30-day comment period.

“Dog breeders who skirt animal welfare laws by selling puppies over the Internet would face tighter scrutiny,” explained Tracie Cone of Associated Press. “The change would subject dog owners who breed more than four females and sell the puppies electronically, by mail or over the phone,

to the same oversight faced by wholesale dealers as part of the Animal Welfare Act.

The proposed rule change was welcomed by both the Humane Society of the U.S. and the National Animal Interest Alliance, founded in 1992 and headed ever since by Oregon dog breeder Patti Strand.

The proposed rule change was announced after the Southern California cities of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Beach, Irvine, Huntington Beach, and Dana Point adopted ordinances prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from commercial breeders. The San Clemente city council voted down a similar proposed ordinance.

The American SPCA on May 21, 2012 announced that more than 100,000 people had taken an online “No Pet Store Puppies” pledge. “The national campaign, launched last July, raises awareness about the connection between pet stores and puppy mills and aims to reduce the demand for puppy mill puppies by urging consumers not to buy any items—including food, supplies or toys—if the store or website sells dogs,” said ASPCA spokesperson Anita Kelson Edson.



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Ohio senate hearing on the bill, Schreibvogel told a press conference that “he thinks Thompson was killed to push along legislation banning private exotic animal ownership in Ohio,” reported *Zanesville Times Recorder* staff writer Hannah Sparling.

“I believe Terry Thompson was murdered to further this agenda,” Schreibvogel said in a tape of the press conference that was posted to YouTube. “I think we are looking at a much larger conspiracy than we think we are,” Schreibvogel insisted.

Responded Muskingum County Sheriff Matt Lutz, who directed the law enforcement response to the Zanesville incident, “I’m a little upset that someone would make a statement about something that obviously they don’t know anything about.”

Sheriff’s deputies eventually shot 51 of the freed animals, after unsuccessful efforts were made to contain some of them in cages that had been cut open, as well as having doors that were left open.

**Flamboyant claims**

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** first examined Schreibvogel’s flamboyant claims and history in October 2002.

Schreibvogel operated an exotic pet store called Super Pet with his brother Garold in Arlington, Texas, until Garold was killed in an October 1997 truck crash.

Joe Schreibvogel was also identified by the *Dallas Morning News* as co-operator, with a man named Jim Claytor, of a wildlife rescue service called Nature’s Hope.

In February 1999, police in Plano, Texas, found 69 dead emus and about 160 others cannibalizing their remains on the property of housing developer and former emu speculator Kuo-Wei Lee. Schreibvogel and Claytor took possession of the survivors and hauled most of them to a ranch about 50 miles away, to await relocation to permanent sanctuary. When they could not catch all of the emus, Schreibvogel and Claytor allegedly shot at least six of them. Then-SPCA of Texas chief cruelty investigator Bobby French videotaped the shootings, but the Ellis County grand jury refused to indict Schreibvogel and Claytor. Schreibvogel then filed a defamation suit against the SPCA of Texas, claiming that their release of the video to news media had

hurt sales at Super Pet. Schreibvogel sold Super Pet soon afterward, and in October 1999 opened the GW Exotic Animal Foundation in his brother’s memory.

Schreibvogel won public acclaim in August 2001, after taking in three severely emaciated bears who were seized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Russian circus trainer Alexander Shelovnikov. But Schreibvogel meanwhile ran into trouble with the Oklahoma Wildlife Department for allegedly operating unsafe road shows.

“We know we have some young kids being put in enclosures with large animals,” charged Oklahoma assistant attorney general Elizabeth Sharrock in July 2002.

“The park takes as many as 30 animals on the road. The animals are kept in cages and the park solicits donations at the shows,” reported Bob Doucette of *The Oklahoman*, after Schreibvogel won an injunction that allowed the road shows to continue.

Using as many as 30 different business names over the years, Schreibvogel on April 29, 2010 withdrew the use of “GW Exotics Foundation” as his legal name in Oklahoma, and began calling his operation “Big Cat Rescue Entertainment Group.”

That attracted the notice of Florida sanctuarian Carole Baskin, founder of Big Cat Rescue and a longtime outspoken opponent of private possession of exotic and dangerous wildlife. Her husband Howard Baskin published an 8,200-word web exposé of Schreibvogel’s activities, which have also been exposed by PETA and the television magazine program *Inside Edition*.

Schreibvogel retaliated by picketing Big Cat Rescue, and by serving as primary source for an ill-informed September 28, 2011 “exposé” of Big Cat Rescue by Mike Deeson of WTSP-TV.

Said Howard Baskin, “The WTSP story noted that Schreibvogel was fined \$25,000 by USDA, but dispensed with this by repeating Schreibvogel’s claim that it was ‘when he first started out.’ The fine was in 2006 for violations that took place continuously from 2000-2004.”

Added Carole Baskin, “Joe Schreibvogel is one of the best examples in the nation of why private ownership of big cats should be banned.” —Merritt Clifton

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## Trapper shoots horse as bait to trap last breeding wolf from Toklat pack

**DENALI NATIONAL PARK, Alaska**—Hunting guide Coke Wallace, of Healy, has acknowledged walking an aged horse to the Stampede Trail near the northern boundary of Denali National Park, shooting the horse, and setting snares around the carcass. The snares killed the last known breeding female wolf from the Grant Creek pack—the pack that roams the area made famous by the 1996 book by Jon Krakauer and 2007 feature film *Into the Wild*, about the 1992 death nearby of 22-year-old would-be survivalist Christopher McCandless.

The Grant Creek pack, also called the Toklat West pack, is among the three wolf packs most often viewed and photographed by Denali visitors. The pack has been continuously studied since 1939, first by Adolf Murie until his death in 1974, then by Gordon Haber from 1966 until his death while spotting wolves from a light plane in 2009, and currently by Anchorage conservation biologist and former University of Alaska professor Rick Steiner.

“One of the dead wolves was equipped with a radio collar attached by scientists. She was the only female from the pack known to have

raised pups last year,” reported Kim Murphy of the *Los Angeles Times*. “The pack’s only other known breeding female was found dead near the pack’s den, probably of natural causes. A third wolf, also snared near the horse carcass, was a male who may or may not have been part of the Grant Creek pack,” according to Denali National Park biologist Tom Meier.

Wallace contended that the female wolf he snared was emaciated. “Coke’s wolf was in a trap for a week and was scavenged by a wolverine before he ever even saw it,” Meier responded to Murphy. “These wolves aren’t starving.” Meier pointed out that wolves are normally lean in spring, after enduring the harsh Alaskan winters.

The Denali National Park wolf popu-

lation has declined since 2006 from 103 wolves in 15 packs to 70 wolves in nine packs, a 20-year low, Meier said.

“The snares were within the former protected Denali buffer, where trapping and hunting of wolves was prohibited from 2002 to 2010,” e-mailed Steiner. “Ignoring several proposals to expand the no-take Denali wolf buffer zone—including a proposal from Denali National Park itself—the Alaska Board of Game instead eliminated the protective buffer and imposed a moratorium on future consideration of any Denali wolf protection buffer proposals until 2016.”

The Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Department of Fish & Game said Wallace had not broken any laws, but down-

stream residents David and Susan Braun told the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the rotting horse carcass had contaminated their drinking water.

Friends of Animals and Defenders of Wildlife amplified appeals for the Denali buffer zone to be retored.

Amid the controversy, acting Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation director Doug Vincent Lang on May 1, 2012 told Dan Joling of Associated Press that the agency would do a year of further study before implementing a recommendation by the Alaska Board of Game that wolves, black bears, and grizzly bears should be culled on the Kenai Peninsula to boost the numbers of moose available to human hunters.

### More events

**August 19: Walk to Save Lives**, for Pasado’s Save Haven, Redmond, WA. Info: <[www.pasadosafehaven.org](http://www.pasadosafehaven.org)>.

**Sept. 4-8: Intl. Conf. on Dog Population Management**, York, U.K. Info: <[DPM2012@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DPM2012@fera.gsi.gov.uk)> or <<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/dogs2012/index.cfm>>.

**Sept. 6-7: Natl. Animal Control Assn. Disaster Training Academy**, Louisville, KY. Info: 933-768-1319; <[naca@nacanet.org](mailto:naca@nacanet.org)>; <[www.nacanet.org](http://www.nacanet.org)>.

**Sept. 20-21: Michigan No Kill Conf.**, Lansing. Info: 877-387-7257; <[conference@michiganpetfund.org](mailto:conference@michiganpetfund.org)>.

**Sept. 27-29: ACES Intl. Conf.**, hosted by the Helen Woodward Animal Center, San Diego. Info: <[animalcenter.org/ACESConference](http://animalcenter.org/ACESConference)>.

**Sept. 28: World Rabies Day**. Info: <[webmaster@worldrabiesday.org](mailto:webmaster@worldrabiesday.org)>.

**Sept. 30: Celebrate Animals** benefit for WellPet Humane, Dunwoody, GA. Info: 1-770-455-7077>.

**Oct. 4: World Animal Day**. Info: <[info@worldanimal-day.org.uk](mailto:info@worldanimal-day.org.uk)>; <[www.worldanimal-day.org.uk](http://www.worldanimal-day.org.uk)>.

**Oct. 7: Team AngelDogs Foundation Race for the Rescues**, Pasadena. Info: 898-504-SPAY; <[www.angel-dogsfoundation.org](http://www.angel-dogsfoundation.org)>.

**Oct. 16-18: Intl. Companion Animal Welf. Conf.**, Vravona, Greece. Info: <[international@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:international@dogstrust.org.uk)>.

**October 16-18: No More Homeless Pets** conf., Las Vegas. Info: 435-644-2001, x4478; <[conferences@best-friends.org](mailto:conferences@best-friends.org)>.

**November 16-18: India for Animals** conf., Panjim, Goa. Info: <[helen@fiapo.org](mailto:helen@fiapo.org)>.

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**New Indian data cuts global human rabies death toll by 40%** *(from page 1)*

human rabies deaths in India suggests that rabies is much less a public health scourge than is widely believed, and is accordingly much more vulnerable to eradication with a concerted push to vaccinate street dogs.

Worldwide, rabies was believed to be killing about 55,000 people per year, with canine rabies most prevalent in Southeast Asia and Africa, while bat rabies predominates in South America. The new Indian data suggests that the actual human rabies toll is less than 35,000, and that infection from dogs could be reduced to the point that globally, bats might soon be the primary vector for human cases.

**Snakebite vs. rabies**

Forwarding information obtained by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** from a variety of Indian sources, the International Society for Infectious Diseases broke the news of the reduction in estimated Indian rabies deaths on May 1, 2012 via the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases. Founded in 1994, the peer-reviewed ProMED-mail network now reaches more than 40,000 public health professionals in 185 nations.

ProMED-mail viral diseases moderator Craig Pringle, a Univeristy of Warwick professor emeritus, pointed out that while the Indian snakebite death toll may be difficult to reduce, human deaths from rabies could be eliminated entirely through

more effective use of existing vaccines.

“Venomous snakes occur throughout many regions of the world and are a threat to public health, especially in the rural tropics where they are most abundant,” Pringle posted. “Out of more than 3,000 species of snakes in the world, some 600 are venomous and over 200 are considered to be medically important. The risk of snakebite is a public health hazard that many people in the rural tropics face on a daily basis.

“Snake antivenom immunoglobulins—antivenoms—are the only specific treatment for envenoming by snakebites,” Pringle continued. “Antivenoms can prevent or reverse most snakebite effects,” but “The production of antivenins is hazardous and requires the use of living animals.”

Because of “The complexity of the production of antivenins, the decreasing number of producers, and the fragility of the production systems in developing countries,” Pringle noted, “the high mortality from snake bite in India is understandable and excusable. The high mortality from rabies virus infection is less so. Potent and effective cell-produced anti-rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin are available and completely protective if administered soon after exposure. Further, the vectors of rabies virus are predominantly urban and feral dogs,” who can be vaccinated and sterilized to prevent the existence of a population vulnerable to canine rabies.

