

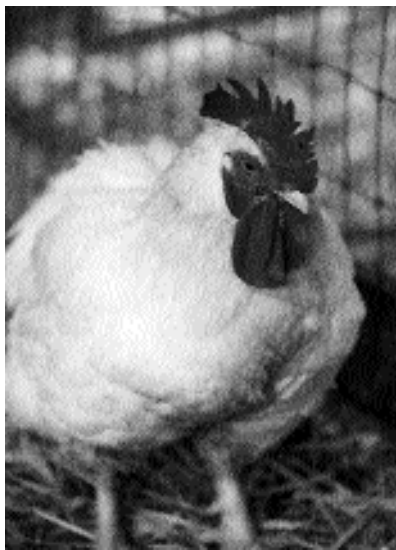
## FINDING HOPE & MEANING IN AVIAN FLU CATASTROPE (page 3)

### Asian H5N1 pandemic rages on-- worst ever factory farm disaster

**BANGKOK, BEIJING, JAKARTA**—United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization chief Jacques Diouf on February 25 opened an emergency meeting in Bangkok of experts from 23 nations with a warning that the H5N1 avian flu pandemic sweeping Southeast Asia in recent months is not yet under control. Diouf urgently appealed for economic help from other parts of the world.

Fear that H5N1 could quickly mutate into a virulent human form was heightened on February 19 when Thai scientists confirmed that the disease had killed 14 of 15 housecats kept by one family who had seen one of the cats scavenging a dead chicken. All of the cats fell ill, but one recovered.

Further investigation determined, however, that H5N1 had apparently not mutated before killing the cats. In the avian form, H5N1 kills about 70% of the humans it attacks, but



(Kim Bartlett)

it apparently does not cross easily into humans, and attacks mainly children, who have had less time to develop a spectrum of immunities to flu viruses.

Trying to eradicate the H5N1 outbreak before it mutates has involved killing virtually all the poultry of entire regions. The economic fallout may have influenced both Japan and Indonesia to claim prematurely that their H5N1 outbreaks were over, and appears to have caused China to hope repeatedly that the disease was geographically contained, only to see it leap hundreds of miles and re-emerge.

Japan came closest to actually stopping H5N1, going from January 12 to February 17 with no new cases before an outbreak erupted among bantam gamecocks kept at a lumber yard far from two earlier Japanese outbreaks.

Thai poultry consumption fell 50%. “Demand for chicken meat has dropped 40% in Jakarta,” poultry producer Eko Sandjojo told Sari P. Setiogi and Multa Fidrus of the *Jakarta Post*.

(continued on page 17)

## Cockfighters spread Asian killer bird flu

**BANGKOK, BEIJING**—Cockfighters, cock breeders, and public officials kow-towing to them tried to pass the blame for spreading the deadly H5N1 avian flu virus throughout Southeast Asia to pigeons, sparrows, and even open-billed storks.

Bad vaccines took some of the rap, too.

An attempt was even made, as the death toll increased on factory farms, to attribute the epidemic to free range poultry producers.

But as the H5N1 “red zones” expanded in at least eight nations, the evidence pointed ever more directly at commerce in gamecocks—and at the efforts of cockfighters and cock breeders to protect their birds from the culls and disease outbreaks that had already killed more than 100 million chickens who were raised to lay eggs and be eaten, as well as 22 people, most of them children.

The pattern of the H5N1 outbreak paralleled the spread of exotic Newcastle disease through southern California and into Arizona between November 2002 and May 2003. Approximately 3.7 million laying hens were killed to contain the Newcastle epidemic, but USDA investigators believe it began among backyard fighting bird flocks, advancing as gamecocks were transported between fights. It apparently invaded commercial



(Robert L. Harrison)

layer flocks through contaminated clothing worn by workers who participated in cockfighting.

Almost all of the early speculation about the source of H5N1 outbreaks pointed toward wild birds, even though the disease appeared to spread most rapidly long after the fall migrations were over and before the spring migrations started.

“Migratory birds carry the disease,”

(continued on page 15)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

*News For People Who Care*

*About Animals*

March 2004  
Volume XIII, #2



## Dolphin captures halted in Antigua & Barbuda, corrupt officials hit in Mexico

**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA; SINGAPORE; MEXICO CITY; TAIJI**—Resolving that, “The permission granted to Mr. John Mezzanotte to capture twelve dolphins annually from Antigua waters is hereby revoked,” the cabinet of Antigua & Barbuda on February 11 signaled that at least some small island nations which have historically favored marine mammal exploitation may be rethinking their position.

“Further it is stated,” the cabinet resolved, “that any importation or exportation of dolphins into and from Antigua and Barbuda be in strict compliance with all international obligations of Antigua and Barbuda.”

Caribbean developer John Mezzanotte is among the promoters of Dolphin Fantaseas, a swim-with-dolphins operation. According to longtime opponents of dolphin captivity Ric and Helene O’Barry, Dolphin Fantaseas started on Anguilla in 1988 with six dolphins imported from Cuba. Testing the market for expansion, three of the dolphins were transferred to Antigua & Barbuda in December 2001.

Martha Watkins-Gilkes, public relations officer for the 1,200-member Antigua & Barbuda Independent Tourism Promotion Corporation, and author of numerous books about Caribbean diving, objected that the Cuban dolphins were imported in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Meanwhile, summarized Ontario dolphin defender Gwen McKenna, “Dolphin Fantaseas persuaded the Antigua & Barbuda government to grant them a permit to capture ‘up to 12 dolphins annually from

Antiguan waters in the event that the current sources of supply are unable to provide this number of animals per year,’ and a permit to export these dolphins.”

“The government was sold a dirty and misleading bill of goods,” charged Watkins-Gilkes. “In public debate Dolphin Fantaseas managing director Arthur Bud stated that they would employ more than 20 Antiguan. How many Antiguan are employed two years later?”

Attorney John Eli Fuller in November 2003 sued the Antigua & Barbuda attorney general, Mezzanotte, and Dolphin Fantaseas on behalf of Watkins-Gilkes and the ABITPC. The Antigua & Barbuda cabinet revoked the capture permit before the case went to court.

“While the main issue has been resolved,” Watkins-Gilkes told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “it is unclear if the law suit will be dropped. There is [also] still the question of the wrongful importation of the three Cuban dolphins. It is hoped,” she added, “that this case will have a positive impact throughout the Caribbean islands.”

Antigua-and-Barbuda, together with Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-and-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent-and-the-Grenadines, consistently align themselves at the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission in support of Japanese-led efforts to weaken or rescind the 1986 moratorium on commercial whaling, along with the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. All are recipients of Japanese foreign aid.

(continued on page 6)



*Sergeant Russell Joyce receives the Lewyt Award for Heroic & Compassionate Animals from Marilyn DiToro of the North Shore Animal League America, for Fluffy [center].*

## G.I. pets banned as “biosecurity risk”

**BOSTON**—Dogs and cats who help U.S. military personnel endure the stress of serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are the latest urgent biosecurity risk to the United States, according to some bureaucrats, who are now trying to keep the troops from bringing their companions home.

Comparisons are in order. Published accounts indicate that U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan during the past two years have brought home fewer than 100 dogs and cats in total. None are known to have carried any serious disease.

Just a handful of dogs and cats are believed to have been imported from Iraq after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. None of them carried any serious disease, either.

Illegal imports of wildlife and wildlife parts into U.S., worth about \$1 billion in 1991, are now worth \$3 billion, estimates the U.S. Department of Justice. Federal and state agencies have yet to even visibly slow the clandestine wildlife traffic, every item of which is an uninspected, untested potential biosecurity hazard.

On February 9, 2004 the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service ended an investigation of how mad cow disease entered the U.S. from Canada. More than 30 million cattle are killed for meat in the U.S. each year, but the USDA tests only 40,000 for the presence of the prions associated with mad cow disease. The USDA examined the brain of the cow who was identified as the first known U.S. carrier only because she was killed outside of the Vern’s Moses Lake Meat Company slaughterhouse. The cow was killed on December 9. By the time she was found to have had mad cow disease, on December 22, her meat had already been distributed and eaten in at least five states.

Eighty cows were imported from the same Canadian herd, but the USDA was unable to find out what had become of 52 of them, including 11 who may have eaten feed containing the remains of other mad cows. Feeding the remains of ruminants to other ruminants was banned in 1997, but these 11 cows and the one who tested positive for mad

(continued on page 10)

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these two  
pups were  
the only  
survivors  
of a large  
litter--  
and mom  
is still out  
there!



February 2004

Dear Partner,

I was in a rush to get to an early morning appointment in a remote part of the county. Getting up at 5 a.m. so I wouldn't be late, I left a half-hour early in case of traffic . . . good thing!

Coming off a freeway ramp in the mountains, I always scout the area below me, for animals in trouble . . . it's a habit.

And while I look intently, I always pray that I don't see any!

Well, yesterday wasn't going to let me slide on by . . . and I wasn't going to get to my appointment for a few hours . . .

Coming off the freeway ramp, I saw a mother German shepherd . . . a rare purebred . . . trotting across a huge field, out in the open. Behind her were two little black puppies, and they were bounding up and down to keep up with mom.

In the rear was a stocky pit bull . . . clean, as if he recently lived with someone.

Mom was a wreck . . . muddy, shabby-coated and full of milk . . . but the pups looked healthy. She was a GOOD mom.

I pulled off the ramp and onto a road. Then I parked and took off on foot after the dogs . . . running, to cut them off from reaching the freeway.

But instead, they headed for thick woods. And when I caught up to them, the pups were near their earthen den, and mom was flanking me . . .

. . . barking to get my attention off her kids. But as they ran through the tangle of branches at my feet, I grabbed the little one first. He screamed, and mom barked even more desperately now.

Holding him against my chest, I chased after his bigger brother. It was a good fifteen minutes before I caught him. When I put them both under my arm and carried them to my car, mom ran off in the direction I saw her come from when I was on the freeway.

This was yesterday. I drove them to our hospital where they got warm baths, and their first solid food. Last night, I took their pictures for you . . . and my 4-year-old daughter, Meguire, insisted on holding the pups for you.

Talk about proud! "Meggie" is with me like a shadow . . . and during the past two weeks, she's talked her way into going on a local rescue with me.

Meggie watches for the animals with binoculars to keep up her end of our rescue team. And it's a total joy to answer her questions about why I am doing something. She absolutely loves animals more than anything.

So when she insisted on coming along to meet the pups . . . ! I expect Meggie will be running things in a few decades, and the animals will be lucky for it!

I went out to look for more pups today, but there are only these two. You can imagine what happened to the others, having to cross an open field like that . . .

. . . and why it's so important that we continue this work with all the energy we can muster.

Thanks for teaming up with me . . . and being there for these two tired little angels. And for making Meggie's life so special.

For the animals,

Le

Leo Grillo, founder

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

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

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



Editorial

Factory farming toll rises in Asia

“We are preparing to campaign against burying birds with influenza alive,” Voice-4-Animals founder Changkil Park e-mailed from Seoul, South Korea, as the winter avian flu pandemic peaked, and frantic officials and poultry workers struggled to contain it by killing all the birds believed to be at risk. “I hope ANIMAL PEOPLE will have some ideas for us about how animal advocates should view the massive inhumane treatment of birds,” Changkil Park added, seeming to speak for thousands whose feelings ranged from shock to despair.

Finding any good in the often unspeakably cruel culling of more than 100 million chickens and other birds is admittedly difficult.

The World Bank has pledged to finance rebuilding the Southeast Asian poultry industry, moreover, which will probably mean even more intensive promotion of factory farm methods in the very near future. If Southeast Asian egg producers adopt the routine live maceration or burial of “spent” hens that has become standard in U.S. agribusiness, described elsewhere in this edition, the World Bank involvement may help to institutionalize some of the cruelty that is now horrifying television news viewers throughout the world.

Along with the bad news about birds have come reports from Vietnam and Guangdong province, China, that dog consumption increased during the avian flu plague. This is not because consumers who could barely afford to eat chicken once a week are now eating dogs instead. Rather, the relatively small numbers of Vietnamese and Guangdongians who can afford to eat dogs are apparently eating more, in the misguided hope that dog meat might fortify them against the deadly H5N1 flu virus variant.

Despite the bad news, however, there is cause for cautious hope in many aspects of the epidemic. At the very least the avian flu outbreaks vindicate animal advocates in opposition to factory farming, which incubated H5N1, and cockfighting, which helped to spread it, and reinforces virtually every argument for vegetarianism.

Most significantly, many Southeast Asian leaders, news media, and ordinary citizens have acknowledged emotional distress over the bird-killing itself, as well as about the huge economic losses from it. Some prominent officials have openly grieved for the birds, or at least specific pet birds. Some have put their careers and possibly their lives on the line to protect wildlife against mob killing, spilling over from attacks on nearby factory farms.

Even while defending the culling as essential to protect public health, and noting that failed agricultural vaccination apparently helped to create H5N1, countless Southeast Asians have voiced the thought that there must be a better way to save human lives and livelihoods, if only they could find it.

The avian flu pandemic of 2003-2004 will almost certainly not be the pivotal event that turns Southeast Asia and the world away from cruelly exploiting and eating chickens at a rate of consumption ten times greater than for all other warm-blooded animals combined. Yet it may become a landmark event in bringing about policy-level reconsideration of linking human food security as closely to factory farming as has occurred during the past half century.

The rapid spread of avian flu in many forms among the poultry flocks of at least 12 nations shows again, on the biggest scale so far, that factory farming is inherently unhealthy for both the animals involved and the people who work with them and eat them. Under political, economic, and cultural pressure to provide “a chicken in every pot,” decision-makers at every level are trying to duck that reality. Every method from genetic engineering to killing animals with early stone age weapons has already been deployed to try to save factory farming—and not just lately. Authorities around the world have killed livestock by the millions at least seven times to control disease linked to factory farming since the 1996 British discovery that mad cow disease can cause the inevitably fatal Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease in humans.

In Southeast Asia alone, Taiwan killed 3.8 million pigs, sheep, and cattle in 1997 due to hoof-and-mouth disease. Hong Kong killed 1.5 million poultry and caged pet birds in Hong Kong in January 1998, after H5N1 was first identified as a killer of human children. Malaysia killed 800,000 pigs in 1999 to try to eradicate the Nipah virus. Also a killer of children, Nipah virus is now known to have crossed into pigs from fruit bats, after rainforest logging and fires drove the bats into closer proximity to pigs in quest of food. Nipah virus became epidemic when it encountered pigs who were raised in huge concentrations.

Then came Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2002-2003, killing more than 900 people worldwide, mostly in China and Vietnam.

The high-volume killing undertaken in response to each disease outbreak is not only to protect enormous investments in infrastructure, though certainly that is a major motivation, especially when the disease, like hoof-and-mouth, is not potentially deadly to humans. Factory farming is also seen as essential to food production, both in the U.S. and Europe, where fewer than one person in 20 works in agriculture, and in Southeast Asia, where less than 50 years ago famines killed more than 20 million Chinese.

Vegetarians typically are aware that beans and tofu made from soy beans could sup-

ply the protein needs of all the world with just a fraction of the use of land, water, and other resources that now go into producing meat, but much that well-informed vegetarians mistake for common knowledge is still unknown to almost everyone else. Soy beans are native to Southeast Asia and tofu was invented there, yet the technology and commercial production methods that are increasingly establishing soy and tofu as U.S. and European dietary staples are not yet widely known or used in most of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

An increasingly wide opportunity is developing in Southeast Asia to help demonstrate the potential of vegetarianism, embraced by choice, to people who might welcome an alternative to factory farming if they understood that “no meat” and “no hunger” can be complementary ways of life.

The cultural legacy of vegetarianism in much of Southeast Asia has long been associated with religious asceticism and renunciation of worldly things, as among the vegetarian followers of Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus, and St. Francis. The choice of Buddhist and Hindu monks and nuns to be vegetarian has often been misinterpreted by meat-eaters as representing an altruistic choice by the holy to leave their share of animal products to others in greater need. Thus there has not been much recognition that vegetarianism, associated by most people with deprivation of meat, can in truth be a choice of abundance.

The argument that vegetarianism enhances personal health has meanwhile been reinforced by the evidence that meat-eating dependent upon raising animals in unnatural concentrations is adverse to public health—especially in Guangdong, where the four deadliest flu epidemics in recorded history emerged in 1918, 1957, 1968, and 1977. The argument for the collective benefit resulting from vegetarianism could have especially strong resonance in Confucian-influenced societies, which emphasize acting for the collective good.

Fear and guilt

Migratory wild birds have carried countless avian flu strains for millennia. Southeast Asia, attracting by far the greatest congregations of migratory birds in the world, with a warm, moist climate that makes every swamp a viral incubator, is the global flu hub. Every form of flu originated as an avian disease. Most strains afflicting humans have come to us through domestic livestock, usually with pigs as intermediary between poultry and people.

Yet with a few dramatic exceptions such as the global flu epidemic of 1918, the most deadly avian flus have rarely spread far, or fast, because until factory farming was introduced to southern China as part of forced modernization under Mao tse Tung, sick wild birds seldom fell or left their droppings where tens of thousands of stressed domestic animals with already weakened immune systems could become carriers overnight.

The avian flu outbreaks in Southeast Asia and the smaller outbreaks of less threatening strains in the mid-Atlantic states of the U.S. have in common that they exploded after the viruses came into contact with unnatural concentrations of chickens, ducks, and geese.

Certainly various avian flu strains including the deadly H5N1 strain soon attacked small free-roaming flocks of domestic birds as well, especially in Vietnam. Even in Vietnam, however, H5N1 appears to have hit factory farms first, by many weeks, before infecting the relatively scattered and isolated small flocks.

The usual mechanism by which the virus spread into small flocks appears to have been the transport and exchange of birds in connection with cockfighting—a traditional pastime of undereducated rural poor people on every continent, typically also associated with gambling, drug abuse, and organized crime.

That link, like the parallels in the Southeast Asian bird-killing to standard U.S. practice, is further explored elsewhere in this edition.

Meanwhile, animal advocates must recognize through feelings of understandable horror, anger, and depression at how more than 100 million birds were killed that the cruelty associated with it appears to have been driven almost entirely by panic and lack of readily apparent alternatives, in societies with low literacy and little awareness of how to prevent disease, but enduring fear of epidemics.

The rest of the world was relatively unaffected by the killer flus of 1957, 1968, and 1977, but the wretched deaths of whole villages and urban neighborhoods were among the formative memories of many people now in Southeast Asian leadership positions.

H5N1 kills children, with a death rate of 78% among known cases. For several decades both governments and nonprofit agencies have sought fairly successfully to curb birth rates in rural Southeast Asia with the promise that modern medicine can ensure that enough children from small families will survive to adulthood that their parents need not fear destitution if they focus their resources on birthing and raising just one or two offspring.

When a disease sweeps through that strikes mainly children and makes modern medicine look helpless, panic is not only predictable but inevitable.

Birds were gassed and then buried or burned where the technology to gas them was available, but were merely buried alive with heavy machinery at most sites. The World Health Organization estimated that as many as 15,000 people inadvertently exposed themselves to H5N1 in Vietnam alone during hasty efforts to cull chickens without adequate equipment. Across Southeast Asia desperate people who lacked other means of quickly killing and disposing of chickens while minimizing direct contact often resorted to burning chickens alive.

Misplaced faith in fire as a cheap purgative was most evident in Bali, Indonesia. As many as 4.7 million chickens died from H5N1 during a six-month official pretense that the epidemic was not avian flu. After weeks of further chicken deaths while promised government culls amounted mostly to gruesome photo-ops, officials burned 228,000 chickens alive on February 6, amid erroneous rumors that children were dying. The next day the Hindu hamlets of Bolangan, Utu, and Senganan, near the epi-center of the H5N1 outbreak, burned another 2,500 infected chickens as part of a "Pecaruan Durmanggala purification ritual."

“The ritual is aimed at purifying and cleansing the areas from the evil impact of avian influenza," a temple priest explained to Wahyoe Boediwardhana of the *Jakarta Post*.

The horror of the mass killings, by whatever means, cannot be understated.

Almost immediately after the chicken burials and burnings in Thailand, many of the participants prayed for forgiveness of the suffering that they had inflicted on the chickens. Political leaders organized and funded the ceremonies.

Such rites are held to relieve human angst. They do nothing for the animals, and often reek of hypocrisy, as when the Dalai Lama led services for the pigs who were killed in Taiwan in 1997. “Be kind to animals” was barely discernible, if at all, among his messages.

Yet some comparisons of attitude are in order.

Religious figures have conducted similar rites for the millions of animals who were killed in Britain during the past decade to control mad cow disease and hoof-and-mouth disease. Few if any of the slaughter participants have been reported among the worshippers.

ANIMAL PEOPLE is unaware of anyone seeking divine forgiveness for killing animals *en masse* to control disease in the U.S.

A cynical view of the Thai rituals might hold that the worshippers were only relearning the use of religion to excuse atrocity. Yet the exercise of seeking forgiveness begins by confessing that whatever was done was wrong, even if the offender meant no evil and did not know what else to do in a crisis. It is not to be confused with indifference or denial.

