

Alleged cover-ups call into question the ability of USDA, Fish & Wildlife Service to enforce pro-animal laws (pages 12-13)

Promoting peace for pigs

STANWOOD, Washington—The very name of the Pigs Peace sanctuary seems to express an impossible dream.

Founder Judy Woods, 50, admits that. She works small, on 34 acres, but dreams big, understanding that her first mission is not rescue but education. Saving the lives of the 100-odd resident animals enables her to teach appreciation of their species. Most common domestic species are represented, but the emphasis is on pigs—though Woods is also quick to introduce and discuss the virtues of chickens, turkeys, dogs, horses, goats, and feral cats, among many others who often as not wander up and compete for her attention.

Pigs are by nature a peaceable lot, content to eat garbage and sleep in mud on warm days. But few pigs enjoy much peace.

Globally, 864 million pigs per year are killed for human consumption, 133 million of them in the U.S. Most are raised in stress-inducing close confinement.



At Pigs Peace. (Kim Bartlett)

Harold Gonyou of the Prairie Swine Center in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, in late January 2005 told the Manitoba Swine Seminar in Winnipeg about progress toward improving factory-farmed pigs' quality of life.

"We've been looking at how sows fit in different sizes of stalls," Gonyou said, according to *Farmscape Online*, published by Saskatchewan Pork and the Manitoba Pork Council.

"Right now we're looking at the incidence that the sow is lying on her side, and whether or not her udder then protrudes into the next stall," Gonyou explained. "That exposes it to trampling by the sow next door, so we think that is perhaps an indicator that we can use in terms of a stall being wide enough. We're finding that the larger sows are protruding into the next stall, very often 80-90% of the time, so we have to look at expanding the size of the stall."

Animal advocates have been pointing this out since the late Ruth Harrison published *Animal Machines* in 1964, at least.

(continued on page 6)

Post-tsunami anti-rabies drive shifts gears to sterilization

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Fear that a rabies panic might fuel a dog massacre subsided in coastal Sri Lanka as January 2005 rolled into February, allowing the emergency vaccination drive initiated on December 31, 2004 by volunteer disaster relief coordinator Robert Blumberg to roll over into a mobile sterilization campaign.

"Sterilization is becoming a crucial issue, with many animals coming into heat soon and, especially on the east coast, crowded into refugee camps," Blumberg said.

"The vaccination campaign put 12,000 red 'I've been vaccinated' collars out into the field to calm any hysteria over rabies that could have led to mass killings, and allowed us to observe first-hand the conditions for the animals after the December 26 tsunami," Blumberg explained. "We are now going back to a number of those initial areas and doing the saturation vaccinating necessary to ensure having done the 70-75% required for effective rabies prevention."



Sri Lankan tsunami survivor with her pup. (Robert Blumberg)

"ANIMAL PEOPLE was our first sponsor, only days after the waves struck, making it possible to quickly field initial assessment, vaccination, and treatment teams," Blumberg acknowledged. Blumberg also thanked the Best Friends Animal Society, Noah's Wish, Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, and the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights for substantial contributions.

While the vaccinations were done primarily by the private veterinary firm Pets V (continued on page 21)

News For People Who Care

**March 2005
Volume XIV, #2**

About Animals



Why hunting can't save African wildlife

NAIROBI—Used to fighting heavily armed Somali poachers who strike Tsavo National Park from the northeast, Kenya Wildlife Service wardens found themselves under fire from a different direction near Lake Jipe on January 21 when they ordered a battered blue Toyota pickup truck to stop.

Hauling two eland carcasses, the truck appeared to be engaged in routine bush meat trafficking. Bush meat traffickers rarely risk their lives in shootouts. They tend to try bribery first, then pay a small fine and perhaps spend a few days in jail.

But this time the wardens' vehicle was quickly disabled by a .404 slug from an elephant gun. The wardens shot back.

"Two middle-aged poachers died on the spot. Three made a hasty escape through the scrubland, leaving their bloody cargo and a shotgun behind," Kenya Wildlife Service deputy director for wildlife security Peter Leitoro told Edward Indakwa and Evelyne Ogutu of the *East African Standard*.

The dead poachers were identified as Tanzanians. Tanzania, like Kenya, has abundant wildlife—or recently did. Hunting there is legal. In all of Africa, only South Africa has a bigger hunting industry than Tanzania, now that land invasions have occupied many of the biggest Zimbabwean hunting ranches.

Why, Indakwa and Ogutu asked, would Tanzanians shoot wildlife in Kenya?

"Tanzania has stiffer penalties," returned Leitoro. "They interpret poaching as an economic crime, and put poachers away for 15 to 20 years. Here, poachers face maybe six months, with the option of a fine."

Added Kenya Wildlife Service director Julius Kipng'etich, "We must har-

monise wildlife policies and laws, and strengthen cross-border enforcement."

That could be taken as either an endorsement of reintroducing hunting to Kenya, which could complicate identifying poachers from a distance, since their weapons and possession of carcasses would no longer be giveaways, or of persuading Tanzania to close a booming hunting industry which is actively promoted by USAid.

While contemplating the meaning of the Tanzanian incursion, the Kenya Wildlife Service also faced the necessity of bringing to justice one of their own, alleged renegade ranger Hassan Diba Konsicha.

"He was denied bail and remanded in custody after denying that he had been involved in any illicit activity when he was detained at the Lewa Ranch on January 18," Agence France Presse reported. "Konsicha, who was with an apparent group of poachers, was arrested on the ranch after a firefight with KWS rangers and police, during which another unidentified KWS ranger, also suspected of illegal hunting, was killed."

Lewa Ranch, a private wildlife breeding facility that works with the Kenya Wildlife Service, had lost at least 10 white rhinos to poachers since mid-2003. After Konsicha was arrested, six white rhinos from Lewa Ranch were trucked to nearby Meru National Park, whose rhinos were extirpated by poaching in 1989. Mukora, the sole survivor of a raid that killed five of the last six Meru white rhinos, was evacuated in 1990 but returned to Meru in 2001, followed by nine other white rhinos who were moved from Lake Nakuru National Park in 2003.

(continued on page 16)



Rescued sloth bear at Wildlife SOS sanctuary near Agra, India. Bear rescue season is busier than ever for Wildlife SOS and the Animals Asia Foundation, saving the sloth bears of India from traffickers and moon bears of China from bile farms. (See page 18.)

Fox hunters vow to "keep buggering on"

LONDON—A reported 300,000 people rode to hounds on February 20, a record number for one day of fox hunting in Britain, on the first hunting date after traditional fox hunting was ostensibly banned.

But the most publicized estimates of hunter numbers may have been much too high. Twenty-four hours after Daniel Foggo, Karyn Miller and Tony Freinberg of the pro-hunting *Daily Telegraph* put the number of hunts in the field at 184, the most widely cited estimate was 270. The discrepancy might have resulted from small hunting clubs holding combined hunts, so as to boost the turnout.

The Scotsman political correspondent Jamie Lyons observed "little discernible difference" between traditional hounding and "flushing foxes out of a wood [with not more than two dogs] and shooting them, before their scent is left as a trail for the hounds," as those who ride to hounds now must do in order to hunt legally.

"The Countryside Alliance said 91

foxes were killed," Lyons continued, "most shot within the law. But there were four 'accidents,' and one stag was killed in the West Country," Lyons added.

Other sources reported that 270 hunts were active.

"After a largely law-abiding start to the ban, some hunts are expected to defy the ban away from the media scrutiny," reported Charles Clover and Catriona Davies of the *Daily Telegraph*, "particularly in areas where police have expressed unwillingness to waste time following them. Other hunts are planning to exploit loopholes in the law, such as the use of falconry, for which the number of hounds who may flush out prey species is not limited by the Hunting Act.

"Some hunt supporters are planning to defy the police to arrest them for illegal events, such as mouse hunts," Clover and Davies added, "which they think will make the law look absurd."

(continued on page 8)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POB 960, CLINTON, WA 98236-0960



February 2005

Dear Partner,

During our record-breaking rain . . . where it poured for two weeks straight . . . the river came alive at our Supershelter.

But what made it a devastating flood for us was that it followed the big fire we had a few months ago!

Those mountains all around our Supershelter are burned away. And where the fire raged out of control for days, the huge mountain range all around us burned too.

So without vegetation to hold in the water, runoff from the mountains made new streams.

Since the rain ended, for now, the hard-working County street crews put up an emergency County road . . . and our staff and I built a connector to that new road . . . by hand.

But now we have to hire a contractor to make our private road wider and permanent, strong enough for the 60-foot long trailer trucks to make dog and cat food deliveries to us.

We also have to build a rock retaining wall . . . like a jetty at the ocean . . . to prevent the collapse of the 12-foot cliff left behind by the storm, and to stop the new river from doing even more damage in the future.

Besides sending your much-needed support for our rescued animals this month, please include an extra emergency gift to help us rebuild our roads . . . and open them to the food delivery trucks.

For the animals,

Leo Grillo, founder

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



We're sitting on the headwater to the Santa Clara river. This magnificent river dumps into the ocean at Oxnard, 100 miles later. It is the last wild river in Southern California.

When the river came alive during the storms, it changed course in the mountains because of all the new burned out pathways.

It actually split . . . to come out of the mountains on BOTH sides of our Supershelter.

We were ready for the big river to cut us off. Staff bunks in for overnight stays, and we have emergency food for them. But during the peak of the storms, the new river that formed was so powerful that it destroyed the County street . . . dropping it 12 feet from where it stood.

And it also tore away our roads leading to that county street, and an acre of our land is now riverbed too! Our animals are safe . . . we sit on a mountain-top. But getting to and from our shelter is the problem.



Editorial

The missing link in murder

Voting Republican by a two-to-one margin in each election of this decade, Frankfort, Indiana, will never be mistaken for a bastion of bleeding-heart liberalism. The phrase “animal rights” has appeared in the hometown newspaper, the *Frankfort Times*, on only three occasions since 1997, according to an electronic search—and has never been used in a positive context.

Yet no one in Frankfort seemed even mildly surprised on December 21, 2004, when Clinton Superior Court Judge Kathy Smith jailed convicted dog shooter William Pierce, 55, for nine months. Pierce on Halloween 2004 shot his own Basset hound puppy. The police said Pierce did it because the puppy defecated on the floor. Pierce said he did it because the pup was barking. Either way, Pierce then wrapped the wounded puppy in plastic and tossed him into a trash can.

“Studies show that a person who tortures an animal is likely to hurt a human being. We want to make sure we get a handle on this,” said Judge Smith.

Following his jail time, Pierce is to serve 21 months on probation, during which he must refrain from all contact with alcohol, pets, firearms, and three persons including his estranged wife.

The most remarkable aspect of the case, from the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** perspective, is that neither *Frankfort Times* reporter Janis Thornton nor any authors of letters-to-the-editor seemed to find either the sentencing or Judge Smith’s comments at all unusual.

Pierce was convicted of a felony. In 1992, when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** debuted, just a handful of states permitted felony convictions in cruelty cases, and no person convicted of cruelty to an animal had served more than a few days of jail time within decades, if ever. The concept that cruelty to animals frequently precedes violence to people, though long known to criminologists, was just beginning to gain currency with law enforcement and the judiciary.

We now hear of similar sentences and judicial lectures to convicted animal abusers several times per week. We picked the Pierce case to cite almost by random draw.

The outcome of the Pierce case demonstrates remarkable progress in achieving societal recognition of the association between criminal abuse of animals and criminally harming humans. Much less progress has been made toward achieving broad recognition that the commission of illegal acts does not define the link.

The inhibition most relevant to the commission of a violent crime, against either animals or people, is not the inhibition against breaking a law, but rather the inhibition against harming a sentient fellow being, especially one who struggles and protests.

If inhibition against lawbreaking really had any strong role in preventing violent crime, the most dangerous members of society might include litterbugs, shoplifters, and significant numbers of people who drive cars.

To be sure, people who drive too fast, drive drunk, and run stop signs kill nearly twice as many Americans each year as all murderers combined, but their most frequent victims are themselves, and neither driving habits nor histories of petty crimes against property have any predictive value in suggesting who might commit assault, rape, arson, or murder.