**High numbers**

“The World Health Organization has claimed that there were about 20,000 human rabies deaths per year in India between 1992 and 2002,” e-mailed longtime Blue Cross of India chief executive and Animal Welfare Board of India member Chinny Krishna to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but the figure given by Gulam Nabi Azad is in the opinion of many of us working on the ground much closer to reality.” Krishna’s e-mail was included as a letter-to-the-editor in the May 2012 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, inserted into the layout just before the press deadline.

Introducing the use of street dog vaccination and sterilization to combat canine rabies in 1966, Krishna became skeptical of the WHO and Indian government estimates of human rabies fatalities by 1976. At that time the official human rabies death toll in India was 35,000 per year.

“For at least 25 years, I fought the claim of 35,000 rabies deaths in India yearly,” Krishna recalled in an e-mail to members of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations. “I spoke at the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India conference at Bhubaneshwar when the decennial figures for 1992-2002 were released,” lowering *(continued on page 13)*

**Vet killed while prepping elephant for retirement**

**TUAKU, New Zealand**—Helen Schofield, 42, owner, director, and veterinarian at the Franklin Zoo & Wildlife Sanctuary in Tuaku, New Zealand, was on April 25, 2012 fatally crushed by Mila, 39, an African elephant whom Schofield was preparing for eventual relocation to the Performing Animal Welfare Society’s 2,3000-acre elephant sanctuary in northern California.

The *New Zealand Herald* reported conflicting versions of the fatal incident.

“It’s understood Dr. Schofield had been in the enclosure just before the incident and had been speaking to zoo-goers about Mila,” wrote Andrew Koubaridis of the *New Zealand Herald* on April 27, 2012. “She left the enclosure, but went back inside with a bucket of fruit to try to calm Mila down after someone reported that the elephant suddenly jumped at least one meter sideways,” after suffering an electric shock from touching a perimeter fence.

“Mila put her head down and advanced, slowly at first, but with increasing speed,” Koubaridis continued. “Dr. Schofield turned and ran—but tripped about a meter from the enclosure’s exit. *The Herald* understands Mila used her trunk to pull Dr. Schofield back by the leg, wrapped her trunk around the vet’s midsection, and picked her up. Onlookers said Dr. Schofield was able to speak and calmly called the command to put her down. Mila eventually knelt and pushed her trunk down on a bank in the enclosure, as Dr. Schofield asked to be let go. When Mila finally released Dr. Schofield, she was still talking and was seen to move. Mila backed away, but then moved toward her again and repeatedly brushed her trunk up against her—and she didn’t move again.”

Michael Dickison, also of the *New Zealand Herald*, reported a different version the following day. “A witness to the fatal accident says the elephant was triggered to kneel down, crushing her keeper, by what appeared to be a misinterpreted circus command,” Dickison wrote. “‘Put me down, Mila,’ Dr. Helen Schofield was heard saying as she patted the elephant’s head. Mila obeyed by going down on her knees—crushing Dr Schofield.” The witness, whom Dickison said declined to be named, said Mila did not attack Schofield, Mila had not touched an electric fence, and Schofield had backed away from her, not run.

Schofield bought the Franklin Zoo, located about halfway between Auckland and Hamilton, in 2005. Schofield lived on the Franklin Zoo premises with her mother and sister. In 2006 Schofield bought and retired from performance the last circus lions in New Zealand, two females named Ruby and Jade. The zoo collection currently includes Ruby, Jade having died, plus monkeys, otters, zebras, emus, and a bobcat.

Schofield had announced plans for the zoo to expand to add a veterinary clinic, wild bird rehabilitation center, and a 70-acre “sustainable native bush corridor,” as a joint project with the New Zealand Department of Conservation. But New Zealand SPCA executive director Bob Kerridge told the *New Zealand Herald* that Schofield’s death left the zoo in “turmoil” and placed its future in doubt.

Kerridge said Auckland Zoo personnel had taken over the daily care of Mila.

Hans Kriek, executive director of Save Animals from Exploitation, told *The Dominion Post* of Christchurch that he had campaigned for more than 20 years to have Mila retired from performing. Kriek told *The Dominion Post* that only the day before Mila killed Schofield, Schofield told him that Mila was ready to be transported to PAWS. “Helen had been crate-training her,” Kriek explained, “teaching her to walk into a crate without fear so that she’d be comfortable traveling.”

“We didn’t actually have a date” for Mila to be flown to PAWS, PAWS founder Pat Derby told Sue Manning of Associated Press. “It was sort of whenever crate training was

finished and they felt she was comfortable enough to go.”

“Helen Schofield’s dream,” Derby added to Chris Biele of KTXL-TV news in Sacramento, was that “she wanted Mila to come here and be with other elephants.” Derby pledged “to keep going forward with plans to get Mila to California,” Biele reported. PAWS is seeking to raise \$100,000 to fund the relocation, which would probably not be done until after PAWS receives three African elephants from the Toronto Zoo. That move, in planning since October 2011, is being funded by retired TV game show host Bob Barker.

“Helen Schofield will be remembered with the highest regard by elephant care-giver professionals around the world,” Derby posted to the PAWS web site. But four elephant care professionals who knew Mila during her circus career alleged that Schofield made critical mistakes.

Born in Kenya in 1973, Mila was at age nine months captured and acquired by the London Zoo. Mila was transferred to the Honolulu Zoo in Hawaii, then was sold in 1978 to the Whirling Brothers Circus, founded in 1969 by brothers Tony and Robin Ratcliffe of New Zealand.

The Honolulu Zoo called the elephant Mele Kahea—similar to Mila. The Ratcliffes called her Jumbo. Unclear is whether Jumbo became her working name, or was just her performing name. Performing elephants typically are advertised and introduced to crowds under one name, to which they will not respond if the name is shouted by strangers, but are handled by a different name, less likely to be heard from a stranger. Commands are also often given in a language that the elephant is unlikely to hear from strangers. The Auckland Zoo, for instance, reportedly trains elephants to respond only to commands given in Hindi.

Dissolving the Whirling Brothers Circus in 2007, the Ratcliffes sold Mila to the Weber Brothers Circus in 2007, after a failed attempt to retire her to the Western Plains Zoo near Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia. Tony Ratcliffe continued as her trainer, handling her for 31 years altogether. Mila toured with the Loritz Circus until 2009. Turned over to the New Zealand SPCA in late 2009, Mila remained in SPCA custody but was housed at the Franklin Zoo until she could be moved to a sanctuary.

“Loritz Circus were meant to build a place for her and it didn’t eventuate,” Tony Ratcliffe told Radio New Zealand after Scofield’s death. “They dumped her on the SPCA, who held her standing in her own faeces, urine and hay for three days,” Ratcliffe alleged, “until they called me to help. I got that situation resurrected and took her to the (Franklin) zoo that didn’t want me. Then they rang and said we need your help to get her out of the trailer.”

There was a long history of friction between the circus handlers and Schofield, who reportedly told a group of about 50 visitors only two-and-a-half hours before her death that she first met Mila in 1990, and believed Mila had been traumatized by circus life. This had included the Ratcliffes’ use of the ankus, or “bullhook,” commonly used by circus elephant trainers but prohibited at PAWS and the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

After Schofield’s death, “Tony Ratcliffe’s lawyer Cheryl Simes said—via press release—that she had contacted Helen Schofield on Ratcliffe’s behalf last week after Schofield made ‘defamatory’ statements regarding the elephant’s care and condition before she arrived at Auckland’s Franklin Zoo,” reported Louise Risk of the *Dominion Post*.

“I had hoped to be able to discuss this with Helen Schofield,” Tony Ratcliffe told Risk. “I know we had different views about circus animals. I had hoped we could get the facts straight about Jumbo’s background, and then agree to disagree about wider issues, and maybe work together for what was best for Jumbo in her particular situation. Tragically we have lost



**Veterinarian Heather Schofield and Mila, the elephant who killed her. (Franklin Zoo photo)**

that opportunity.”

“Many reasons can be found for accidents and elephant attacks,” Tony Ratcliffe continued. “I do not and will not subscribe to the theory that they don’t attack unless they have been mistreated.” Tony Ratcliffe cited a 1954 incident at the Auckland Zoo, in which an elephant named Jamuna killed handler Frank Lane. “Allegations have been repeated through the years—and recently on television—that Jumbo was mistreated while in the circus,” Tony Ratcliffe said. “I reject those allegations completely. I have handled and worked with over 40 elephants in both circuses and zoos, and the elephants I have been involved with have all had very good handling right from an early age.”

His brother, Robin Ratcliffe, founder of the Hamilton engineering firm Modern Transport Engineers, suggested that Mila was most traumatized by prolonged separation from Tony Ratcliffe, who had been prohibited from visiting her.

Shortly after Schofield’s death, Tony and Robin Ratcliffe were refused entry to the Franklin Zoo, the *New Zealand Herald* reported.

The Ratcliffes’ contentions were reinforced by former Whirling Brothers Circus magician Evelyn Strugnell, of Palmerston North. Strugnell “rode, performed with, and walked Mila,” wrote Jessica Sutton of the *Manawatu Standard*. Strugnell “did acts where the elephant would walk over her,” Sutton recalled.

“They should never have changed her name,” Strugnell opined, though whether Mila’s working name was actually changed is unclear. “It’s like a dog,” Strugnell said. “if you change its name, when you call out the new name these animals don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Former Franklin Zoo elephant handler Bruce Ireland told the *New Zealand Herald* that “Mila showed aggressive and unsettled behavior,” in his experience with her. “Ireland worked at Auckland Zoo for 27 years, 18 of them with its elephants, and said he was brought in because Dr. Schofield had no experience dealing with elephants,” the *New Zealand Herald* said. According to the *New Zealand Herald*, Ireland “worked with Dr. Schofield for about three months when Mila arrived at Franklin Zoo, but lost his job because the zoo could not afford to keep him on.”

Said Ireland, “You never went in with her—because she was just too dangerous. It was a case of there was one guy, Tony Ratcliffe, who could handle her, and he was the only one who could handle her.”



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## New Indian data cuts global human rabies death toll by 40% (from page 12)

the estimated toll to 17,000 diagnosed human deaths and 3,000 deaths that went undiagnosed. "I was a lone voice disputing the updated figures of 20,000-odd rabies deaths per year during this period," Krishna wrote.

Krishna suspected that the high figures were produced by the combination of inadequate case tracking, faulty diagnostic work, and official projections based on obsolescent and inaccurate presumptions about how rabies spreads.

Eventually Krishna persuaded People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi, who for more than five years was the Indian federal minister for animal welfare, and was also for a time minister for statistics, but Mrs. Gandhi lost her cabinet position before she could organize an official reappraisal of the rabies numbers. Likewise convinced was Animal Welfare Board of India chair Rammehar Kharb, a retired military veterinarian who on appointment in May 2006 pledged to "eradicate rabies from India by mass vaccination of stray dogs."

WHO-South East Asia Regional Organization technical officer for veterinary public health Gyanendra Gongal also came to question the official numbers.

Journalist Hiranmay Karlekar in a 2008 book entitled *Savage Humans & Stray Dogs* attributed the inflated human rabies death estimates to the desire of makers of post-exposure vaccines to sell more of their product to dog bite victims and to their biggest customers, the government clinics that are mandated to treat dog bite victims free of charge.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out repeatedly, beginning in 1997, that several mosquito and tick-borne diseases, common to India but only recently medically identified, also produce high fever and other rabies symptoms, and are likewise frequently fatal if left untreated. Undetected insect-carried febrile illnesses could easily have accounted for most of the unconfirmed "rabies" death toll.

But before Indian health minister Gulam Nabi Azad's April 29, 2012 statement to the Lok Sabha, there was little sign that the Indian health bureaucracy was taking notice.