Rising with the smoke from joss sticks and smouldering chicken carcasses may be growing recognition that factory farming should not be part of the future direction of Southeast Asia—and the world. Animal advocates, by making our voices heard, have an unparalleled opportunity, indeed an obligation, to encourage and amplify this perspective.

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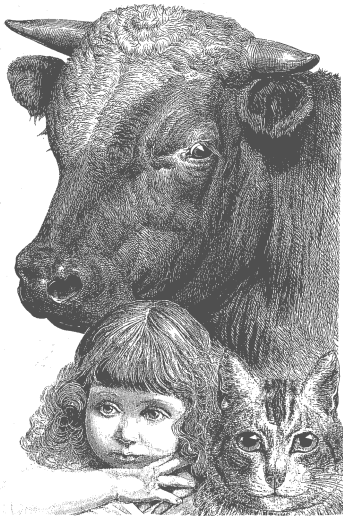
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# LETTERS

## Pit bull terriers

I agree that a ban on the breeding of pit bull terriers and Rottweilers is unfortunately the right thing to do. I am currently the owner of two American Staffordshire terriers and I have been volunteering to rescue pit bulls and Rotties for a few years now. I love the breeds and find them to be very loving companions. I have had a pit or amstaff in my family for about 15 years.

However, I recognize that these days I am not the typical pitbull owner. This is where your editorial "Bring Breeders of high-risk dogs to heel" will fail to garner the needed support. In giving statistics about the numbers of attacks involving these breeds, your article implies that these are by nature bad dogs. However, most owners of these breeds are fighting them, treating them inhumanely, training and working with them to increase their aggressive nature, or are just flat out irresponsible. You talk about how the current attitude of the insurance industry is unfair to other breeds, but you fail to recognize that this attitude is also unfair to responsible owners of these maligned breeds.

For those who love these breeds, the real question is does our opposition of a breed ban help or harm the dogs?

The effective way to pass a ban on breeding pitbulls and Rottweilers is to bring all interested parties to the table: responsible breeders, rescuers, animal control, injured parties and all others to discuss how to implement a workable solution. Maybe you ban the breeding, with an exclusion for licensed breeders, requiring qualifications to obtain a license.

But let us not delude ourselves into thinking that a breed ban in itself is the answer. Many drugs are illegal, but dealers exist.

We need to start talking about real answers. We also need to look at revising legislation to make it easier to win convictions for dog fighting. For example, we could



enact a presumption that evidence of bloodied dogs and a bloodstained ring proves dogfighting, and shift the burden of proof to the defendants to rebut the presumption.

—Susanne Kogut  
Alexandria, Virginia  
<SKOGUT@comcast.net>

## Dangerous dogs

Finally someone besides myself sees some breeds for what they really are—dangerous.

—Rae Domingues  
Lafayette, Louisiana  
RaeDomingues@aol.com

## Breeding bans

Your January/February 2004 editorial "Bring Breeders of high-risk dogs to heel" makes a brilliant argument, that I'm afraid we are going to have to support in the future, unless the proliferation of pit bull terriers and Rottweilers among the wrong people slows down. There is a huge reality gap between the perspectives of those of us in the trenches at animal control agencies and humane society shelters, and the well-meaning people at the national humane organizations. Pits and Rotts are, in general, just plain more dangerous than other breeds.

—Hilton Cole  
East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control Center  
2680 Progress Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807  
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Fax: 225-774-7876  
<hcole@brgov.com>

## Risky breeds

You and PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk got it so right about pit bull terriers and Rottweilers. Pit bulls are as mistreated as factory-farmed animals. Many are sweet—but unpredictable. What percentage of the time? I'm not about to take chances.

—Muriel Geach  
Long Beach, California

## "Retiree" busy in Phuket

I am mailing you from Phuket, Thailand, where I recently retired.

I now spend most of my time working with Margot Homburg Park, a US citizen, who founded the Soi Dog Foundation some years ago to help alleviate the suffering of both stray dogs and cats in Bangkok. Her work continues there, but she has now moved to Phuket, and we are endeavouring to carry out the same work here. We recently took over the Atigaro project, whose founder was unable to continue. She specialised in bringing over volunteer vets from North America, Europe, and Australasia. We are also working with local vets who are sympathetic to our aims, and charge us only the cost of drugs and food, and with the local livestock department.

The livestock department is currently erecting a new dog pound, to house upward of 500 dogs. This is a recipe for disaster. We hope to change these plans, but are looking at contingency plans in case it does happen, as it will almost certainly fail.

We are on target to perform 3,000+ sterilizations per year. In addition we carry out daily visits to temples where we feed the animals, treat mange and other conditions, and monitor our dogs and cats.

We also go into the villages and treat the animals of people who cannot afford veterinary fees.

With the assistance of a prominent local vet we are applying for official status in Thailand.

Nobody in our organisation takes any money for administration, fuel costs, etc.

—John Dalley  
Soi Dog Foundation,  
C/O 57/61 Laguna Golf Villas  
Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Road,  
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Phuket 83110, Thailand  
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<www.soidogfoundation.org>

## PHOTO CAPTIONS CORRECTED

The photograph of three ducks on page 1 of our January/February edition was taken by Robert L. Harrison, not Kim Bartlett.

Karen Medicus, who took the photo of the dogs on page 1 of our January/February edition, is no longer with the SPCA of Austin/Travis County.

## From Medellin bullfight protesters

We wish to tell everyone what happened when we marched on February 7 against the bullfights in Medellin, Colombia. The anti-riot squad blocked us. The police injured several women and tried to take our video camera.

We went to the government to protest for our right to march peacefully. They approved our manifestations and expressed their will to help us in everything.

On February 14 our march developed peacefully. The police were ordered to stay away from us, and they did, but when we were evaluating the march, we saw two men videotaping everything. When we asked them who they were, they tried to run away,

but we caught them and took them to the police. The police immediately released them. We are concerned about our well-being, as it is known that when someone does not agree with the powerful people of any country, that person can disappear or even get killed.

—Corporacion RAYA  
Red de Ayuda los Animales  
<adopciongama@hotmail.com>

[ANIMAL PEOPLE rarely publishes letters not signed by specific individuals and sent without complete contact details. An exception is made here because of previous incidents of violence against known animal advocates in both Columbia and Venezuela.]

## PROCTER & GAMBLE IN EUROPE

I was surprised to read in a book review by Merritt Clifton that he believes caring consumers should not boycott Procter & Gamble, because P&G is trying to develop non-animal product testing methods.

Aren't they continuing to do product tests on animals that other companies making similar

products have long ago given up?

If not, why don't they state "Not tested on animals" on their product labels?

Aren't they also trying to get around a European ban on testing cosmetics on animals?

—Krysia Kaminski  
Stratford, Connecticut  
<krysiak@snet.net>

## Clifton responds:

Most P&G animal testing is done in connection with pharmaceutical development. Some is done to meet safety requirements pertaining to non-pharmaceutical products which have a high risk of accidental ingestion or inhalation.

If P&G did no new product development, they could avoid doing any animal testing—and that is exactly how a handful of small niche manufacturers do it. That doesn't mean that their products have not been animal-tested, only that they didn't have to do the testing themselves because someone else had already done it.

Why does P&G not state that their products are "Not tested on animals"?

Because, contrary to hype, there really is no such thing as a product totally "Not tested on animals." Look up any product, no matter how basic, in the EPA/NIOSH Registry of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances, as the review pointed out, and you can find when the testing was done, what tests were used, and how many animals were used.

The allegation that P&G is "trying to get around a European ban on testing cosmetics on animals" is based on an incomplete reading of a June 18, 2002 memo headed "EU Ban on Animal-tested Cosmetics" from

Barbara Statt of P&G.

Often cited by activists boycotting P&G is Statt's remark that P&G does not want "to be seen as the company lobbying to test on animals, against public opinion." Ignored are her next several paragraphs, which clarify that P&G does not want to be seen thusly because this is not what P&G is seeking.

As Statt explained, "It is expected that through the pressure of national governments, the ban [on animal testing for cosmetics safety] will be amended so that animal testing is only prohibited if alternative methods (which do not use animals) are available. Alternatively, it is feasible that the ban will be delayed for an extended period (10+ years), allowing additional time for development of suitable animal alternatives." P&G, Statt said, is "seeking the acceptable middle ground between ensuring consumer safety while meeting the political needs of the animal welfare lobby."

No company can operate without ensuring consumer safety as set forth by the laws, regulations, insurance requirements, and jurisprudence pertaining to the marketplace—and P&G is the world leader in developing and using non-animal testing technology.

## Galapagos project evolves

The Animal Balance project to sterilize dogs and cats in the Galapagos is now rapidly moving forward. I have raised about 80% of the estimated cost, along with obtaining enough donated supplies and equipment to get started. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ship *Farley Mowat* is to transport the supplies from San Francisco to the Galapagos. The Ecuadoran Park Service will hold everything in a locked warehouse until my team arrives in April.

We will have at least three veterinarians working each day for four to five weeks. In all, I have about 25 people lined up to go and help, most of whom are paying their own way. Since last year the dog population nearly tripled, from 500 dogs in 2003 to 1,400 in 2004, underscoring the need.

The project has mushroomed in the last few months. I can barely keep up with the incoming e-mail. I now need to figure out a way to get paid to do this, even if just part-time, so that I can keep up with the need and plan ahead. The Park Service has already asked if we can help other islands next year.

Thanks to ANIMAL PEOPLE for getting the word out to the right people. It made all the difference in the world and I can't thank you enough.

—Emma Clifford  
Animal Balance  
135 Marlin Court  
San Francisco, CA 94124  
Phone: 415-671-0886  
<clifford@animalbalance.org>

## High salaries

Thank you for your disclosure of high salaries in "Who gets the money?", December 2003. Our director, Natalie Owings, could be added to your list of those who serve without pay.

—John Stevenson, Vice President  
Heart & Soul Animal Sanctuary  
369 Montezuma Ave. #130  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
Phone: 505-757-6817  
<info@animal-sanctuary>

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HFA

Dolphin captures halted in Antigua & Barbuda, corrupt officials hit in Mexico (from 1)

Mexican bust

As many as 200 dolphins were captured in waters surrounding the Solomon Islands in July 2003 for sale to exhibition and swim-with-dolphins venues, during a lawless interim between a failed coup attempt and the arrival of Australian peacekeeping troops. Photographers and videographers documenting the captures and the resultant deaths of several dolphins were chased and threatened, and in one instance a videographer’s boatman was severely beaten, wrote London *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Alex Spillius.

The captures were organized by Waves Consulting, apparently formed by Christopher Porter, 34, a Canadian whose wife is reportedly a Solomon Islander. Porter previously handled marine mammals at Sealand of the Pacific in Victoria, British Columbia, now defunct; the Vancouver Aquarium; and the Aquario di Genova in Italy.

Just before the Australian peacekeepers arrived, Waves Consulting flew 28 dolphins to the Parque Nizuc swim-with complex in Cancun, Mexico. Greenpeace alleged that 33 dolphins were actually loaded aboard the aircraft, and one dolphin soon afterward died at Parque Nizuc.

“The International Fund for Animals launched a thorough investigation, which proved that the operation constituted a gross violation of several national and international laws,” publicist Kerry Branon and Latin American affairs director Beatrice Bugada of IFAW recounted on February 17, 2004.

“In November 2003, IFAW presented the results of its investigation to the Mexican authorities, demanding that charges be brought against those responsible for the import of the dolphins. [On January 22, 2004] The Ministry of Public Office, the equivalent of a federal comptroller, admitted that both the dolphin importation and permits were illegal, announcing actions against former deputy environment minister Raul Arriaga and 27 other current and former officials.”

The dolphin transaction turned out to be among the smallest of Arriaga’s alleged misdeeds, at least in numbers of animals.

“In the course of reviewing government records and other documents,” Branon wrote, “IFAW discovered hunting permits had been illegally issued for countless species across the country.”

Altogether, the Arriaga administration “issued illegal hunting permits leading to the slaughter of more than 2.5 million animals over the last two years,” Branon charged.

“IFAW will be following these cases closely,” pledged Bugada. “We are hopeful that this decision signals increased political will and vigilance regarding laws protecting animals and the environment.

Not captive-born

Louis Ng of the Animal Concerns Research & Education Society in Singapore met with less official cooperation in January 2004, after establishing that at least three of the endangered Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphins kept at Underwater World Singapore were not born in captivity as Underwater World declared on their import permits.

The Haw Park Corporation, the Underwater World parent firm, claimed when it bought six dolphins from a Thai marine mammal park in 1999 that all were captive-born, but the Thai facility first acquired dolphins in 1988. Four of the six imported dolphins, one of them now deceased, were therefore too old to have been born in captivity.

The Singapore Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority acknowledged that the paperwork on the transaction was incorrect, but contended that it was not in violation of CITES because the dolphins were brought in for educational and breeding purposes, rather than for commerce. Campaigning for the release of the dolphins since 2001, Ng told Lee Hui Chieh of *The Straits Times* that he had asked the CITES secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland to investigate.

Attracting more than 18 million visitors since opening in 2001, Underwater World is a major economic enterprise, whether or not it acknowledges a commercial interest in dolphin exhibition. It is, however, also a conventional oceanarium, offering essentially the same combination of fish tanks and a marine mammal show that Marineland of Florida introduced to the world in 1949, after 11 years of operating as a film studio.

\$\$ are in swim-with

The big money in marine mammal exhibition these days is in offering opportunities to swim with dolphins. Sea World has more-or-less cornered the market within the U.S., where the operating requirements are strict and obtaining dolphins has become relatively difficult, but swim-with operations are popping up almost more rapidly than dolphin defenders can count them.

Soon after Gwen McKenna received confirmation from Watkins-Gilkes that Antigua & Bermuda had revoked John Mezzanotte’s capture permits, for example, she learned and relayed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that, “A dolphin display permit is being sought by a newly formed company called Bermuda Dolphin Oasis. Sources in Bermuda have informed me,” McKenna continued, “that Lynn Hassell and her husband Martin are behind it. Hassell is the CEO of Dolphin Fantaseas and one of the largest shareholders. She has lived and worked in Bermuda for many years. Prior to working for Dolphin

Fantaseas, she held a senior position at Bermuda Dolphin Quest. Hassell insists this is a local project in Bermuda and has nothing to do with Dolphin Fantaseas,” McKenna added. “There is very little information available on the application. Hassell said that the dolphins would be collected from a new aquarium which didn’t want its name known.”

Conventional oceanariums tend to keep just a handful of reliable performing dolphins, and perhaps some non-performing mates or offspring. Only a few dolphins amuse multitudes. Keeping more dolphins than necessary may be an economic liability.

Swim-with facilities, on the other hand, are limited in income potential—at least so far—mostly by the numbers of dolphins they can provide. The more dolphins the operators have, the more time with dolphins they can sell. This has created a greater demand for captive dolphins than ever before.

Trainers at Taiji

The good news in the situation is that the more familiar people become with dolphins through either conventional oceanariums or swim-with facilities, the more likely they are to oppose whaling, killing dolphins for meat, and fishing methods that are known to harm dolphins. In Japan right now, as in the U.S. and Europe a generation ago, “save-the-whales” perspectives are rising parallel to the growth in attendance at as many as 49 marine mammal entertainment venues—even though, according to Ric O’Barry, none of them educate visitors about marine mammal exploitation of any kind.

The bad news is that most of the dolphins exhibited in Japan, and elsewhere in Asia, appear to have been purchased from the so-called “drive fisheries” of Taiji and Iki islands, off Japan. Dolphin-selling has put serious money into the traditional roundups and massacres of dolphins who are blamed by local fishers for the ever more acute scarcity of over-exploited fish stocks.

For example, Sakae Fujiwara of the Elsa Nature Conservancy e-mailed in October 2003, the Ask Japan Corporation began developing a planned “dolphin therapy” center at Sanuki, in Kagawa prefecture, by purchasing two dolphins from Taiji. They later bought three more, two of whom soon died, and formed a parallel nonprofit, the Japan Dolphin Assisted Therapy Association, in 2002.

The project was delayed by difficulty in securing investment capital late in 2003, but that scarcely inhibited the bidding by others at Taiji, reported Ric O’Barry.

“About 50 dolphin trainers gathered in Taiji to select the best-looking of the captured dolphins, allowing the rejects to be slaughtered by the whalers. The capture and selection process was appallingly violent,”

O’Barry e-mailed after his second visit of the winter to the scene of the killing. “Panic-stricken dolphins were dragged ashore with ropes. Beached animals accidentally beat each other up in the frenzy as they tried to get back into the water. Mothers and babies were separated by force. The trainers simply stood by and watched as some of the dolphins, in an effort to escape, got entangled in the capture nets and suffocated. Some of these trainers are members of the International Marine Animal Trainers Association,” O’Barry charged, recognizing them from past encounters.

Representing the French organization One Voice, Ric and Helene O’Barry obtained video footage of two westerners among the group.

“If dolphin captivity was not fueling the dolphin slaughter by buying dolphins, the slaughter would have a very hard time surviving,” said One Voice founder Muriel Arnal.

Actually the slaughter is so politically and culturally entrenched, and the fishers so much prefer blaming dolphins for depleted fish stocks instead of themselves, that the drive fisheries, like the annual Atlantic Canada seal massacre, are likely to continue until the balance of national political interests quits favoring traditional practices in backward regions.

But that might happen faster in both Taiji and Atlantic Canada if selling dolphins and seal byproducts did not produce at least the illusion that the massacres are lucrative.

West African capture?

Others may also be cashing in, or hoping to. E-mails from several different sources, each forwarding information apparently obtained by the marine mammal protection organization Oceanium-Narou Heuleuk, of Dakar, Senegal, claimed in late January that a mass round-up of dolphins was anticipated off Guinea Bissau, West Africa.

The first e-mail, dated January 23, claimed that the captures were already started. The next, dated January 26, said “Indications are that the capture has not begun, but if it occurs, it will take place in the Bissagos archipelago. A caller who wished to remain anonymous, who is a long-time insider and has first hand knowledge of the situation, stated that the financier of this take is the same person who was involved in the mass dolphin capture in the Solomon Islands.”

No confirmation was available for any of this, nor for additional details supplied by Oceanium-Narou Heuleuk.

The Lisbon Zoo and the Portuguese amusement park Zoomarine were unsuccessful in December 2001 in an attempt to get permits to import 10 dolphins from Guinea-Bissau. Not clear is whether any of the dolphins were actually captured then.

—M.C.

Honolulu Zoo to keep orangutan

**HONOLULU**—368 days after Orangutan Foundation International announced that it would “build a state-of-the-art orangutan sanctuary at Kualoa Ranch in Oahu, Hawaii, for Rusti,” 24, brought to Hawaii from the defunct Scotch Plains Zoo in New Jersey in 1997, OFI founder Birute Galdikas announced a new plan.

Now Rusti is to occupy a 4,000-square-foot exhibit built around a tall banyan tree near the tortoises at the Honolulu Zoo—the same zoo that evicted him last year to replace his old habitat with a lorikeet exhibit, after housing him for six years under what was to have been only a temporary arrangement until OFI could develop a sanctuary. OFI is to remain Rusti’s legal custodian.

Pamela Davis and Cathy Goeggel of Animal Rights Hawaii expressed skepticism that the latest OFI strategy will advance any farther than the last several.

“It would be lovely to have Rusti stay,” Goegel told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “if a suitable enclosure can be built. OFI’s track record makes me wonder if this will happen. \$200,000 doesn’t buy much these days,” she added, noting that the Honolulu Zoo chimp exhibit “cost over \$1 million.”

Both Davis and Goeggel pointed out that the Honolulu city council was not consulted about the

new plan, although the zoo is city property, and that many legal and political obstacles may lie ahead.

“I would feel much more optimistic if OFI had given ownership of Rusti to the Honolulu Zoo,” Goeggel added.

*Honolulu Advertiser* staff writer Johnny Brannon pointed out that Rusti, a sterilized hybrid of the Bornean and Sumatran orangutan subspecies, “has always had a hard time fitting in. Born in Seattle, his mother rejected him as an infant. He was bullied by other orangutans, and was raised by a series of human foster parents before ending up at the Scotch Plains Zoo,” a for-profit facility that was closed through the efforts of Marc Jurnove, founder of the International Society for the Protection of Exotic Animal Kind and Livestock, Inc., in Plainview, New Jersey.

“Earlier plans called for Rusti to live in a sanctuary with up to 20 other orangutans, but it was never built,” Brannon continued.

Plans to keep Rusti at the Kualoa Ranch on O’ahu were eventually dropped under pressure from Jurnove, Animal Rights Hawaii, and Carroll Cox of Envirowatch, who found his proposed temporary accommodations inadequate. After the previous OFI failures to build permanent housing for Rusti, none had faith that any “temporary” quarters would really be temporary.

Hog/dog rodeo like porn, says prosecutor

**COFFEYVILLE, Alabama**—The legality of so-called “hog/dog rodeo” in Alabama will be tested soon as result of arrests made on February 21, 2004 by Clarke County Sheriff Jack Day.

Hog/dog rodeo, practiced chiefly in the rural South, consists of setting pit bull terriers against purportedly feral pigs in an enclosed arena. The dog who corners and holds a pig fastest is the winner.