At least seven of the most publicized recent murder cases demonstrate what the link really is, even though none of the alleged and/or convicted killers had previous histories of criminally injuring animals:

- Just before Halloween 2004, Canadian Press obtained a report produced for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police by Health Canada, which confirmed longstanding suspicion that alleged serial killer Robert Pickton, 54, of Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, may have fed the remains of as many as 60 women to pigs who were later slaughtered for human consumption. DNA testing has identified teeth and bone fragments from 22 women who have been named in murder indictments against Pickton. Pickton apparently pulverized the women with a wood chipper—essentially the same method that many factory farmers use to “recycle” into feed their dead livestock and still living “spent” hens, except that the machine used to kill poultry is called a “live macerator.”
- On November 21, 2004, Chai Soua Vang, 36, of Minneapolis, allegedly massacred six fellow deer hunters and wounded two others, after Vang was told to leave private property in Sawyer County, Minnesota. Vang in April 2001 was fined \$328 for possessing 93 more wild-caught fish than the legal limit; on Christmas Eve 2001 was jailed for allegedly threatening his wife with a handgun; and in April 2002 failed to pay a \$244 fine for hunting on posted land. In the interim police visited his home five times to investigate complaints about domestic disturbances and alleged theft. Chai Soua Vang has pleaded innocent to murder charges, contending that the shootings were self-defense.
- In Oakland, California, an Alameda County Superior Court jury on December 14, 2004 recommended the death penalty for Stuart Alexander, 43, after convicting him in

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Publisher: Kim Bartlett

Editor: Merritt Clifton

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Newswire monitor: Cathy Young Czapla

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Clinton, WA 98236-0960

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Telephone: 360-579-2505.

Fax: 360-579-2575.

E-mail: anmlpepl@whidbey.com

Web: www.animalpeoplenews.org

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October on three counts of murder. The sentence was affirmed on February 15. Alexander, then owner of the Santos Linguini Factory in San Leandro, in June 2000 turned on a surveillance camera, then killed USDA meat inspectors Jean Hillary, 56, and Tom Quadros, 52, along with California state meat inspector Bill Shaline, 57. Alexander also shot at California meat inspector Earl Willis, 54, who escaped.

- Lisa Montgomery, 36, of Melvern, Kansas, on December 17, 2004 was charged with strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, of Skidmore, Kansas, who was within days of giving birth. Montgomery confessed, police said, to killing Stinnett the preceding day in order to cut from her womb and kidnap her unborn daughter—who survived. Both women were rat terrier breeders. Montgomery’s crime was doing to Stinnett what puppy millers routinely do to bitches who may die in labor, to save and sell their whelps.

- Game rancher Mark Scott-Crossley, 37, on January 24, 2005 went to trial in Phalaborwa, South Africa, for allegedly ordering two employees to beat, tie, kick, and threaten former employee Nelson Chisale, 41. Afterward they allegedly tossed Chisale alive to the lions at the nearby Mokwalo White Lion Project. The lions finished him off. Hardly anyone admits to hunting big cats with live bait, but cases often surface, including the recent plea bargain convictions of Jack Shealy, 44, and Richard Scholle, 57, of Ochopee, Florida, for staking out a live goat on June 16, 2004 to lure a Florida panther. A third defendant, Jan Jacobson, 61, videotaped the attack, and faces trial in March 2005. The panther escaped the ambush. The goat, though badly injured, survived.

- On February 1, 2005, the Connecticut Supreme Court indefinitely stayed the scheduled execution by lethal injection of Michael Bruce Ross, 45, for killing eight young women in 1981-1984. Ross apparently threw his first victim off a cliff, then strangled seven more, including two 14-year-old friends he raped and killed in front of each other. Ross also attacked at least three other women. Incredibly, he was fined only \$500 for unlawful restraint and release after being caught with a 15-year-old he had tied up and gagged. Raised on his parents’ egg farm in Brooklyn, Connecticut, Ross choked spent hens as a routine chore. He later worked for an egg farm in Licking, Ohio.

- Claude Dallas, 54, on February 6, 2005 was released from the Idaho Correctional Institution in Orofino. Dallas, a trapper, in 1981 shot Idaho Department of Fish & Game officers Bill Pogue and Conley Elms, after they found two poached bobcat pelts in his tent. Wounding Pogue and Elms with a handgun, Dallas then used a .22 rifle to dispatch them like trapped animals, with point-blank head shots.

Blaming the victims feeds denial

Of the seven alleged and convicted murderers, only the hunter Chai Soua Vang and the trapper Dallas had any history of lawbreaking involving animals before killing humans. But their offenses were legally defined as crimes against property: trespassing plus unauthorized possession of the remains of animals who belonged to the state, on behalf of the public.

Accordingly, neither mass media nor animal advocates have made much of the role that routine cruelty to animals appears to have played in both teaching the killers their methods and conditioning them to transgress normal inhibitions against killing.

The very idea that widely practiced and broadly accepted forms of cruelty to animals might be a precursor to violence against humans tends to make most people uncomfortable.

Robert Pickton, for example, was just the sort of small-scale, self-reliant “Old MacDonald” farmer whose image factory agribusiness hides behind. Environmental groups dedicated to fighting urban sprawl and maintaining “green space” subsidize the operations of many farmers whose operations resemble his. People who eat pork like to imagine that their pigs lived like Pickton’s—and are much less disturbed that pigs are routinely tricked into cannibalism, like cattle and poultry, than at the possibility that they themselves might have been tricked into eating an animal who once ate a human.

Some, shocked that a farmer whose whole life was raising animals for slaughter killed people too, have offered in defense of Pickton that most of his alleged victims were prostitutes and drug addicts, likening his serial killing to the routine agricultural destruction of predators and crop-raiding nuisance wildlife.

In a backward sort of way, that is just the point: raising animals for meat is all about killing. As PETA puts it, “Meat is murder.”

Relatively few farmers progress to homicide, but the distance from killing pigs, coyotes, deer, raccoons, and so forth to killing humans is markedly less than the distance to murder from not killing anyone.

Michael Bruce Ross was a latter-day John-boy, superficially straight out of *The Waltons*, helping to maintain “green space” on the edge of suburbs full of sprawling lawns and shade trees. Even his victims were all young women of sterling repute.

None of the fictional Walton children ever slowly choked the life out of humans, well-reputed or otherwise—but they all had dreams and ambitions taking them far from the farm. That was perhaps the most realistic part of an otherwise grossly idealized depiction of rural living: no one *The Waltons* pretended that raising and killing animals was the best way to spend a human lifetime.

Stuart Alexander was a small-time entrepreneur, another occupational definition with a positive public image and many apologists. Purportedly Alexander was driven to murder by bureaucratic harassment—the sort that prevents Americans from dying of meat-carried parasitic diseases at anything close to the rates prevailing in much of the rest of the world.

Lisa Montgomery was a housewife who raised puppies, said to have gone mad from depression after a miscarriage. Only sympathy for her victims seems to restrain her apologists.

And then there are the hunters and trappers: Chai Soua Vang, the immigrant whose Americanization included a metamorphosis from Hmong hill dweller to truck-driving redneck; Mark Scott-Crossley, leading the Great White Hunter lifestyle glorified even in essentially pro-animal films such as *Born Free*; and Claude Dallas, the anti-establishment country-western song hero, whose female courtroom coterie were called the “Dallas Cheerleaders.”

People who admire the images these alleged and convicted murderers exemplified do not like to think of themselves as serial killers, rage-killers, or the sort of person who might throttle and hack open a mother-to-be.

Even more, most people do not like to imagine that they are in any way accomplices to such actions by eating meat and eggs, or hunting and fishing, or wearing fur.

In rebuttal to any suggestion that institutionalized cruelty to animals may be a precursor to murder and other forms of violent crime, many will argue that tens of thousands more people exploit and harm animals in routine commerce and recreation than ever engage in any kind of illegal violence.

That misses the point. The point is that all forms of cruelty, regardless of legality and regardless of the species of the victim, contribute to expanding the universe of suffering. All forms of distancing and denial allow the cruelty to continue, afflicting ever more victims and drawing in more participants.

Just a tiny minority of the participants ever choose to inflict cruelty with sadistic intent, but for those who do, work in agribusiness, slaughtering, or vivisection may provide cover for indulgence. Some eventually seek a further rush through torturing and killing humans. Only then do their acts burst the pretense that their sadism is anything else.

Yet, like a “puncture-proof” tire that reseals itself after a leak, the human capacity for distancing and denial allows society to expel and punish murderers without having to acknowledge that they are the ultimate products of layer upon layer of acculturation to killing animals without a twinge of conscience.

LETTERS

Belgrade zoo

I am a concerned citizen asking for guidance on how to help the animals who reside at the Belgrade city zoo. Built in 1936, on six hectares of rocky fortress, this privately operated zoo is among the oldest in Europe. It is located in the Belgrade city center, on city property. It has approximately 2.000 animals of about 200 species. Many big animals are in very small cages. Many animals look distressed. They often show signs of “stereotypic behavior,” such as pacing, head-bobbing, neck-twisting, bar-biting and sucking, coprophagia, over-grooming, and self-mutilation. Many animals have been born who are not in the zoo, including tigers, bears, and a hippo. What has become of them?

—Jelena Zaric
Belgrade, Serbia
<jelena.zaric@gmail.com>

Editor’s note:

Photographs accompanied this letter, illustrating conditions already documented by more than a dozen years’ worth of information on file here from other sources. The Tower of London menagerie was built to a similar plan circa 1235, recycling ancient fortifications on a much smaller scale, and was closed as inhumane in 1825, under pressure from the London Humane Society (which became the Royal SPCA in 1840), soon after the opening of the London Zoo.

To meet current “best practice” standards, the Belgrade city zoo might need to be completely rebuilt, but substantial improvements could be made just by placing some animals elsewhere, to focus on the species whose needs can be most readily accommodated within the facilities that now exist.

Praise for editorial “Prioritizing animal & human suffering”

Good for Kim Bartlett for taking an uncompromising stand on behalf of animals in her remarks quoted in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** January/February editorial “Prioritizing animal & human suffering.”

The attitude that humans must always come first, and by extension that nothing must ever be done for animals until all human suffering is ended, is responsible not only for withholding help from animals in a crisis (and questioning the morality of people who give help), but also for tolerating the most appalling atrocities against animals, since to protest about them would divert resources from human causes.

That Worldwide Veterinary Service chief executive Luke Gamble should take such an attitude, and even apparently feel guilty about his job, is really discouraging. This is all the more reason why animal advocates should stop using human-centred arguments, such as “meat is unhealthy,” “vivisection doesn’t work,” etc., and state firmly that we care about the animals, and that there should be recognized moral limits to what we do to animals even where it

would benefit humans.

Speciesists will say “Yes, we should have concern for animals, but it should be less than that for human beings.” Apart from the lack of any good reason for this recommendation, what it amounts to is that in practice any concern for animals is seen as robbing humans of that amount of concern, so that, with “any” equaling “more than,” “less” really means “none.”

To the frequent accusation, “You care more for animals than for human beings,” my reply would be that where political action is concerned, I do indeed, for the following reasons:

- 1) Animals are worse treated, both in the numbers affected and the amount of suffering and death inflicted, than even the most oppressed human beings.
- 2) Animals can’t defend themselves effectively against humans.
- 3) They have only a negligible, if any, place on most political agendas. In all these respects, their need is greater.

—Kathy Perlo
Dundee, Scotland
<kwperlo@ukonline.co.uk>

Bottle-feeding a baby llama is not an act of kindness

We at Southeast Llama Rescue sincerely appreciate **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and the tremendous job you all do to help and educate us. Founded in 1999, we are all-volunteer. Though we come from a variety of backgrounds, none of us have a particularly lengthy resume in animal rescue. However, we are no-kill, and we have open intake, with transport provided east of the Mississippi and south of New York. We have never turned down a llama or alpaca surrendered to us.

I’m writing to you today to hopefully educate more people on the fate of bottle raised llamas, usually for use in petting zoos. Baby llamas, called “crias”, are adorable, soft to the touch, and entirely endearing to the public. However, when these bottle-fed crias reach sexual maturity at the ages of two to four years old, they typically become difficult at best and often down right dangerous. Most are euthanized as soon as they exhibit behavior problems.

Crias should be left with their mothers. The only reason for bottle feeding is medical necessity, to prevent the death of the cria or mother, and then the cria still needs to be raised with other adult llamas to be properly socialized.

Mal-socialized llamas are rare. Llamas in general are gentle, intelligent, and safe for children to be around, due to their lack of hooves and upper incisors, and hesitation to bite even under the worst circumstances. However, bottle raised llamas are a horse of a

different color, and even when bottle feeding is a medical necessity, a trainer or rescue organization should be consulted about proper socialization.

Southeast Llama Rescue is one of the few llama rescues or sanctuaries that takes in llamas with aggression problems. Currently, we have over a dozen in our care. Several of the llamas we have here have caused serious injuries to their former caretakers, who have required emergency hospitalization for bite wounds, back injuries, and broken ribs. Several of the llamas here have also sustained injuries and abuse from people trying to “discipline” them, or simply protecting themselves from an attack. Two of our current residents have permanent facial deformities.

Although I’m sure it is a real treat for children to pet and hug a soft, cute bottle-fed cria, please educate and boycott any facility that provides these babies as an attraction. It is a practically a death sentence for the animal, and people could be seriously harmed too.

For more information about Southeast Llama Rescue, behavior problems in llamas, and other llama rescue organizations, please visit our website.