Krishna sought unsuccessfully on several occasions to enlist FIAPO members to participate in an unfunded national rabies data collection effort. At the June 2011 Asia for Animals conference in Chengdu, China, Krishna assembled representatives of the AWBI, ABC India, **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and Humane Society International for an informal brainstorming session which concluded that available information on clinically confirmed rabies cases suggested that the annual human rabies death toll in India could not be more than 2,000 to 3,000.

Data from Andhra Pradesh and Goa states, released after rabies outbreaks in 2011, later projected a range of 2,000 to 3,150 human rabies deaths per year, if all states were afflicted to the same extent.

"I would not necessarily go so far as to say that the number of human rabies cases a year in India is around 2,000," Humane Society International president Andrew Rowan said at the time, "but I certainly suspect it is well below 20,000."

### What fewer deaths mean

The reduction in the official Indian government estimate of human rabies deaths from 20,000 to 223 "shows the massive contribution made by nonprofit organizations and the Animal Welfare Board of India," particularly through the

Indian national Animal Birth Control program, Krishna e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and FIAPO.

Countered Visakha SPCA and ABC India founder Pradeep Kumar Nath, "Until and unless we have more than 70% coverage of the entire country under the [federally funded] Animal Birth Control program, we cannot prove claims that the drop in human rabies deaths was due to our work. Effective ABC is not happening in 90% of India," Nath charged.

Depending on how the new Indian rabies death toll is interpreted, it might either be seen as demonstrating the efficacy of ABC and the need for expanded ABC programs, or as showing that ABC has not been a factor in the improvement and need no longer be funded.

While Krishna was first to demonstrate the efficacy of the ABC concept, eradicating rabies from Chennai and surrounding parts of Tamil Nadu state, Nath in Visakhapatnam achieved the most rapid sterilization and vaccination of 70% of a municipal dog population on record in India, eliminating rabies from Visakhapatnam and the surrounding suburbs called the Visakhapatnam Circle.

Rabies returned to both the Chennai suburbs and the Visakhapatnam Circle in 2010, however. In the Chennai area, public officials failed to report isolated cases promptly, so that the Blue Cross of India could intensively vaccinate dogs to prevent the outbreaks from spreading. In Visakhapatnam, the Visakha SPCA lost the municipal ABC contract after a change of government. The new service provider failed to promptly start a high-volume vaccination and sterilization program to replace the Visakha SPCA services.

Nath spent much of 2011 leading vaccination drives against rabies outbreaks elsewhere in Andhra Pradesh, with material support from Krishna.

At issue between Nath and Krishna was not any substantive disagreement about the efficacy of mass dog vaccination and sterilization, but rather to what extent the drop in the government estimate of human rabies deaths reflects program success, as opposed to better record-keeping and data analysis.

Indeed, India as a whole is nowhere near achieving the 70% vaccination level that would be needed to eradicate rabies, nor the 70% dog sterilization rate that would be necessary to prevent increases in the population of unvaccinated street dogs. However, the examples of Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur, Kalimpong, and other Indian cities where 70% vaccination and sterilization rates have been achieved show that rabies outbreaks can be kept from spreading, even where they occur, if they encounter barrier populations of immunized dogs. This does not prevent rabies from jumping beyond a vaccinated barrier population, if infected animals are transported. But, since rabid animals seldom wander far beyond their accustomed habitat, such jumps are relatively rare—especially for dogs, who are much less likely than bats or even raccoons to stow away in cargoes being hauled from city to city.

As Nath argued, to eradicate rabies throughout the whole of India would require achieving 70% vaccination and sterilization rates throughout India. But to isolate and eradicate individual rabies outbreaks, it is only necessary to achieve 70% vaccination in the areas surrounding those outbreaks.

Continued Nath, "In Kakinada, dogs were killed by the hundreds by political mafias, and there was no ABC pro-

gram in place at all. Shall we attribute the decline in rabies in Kakinada to these killings? What are we to say here?"

Such examples chiefly illustrate a continuing need for better public education about rabies—and, indeed, about the transmission of infectious disease in general.

Attempting to kill the vector is the oldest and most widely practiced response to rabies and other infectious disease. Killing an actual or suspected vector species often appears to be successful in controlling the spread of a disease for short periods of time, but the appearance of success is illusory.

What actually happens is that when any very virulent disease kills so many of the host animals that it can no longer spread rapidly from host to host, it either burns itself out or evolves into a less virulent form, which can be incubated and spread for much longer before the onset of the fatal symptoms.

When all dogs exhibiting active symptoms of canine rabies are killed, along with any other dogs who can be caught, the remaining dogs tend to be the most furtive and nocturnal part of the population—the so-called pariah dogs of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, for example, who unlike street dogs who beg for handouts, live entirely by scavenging, avoiding human contact.

Rabies may persist among these dogs for many months in the latent "dumb" phase. When pariah dogs die, the deaths go unobserved. Eventually, months or years later, rabies returns from the pariah dog population to infect street dogs, community dogs, and pet dogs. Often this is perceived as a new infection—but it is really just the same old outbreak, cycling back into the community from a seldom-seen and sometimes almost invisible reservoir.

When the street dogs, community dogs, and pet dogs are vaccinated, rabies is no longer able to re-enter the community from the pariah dog population. After infected pariah dogs die, without having passed rabies to any others, the rabies outbreak dies too.

### Canine rabies in China

A similar dynamic is involved in the persistence of canine rabies in southern and central China, but with the difference that in China the most frequent intermediary vectors between rabid feral dogs and humans appear to be not street dogs, nor unvaccinated pets, but rather some of the estimated 10 million dogs per year who are raised, transported, and sold for human consumption.

The Chinese ministry of health in September 2009 produced the estimate that rabies had killed about 2,400 people per year in China during the preceding five years.

"Most rabies deaths occurred in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the provinces of Guizhou, Guangdong, Hunan, and Sichuan, accounting for 61% percent of the total, *China Daily* summarized.

Contiguous to each other, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and three of the four named provinces together form the part of China which is most involved in the dog meat industry. Southern Sichuan borders on Guizhou and is also involved in exporting dogs for slaughter.

*China Daily* noted that rabies infections "mostly occurred in rural areas among males," who might be most likely to work among unvaccinated "meat dogs," children under the age of 15, who are most likely to play with dogs, and "people over the age of 50," the age bracket most likely to consume dog meat.

Dogs raised for meat in China are not vaccinated against rabies because the Chinese Veterinary Medicine Administrative Regulations state that vaccinating animals intended for human consumption against rabies is illegal. Transporting dogs who have not been vaccinated against rabies from one province to another is also illegal.

Thus leading Chinese animal advocacy attorneys Lu Xun, An Xiang, and Cai Chunhang contended at a June 2011 press conference in Beijing that most of the Chinese dog meat trade is illegal, even in absence of any law specifically prohibiting it.

—Merritt Clifton

### Chicago-area caretaker is first known mute swan attack death

**CHICAGO**—Anthony Hensley, 37, on April 14, 2012 drowned at the Bay Colony Drive condominium complex in an unincorporated part of Cook County, Illinois, near Des Plaines, west of Chicago.

Employed for about 10 years by Knox Swan & Dog LLC, a Great Barrington firm that deploys mute swans and dogs to deter nonmigratory Canada geese, Hensley was rushed by a mute swan while making a routine check on the swans in his care.

"Witnesses told police that Hensley, a Villa Park father with two young daughters, drowned after he was attacked by a nesting swan, causing his kayak to topple," reported Jennifer Delgado and Joseph Ruzich of the

*Chicago Tribune*. "The bird continued to lunge at him aggressively as he struggled to make it to shore before disappearing under the water, authorities said." An experienced kayaker and strong swimmer, Hensley was weighed down when his heavy clothing and boots became waterlogged, his father Raymond Hensley told CBS Chicago.

State agencies engaged in trumpeter swan restoration have for more than 30 years advocated eradicating mute swans as an alleged "invasive species" that competes with trumpeter swans for habitat.

Claims have been made for about 25 years that mute swans might harm humans, but Field Museum senior conservation ecologist Doug Stotz told

the *Chicago Tribune* that he was unaware of any previous fatal attacks.

Exempted since 2004 from protection by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, mute swans are classified as not native to North America despite considerable evidence to the contrary assembled by Save The Mute Swans founder Kathryn Stillwell Burton. Burton points in particular toward fossil evidence that mute swans have lived in North America for at least 9,500 years, and toward the appearance of a mute swan in a 1585 watercolor by John White, one of the first artists to illustrate the wildlife of North America. The painting was mislabeled a trumpeter swan until Burton pointed out that it includes unique features of mute swans.



# The Watchdog

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

## Royal SPCA of Britain, world’s wealthiest humane society, will lay off staff

**LONDON**—Struggling with a revenue decline of about £4 million per year since 2008, and an operating deficit of £7.3 million in 2011, the Royal SPCA of Britain—the wealthiest humane society in the world—is following three years of downsizing with a new round of budget cuts and staff reductions.

RSPCA financial statements indicate that a decline in legacy income is the biggest factor in the economic crunch. Donations from individuals have increased since 2008, albeit in response to greater investment in fundraising.

“The RSPCA has already introduced a series of cost-cutting measures, and budgeted to spend almost £10 million less in 2011 than in 2009,” an RSPCA media statement acknowledged on March 30, 2011.

“However, the impact of inflation and a growing staff pension fund deficit

caused by flat investment returns leaves the organisation facing tough choices.” The RSPCA statement also mentioned “ever-larger numbers of animals” arriving as “victims of the economic climate,” and “rising fuel costs and veterinary bills.”

The RSPCA claimed a 31% rise in calls about abandoned animals since 2007.

The previous downsizing centered on an RSPCA policy decision to “prioritize” shelter admissions at the 17 RSPCA-operated shelters to “RSPCA-generated” animals, arriving as result of rescues and investigations. Pets surrendered by their keepers were to be directed elsewhere if the RSPCA shelters were full. The policy did not apply to the then-169 RSPCA affiliate shelters, now reduced to 166.

BBC Channel 4 described the “prioritizing” policy as “part of a £54 million savings scheme over three years,” instituted

“after donations fell in the recession.”

While “prioritizing” reportedly brought a 10% reduction in the number of animals handled by the RSPCA, it also appears to have brought a 10% reduction in adoptions, from circa 70,000 in 2007 to 64,086 in 2011.

“We have already saved millions of pounds through a series of cost-cutting measures,” RSPCA chief executive Gavin Grant said, “but we’ve had to eat into our financial reserves as the economic slump has been deeper and longer than feared. Significant job losses in administrative areas are sadly inevitable,” Grant acknowledged, “but I will protect front-line animal welfare services.”

The RSPCA anticipates “restructuring and a reduction of more than 130 posts, particularly in administration and support roles, although staff at all levels could be affected,” according to the media statement. The RSPCA had 1,482 employees at the close of fiscal 2011, including 460 inspectors, animal welfare officers, and animal collection officers, among a total of about 1,000 staff classified as “frontline.”

Added RSPCA director of communications David Bowles, “International work will continue and will focus mainly on East Asia and central Europe.”

The financial crunch is an early test of Grant’s leadership. Grant, 56, in January 2012 succeeded Mark Watts, who retired after 32 years at the RSPCA, concluding with four years at the top. Grant was RSPCA director of campaigns and communication from 1988 to 1991. “A staunch supporter of a fox-hunting ban,” according to a 2005 profile by Richard Cann of PR Week, Grant was noted during his

first tenure at the RSPCA for a 1989 ad “which depicted a mountain of dead dogs,” published as part of “a campaign to introduce dog licences which got him thrown out of Crufts,” the most prestigious dog show in Britain, “with the media looking on.”

Grant then spent eight years with the Body Shop cosmetics and personal care products chain, including doing damage control after two-time Emmy Award-winning ABC and NBC television news producer Jon Entine in 1994 exposed misleading Body Shop claims about being “against animal testing.”

Wrote Entine in the journal *Business Ethics*, “In an internal memo dated May 19, 1992, the Body Shop’s purchasing manager acknowledged that 46.5% of its ingredients had been tested on animals, up from 34% the year before.”