Hog/dog rodeo was openly promoted in both Alabama and Florida until May 1994, when then-Florida attorney general Mike Butterworth ruled in response to videos of dogs mauling pigs at a site in Hardee County that the practice violates the state anti-cruelty law.

That left Alabama, where

the most prominent hog/dog venue of several openly operating is reputedly that of H&H Kennels owner Johnny Hayes, near Coffeyville.

Coffeyville police chief Frankie Crawford and *Clarke County Democrat* editor Jim Cox had both repeatedly denounced hog/dog rodeo and drunken parking lot violence that often went with it, but to no avail until a February 12, 2004 investigative report by Mike Rush of NBC-12 in Mobile.

Shown video similar to the footage that ended open hog/dog rodeo in Florida, Clarke County District Attorney Bobby Keahey told Rush that he had never prosecuted Hayes and others involved because Sheriff Day had never arrested them.

Day, however, told Rush


that in 2001 he sent a deputy to ask Keahey if hog/dog rodeo promoters and participants could be prosecuted for cruelty, and was told that they were “not unlawful.”

The next Saturday, wrote *Mobile Register* reporter Karen Tolkinene, “While country music played, Johnny Hayes was allowed to preside over a pig chase for kids, as well as a hog-catch for pit bulls. After, he was allowed to announce the winners. Then he was led away in handcuffs” by Day and Assistant District Attorney Stephen K. Winters “and charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty.”

“Cruelty is like pornography,” Winters told Tolkinene. “You know it when you see it.”

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—Wolf Clifton

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COURT CALENDAR

FIRST AMENDMENT

**Officials of the Granite School District** in Taylorsville, Utah agreed on February 3 to pay \$82,000 to **Utah Legal Clinic** attorneys **Brian Bernard** and **James Harris Jr.**, in settlement of a January 2004 ruling by **U.S. District Judge Dee Benson** of Salt Lake City that the school district violated the civil rights of **PETA** members by calling police to break up a 1999 demonstration in front of Eisenhower Junior High School. The **PETA** members organized the demonstration after the school hung a banner promoting the McDonald’s restaurant chain from a flagpole.

**Boston Superior Court Judge Janet L. Sanders** on February 20 dismissed 39 charges filed against 12 activists, ages 18-26, who protested in August 2002 outside the home of a **Marsh USA** insurance executive because Marsh at the time held policies with **Huntingdon Life Sciences**. The activists were charged with extortion, threatening, stalking, and conspiracy. Most of the alleged acts, Sanders ruled, consisted of constitutionally protected acts of free speech.

PIGEON SHOTS

**The Pennsylvania Supreme Court** on January 8, 2004 announced that it would not consider an appeal by **Pennsylvania Legislative Action Network** founder **Johnna Seeton** of the refusal of the **Superior Court of Berks County** to issue an injunction against pigeon shoots held by the **Pike Township Sportsmen’s Association**. A July 1999 Pennsylvania Supreme court verdict that pigeon shoot promoters and participants could be charged with cruelty halted the Labor Day pigeon shoot held for 65 years in Hegins, but the Berks County court held that pigeon shoots do not violate Pennsylvania anti-cruelty law if “reasonable efforts” are made to prevent and minimize the resultant animal suffering.

**The North Carolina Court of Appeals** on February 2 ruled that Granville County tobacco farmer **John Malloy** may host pigeon shoots at which as many as 40,000 pigeons are killed, because the anti-cruelty law under which the shoots were forbidden

exempts wildlife and does not include any standard for determining whether animals are wild or domesticated. Malloy began holding pigeon shoots in 1987. Then-**North Carolina Governor James Hunt** in 1998 signed into law a bill “written specifically to outlaw pigeon shoots,” said **Fund for Animals** national director Heidi Prescott, but **Granville County Superior Court Judge James Spencer Jr.** in 2001 blocked enforcement by finding the law unconstitutional. **The North Carolina Network for Animals** challenged his right to do so. **North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Sarah Parker** in June 2002 affirmed that Spencer could delay enforcement pending the ruling by the Court of Appeals.

MURDER & MAYHEM

**Pig farmer Robert Pickton**, 53, of Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, held since February 2002 as sole suspect in the disappearance of 64 women, and already facing 15 counts of murder, was charged in early February 2004 with seven more murders, and is likely to be charged with another nine if police can identify the women’s remains before his case goes to trial. Pickton allegedly fed the women’s bodies into a woodchipper, then fed them to his pigs. His victims have been named by sifting tons of earth over which hog slurry was spread as fertilizer, to find chips of bone or tooth from which DNA can be extracted.

**Mark Scott Crosley**, who operates a construction business from his brother’s **Engedi Game Farm**, near **Kruger National Park**, South Africa, has been held by police since February 9, along with his employees **Simon and Richard Mathebula**, for allegedly beating former employee **Nelson Chisale** and throwing him to the lions at the **Mokwalo White Lion Project**, 10 miles away. Charges against fourth suspect **Robert Mnisi** were dropped for undisclosed reasons on February 17. The four men were arrested after portions of Chisale’s skull and legs were found. Mokwalo co-owner **Albert “Mossie” Mostert** figured prominently in a 1997 expose of South African canned lion hunting, produced by **Roger Cook** of *The Cook Report*, a British ITV investigative magazine show.

Activist “trespassers” fined \$1.00 each

**MUNCIE, Indiana**—Apologizing to Ball State University professor Abel Alves and artist Carol Blakney, his wife, Judge Wayne Lennington of the Delaware Circuit Court in Muncie, Indiana on February 24, 2004 fined them each \$1.00 for trespassing and released them without further conditions.

A jury earlier convicted Alves and Blakney of trespassing, for briefly viewing the Seldom Rest hog farm from a roadside in October 2002.

“Lennington said he couldn’t call the jury’s decision to convict ‘despicable.’ But he indicated that is how he felt,” wrote Seth Stabaugh of the *Muncie Star Press*.

“Several months before being accused of trespassing,” Stabaugh explained, “Blakney filed a complaint against Seldom Rest with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. IDEM accused [owner] Kaye Whitehead of housing pigs in an unpermitted structure,” and of allowing manure to pollute a creek. Whitehead corrected the alleged violations, but is believed to have pursued the trespassing charges in retaliation.

Whitehead chairs the Delaware

County Farm Bureau and the Delaware County Republican Party. Prosecutor Judy Calhoun is daughter of a Randolph County farmer and cousin of a Randolph County Farm Bureau official, Stabaugh wrote.

“This prosecution was a malicious effort to stifle dissent,” said Waterkeeper Alliance president Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Aves and Blakney said they would appeal to try to erase the convictions.

The case was widely seen as a test of the concepts behind the draft “Animal & Ecological Terrorism Act” promoted in state legislatures throughout the U.S. by the American Legislative Exchange Council. The draft act seeks to prevent photography and videography of farms, in the name of fighting terrorism and promoting bio security, but with rhetoric indicating that the real target is anyone who might expose bad conditions.

A version of the draft act took effect in California on January 1, 2004. Six other state legislatures considered similar bills in 2003. Parallel bills have recently been re-introduced in Missouri and introduced for the first time in Washington.

CONVICTIONS

**The Washington State Court of Appeals** in mid-January 2004 ruled that any preventable pain suffered by animals, from “mild discomfort” to “mental uneasiness,” “dull distress,” and “unbearable agony,” can be enough to establish that a defendant is guilty of causing “unnecessary” suffering, as required for conviction under the state anti-cruelty statute. The court reinstated the 2001 convictions of **Vern and Katonya Zawistowski**, of Graham, for allowing two horses to become severely underweight.

**British Columbia Judge Wayne Smith** on February 9 fined whalewatching guide **Jim Maya**, 64, \$6,500 for too closely approaching orcas off North Pender Island on August 14, 2002. “Only a handful of such charges have ever been laid, and this is the first against a whalewatching guide in 14 years,” wrote Kim Westad of the Victoria *Times Colonist*. “The fine is believed to be the largest assessed in B.C. for the charge.”

ASPCA



## Pro-animal India pols shift alliances for election

**NEW DELHI**—Former Indian minister for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi, serving in Parliament as an independent since 1996, on February 16 joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, with her son Varun.

Varun Gandhi was reportedly expected to join Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the campaign trail preliminary to the April national election. The Hindu quoted “a party leader” as anticipating that Varun Gandhi would make his debut as a political candidate in the next election, after gaining behind-the-scenes experience and making some public speaking appearances on behalf of other candidates this year.

Joining the BJP was rumored to be a precondition for Mrs. Gandhi possibly being reappointed to head the animal welfare ministry, which Mrs. Gandhi directed from 1998 until mid-2002. The ministry has reportedly been troubled ever since by indifferent leadership, but Mrs. Gandhi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that she was not hopeful.

“I don’t think they will ever give me that ministry [again],” Mrs. Gandhi said. “But we have two months before the April elections. Let’s see.”

Mrs. Gandhi, who founded the national humane organization People for Animals in 1984, was removed from the ministry after clashing simultaneously with the Indian biotech industry and proponents of animal sacrifice.

Often flamboyantly rivaling Mrs. Gandhi for recognition as an animal advocate, albeit rarely with comparable achievement, Tamil Nadu state chief minister and former film star Jayalithaa on February 20 beat a pre-election retreat from her August 2003 attempt to enforce the 1950 Tamil Nadu Animal & Bird Sacrifices Prohibition Act.

Jayalalithaa, who uses only one name, had promoted strict enforcement to halt a scheduled sacrifice of 500

buffalo, on the eve of regional festivals at which, “Traditionally, animals are sacrificed on the altars of the deities and the meat is distributed among friends and relatives in the community as a fulfilment of vows,” explained Swati Das of the *Times of India* news network.

“Mass sacrifices were held in defiance of the ban,” Das continued. “The argument [advanced by proponents of sacrifice] was that the poor do not have the resources to propitiate the gods with [vegetarian food offerings] as is done by upper Hindu castes, and the only compromise is sacrifice.”

This argument overlooks that the cost of presenting a vegetarian feast is just a fraction of the cost of raising large animals such as buffalo to slaughter weight. However, supplying the demand for animals to sacrifice is often used by farmers as a means of profitably disposing of surplus buffalo bull calves and other animals who are not otherwise economically productive.

Jayalalithaa herself made no public comment as Tamil Nadu governor P.S. Ramamohan Rao introduced a bill to repeal the 1950 act.

Mrs. Gandhi and Animal Welfare Board of India vice chair Chinny Krishna argued that animal sacrifice is also forbidden by the 1960 federal Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the 1972 Wildlife Protection Act. Thus the Tamil Nadu government could in theory be sued for failure to prosecute practitioners of animal sacrifice even if the 1950 state act is repealed. However, invoking the federal legislation against animal sacrifice is legally tricky, because the Indian constitution guarantees freedom of religion, and the right of worship tends to trump the constitutional requirement that citizens have a duty to respect animal welfare.

Animal sacrifice in India “is prevalent in village temples and is con-

finied to the lower castes among Hindus,” explained the *Deccan Herald*. Though practitioners of animal sacrifice are a small minority in most of India, they are politically potent in some regions of strategic importance to the Hindu nationalist BJP and allied parties, including the 88-year-old All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam now led by Jayalalithaa.

The BJP has historically tried to distract tension between Hindus who sacrifice animals and those who hold sacrifice to be profane to the spirit of post-Vedic Hinduism by playing up opposition to cow slaughter, practiced chiefly by Muslims.

This strategy was evident in mid-December 2003 when the BJP government of Madya Pradesh banned all cow slaughter, while Kali cultists in Nadia district, West Bengal, killed goats despite warnings from police, who ultimately did nothing about it.

At least 20,000 cocks, goats, sheep, and buffaloes were sacrificed at Khairaguda and about a dozen other villages in western Orissa state during the first five days of 2004. More than 80 villages were expected to send animals for sacrifice to an early February festival at Bommasmudra in Karnataka state, approximately coinciding with the Muslim celebration of the Feast of Atonement, also known as Ramadan.

However, leading Muslim scholars Mufti Habibur Rahman and Maulina Mehmood Madani urged their followers to sidestep the role of scapegoat by slaughtering only sheep, goats, and camels, not cattle.

Animal Welfare Board of India coordinator Dayanand Swamy then directed volunteers and 500 police in an apparently successful blockade of the Bommasmudra sacrificial venue.

“Till evening, not a single animal was sacrificed,” reported *The Hindu*.

## Horse advocate Ewing testifies for slaughter

**SPRINGFIELD, Illinois**—Donna Ewing, 69, founder of the Hooved Animal Humane Society in 1971 and the rival Hooved Animal Rescue & Protection Society in 2001, recently testified to an executive committee hearing of the Illinois House of Representatives that horse slaughter for meat should not be banned.

“Humane societies became involved with wild horses and stopped ranchers from killing or culling the wild horses, and the consequence has been that animals have been kept in concentration camps at tremendous expense... billions of dollars, because the humane people said you cannot kill our wild horses,” Ewing said. “They need to be controlled to a certain degree...If we don’t have a place where these animals, the unwanted horses, the old horses, the sick ... well, they can’t take the sick ones for human consumption ...There’s going to be a glut on the market. People will be turning their animals loose and I will be finding dying, starving horses more than I have been now.

“I urge you to vote no on this bill,” Ewing continued. “We are the stewards of these animals. It is our obligation to take care of them and to see to it that they have a dignified exit. And the slaughterhouse, which I have visited and went outside and regurgitated, was extremely difficult for me to see, but it’s a reality of life that we cannot bury 200,000 [horses]. Burning them, we’re going to contaminate the air. Something must be done, and to use poison to euthanize these animals and to waste that protein when we have cats and dogs, and we have the animals in the zoos—this meat should be used.”

Of opponents of horse slaughter, Ewing said, “The first thing they are going to do is say we cannot eat beef, we can’t eat turkey, we can’t eat anything. And I don’t think it is up to us to legislate what people can eat.”

Delivered on November 18, 2003, the taped testimony was obtained and disclosed by SHARK on January 23, 2004. SHARK has repeatedly clashed with Ewing over her public defenses of rodeo.

Ewing and her daughter Ronda were fired as executive director and horse trainer/office assistant of the Hooved Animal Humane Society in June 2001, following prolonged friction with the board of directors over alleged mismanagement and failure to designate a successor.

Ewing in April 2001 had filed two lawsuits against the board, after the board accused her of taking member and donor lists in order to start a competing organization.

## Rocket science failure may endanger

**CHENNAI**—A February 23 rocket fuel explosion at the Dhawan Space Center on Sriharikota Island killed six people and threw into chaos not only the operations of the Indian Space Research Organization but also an ambitious draft plan by Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath to revamp the spaceport animal control program.

The explosion came three days after Nath returned home to Visakhapatnam, 140 miles north, after a site visit.

“I was there to analyze the stray animal problems faced by the 3,400 engineers and scientists and their families who live and work on Sriharikota Island,” Nathtold **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “The Space Center invited us after their controller came to the Visakha SPCA to see our activities, after trying other ways to reduce their stray dogs, monkeys, and cattle. He was unhappy,” Nath said, “with how dogs are killed, and monkeys also, and wanted to implement the animal welfare laws. He took the first train to Visakhapatnam after learning from my brother’s wife about our work.”

Nath had already heard, he said, about massive dog-poisoning at Sriharikota, and “about the terrible way the monkeys would be caught in a bunch and hauled alive in a small gunny bag. Recently 35 were stuffed into one bag and all of them died due to suffocation.”

Nath had also heard about illegal traffic in cattle culled from among about 3,000 who roam “in the high security zone of the actual premises of the ISRO. They enter into the VIP guest quarters located inside of this zone and dirty their compound with dung,” Nath said, “which I feel is a blessing, but to them it is a serious disturbance.

“Sriharikota is a spindle-shaped island on the east coast of Andhra Pradesh, north of Chennai, which was chosen in 1969 as the site of a satellite launch station,” Nath continued. “Eucalyptus and casuarina plantation and scrub jungle cover most parts of the island. The wildlife I saw included jackals, wild boars, Russell vipers, monitor lizards, hares, foxes, monkeys, jungle

cats, jungle squirrels, and mongoose. Inside the jungle are several bodies of water used by buffalo and thousands of birds. Pulicat Lake,” on the island, “is the second largest saltwater lagoon in India. It is a famous feeding place for flamingoes, painted storks, egrets, grey pelicans, grey herons, pintails, black-winged stilts, shovelers, teal, gulls, terns, etc. Unfortunately,” Nath found, “fishing people along the lake shoo away the birds and shoot them when their business is down. There is no rainfall this year in this region. The water has been illegally used to irrigate crops, and birds and humans are left fighting for the fish and prawns that remain.

“Nellipatu,” nearby, “is another major bird paradise,” Nath said, “with 326 vairities of birds coming. Both lakes have been declared sanctuaries,” though the sanctuary status is poorly enforced.

Nath also noted olive ridley turtles nesting along the 30-mile stretch of beach near the spaceport.

In the inhabited areas, Nath found, “The monkeys far outnumber the dogs, as the dogs were killed until December 2003. The disturbed balance of species affords a classic example of the monkey population increasing when the dog population lessens. I witnessed where a single dog was challenged for food near the dust bin by a group of 15 monkeys and a battle ensued with monkeys having the distinct advantage.”

“It is a fantastic area with all the ingredients of biodiversity,” Nath continued. “It could be a major ecotourism destination.”

After the explosion, however, Nath said he was, “Definitely worried. There could be considerable delay due to investigations” into the cause of the disaster, Nath anticipated, resulting in tightened security that might inhibit animal welfare work in sensitive areas.

“Ironically, when I was there I put this question of accident to the spaceport personnel,” Nath remembered, “and they proudly said they had none so far. This had to happen just at the time when we were preparing to help the animals.”

SPAY/USA

(Kim Bartlett)

*If you know someone else who might like to read ANIMAL PEOPLE, please ask us to send a free sample.*



# Ethiopian animal advocates lose jobs for exposing dog shooting

**ADDIS ABABA**—Homeless Animal Protection Society of Ethiopia cofounders Efreem Legese and Hana Kifle were on January 23, 2004 suspended from their jobs at Bale Mountains National Park without pay, and as of February 23 imminently anticipated termination notices from Oromiya Rural Land and Natural Resource Authority director Siraaj Bakkalii Shaffee.

Their apparent offense, not spelled out in their letters of notification of suspension, is that they shared information with **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and Radio Ethiopia about the delayed and tactically inept response of the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization and Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme to an ongoing rabies outbreak at the park, as detailed in the November and December 2003 editions of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Dinsho town council chair Tessema Hailu, agitating to have homeless dogs in the Dinsho region killed, precipitated the suspensions and probable firings of Legese and Kifle by writing to Siraaj Bakkalii Shaffee that they had "performed activities which can affect the fundraising process of the EWCP," Legese told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

"At the same time [EWCP veterinarian] Karen Laurensen promised financial support to the Oromiya government for the park," Legese alleged. "Then, she came to Bale with [fellow EWCP veterinarian] Fekadu Shiferaw and told the EWCP workers that 'Hana and Efreem are going to be fired from their work in the near future and HAPS will never work any more in Bale on dogs.'"

A week later, Legese continued, "Siraaj Bakkalii Shaffee, the newly assigned

head of the Oromiya government, warned us to leave HAPS," at a staff meeting.

"I tried my best to tell about the importance of HAPS for the community, animals and Ethiopia," Legese related. "He left shouting that he was going to fire us."

Oromiya officials "also went to HAPS Branch office in Dinsho and terrified our members by telling them that they would soon remove the HAPS signboard and announce it through the media," Legese said.

The Bale Mountains National Park rabies outbreak jeopardizes the survival of the last wild population of Ethiopian wolves. It occurred just as Legese and Kifle had warned since 2001 that an outbreak might, if efforts were not made to vaccinate and sterilize the homeless dogs of nearby villages as well as the few dogs who are claimed by specific people.

Legese was the longtime Bale Mountains National Park acting head of finance and administration.

Kifle, the first female to hold a position of authority at the park, was head of the park development and protection section.

The EWCP, sponsored by the Born Free Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund, began sterilizing and vaccinating pets and working dogs in the villages near Bale in 1999. Legese and Kifle assisted.

In March 2001 Legese sent **ANIMAL PEOPLE** an extensive compilation of photographs, interviews with villagers, a videotape, and a detailed hand-drawn map, documenting the presence and behavior of local homeless dogs. Legese expressed concern that the EWCP practice of shooting at homeless dogs was both pointlessly cruel and

counterproductive, as was the previous government practice of poisoning dogs.

EWCP program founder Claudio Sillero contended that shooting homeless dogs was often necessary not only to prevent rabies, but also because the dogs might hybridize with the wolves. Hybridization did happen on one known occasion, when the wolf population was near the lowest level on record.

Legese pointed out that shots fired at one dog scare all of the dogs into the bush, toward the wolves. Otherwise the dogs stay close to the peripheral villages.

Legese argued that the sterilization and vaccination services offered to pet and working dogs should be extended to the homeless dogs, as is done successfully in many parts of India, Costa Rica, and other places with similar issues.