—Alvin Bean
Southeast Llama Rescue
2403 East Fork Rd
Marshall, NC 28753
<alvinbean@earthlink.net>
<www.southeastllamarescue.org>

CORRECTIONS

A text box overflow error cut short the quote from Clementien Pauws of the Karuna Society that ended the January/February 2005 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** feature “Indian humane community rises to meet the challenge of tsunami waves.” Said Pauws, “We fed hundreds of animals along the shore and in Naggapattinam, but there was only very little that we could do, compared to the need.” Author Merritt Clifton’s byline was also lost.

The names of greyhound racing opponents Carey and Connie Theil were misspelled as “Thiel” in the January/February 2005 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** article “Greyhound racing ends on U.S. west coast.”

—Wolf Clifton

FoA asks feds to explain bird hit list

Friends of Animals has submitted the following comments to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in response to the *Draft List of Bird Species to Which the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Does Not Apply*, as published in the Federal Register on January 4, 2005.

Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act (MBTA) on December 8, 2004. The MBTA has protected many birds, including the 113 species proposed for removal, since 1918, yet the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service took less than a month to compile the list of birds to be removed.

Controversy surround the native or non-native status of many species listed by the Service, yet the Service provides no case-by-case scientific justification.

For example, naturalist William Bartram referred to a bird who could have been the king vulture (*Sarcorampus papa*) being sighted in Florida in the late 18th century. A case could be made that king vultures were native to North America and might even be a candidate for reintroduction.

The red-breasted goose (*Branta ruficollis*) has been recorded on the Chukotsk Peninsula of Siberia, 40 miles west of the Seward Peninsula of Alaska.

According to *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*, “Several Florida records of the Cuban grassquit (*Tiaras canora*) may be of escapees, or they may be natural wanderers, from Cuba or the Bahamas, where the species has been introduced. In December 2000, the South Florida Birding web site reported that a Cuban

grassquit had been sighted in the dunes of South Point Park, south of Miami, Florida.

Upon examining the Federal Register notice, it is clear that the bird of interest is the mute swan. At least a third of the text space is taken up in discussion of this one species, among 113 birds listed for exemption.

The Service’s hastily-drawn list suggests that the concern is every non-native bird, but this pretense of neutrality is incongruent with the documentation.

To avoid unintended consequences, the Service must go through the entire list and provide justification for the inclusion of each individual species, conducting an exhaustive search of existing literature and consulting with ornithologists to assure that no naturally occurring species are included.

—Priscilla Feral, President
Friends of Animals
777 Post Road
Darien, CT 06820
<feral@friendsofanimals.org>
<www.friendsofanimals.org>

Friends of Animals has opposed federal and state attempts to kill mute swans since 1987. The impending extermination effort is also opposed by the Humane Society of the U.S. The amendment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that authorized the extermination was another stealth rider to the same budget bill that orders the Bureau of Land Management to sell all impounded wild horses who are either 10 years or age or have been offered for adoption at least three times without takers.

A TEXAN’S TRIBUTE TO THE MUSTANGS

I am writing, calling, and emailing my Congressional representatives, asking them to co-sponsor HR-297, to repeal the November 2004 stealth rider that has jeopardized our wild horses.

There is a Mustang Memorial at the University of Texas in Austin. With the monument is an inscription by Old West cultural his-

torian J. Frank Dobie, who authored *The Mustangs* (1952), and later received the Metal of Freedom from President Lyndon Johnson. Dobie recalls in the inscription that “In 1829 Stephen F. Austin wrote: ‘Immense herds of wild horses... Next to God, we owed our victory to the horses,’ in those times when, as sayings went, a man was no better than his horse, and a man on foot was no man at all.”

Congress would do well to behold the statue and the words of deepest gratitude to the wild horse by the men who settled the land.

—Barbara Scott
San Francisco, California
<barbara-scott@earthlink.net>

J. Frank Dobie also warrants remembrance for Voice of the Coyote (1949), which made one of the earliest arguments against exterminations of coyotes.

Noah’s Wish disaster training dates

Just back from helping with post-tsunami animal relief work in Sri Lanka, Noah’s Wish founder Terri Crisp has announced her 2005 disaster relief training schedule.

Eleven regional three-day workshops will offer interactive training in animal intake, reclaim, and lost-and-found; shelter management; emergency management; safety; search and rescue, the emotional aspects of disaster response; and disaster preparedness.

“Participants will stay on-site the entire three days,” spokesperson Shari Thompson said, “to give them a realistic experience of the physical challenges of responding to a disaster.”

Workshop dates and locations include March 4-6 in Charleston, South Carolina; March 18-20 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; April 1-3 in Nashville, Tennessee; April 22-24 in Columbus, Ohio; May 6-8 in Boston; May 20-22 in Flagstaff, Arizona; May 27-29 in Prince George, British Columbia; June 3-5 in Cheyenne, Wyoming; June 24-26 in Seattle; July 8-10 in Monterey, California; July 22-24 in Edmonton, Alberta; and August in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Contact Noah’s Wish c/o P.O. Box 997, Placerville, CA 95667; 530-622-9313; fax 530-622-9317; <info@noahswish.org>; <www.noahswish.org>.

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Peace for pigs (from page one)

Where pigs are not commonly factory-farmed and eaten, as in much of the Islamic world, they tend to be reviled as “unclean”—and, if they run free, are usually hunted, as in the parts of the U.S. and Europe which have either wild or feral pigs. Where free-roaming pigs thrive despite sport hunting, they are often exterminated as allegedly “invasive.”

The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service, for example, continuing a 35-year war on feral pigs, on January 27, 2005 announced that they will jointly spend \$5 million to try to kill all 2,000 pigs remaining on Santa Cruz Island within the next 18 months. \$3.9 million of that amount will be paid to ProHunt New Zealand Ltd., a company which specializes in shooting feral animals.

The shooting is to start in March or April. The dead pigs are to be left where they drop. The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service contend that the endangered Channel Islands fox has been hunted to the verge of extinction by golden eagles who prey upon piglets. But as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in May 1999, eagles and foxes are both carrion feeders. The Channel Islands eagle and fox populations boomed together, coinciding with past massacres of sheep, goats, pigs, and cattle, who were left where they fell. When the carrion ran scarce, the eagles added foxes to the menu.

In India, pigs are eaten only by the lowest Hindu castes, “tribals,” and the tiny Christian minority. Pigs are rarely either factory farmed or hunted. But India is scarcely “hog heaven.” As the Indian street dog population declines through the success of the national Animal Birth Control Program, street pigs are expanding their territory, sometimes encouraged by urban pig farmers, and are now sporadically killed as a public nuisance.

Failing to learn from experience with dogs that mass killing only opens up habitat, encouraging faster reproduction, the city council in Davangere, Karnataka in late 2004 poisoned more than 1,000 pigs. But pigs breed even faster than dogs. After pigs bit three children on February 1, the city council renewed the poisoning, and this time killed 2,000.

Barn & kennel fire deaths are preventable

Catastrophic fires at the end of January and beginning of February 2005 illustrated yet again the importance of avoiding fire hazards at animal facilities and developing contingency plans that allow for fast smoke-venting and/or animal evacuation.

Three fires erupted on January 24. The first was discovered at 2:45 a.m. at the Shepherd’s Way Farm near Nerstrand, Minnesota, the largest producer of sheep’s milk in the U.S., founded by Stephen Read and family in 1994. Of the flock of 800, about 113 ewes and 228 lambs were killed outright. University of Minnesota veterinary students and volunteer faculty later euthanized another 80-plus, chiefly due to lung damage from smoke inhalation.

Believed to have been an arson, the fire came four days after someone torched a stack of 30 round hay bales in a roadside pasture. There were no immediate suspects.

Smoke inhalation is the chief cause of death of both humans and animals in fires, but is somewhat more preventable in barns than in houses, if hay is stored away from the animals, if large doors can be opened on all sides, and if the large exhaust fans often used to vent manure fumes remain operable after a fire begins. Relatively few barns meet these requirements.

At about 11:30 a.m. on January 24, a fire of unknown origin was discovered at Covance Research Products’ Texter Mountain complex in Millcreek Township, Pennsylvania. Fought for five hours by 13 tankers from five departments, the fire razed one of four barns which according to a 2001 USDA report cumulatively housed 14,000 rabbits.

“An attempt by three employees to save some rabbits was thwarted by heavy smoke,” said *Lebanon Daily News* staff writer Rory Schuler.

Most small-animal care facilities still use fixed-position caging, like facilities built for larger animals, but some recent designs include modular caging, so that animals can be transported without having to transfer them from cages to carriers.

In addition, modular cages can be stacked on wheeled platforms, so that all of the animals in a section of the facility can be moved at once. This can make cleaning easier, as well as transportation, and if the

Beginning the mission

Woods already had a nursing career and a busy life as a single mother of two then-teenaged boys when she started Pigs Peace.

Woods’ youngest son, Nathan Stewart, 22, grew up assisting her with animal rescues and with the sanctuary management. Moving on in adulthood, he still visits often to lend a hand.

Continuing to covering much of the \$75,000-\$100,000 annual expense of operating Pigs Peace from her nursing salary, Woods works the night shift so that she can do her chores during the day. Volunteers help on weekends, but on weekdays she is often alone.

“Feeding the animals takes about two hours,” Woods explains. “I always do it, because during feeding time I can accurately assess each animal.”

As at most sanctuaries, the Pigs Peace animal population is constantly changing. Woods encourages adoption—if the prospective adopter has appropriate facilities, animal experience, and intentions.

The Pigs Peace roster typically numbers about “75 pigs, 20 feral cats, six dogs, two llamas, assorted hens and roosters, three ponies, a horse, and Tom the turkey,” according to Seattle freelance writer and lifelong animal advocate Eileen Weintraub.

On the last day of 2004 Weintraub visited Pigs Peace with her husband Mark Johnson, University of Washington law professor Kristen Stilt, who volunteers for the Society to Protect Animal Rights in Egypt, and **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The day was cold enough for snow, but Pigs Peace is too close to Puget Sound, at too low an elevation, to get snow very often. Pigs Peace had a significant snowfall at least once, though.

“During our last big storm of 2002 we had 10 inches of snow,” Woods later wrote in the Pigs Peace newsletter. “How do short-legged potbellied pigs get through snow deeper than their legs? Snowplow services were provided to them by the bigger pigs. In no time flat there were snow trails with pigs following

design of the facility allows, may enable staff to roll the animals outdoors in appropriate weather. The primary benefit from this tends to be happier, healthier animals, but faster evacuations can also be accomplished.

At about 11 p.m. on January 24, faulty wiring in the attic of shelter in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, killed 59 cats and 20 dogs. Shelter manager Digidit Weber lives next door, but was only able to save 11 dogs. A new shelter was already under construction to replace the one that burned, which was acquired in 1982. The design of older shelters focused on keeping the animals in and keeping intruders out. Newer layouts often include fenced outdoor exercise yards into which animals can be quickly released if a fast evacuation becomes necessary.

Location had a part in elevating the animal death toll from fires that on February 9 killed 13 dogs at Lennon’s Florist & Gift in Latham, New York, and on February 13 killed 87,000 chickens at Edelweiss Farms in Aurora, Oregon.

Eight dogs survived the Latham fire. Building inspector Mike Rosch told Albany *Times-Union* staff writer Anne Miller that although current zoning would preclude breeding dogs at the site, store owner Elaine Lennon was “grandfathered” to do so, having bred dogs there for more than 30 years.

The Edelweiss Farms fire was as bad as it was, Aurora fire chief Rod Yoder indicated to the Portland *Oregonian*, in part because the five tankers from four local engine companies who responded had to haul water from three miles away to fight it. Edelweiss Farms is owned by Wilcox Farms.

Firefighters arranged the rescue of 23 dogs, three cats, a rabbit, three birds, a giant spider, a scorpion, and a millipede they found in conditions of alleged neglect while fighting a January 3 fire at the home of Patricia Scott, 56, in Valparaiso, Indiana. Porter Superior Court Judge David Chidester on February 1 awarded permanent custody of all of the animals except two dogs to the Porter County Animal Shelter. Scott pleaded innocent to criminal animal cruelty on February 9, but pleaded guilty on January 10 to misdemeanor trespassing and false informing in connection with a January 6 alleged attempt to take the animals from the shelter.



Judy Woods feeds pigs. (Kim Bartlett)

each other single file to the eating patio.”

A frequent participant in Pigs Peace work bees, Weintraub documented many of Woods’ most memorable rescues.

“Judy became educated about farm animals when she acquired and fell in love with a second-hand piglet named Fern,” Weintraub recounted in February 2003 for the *Seattle New Times*.

“The sanctuary began when Woods learned that the potbellied pig fad,” peaking in the early 1990s, “had a fallout. Wayward pigs,” grown too big to live comfortably indoors, and inclined to dig up yards and demolish furnishings, “were not accepted into animal shelters because they were considered livestock.” Most were sold for slaughter.