Grant left the Body Shop several years before founder Anita Roddick sold the company to the French firm L’Oreal, a long-time target of PETA boycotts, for \$1.14 billion. Before rejoining the RSPCA, Grant was United Kingdom chair for the public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, where he founded a “corporate responsibility unit.”

Notorious for representing the now deposed dictatorships that formerly ruled Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Indonesia, and Nigeria, Burson-Marsteller has also represented the State of Alaska in defense of killing wolves to make more moose and caribou available to human hunters; Monsanto in defense of bovine growth hormone; the pregnant mares’ urine industry; five of the eight top corporate users of animals in product testing; and the Fur Information Council of America.

### People & positions

**The Center for Animals & Public Policy** on May 29, 2012 confirmed the appointment of former associate center director for education **Allen T. Rutberg** as permanent director, and named as assistant director **Emily McCobb, DVM**. Rutberg had for three years been interim director of the center, founded in 1983 within the **Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine** at **Tufts University**. A zoologist, Rutberg is best known for overseeing deer contraceptive research funded by the **Humane Society of the U.S.** at sites including Fire Island, New York, and the 578-acre **National Institute of Standards & Technology** campus in Gaithersburg,

Maryland. The first two years of the Fire Island project cut the deer population by 46%. The Gaithersburg program achieved a reduction of about 8% per year over 10 years.

**The International Wolf Center**, of Ely, Minnesota, on May 14, 2012 announced that former **St. Paul Police Foundation** executive director **Rob Schultz** would succeed 25-year Wolf Center executive director **Mary Ortiz**, who has retired. Schultz formerly held leadership positions at the **YMCA** camp at St. Croix and the **Humanities Education Retreat Center** near Lake Phelan, and is a member of the **Boy Scouts of America’s** President’s Cabinet.

## The American SPCA grants \$151,000 to help a poultry producer expand operations

**NEW YORK CITY**—American SPCA farm animal welfare campaign director Suzanne McMillan on May 15, 2012 announced a \$151,100 grant to the five-year-old nonprofit organization Farm Forward, to be used “to promote humane poultry welfare at the Good Shepherd Poultry Ranch in Lindsborg, Kansas.”

The grant is more than twice the \$71,333 total income shown on the most recent Farm Forward filing of IRS Form 990, for fiscal year 2010, and is three times the total Farm Forward expenditure of \$50,226.

The Good Shepherd Poultry Ranch, said the ASPCA media release, “is run by farmer Frank Reese,” who “raises pasture-based, vegetarian-fed heritage breed chickens and turkeys free of unnecessary antibiotics in spacious, welfare-friendly conditions.”

The ASPCA release did not mention that Reese is a member of the Farm Forward board of directors. Other Farm Forward directors include Whole Foods Market board chair and co-chief executive officer John Mackey, academics Ian Duncan and Bernard Rollin, *Eating Animals* author Jonathan Safran Foer, Farm Sanctuary senior director for strategic initiatives Bruce Friedrich, and rabbi Jonathan Crane.

The Farm Forward board chair, Steven J. Gross, is father of University of San Diego theology professor Aaron Gross, who founded Farm Forward in 2007 and is chief executive officer. For approximately 10 years, 1998-2007, Friedrich and Steven J. Gross represented PETA in a variety of farm animal advocacy campaigns.

Projecting “An immediate impact on at least 17,000 birds,” ASPCA spokesperson Bret Hopman called Good Shepherd “currently the market leader in the sale of chicken and turkey products that come from birds raised entirely outside of the factory farm industry.” Contended Hopman, “Currently, the lack of heritage breed birds is a significant barrier to the development of high-welfare poultry rearing.” Hopman offered no theory to explain why high-welfare conditions might not be extended to any poultry.

“Presently,” Hopman continued, “Reese can produce 72,000 chicken eggs and 30,000 turkey eggs per season. With the new barn converted to a hatchery, he will be able to increase this amount to 600,000 chicken eggs and 100,000 turkey eggs per season.”

Responded Humane Farming Association founder Brad Miller, “It is simply delusional to think that getting humane organizations into the business of promoting meat from heritage breed chickens will result in even the slightest reduction of animal suffering. The ASPCA decision to fund the commercial production of chickens for meat raises a number of troubling issues,” Miller continued. “Beyond the obvious ethical issues from the animals’ standpoint, there is also the matter of using charitable dollars to further the commercial interests of a privately owned, profit-driven poultry company. This is just the latest,” Miller charged, “in a growing trend on the part of several major animal organizations to, in effect, merge with

the livestock industry.” Miller noted that Farm Forward has previously promoted a variety of federal and state legislation that HFA regarded as more likely to entrench the status quo in animal agriculture than to bring about meaningful change.

Recounted United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis, “On May 1, 2012 [ASPCA farm animal welfare campaign director] Suzanne McMillan contacted me to discuss chickens and factory farming. We spoke at length on May 2 about chickens, turkeys, and the poultry industry. I recommended that she order the revised edition of my book *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs* for detailed information, which she did. Suzanne never mentioned that she and the ASPCA had already arranged to help finance a poultry operation and promote chicken and turkey consumption. She represented herself as looking around for ideas to ‘help’ chickens and turkeys. Paragraph two of the ASPCA press release basically paraphrases me, UPC, and *Prisoned Chickens, Poisoned Eggs*,” Davis charged. Davis called the Farm Forward grant something that “I and UPC would never support.”

Opined Davis, “A commercial animal production

operation is not an alternative to factory farming, but an extension of it. In this instance, chickens and turkeys are being mass-produced in mechanical hatchery incubators, raised motherless for human consumption by the thousands, and slaughtered, i.e., factory farmed.

“In addition to cruelty and commodification of animals being falsely represented as ‘humane,’ ‘compassionate,’ ‘anti-factory farming,’ etcetera,” Davis added, “is that these relatively smaller farms seek to grow and expand. Regardless of what size they are, they do not reduce the amount of resources needed to raise and slaughter animals.

“It is unethical for an ‘animal welfare’ organization,” Davis concluded, “to suggest to the public that millions and billions of people can continue to eat the same number of animals, as long as these animals are raised ‘humanely’ on non-factory farms. Humans will never set aside hundreds of millions or billions of acres of land to accommodate billions of animals living ‘free range,’ yet this is the false prospect being offered to a public that wants to believe that incompatible desires and realities can be reconciled.”

## SCAD/Soi Dog Foundation merger falls through

**BANGKOK**— —Soi Cat & Dog Rescue, of Bangkok, and the Soi Dog Foundation, of Phuket, will not merge after all, SCAD advisory committee chair Annelize Booysen announced on May 19, 2012. The two leading expatriate-founded humane societies in Thailand had jointly announced a merger on February 28, 2012.

“Despite the announcement,” Booysen said, “we have not been able to successfully conclude our merger. The Soi Dog Foundation will proceed with their expansion plans in Bangkok without SCAD and we wish them all the best. This development has forced us to take a very long and hard look at SCAD,” Booysen continued, describing SCAD as “an overstretched team with overstretched finances.”

With no other prospect of a bailout in sight, “We had to make the extremely difficult but inevitable decision that the time has come for SCAD to close,” Booysen said. “We will be winding down our operations over the next two months. We plan to vacate our center at Sukhumvit at the end of June, and then wrap up at Bang Bo towards the end of July. Our first priority is to find suitable homes for all the animals in our

care. We are making very good progress,” Booysen concluded.

Soi Dog Foundation director John Dalley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that he and Booysen had drafted a mutually accepted memorandum of understanding to govern the proposed merger, but the SCAD board scuttled it by trying to retain control of funding and the donor list, and by seeking to have the Soi Dog Foundation purchase used veterinary equipment from SCAD which Dalley considered not worth buying.

Instead, Dalley said, Soi Dog Foundation will take over the location and equipment of Treat with Responsibility and Empathy all Animals in Thailand, opened in 2011 by Soi Dog Foundation founder Margot Park, who left SDF in 2005.

“Our Bangkok general manag-

er is currently running mobile clinics with private vets and Thai volunteers,” Dalley said. “Our aim is to have SDF Bangkok as a very much Thai-managed-and-run operation. We are currently advertising for two additional vets to be trained on Phuket and then transferred to Bangkok. This will make six vets in total employed by the Soi Dog Foundation,” which “will focus entirely on sterilization and treatment,” Dalley pledged. “No shelter will be built.”

Dalley was optimistic that a Prevent Unwanted Puppies program on Phuket, partially funded by the British charity Dogs Trust, will accomplish 20,000 sterilizations on Phuket over the next two years. “This will, I believe, see Phuket under control and enable us to focus more on Bangkok where the problem is massive,” Dalley said.

**The 2011 ANIMAL PEOPLE Watchdog Report on 174 Animal Charities**  
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# Animals’ Angels of Germany finds EU livestock haulers come up short

**FRANKFURT**—“Despite increased enforcement efforts, livestock transporters and organizers still do not comply with the very basic requirements of European Union legislation on the protection of animals during transport,” charged the German charity Animals’ Angels in a May 2012 document entitled *Report on insufficient internal heights in long distance transports of cattle from Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia to Turkey, observed between 16th and 19th April, 2012.*

Animals’ Angels of Germany is no longer associated with the U.S. charity of the same name, based in Maryland, though the Maryland charity began as an affiliate.

“Rules that aim to meet no more than the very minimum needs of the animals during transport are regularly disregarded,” Animals’ Angels of Germany continued, concluding that “authorities in the European Union member states do not have the means for enforcement able to guarantee compliance with the animal protection rules.”

Founded in 1989, Animals’ Angels of Germany has focused on livestock transport, especially within the European Union, producing many previous critical reports, but *Report on insufficient internal heights in long distance transports of cattle* is the first to focus on this single aspect.

“Insufficient internal height during transport is a frequent major factor causing severe animal suffering,” the report opened, explaining that “When head room is insuffi-

cient, animals are unable to stand in a comfortable and natural position for many hours and up to entire days. This means additional stress during transport that rapidly leads to exhaustion. Lack of headroom causes injuries such as bruises and abrasions, and when the internal height is insufficient the natural ventilation inside the animals’ compartments is hindered, which leads to respiratory disorders.”

## Inspecific regs

Continued Animals’ Angels, “The relevant EU legislation does not contain precise figures regarding the internal heights inside the animals’ compartments, but stipulates that sufficient internal height shall be provided,” appropriate to the animals’ size and the length of the intended journey. The regulation also “requires that sufficient space shall be provided inside the animals’ compartment and at each level to ensure that there is adequate ventilation above the animals when they are in a natural standing position.”

Scarce head room typically occurs, Animals’ Angels explained, because “animal transports are usually conducted as economically as possible. Therefore, animals are loaded onto multi-deck vehicles to carry the highest number of animals possible.”

Because the EU legislation did not stipulate how much head room each livestock species might require, Animals’ Angels said, “in 2011 the EU Commission sent a clarifying letter to the chief veterinary officers of the

member states,” asserting that “...the ceiling height when transporting cattle...should be at least 20 centimeters above the withers height of the tallest animal,” as recommended in a document entitled *Scientific Opinion Concerning the Welfare of Animals during Transport*, adopted by the European Food Safety Authority on December 2, 2010.

Animals’ Angels checked compliance with the EU Commission recommendations by doing “random checks at the border between Bulgaria and Turkey, at the Kapitan Andreovo/Kapikule crossing, from the evening of April 16 until the early afternoon of April 19, 2012,” the report states. “During this period of almost three days, Animals’ Angels checked eight transports in which the internal height for the transported cattle was insufficient. The countries of departure of these transports were Estonia, Hungary (five transports) and Slovakia (two transports). The transporters involved were from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia.”

The animals had already been hauled for up to 35 hours before encountering the Animals’ Angels inspectors. An EU veterinarian responded to the lack of head room in only one of the eight cases. In that instance, Animals’ Angels reported, “The veterinarian at the border inspection post Kapitan Andreovo sent the truck back to the nearest control post to rest and feed the animals adequately and to transfer them onto two vehicles when they continued the journey.”