After **ANIMAL PEOPLE** published Legese's guest essay "The dogs of Bale" in May 2001, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett helped Legese and Kifle to form HAPS, to seek funding to sterilize and vaccinate homeless dogs on their own, and arranged for them to take advantage of training opportunities at the Dogs Trust in London, the 2002 International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, and the All Africa Humane Education Summit in September 2003. All of this was done while Legese and Kifle were on unpaid vacation time.

Sillero moved to England in 2002 as conservation director for the Born Free Foundation. He was succeeded in Ethiopia by Stuart Williams. In July 2003 the EWCP ceased sterilizing and vaccinating any dogs. Williams claimed then that there were no

homeless dogs in the Bale region.

In five years, according to the EWCP annual reports, it had vaccinated 1,475 dogs total. In October 2003, however, the EWCP would claim to have vaccinated between 2,000 and 2,500 dogs per year.

Kifle in August 2003 photographed an Ethiopian wolf with an apparent bite wound to the back of her head, who was 25 miles outside any known wolf habitat and acting strangely. Believing the wolf to be rabid, Kifle reported the incident to her superiors.

Kifle and Legese in late September 2003 told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** of the incident and expressed worry that nothing was being done to arrest a rabies outbreak which appeared among dogs and livestock several weeks after Kifle saw the suspect wolf.

The EWCP and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization acknowledged the rabies outbreak in mid-October 2003. As well as introducing oral vaccination of the endangered wolves, they recommended a resumption of shooting homeless dogs.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** in November 2003 published Kifle's photo of the probably rabid wolf, plus one of a series of photos obtained by Legese of officials shooting at dogs as they fled into the Bale Mountains National Park interior.

Radio Ethiopia sent a team to the park a few weeks later, affirming the same essentials.

Legese and Kifle, with numerous dependents, were paid \$285 per month.

Still working to improve the lot of homeless dogs, they may be contacted c/o <hps-eth@telecom.net.et>.

## Events

**March 7-9: Animal Care Conf. 2004**, Anaheim. Co-hosts: Calif. Animal Control Dir. Assn., Calif. Vet. Med. Assn., State Humane Assn. of Calif. Info: 949-366-1056; <www.AnimalCare-Conference.org>.

**March 10-13: Animal Care Expo**, Dallas. Info: <Expo@hsus.org>.

**March 13-14: Sowing Seeds Humane Education Workshop**, Boulder, Colo. Info: 207-667-1025; <sowingseeds@ihed.org>.

**March 25-28: Sanctuary Conf.**, Atlanta. Info: The Assn. of Sanctuaries, 972-485-5647 or <taos@aol.com>.

**April 3: Farm Animal Forum**, Chicago. Info: 607-583-2225, x221 or <www.farmsanctuary.org/farmanimalforum>.

**April 2-4: Intl. Animal Law Conf.**, San Diego. Info: <www.international-animalwelfare.com>.

**April 3-4: Compassion for Animals Action Symposium**, Orlando. Info: 386-454-4341 or <www.vegetarian-events.com>.

**April 17-25: World Week for Lab Animals**. Info: In Defense of Animals, 202-328-0736; <lydia@idausa.org>.

**April 18: Animal Rescue Fair**, Alpharetta, Georgia. Info: Save The Horses, 770-886-5419 or <Horse-inc2@aol.com>.

**April 18-21: Animal Air Transport Assn** conf., Vienna, Austria. Info: <www.aata-animaltransport.org>.

**April 23-25: No More Homeless Pets** conf., Las Vegas. Info: Best Friends, 435-644-2001 x129;

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# G.I. pets “biosecurity risk” (from page 1)

cow disease were all born in 1996.

Avian flu offers yet another example of the proportionality of risk. The H5N1 strain, capable of killing humans, has not yet come to the U.S.—but the H7 strain struck farms and live poultry markets in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. At least 86,000 chickens were killed on the first two farms where H7 was detected. Thousands more were scheduled to be killed.

The U.S. Live Stock Association and U.S. Animal Health Association “emphasized the problem of live poultry markets in the control of avian influenza” as early as 1924, according to *Animal Health: A Century of Progress*, by Neal Black. Eighty years later, New Jersey live markets identified as problematic then are still problematic.

## Military Mascots

Bonnie Buckley, of Merrimac, Massachusetts, has formed an organization called Military Mascots to help U.S. soldiers bring their pets home. Military Mascots is so new that it has not even secured IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit status yet.

But Military Mascots has one powerful foe. On February 12, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources division of Animal Health, Biosecurity, and Dairy Services director David M. Sherman, DVM, ordered that “until further notice, no animal will be permitted entry into, or transit through Massachusetts that has originated in Iraq or Afghanistan. Such animals found in violation of this order will be seized.”

Sherman acted, he wrote, because “Iraq is essentially a war zone and there is currently no competent veterinary authority operational in Iraq to issue meaningful health certificates.” Sherman took no notice that the U.S. military has sent numerous veterinarians to Iraq to help rebuild the national public health service and agricultural industry.

“Rabies is endemic in Iraq,” Sherman continued. “A six-month quarantine would be necessary to ensure that individual animals were not incubating rabies even if they are recently vaccinated.”

This disregarded that many of the dogs and cats whom U.S. troops wish to bring home were vaccinated within days of adoption, more than six months ago, and have been with the soldiers throughout their tours of duty.

“Leishmaniasis is another zoonotic disease of concern that is endemic to Iraq,”

Sherman went on.

Indeed leishmaniasis occurs in Iraq, and is serious, but the major vector for leishmaniasis in the U.S. is commerce in foxhounds. The biggest outbreak of leishmaniasis known to have occurred in the U.S. spread from the Millbrook Hunt Club in Dutchess County, New York, in 1999, just a few miles from the western Massachusetts state border. Twenty-one dogs died. Infected foxhounds were eventually discovered among about 40 packs in 20 states plus Canada.

There was speculation that a U.S. soldier might have brought an infected dog home from Iraq, but no one ever identified such a soldier or such a dog.

“There are concerns regarding the existence of weapons of mass destructon, possibly including biological warfare agents, with animals from this area possibly serving as vectors for such biological agents,” Sherman added. “The same or comparable conditions also prevail in Afghanistan.”

Some dogs and cats adopted by U.S. troops might also have been given a lift at some point by mysterious black helicopters. At least some of the soldiers who brought their pets home preferred to be mysterious about which pilots helped them, to keep the pilots out of trouble.

## Animals & troops

A British soldier was actually the first on record to adopt an Iraqi pet. As British troops encamped near Basra, during the first week of April 2003, Jonathan West, 20, of the Zulu Company 1st Battalion Royal Regiment Fusiliers, reportedly found a dehydrated mother dog and five puppies hiding in a hollow. West turned the hollow into a sand-bagged fox hole with a tin sun shade.

The strict British quarantine laws ensured that there was never a chance that West could take the dogs home. But they may be the same dogs seen on television on April 10, 2003 by Marcy Christmas, 51, of Camarillo, California. Christmas contacted Margaret Ledger of the Humane Center for Animal Welfare in Amman, Jordan. Ledger, on her way to Iraq to rescue a group of gazelles, found a mother and six pups who fit the description in the village of Al Amanieh. A local family adopted one puppy, military personnel adopted another, and Christmas paid the cost of flying the mother and the remaining four pups to Los Angeles.

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Baghdad Zoo, the Humane Center for Animal Welfare veterinary staff later took in 32 dogs found on the zoo grounds and found U.S. homes for them with help from Christmas and the Doris Day Animal League. One of those dogs, named Ames Faris, was adopted by military safety officer Susan Tianen, who met him while on duty in Baghdad.

U.S. Marine Corps Major Sherri Annan, 33, commander of the Direct Support Company B, 6th Motor Transport Battalion, in April 2003 adopted a “thick-furred, sheep-dog/shepherd mix,” said *Augusta Chronicle* staff writer Johnny Edwards. A Marine reserve call-up, Annan in civilian life works for the Midland SPCA in Midland, Texas. She named the dog Chesty, and planned to take him back to Texas.

“Marines sitting under a camouflage net with a puppy frolicking on the ground or a bird sitting in a cage have become a regular sight at camps and supply stations,” Edwards wrote, also mentioning Private First Class Aaron Edwards, 20, of Chatanooga, and Lance Corporal Bryan Tecklenburg, 22, of Fishkill, New York, who found and kept a pair of parakeets.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 collectively adopted a puppy they named Dragon. They assigned him the unofficial rank of private, then twice promoted him for biting officers.

The first Iraqi dog known to have reached the U.S. was a nine-year-old arthritic German shepherd named Yo-ge. In April 2003 Sergeant 1st Class William Gillette of Clarksville, Tennessee, assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group, saw two men holding Yo-ge while a third man beat the dog with a metal rod. Gillette handcuffed the men, took Yo-ge, and enlisted his help on guard duty. With the help of a Special Forces medic, Gillette obtained the requisite vaccinations and health certificate to fly Yo-ge to New York City. Former Special Forces

member Chris Cornelius met the plane and took Yo-ge to his home in Royal Oak, Michigan, until Gillette was able to reclaim him. The Royal Oak Fire Department and a local realtor helped to cover Yo-ge’s expenses. Veterinarian Jack Wright treated his injuries without charge.

Soon thereafter, Army Staff Sergeant Jason Cowart of Fort Hood, Texas, rescued a puppy who rode with him in a Humvee on patrol. Naming the puppy Ratchet, Cowart sent him home to the U.S. in May 2003 with help from John Walsh of the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Fluffy, the German shepherd recipient of the July/August 2003 Lewyt Award for Heroic and Compassionate Animals, joined the Third Group, Special Forces, Alpha Company, Third Battalion, after Kurdish soldiers rescued him from abuse by Iraqis and wondered if the U.S. unit could use a guard dog. Trained by Sergeant Russell Joyce, Fluffy twice distinguished himself in firefights. Appeals by the North Shore Animal League America, U.S. War Dogs Association president Ron Aiello, and 32 U.S. Senators won Fluffy official recognition as an honorary working military dog, entitled to military transportation to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

U.S. Navy electrician’s mate second class Sean Turpie, assigned temporarily to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, met Iraq Jack when the puppy’s mother ran off with one of Turpie’s boots during a lull between firefights at Umm Qsar. Turpie saved Iraq Jack from British soldiers who were ordered to shoot strays, then found a helicopter pilot who flew the dog to Bahrain. From there, Turpie managed to bring Iraq Jack home to Oceanside, California. There Iraq Jack debuted by making a promotional appearance for the North County Humane Society.

By then the heavy fighting had

(continued on page 11)

# No More Homeless Pets Conference

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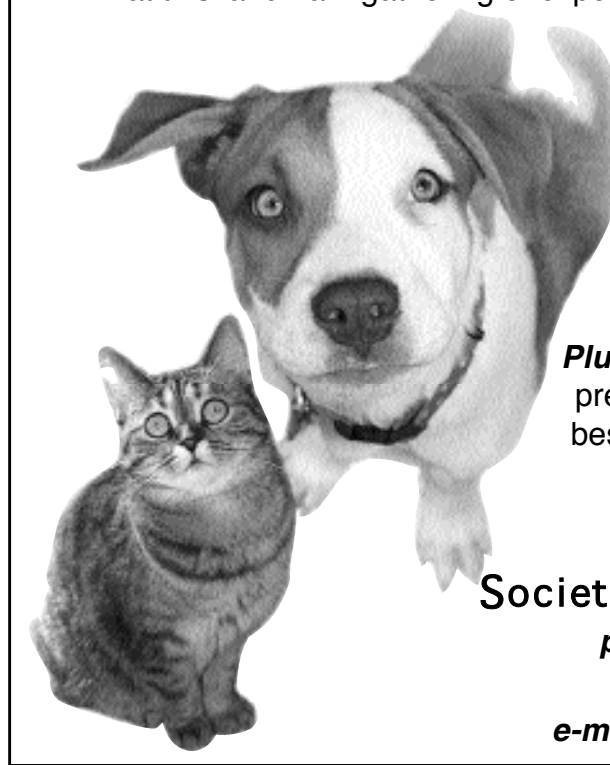
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- March 1 - 5 Caring for Senior Cats and Dogs**  
Deborah Workman of The Sanctuary for Senior Dogs and Judah Battista, manager of Cat World at Best Friends, will offer advice on health care, sheltering issues, and finding good homes for older pets.
- March 8 - 12 Daily Shelter Operations**  
How do you establish effective policies? Handle a crisis? Hire good help? Denise Deisler of the Richmond SPCA will answer your questions about managing a shelter.
- March 15 - 19 Animal Rights Issues in Animal Welfare**  
How does our work in animal welfare relate to animal rights? Kim Sturla of Animal Place and Susan Hall of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights will offer their insights.
- March 22 - 26 Facing Public Relations Challenges**  
Lynn Spivak of Maddie’s Fund and Barbara Williamson of Best Friends will offer advice about getting media attention for your organization.
- March 29 - April 2 Making the Most of Your Resources**  
How can you get the biggest bang for your buck? Nathan Winograd of Tompkins County SPCA will answer your questions on making the most of your resources.

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## G.I. pets called “biosecurity risk” *(from page 11)*

ended, and the U.S. military began to enforce Department of Defense General Order 1-A, ordaining that military personnel may not keep pets or mascots while on duty or on property under military command—and may not even feed either wild or domestic animals except as ordered in the line of duty.

Among the last soldiers’ dogs known to have reached the U.S. was A.J., adopted by National Guard medic Paula Worries, 21. Worries sent him to her parents, Pete and Lynn Worries of Highland, Indiana, in October 2003, via Kuwait, after he was injured by a feral dog pack.

Sergeants First Class Bill Ford and Mark Alfonso of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry, were unsuccessful in their efforts to rescue a black puppy named Apache. In September 2003 Apache drew a death sentence after biting an officer. Members of the unit dumped Apache 10 miles away rather than shoot him, but he made his way back in three days. Maggie Ford, wife of Bill Ford, told *Orlando Sentinel* staff writer Roger Roy that the soldiers finally had Apache killed by lethal injection just before Thanksgiving 2003, and that the whole unit was depressed.

“We get three to six calls or e-mails a week from soldiers, fathers, mothers, wives and siblings trying to find out how to get a dog from Iraq to the U.S.,” WSPA U.S. office director Laura Salter recently told Ron Harris of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

WSPA assembled a brochure to help soldiers cut the red tape involved. Apart from the military rule against mascots, and the difficulty of obtaining the mandatory vaccinations and health certificate, there is also the cost of arranging a commercial flight from Iraq or a neighboring nation, such as Kuwait or Bahrain.

“Pets may be shipped only when a soldier is being

shipped on permanent change of station orders,” Captain Stephen Honda of the U.S. Transportation Command explained to Harris. “When on temporary duty status, as in Iraq and Afghanistan, only working dogs may travel on Department of Defense aircraft.”

“On top of that,” reported Lisa Hoffman of the Scripps Howard news Service on February 19, “the primary route for spiriting U.S.-bound animals out of Iraq —10 hours by road across the western Iraqi desert to Jordan—is now shut. Worried about health risks, the Jordanian government is refusing to allow any more dogs in, even though the animals are there only temporarily, remain confined, and have clean bills of health.”

“With the help of soldiers from the Army’s 1st Armored division and 5th Corps, and funding from the 22nd Signal Brigade, Iraqi veterinarians recently cut the grand-opening ribbon at the Iraqi Society for Animal Welfare in central Baghdad,” American Forces Press Service specialist Chad D. Wilkerson reported on February 4. “The society, made up of military and civilian veterinarians and Iraqi officials, was formed to address the growing need for animal control in Baghdad,” Wilkerson continued.

The newly formed humane society, the first in Iraq, is headed by Baghdad Zoo assistant director Farah Murrani, DVM, assisted by U.S. Army Captain William Sumner, arts, monuments, and archives officer for the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade.

It will focus, said Murrani, on dog and cat sterilization, and on controlling rabies and leishmaniasis.

It will also take in strays and offer animals for adoption—and may become the destination of last resort for the dogs and cats whom soldiers cannot bring home.

*[Contact Military Mascots c/o Bonnie Buckley,*

## Maine lab bootlegged avian flu virus; ex-execs charged

**BANGOR**—The avian flu virus involved was H9N2, not the H5N1 strain now rampaging through Southeast Asia, nor one of the other deadly H5 or H7 strains.

Still, an avian flu virus smuggling scheme recently exposed in connection with the multi-count prosecution of three former Maine Biological Laboratories executives has scared biological security experts worldwide.

Former MBL chief financial officer Dennis H. Guerrette, 40, of Brunswick, and former MBL vice president for production Thomas C. Swieczkowski, 47, of Pittston, pleaded innocent on January 5 to conspiracy, serving as accessories after the fact to biological smuggling, and three counts each of mail fraud. Each mail fraud count carries a penalty of as much as 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000.

The third ex-MBL executive, Marjorie Evans (whose age was not stated) was charged with making false statements to investigators and violating the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act.

Former MBL lab technicians Walter Gogan, 63, and Peggy Lancaster, 47, in November 2003 pleaded guilty to related charges. Gogan admitted being an accessory after the fact, which could carry a sentence of up to 30 months in prison. Lancaster admitted to ordering staff to falsely label vaccines, carrying a possible penalty of one year in prison.

According to the indictments, MBL illegally obtained the H9N2 virus from a Saudi Arabian customer in July 1998. The customer paid MBL \$895,704 for several batches of a vaccine cultured from the virus between late 1998 and mid-1999. The MBL executives and staff under prosecution allegedly began trying to conceal evidence of the dealing later in 1999, after an informant tipped off federal officials.

Guerrette, Swieczkowski, and Evans all later left the firm.

### More events

< n m h p @ - bestfriends.org>.  
**April 25: Touched By An Animal & Cats-Are-Purr-sons-Too Benefit Luncheon**, Chicago. Info: 773-728-6336.

*(continued on page 11)*

**April 25-27: Texas Fed. of Humane Soc. conf.**, Austin. Info: 512-282-1277; <federation@austin.rr.com.

**April 26: Romania Animal Rescue Inc. charity Golf Tournament**. Clayton, Calif. Info: Rory Janes, 925-672-5908.

**May 17-19: Natl. Animal Control Assn. Conf.**, Daytona Beach, FL. Info: <naca@interserv.com>.

**May 18-19: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conf.**, Warsaw. Info: <www.icawc.org>.

**May 20-23: Caribbean Animal Welfare Conf.**, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Info: 340-719-4190 or <aostberg@pegasusfoundation.org>.

**May 23: Political training seminar**, Natl. Inst. for Animal Advocacy, Madison, Connecticut. Info: 203-453-6590, or <jlewin@igc.org>.

**June 3: Chicken Walk** protest against battery caging, Vancouver, B.C. Info: <www.chickenout.ca>.

**June 24-27: Intl. Symposium on Non-Surgical Methods for Pet Population Control**, Breckenridge, Colorado. Info: <www.vet-med.vt.edu/ACCD>.

**July 7-10: Let-Live Canada** conf., Vancouver. Info: <catbuddy@sask-tel.net> or <www.jaz-zpurr.org>.

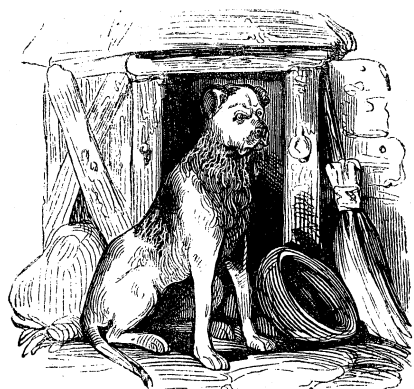
**July 8-12: Animal Rights 2004**, Wash. D.C. Info: 1-888-FARM-USA or <www.AR2004.org>.

**July 24: Political training seminar**, Natl. Inst. for Animal Advocacy, Madison, Connecticut. Info: 203-453-6590, or <jlewin@igc.org>.

**August 19-22: Conf. on Homeless Animal Management & Policy**, Orlando, Fla. Info: 516-883-7767; <www.champconference.org>.

**August 23-27: Intl. Symposium on Animal Welfare**, Beijing, China. Info: <bekoffm@spot.col-





# The

*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.*

## AMERICAN HUMANE REGROUPS AS HUMANE FARM ANIMAL CARE TAKES LEAD ON FARM CARE

**ENGLEWOOD, Colorado**—American Humane on February 10, 2004 announced the hiring of former American Red Cross interim chief executive officer Marie Belew Wheatley as president and CEO.

“At the Red Cross, Wheatley served as a national disaster response officer,” wrote American Humane public information manager Anna Gonce. “Wheatley worked with many volunteer organizations, including American Humane, to care for animals affected by disasters.”

Ten days after introducing Wheatley, American Humane announced receipt of a grant of \$50,000 from the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Education. Secured by Colorado U.S. Senators Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the money will be used “to expand existing educational programs that help students and communities learn to prepare for and care for animals during disasters,” Gonce said.

The Wheatley hiring followed extensive restructuring at American Humane that included the separate resignations in June 2003 of former president and CEO Tim O’Brien and former Film & TV Unit chief Karen Goschen, after the earlier departure of Free Farmed program founder Adele Douglass.

Longtime American Humane Film & TV Unit staff member Karen Rosa succeeded Goschen. Former Colorado Pork Producers Council executive director Elena Metro was hired in November 2003 to manage Free Farmed, which after almost a year of inactivity must rebuild consumer recognition, industry participation, and credibility with animal advocates.