Around the U.S., dozens of other people started pig sanctuaries, mostly with little background in sanctuary management and nonprofit fundraising, typically at unsuitable rented premises. Usually they accepted far more pigs than they could provide for, and after several years their efforts collapsed.

By 2000, the directors of two surviving pig sanctuaries separately told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that most of the pigs they were receiving came not one at a time from misguided individuals, but dozens at a time, from would-be rescuers who had bailed out.

“Every day I get a call from someone who doesn’t want a pig,” Woods wrote in her first newsletter, in 1998, four years after taking in her first pig. “They don’t understand why I can’t allow the sanctuary to become a convenient dumping ground. They don’t understand why I have created the sanctuary.

Broader goal

“Last year 5,000 potbellied pigs went to slaughter,” Woods continued. “There is not a single pig here who was not worth saving. While it is not realistic to save all of the potbellied pigs in need, I do know we can and do make a difference.”

Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* reporter M.L. Lyke wrote about her further purpose in December 2002. “The one-time Seattle city kid, whose grandfather was a butcher and whose father was a hunter, became a vegetarian at age 15, after reading an editorial challenging the hypocrisy of those who oppose clubbing seals but pay no attention to the dead animals on their plates,” Lyke wrote.

Elaborated Woods, in her 2003 fifth sanctuary anniversary newsletter, “We set out to create a quality lifetime home for animals who are usually slaughtered at an early age. We also set out to educate people of all walks of life about the nature of the pig. We are committed to sharing our compassion and respect for all animals for encouraging all who love animals to do the most profound loving thing: don’t eat them.

“Many people have lived with puppies and kittens, dogs and cats, and support shelters for them,” Woods continued. “Setting up Pigs Peace, we were warned that we would get no support. People don’t want to be exposed to the animals they eat, and will turn the other way. I didn’t listen.”

Woods initially billed Pigs Peace as “A safe haven of love for potbellied pigs,” but amended the description to, “A safe haven of love for pigs and their friends” in 1999.

The transition to a broader mission was confirmed in March 2000, when Pigs Peace temporarily sheltered more than 1,000 hens rescued from the collapse of Amberson’s Egg Ranch, at nearby Lake Stevens.

Fined \$21,000 by the Washington State Department of Ecology, and under orders from the federal Environmental Protection Agency to stop polluting tributaries to Lake Stevens within 10 days, egg ranch owner Keith Amberson allegedly abandoned

his flock for the first time in February 1999. About 250 starving hens were evacuated by Susan Michaels and Mark Steinway, cofounders of the Pasado’s Safe Haven sanctuary in Sultan, Washington.

Amberson gassed another 20,000 hens with carbon monoxide, and beat an attempted cruelty prosecution by contending that he left the hens without food to induce a forced molt, a standard egg production practice that simulates the effects of late winter on wild birds, bringing on a new egg-laying cycle.

Thirteen months later Amberson left 50,000 hens to die. Most of the survivors spent weeks or months at Pigs Peace before recovering sufficient health to be placed through adoption or be shared among other sanctuaries as far away as northern California. This time Everett District Judge Tom Kelly fined Amberson \$500, ordered him to do 200 hours of community service, and barred him from keeping animals for two years.

The Amberson Egg Ranch rescue was Pigs Peace’s biggest single project to date, but pig rescues have produced more stories.

In 2001, for example, Woods accepted three pigs from a Loma Linda University researcher.

“When they arrived,” Weintraub recalls, “they were hesitant to come out of the trailer. They didn’t know how to eat real food, had never seen trees or pigs in freedom, touched grass, or been outside. They were even more divorced from normal behavior than pigs from factory farms. The day they arrived, a good friend of the sanctuary died,” longtime Northwest Animal Rights Network board member Mitzi Leibst.

Leibst “dedicated her life to animal advocacy and fought against the use of animals in research,” Weintraub recalled. “Two of the three pigs were placed in homes, and the one who stayed,” who had once suffered a broken spine, “was named in her honor. Now Mitzi will come running when called. But she still exhibits classic trauma behavior, affectionate one minute, shutting down with a look of terror the next.

“Many residents of Pigs Peace have big personalities,” Weintraub observed. “Many are former house pets, like George. One day, George watched Nathan make a sandwich with ingredients from the refrigerator. Now, whenever George gets into the house, he makes a beeline for the fridge, opens the door, pulls open the vegetable bin, and drags out the lettuce. Thankfully, only Oscar has learned to open the gate leading to the courtyard around the house. The other pigs line up behind him, and once naughty Oscar opens the gate, they follow.

“Part of the fun around the sanctuary,” Weintraub continued, “is watching the friendships that form among the pigs. They often hang out in groups of three. Spud, Elissa, and Daisy often sleep right next to each other in the barn. From a distance, you might just notice a big pile of hay. As you get closer, out pop three porcine heads.”

True enough—and elsewhere among the hay are other clusters of pigs. On a cold day the whole hay storage area is a nest of pigs, burrowed in deep to keep warm.

“But not all the pigs get along so well,” recalled Weintraub. “Henry and Chloe were a tight pig couple. Then they had a spat and refused to sleep in the same barn. Chloe started losing weight. After six months, they reconciled; with domestic squabbles over, Chloe regained the weight.”

One could say the pigs made peace.

[Contact Pigs Peace at P.O. Box 295, Stanwood, WA 98292; 360-629-6433 e-mail <pigspeace@lycos.com>; web

Wolf reintroduction wins twice in federal court

ALBUQUERQUE, PORTLAND—February 1, 2005 was a good day for wolves, at least in court.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S. District Judge Christina Armijo dismissed an effort to force the removal of Mexican gray wolves from southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. The wolves were reintroduced to the region in 1998. The New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties for Stable Economic Growth, and co-plaintiffs held that the reintroduction—debated for more than a decade—was done with insufficient study.

Ruling for a coalition headed by Defenders of Wildlife, U.S. District Judge Robert E. Jones of Portland, Oregon meanwhile reversed an April 2003 ruling by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that the gray wolves of the continental U.S. form three separate populations, and are endangered only in the west.

Pushed by George W. Bush administration political appointees, and supported by many organizations representing hunters and ranchers, the Fish & Wildlife Service position left intact federal protection of the “experimental, non-essential” population of about 825 wolves who are descended from several packs reintroduced to the Yellowstone National Park region in 1995.

However, the 2,500 wolves of Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Michigan upper peninsula were exposed to more aggressive predator control under the Fish & Wildlife Service edict. The edict also virtually precluded reintroducing wolves to northern New England and upstate New York, a longtime goal of groups including the Maine Wolf Coalition and Restore the North Woods.

Taking note of Jones’ ruling, the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission on February 11 adopted a long-awaited wolf reintroduction policy which allows wolves who arrive on their own legs to stay, sets a population target of at least eight breeding pairs, and asks the state legislature to fund compensation for ranchers who lose livestock to wolves.

“Ranchers would get added freedom

to kill problem animals as wolf numbers increase,” wrote Michael Milstein of the Portland *Oregonian*. “Wolf hunting could eventually be allowed to keep wolves from killing too many elk, deer or other prey.”

For now, wolves wandering into Oregon should receive a warmer official welcome than the three who are known to have visited since 1999. “One was removed, another killed by a car and the third illegally shot,” recalled Milstein.

Still hated in Alaska

Friends of Animals, however, was not successful on either January 27 or February 1 in repeated attempts to persuade Anchorage Superior Court Judge Sharon Gleason to suspend aerial killing of wolves at least until May 16, when an FoA lawsuit challenging the killing is to go to trial. Gleason also refused to grant FoA a preliminary injunction against the wolf-strafting in 2003.

The Alaska Board of Game has authorized hunters to shoot 610 wolves from aircraft this year, in addition to the estimated 1,500 who will be killed by trappers, from a population of 8,000 to 11,000. The purpose of the aerial killing is to make more moose and caribou available to human hunters.

Wolf researcher Gordon Haber, a longtime FoA consultant, pointed out in a February 8 e-mail to news media that “In a January 21, 2005 Associated Press story by Mary Pemberton of Anchorage, Alaska Department of Fish & Game spokesperson Cathy Harms was quoted as saying that Fortymile region aerial hunting permittees would not be allowed to track wolves via the radio collars some of them are wearing.”

Nonetheless, Haber observed, “aerial wolf hunting permits were issued to Paul Zaczkowski, Rick Swisher, and Marty Webb, who for many years have been the Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s primary contract pilots for state wolf radio collaring and radio tracking activities in the Fortymile area.”

Earlier, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game agreed to a plea bargain settlement of charges against Tony Zellers, 41, of

Eagle River, who with pilot David Haeg, 38, of Soldotna was charged with violating the rules for killing wolves in March 2004.

“Zellers will spend 12 days in jail, pay a \$1,000 fine and pay restitution of \$4,500. His state hunting, trapping and guiding privileges also have been suspended until July, and he was placed on five years’ probation,” summarized Pemberton.

By comparison, Mark Luttrell, 46, of Seward, on February 15 was fined \$3,000 with additional fines of \$2,250 suspended, sentenced to 90 days in jail, all suspended, put on probation for 36 months, and ordered to pay \$488 in damages to a trapper whose 30 traps set for wolves, coyotes, wolverines, and weasels Luttrell found and removed in mid-January. All of the traps were recovered and returned to the trapper.

Feared in Europe

A roadkilled wolf found on January 12 in Castelli Romani National Park, Italy, was the first seen near Rome in 70 years. Amid public excitement, farmers blamed the seven-month-old wolf for livestock losses.

More than 30 years of effort to restore wolves to Europe have begun to succeed, but anti-wolf hostility lingers.

Wolves have recovered most rapidly in the former Communist nations, where the human population density is less and sport hunting has long been restricted by prohibitions on private possession of firearms.

Bulgaria, claiming national populations of 2,230 wolves, 27,000 golden jackals, and 36,500 foxes, authorized a one-day predator hunt on February 19. At least 28 wolves were killed during the regular hunting season, which ended on January 31.

The European Union Environmental Commission meanwhile called upon Finland to halt a wolf hunt that was expected to kill about 15 of the estimated 150 Finn wolves.

Swedish officials were elated that 10 of the 13 Scandinavian wolf packs known to have raised cubs in 2004 lived in Sweden, but were dismayed when neighboring Norway allowed hunters to kill five of just 20

Other wildlife cases

U.S. District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz ruled on January 19, 2005 in San Diego that the Honolulu-based *King Diamond II* became a fishing vessel under U.S. law when it collected 32 tons of shark fins from 26 swordfish and tuna fishing boats between June and August 2002. The prosecution is the first under the five-year-old U.S. anti-shark finning law. Tai Loong Hong Marine Products Ltd., of Hong Kong, boat owner Tran & Yu Inc., and captain Chien Tan Nguyen face up to \$620,000 in fines for alleged possession of shark fins without the bodies of the sharks, which have little sale value. The *King Diamond II* operators allegedly paid \$300,000 for the fins, with an estimated retail value of \$775,000. They retrieved and sold the fins after posting bond for that amount.

District Judge David Rice of Havre, Montana, on February 12, 2005 rejected claims by three ex-game ranchers that Initiative 143, approved by voters in November 2000, was an illegal “taking” of their property because in banning game farming, it put them out of business. “The state does not owe compensation for injury to the value of a business that exists only because the Legislature has allowed it,” Rice wrote. Rice pointed out that the ex-game farmers are “free to make other economically viable use of their property.”

Norwegian wolves, some of whom may have crossed over from Sweden. Swedish environment minister Lena Sommerstad protested to her Norwegian counterpart, Knut Arild Hareide, who called killing “only” five wolves a compromise.

“The wolf is vermin and should be taken out,” said Center Party program committee chair Lars Peder Brekk. But a poll commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund found that 54% of Norwegians opposed killing the wolves.

Norway also authorized hunters to kill up to 51 of the estimated 250 lynx left in the nation, a third fewer than the official national population target.

Fox hunters vow to “keep buggering on” *(from page 1)*

Members of the League Against Cruel Sports and other anti-hunting organizations monitored about 100 of the hunts. Allegedly illegal fox hunting was reportedly videotaped at six hunts. Police confirmed that four hunting incidents were under investigation, plus one case of alleged trespassing by hunt members and a case of a hunter allegedly assaulting a protester at the East End Hunt, near Ashford.

“Wiltshire police said they had arrested four men discovered at around 4:00 a.m. with four dogs and the carcass of a hare,” reported Owen Bowcott of *The Guardian*. “The suspects, who were arrested under the new law but freed on bail, were not connected to an organized hunt.”