Many of the vehicles that Animals’ Angels inspected were on hauls of unknown duration. One had already been driving for 35 hours, and another for 15 hours.

## Border crossings

In November 2011, five months after Animals’ Angels inspectors Silvia Meriggi and Julia Havenstein followed a randomly selected truckload of newly impregnated heifers from Austria through Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria to Turkey, Animals’ Angels called upon the European Parliament and the European Council to “limit the transport time for commercial transports of live animals to an absolute maximum of eight hours.”

The truck driver knew Meriggi and Havenstein were following him, and volunteered considerable information to them at various stops, but knowing he was under observation made little difference in the quality of care that the heifers received in transit.

Wrote Meriggi and Havenstein, “When we first observed the heifers, they had already been for at least 25 hours aboard the truck, after having been reloaded following a rest at a private stable at Bujoreni in Romania,” which was not actually an EU-approved livestock lairage, as resting facilities are called in the transport regulations.

Still five days from their destination, “The majority of the heifers were standing with their heads hanging down,” Meriggi and

(continued on page 16)

# Top non-breed-specific insurer pays record sum to settle dog bite claims in 2011

**LOS ANGELES**—State Farm Insurance, believed to be the largest U.S. home insurer that does not enforce breed-specific restrictions on what dogs it will cover, in 2011 paid 9% more dog bite claims than in 2010, and paid out 21% more money to settle the claims, spokesperson Eddie Martinez told media on May 16, 2012.

State Farm in 2011 paid out \$109 million to settle 3,800 dog bite claims nationwide, up from \$90 million paid out in 2010 to settle about 3,500 dog bite claims, Martinez disclosed. The Insurance Information Institute estimated that all U.S. home insurers combined paid out nearly \$479 million to settle dog bite claims in 2011, spokesperson Loretta Worters told Sue Manning of Associated Press—a 16% increase from \$413 million in 2010.

“California, home to more dogs and people than any other state, led the way in 2011,” Manning wrote. State Farm settled 527 dog attack claims from California in 2011. California victims received \$20.3 million, for an average payout of \$38,520—an increase of 31% from 2010.

Wrote Manning, “State Farm is still working to determine reasons for the spike, Martinez said.”

State Farm 2010 data showed that the average payout for 369 claims in California and for 217 claims in Illinois was virtually identical, at \$30,623 and \$30,599, respectively, but in Ohio, where state law until May 22, 2012 defined pit bulls as “inherently vicious” and required pit bull keepers to take special precautions to contain them, the average payout was \$26,511—14% lower.

The Ohio law was repealed in February 2012, with a 90-day phase-in period, after a multi-year campaign by the *Toledo Blade* and the Best Friends Animal Society.

Overall, the Insurance Information Institute reported in October 2011, dog attack payouts have trended upward for at least a decade.

Insurance companies with breed-specific restrictions

include Allstate, Liberty Mutual, Nationwide, Pemco, and Safeco. Some will insure dogs of breeds in high actuarial risk categories, but only under specific conditions.

“Owners of pit bulls, including Staffordshire terriers, Dobermans, Rottweilers, chows, Presa Canarios, Akitas, huskies and wolf hybrids cannot get homeowners, condo and renters policies through Castle Key, the subsidiary of Allstate that writes such policies in Florida,” *Palm Beach Post* staff writer Laura Green learned in 2010. “United Property & Casualty Insurance excludes the same dogs as Castle Key, plus German shepherds, American Eskimos, or any mixed breed that is half or more of any of the banned breeds. State Farm,” however, “ignores breed and focuses on a survey that dog owners must fill out before they are approved. The form asks whether their dog has a history of bites, and if so what measures the owner has taken, such as obedience classes or a fence, to prevent the animal from attacking again.”

The 2011 State Farm update on dog bite payouts preceded by 10 days a \$643,257 jury award to pit bull attack victim Vicki Bentley, 55, of Santa Rosa County, Florida.

On March 14, 2008,” recounted Lindsay Reubens of the *Pensacola News Journal*, “Bentley was visiting a sister-in-law who lived with an unrelated family in Milton. The only way to enter the house was to go through the gate in the fence surrounding the front yard. Bentley knew there were dachshunds at the house, but she wasn’t aware that a pit bull was a new addition,” her attorney Timothy O’Brien said.

Continued Reubens, “The crux of the court case came down to whether there was a sign that warned people about the dog when the attack happened, O’Brien said. The dog’s owner, Gregory Zane Gray, 30, and homeowner George Wetherbee Jr. said the sign had always been visible. But the neighbor who helped Bentley escape from the dog said Gray posted the sign after the dog attacked.”

The pit bull keepers later had the pit bull killed for injuring one of the dachshunds, O’Brien told Reubens.

“We’re looking into our post-trial appeal options,” said Jacksonville attorney Kristen Van der Linde, repre-

senting the defendants.

Only three years ago the award to Bentley would have been a record in a nonfatal dog attack in which an award or settlement payout was reported, but Rottweiler attack plaintiffs Evelyn and Larry Shickram in March 2010 accepted a \$1.6 million settlement offer from Boss Pet Products, after earlier accepting \$300,000 from the dog’s keeper, Pamela Leader. This was reportedly the limit of Leader’s homeowners’ insurance. The Shickrams sued Boss Pet Products, the distributor of a tether which had failed to hold the Rottweiler; the seller PetSmart; and the maker, Shanghai Kington Trading Co.

Evelyn Schickram suffered permanent injuries to both arms, including chronic pain and loss of ability to lift heavy objects, but was not facially disfigured. The highest previous known dog bite liability awards involved facial disfigurement.

The total award in the Schickram case was exceeded in August 2011 when a jury in Pierce County, Washington, awarded \$2.2 million to pit bull terrier attack victim Sue Gorman, 63, of Gig Harbor. Holding pit bull keepers Shellie Wilson and her son Zachary Martin to be 52% responsible for Gorman’s injuries and losses, the jury also directed Pierce County to pay damages of \$924,000 for alleged negligence in responding to 14 previous complaints about the two pit bulls. Late on the night of August 21, 2007 the two pit bulls burst through an open sliding glass door to maul Gorman’s service dog and kill a Jack Russell terrier whom Gorman was keeping for a friend. Gorman was injured when she tried to intervene.

The highest known previous award for a nonfatal dog attack in Washington state was \$157,000, to a man who was mauled by a Rottweiler while walking his poodle near their home on the Kitsap Peninsula.

The highest known jury award in a fatal dog attack case was \$7 million against against Rick and Christi George of Leveritt’s Chapel in Rusk County, Texas, for allowing their two pit bulls to escape and kill skateboarder Justin Clinton, 10, on June 15, 2009. However, plaintiff’s attorney Cynthia Stevens Kent wrote in a November 11, 2010 open letter to Texas legislators, “The owners had no home owner’s insurance and our client will likely never see a dime, even toward Justin’s funeral expenses.”

—Merritt Clifton

## Sierra Club vs. trapping (from page 1)

including Representatives John Campbell of California and Peter DeFazio of Oregon are calling for a federal investigation into the machinations of this federal agency that kills more than five million animals each year, of whom about 85,000 are coyotes.”

The new Sierra Club policy is consistent with the views of Sierra Club founder John Muir, who detested trapping, and called sport hunting “the murder business,” but swallowed his opinions in 1892 to court the political support of avid hunter Theodore Roosevelt. As U.S. president 1901-1908, Roosevelt rewarded Muir by designating 150 National Forests, five National Parks, and 18 National Monuments, together protecting 230 million acres of wildlife habitat.

The Sierra Club grew into the largest nonprofit organization in the animals-and-habitat sector that still has a member-elected board. With 1.3 million members and a staff of 530, the Sierra

Club in recent years has had an annual operating budget of \$80 to \$85 million.

The Sierra Club adopted the new trapping policy about six months after former board chair Carl Pope on November 11, 2011 retired to a role as senior strategic advisor. A Sierra Club employee for nearly 40 years, Pope as executive director from 1992 to 2010 courted alliances with hunters and trappers. Pope was succeeded as executive director in January 2010 by Michael Brune, who had headed the Rainforest Action Network since 2003.

The May 2012 Sierra Club national board meeting elected Allison Chin of Virginia to head the board. Formerly Sierra Club treasurer, Chin earlier was board president, 2008-2010. The Sierra Club reelected board vice president David Scott of Ohio, and secretary Lane Boldman of Kentucky. Treasurer Donna Buell of Iowa and fifth officer Jessica Helm of New York complete the new Sierra Club executive committee.

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EU livestock haulers come up short

(from page 15)

Havenstein observed. “Many had transparent nasal discharge. They seemed to be exhausted. Their coats were shaggy and dull, and due to the mud on the floor of the animals’ compartments their bodies were covered with their own excrement.”

The heifers’ plight worsened when “The animal transport was detained for two entire days, plus seven hours and 30 minutes, at Ankara customs,” where border agents refused to process the animals during a week-end. “The animals were not unloaded and did not receive sufficient food and water,” Meriggi and Havenstein saw. “The heifers lost a lot of weight,” especially after the delay at Ankara caused the driver to run out of hay with two days of driving left. “Their ribs became prominent and they had sunken flanks when arriving at their destination,” Meriggi and Havenstein continued. “We observed the heifers searching for blades of hay in the pool of excrement in which they stood.”

The truck had an automatic watering system for the heifers. The driver often refilled it, but the heifers also became dehydrated, Meriggi and Havenstein said.

“Even though at Bujoreni there was the possibility to clean the truck and to provide it with new bedding material, the driver did not take this opportunity,” Meriggi and Havenstein reported. “According to his own

statement, his employer did not agree to spend money for new bedding material.”

Later, “With the help of a Turkish interpreter, Animals’ Angels arranged for someone to deliver food for the animals. However, the driver rejected the offer, again claiming that his boss would not pay for the food for the animals.”

“Matter of urgency”

“Already in 1996,” Animals’ Angels reported, “the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe expressed that it was ‘particularly worried about many reports on the ill treatment of animals during international transport and on suffering caused to animals due to unnecessary waiting times at border crossings.’

“The Assembly recommended improvement ‘as a matter of urgency’ in the conditions for the international transport of livestock, in particular by reducing travel and waiting times, improving transport facilities and trucks, [providing for more reliable] watering and feeding, and by training the personnel involved. The Assembly also suggested as policy “to avoid, in general, any unnecessary transport of live animals by, for example, slaughtering animals close to their breeding places.’ Even though improving the conditions for the international transport of animals was considered ‘a matter of urgency’ in 1996,

the situation has obviously not improved,” Animals’ Angels remarked.

Road accidents

University of Zaragoza Department of Animal Production and Food Science researchers Genaro Miranda de la Lama and Gustavo Maria in a 2010 edition of *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* published findings that road accidents are a surprisingly frequent cause of animal suffering in transport.

De la Lama and Maria identified 86 livestock trucking accidents occurring in Spain between 2000 to 2009, five of them fatal to the drivers. Twenty of the accidents killed at least one person; 41 died in all. Fifty-seven percent of the accidents involved pigs, who had a 22% mortality rate. Seventy percent of the accidents involving pigs left surviving animals wandering in the road, De la Lama and Maria reported. Thirty percent of the accidents involved cattle, whose mortality rate was 12%. Chickens were involved in 8% of the accidents; 5% involved sheep. De la Lama and Maria found that the main cause of livestock transportation accidents appeared to be driver fatigue, resulting from long working days, poorly planned routes, and high stress.

Several of these factors may have been involved when a truck hauling 400 sheep overturned on June 1, 2012 in Melbourne,

Fire kills 500,000 hens

**ROGGEN, Colorado**—An April 30, 2012 fire at the Boulder Valley Poultry egg farm razed three of the 10 barns at the facility, killing nearly half a million of the one million resident hens. Fire crews from Wiggins, Hudson, and Fort Lupton fought the blaze, which attracted a large crowd, including an unidentified lone demonstrator who stood with a sign reading “Save the Chickens,” reported Sharon Dunn of the *Greeley Tribune*.