Technically the current Free Farmed program is not even the same program that Douglass started, George Washington University Law School professor Michael Selmi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The original Free Farmed program, Selmi said, “was created and operated by Farm Animal Services, a

separate nonprofit corporation.” This entity terminated on August 31, 2003.

### HFAC standards

Adele Douglass, Washington D.C. office director for American Humane from 1986 to 2002, went on to found Humane Farm Animal Care. Backed by the American SPCA and the Humane Society of the U.S., as well as numerous local and regional humane organizations, HFAC by the end of 2003 was already certifying beef, dairy, egg, broiler chicken, wool/mutton, pork, and turkey producers—a wider range than any other humane certification program. On January 1, 2004, HFAC moved into larger quarters at 1043 Sterling Road, #204, Herndon, VA 20170; 703-435-3883; fax 703-435-3981.

The HFAC poultry standards are similar to those promoted from 1983 to 2002 by the now defunct Nest Eggs subsidiary of the Chicago-based Food Animal Concerns Trust. FACT was a founding participant in the annual Summit for the Animals convocation of animal rights organization heads, but activist expectations have increased enough since then that the HFAC standards have been prominently criticized by United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis, activist writer Eileen Weintraub, Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary cofounder Terry Cummings, *Farmed Animal Watch* editor Mary Finelli, and Eastern Shore Sanctuary & Education Center founder Patrice Le-Muire Jones.

“Our chickens do not have to be free-range. They can be barn-raised,” Douglass told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “but they are not raised on concrete floors. They have deep litter. For free range, there needs to be a lot of land, because field rotation has to be done for the benefit of the chickens and the environment. As for what they eat, we do not allow any avian parts. We verify that on our inspections.”

Douglass pointed out that HFAC

standards exist to encourage farmers to do whatever they can be persuaded to do here and now to ease the misery of farm animals, not to define ideal conditions. HFAC does not prohibit debeaking, for instance, because under present market conditions, with present barn designs, few farmers of commercial scale could comply. Once enough farmers meet the first basic standards, more advanced standards can be introduced.

### United Egg Producers

United Egg Producers, an industry front, meanwhile introduced an “Animal Care Certified” claim and logo. The UEP program enrolled 190 participants, but in July 2003 one participant, Colorado Natural Eggs CEO Cynthia Szymanski, accused UEP in an open letter of “false advertising and a blatant attempt to mislead egg buyers and consumers.”

Compassion Over Killing took the UEP “Animal Care Certified” program to the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus.

On November 24, 2003, the National Advertising Review Council, the first level of Council of Better Business Bureaus review process, announced that “NAD determined that the ‘animal care’ message conveyed...was misleading and that consumers concerned about the treatment of animals could reasonably take away the message that the hens who produce the eggs in cartons bearing the seal are treated to a more humane level of care than that which is afforded by the animal husbandry guidelines adopted by the UEP. Consequently, NAD recommended that the use of the ‘Animal Care Certified’ claim be discontinued.”

The UEP immediately appealed to the National Advertising Review Board, whose verdict is pending.

“The UEP program is positive,” said Douglass. “It requires increased space allowances, over time. It also has farms

inspected to make sure they meet the requirements. If the UEP label explained this, there might be less consumer confusion.”

### Other programs

Amid the controversy, Tyson Foods Inc. on November 21, 2003 announced the creation of an Office of Animal Well-Being at the corporate headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas. The Tyson office emulates the Office of Animal Well-Being formed in 2000 by IBP Inc. after mishandling of beef cattle including live skinning at the IBP slaughterhouse in Wallula, Washington was extensively exposed by the Humane Farming Association and Seattle area news media.

Also, the National Pork Board started a Swine Welfare Assurance Program, and several Colorado beef ranchers founded the American Grassfed Association, to establish and promote criteria for “grass-fed” as opposed to “grain-fed” cattle. The latter often spend most of their lives at feedlots.

Humane certification of farm products started almost a decade earlier in Britain, but the efforts of Compassion In World Farming to raise the industry standards suffered a setback in November 2003 with a court verdict that the national Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is not in violation of any law for allowing farmers to restrict the diets of broiler hens raised for breeding rather than meat. The broiler breeders are kept on rations of about a third the size given to broilers raised for meat, because otherwise the hens become so big, so fast, that they lose their ability to stand before reaching sexual maturity. If raised for meat they would be slaughtered after 41 days.

British law required that as of January 1, 2004 all egg packaging was to identify whether the eggs came from caged or free-range hens. In late December, CIWF reported, five of the 12 largest British supermarket chains were still not in compliance.

## 15-year-old puts bill to ban circuses on the ballot in a longtime Ringling stronghold

**DENVER**—Denver voters on August 10 will be asked to approve an initiative to ban circus performances, placed on the ballot through petitioning by Heather Herman, 15, and Youth Opposed to Animal Acts, a group she founded.

Herman is challenging Feld Entertainment, owners of the Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Bailey Circus, in a Ringling stronghold. “The Ringling circus has performed in Denver since 1919,” noted Cindy Brovsky of Associated Press, “The city’s Barnum neighborhood is named after circus founder P.T. Barnum, who bought 760 acres in 1882 as a winter respite for his show...City officials estimate the circus’ annual two-week stint pumps \$8 million into the local economy.”

Herman will be working against ruthless as well as influential

and affluent opposition. PETA in a lawsuit filed in May 2001 and refilled after amendments in 2002 alleged that Ringling and Feld Entertainment hired the private security firm Richlin Consultants to infiltrate and disrupt PETA from 1989 until 1992.

The spy job was allegedly directed by Clair E. George, who was CIA deputy director of operations from 1984 to 1987. Responsible for all CIA covert activities, George was convicted of lying to a Congressional subcommittee in 1987, but was pardoned in December 1992 by former President George H. Bush. Bush, father of the current President, had previously served as CIA director.

The infiltration came to light when a spy tried to sell information about the job to Progressive Animal Welfare Society founder Pat Derby, who was also an infiltration target. Derby sued Feld Entertainment in June 2000. Feld reportedly settled the case by agreeing to retire several circus elephants to the PAWS sanctuary and fund their upkeep.

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## How REPUBLICANS USE HUNTING AS A "WEDGE ISSUE"

**WASHINGTON D.C.** —With U.S. federal elections constitutionally mandated to be held on the first Tuesday of November, it is a verity that the stretch drive of any campaign will coincide with hunting season, and that close races for seats in Congress and state legislatures may be decided by whether or not hunters descend from tree stands to cast ballots.

Already the incumbent Republican majorities in the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and the greater number of statehouses are scrambling to lure hunter votes. Lacking the chance to pass legislation, their fall challengers, mostly Democrats, must rely upon image-building and promises.

Few candidates are likely to actively seek support from opponents of hunting, even though the number of active hunters in the U.S. has declined to just 13 million, representing just 4.6% of the U.S. population. Approximately 10% of the U.S. population hunted a generation ago.

The Fund for Animals on January 22 distributed a list of the 10 states in which hunting participation fell fastest from 1991 to 2001. Included were Rhode Island, down 59%; Massachusetts, down 39%; California, down 39%; Delaware, down 39%; Illinois, down 31%; Iowa, down 26%; North Carolina, down 26%; Connecticut, down 21%; Ohio, down 20%; and New Mexico, down 19%.

Eight of the 10 states favored Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore in 2000, and are expected to favor the Democratic nominee in 2004. Ohio and North Carolina are considered "swing states" that could go either way.

Urbanization and lack of places to hunt would appear to be factors in the decline of hunting in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, California, and Connecticut. Hunter access to land, season lengths, and bag limits on the most often hunted species have all increased in the other five states, which are still among the ten with the most hunters and trappers per capita.

Thus hunting is declining even in states with cultural and political environments highly favorable toward hunters.

Similar data included in the Humane Society of the U.S. publication *State of the Animals: 2003* shows that rates of hunting participation have declined since 1980 in all states except sparsely populated Montana, North Dakota, and South

Dakota. Those three states overwhelmingly favored U.S. President George W. Bush in 2000.

The partisan split between states where hunting is in steepest decline and those where it is of increasing influence is relatively new. Democratic office holders as well as Republicans have historically favored hunting. Until circa 1990 polls found little difference in hunter preference between the major parties and the voting patterns of other men in the same age group, region, and income bracket.

That changed after then-Yale University undergraduate Wayne Pacelle introduced British-style hunt sabotage in response to a 1986 deer cull at the Yale/New Haven Forest. Hired by the Fund for Animals in 1989, Pacelle directed dozens of hunt sabotages around the U.S. until 1994, when he joined HSUS as vice president for legislation.

Hunt sabotage in Britain caught on among disaffected working class young men, who for more than a decade have often turned upper class fox hunts into veritable class warfare. In the U.S., however, hunters are primarily working class males. The young men who in other demographic aspects most resemble the British hunt saboteurs are in the U.S. the young men who are most likely to hunt.

Republican wise-use strategists found in hunt sabotage the "wedge issue" they needed to capture hunter votes as a block. In 1986 only two states had anti-hunter harassment laws. By 1994, when the Republicans won control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 42 years, claiming the overwhelming majority of hunter votes, 48 states had anti-hunter harassment laws, and Hawaii later passed one. Almost all of the anti-hunter harassment laws were introduced by Republicans, often working from shared drafts.

The coalitions formed to pass anti-hunter harassment legislation kept going, funded by national pro-hunting and pro-Republican foundations. In November 1994 they began enshrining "right to hunt" clauses in state constitutions.

Then-U.S. President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, tried to counter the movement of hunter votes toward Republicans by opening more National Wildlife Refuges to hunting, fishing, and trapping than any three presidents before him. But breaching the sanctity of National Wildlife Refuges did not regain

Democratic control of the House. The legacy of the Clinton effort is that among the current 540 refuges, 311 allow hunting and 280 allow trapping, contrary to the belief of 78% of Americans that hunting on national refuges is illegal, according to a 1999 survey by Decision Research Inc.

### ALASKA

Of all state level hunting issues, the most polarized along partisan lines may be predator control in Alaska. The predation at issue is not upon livestock, as in the Lower 48 where predator control is done mainly to benefit ranchers, but rather upon wild moose and caribou. Alaskan hunters have howled for decades that heavily targeted moose and caribou populations are well below their early 20th century numbers because of competition from wolves and bears.

Fulfilling a promise uttered often by Republican candidates for the state legislature, then-Governor Walter Hickel authorized land-and-shoot wolf hunting two weeks after the November 1992 election.

His successor, Democrat Tony Knowles, suspended most of the lethal wolf control programs started under Hickel, but current Governor Frank Murkowski campaigned heavily on a pledge to reinstate wolf-culling. Upon election, Murkowski packed the Board of Game with fellow Republicans known to favor predator control.

Alaska voters approved ballot initiatives banning aircraft-assisted wolf hunting in 1996 and 2000, but the Republican-dominated state legislature in 2002 passed a bill by senator Ralph Seekins (R-Fairbanks) that in effect deputizes hunters to participate in official wolf control work. Seekins in February 2004 introduced a similar bill to promote aerial bear-hunting in the guise of predator control.

Starting in January, hunters using aircraft to kill wolves may reach targets of 40 wolves killed near McGrath and 140 killed in the Nelchina basin before the Alaska Board of Game meets from February 26 to March 10 to consider additional predator-killing measures. The McGrath hunters are allowed to strafe wolves from their aircraft. The Nelchina hunters are required to land first.

Under Board of Game review will be proposals to extend aerial wolf hunting to the entire state; eliminating the buffer zone around Denali National Park that inhibits trappers from picking off the two resident wolf packs; allowing hunters to shoot grizzly bears over bait; allowing hunters to kill mother bears and their cubs; and legalizing the sale of bear parts.

Among other items in the state-level Republican pork barrel for hunters:

- Republican-authored state constitutional amendments to enshrine a "right to hunt" cleared the Georgia senate on January 26 and the Pennsylvania house on February 9. Eleven states have adopted such amendments since 1996.

- Fifty-five of the 62 Michigan house Republicans in November 2003 approved a bill to reintroduce mourning dove hunting, banned since 1905, but previously approved by the Michigan house in 2000. The bill appeared to be dead in the Michigan senate appropriations committee in early February 2004, but senate Republican majority leader Ken Sikkema arranged a vote to transfer it to the judiciary committee, headed by dovehunting proponent Alan Cropsey.

Prominent Democrats have also recently demonstrated support of hunting, notably presidential candidate John Kerry, who shot two pheasants in a five-minute photo-op "hunt" in Iowa at Halloween 2003, and Maine Governor John Baldacci, who quickly lined up in opposition to an initiative seeking to ban bear hunting with bait, traps, or dogs. Maine Citizens for Fair Bear Hunting submitted 102,500 voters' signatures in favor of the initiative on January 27, more than twice as many as were needed to place in on the November ballot.

### POLITICAL NOTES

The January/February 2004 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported that U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney shot ducks on January 5 with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in southern Louisiana, and noted that New Orleans *Times-Picayune* writer J.E. Bourgoyne, who reported on the expedition, failed to inquire about the propriety of Cheney and Scalia fraternizing while Cheney's refusal to disclose the members of an energy policy task force that he convened is before the Supreme Court for review. That was before prominent legal ethicists overwhelmingly agreed that Scalia should withdraw from any pending case involving Cheney.

Wrote Scalia to *The New York Times*, "I do not think my impartiality could reasonably be questioned."

**Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist** told U.S. Senators who asked for a ruling that the Supreme Court does not have any formal rules or policy gov-

(continued on page 14)

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POLITICAL NOTES: KUCINICH, NADER, HILLARY CLINTON (from page 13)

erning refusal of Justices. Responded New York University law professor **Stephen Gillers**, “This has exposed a gap in the ethics rules. Scalia is the judge of his own case.”

**Dennis Kucinich** campaign spokesperson **Susan Mainzer** on January 29 announced that Kucinich, a longtime vegan, had the endorsements of 18 prominent animal advocates and environmentalists even though he was already effectively out of contention for the Democratic presidential nomination. Among those backing Kucinich were **Howard Lyman**, who with **Oprah Winfrey** successfully fought a long-running “food libel” lawsuit brought against them in 1996 by the **National Cattlemen’s Association**, after they discussed mad cow disease on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*; **Tom Regan**, author of many books about animal rights and founder of the **Culture & Animals Foundation**; **Jim Mason**, co-author with **Peter**

**Singer** of *Animal Factories*, now heading the **Two Mauds Foundation**; **Farm Sanctuary** cofounder **Lorri Bauston**; **Veda Stram**, long associated with the defunct *Animals Voice* magazine and the active <www.AnimalsVoice.com> webzine; **Lawrence Carter-Long**, now New York representative for **In Defense of Animals**; and **Mary Finelli**, editor of the *Farm Animal Watch* e-mail news digest.

**Consumer advocate Ralph Nader** 70, a longtime vegetarian, announced on February 22 that he will run for president as an independent, after polling 2.7% as the Green Party nominee in 2000. If the majority of the votes cast for Nader in either New Hampshire or Florida had gone instead to Democratic nominee Al Gore, Gore would have defeated George W. Bush in the electoral college. Instead, the votes cast for Nader enabled George W. Bush to win the electoral

vote even though Gore won the majority of votes cast.

*The New York Post* “Page Six” investigative gossip column on January 19, 2004 confirmed a rumor first published in the December 24, 2003 edition of *The New York Times* that **U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton**, wife of former **U.S. President Bill Clinton**, recently traded in a 25-year-old fur coat for a new one. *The New York Post* claimed a staff member had overheard a furrier’s wife telling an employee, “Mrs. Clinton’s coat is a sheared mink, but she is telling PETA and the press it is velvet.” Said **Feminists for Animal Rights** cofounder **Batya Bauman**, “Some of you may remember the campaign we waged against **Geraldine Ferraro** over the fur coat issue,” when Ferraro ran in 1992 for the Senate seat that Mrs. Clinton now holds. “She continued to make lame excuses for keeping her furs,” Bauman recalled, “and we worked to

Wildlife

**The Nature Conservancy**, often criticized for use of cruel tactics in killing non-native species on its holdings, in early February 2004 testified before the **Hawaii House Water, Land Use, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee** in favor of a bill to allow **USDA Wildlife Services** to shoot feral animals from the air.

**Uist Hedgehog Rescue** is again trying to rescue hedgehogs from the Western Isles off Scotland, quadrupling the bounty offered to residents for safe captures ahead of a cull funded by **Scottish Natural Heritage**. Scottish Natural Heritage considers hedgehogs to be a non-native menace to birds’ nests. UHR saved 156 hedgehogs in 2003.

**The 15-nation European Union on January 19 suspended imports of grizzly bear trophies from British Columbia**, six months after warning the B.C. and Canadian governments that scientific review indicates the present hunting rules are insufficient to protect grizzlies from extirpation. The B.C. government estimates that 17,000 grizzlies live in the province, but other investigators believe there are as few as 4,000. The EU ban is largely symbolic, as only seven of 228 grizzlies killed by hunters in B.C. in 2003 were killed by EU residents.

TRIBUTES

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PETSMART

## Cockfighters spread killer flu through S.E. Asia (from page 1)

WHO spokesperson Bob Dietz unequivocally told Keith Bradsher of *The New York Times* on January 26.

“The path of the disease appears to follow the north/south winter migration pattern of birds such as swallows, plovers, terns, and egrets, from as far north as Siberia to Australia in the south,” added *South China Morning Post* correspondent Cheung Chi-Fai on January 27—disregarding that H5N1 is not yet known to have reached Australia.

“You have birds from all over the world coming to Asia. They stop for a rest, and they come into contact with other birds and other animals and pass on their viruses,” explained Chinese University microbiology professor John Tam Siu-lun.

But Mai Po Nature Reserve conservation manager Lew Young discounted the speculation. “If wintering birds are responsible for the spread [of H5N1], we should have seen it happen already, as they have been arriving since September last year,” Young told Cheung Chi-Fai.

### Bad vaccines

*New Scientist* correspondent Debora MacKenzie was another early skeptic. “The currently circulating H5N1, like the related one that caused an outbreak in Penfold Park, Hong Kong, in 2003, is unique in that it kills ducks as well as a variety of other birds,” wrote MacKenzie. “This might make it less likely that wild birds are mainly responsible for carrying the virus over long distances.”

But MacKenzie in the February 11 edition of *New Scientist* focused on failed agricultural vaccinations.

“Earl Brown, a flu virologist at the University of Ottawa in Canada, compared the genetic sequence of the virus isolated from a Vietnamese person who died of bird flu in January 2004 to other gene sequences,” MacKenzie reported,

“Five of the eight [DNA] strands were 96% to 99% identical to an H5N1 flu virus found in duck meat smuggled from eastern China and intercepted in Taiwan in 2003. The remaining three were 98% the same as sequences obtained from a goose in Hong Kong in 2000.

“Geese and ducks in Hong Kong are imported from large, intensive poultry producers in Guangdong, China,” MacKenzie reminded. This is where H5N1 is believed to have originated each time it has appeared.

Brown’s findings strengthened earlier reports from scientists at the National Institute of Animal Health in Japan, who found a close relationship among the Vietnamese H5N1 virus, a version found in a Guangdong goose in 1996, and a version that in 2003 killed a Hong Kong man who had recently visited Guangdong.

Flu virologist Richard Webby, of St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, told MacKenzie that, “We have a bucket of evolution going on... H5 is circulating fairly widely somewhere, under some kind of unusual selective pressure.”

“The explosion in variation,” MacKenzie wrote, “coincides with the period during which Chinese farmers have practiced widespread vaccination of chickens against flu. In 2003, scientists who developed an improved flu vaccine for poultry, including Robert Webster of St Jude’s, concluded that such vaccination “may be a serious problem for human pandemic preparedness,” because the vaccines “might mask disease signs while allowing the birds to continue to shed virus.”

Therefore, Webster *et al* suggested in the journal *Virology*, “persistence of virus infection in the presence of a flock immunity may contribute to increased virus evolution.”

The failed vaccination theory was reinforced a week later when the *Shanghai Daily* reported that 23-year-old college graduate Li Zhongcheng and his wife, of central Henan province, had been arrested for selling 944 bottles of homebrewed avian flu-related vaccines, of dubious quality, since 2001.

They were almost certainly not the only people with similar businesses. Hundreds may have done the same thing, throughout Southeast Asia, where regulation of the pharmaceutical industry is notoriously lax.

Bad vaccines produced for years in relatively trivial amounts by scattered individuals could explain why so many chickens appeared to be so suddenly vulnerable, but could not fully explain why so many fell ill in so many places and so short a time.

*South China Morning Post* Guangzhou correspondent Leu Siew Ying on January 31 asserted, without quoting any experts, that free range poultry farms “could well be the weak link in Guangdong’s defense against bird flu.”

Allowing chickens to range freely, Leu Siew Ying argued, means “they are exposed to migratory birds and cross-infection from diseased birds on nearby farms. Quarantine measures look impressive on paper and are being implemented at large farms,” Leu Siew Ying wrote, “but there is little such security at smaller farms.”