Hunt Saboteurs Association member Jaïne Wild claimed that a van carrying members en route to monitor the Crawley & Horsham Hunt in West Sussex was forced off the road. “We’ve had our van rammed by a 4x4,” Wild told Mark Townsend, Anushka Asthana, and David Smith of *The Observer*. “It’s totally smashed at the back,” Wild continued. “We were rammed down the slope and thought we were going to be pushed into a telegraph pole.”

Wrote Bowcott, “Police confirmed they were investigating the incident and would also be discussing with the hunt an ‘unnecessarily provocative incident’ in which a dead fox was thrown to the hounds.”

Objecting to “gratuitous, spiteful killing of foxes,” which she said she had seen while monitoring the Bicester Hunt in Oxfordshire, Protect Our Wild Animals member Penny Little told listeners to the BBC-1 program *Breakfast with Frost* that, “If the hunting fraternity go out into the field and commit offences and attempt to run circles around this law, there is only one development that can occur, and that is a tightening of the law. It will not be repealed because they have behaved in a thuggish and cruel manner,” Little promised.

Said rural affairs minister Alun Michael on BBC Radio 4, “Reality is that the

law is very clear. You can’t chase wild mammals with a pack of dogs, whether the wild mammal is a fox or a deer. If people do so, and pretend they’re not, it’s going to become very clear. You can’t hunt accidentally.”

Nigel Yeo, public order spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers, told Brigitte Dusseau of Agence France-Presse that enforcing the ban would be “of a lower priority set against everything else that is required of police forces,” but hedged by adding that if civil disobedience by hunters degenerated into public disorder, policing hunts would become “a significant priority, because it is difficult to think of a higher priority for police forces than public safety.”

The Countryside Alliance, the leading pro-hunting organization in Britain, contended that the hunting ban was passed, over opposition from the House of Lords, through an illegal use of the 1949 Parliament Act.

On February 16, however, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeal headed by Chief Justice Lord Woolf dismissed that argument. Hunt supporters pledged to appeal next to the European Court of Human Rights.

Political positioning

Hunters are also preparing to push more pro-hunting candidates in the next national election, reported Jonathan Brown of *The Independent*. Hunters claimed one victory of note in the last election, defeating former Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament Jackie Ballard, who went on to become director general of the Royal SPCA.

Rumor has it that Blair will call a national election in May. A recent BBC poll suggested that hunting will not actually be a vote-changing issue in most of Britain, as the ban was favored by 47% of the respondents, and opposed by just 26%. Earlier polls showed up to 70% of respondents favoring a ban on fox hunting, but the phrasing of the question rather than any actual loss of support appeared to account for the difference.

Many fox hunting opponents have already moved on to other issues.

The League Against Cruel Sports, for instance, is reportedly escalating a campaign against trophy hunting. AnimalAid is campaigning against captive bird shoots.

“However,” wrote Rich Cookson of *The Independent*, “while seeking the hunting ban united the animal welfare lobby, campaigns against shooting are likely to divide it. Two of the organizations with the most money and public support, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal SPCA – are unequivocally against such a campaign.”

Confirmed IFAW spokesperson Gill Sanders, “We have no plans to campaign against shooting.”

Added David Bowles, head of campaigns for the RSPCA, “Snaring is a problem from an animal welfare point of view,” but “The RSPCA has no plans whatsoever to do any work on hunting or fishing. It would be silly for us to open up a whole new area,” Bowles told Cookson, “when there is no public and political support for it.”

The last days

On February 17, the last day of legal traditional fox hunting, the South Durham Hunt reportedly spent much of the morning unsuccessfully hounding a fox who lives on the grounds of Labour Party prime minister Tony Blair’s rural estate. South Durham Hunt members said they had pursued “Tony’s fox” off and on for five years.

Dan Norris, Member of Parliament for Wansdyke, was pelted with eggs and said a female aide was punched as they arrived in Badminton for a TV appearance.

The ban on hounding mammals also applies to coursing, a spectator event in which captive hares are released from cages to be pursued by dogs. The Waterloo Cup, the most prominent coursing meet each year since 1836, was held on the last weekend before the hunt ban took effect. Future editions may be held in France or Ireland, the organizers hinted.

The 20-member Pau-Hunt of France, founded by British expatriates in 1840, is reportedly preparing to accept an influx of dis-

Animal advocates get Order of British Empire

Wildlife veterinarian Bill Jordan is to receive the Order of the British Empire on April 27, Buckingham Palace announced on January 1. Jordan debuted in wildlife medicine as consulting vet for the **Chester Zoo**, then extended his skills in Iran 1964-1970, and in South Africa for three years after that. Jordan went on to found the wildlife department at the **Royal SPCA**, authored the wildlife care manual *Care For The Wild* (1982), and in 1982 founded the international animal aid charity **Care For The Wild**. Also author of an influential critique of zoos, *The Last Great Wild Beast Show* (1990), Jordan was a founding member of the **British Zoological Veterinary Society**, and a longtime director of the **Captive Animals Protection Society**. Jordan left CAPS in 2000 and left Care For The Wild in 2001, going on to found the **Bill Jordan Wildlife Defence Fund**.

Jordan is at least the third prominent animal advocate to receive Buckingham Palace recognition in recent years. **Animals Asia Foundation** founder **Jill Robinson** received the Order of the British Empire in 1998, while **Dogs Trust** chair **Clarissa Baldwin** received it in 2003.

placed British hunters, but the Irish Masters of Foxhounds warned its 41 member clubs in early February that British hunters should be discouraged, lest landowners become intolerant of increased numbers of riders, dogs, and horses. Not mentioned was the likelihood that the presence of British hunters riding over Irish turf might rally Irish nationalism behind growing Irish opposition to hunting for the animals’ sake.

Captain Ian Farquhar, master of the 300-year-old Duke of Beaufort’s hunt in Gloucestershire, noted for frequent participation by members of the Royal family, reportedly told supporters that Winston Churchill once said, “We must keep buggering on,” to uphold British traditions.

“I intend to keep buggering on,” Farquhar concluded.

Garments & the Gorilla Foundation

SAN MATEO, California—Former Gorilla Foundation employees Nancy Alperin, 47, and Kendra Keller, 48, both of San Francisco, on February 15, 2005 sued the foundation in San Mateo County Superior Court for alleged wrongful dismissal and gender discrimination, claiming damages of \$719,830 and \$366,192, respectively.

Alperin and Keller in January 2005 gave the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing “identical reasons for why they were fired: ‘I refused to expose my breast to perform acts of bestiality with one of the gorillas,’ said *San Francisco Chronicle* staff writer Patricia Yollin.

“The lawsuit goes into more detail,” Yollin added. “One example: ‘In at least two incidents in mid-to-late June 2004, Patterson intensely pressured Keller to expose herself to Koko while they were working outside where other employees could potentially view Keller’s naked body.’”

The suit alleges that Patterson said on one occasion, “Koko, you see

my nipples all the time. You are probably bored with my nipples. You need to see new nipples. I will turn my back so Kendra can show you her nipples.”

Todd Roberts, a partner in the law firm that represents the Gorilla Foundation, told Yollin that, “Based on our review of the factual allegations and characterizations in the complaint, we deny those allegations.”

Continued Yollin, “The suit says the two women, who never did undress, also worked unpaid overtime and faced unsanitary conditions, including gorilla urine stored in the refrigerator where they kept their lunches, rodents in the food preparation area, and exposed wires. They notified the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, which conducted an inspection last August 5 and issued \$300 in fines for violations that have since been corrected. The two women were fired August 6.”

Alperin had worked at the Gorilla Foundation for three months; Keller for four months.

CHAMP

“People following the day-by-day progress of animal relief work in Sri Lanka may have seen pictures of a vet holding a stick-like device to vaccinate from a distance. They are not jabbing the dogs,” Robert Blumberg explained, “but using an ‘auto-vaccinator,’ for which Dr. Gamaika of Pets V Care won an award. You just touch the end of the stick to a dog—no jabbing—while the dog is eating a bit of bait food, snap the release, and the vaccine is injected with minimal stress to the animal. In market areas where the government has vaccinated every year, some dogs actually come when they see the auto-vaccinator, since they know that for a minimal price they will get a treat. All the Pets V Care mobile units carry these devices, and because of the gentle nature of the device, we can vaccinate for rabies, then reload with a shot of Ivermectin for mange.”

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Fund for Animals

United Egg Producers are sued for false advertising

TAKOMA PARK, Maryland—Compassion Over Killing on February 15, 2005 sued Giant Food Inc. of Landover, Maryland, Lehman’s Egg Service Inc. of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and Brookville Supermarket of Washington, D.C., alleging that their use of an “Animal Care Certified” logo introduced in 2002 by United Egg Producers is false advertising.

Under the United Egg Producers guidelines, Compassion Over Killing points out, farmers may “Confine birds in cages so small they can’t even spread their wings, slice off parts of their beaks without painkiller, and starve them [to induce a new egg-laying cycle by so-called ‘forced molt’] to the point where they have lost up to 30 percent of their body weight.”

United Egg Producers spokesperson Mitch Head told Gretchen Parker of Associated Press that about 80% of all U.S. egg farmers meet the standards.

The Better Business Bureau National Advertising Review Board in May 2004 upheld a November 2003 ruling by a lower panel that the “Animal Care Certified” logo is misleading and should either be dropped or be significantly altered. In August 2004 the BBB asked the U.S. Federal Trade Commission to investigate the alleged deceptive labeling.

Compassion Over Killing filed the logo case 12 days after Worcester County district judge Patrick Hayman dismissed a misdemeanor cruelty charge brought against Purdue Farms Inc. based on a Compassion Over Killing undercover video of conditions at a now closed Purdue slaughterhouse in Showell.

“The tape showed chickens flapping after their throats were slit and piles of live chickens being shoved and thrown down a processing line,” wrote Parker. District attorney Joel Todd told Judge Hayman that he did not want to prosecute the case, which he believed should not have been filed.

Human/animal abuse link cases

Tequilla Fields, 34, and **Lachan Russell**, 29, were on February 15, 2005 jailed without bond in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, facing charges of criminal homicide, arson, and reckless endangerment for setting a dog on fire at about 2:15 a.m. on July 11, 1990. Tied to their house, the dog ran onto the porch, igniting the house and killing Fields’ children, **Montelle Thornhill**, 2, and **Charita Thornhill**, 3. Wrote **Joe Mandak** of Associated Press, “The children’s great-grandmother, who has since died, doused the dog with water, police said. The dog, **Fay Lou**, then ran inside the house and was found dead under Montelle’s bed. Their uncle, **Andre Robinson**, then 15, tried to save the children but couldn’t find them in the thick smoke. He jumped from a third-floor window to save himself, police said.” Police commander **Maurita Bryant** said the case was cracked by re-interviewing about 20 witnesses, after which Fields and Russell each gave statements blaming the other.

Summit County Judge Brenda Burnham Unruh on February 17, 2005 sentenced **Daniel Fikes**, 57, of Norton, Ohio, to serve three years in prison for shooting four of his wife’s seven cats last October in front of his eight-year-old grandson, 16-year-old son, and a 17-year-old nephew. Fikes, once locally notorious for his menagerie of bears, lions, tigers, wolves, and a leopard, served four years in prison after he and his wife Nancy were convicted in 1991 of promoting prostitution and related drug offenses. Fikes had prior convictions “dating back to the late 1960s for robbery, rape and drug trafficking,” wrote Akron *Beacon-Journal* staff writer **Phil Trexler**.

UARC wins civil rights settlement

Utah Animal Rights Coalition members Aaron Lee and Peter Tucker in early February 2005 received from **Salt Lake County** \$500 each, \$500 for UARC, and \$10,000 in legal fees and court costs, in settlement of a lawsuit alleging that their civil rights were violated when sheriff’s deputy **Sherida Holgate** told them on December 7 that they could not protest within a block of a public concert hall. The settlement allowed UARC to amend the case to challenge an ordinance requiring a permit and 30-day notice to demonstrate on public property.



USDA closes C.C. Baird

ST. LOUIS—C.C. and Patsy Baird, of Williford, Arkansas, longtime suppliers of random-source dogs and cats to laboratories, have paid a record penalty of \$262,700 to the USDA for breaking “practically every regulation and standard applicable to dogs and cats,” USDA attorney Colleen Carroll told Todd Frankel of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* on February 1, 2005, three days after the settlement was finalized.

The Bairds’ daughters Jeannette and Patricia reportedly also worked in the business.

Wrote Frankel, “The agreement between the USDA and the Bairds calls for the fine, plus the permanent loss of the family’s four animal breeding and dealer licenses and the threat of an additional \$250,000 fine if they are caught handling animals in the next five years. As part of the deal, the Bairds neither admitted nor denied the allegations.”

Frankel said that about 90 dogs and 120 cats rescued from the Baird kennels were up for adoption.

In August 2003 federal and state investigators turned over to rescue groups about 125 dogs seized from the Bairds. Many were believed to be lost or stolen pets.