Australia, hurling some of the dead and injured sheep from an overpass. At least four cars were wrecked when they hit sheep, or when flying sheep hit them.

Canada

Data collected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, reviewed in 2010 by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, documented similar problems to those observed in Europe. The CFIA found that from two million to three million animals per year die in Canada during transport, while another 11 million reach their destination diseased or injured. The current Canadian livestock transport regulations are now more than 30 years old. In June 2011 the CFIA increased to \$10,000 the top fine for violations of the Canadian Health of Animals Act. Previously the fine was \$4,000.

Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning: Global Perspectives and Forensic Approaches

Edited by Ngaio Richards • John Wiley & Sons (111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030), 2011. 304 pages,hardcover. \$49.95.

Thirty-nine experts in various related disciplines contribute chapters to *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning: Global Perspectives and Forensic Approaches*. The contributors might outnumber the readers who will ever peruse this first book-length examination of carbofuran and wildlife mortality from cover to cover.

Published nearly 50 years after Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring* sparked enduring concern about the effects of pesticides on wildlife, *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning* might also be read as an exposé, but almost everyone who encounters it will already be aware that carbofuran kills wildlife in many different ways—and probably kills more birds and mammals than any other pesticide still in use. The primary purpose of *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning* is simply to pull together within one set of covers all of the information that people encountering possible effects of carbofuran may need to know, whether to diagnose the problem or to organize a litigative or political response.

Carbofuran, also commonly called by the trade name Furadan, is a carbamate pesticide which from 1965 to 2010 was globally among the most widely used of all agricultural chemicals. Carbofuran use is now restricted or prohibited in many jurisdictions, but continues unrestrained in others.

I became aware of carbofuran, then considered to be among the safest of the carbamate pesticide family, after my cat Corky threw up a pink-coated seed corn kernel on Labor Day 1986. Corky had suffered partial paralysis that morning. She died 10 weeks later from the effects of dozens of extremely fast-growing gastrointestinal tumors.

Apparently Corky had eaten a bird or mouse who had recently ingested the seed corn and had perhaps been poisoned, enabling Corky to make a quick kill.

Ironically, carbamate-coated seed corn was introduced because researchers had discovered that the combination of coating corn kernels with pesticides and seed-drilling was much less environmentally dangerous than conventional ploughing, planting, and spraying to get a corn crop started.

Using coated seed corn prevented soil erosion, increased crop yield without having to increase the land under the plough, avoided poisoning birds and deer who foraged in corn fields planted by scatter-seeding, and resulted in much less toxic runoff.

Compared to the generation of pesticides that Rachel Carson addressed, including earlier organophosphate chemicals, carbamates in general and carbofuran in specific are meek and mild—but in part because they are more safely handled, they tend to be used more often, to do more jobs, in greater cumulative volume.

Recent misuses have included cases of indigenous herders poisoning hyenas in Uganda and lions in both Uganda and Kenya. A Romanian animal control agency used carbofuran to kill dogs. A Missouri man used carbofuran to kill eagles for their feathers. But incidental collateral harm to wildlife, especially birds, is believed to be far more damaging than deliberate misuse.

Chapters of *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning* cover environmental health and regulatory issues in North and South America, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Ireland, and Africa, especially Kenya, where poachers

commonly use carbofuran to kill birds for human consumption. In Scotland, managers of captive bird-shooting estates lace carcasses with carbofuran to kill hawks, owls, and eagles who might prey upon grouse and pheasant ahead of paying clients.

The most insidious effect of carbofuran, however, may be corrosion of wildlife law enforcement. Making, selling, and using carbofuran is big business. Restricting and eventually prohibiting carbofuran use in the U.S. took 18 years, including a final push led by the American Bird Conservancy, the Wallace Genetic Foundation, the Turner Foundation, and the New York Community Trust.

Though carbofuran is officially off

the market in many other nations, it remains in common use, often bootlegged from the nations than do not restrict it.

Attempted prosecutions of carbofuran users and sellers, *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning* documents, are often thwarted when laboratories claim that carcasses of animals submitted for testing are “too decomposed” to detect residues which can actually be found among skeletons. The real issue, suggest several *Carbofuran & Wildlife Poisoning* contributors, is simply that scientists prefer to avoid becoming caught up in protracted court proceedings, for which they usually will not be paid.

—Merritt Clifton



Death at SeaWorld by David Kirby

St. Martin’s Press (c/o MacMillan (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2012. 480 pages, hard cover. \$26.99.

Marine mammal trainer Dawn Brancheau, age 40, was on February 24, 2010 killed at SeaWorld in Orlando, Florida, toward the end of a lunchtime show with Tilikum, known to most of the world these days as an orca, but still called a “killer whale” by SeaWorld.

Tilikum “had Dawn Brancheau in his mouth,” writes *Death at Seaworld* author David Kirby. “The orca would not release his trophy. Ten minutes later, workers pried the trainer’s lifeless body from the whale’s mouth. How could this happen despite corporate training and safety measures?”

A decade of controversy over keeping orcas in captivity, sparked by the 1993 hit film *Free Willy!*, had subsided after Keiko, the whale star, left human care in September 2002 and died 15 months later. “Dawn Brancheau’s death changed everything,” Kirby says. Media descended on Seaworld, seeking answers and reviving the questions raised by the *Free Willy!* episode. Seeking to satisfy an anxious public and to protect the image of an enterprise sold in 2009 for \$2.7 billion, SeaWorld revamped training procedures for all employees.

SeaWorld also announced “spending tens of millions of dollars on new safety equipment, including rising pool floors that can quickly lift people and whales from the water, underwater vehicles to distract the animals in emergencies and portable oxygen bottles for trainers,” summarized Mitch Stacy of Associated Press.

But the Brancheau death nonetheless renewed and amplified the criticisms of scientists and animal advocates who have long opposed training whales to perform in shows, and often, the entire practice of keeping wild animals in captivity. Kirby spotlights the views of Naomi Rose, a central figure in the *Free Willy* controversy who became outspokenly critical of marine mammal exhibition as a doctoral student in marine mammalogy at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Rose has spent most of her subsequent career working for the Humane Society of the U.S.

Orcas, Rose points out, do not live alone in nature. They share family bonds. Captivity disrupts their behavior in practically every manner. Contrary to marine mammal exhibition industry claims, orca lifespans are significantly shortened in captivity. Rose concluded in a scientific paper, *Small Whale Species: The Case Against Captivity*, that orcas are “more than 2.5 times as likely to die in captivity as in the wild.”

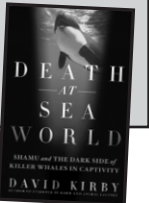
Tilikum first seized Brancheau by her ponytail as she lay on a submerged ledge facing him during a show. Tilikum pulled her into the water, grabbed her waist in his mouth, and killed her much as he and two other orcas had killed trainer Keltie Byrne, 20, during a 1991 water show at the SeaLand oceanarium in Victoria, British Columbia. Tilikum was sold to SeaWorld when SeaLand folded in November 1992.

“Tilikum was also involved in a 1999 death,” reported Associated Press writer Mike Schneider, “when the body of a man who sneaked by Orlando SeaWorld security was found draped over him. The man jumped, fell or was pulled into the frigid water and died of hypothermia, though he was also bruised and scratched by Tilikum.”

Repeatedly dunked and bodily shaken, Brancheau suffered multiple traumatic injuries. SeaWorld initially contended that Brancheau had drowned, but witnesses and videotapes suggested that much more had happened. An autopsy found that Brancheau’s left arm and part of her scalp were ripped off. She also suffered spinal cord injuries and broken bones in her legs, arms, face, and rib cage. Cut and bruised all over her body, Brancheau did ultimately drown.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration eventually fined SeaWorld \$75,000, reduced on appeal to \$12,000. But Seaworld still keeps captive whales. In the end, though Brancheau’s death brought about some changes at SeaWorld, the case may not have changed much overall for captive animals in entertainment.

—Debra J. White



Cats Behaving Badly by Celia Haddon

Thomas Dunne Books (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2012. 239 pages, hardcover. \$23.99.

Originally published in Britain in 2010, *Cats Behaving Badly*, by longtime *Daily Telegraph* pets columnist Celia Haddon, nails cat behavior better than any other book I have reviewed for ANIMAL PEOPLE.

“A surprisingly high number of people do not choose cats; cats choose them,” Haddon observes. Although six times more people adopt cats from shelters and/or rescues than buy them from breeders and pet stores, cats still acquire their people more often than people set out deliberately to get a cat.

I was absorbed by the historical part of Haddon’s fact-filled book. The common ancestors to all domesticated cats were North African desert cats, who remain abundant and at a glance are almost indistinguishable from feral domestic cats.

Haddon includes a section on how cats communicate by hissing, yowling, spitting, purring, or meowing. Cats do let attentive observers know what brands of cat food and litter to bring home, Haddon believes.

Haddon offers helpful hints on how to introduce a new cat into the household and how to break up a cat fight—very carefully.

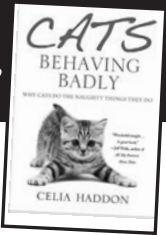
On many pages there are small sections called “Cat tip,” including advice such as what to do if you find an injured cat on the road.

No one really knows why cats like sitting in the sink, but Haddon provides the address of a web site devoted to that behavior, <www.catsinsinks.com>. Haddon reminds the reader that cats instinctively scratch. So buy a scratching post, or don’t be peeved if they use the living room sofa to relieve that natural urge.

Haddon also entertains readers with cat stories from her personal experience. For example, a black and white cat named Charlie had three homes. Allowed to go outdoors, he split his time between two “easy-going” households and his original night home. All three households thought he was their cat. None of them realized what was going on.

Haddon says in the last chapter, “We can’t change cats except by changing ourselves.” Cats are fun, mysterious, clever, stubborn and many of us cannot live without them.

—Debra J. White



# Cinemazoo: my urban safari by Gary Oliver with Wendy Bancroft

Granville Island Publishing (212 -1656 Duranleau, Granville Island, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6H 3S4), 2011.

162 pages, paperback. \$24.95.



"I always like it when the situation calls for a bit of drama, of pizzazz—when I have to assume some kind of persona, put on a bit of theatre," writes Urban Safari Rescue founder Gary Oliver in possibly the most personally revealing passage of *Cinemazoo: my urban safari*. "Which is interesting," Oliver continues, "because when you meet me, I'm not at all theatrical. I wear a big black cowboy hat, but that's because I'm bald and I like cowboy hats."

Oliver was wearing the cowboy hat, indoors, when I recently visited the former Rainforest Reptile Refuge in Surrey, British Columbia to see what had become of the defunct refuge and the many charismatic animals whom founders Clarence and Christine Schramm housed in a dilapidated ex-grocery store.

Among their collection of abandoned and surrendered former exotic pets were several caimans who responded like dogs to Christine's voice commands, and one iguana with part of his jaw missing, who knew that his name was "Joe Clark," after the notoriously weak-chinned onetime Canadian prime minister. Among a multitude of iguanas clustered beneath heat lamps in a huge glass-fronted habitat, "Joe Clark" alone would rouse himself when Christine called his name.

The Schramms split in 2000. Three years later, after 17 years of struggle, Christine Schramm left, turning the Rainforest Reptile Refuge over to volunteers, who struggled on into 2007. In December 2008 the Revenue Canada Charities Directorate revoked the Rainforest Reptile Refuge's charitable status due to failure to file a Charity Information Return.

As many as 100 animals remained on site under volunteer care. The building—just a mile north of the U.S. border—was reputedly used to grow marijuana. The address does not appear on a Royal Canadian Mounted Police list of dope-growing sites raided in recent years, but several other addresses in the neighborhood are listed, one of which was rigged with explosive booby-traps. There was also a drug-related fatal shooting at a nearby intersection.