Leu Siew Ying continued that biosecurity was further jeopardized when small-scale poultry farmers sold manure as fertilizer, ignoring that manure from large-scale Southeast Asia poultry farms is distributed as fertilizer and pig and cattle feed in vastly greater volume, with correspondingly greater likelihood of becoming a disease vector.

“I am disgusted by academia, industry and government trying to blame wildlife for problems caused by intensive agriculture,” responded Farmed Animal Watch electronic news digest editor Mary Finelli in an e-mail to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Farmed animals are bred for production traits at the expense of their immune systems,” Finelli continued, “and then are put into prime disease generating conditions. To blame H5N1 on wild birds [and free-range chickens] when megatons of manure from factory farms is being spread all over cropland is a classic case of blaming the victims.”

### Crows & pigeons

As suspicion of wild birds intensified, and H5N1 appeared at a duck farm about 30 miles away, Shanghai barred bird-watchers from three local nature reserves.

Singapore environment ministry spokesperson Satish Appoo told Emma Ross of Associated Press on January 29 that his department would escalate efforts to kill non-native Indian house crows, claiming to have already reduced the crow population “from 120,000 in 2001 to about 30,000.”

Thai permanent secretary for natural resources and the environment Plodprasop

Suraswadi told the Thai News Agency that while the risk of contracting avian flu from wild birds was low, citizens should refrain from feeding wild birds, including sparrows and pigeons.

On January 30 deputy Bangkok governor Prapan Kitisin, whose administration tried unsuccessfully in 2003 to rid the central city of dogs, followed Singapore in announcing a mass pigeon cull. Kitisan also ordered that guano be washed off the awnings covering outdoor food vendors’ stalls and vehicles.

Not so much as one speck of bird dirt actually associated pigeons with H5N1, but the panic turned in their direction anyway.

On February 4, the China State General Administration of Sport suspended all training, races, exchanges, and sales of homing pigeons between China, Thailand, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan. The Beijing Homing Pigeon Association ordered more frequent disinfection and immediate clearance of excrement and feathers. The Shanghai Racing Pigeon Association grounded all 400,000 local homing pigeons. The Beijing association grounded more than a million.

February would usually be the peak pigeon training time, in preparation for the pigeon racing season, which begins in March.

More than 23,000 households in Beijing and 8,000 in Shanghai keep racing pigeons. Nationally, the China Association of Carrier Pigeons claims 300,000 members.

“An official surnamed Yang with the bird flu control team under the Agriculture Ministry said researchers had yet to develop a vaccine for pigeons, which should be different from those used for consumer poultry at least in dosage,” the Xinhua News Agency said.

“Yang said Beijing had reported no pigeon infections and there was no scientific proof to support the possibility of virus transmission from pigeons to humans. However, many advocate the eradication of pigeons because of the large amounts of excrement they produce,” the Xinhua News Agency acknowledged.

In other words, pigeon-haters seized their opportunity, irrespective of the evidence.

In Thailand, where the pigeon-blaming began, pigeons were officially exonerated

(continued on page 16)

# Cockfighters & flu (from page 15)

on February 17. “None of the pigeons that fly over Bangkok’s skies have been found to be infected with bird flu,” natural resources and environment minister Prapat Panyachatraksa told *The Nation*.

## Storks & cranes

Storks and cranes, on the other hand, were demonstrably afflicted. They were also falling dead. But while they could potentially carry H5N1, experts observed, there was no reason to believe that they already had.

H5N1 “is a major threat to a number of endangered bird species and I fear it could get a lot worse,” acknowledged ornithologist Chris Cook to *South China Morning Post* Toyko correspondent Julian Ryall. “Right now, 80% of East Asia’s white-necked cranes are wintering in Japan,” Cook added. “It’s just a matter of weeks before the spring migrations start, and there’s no way anyone can stop these birds from flying from one country to the next.”

“Test results showed three migratory Asian open-billed storks that died in Nakhon Sawan had H5N1,” wrote Ranjana Wangvipula of the *Bangkok Post* on February 14, “but authorities said it was unlikely they had carried this virulent strain from abroad.

“Hundreds of open-billed storks have died at Bung Boraphet swamp in Nakhon Sawan and Bangkok’s Lat Krabang district,” Ranjana continued, “where poultry infected with bird flu were found. An official said the mass death of storks had prompted the agriculture ministry to demand that up to 20,000 migratory open-billed storks be killed.”

Nakhon Sawan forestry management chief Vorawit Chue-suwan told Supamart Kasem of the *Bangkok Post* that killing the remaining storks would be the only option if the carcasses proved to be carrying H5N1, but warned that the job would be difficult, as the storks would resist capture.

“A study is needed to find if the storks caught the disease from chickens,” Thai natural resources and environment minister Praphat Panyachatrak said.

Praphat refused to order that wild storks be culled, Ranjana said, “without sound scientific proof that the storks were carriers of the disease.”

Praphat pointed out that the open-billed storks in Thailand migrate from Bangladesh, where avian flu outbreaks have occurred, but not involving H5N1 so far.

“We’d better tell Bangladesh to keep a close watch on the birds on their return,” Praphat added. The storks normally return to Bangladesh in May.

## Caged songbirds

Recalling the Chinese bird purges of the Mao tse Tung era, when sparrows were wrongly blamed for nine years of famine, Wildlife Conservation Society vice president of wildlife health Robert Cook on February 3 warned that, “In almost all cases, eradication schemes are not cost-efficient or effective means to reduce disease spread, compared to health education, sanitation, and controlling animal movement.”

Cook, WCS field veterinary program director William Karesh, and WCS director of hunting and wildlife trade issues Elizabeth Bennett recommended that wild bird markets should be permanently closed throughout Asia, and that airlines should refuse to carry “large numbers of animals over large distances for commercial markets. The European Union has already banned the import of pet birds from Asian countries where avian flu has been detected,” the WCS experts said.

“The wild bird trade in Asia is conducted on an extremely large scale, and is highly fluid,” explained Bennett. “The one common theme is that wild birds are caught, sold and transported in very large numbers, and that effective controls, both in terms of laws and enforcement of those laws, are currently weak across much of Asia.”

Added Karesh, “The birds are caged in stressful, unnatural and often unhygienic conditions during transport and in the markets, where they stand beak to beak with both wild and domestic birds, and are handled by humans—all providing the ideal conditions for transmission of disease.”

The WCS team noted that according to recent field investigations, “In Bangkok’s weekend market, on 25 weekends in one year alone, 70,000 birds representing 276 species from Asia, Australia, Africa and South America were sold. In a single market in Java,

Indonesia, between half a million and 1.5 million wild birds are sold each year.”

Philippine provincial officials began warning the public to avoid contact with migratory storks from China circa February 1.

When a crackdown on caged bird trafficking came, of sorts, it consisted of a February 9 announcement by Manila airport animal quarantine office chief Davinio Catbagan that 353 lovebirds imported from the Netherlands by way of Thailand on a Kuwait Airways flight had been gassed and burned.

Imported without proper permits, the lovebirds never left the aircraft, but could have become infected when the doors were opened in Thailand, Catbagan said.

Wild bird trafficking elsewhere in Southeast Asia drew almost no notice.

But Kasetsart University veterinary teaching hospital faculty member Kaset Sutasha reinforced the Wildlife Conservation society warning.

“The outbreak could be caused by the smuggling of birds from places such as China and other countries bordering Thailand,” Kaset told *The Nation*, adding that “The movement of fighting cocks, both in and out of the country, might also be a cause.

“We have found a large number of migratory birds who were poisoned or shot by people who were frightened of the spread of bird flu,” Kaset continued, but none of the dead birds that Kaset examined had H5N1.

Added Wildlife Conservation Society training and education coordinator Petch Manopawitr, “Normally migratory birds frequent wetlands, where you wouldn’t site a poultry farm.”

## Sparrows

On February 12 Guangxi “senior animal infection official” Bi Qiang and duck farmer Huang Shengde predictably suggested that sparrows, the all-purpose Chinese avian villains, might have infected the ducks near Dingdang who were the first birds in China officially identified as ill with H5N1.

“This is the first time a Chinese official has pointed to a possible reason for Dingdang’s infection,” wrote Jason Leow of the *Straits Times* China bureau.

But Agence France Press revealed the same day that, “A Vietnamese dealer of fighting cocks has tested positive for bird flu.”

Truong Trong Hoang, deputy director of health information and education in Ho Chi Minh City, said that the 22-year-old man was admitted to the city Hospital for Tropical Disease on February 6. He later died.

Grudgingly, officials throughout Southeast Asia began to recognize that gamecocks were perhaps the most important of all vectors in transmitting H5N1 not only from place to place but also—since gamecocks often are kept in houses with humans, to safeguard them against theft and tampering— from birds to people.

## Finally gamecocks

While pigeons were purged despite the absence of any evidence that they carried either H5N1 or any other avian flu, gamecocks were not totally ignored. Technically, all poultry were included from the beginning in the Thai effort to purge H5N1.

Yet even as other birds were killed by the thousands, Bangkok cock breeders were unofficially allowed a grace period of several days to get their birds out of the city or at least out of sight.

Thai agriculture minister Somsak Thepsuthin claimed that his department had no authority to kill gamecocks.

“Only if the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry agrees to the culling of birds can we kill them,” Somsak said.

“My ministry can deal only with birds who are not infected,” environment minister Prapat Panyachatraksa responded.

After days of buck-passing, and after receiving direct orders from prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to kill all chickens within three miles of Bangkok epidemic areas, Somsak personally led several seizures of fighting cocks on January 30.

“We will not let them do this. There is no proof these cocks have bird flu. We are going to eat them. That is better than letting them be suffocated,” cock breeder Surat Boonchea, 64, told *Straits Times* Thailand correspondent Nirmal Ghosh.

Other gamecock breeders reportedly did eat about 10 of their birds in public protest.

But at Surat Boonchea’s facility all



Gamecock. (Carroll Cox)

that happened, Ghosh wrote, was that “A Buddhist monk placed incense sticks in the cane baskets and gave a last blessing to the more than two dozen fighting cocks” who were taken from Surat to be killed. Seventy-seven gamecocks in all were seized that day and hurled into an incinerator.

Somsak told Jintana Panyaavudh of *The Nation* that he felt pain at having to kill his own favorite pet fighting cock, to set a personal example of obedience to the law.

“In my life I have never killed any animals,” said deputy prime minister Somkid Jatusripitak, after killing his son’s pet bantams. “I felt very terrible and kept thinking that I should not have raised the bantams. However, I told myself that the chickens had to be culled to save people’s lives.”

Around Phitsanulok, an epi-center of H5N1 outbreaks 600 miles north of Bangkok, nearly 4,000 cock breeding families resisted compliance with cull orders.

“Apparently in favor of local people, livestock officials in Phitanulok have not asked police to set up a checkpoint to prevent cocks from being smuggled out. The officials have not contacted the army to ask soldiers to catch the cocks,” the *Bangkok Post* reported.

Amid the governmental deference to cock breeders, almost no one other than Thai Animal Guardians Association chair Roger Lohanon ever mentioned in print that most cockfighting is technically illegal in Thailand, under a 1982 Interior Ministry regulation adopted to endorce the 1935 Gambling Act. The 1982 regulation limited cockfighting to about 70 then established pits in Chonburi, Nonthaburi, and parts of the Thai northeast.

The H5N1 pandemic should have slammed the brakes on efforts led by parliamentary committee for agriculture leader Kamsung Propakornkaewrat to repeal the 1982 regulation. Yet even as the virus spread in late November, Kamsung led a seminar on expanding cockfighting, and told Lohanon to shut up when Lohanon appeared, uninvited, to address the hostile audience.

Cockfighting and transportation of gamecocks were at last suspended nationwide in Thailand on February 3.

Yukol Limlaemthong, director-general of the Thailand Livestock Development Department, on February 10 told Saowalak Pumyaem of *The Nation* that all fighting cocks would soon have to be registered and certified, and would have to be raised in confinement.

“Controlling the epidemic in the capital is now beyond the ministry’s competence due to strong opposition from owners of fighting cocks, who keep hiding their birds away from livestock officials,” deputy agriculture minister Newin Chidchob told Kultida

Samabuddhi of the *Bangkok Post*.

On February 17, *The Nation* reported, Chidchob exasperatedly ordered his staff to cull all fowl within 14 newly declared “red zone” epidemic areas within three days, or else. Chidcob said that fighting cocks were the H5N1 carriers in 13 of the 14 areas.

One of the new “red zone” areas was in Roi Et province, previously unaffected. “We’ve found that one fighting cock contracted the disease and later learned that its owner in fact smuggled it out of a controlled area to avoid culling,” Chidcob told Uamdao Noikorn of Associated Press.

## Cockers fight cops

Indonesia, which may have even more illegal cockfighting than Thailand, had already attempted a crackdown of sorts even before acknowledging that a seven-month losing battle against a “Newcastle” outbreak was in truth an attempt to stop H5N1.

Official reluctance to cull chickens in Indonesia after the H5N1 epidemic was recognized was widely attributed to the influence of major poultry producers, but major producers in other nations were among the first to start culling, in hopes of halting avian flu before the flu halted commerce in chicken meat and eggs.

Of perhaps greater concern to Indonesian authorities, especially on Bali, the hardest-hit island, was rioting that erupted on January 23 in Denpasar, after Commander Agus Sugianto led a police raid on a cockfight at the Dalem Temple.

Cockfighting persists on Bali, Papua, Maluku, and some other islands in the thin disguise of being a Hindu ritual called Tabuh Rah.

Cockfighters and spectators told *Jakarta Post* correspondent Wahyoe Boediwardhana that, “Without prior warning, the police fired three shots before storming into the hall, screaming loudly while beating and kicking everybody,” allegedly seizing the gamblers’ money and cellular telephones.

After one cockfighting enthusiast “managed to scale the temple tower and sound the alarm,” Boediwardhana wrote, “hundreds of villagers surrounded the temple and started throwing stones at the police,” who “hurriedly left with at least 28 confiscated cocks.”

Four truckloads of cockfighters drove to the Denpasar police station to confront Senior Commander Komang Udayana. Udayana admitted ordering the raid and claimed the confiscations of money and telephones were to preserve evidence of betting.

Leading a province and a nation often torn by ethnic and regional strife, the governments of Bali and Indonesia undoubted-

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## H5N1 pandemic rages--worst factory farm disaster (from

Poultry consumption in Hong Kong fell from 150,000 birds per day to fewer than 35,000—less because consumers were scared, however, than because poultry imports were suspended and 35,000 birds per day is all that local farmers produce. Vietnam suspended all poultry sales and transport.

“In the past when life was hard,” Guangzhou People’s Political Consultative Conference chair Chen Kaizhi lamented to *South China Morning Post* reporter Leu Siew Ying, “we hoped for a disease among our chickens so that we got to eat chicken. When a chicken dropped its head, we said, ‘Good, now we get to eat the chicken.’ Now people are not allowed to eat diseased chicken.”

Chinese Deputy Minister of Health Qiang Gao, a vegetarian for 30 years, and perhaps the most prominent vegetarian in China, joined other national leaders in eating chicken on television to help reassure the panic-stricken public. Partly, the televised meals were meant to maintain the public appetite for chicken, as U.S. news media reported. But they were also intended to help subdue vigilante action against healthy chickens and other birds, both domestic and wild.

Mobs led by poorly educated local officials were reportedly responsible for some poultry slaughters that were much more likely

to spread H5N1 than prevent it. The killing at times resembled the bird purges waged from 1957 to 1962, when former dictator Mao tse Tung blamed sparrows for famines that killed more than 40 million Chinese people.

An erroneous report from Vietnam that H5N1 had spread to pigs spread the mayhem. Quoting “Ling Long, an official from the animal husbandry office in the Guangxi border city of Dongxing,” Agence France-Presse reported that on January 17 local authorities burned alive 800 pigs smuggled in from Vietnam.

The *Guangzhou Daily* played up reports about chicken culls, Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen observed on February 2. Yet “At Guangzhou’s Chatou Wildlife & Fowl Wholesale Market,” Bodeen wrote, “live ducks, geese, pigeons, and doves were still being sold, squeezed into cages beside rabbits, cats, and dogs—all considered delicacies in southern China. Vehicles entered and left without being cleaned or sprayed with disinfectant.”

The only facility in China capable of isolating the H5N1 virus to confirm infections was reportedly the National Bird Flu Reference Laboratory in Harbin, near the Russian border—almost as far from Guangdong as one could fly without leaving China.

### Panic in India

Panic poultry killing erupted in India during the first week of February without any clear evidence of an avian flu outbreak. To that point, India was the only nation bordering on China to the north that had not been hit. Chickens are the animals most often eaten in India, as elsewhere, but about half of all Indians are vegetarian, and India has few large poultry complexes. In addition, India has conspicuously less cockfighting than other southern Asian nations.

The first Indian reports of chicken deaths due to an unknown flu-like illness came from 20 villages in the Dhubri district of Assam, bordering on Bangladesh, said BBC Calcutta correspondent Subir Bhaumik. According to Bhaumik, Dhubri district com-

missioner Preshanta Barua estimated that 10,000 chickens had died in 10 days.

Three days later, however, Barua told Sushanta Talukdar of *The Hindu* that only 1,000 chickens died, and just 11 of the 800 chickens kept at six farms in Dhubri proper.

“We might implement the state Prevention of Cruelty Against Animals Act against any poultry farmer who would kill large number of birds, which could send a wrong message,” West Bengal state director of animal resources Swapan Dasgupta told Nirmalaya Bannerjee of *The Times of India*.

This was just before word spread that workers had apparently buried alive about 12,000 chickens at Alphonsus’ Social & Agricultural Centre in Kurseong, West Bengal. Opened in 1964, the site was among India’s first factory farms. Investigators found no hint of avian flu among the carcasses.

The culling procedures in most afflicted nations were comparably crude. Live burial using heavy equipment was the most common killing method. Live burning, most openly practiced in southern China and Bali, Indonesia, was next most often reported. Some Vietnamese farmers locked their chickens in sheds to starve. Only Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore were able to gas all suspect birds. All three nations are surrounded by water and were therefore somewhat more isolated from H5N1 than mainland neighbors.

Vietnam and Thailand each killed about 36 million chickens, Indonesia killed 10 million, and China killed five million.

The poorest Southeast Asian nations killed far fewer, not necessarily because they had less disease. Keepers whose flocks represented most of their resources often tried to hide birds. Even where compensation for culled birds was paid, it was usually just a fraction of value, and allegations flew about officials demanding kickbacks.

Laos had killed 40,000 chickens through February 12 at farms surrounding Vientiane, the capital city.

Cambodia killed 25,000 chickens, ducks, and swans. Farmers living along the main roads from Vietnam tried to ward off

## Australia escapes H5N1--officially

**MELBOURNE**—Australia has avoided H5N1 and other avian flu outbreaks, so far, but has had some recent scares.

“Our rescue team did a big broiler chicken rescue in January,” Patty Mark of Animal Liberation Victoria told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We got 55 birds out,” 40 of them later euthanized due to illness and injury, “and there were masses of dead bodies in the shed,” Mark recounted. “All the dead birds we witnessed were unusual. We thought this guy was just a bad operator and failed to collect them daily, as some were very rotten. One TV station grabbed an exclusive on the story,” Mark said, “then sat on it for two weeks when avian flu hit [in Southeast Asia] and then dropped it.”

Most of the Animal Liberation Victoria rescuers were older than typical H5N1 victims, who tend to be under 20.

However, said Mark, “Seven out of nine of us on that rescue had the usual sore throat, sinus problems, and sore eyes afterward,” from the filthy air they breathe inside poultry barns.

H5N1 with scarecrows. “The scarecrows are not intended to deter birds,” explained culture ministry spokesperson Hang Soth. “They are part of a long tradition of scarecrows intended to ward off disease or thieves.”

Myanmar denied having any H5N1. Outside observers were skeptical.

### Conflicting values

“Mass culling always raises a conflict between speedy dispatch and humane slaughter,” observed Compassion In World Farming chief executive Joyce D’Silva. “The appallingly rough treatment of these chickens is a welfare scandal,” D’Silva said.

Changkil Park, founder of the South Korean organization Voice-4-Animals, objected soon after the culling started that the Korean agriculture ministry “failed to provide an adequate system and guidelines to deal with

(continued on page 18)



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# How the U.S. kills sick & “spent” chickens

**SAN DIEGO**—Calls to television stations and letters to newspapers indicate that Americans were mostly shocked by coverage of live burial and sometimes live incineration of chickens in Southeast Asia to stop the spread of avian flu H5N1—but live burial of chickens is also common here, to dispose of “spent” hens and surplus male chicks from laying hen “factories.”

The U.S. egg industry kills about 170 million spent hens and as many as 235 million male chicks per year. In 2002 about 111 million spent hens were killed in U.S. and Canadian slaughterhouses. Nearly 59 million hens, along with the male chicks, were killed by other means. That number is expected to increase by about 21 million in 2004, warned *Poultry Times* writer Barbara Olenik in September 2003.

“The USDA purchased approximately 30 million spent hens a year through their canned boned and diced chicken purchase programs, making it the largest market for spent hens,” Olenick explained. “However, in July 2003 the USDA announced new specifications that fowl producers must meet...due to complaints of bone fragments and injuries to consumers in the National School Lunch Program.”