Last Chance for Animals called the USDA action a victory, after an eight-year campaign against the Bairds, “but Carroll said her office’s investigation did not rely on the group’s work and she never viewed the videos” that LCA sent her, Frankel wrote.

Events

- March 5: Music fundraiser for Judy’s Ark**, Pearsall, Texas. Info: 830-334-4500.
- March 7: National Capitol Hill Day for Wild Horses**. Info: 866-983-3456; <www.ahdf.org>.
- March 10-12: Virginia Fed. of Humane Societies** conf., Roanoke. Info: <www.vfhs.org>.
- March 12-14: Farm Animal Forum**. Info: Farm Sanctuary, <office@farmsanctuary.org>.
- March 15: 3rd Annual NYS Animal Protection Lobbying Day**, Albany, NY.. Info: 212-889-0303.
- March 17-18: Compassion In World Farming** conf., London. Info: <ciwf-events@eventbookings.com>.
- March 19: Political Training for Animal Rescue & Rights Advocates**, Las Vegas. Info: Las Vegas Valley Humane Soc, <nick-susan15@hotmail.com>, or Natl. Institute for Animal Advocacy, <jlewin@igc.org>.
- March 20: Great American Meatout**. Info: Farm Animal Reform Movement, 1-800-MEATOUT, <www.meatout.org>.
- March 25-27: No Kill Solutions Conf.**, San Diego. Info: 619-8 2 5 - 6 2 1 9 ; <www.NoKillSolutions.com>.
- April 1-2: Animal Welfare Fed. of N.J.** annual conf., Long Branch, N.J. Info: <www.awfnj.org>.
- April 3: Barkitecture** live auction of custom-built dog houses and cat condos to benefit Hull Seaside Animal Rescue. Info: 781-925-6167; <www.hsar.org>.
- April 3: Animal Care Conference**, San Jose, Calif. Co-hosted by Calif. Animal Control Directors’ Assn., State Humane Assn. of

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Best Friends Animal Society has several job openings for the national No More Homeless Pets campaign. Details: www.bestfriends.org/employment/employment.htm


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—Wolf Clifton

Court of Human Rights rules for “McLibel” duo

STRASBURG, France—The European Court of Human Rights on February 14, 2005 ruled that British vegetarian activists David Morris, 50, and Helen Steel, 39, were improperly denied government legal aid and were convicted of libel under an unjust law in the “McLibel” trial.

The seven-judge European Court panel dismissed the 1997 “guilty” verdict, held that the verdict violated Articles 6 and 10 of the European Human Rights Convention, and awarded Morris and Steel damages of \$25,934 and \$19,451, respectively.

As members of a defunct organization called London Greenpeace, Morris and Steel in 1986 distributed flyers, which they did not author, alleging that McDonald’s Restaurants sell unhealthy food, produced by means which cause animal suffering and contribute to starvation and deforestation in economically disadvantaged parts of the world.

Sued by McDonald’s in 1990, other defendants dropped out when denied legal aid, but Morris, then marginally employed, and Steel, who was between jobs, elected to defend themselves.

The trial lasted for 313 days, over parts of four years. The court found that the pamphlet allegations about animal abuse were sustained, along with allegations about exploiting children and paying low wages, but not some other claims, and ordered Morris and Steel to pay McDonald’s £60,000 in damages. The amount was cut to £40,000 on appeal in 1999.

Morris and Steel then appealed to the European Court, represented by solicitor Mark Stephens Keir Starmer QC. “Until now,” Starmer

said after the European Court verdict, “only the rich and famous have been able to defend themselves against libel writs. Now ordinary people can participate much more effectively in public debate without the fear that they will be bankrupted for doing so. This case is a milestone for free speech.”

The case was already widely regarded as one of the biggest corporate public relations debacles of all time, for the global scrutiny and criticism it brought McDonald’s. McDonald’s reportedly spent £10 million to prosecute Morris and Steel, who raised £40,000 for their defense.

Britain was given 90 days to appeal the European Court ruling.

“Apart from paying the damages, the government will have to open the legal aid purse strings to impecunious defendants sued by multinational corporations or wealthy individuals in complex cases,” if the verdict stands, wrote London *Guardian* legal correspondent Clare Dyer.

“At present,” Dyer explained, “defamation is excluded from the scope of legal aid. Funding can be granted in exceptional cases, but the conditions are so tight that only one defamation case has been funded in the five years since the law was amended.

“The unanimous ruling from Strasbourg will also prompt a re-examination of the libel laws,” Dyer continued, “which many believe are too technical and complex and too heavily weighted in favour of claimants. The judgment could exert a downward pressure on libel awards,” Dyer predicted, “obliging judges to consider for the first time the defendant’s means in fixing damages.”

Australian court calendar

Live transport

PERTH—The West Australia Supreme Court on January 27 ordered West Australia Department of Local Government & Regional Development director general Cheryl Gwilliam to explain to the court why her office failed to act upon a complaint filed by Animals Australia in June 2004, alleging that live sheep shipments to the Middle East violate animal welfare laws. Animals Australia contends that the failure to respond is in itself a violation of the Animals Welfare Act of 2002.

Whaling

SYDNEY—Australian federal environment minister Ian Campbell on January 26 told Federal Court Justice James Alsup that his government will not support an attempt initiated by Humane Society International to prosecute the Japanese whaling firm Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha Ltd. for its part in killing about 440 minke whales per year inside the Antarctic Territory claimed by Australia as part of its territorial waters.

HSI spokesperson Nicola Beynon said her organization would nonetheless pursue the case. HSI is the international arm of the Humane Society of the U.S.

Record sentence

MELBOURNE—Matthew Paul Gardeniers, 30, of Croydon, on February 4 received a six-month jail term for killing his cat with a shovel. Gardeniers told Royal SPCA inspectors that he had previously killed another cat. The sentence, RSPCA spokespersons said, was the stiffest ever given in Australia for cruelty to an animal.

Gardeniers “was jailed for three months for attacks on his four-week-old daughter, which left her with three fractures to her left leg, a broken left arm and bruising to her arms, hands, legs and buttocks” during the first four weeks of her life in 1997,” wrote Kelvin Healey of the Melbourne *Herald-Sun*.

“Since his 1998 jail term,” Healey added, “Gardeniers has amassed convictions for recklessly causing injury, making threats to kill, and assaulting police,” prior to the cruelty conviction. Also on February 4, Gardeniers drew four months in jail for breaching parole by punching a police officer on December 19, 2004. The police officer intervened as Gardeniers beat a 50-year-old man. Two days before Gardeniers was sentenced, Healey said, he threatened to kill Healey and a *Herald-Sun* photographer.

More events

Calif., & Calif. Vet. Medical Assn. Info: 949-366-1056; <www.animalcareconference.org>.

(continued on page 11)

April 6: Paws for Laughter comedy fundraiser for PetAbuse.com, Escondido, Calif. Info: <www.paws-forlaughter.com>; 866-240-1179.

April 6-9: HSUS Animal Care Expo, Atlanta. Info: <www.animalsheltering.org/expo>; 1-800-248-EXPO.

April 10: Touched By An Animal luncheon, auction, raffle. Info: 773-728-6336; <m.galanti@comcast.net>.

April 22-24: No More Homeless Pets, Portland, Oregon. Info: Best Friends, 435-644-2001, x163, <Nicole@bestfriends.org>; <www.bestfriends.org>.

April 23-30: World Week for Laboratory Animals. Info: <Kristie@idausa.org>.

April 24-26: Texas Fed. of Humane Soc. conf., Houston. Info: 512-282-1277 or <www.txfederation.org>.

April 25: Romania Animal Rescue charity golf tournament, Clayton, Calif. Info: 925-672-5908;

<Romania-Dogs@joimail.com>; <www.RomaniaAnimalRescue.go.ro>.

May 12-15: 2nd InterNICHE Conf.: Innovations in life science education and training, Oslo, Norway. Info: <www.interniche.org>.

June 22-24: Asia for Animals conf., Singapore. Info: <louis@acres.org.sg>.

July 7-11: Animal Rights 2005, Los Angeles. Info: <www.AR2005.org>.

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

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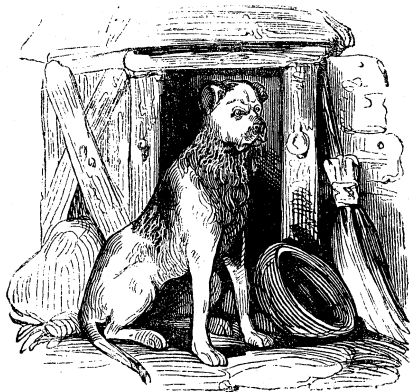
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Alleged cover-ups of Animal Welfare Act violations at two universities and USDA-APHIS call into question the ability of the agency to enforce the law

LAFAYETTE, Louisiana; RENO, Nevada—Complaints of cover-ups and administrative retaliation have flushed into the open allegations of extensive Animal Welfare Act violations at the New Iberia Research Center at the University of Louisiana and the University of Nevada College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources.

A parallel complaint filed against the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service by Eastern Regional Animal Care Office inspector Richard Botelho calls into question the ability of USDA-APHIS to enforce the Animal Welfare Act against high-profile institutions.

USDA-APHIS spokesperson Darby Holladay on February 14 confirmed that the New Iberia Research Center is under investigation. “Holladay would not confirm that the investigation stemmed from allegations made by a former employee,” wrote Marsha Sills of the *Lafayette Daily Advertiser*, “but a lawsuit filed earlier this month by [former research center coordinator] Narriman Fakier alleges she was fired for blowing the whistle on animal cruelty and violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

“The lawsuit, filed against the state, the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana, and the university, claims wrongful termination, retaliatory discharge, violation of First Amendment rights and violation of whistleblower statutes,” Sills summarized.

The New Iberia Research Center houses about 6,000 monkeys and 400 chimpanzees, used in research by pharmaceutical firms and the National Institutes of Health.

“One of Fakier’s concerns involved an employee who deliberately burned the hands of several chimpanzees with a lighter and threw a bucket of scalding water on another,” wrote Jeff Moore of the *Daily Iberian*. “Fakier also claims several monkeys housed in outdoor cages died after suffering ‘severe physical damage,’ from exposure to cold weather during the winter of 2002.”

Fakier contends that darting chimpanzees to anesthetize them while they were still in group housing constituted a violation of the Animal Welfare Act. As chimps screamed and ran helter-skelter, Fakier charged, employees would use hoses to attempt to corner those they wanted to dart.

“When Fakier voiced her concerns to New Iberia Research Center officials, they were ignored, according to the lawsuit,”

Moore continued. “Fakier claims NIRC officials forced her to resign in February of 2004. Her letter of termination cited poor judgment, failure to follow proper chain of command, failure to comply with counseling, threatening the security of the center, and insubordination as her reasons for termination.”

RENO SCANDAL

University of Nevada at Reno executive vice president and provost John Frederick on February 9 announced that the university has asked the Nevada Division of Investigation to look into the claim of three graduate students that their experiments were sabotaged in apparent acts of retaliation against their employer, animal nutrition professor Hussein S. Hussein. Hussein, the university’s 2002 professor-of-the-year, in August 2004 reported a string of alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act and other federal statutes to the USDA. Hussein shared his complaints with the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

“On January 28, Hussein filed a written complaint with the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, claiming that late-night intruders were contaminating experiments in his lab,” wrote Jeff DeLong of the *Gazette-Journal*. “At different times, the sheriff’s office, Reno Police Department, state Attorney General’s Office, and UNR police have taken complaints on the matter. The FBI also became briefly involved, investigating the possibility dangerous microbes involved in some laboratory experiments might pose a homeland security threat.”

The *Gazette-Journal* began reporting about the alleged Animal Welfare Act violations in September 2004.

Between December 27 and December 29, 2004 the *Gazette-Journal* published a nine-part expose of Hussein’s charges by Frank X. Mullen Jr., with investigative help and follow-up by other reporters. Among the most serious complaints:

- From 1998 until mid-2004, the university allegedly supplied a USDA Wildlife Services trapper with animal carcasses, used to bait coyotes into ambush on university property near a housing development. Wildlife Services state director Mark Jensen and Reno office supervisor Jack Spencer Jr. denied that coyotes were either baited or shot at the site, but photographs taken in 2003 by former Sparks resident Matt Highison, 21, and documents obtained by the *Gazette-Journal* showed

otherwise, Mullen wrote.

- In October 2002, 38 pregnant ewes died when left without food or water over a three-day weekend.

- The university allegedly illegally buried rather than incinerating the carcasses of bio-engineered experimental sheep with livers including human genetic material.