Gary Oliver relocated his Cinemazoo animal entertainment business and Urban Safari Rescue operations to the building in August 2010. He inherited some of the former Rainforest Reptile Refuge animals, but told me that neither caimans, nor iguanas, nor any other animals of significant street value were among them.

Oliver did, however, arrive with two alligators and four caimans. The caimans died when the building furnace failed during an October 2010 cold snap. The British Columbia SPCA investigated Oliver for cruelty, partly because of the caiman deaths, partly because he kept the alligators' mouths taped shut for about a week after moving them, while working to finish their enclosure. "I taped their mouths so I wouldn't get my ass chomped," Oliver told Ted Colley of *Surrey Now*. "Gators stop eating when they're moved. It's a thing with all crocodilians. I've seen some go seven months without eating."

Oliver was not prosecuted. He did, however, agree to surrender about 25 animals, including snakes, geckos, and red-eared slider turtles, to the BC/SPCA. By order of the British Columbia Environment Ministry, enforcing a law against possession of dangerous exotic species which took effect on April 1, 2010, Oliver sent the alligators and about 20 venomous snakes to a reptile museum near Drumheller, Alberta. Oliver and other exotic animal keepers had for three years unsuccessfully fought, in opposition to the BC/SPCA and the Vancouver Humane Society, to have the law amended to "grandfather" their right to keep the animals they already had.

"In principle, I agree with the intent of the law,"

Oliver told me. "I just think they should have included something in it to recognize people like me."

But from the perspective of the major British Columbia humane organizations, people like Oliver are why the law exists. "Cinemazoo profits from renting captive animals out for advertising, television programs, and corporate entertainment. This is exploitation, not conservation," wrote Vancouver Humane Society spokesperson Peter Fricker to *Surrey Now* in September 2010.

The autobiographical book *Cinemazoo: my urban safari* originated as part of the publicity for a proposed television series featuring Oliver and his animals that never was made. Instead, some of the material was incorporated into a web TV series called *Saving Cinemazoo*, about Oliver's failed effort to keep all of his animals.

Summarizes the back cover, "Many of the animals you've seen in movies have been supplied by Gary Oliver. The animals come from Cinemazoo...On set, Gary is their wrangler—he makes them do what they're supposed to do. But, he is also their protector. Virtually all of his animals have been rescued, and he has taken on a mission to help others, especially young people, learn about responsible ownership and species preservation." The term "ownership" alone will jar the sensibilities of many animal advocates. Neither is "species preservation" always consonant with the humane mission of preventing cruelty. Also of note is that Cinemazoo, the business, originated in 1988—nearly 20 years before Oliver incorporated Urban Safari Animal Rescue, the parallel nonprofit whose work Cinemazoo funds.

Earlier, as the book *Cinemazoo* recounts, Oliver founded and operated one of Vancouver's first doggy day-care centers to keep the Cinemazoo animal entertainment business going. Oliver sold the doggy-day care business to his first employee after Cinemazoo became more successful, amid concern about liability if any of the dogs in care attacked anyone.

*Cinemazoo* documents that Oliver has long had an intense interest in animals, beginning at age six, when he started an insect collection that eventually included more than 10,000 specimens from around the world. Oliver donated some to the Royal Ontario Museum and gave others to friends, while trying to save a failed early marriage and avoid his eventual permanent loss of custody of two daughters.

As a teen, Oliver and a daredevil friend slipped into the Swift Premium Packing House feedlot near their homes in the Toronto suburbs to ride the penned steers. "Part of me felt bad about tormenting these poor animals who were about to get slaughtered," Oliver recalls. "Then again, maybe it was the last bit of fun they had," as they repeatedly threw him off and once threw him over a couple of fences.

Later Oliver and women he was involved with raised horses in Ontario and British Columbia. For a time Oliver was part of the Ontario Governor General's Horse Guards, participating in the opening of Parliament and a ceremonial visit by the Queen Mother. She spooked Oliver's horse by kicking her landau's door open, then complimented Oliver on his horsemanship when he kept his mount and calmed the horse.

Ensuing ups and downs included making and losing a million dollars in the aluminum picture frame business, six months of homelessness, and then relative success brokering rentals of art studio space, selling art supplies, and doing fashion photography, in a fur-trimmed leather jacket—another jolt to animal advocates' sensibilities.

Oliver credits an exceptionally gregarious cat named

Maynard with leading him from fashion photography into furnishing animals for screen use. Clearly Oliver had relationships with individual animals which were at least as enduring as his many transient relationships with women, but *Cinemazoo* does not display much deep thought, concern, or even awareness about animal suffering or the sentence of animals in general. Oliver mentions animal rights activism only once, in passing, and mentions humane work only in recounting that the BC/SPCA investigated a film set he was working on when someone complained that the chimpanzees (not his, but under his supervision) were being walked barefoot on pavement.

So, in operating Urban Safari Rescue, is Oliver another of the many exhibitors who have learned to run traveling animal shows and roadside zoos under the cover of helping animals? Or has Oliver come late in life to an awakening similar to those that impelled former screen animal wranglers Pat Derby and Ric O'Barry to change directions decades earlier?

Unlike Derby, who founded the Performing Animal Welfare Society in 1984, and O'Barry, who began campaigning for dolphin liberation in 1970, Oliver is still wrangling animals. Fricker of the Vancouver Humane Society in March 2012 appealed for a boycott of the Vancouver Pet Expo because he claimed that appearances by Oliver and another reptile exhibitor would encourage more people to acquire reptiles as pets. "During our educational programs, we tell kids these are not good pets," countered Oliver to Frank Luba of the *Vancouver Province*.

I visited Urban Safari Rescue, unannounced, soon after that exchange—of which I was at the time unaware. I asked about the caimans and the iguana Joe Clark. Oliver answered in a politely guarded manner. Then he recognized the name **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "You send it to us," he said, "and we read it." Two recent editions were in a rack near his desk.

During the next half hour or thereabouts Oliver gave me the grand tour of the premises—now much more dilapidated than in the Rainforest Reptile Refuge days, but almost a decade of non-maintenance before Oliver's arrival accounts for that.

Oliver outlined dreams of bigger and better facilities. He explained how becoming interested in animals, in part through traveling exhibitors, encouraged him to study animals, art, and science, instead of becoming involved in drugs, like many others he knew in the Vancouver counterculture. He showed me a rather horrifying shelf of now contraband wildlife items collected from antique shops, used in his presentations.

Separating the sincere and spontaneous from the well-rehearsed patter was no easy task. About all I could say for sure is that Oliver believes in what he is doing. Despite occasionally wrangling animals for big cinematic hits, such as the film *Snakes On A Plane*, Oliver has not made much money, and has put most of what he has made into maintaining his animals—not cute and cuddly species who readily attract donations, but animals who nonetheless need homes and feeding. The Rainforest Reptile Refuge failed, Oliver believes, because the founders refused to exhibit. To be exhibited, in what Oliver says he intends to be a respectful and considerate manner, is the price of survival for the cast-off reptiles, tarantulas, and other non-cute-and-cuddlies in his care. —Merritt Clifton

## One Dog at a Time: Saving the Strays of Afghanistan by Pen Farthing

Thomas Dunne Books (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2012. 308 pages, paperback. \$14.99.



British Army sergeant Pen Farthing, now retired, first deployed to Afghanistan in 2006. He had no idea what awaited him, beyond fighting the Taliban. He found the living conditions in Afghanistan shocking: "There was no electricity and sanitation was non-existent."

Apart from the heat, Farthing decided on first impression that the worst aspect of Afghanistan was the dust. This was notorious even in 1897, when the dust on Dr. Watson's clothing caused Sherlock Holmes to observe, as his first words in Arthur Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story, "You have been in Afghanistan, I perceive."

Farthing soon perceived the stray dogs of Now Zad, the town where he was stationed. They were "hard to miss," he writes, "especially during the dark hours as they roamed the town and perimeter of the compound. There were dozens of them, all types of breed of dog. All had one thing in common: they all looked bedraggled and unfed."

Soon afterward Farthing saw Afghan soldiers among a crowd cheering on dogs as they tore each other apart. The Taliban suppressed all forms of animal fighting, which was forbidden by Mohammed.

Since the end of Taliban rule, however, animal fighting may be more popular in Afghanistan than ever. Cockfighting and songbird fighting are again common; transporting birds for fighting has contributed to the spread of the H5N1 avian flu.

Traditional non-lethal Central Asian dogfighting, in which herding dogs rush at each other until one dog knocks the other one down, has largely been supplanted by western-style fights to the death between "bully kuttas," the regional pit bull variant. Bred in Pakistan for more than 200 years for use in dogfighting and bear-baiting, bully kuttas are at least partially descended from fighting dogs imported by British troops.

But Farthing knew nothing of that. "I wasn't going to stand by and watch the dogs fight. No matter what someone else's culture allowed," he recalls. Though pushed, shoved, and threatened, Farthing broke up the fight, and saw the dogs run away.

Eventually the British compound became home to 14 dogs. The first

arrival was named Nowzad. Tali was named after the Taliban. Jena gave birth to puppies. Farthing and other soldiers build a special area for the dogs, including a fighting dog they bought from a local Afghan. For the first time the dogs ate regularly, slept on discarded bedding, and were treated with kindness.

Unable to leave the dogs behind when his tour of duty ended, Farthing enlisted his wife Lisa to help rescue them. Lisa eventually located a shelter in northern Afghanistan, more than 700 miles

from their base. With time, effort, and lots of luck they found a local to drive the dogs to a mid-point where volunteers from the shelter picked them up for transport to their shelter. Two of the dogs later flew to England with Farthing.

Farthing since his retirement has devoted his life to the street dogs of Afghanistan, heading a charity called Nowzad dogs.

—Debra J. White



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OBITUARIES

“I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones.” —William Shakespeare

**Judy Dynnick**, 61, of Rives Junction, Michigan, died on May 22, 2012 after a struggle of more than a year and a half against liver cancer and other health problems. Long involved in animal, environmental, and feminist advocacy, Dynnick in 2004 formed Jackson County Volunteers Against Pound Seizure to continue a struggle against the sale of shelter animals for laboratory use that was begun in 1960 by Jackson Animal Protective Association founder Dorothy Reynolds. Reynolds died in 2001 at age 86. The major buyer of the shelter animals for resale to labs, Fred Hodgins of Hodgins Kennels in Howell, Michigan, had won libel verdicts against two activists who attacked his business in letters to newspapers, and won a reduction of a USDA penalty of \$13,500 for alleged violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act to just \$325, plus reimbursement of attorneys’ fees of \$155,385. But Dynnick persisted. On June 18, 2006 the Jackson County commissioners voted 10-1 to stop selling animals to Hodgins. Dynnik credited her predecessors for their groundwork, thanked attorney Allie Phillips and psychologist Bob Walsh for legal and scientific support, and moved on to her next campaign, the County Animal Shelter Wall Fund. In November 2010 Dynnick thanked “everyone who contributed to the fund to get our Jackson County animal shelter walls completed,” in place of the previous chain link fencing. “Even the isolation area is now completed,” Dynnick wrote. “This will help to keep employees safe and greatly reduce disease transmission. It is also much quieter at the shelter, because the dogs can’t see each

other.” Wrote Aggie Monfette of Royal Oak, Michigan, “I was never fortunate enough to meet Judy face to face, but we became very close friends through the phone and e-mail. The animals have lost one of their best champions and I have lost a wonderful friend.”

**Ellen Witmer Truong**, 64, of Springfield, Virginia, died on May 1, 2012 after a two-year struggle with multiple myeloma. A longtime employee of the Humane Society of the U.S., as was her husband Hop Truong, “Ellen was a principal assistant to Dr. Michael W. Fox,” an HSUS vice president from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, recalled HSUS senior policy advisor Bernard Unti. “Later she worked at the Center for the Respect of Life and the Environment,” which Fox founded, “for Humane Society University, and in membership services,” Unti said.