United Egg Producers estimated that the inability of many producers to meet the new specs would leave “13 million to 15 million spent hens annually without a market.”

Earlier, Olenick wrote, the Valley Fresh slaughterhouse in Water Valley, Mississippi, closed in anticipation of the new specs, leaving 22 million to 25 million spent hens per year to be killed elsewhere.

When there are no slaughter markets, explained *Animal Liberation* author Peter Singer and DawnWatch animal advocacy news-group host Karen Dawn in a December 2003 commentary for the *Los Angeles Times*, “Spent hens” are often packed into containers and bulldozed. Or they are gassed using carbon dioxide distributed unevenly among tens of thousands of birds. It is common for them to die slow, painful deaths.”

It is also increasingly common for spent hens to be killed by live maceration, long the standard means of killing surplus chicks. The remains are fed to pigs, cattle, or other chickens. The chicks are pulverized after as many as will fit are shoved into bags by “chick sexers,” who are typically low-paid and poorly educated young women working in an assembly-line environment.

Job turnover, absenteeism, psychological trauma, and substance abuse are common among chick-sexers, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has been told by meat industry union representatives, who have found in trying to organize them that the instability of the workforce is as formidable an obstacle as the considerable employer hostility to unions.

“A macerator is just a fancy name for something that crushes and kills baby chickens. It is ugly and inhumane,” Vermont veterinarian Peggy Larsen told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Not even mentioned in the current edition of the *American Veterinary Medical Association Report on Euthanasia* (2000), live maceration is nonetheless among the generally approved and recommend-

ed methods of killing both spent hens and surplus chicks, according to guidelines posted by the South Dakota State University Department of Animal and Range Sciences.

“Carbon dioxide delivered via a mobile killing unit with an on-board delivery system, cervical dislocation, or instant maceration using a specially designed high-speed grinder, are acceptable on-farm slaughter methods when properly performed,” says the SDSU poultry management web site, in a statement jointly attributed to Joy Mench of the University of California at Davis and Paul B. Siegel of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Mensch, director of the U.C. Davis Center for Animal Welfare, more cautiously endorses live maceration at the CAW web site: “Maceration in a high-speed grinder results in rapid death, and is considered a humane method for disposing of young chicks and embryonated eggs. Only grinders specifically designed for disposal of poultry, which have blades that turn at 5000 or more RPM, should be used...The grinder should be properly maintained and must not be overloaded, as birds may be incompletely macerated under these circumstances.”

## AVMA inaction

The absence of specific AVMA guidelines on live maceration and a broad exemption included in the AVMA *Report on Euthanasia* for “mass euthanasia” in event of emergencies are at issue in continuing controversy over efforts to contain an outbreak of Newcastle disease that spread from fighting cocks to laying hens slightly more than a year ago in southern California.

“When a horrified neighbor saw ranchers cramming live chickens into a wood chipper, animal advocates thought they had a winning [anti-cruelty] case. Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns led the push for prosecution,” wrote Peter Singer and Karen Dawn.

“Unfortunately, a San Diego deputy district attorney found no criminal intent by the ranchers. She concluded that they ‘were just following professional advice’ from two veterinarians. The ranchers named Gregg Cutler as one,” Singer and Dawn continued. “Cutler denies directly authorizing the use of a chipper, but says he has no problem with it. He is on the animal welfare committee of the AVMA.”

Said Cutler to Jia-Rui Chong of the *Los Angeles Times*, “If it is done properly with correct equipment, it is a humane way of disposing of birds in an emergency.”

United Poultry Concerns has been demanding since March 2003 that Cutler be removed from the AVMA animal welfare committee, and unsuccessfully asked the American Association of Avian Pathologists to rescind an award it gave Cutler for “outstanding contributions to avian medicine.”

AVMA executive vice president Bruce Little said at the AVMA web site that, “It is absolutely absurd and ludicrous to believe that any veterinary medical association...could or would advocate throwing live chickens into a wood chipper.” But Little has defended Cutler.

*Veterinary Practice News* reporter Lori Luechtefeld wrote in

January 2004 that according to Little, “The AVMA is gathering facts concerning the complaints” against Cutler, “and will hold a judicial hearing no earlier than February. If acquitted, Cutler will remain on the animal welfare board. If Cutler’s AVMA membership is suspended or revoked, he will be removed from the welfare committee. If Cutler is censured or put on probation, it will be up to the judicial committee to decide whether he remains on the welfare committee.”

Peggy Larsen has little hope that the AVMA hearing will result in anything good for chickens.

“The AVMA does not address the treatment of animals in factory farms,” Larsen reminded **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “They support battery caging hens and keeping sows in gestation crates. They have had many chances to change their policies,” Larsen continued. “For years, [Albany, New York veterinarian] Holly Cheever has presented scientific evidence that forced molting causes the needless death of many hens at egg factories. I have twice presented information on the injuries and deaths inflicted on calves during rodeo roping. The Animal Welfare Committee has never responded. This year the American Association of Equine Practitioners, under the AVMA umbrella, gave their annual humane award to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.”

Still, Larsen believes the effort to hold Cutler responsible is worthwhile. “Because of the wood chipper killing,” Larsen said, “there are now many more people who know what happens to spent hens. It was the first time I heard about it,” she acknowledged, even though she was once a USDA meat inspector.

While the woodchipper furor raged, Ohio authorities lauded a series of business-as-usual resolutions of problems involving spent hens at Buckeye Egg Farms.

Begun in 1982 as Agri-General Inc. by German egg baron Anton Pohlmann, Buckeye changed names in 1998, but failed to shake a reputation as perhaps the most noto-



*The wreckage of this Buckeye Egg Farm barn after a September 2000 twister showed how the hens lived and died. (Mercy for Animals photo.)*

rious of all factory egg farms.

Starting factory egg production in Lower Saxony in 1971. Pohlmann became the biggest egg producer in Europe, but was barred from further production in Germany in 1997 due to repeated violations of pollution and occupational laws.

In September 1994 Pohlmann also became one of the few factory farmers ever convicted of cruelty, for killing 60,000 hens who had salmonella at one of his German facilities by cutting off their water, food, and air conditioning.

The Pohlmann record in Ohio was little different. At peak as many as 14 million chickens produced up to 2.6 billion eggs per year at sites in four counties, amounting to about 4% of the total U.S. egg production volume—but Buckeye was fined nearly \$1 million during the 1990s for a variety of air and water quality offenses.

Pohlmann retired in 2002, and put his facilities up for sale. The problems continued. In July 2003 Ohio authorities at last ordered Buckeye to close each barn it “depopulated” of spent hens, beginning in August, to achieve a complete shutdown by July 2004.

Warning that this might mean killing as many as 576,000 chickens per week, Buckeye appealed, managing to delay implementation of the order until mid-

November 2003, with a new shutdown deadline of October 2004.

Animal advocates meanwhile recalled how about one million hens died from dehydration, hunger, and exposure after a tornado hit some of the Buckeye barns in September 2000. The Ooh-Mah-Nee Sanctuary in Hunker, Pennsylvania rescued more than 1,000 hens from the wreckage, about 400,000 were rendered, and the rest—living or dead—were bulldozed and buried, local news media reported.

In early August 2003 Ooh-Mah-Nee was allowed to rescue 1,048 hens. Buckeye operations director Bill Leininger told *Cleveland and Plain Dealer* reporter Fran Henry that the company might have to bulldoze or burn millions of others alive to meet the shutdown deadline. But it was essentially theatre. In early February 2004 the Ohio Department of Agriculture granted operating permits for the Buckeye barns to Ohio Fresh Eggs Inc., owned by Orland Bethel and Don Hershey, who bought the operation from Pohlmann. They are to invest \$60 million in improvements to reduce environmental hazards at one of the four Buckeye sites. All of the barns may be restocked.

Not restocking the “depopulated” barns was, all along, the only evident departure from the Buckeye routine.

—M.C.

David Favre ad

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Where wolves, bears and people live together

“People and wolves can live together,” says Carpathian Large Carnivore Project director Christoph Promberger. “What we have found is that carnivores can cope extremely well with people.”

Promberger has spent the past 10 years studying large carnivores in the southern Carpathian mountains and teaching livestock herders and beekeepers to use nonlethal techniques to control predation. Since 1995 Promberger and the CLCP have also introduced eco-tourism to a region which previously economically benefited from wildlife only through hunting by the Communist ruling elite—and not benefiting much, at that.

Promberger is now building the Carpathian Large Carnivore Center, to further establish the idea that the Piatra Craiului National Park region in the southern Carpathians can become to Europe what the Yellowstone National Park region is to the U.S.—both a critical wildlife habitat and the chief economic engine in an area with few non-extractive industries.

The Carpathian mountains are home to one third of Europe’s large carnivores west of Russia. There are 3,500 wolves in Romania, a nation the size of Michigan. This is almost as many wolves as exist in the entire U.S. There are 5,500 brown bears, nearly five times as many as there are of their cousins, the grizzlies, in the U.S. Lower 48. Lynx are seen as often in the southern Carpathians as anywhere.

Though Romania includes some of the most unspoiled wild beauty in Europe, with dense forest covering more than a quarter of the nation, it suffers from some of the worst environmental degradation as well. Logging, mining, and agriculture have been the foundations of the Romanian economy for as long as the nation has existed. Poverty, domination by more powerful neighbors, and political corruption drove the use and abuse of Romanian resources almost without restraint during most of the 20th century.

CLCP guide Dan Marin says the present Romanian attitude towards the environment is a remnant of Communism.

“People are not ignorant about it, but have neither a negative nor positive attitude toward it. They are indifferent,” Marin believes.

That cold indifference is starting to thaw, thanks in part to pressures from the European Union. The efforts of the

CLCP and similar organizations in promoting eco-tourism are beginning to show Romanians that they can benefit from protecting wild habitat.

Eco-tourism was so little known in Romania just seven years ago, when the CLCP began, that the Minister of Tourism did not even know the meaning of the term.

After getting that straightened away, the CLCP faced the difficulty of building up eco-tourism in Zarnesti, a community well-situated as a base for wildlife observation, but lacking any tourism infrastructure to speak of. Previously a center of armament making, Zarnesti was literally closed off from the world during the regime of deposed dictator Nicolai Ceausescu.

The program rapidly developed, underwritten by the World Wildlife Fund, the German outdoor apparel maker Jack Wolfskin, the European Nature Trust, and the Liz Claiborne Foundation. Within just a few years Promberger and associates had encouraged the opening of dozens of family-owned lodgings, a horseback tourism center, and development of a souvenir trade, creating jobs for nearly 200 people.

This involved cultural cognitive dissonance. “For several years we tried to help build a horse riding center in Zarnesti,” Promberger recalled in the 2002 CLCP annual report, “which proved difficult due to the high initial investment costs, and due to a different understanding of animal welfare among western horse-riding travel agencies (and their clients) and the local perception of horses and the conditions that were provided for them. After three unsuccessful attempts, and almost giving up, we finally found the right person to operate the business, who built nice stables consistent with western standards for the horses.”

The riding concession is now a success. The new Carpathian Large Carnivore Center is to be built on the other side of town, Promberger says, “so that people don’t immediately flood the environmentally sensitive areas.” Construction is to start this spring, with a target completion date in 2005. The facility will stretch over 30 hectares (about 75 acres), and will include a lecture hall, classrooms, and spacious enclosures for bears, wolves, lynx, and examples of their prey, to be obtained from zoos and game farms.

There will also be exhibition halls describing the



Nicolae Daramus, M.D., rescued these Romanian wolves after their mother was poached.

large carnivores and their habitat. One room representing the conflicts between bears and humans will show video of the famous bears of Racadau.

In the forest surrounding the suburb of Racadau near the city of Brasov live bears who regularly scrounge for food out of the neighborhood garbage bins. This bear show became so well known that tourists regularly gathered outside in the street, waiting for the bears to appear.

Former CLCP staff member Annette Mertens in early 2003 counted 37 bears visiting the bins, up from 20 in 1998 when she began studying them. Among the bears were cubs and their potentially temperamental mothers. Some bears became so accustomed to humans that they would allow themselves to be touched and even take food from people’s hands. There was even one report of a bear sleeping on an old mattress inside an apartment building.

After analyzing the situation and the obvious dangers caused by the bears’ close contact with humans, the CLCP submitted a plan to the city hall for the construction of bear proof garbage bins, which would ultimately persuade the bears to look elsewhere for food. The plan was rejected and instead a bear hunt was organized.

Mertens left the CLCP to pursue a Ph.D. in Italy.

Promberger today shrugs off his disappointment. He and the remaining CLCP team members have become all too accustomed to clashing with local governments and their sometimes illogical and corrupt decisions.

One of their biggest conflicts developed in 2000 when the regional government approved plans for a quarry on the outskirts of Piatra Craiului National Park. Quarry operations would have produced a stream of 40-ton trucks racing through the Zarnesti valley every four minutes. Dust, noise, and blasting could have polluted and destroyed the natural reserves, ruining the eco-tourism program.

“The quarry has disappeared from our list of problems but our problems have not ended,” says Marin.

The CLCP is now concerned about proliferating weekend cottages in the valley bordering the national park. The narrow valley is an important wintering area for red deer and the passage of the large carnivores who follow them, as well as for shepherds, their livestock, and hikers.

“The cottages will be devastating to tourism,” says Promberger. “Now when a visitor leaves Zarnesti and goes into the forest and mountains, he first experiences this beautiful valley. But if this construction continues he will leave Zarnesti and come upon another village of super luxury bungalows, and the scenery will be spoiled. In the last 10 years we have seen that probably about half of these valleys in Romania have been destroyed. We said to the town hall, ‘If you take conservation seriously, than save this valley. Keep it as your capital.’”

The CLCP did not form in 1993 to become involved in politics—but this has become an inevitable outgrowth of studies begun initially just to understand how wolves and humans interact.

For centuries interaction consisted mainly of conflict between sheep-killing wolves and shepherds.

Shepherd Gheorghe Corca, for example, in 30 years of sharing wolf habitat, has clubbed wolves and bears more times than he can count on the seven fingers of his two hands.

The CLCP learned in surveying 30 shepherds’ camps that they had recently lost 79 sheep and lambs to large carnivores, primarily wolves.

To prevent wolf predation on sheep, the CLCP introduced electric fencing. It worked well enough that the Romanian government purchased another 10 electric fences for the use of local shepherds, and continues working with the CLCP to improve the co-existence of wolves and shepherds.

Promberger feels relatively happy about the successes of the CLCP, as it metamorphizes from field research into becoming a community institution.

“When I first came here, a lot of people felt like they were living in the Middle Ages because there were so many wolves running around. They felt they had to change this in order to join the west. I said ‘No! You have to keep them here.’ There was no sense of pride about this. Now people see wolves as a heritage that western countries have lost.”

—Chuck Todaro  
[More about CLCP can be found at <www.clcp.ro>.]

Some good news from Romania, despite dog-killing

**MATASARI, Gorj, Romania**—A depressed coal mining village in the southwestern Carpathian mountains, Matasari does not even appear on most maps.

Yet Matasari became infamous on February 9 when Romanian media and Internet activists publicized a city-sponsored dog massacre that occurred there the preceding day.

The killing was in apparent direct contravention of the Romanian national dog law adopted in 2002.

The shocked public response may herald a turnabout in the Romanian attitude toward dogs. Dog massacres on a much larger scale in Bucharest, the Romanian capital, were widely praised by some news media just a few years ago, though decried by others. Killing on the Matasari scale might never have attracted attention.

Yet media raced to break the Matasari story. Pro-TV said that 13 hunters killed “tens of dogs.” *Informatia Gorjului* reporter Mihaela Barceanu, an eyewitness, said that eight hunters did the shooting, assisted by welfare recipients and local officials, “who, armed with shovels and clubs, chased stray dogs from the apartment blocks [where they lived in basements and communal areas] to the hills, toward the guns.” Terrified children watched, Barceanu wrote. The Matasari police did nothing.

Fellow eyewitness Roxana Stoian of *Impact In Gorj* furnished the most detail. “At 9 a.m. we heard the first shooting,” she wrote. Unemployed coal miners “hit with clubs the poor dogs, to drive them toward the hunters,” who “snarled with satisfaction, as a sign that this was a pleasure. The suffering of animal lovers amused them a lot,” Stoian said.

While the miners and hunters tried to flush dogs out, Carmena Serbanoiu and two other representatives of the Pro Animals shelter in Tg-Jiu, “caught in the middle, drove the dogs back to the apartment blocks,” Stoian said.

“Pro Animals’ representatives wanted to find out what was the legal base for organizing the dog hunt,” Stoian added. “At the police station we saw that the County Association of Hunters of Gorj agreed to organize this action ‘according to the law,’ but without saying which law.”

Used to such incidents, and long active in trying to prevent them, Elena Daniela Costin of the Romanian League in Defense of Animals e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that, “It is less important to record how many dog massacres have occurred, and in what cities, than it is to eliminate them by sterilizing homeless animals to prevent overpopulation, and to obtain a well-written animal protection law that we can use to protect animals in court, whether the issue is dogfighting allowed to go on in city pounds, as individual acts of abuse, or mass killing by local authorities.”

“ROLDA has been crying for a new animal protection law for more than more than two years,” Costin continued. “The World Society for the Protection of Animals promised to help us get such a law through Parliament, but unkept promises do not help.”

But there is “Some good news about Romania,” British clothing manufacturer Robert Smith e-mailed.

“Firstly,” Smith announced, “our SOS Dogs Oradea project is underway, sponsored by the Dogs Home Battersea, Dogs Trust, and North Shore Animal League International. We have neutered and returned to their neighborhoods 766 dogs since April 2003.

“Second,” Smith added, “we have finally managed to cajole and persuade the mayor of Pitesti, a city of about 220,000 people, to sign an animal control contract with us.

The municipality is paying for nothing—not for euthanasia or electricity or water—because they said they had no money. So Ute Langenkamp’s association (Tübinger Bürgerinitiative gegen Tierversuche, Uhlandstraße 20, 72135 Dettenhausen, Germany) is paying for everything.

“I was so upset by the sight of over 3,000 healthy dogs in a massive prison camp called Smeura—a former fox fur farm—that I wanted to help Mrs. Langenkamp, who is spending over 50,000 Euros a month just to keep her beloved prisoners safe from death squads,” Smith continued.

“In addition to the 3,000 dogs under her care in Romania, Mrs. Langenkamp has over the last three years rehomed over 3,000 dogs in western Europe, mainly Germany, and Pitesti killed several thousand dogs before Mrs. Langenkamp and her former partner Aurora Brizzi persuaded the municipality to stop the killing and bring the dogs they collected to Smeura.

“Despite the removal of some 10,000 dogs from the streets of Pitesti in the last six years there are still approximately 3,000 dogs on the streets,” Smith observed. “This is proof that just killing and removing stray dogs does not work. So I have played the role of consultant and mediator. Under pressure from the local press, the mayor reluctantly signed our contract on January 26. Although the contract is with FPCC, my Romanian foundation, in association with AULIM, Ute’s Romanian charity, AULIM will finance and manage the neuter/return program in Pitesti.

“There will of course be trouble,” Smith anticipated. “Councillors will complain that there are too many dogs on the streets, even if those dogs have been officially adopted by animal lovers and neutered by AULIM, and we will say we are sorry, but those dogs have to stay for their natural lives in their territory because otherwise they will be replaced by incoming fertile dogs. I have yet to meet a mayor in Romania who understands that in order to solve the stray dog problem, the carrying capacity of the streets must be occupied with neutered, vaccinated, and—to obey the new Romanian dog law—legally adopted dogs,” Smith noted.

“FPCC has meanwhile signed a similar contract with the neighbouring towns of Mioveni and Calibasi, where the Renault Dacia factory has killed a lot of dogs in the past, and I will finance the neuter/return operation there,” Smith pledged.

“I am trying to raise funds for a mobile clinic,” Smith specified, “to be based in Mioveni but also to visit surrounding villages. This is because dog dumping, as soon as people hear of an animal shelter, sabotages our projects. Every month between 10 and 50 dogs from Bucharest are dumped in Campina,” where Smith first started helping Romanian dogs, “so despite our having neutered and returned 4,300 dogs in two years in Campina, we find more dogs every week and the municipality is so exasperated that they have illegally cancelled our exclusive contract.

“Both the Pitesti and Mioveni projects will be supervised by Carmen Arsene,” Smith said, introducing her as “a local animal protection campaigner who has helped Langenkamp for many years and who has worked harder than anyone for these contracts. Carmen has already started to appoint veterinarians and managers for the two projects.

“In addition to providing free neutering and vaccination of all owned and stray dogs in the two towns, we will visit all local schools with our education project for nine-to-twelve-year-olds, which has been well received in Campina,” Smith concluded.

Along with almost every article from back editions, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site offers translations of key items into French and Spanish...the Lewyt Award-winning heroic and compassionate animal stories... veterinary info links... handbooks for downloading... fundraising how-to...our guide to estate planning... short biographies and photos of the people behind **ANIMAL PEOPLE** ... and more items added monthly!  
**www.animalpeoplenews.org**



**True Grizz:**  
*Glimpses of Fernie, Stahr, Easy, Dakota, and Other Real Bears in the Modern World*  
**by Douglas H. Chadwick**  
**Sierra Club Books (85 2nd St., San Francisco, CA 94105), 2003.**  
**176 pages, hardcover. \$24.95**

Meet the bears: Fernie with her two cubs swim the Hungry Horse Reservoir looking for food. Stahr opens a door to a screen porch and, surrounded by 50-pound bags of dog food, naps on the couch. Dakota hangs out on a street corner in Whitefish, Montana so often she is named for it.