- A herd of purebred Angus cattle used from 2000 to 2002 in a breeding experiment allegedly became severely malnourished at the university’s S-bar-S ranch near Fernley. They recovered after they were transferred to another University of Nevada facility, the Main Station Farm, and were placed in the care of then-graduate student J.P. Tanner. Returned to the S-bar-S ranch, they declined again. Some of the bulls have sold at auction for as little as a third of the price paid for healthy Angus bulls, Mullen reported.

- A herd of 11 boars used in skin cancer research allegedly suffered from dehydration and neglect of veterinary care from May to November in 2004. “On November 4,” Mullen wrote, “the day after a reporter questioned College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources dean David Thawley about the pigs’ welfare, an on-demand watering system and other improvements were installed in the building housing the animals. Thawley said the timing was coincidental.”

Thawley was appointed dean of the college in 1998, coinciding with the first of the alleged problems.

Summarized Associated Press on December 31, 2004, “After the allegations surfaced, Thawley reduced Hussein’s evaluation ratings, which effectively reduced a pay increase. Hussein then filed a complaint with a Faculty Senate grievance committee. The panel sided with Hussein, but University of Nevada at Reno president John Lilley overturned the committee’s recommendation.”

USDA INSIDE CASE

As the University of Louisiana and University of Nevada cases smoldered, USDA-APHIS animal care inspector Richard Botelho Jr, on January 4, 2005 alleged “multiple violations of federal regulations and law, gross mismanagement, and waste of funds” at the USDA-APHIS Eastern Regional Animal Care Office in Raleigh, North Carolina, in a “whistleblower” complaint filed with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel.

“Animal Care is responsible for

enforcing the Animal Welfare Act,” explained Botelho in a written statement. “This includes inspecting zoos, circuses, other animal exhibitors, commercial-scale dog and cat breeders, wild and exotic animal dealers, and interstate transporters. “

Botelho said he had been inspecting AWA-regulated facilities in southwest Florida since 2000. Doing “nearly 1000 inspections” altogether, Botelho claimed to have “uncovered over 200 persons operating without a USDA license, some for many years.”

Botelho said he had received a 14-day unpaid suspension for alleged improper conduct, after complaining about the actions or inactions of his supervisor and the director of the USDA-APHIS Eastern Regional Animal Care Office.

The office management “does not support their inspectors,” Botelho claimed, “but supports high-profile licensees when complaints are initiated against inspectors... There is a complaint procedure for licensees, but none for inspectors, who often learn of complaints during an internal investigation or suspension.”

Botelho charged, among many allegations, that “Potentially dangerous animals are being exhibited to the public without direct control of a handler, or sufficient distance or a barrier between the animals and the public.

“The eastern regional office allows licensees with a history of repeat noncompliance to operate,” Botelho said, and even “paid consultation fees to a licensee to consult with a facility which had a history of repeat noncompliance.”

“USDA licenses are rarely revoked and nearly always renewed,” Botelho asserted, “even when facilities have a history of multiple repeat violations.”

A PETA online fact sheet about the Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary in Punta Gorda, Florida, states that since 1991 the USDA “has cited Octagon numerous times for failure to provide veterinary care to suffering and dying animals, failure to provide environmental enhancement to self-mutilating primates, filthy enclosures, failure to provide shelter from the elements, and failure to provide nutritional, wholesome food and clean water.”

On September 13, 2001, the fact sheet states, “PETA filed a complaint with the Office of Inspector General after learning from a whistleblower that the USDA had assigned a

(continued on page 13)

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Scientists say politics trumps research within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

WASHINGTON D.C.—“Political intervention to alter scientific results has become pervasive within the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,” charged the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on February 9, 2005.

The Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER cited findings from an anonymous survey of “more than 1,400 Fish & Wildlife Service biologists, ecologists, botanists and other science professionals,” of whom 414 (29.4%) responded.

Nineteen percent reported having “been directed by Fish & Wildlife Service decision makers to provide incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information to the public, media, or elected officials.”

“There’s nothing inappropriate with people higher up in the chain of command supervising the work of those below them, and where necessary, editing that work,” responded Interior Department official Hugh Vickery to a question

about the study from Bryn Nelson of Long Island *Newsday*,

Biologist Sally Stefferud, who retired in 2002 after 20 years with the Fish & Wildlife Service, told reporters that she personally had “been ordered to change findings on biological opinions.”

Stefferud studied four endangered fish, the spikedace, loach minnow, Gila topminnow, and razorback sucker, who are involved in disputes over water rights in the U.S. southwest.

“Political pressures influence the outcome of almost all cases,” Stefferud said. “As a scientist, I would probably say you really can’t trust the science coming out of the agency.”

The George W. Bush administration favors hatchery breeding as a means of rebuilding endangered fish populations, instead of stringently protecting habitat, awaiting natural recovery. The hatchery approach is reportedly succeeding in Lake Mead and Lake

Havasu on behalf of the razorback sucker, listed as endangered since 1991, but only 24 of 175 attempts to reintroduce hatchery-bred Gila topminnows had succeeded through 2003, and the spikedace has never been reintroduced successfully.

Following orders

Among respondents to the Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER survey whose work involves determining if species are in jeopardy, 44% reported that they “have been directed, for non-scientific reasons, to refrain from making findings that are protective of species.”

Even if the only scientists who returned the survey form were those with complaints, the finding indicates that about one Fish & Wildlife Service scientist in seven has felt such pressure.

The current Bush administration has given Endangered Species Act protection to just 25 species in the past three years, all of them as obliged by court order. The

Bill Clinton administration protected an average of 65 species per year, while the George H. Bush administration protected 58 species per year.

About 20% of the respondents reported having been “directed to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information from a scientific document,” said the Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER.

Fifty-six percent of all respondents, about 19% of the Fish & Wildlife Service scientific staff, were aware of cases where “commercial interests have inappropriately induced the reversal or withdrawal of scientific conclusions or decisions through political intervention.”

Seventy percent of the responding scientists and 89% of those of managerial rank reported knowing of cases “where Department of Interior political appointees have injected themselves into Ecological Services determinations.”

This would be from about a quarter to a third of the Fish & Wildlife Service scientific staff.

“A majority of respondents cited interventions by members of Congress and local officeholders,” the study authors wrote.

More than 75% of the scientists agreed that the Fish & Wildlife Service is not “acting effectively to maintain or enhance species and their habitats,” to avoid possible Endangered Species Act listing.

Just over two-thirds considered the Fish & Wildlife Service ineffective in directing recovery of listed species. “More than two-thirds of staff scientists (71%) and half of scientist managers (51%) did not ‘trust Fish & Wildlife Service decision makers to make decisions that will protect species and habitats,’” the Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER said.

Although 83% of the respondents said they felt free to share scientific findings with fellow scientists, 42% said they could not voice to the public “concerns about the biological needs of species and habitats without fear of retaliation.”

Thirty percent felt that such expressions of concern are dangerous even within the Fish & Wildlife Service.

Half of the respondents described morale within the Fish & Wildlife Service science departments as poor to extremely poor,

while from 85% to 92% agreed that the Fish & Wildlife Service lacks the budget to fulfill its duties, especially in protecting endangered species.

The Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER said they had received copies of memos from Fish & Wildlife Service superiors warning employees against responding to the survey, even from home.

Fish & Wildlife Service spokesperson Mitch Snow told Bryn Nelson of *Newsday* that on February 2 the agency issued a memo stating that “the only surveys [staff] are authorized to respond to during duty hours or using Government equipment are ones that have been authorized by the Service, the Department, or other Federal agencies.”

Self-censorship

The Union of Concerned Scientists and PEER survey of Fish & Wildlife Service scientific staff was released one day before the journal *Science* published findings about scientific self-censorship in response to public controversy, collected by University of Michigan researcher Joanna Kempner and co-authors from Brown University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Though not directly examining the specific issues examined in the survey of Fish & Wildlife Service scientists, the Kempner study shed light on the tendency of scientists to practice self-censorship rather than risk public controversy.

Kempner *et al* interviewed 41 scientists engaged in a variety of potentially controversial studies. Half felt constrained by formal limits, such as the ban on federal funding of most embryonic stem cell research using human tissue, but even more said they were affected by such issues as how science is seen by the public, who influence government research funding.

Fear of opposition to animal testing was especially pervasive, Kempner found. Wrote Kempner of one interviewee, “All of a sudden he said, ‘How do I know you’re not from an animal rights group collecting information to storm the place?’”

The Kempner study was funded by the Greenwall Foundation, which supports studies of bioethics, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a major sponsor of health research.

Can USDA-APHIS enforce the law? (from page 12)

new inspector to Octagon, allegedly with instructions not to cite the facility for Animal Welfare Act violations, to justify an increased budget by erroneously demonstrating on paper that the USDA is bringing problem facilities into compliance...Newly assigned USDA inspector Richard Botelho Jr. found no noncompliance during five inspections between September 27, 2000 and June 6, 2001, including inspections conducted in response to complaints of dead and dying lions reported by Florida Fish & Game and complaints from zoo visitors about wounded and sick animals.”

The USDA did cite Octagon in October 2001 “for failure to have a responsible person available to conduct an animal welfare inspection,” and in April 2002 “for failure to maintain the structural strength of enclosures in a manner that would protect the animals from injury and contain” them.

The PETA fact sheet leaves open the possibility that Botelho himself was the whistleblower who disclosed the instructions he purportedly worked under.

Botelho received some support from Society to

End Animal Exploitation cofounder Michael Budkie, of Milford, Ohio, a longtime critic of USDA-APHIS.

Budkie in an online essay entitled “The Corruption of the USDA” described similar allegations raised in 1992, 1995 and 1996 audits by the Office of the Inspector General, public statements by former USDA employee Marshall Smith, who inspected breeding kennels in Arkansas and Missouri, and statements by Isis Johnson-Brown, DVM, another former USDA-APHIS employee, who inspected laboratories including the Oregon Primate Center in Portland.

“My own supervisors were unsupportive of my efforts to simply enforce the bare minimum standards in the Code of Federal Regulations,” Johnson-Brown charged. “As Oregon’s only inspector, I was responsible for the oversight of over 120 facilities throughout the state,” Johnson-Brown said. “I barely had time to visit each facility as required, which for some facilities was no more than once every three years. If that wasn’t enough,” she added, “I soon found out that my own supervisors were working against me at every turn.”

Join the No More Homeless Pets Forum

Join us to spend a week with some of the leaders of this lifesaving movement. They will share an inside view of their thoughts and work and answer your questions about topics near and dear to their hearts.

Coming topics—

February 28 – March 4: Dangerous Dogs?

Are there dangerous breeds and what should be done about it? Karen Green from Best Friends, Kim Bartlett from Animal People, Holly Bukes of Pit Bull Rescue Central, and Jill Buckley, Esq. from the ASPCA, will offer insights.

March 7-11: Taking Good Care of Pets and the Earth

What can be done when coyotes are going after pets? What if deer are eating your landscaped plants? Environmental and animal advocate Sally Mackler of Humane USA will answer questions about how to be kind to the earth and wildlife while also helping homeless animals.

March 14-18: Pocket Pets

Rats, guinea pigs, sugar gliders and other small creatures sometimes need rescue, too. But would you know how to help them? Small exotic animal specialist Dr. Mark Burgess of Southwest Animal Hospital helps us look out for the little guys.

March 21-25: "Why do they do that?" Cultural differences in the way we relate to animals

Merritt Clifton of Animal People has traveled widely and visited humane groups around the world and across the US. He will answer your questions about different cultures.

March 28-April 1: Adoption ads that really work

Elizabeth Doyle of Best Friends will share her writing tips and years of experience about what works and what doesn't. Send in your pet adoption blurbs and Elizabeth will show you how to rewrite them.

April 4-8: Getting stuff donated

How can you get businesses to donate stuff? Claire Ives of Best Friends will give her top tips and answer your questions on how to get things donated, everything from pet beds to medications.

April 11-15: Understanding Feline Leukemia and FIV

Julie Levy, DVM of the University of Florida will answer your questions about how these diseases are spread, the accuracy of tests, and the prognosis for cats who test positive.

To join, visit the Best Friends website:

www.bestfriends.org/nmhp/forum.html

OR send a blank e-mail message to: NMHP-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Best Friends Animal Society

Phone: 435-644-2001

E-mail: info@bestfriends.org

Website: www.bestfriends.org



Refuge chief fined for saving species

TUCSON—Criminally charged on February 14, 2005 for relocating 400 tadpoles in 2003 to preserve a population of threatened Chiricahua leopard frogs, former Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge manager Wayne Shifflett agreed in mid-February 2005 to pay a \$3,500 fine. Shifflett had a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permit to move the tadpoles, whose former habitat on a nearby ranch was drying up, but did not have a permit from Arizona Game & Fish to take the tadpoles from private land. Arizona Game & Fish earlier refused to allow a university researcher to move the tadpoles.

“Shifflett saved the species from complete elimination on the refuge. The frogs are now thriving in ponds, tanks, and a breeding facility for which taxpayers had already spent \$100,000,” said Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility spokesperson Chas Offutt.