**George Sukol**, a retired postal worker, died on December 21, 2011 in Bellevue, Washington. Political activists in Berkeley, California during the 1960s and early 1970s, Sukol and his wife Diane formed the Committee for the Protection of Domestic Animals. In 1972, collaborating with Julie Stitt and Martha Benedict of Friends of the Berkeley Dogs, they won abolition of the use of decompression to kill dogs and cats at the city pound. Berkeley was the first city to halt decompression killing, but it was abolished throughout the U.S. by 1985. Decompression killing had been pushed for shelter use by the American Humane Association since 1950. Since 2010 AHA has promoted the use of decompression for killing poultry.

Oliver, 55, chimp called “The Humanzee”

**Oliver**, 55, a chimpanzee who was promoted in his youth as “The Humanzee,” was found dead on June 2, 2012 in his sleeping hammock at the Primarily Primates sanctuary near San Antonio, Texas, operated by Friends of Animals. Oliver’s companion Raisin was at his side.

Oliver differed from most chimps in usually walking on his hind legs, having shorter hair on the top of his head, having a lighter build, having finer facial features, and having an easy-going nature, but genetic testing showed that he was a chimp, not a member of an otherwise unknown species, former Primarily Primates president Wally Swett told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Oliver arrived at Primarily Primates 15 years ago,” recalled FoA president Priscilla Feral. “His years at the sanctuary were the only ones where he wasn’t commercially exploited. We refused offers to film him. Making money off him had to end.”

“I worked for two companies that owned Oliver between 1977 and 1984,” wrote **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader Ralph Porec, of Midpines, California, in a December 1995 letter to the editor. “I first met Oliver at the Enchanted Village theme park in Buena Park, California. He belonged to Ralph Helfer, a partner in the park. Oliver was on display in a climate-controlled building, billed as a freak of nature. It was rumored that Oliver had come from a circus sideshow, and as a youngster, his teeth were pulled. Enchanted Village closed in 1977. Under the name Gentle Jungle Inc., Helfer relocated his animals to the Costa Mesa Fairgrounds until spring 1978, when he set up in Colton, at the old Gene Holter Movieland Animal Park,” Porec continued. “I worked with Gentle Jungle until 1980. In

1982, by which time I was with the Wild Animal Training Center in Riverside, Gentle Jungle moved again, to Lion Country Safari. Gentle Jungle was then closed by a USDA investigation and an eventual lawsuit against Helfer for Animal Welfare Act violations. Oliver and a few other animals were transferred to Ken Decroo, owner of the Wild Animal Training Center. There Oliver was kept in a large cage and was regularly handled.

“I left WATC in 1984,” Porec said. “In 1985, when I was working for the San Diego Wild Animal Park, I heard that Decroo had sold Oliver to a wealthy man back east, and that is the last I heard of him,” until **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in October 1995 that Primarily Primates was trying to obtain Oliver from the Buckshire Corporation, a supplier of animals to laboratories that was leaving the business. “During my time working with and around Oliver, or Ollie as we called him, I never saw him abused or even handled roughly,” Porec testified. “Oliver was always very gentle and intelligent, although he did have a habit of catching and killing any stray ducks or chickens who got within his reach. He wasn’t castrated, but even when housed with a female chimp he never bred,” Porec added. “Ollie has trouble seeing,” Porec finished, “and because of his bad eyesight, does become frightened, especially at night.”

“I think he’s just a very nice old chimp,” said Buckshire Corporation president Sharon Hirsch, who sent Oliver to Primarily Primates after the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** article appeared. “He sleeps a lot, lying back with his feet up. I had a cup of coffee in my hand when Oliver first arrived here. He begged for the coffee, I gave it to him, he drank it, and we were great friends ever since.”

Indian official lynched for stopping crocodile show called “sacrifice”

**BANGALORE**—Madan Naik, 54, assistant conservator of forests in Danduli, Karnataka, India, was on May 6, 2012 allegedly dragged from his car and stoned by a group of 16 drunken visitors to Crocodile Valley, a tourist attraction illegally operating on the bank of the Kali River near the Dandelappa temple, inside the Dandeli-Anshi tiger reserve.

“We are shocked that the local police have not taken timely action, nor even promptly booked a case against the crocodile show,” responded the Wildlife Conservation Society of Bangalore in a prepared statement, warning that the police indifference might incite further misuse of wildlife reserves and more violence against officials trying to protect the reserves.

As WCS predicted, forest guard Viresh Hiremath, 45, was fatally clubbed at his post in the Vaderi forest on May 12, 2012. Alleged killer Manjunath Naik was promptly arrested. But that did not deter unidentified assailants who on May 15, 2012 dragged Karnataka administrative service officer S.P. Mahantesh, 48, from his car and beat him with iron bars. Mahantesh, 48, had reportedly been investigating corrupt land deals. He died on May 20, 2012.

Madan Naik “was allegedly assaulted when he tried to prevent the group from throwing meat to the crocodiles, telling them it was dangerous and might result in the reptiles attacking them,” said the Press Trust of India. “Naik had gone to the temple when he saw the unauthorised crocodile show being organized,” elaborated the *Hindustan Times*. “The forest department had earlier stopped the illegal crocodile show, but the owner of a local resort restarted it.” The India Broadcasting Network, the Indian CNN affiliate, reported that the resort owner had twice been charged with illegal hunting.

“The illegal feeding of crocodiles in Kali River was raised in the Legislative Council by Congress member Ghotnekar Shrikant Laxman in December 2011,” report-

ed the *Deccan Herald*. “The reptiles are finding easy access to food and their population is increasing,” complained Laxman.

“Though several complaints have been lodged against the owner of Crocodile Valley,” identified as farmer Shivaram Patil, “the Dandeli wildlife sanctuary took no action,” charged *Deccan Herald* reporter Subhash Chandra.

“We complained to the Forest Department several times, to no avail,” Creative Nature Friends director Rohan Bhate told Chandra. “The 15 or 20 reptiles are visible only from Patil’s farm. They breed there and he even sells baby crocodiles. We rescued one in 2009 and released it in Chandoli National Park,” Bhate testified.

Continued Chandra, “When the *Deccan Herald* contacted Patil, he denied the charges, saying he had permission from former District Conservator of Forests B.B. Mallesh and the Tourism Department to entertain tourists. He also denied that he sold young crocodiles and their eggs.”

Responded Mallesh, “We cannot give permission to any private person for such activities. If what Patil says is true, let him furnish the letter of permission. In fact, we booked a case against him in 2011 and he is out on bail.”

Karnataka principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden Deepak Sharma told the *Deccan Herald* that armed guards would be stationed where Madan Naik was killed, to prevent further incidents.

“The tourists had come to the park accompanied by Dandeli municipal council employee Aravind Chavan and his wife Shailaja Chavan, a teacher in a government primary school in Dandeli,” along with Bagalkot sub -Inspector S.R. Naik and an assistant sub-inspector, said *Bengaluru Today*.

“The goons not only thrashed and assaulted Madan Naik,” dragging him out of his car, “but also abused and assaulted family members,” including his wife Sumathi, his daughter Meghana, and a son, who was not

named, added the human rights advocacy web site *Wake India Now*.

“Police at Dandeli station could have saved Madan Naik,” charged M. Raghuram of the *Daily News & Analysis*. Instead, after Madan Naik came seeking help, “They made him wait for six hours. They shifted him to the hospital only after he collapsed.”

“There was none to hear our complaint at the police station,” Meghana Naik told the *Deccan Herald*. “The police were conducting themselves as if they were under severe pressure. The condition of my father worsened as we spent hours together at the police station.” Madan Naik was pronounced dead at the SDM Medical College Hospital in Dharwad. An autopsy found the cause of death to be a blood clot in his brain.

Members of the Association of Deputy Conservators of Forests, Forest Guards and Forest Watchers joined local residents in blocking the main road into Dandeli during a five-hour protest and vigil over Madan Naik’s remains. The protest ended after police superintendent K.T. Balakrishna promised in person to investigate the case.

However, “The cover-up by local police didn’t end,” alleged *Wake India Now*. Instead, the local police accepted a complaint that Madan Naik had committed an “atrocious,” apparently by allegedly interrupting a religious sacrifice. The local police also “forcefully made Madan Naik’s family sign a document which said that the family has accepted the apology from the culprits who ‘verbally abused’ them. There was no mention of physical assault,” *Wake India Now* reported.

Karnataka Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda announced on May 10, 2012 that the investigation of Naik’s death would be taken over by the state Criminal Investigation Department. Six of the 16 alleged assailants were subsequently arrested.

A former lecturer at the Haveri

MEMORIALS

For our precious Moe and Bubbie... We think of you both so much at this time of year. No matter how long you have been gone, we miss you as if you had left yesterday. Moe, our little tuxedo-girl with the intense "lemur eyes" and fear of no one....Bubbie, our huge gray tabby, with the sweetest spirit and passion for "kitty pranks"...we feel your absence every day. The house will always be a little too quiet without you. We love and miss you always.  
—Mom and Dad

In memory of Jack: much love for 20 years.  
—Judy and Pedro Hecht

In memory of Elizabeth Kantanen, one of the original founders of Tree House Humane Society in Chicago, and also a dedicated court advocate for animals.  
—Barbara Hardin

In memory of Peggy Lieber.

In memory of the cat Lennon, 2000-2012.



Engineering College, Madan Naik turned to wildlife and forest conservation work later in life, earning several promotions.

“I am studying for a masters degree in science at M.S. Ramaiah College in Bangalore and my sister Grishma is pursuing a course in architecture. My brother has taken a university entrance exam. The earnings of our father was the only source to fund our education,” Meghana Naik told the *Deccan Herald*. Public officials promised that the family would receive compensation for Madan Naik’s death.

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The Pet Savers Foundation, and its shelter partners, including North Shore Animal League America (the world's largest no-kill animal shelter) want to change all that with the American Mutt-i-grees Club.

Visit [www.muttigrees.org](http://www.muttigrees.org) to join forces with other mixed-breed dog owners—a group over 25 million strong—to spread the word that adopting a puppy or adult dog from a shelter is the right choice to save loving dogs from almost certain death. Join the American Mutt-i-grees Club, where membership definitely has its benefits, including expert pet advice, advocacy, shopping, a fun child-targeted site, and so much more. Best of all, when members make purchases on the site, they help support our mission to save dogs.

[www.muttigrees.org](http://www.muttigrees.org)



Find out how Kathryn Eiben, star of *'Law and Order: Criminal Intent'*, a Mutt-i-gree owner and club member, is rallying dog owners across the country to help end animal cruelty, and how you can help too.

[www.muttigrees.org](http://www.muttigrees.org)





## Cooperative Buying Program Save Money Today... *Save The Pets of Tomorrow*

The Pet Savers Foundation wants to help animal welfare organizations maximize their limited financial resources. The Pet Saver's Cooperative Buying Program allows organizations of all sizes to take advantage of high-volume purchasing power for discounts on high-quality products. These products can be used in-house, or to start a retail program. Participation is easy & membership is **FREE!**

**Together we can save more lives of homeless animals and enhance the lives of those saved.**



Read about our partners in saving lives...



**Butler Schein Animal Health** is recognized as the leading distributor of veterinary supplies for companion animals, including: pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, instruments, and surgical supplies. Your organization will benefit from their technology, wide range of products, attractive pricing, and world-class customer service.



**Midwest Homes for Pets** is an innovator in training cages. The best products at an attractive price. Buy crates below regular wholesale prices and stock them in your retail space to sell to adopters. Or, sell crates to adopters who purchase directly from the Pet Savers Foundation via credit card (shipping charges additional).



**SIGN UP TODAY FOR SAVINGS!**

To receive a free registration form

Call: 1.800.233.7544 • Fax: 516.883.1595

[www.petsavers.org](http://www.petsavers.org)

September 1-5, 2013: **Pan-African Animal Welfare Assn.** conference, Nairobi. Info: c/o <jos@anaw.org>.