A few years ago these grizzlies would have been killed. No questions. No second chances. Douglas Chadwick in *True Grizz* tells how Montana is now trying to save the bears with creative and innovative new methods.

Long gone is the era when grizzlies roamed from Kansas to the California coast, finding plenty to eat on the way: elk, bison, mule deer. Males may have weighed close to 1,000 pounds and females 600.

By 1975 an estimated 99% percent of the grizzlies in the Lower 48 had been killed. Standing shoulder to shoulder, the remaining bears would barely have covered a used car lot. Because the public demanded that these fabled giants should survive, grizzlies were among the first species added to the U.S. endangered list. There were then 750 to 1,000 bears left in the U.S. outside of Alaska. Today there are 1,000 to 1,300.

With bears and humans sharing the same land, how do you keep a grizzly from walking into a house, lazing in someone's yard, or strolling through town?

Today, in Whitefish, the Montana Bear Team tutors grizzlies and people to live together. Tim Manley of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, biologists including author Douglas Chadwick, and Carrie Hunt with her Kerelan dogs, bred to fight bears, patrol the streets at night in an old pickup truck looking for trouble.

This night a call comes in about a bear unknown to the team hanging around someone's yard. A bear without a name means it hasn't been in enough trouble to have one. This is an ideal bear to train.

And there in the dark shadows of a house a grizzly hunkers over a bird feeder. Humans and dogs leap out of the pickup. "Hey bear!" The dogs bark. Someone shoots the bear with a rubber bullet. "Cracker" shells explode near the target.

They hope the bear will decide the attraction is not worth the commotion and run off to resume life in the wild. If not, the team will attach the dogs' leashes to their belts and the dogs will charge ahead, pulling and snarling.

Grizzlies, with their cousins the polar bears, are the strongest land predators in the New World. They can accelerate from zero to 30 miles per hour faster than a sports car,

knock over an elk, and drag a 1,000-pound steer into the woods for a snack. Why do they want birdseed? Bears take advantage of the most nourishing food available, whether it is moose, ox, lily bulb, snail, crab, mushroom, hornet's nest or rotten carcass. They need to gain two to three pounds daily for months to give them enough energy to see them through denning, which like snow can last half a year. Over winter a big male will lose 150 pounds of body weight.

Historically grizzlies lived in the foothills and floors of Montana, but as industry grew, real estate was developed, and recreation areas spread, grizzlies were pushed further back into the mountains. Now bears eat whatever they can find in the highlands. Huckleberries are a favorite and in good years they eat 70,000 a day. But grizzly bears cannot reach their historical prime weight by eating berries. Today females weigh 300 pounds, males 500.

In 1998 the mountains once lush with huckleberry bushes were dry. The bears descended from the mountains to seek chokeberries, service berries, and hawthorne fruits, which were also scarce. And down the bears went for starchy roots, wild grasses and mice, until they reached the bottom. Here shrub lands had been replaced by rural lots. And people. Humans and grizzly bears were now living on the same land.

Here was an open feast for grizzlies. Apple and plum trees hung heavy with fruit and livestock trotted in fenced pastures. To hungry grizzlies it all smelled savory, along with the feed stored in barns and on porches for horses, chickens, goats, and even llamas. Bears liked rabbit chow, dog nuggets and kitty kibble. Household garbage was a favorite treat.

The team would tell the bears, "No you can't be here." Then the next human would say, "How about a little garbage? Interested in a little grain?"

Young bears would look to Mom and she'd say, "It's O. K. Here I'll show you how to open it."

The greatest difficulty the team had in reeducating the bears was teaching humans to stop leaving food out.

The Bear Team also knew it was hard to train a griz-



*Ex-problem grizzlies at the West Yellowstone Bear Center.*  
*(Kim Bartlett)*

**The Beast in the Garden: A Modern Parable of Man and Nature** by David Baron  
**W. W. Norton & Company (500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110), 2004. 277 pages, hardcover, \$24.95.**

This amazing book explains how wild pumas near Boulder, Colorado came to view humans as prey. The intriguing story, however, is only the frame that David Baron uses to painstakingly piece together a gigantic puzzle.

When a puma killed Boulder high school student Scott Lancaster in 1991, "everyone knew" that healthy pumas did not view people as prey—but Lancaster's killer proved to be both wild and healthy. Baron explains the factors that caused this dramatic change in puma behavior.

When wild animals came to town in the Old West, they were shot. If they survived, they learned to avoid people.

Baron relates many sad stories about the wholesale slaughter of predators in the United States as humans increased in population, moved out into the wilderness, and altered the natural landscape.

Baron tells us that author Michael Johnson labeled newcomers to western cities "New Westers." "Old Westers believe the West was *won*. New Westers are concerned with how it was *lost*—or will be."

New Westers passed laws to prevent or limit killing predators. Meanwhile the populations of many wild creatures, including deer, have multiplied beyond pre-settlement norms. Deer have moved into the suburbs to feast on well-maintained yards and neighborhood handouts. Instead of feeding at dawn or dusk, they graze in broad daylight. When the Boulder-area pumas noticed that the deer were moving to town, they followed and changed their hunting hours accordingly.

New Westers moved to Boulder to be close to nature. Baron relates many fascinating tales of human/puma encounters in the Boulder area before Scott Lancaster's death. Generally, the inhabitants were thrilled to see pumas in their yards and did not fear for their own safety. However, Boulder wildlife specialists Michael Sanders and Jim Halfpenny were concerned about this trend. They began their own puma study, tracking the activity of the big cats. Sanders and Halfpenny soon realized that puma urbanization was changing the rules of the game, and concluded it was a disaster waiting to happen. Unfortunately, many other wildlife biologists at the time viewed Sanders and Halfpenny as alarmists and did not take the threat seriously. So, nothing much was done to discourage the pumas from moving to the suburbs.

When the Boulder pumas went to town, they carefully observed the reactions of the humans they saw and decided that the inhabitants were not to be feared. The lions first started to prey on pets and then on people. Scott Lancaster was killed while jogging on a path near his high school in broad daylight. Lancaster's tragic death was a wake-up call to everyone.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife began using aversive conditioning to let mountain lions know they had to stay away from humans and civilization, blasting the cats with air horns and shooting at them with rubber bullets, firecrackers, and beanbags. The Division of Wildlife began capturing and relocating pumas found in urban settings. Pumas who were considered a real threat were killed. Both Colorado and Boulder wildlife agencies increased efforts to teach residents to live safely among potentially dangerous wildlife.

Baron also cites examples of innovative aversive conditioning programs used by other organizations, agencies, and communities to keep wildlife and humans at a safe distance from each other. He points out that the issues involving pumas have important implications for the Yellowstone region and Mexican gray wolf recovery programs, as well as other efforts to reintroduce predators to their former habitats.

Puma-related problems have not disappeared from the Boulder area, but they have not escalated. The human inhabitants there, as a rule, still have great love and compassion for all wildlife. However, when they see a puma in their yard or on their patio, many no longer reach for their camcorder. Instead, they scare the cat away with rubber buckshot.

Baron never exaggerates the risks associated with pumas. Very few people will ever be attacked by pumas. Yet if we do not do more to educate people about the potential dangers of close contact with any wild animal, more pumas and people will be killed needlessly.

The lessons I learned by reading *The Beast in the Garden* had many personal applications. We lived on a greenbelt in Austin for many years. It was fascinating to look out my window and see a real life version of *Animal Planet*. However, I was constantly modifying our backyard habitat after things I did had unforeseen consequences for the creatures who lived in the woods.

When we first moved to the greenbelt, we would see deer only at dusk and dawn. After a few years, they appeared during the day. Does left their fawns in the safety of front yards while they went off grazing. The deer multiplied and we saw an increasing number of other animals—fox, raccoons, armadillos, skunks, opossums, coyotes, even an occasional puma.

Then, pets began to disappear. I loved listening to the calls of coyotes in the woods. Some of my neighbors, unfortunately, did not. They had moved out of the city, but they were not will-

ingly to stay away from human habitat when it had no other options for food. One idea was to take grizzlies far into the back country where they could live in solitude. But today the back country is a two-or-three-day walk for a human. For a bear it is a jaunt.

What most people know about grizzlies is what they see on the cover of a wildlife magazine: a bear looming over a cowering human who is trying to defend himself. They don't think of a human attacking a bear first with bullets and the bear defending itself the only way it knows how.

Bears are motivated by a desire to not be harmed. It is difficult for many people to realize that a 400-pound bear can be afraid of being hurt. Grizzly attacks are rarely predatory, but are rather part of their repertoire of behavior intended to keep them safe.

Much that people believe is lore. Some bear legends can be traced back to Lewis and Clark. Among the stories from the Louisiana Purchase expedition was the "grizzled" or pieback bears who could not be felled with one bullet or at times with even three or four. The legend grew and to the public the grizzly became the hairy New World dragon.

Newspapers continue the saga with headlines: "Hiker mauled in Glacier Park." What is more astounding is that 100,000-plus hikers with varying levels of skill and intelligence bumble through Glacier's grizzly country unscathed.

A resident of Whitefish was wending his way home late one evening after a night on the town. He met a grizzly on the street who, the man said, came after him for several blocks. The man thanked his luck that he'd been able to keep ahead of the bear. But an average bear can outspurt a race horse. The bear clearly had no interest in catching the man, and may have followed him just for amusement.

Bears have a remarkable capacity for play, including—at times—interactive play with humans. For example, one afternoon a pair of grizzly cubs were given the run of the large yard and pond at the Wasatch Rocky Mountain Wildlife Center, whose owners train bears for movies. If people in the yard paid too much attention to the pair, the 750-pound movie star griz Tank, looking out from his pen, became restless. It was the job of author Chadwick's son to pay attention to Tank. Once, while the boy sat with his back to the pen, talking with the bear and idly tossing gravel at a can, he heard scratching sounds behind him. He turned and saw that Tank had scraped together odd bits of gravel on the pen's floor and was pushing the pile out to him with a paw.

Stahr and her cubs couldn't learn to stay away from human habitat and were sent to Washington State University at Pullman for captive use in studies of bear nutrition and psychology. Fernie was shot by a hunter who mistook her for a black bear. Dakota and her cubs went into the Whitefish Range and denned near the headwaters of a creek that joins the North Fork River. Dakota was a true success story.

"Grizzlies strengthen the spirit. They create wonder. They humble. They temper. They clarify and awaken. They do me a world of good," Chadwick ends.

—Suzanne Morrow

ing to modify their lifestyles. I gave them the standard advice: keep cats inside, especially at night, don't leave pet food outside, lock down your trash cans, and don't feed any wild animals. However, when I moved from Austin two years ago, some people were still feeding deer in their yards, and small pets continued to vanish.

We now live in a heavily wooded, hilly area not far from the center of Atlanta. We thought we had left the wilderness behind us, so we were pleased and amazed by the variety of birds in our neighborhood. We added birdbaths, planted berry trees, and hung birdfeeders in our large backyard habitat. Before we knew it, the extra birdseed had caused an increase in the squirrel and chipmunk populations, resulting in an over abundance of snakes, including huge copperheads. I realized that I had flunked "Backyard Habitat Management 101" and have since retired many of the birdfeeders.

Baron concludes that, "The most critical element of wildlife management in twenty-first century America will be modifying the behavior of the most pervasive species of all. Reducing conflicts between people and wild animals will require controls on human actions: where we build our homes, how we landscape our yards, the way we dispose of our trash and house our pets. People, especially those who live along the new frontier between civilization and wildland, must accept that they are participants in the natural world, not mere observers."

—Ann T. Koros



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

**Stumpy**, age 40+, an 80-ton pregnant North Atlantic right whale, familiar to New England Aquarium, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and Center for Coastal Studies researchers since 1975, was found dead from a ship strike off Virginia in early February. Wrote *Cape Cod Times* staff writer Emily C. Dooley, "From 1975 through 2002 there were 292 documented cases of ships striking large whales across the globe. Of these, 38 strikes involved North Atlantic right whales, according to the Large Whale ship Strike Database compiled by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration." North Atlantic right whales are the rarest of the great whales, with only about 325 surviving.

**Wolf #42**, alpha female of the Druid Peak Pack in Yellowstone National Park, was found dead on February 3 atop Specimen Ridge after a fight with Mollie's Pack, also called the Crystal Creek Pack. #42 became the Druid Peak Pack alpha after killing her tyrannical sister, #40, who may have earlier killed one of #42's first litters. Her more benign sister, #41, left the Druid Peak Pack in 1998 to become founding alpha female of the Sunlight Basin Pack. Suffering from mange and a broken foot, #41 and another wolf recently left the pack. Seen feeding on a freshly killed calf on private land on February 6, #41 was shot by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service agent on February 15. #42 and #41 were the last of the 31 wolves brought to Yellowstone as part of the 1995-1996 species reintroduction.

MEMORIALS

In loving memory of Polly Strand.  
--Sherry de Boer  
and the Tina de Boer Long Charitable Trust

In memory of all farmed animals  
who have suffered at the hands of man.  
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Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85),  
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**Dogs Pongo, Tina, Cleo, Danny, Willow, Gallagher, Gaston, Lacota, and Amadeus,** and cats **Lucinda, Danube, Tawny, and Tara,** rescued pets of activist writer Jim Willis, died in a January housefire that razed Willis' home in Avella, Pennsylvania. Willis was away for the evening when the fire started.

**Chance**, a severely injured pit bull terrier seized in a late January drug raid in Port St. Lucie, Florida, believed to have been used as a "bait dog" to train fighting pit bulls, died from his injuries on February 3, 2004, despite the efforts of local rescuers to save him.

**Ruth**, 26, and **Kisii**, 10, the last two reticulated giraffes at the Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City, died during the first weekend in February. Ruth was euthanized due to an irreparable compound fracture, cause unknown. Kisii was euthanized the next day after collapsing with symptoms of cancer. The zoo spent \$50,000 to improve the giraffe exhibit after Sandile, 7, a male, died from getting his neck tangled in a fence in January 2002. Two other giraffes died in 1993 and 1994 after suffering disabling falls.

H5N1 kills Thai zoo leopard; Beijing Zoo stops feeding live chickens to tigers

**BEIJING**—The avian flu H5N1 killed an endangered clouded leopard on January 27 at the Khao Khiew Zoo in Chonburi province, Thailand, environment minister Prabat Panyachatraksa confirmed on February 13, after two weeks of rumors. The leopard was fed mainly chicken carcasses. A white tiger also became ill, but recovered.

The Khao Khiew Zoo and four other leading Thai zoos closed their bird exhibits several days earlier, after 36 pheasants, pea fowl, and Siamese firebacks died at a rare bird menagerie in Suphan Buri province.

Pin Lyvun, director of the Phnom Tamao zoo in Cambodia, told the *Melbourne Age* that 56 wild birds had died there as of February 15, and that the zoo had killed 400 parakeets after some of them died mysteriously. The zoo thereafter closed its bird exhibits.

The death of the clouded leopard was soon followed by menu changes at the Beijing Zoo—not well-appreciated by the first observers. "Gone are the lions and tigers' live chicken dinners," lamented the *Malaysia Star* on February 11, in translation from the *China Daily*. The big cats were switched to a more

**Richard Charter**, 53, of Johannesburg, South Africa, drowned on February 1, 2004 while trying to rescue a white water rafting companion who had fallen into the Orange River near Glen Lion, and also drowned. "After a successful business and sporting career, in which he captained the South African skydiving team, Charter set about buying degraded farmland and rehabilitating it back to its natural beauty. His most recent and ambitious project was Glen Lion in the southern Kalahari," recalled Chris Mercer of the Kalahari Raptor Centre, "where Charter and his partner, entrepreneur Pat Quirk, bought 26 contiguous farms to create a private nature reserve of some 70,000 hectares (about 180,000 acres) to provide pristine sanctuary for Kalahari wildlife and in particular, the desert lion and black rhino. We hope Charter's untimely death will not end the Glen Lion project," Mercer added, "because of the need for suitable habitat into which rescued predators such as caracals, jackals and hyenas can be released."

**Gretchen Hersman**, 53, activist and visual artist, died on December 17, 2003 of breast cancer at her home in West Branch, Iowa. Co-founding the Johnson County Humane Society in 1980, Hersman in 1996 became Midwest Regional Director for In Defense of Animals, and answered the IDA 1-800-Stolen-Pet Hotline. In recent years Hersman chiefly investigated puppy mills and gathered information about dogfighting.

**Daniel Radziej**, 33, was killed on February 2 when the rented car in which he was riding hit a truck near Mariental, Namibia. "Radziej, a German national, recently moved [from Namibia] to South Africa, where he was to run a wildlife rescue and training center in the Northwest Province," reported Africa News Service. Radziej and his wife Catherine had fought the Namibia Ministry of Environment and Tourism since late 2002 over custody of a male lion and a female leopard whom they raised from cubs. Their permits to keep the big cats were revoked after the cats allegedly mauled visitors to the Radziej farm. Namibian film maker Simon Wilkie, 42, suffered face and chest injuries in the accident. Driver Julika Kennaway, 38, a British nature film director, escaped serious harm.

**Allison Brent Abell**, 52, was killed on February 12 by a black-maned African lion he had raised from a cub at Cougar Bluff Enterprise, described by Becky Malkovich of *The Southern Illinoisan* as "an exotic wildlife preserve that sheltered the lion, eight pumas, a bobcat, and eight wolves. The exhibit license was issued in 2000 in his wife Kathie Abell's name." Away at the time of the attack, Kathie Abell arrived home to see the lion at large. As she did not know how to use the tranquilizer gun kept for such emergencies, she authorized Hardin County sheriff's deputies to kill the lion. Abell's remains were found later.

natural diet of raw beef and mutton, the *Malaysia Star* and *China Daily* reported.

Western zoo experts have for more than a decade urged Chinese counterparts to stop feeding live animals to carnivores. Chinese zoo directors, however, have seen live feeding as a gate attraction, contrary to lessons learned by most U.S. and European animal exhibitors generations ago, and have defended the practice by insisting that live feedings keep predators mentally fit.

Never approved of by the American Zoo Association, public live feeding was last documented in the U.S. in 1996, when the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service closed the Steel City Petting Zoo in Cottdonale, Florida, after owner Romulus Sealf allegedly fed live animals to alligators.

"The peacocks at the Shanghai Wild Animal Park and the Beijing Badaling Safari Animal World, who used to strut around showing off their plumage, now are forced to stay in cages," added the *Malaysia Star* and *China Daily*. "Turkeys at the Beijing Zoo—believed to be particularly susceptible to the poultry virus—have been moved out of their

old home to quarters separate from visitors. Bird display sections have been closed for health reasons" and "the keepers are keeping the displays cleaner and not as crowded."

But other Chinese zoos demonstrated that they still don't understand how zoological education differs from circus entertainment. To welcome the January 22 start of The Year of The Monkey, the Forest Safari Park in Shenyang dyed monkeys' fur and the manes of wild horses in bright colors. The Nanning Zoo offered free ostrich meat and peacock soup, made from animals formerly on exhibit.

Both zoos are located in regional centers of dog-eating and wildlife-eating, but shocked visitors still found their practices abusive. Shenyang Wild Animal Protection Organization director Zhu Chengwei, Liaoning University zoologist Liu Lingyu, and a beauty salon manager named Li who had extensive experience with hair-dyeing all criticized the monkey-dyeing in statements to the Xinhua News Service.

Three visitors denounced making meals of zoo animals to the Chinese web news service <www.sina.com>.

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FUNDS/INVEST NOTE										
Defenders of Animal Rights	S	\$ 833,836	\$ 622,081	\$ 545,964	\$ 76,117	12%	28%	\$ 2,287,668	\$ 1,345,192	\$ 1,207,360
Marine Mammal Center	S	\$ 7,456,189	\$ 4,188,538	\$ 2,911,317	\$ 1,377,221	33%	35%	\$ 11,520,300	\$ 2,511,983	\$ 5,499,232
Wildlife On Easy Street	S	\$ 615,709	\$ 324,745	\$ 324,745 (none claimed)		27%		\$ 896,945	\$ 551,161	\$ 261,847 #
B.J. Griffin	ExecDir	MarineMammal	\$ 95,000							
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ly weighed the body count that might result from uncontrolled H5N1 against the casualties of rioting and even insurrection, before opting for discretion over valor. —*M.C.*

defeat her candidacy. She lost by a very small margin.”

orado.edu>.  
**October 6-9:** *10th Intl. Conf. on Human/Animal Interactions*, Glasgow, Scotland. Info: <www.glasgow2004ad.com>.  
**November 8-15:** *World Vegetarian Congress*, Florianopolis, Brazil. Info: <www.ivu.org/congress/2004>.  
**Nov. 11-14:** *Spay/USA South. Reg. Leadership Conf.*, New Orleans. Info: 1-800-248-7729.