The first manager of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, designated in 1985, Shifflett was a 38-year Fish & Wildlife Service staffer. Suspended from the \$94,360-a-year-job in January 2004, he retired in May.

Dad it's important !!



That site is back

<http://www.animalsrighttolifewebsite.com>

Paul Siegel

Canine distemper resurges in unvaccinated inner city pit bulls, Rotts

CHICAGO—Canine distemper, a disease related to human measles, appears to be making a comeback in U.S. inner cities, spreading among unlicensed, unvaccinated pit bull terriers and Rottweilers, warn members of a task force appointed to investigate outbreaks in the Chicago area.

“In the last year, epidemics of the disease have been reported in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Atlanta, Dallas, Miami and Washington state. Distemper last year killed at least 120 dogs and halted adoptions in Chicago area shelters,” recounted Chicago *Tribune* science writer Peter Gomer on February 6.

“Before effective vaccines were developed, half of all litters—50% of all puppies in the U.S.—died from distemper,” said Ronald D. Schultz, chair of pathobiological sciences at the University of Wisconsin/Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Puppyhood inoculation conveys lifelong immunity, but testing by Chicago Department of Animal Care & Control chief veterinarian Marek Dygas and Loyola University director of molecular virology John

Lednicky found that 65% of the dogs entering the Chicago city shelter had apparently never been vaccinated against either distemper or rabies. Nationally, about 70% of all dogs are believed to have had both vaccinations.

Most of the infected Chicago dogs were pit bulls, Rottweilers, and their mixes, Dygas confirmed. “They had been owned and then released on the street. They never saw a veterinarian before,” he told Gomer. “When they were brought here, they were in bad condition. They didn’t have proper nutrition. Their immune system was not prepared to fight any kind of contagious disease.”

Dygas said that while the distemper epidemic waned in October 2004, the shelter is “still receiving animals straight from the street who are sick with active distemper.”

Chicago animal control chief Nikki Proutsos, 39, resigned in January 2005 after four volunteers complained to the city government and

Chicago *Sun-Times* columnist Carol Marin that the shelter staff were not properly cleaning the facilities, and were hosing cages without taking the dogs out.

“Proutsos denied dogs were mistreated under her watch. She also denied that she was forced out, even though her title change sounds like a demotion. Proutsos is now an assistant commissioner overseeing nutrition programs for the city’s Department of Aging. Her salary has not changed,” wrote *Sun-Times* city hall reporter Fran Spielman.

Proutsos responded to three **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inquiries about why she changed jobs and whether she wished to remain in the animal control field with four

Law enforcement

Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County, Arizona, on January 18 reassigned four deputies and four civilian investigators to handle animal abuse cases fulltime, and authorized the county Animal Cruelty Prevention Unit to immediately arrest and jail suspects. Arpaio put former Phoenix mayor **Thelda Williams** in charge of the unit. Arpaio also disbanded the Maricopa County SWAT team, in favor of a part-time SWAT unit, and told critics that prosecuting animal abuse brings better crime prevention for the money than having a SWAT team.

Arpaio’s web site describes a no-kill animal shelter he opened in 1999 in a former jail, to house animals seized from suspects in cruelty cases. The shelter “also houses the pets of individuals who check into domestic violence shelters that do not accept pets,” the site says. “Detention officer staff and sentenced female inmates care for the animals. The shelter is air-conditioned. Some critics have said that it is inhumane to put dogs and cats in air-conditioned quarters when inmates don’t have air-conditioning. A good answer came from one of the inmates assigned to care for the dogs. When asked if she was resentful about not having air-conditioning, she gestured to some of the dogs and said, “They didn’t do anything wrong, I did.”

HSUS forming shelter trade association

WASHINGTON D.C.—Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle on February 7 invited 45 “leaders in the animal welfare industry” to attend a March 5 meeting at HSUS headquarters in Washington D.C. to “be a part of forming a federation of local humane societies. The purpose,” Pacelle said, would include “Identifying best practices and promoting standards, influencing public policy,” and “influencing corporate policies and practices.”

The federation “will be funded initially by membership fees and in-kind contributions,” Pacelle added. “While HSUS has played a role in developing the concept, the trade association will not be an adjunct of HSUS,” Pacelle said. “It will be governed by its members, and it will serve the members it attracts.”

The announced purpose and

structure are similar to the initial goals of the American Humane Association, formed in 1877. The AHA soon restructured because transportation and communications of that era were not conducive to operating on the national level as a membership organization.

The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and the National Animal Control Association, founded in 1970 and 1978, respectively, have succeeded as membership organizations, but each represents only part of the animal sheltering community.

Pacelle sent the invitations to the organizational meeting a week after consolidating some of the field offices that have assisted local humane societies since the 1970s. Former Great Lakes regional director Sandy Rowland and three employees were laid off, 28 years after Rowland opened the Great Lakes office.

Civil Abolitionist ends print edition

Bina Robinson, 81, has ended the *Civil Abolitionist* newsletter, after 15 years, due to falling circulation and rising costs, but remains active by e-mail at <civitas@linkny.com>, and still directs the 500-acre **Civitas Wildlife Sanctuary** at Swain, New York. “**Civitas** began in the early 1980s as the U.S. branch of **CIVIS**, Swiss medical historian **Hans**

Ruesch’s international anti-vivisection organization,” explains the Civitas web site, <www.linkny.com/~civitas>. In 1983 it split into two parallel groups, **Citizens for Planetary Health**, which continues the original focus, and the **Coalition to Protect Animals in Parks and Refuges**, whose newsletter Robinson issued as a *Civil Abolitionist* insert.



(Kim Bartlett)

Birders, cat people team in California “Project Bay Cat”

FOSTER CITY, California—Project Bay Cat on February 1 announced that it had achieved 77% sterilization of the estimated 170 feral cats living along the scenic Bay Trail during 2004, and had socialized and adopted out 31 cats and kittens, reducing the cat population to 130.

“Working together in a precedent-setting partnership, the Homeless Cat Network, Sequoia Audubon Society, and Foster City municipal government joined forces to humanely address the feral cat population,” said Project Bay Cat representative Cimeron Morrissey.

“The Foster City shoreline is an integral part of the Pacific Flyway,” a major migratory bird route,” Morrissey continued. The Bay Trail also wanders through artificial marshes that are attracting growing year-round bird populations, and the endangered California clapper rail inhabits the area surrounding the north end of the trail.

More than 15 years of bitter politics and sometimes lawsuits over efforts to protect clapper rails by killing feral cats and foxes preceded the formation of Project Bay Cat, which came together, Morrissey said, when local animal advocates began talking to each other instead of pushing the agendas of national organizations.

“We are collaborating in this project for the protection of bird habitat, a better life for the cats, and a more pleasant levee path for all users,” said Sequoia Audubon Society conservation committee chair Robin Smith.

“The collaborators of Project Bay Cat have created a tool kit for others who wish to take similar action,” Morrissey said, “free from<info@homelesscatnetwork.org>, or from 650-286-9013.”

Fighting Kenya zoo deal

NAIROBI—A deal to export 300 animals from Kenya to the Chiang Mai Night Safari zoo in Thailand, reportedly personally arranged by Kenyan president Emilio Mwai Kibaki on an October 2004 state visit to Bangkok, in February 2005 appeared to have become shaky through the determined opposition of Youth for Conservation.

Retreating from firm commitment to the animal export, acting tourism minister Raphael Tuju in late January 2005 told the *East African Standard* that talk of the deal amounted to “speculation and rumours from busybodies,” while appearing to weigh whether the Thai zoo or U.S. and European animal advocates would be most likely to fund efforts to reduce crop damage from wildlife.

Youth for Conservation, which earlier persuaded Kibaki to veto a bill that would have reauthorized hunting in Kenya, meanwhile won backing from overseas organizations including the Humane Society of the U.S., In Defense of Animals, Born Free Foundation, and PETA.



Gifts purchased at Aid For Animals are truly "gifts of life" as 100% of the net profit is donated for needy animals. Shop and save lives at the same time at no extra cost! Please remember the Aid For Animals online store for your holiday and year round shopping.



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Mark your donation for KAPS Shelter Fund, and send to: International Aid for Korean Animals / Korea Animal Protection Society POB 20600, Oakland, CA 94620

NJARA

PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION SHUTS HALL OF FAME TO CUT LOSSES

COLORADO SPRINGS—Facing a cash flow crunch, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association in January 2005 changed commissioners, closed the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame & Museum of the American Cowboy, located near the PRCA national head office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and reportedly may alter the formats of several major events to attract more TV money.

New PRCA commissioner Troy Ellerman told Jeff Wolf of the Las Vegas *Review-Journal* that the Hall of Fame roped in from 40,000 to 50,000 visitors in 2004, but lost more than \$300,000. Ellerman hoped to reopen it for the summer tourist season.

Ellerman reportedly saved the PRCA \$500,000 by moving the ProRodeo Tour winter series finale from the Orleans Arena in central Las Vegas to a site outside the city. Wrote Wolf, “The events in Las Vegas at best half-filled the Orleans Arena,” as occurred at the original venue, the MGM Grand Garden.

An attorney based in Sacramento, California, Ellerman is a former rodeo competitor. Added to the PRCA board in 1995, he had served as board chair since 1999.

How much time Ellerman will have for the PCRA is unclear. Ellerman represents James J. Valente, vice president of Bay Area Lab Cooperative. Noted for supplying training supplements to professional athletes, the company is better known as BALCO. Four BALCO employees including Valente were indicted by a federal grand jury in February 2004 on charges including money-laundering,

conspiracy to distribute steroids, possession of human growth hormone, and misbranding drugs with intent to defraud. The trial is to begin in March 2005.

Jury selection began on February 15, 2005 for another trial involving Ellerman as Valente’s counsel, a \$3.8 million civil suit brought against former Oakland Raiders line-backer Bill Romanowski by former teammate Marcus Williams. Williams, a tight end, contends his football career was ended by brain damage suffered when Romanowski hit him in a practice field altercation driven by “steroid rage.” Valente has been called as a witness.

Unanimously elected to a four-year term as PRCA commissioner, Ellerman succeeded Stephen Hatchell, the PRCA commissioner since 1998. Hatchell resigned in December 2004.

“Hatchell created the ProRodeo Tour [in 2000], that provided nearly \$2 million in added prize money for the sport’s top competitors and stock contractors,” wrote Joe Kusek of the *Billings Gazette*. “He also created the Xtreme Bulls Tour, when ESPN wanted a bull riding tour to televise. Under his leadership, TV time for the PRCA increased from 46 hours in 1998 to nearly 300 hours last year.”

But “The PRCA lost more than \$500,000 on its National Finals Rodeo coverage last year,” Kusek continued. “The PRCA purchases air time on ESPN and ESPN2 and tries to recoup the money through advertising.”

Ellerman admitted that the PRCA lost money in each year of Hatchell’s tenure.

Kusek reported on January 27 that the PRCA might restructure the National Finals Rodeo to encourage “big-money dramatic finishes,” in hopes of selling the rights to broadcast the NFR to CBS, which already broadcasts the tour finales.

The PRCA is a nonprofit association (not a charity), that claims nearly 10,000 individual members and sanctions nearly 700 mostly amateur rodeos per year.

“For at least the last few years of Hatchell’s tenure,” Kusek wrote, “efforts were made to create a separate entity that would be devoted to the professional elements of the PRCA.”

Assessed SHARK founder Steve Hindi, “The long, hard slide to reality began when SHARK exposed animal abuse at PRCA rodeos. Relatively few diehard fans buy the tickets. Most attendees are ignorant of what they will see. Some are shocked, some are disgusted, and some ar/e just plain bored with

what they witness. Those with hearts and brains are not likely to return.

“With practically empty arenas at so many rodeos, the phony cowboys are addicted to sponsorship money,” Hindi continued.

“A few years ago the PRCA lost an important sponsor, Coca-Cola,” Hindi reminded, “after SHARK showed a corporate official video footage of rodeo animal abuse. Coke still allows individual bottlers to sponsor rodeos, but now the PRCA is stuck with crumbs instead of the whole loaf. The PRCA tried a deal with Dr. Pepper. That deal fizzled, again after SHARK talked to the company.

“Now Campbell Soup subsidiary Pace Foods is sponsoring the PRCA as well as steer roper Cash Meyers. Steer roping is the most abusive event in rodeo, with the highest death and injury rate,” Hindi charged, en route in the SHARK video display truck to hand-deliver video of steer roping to the Campbell head office in Camden, New Jersey.

13 killed, 350 injured in Indian bull

ALANGANALLUR—At least 13 people were killed and more than 350 injured during the third weekend in January 2005 at traditional “Jallikattu” bullfights and bullrunning events held around Tamil Nadu state, India, to celebrate Pongal, a Hindu holiday.

“Jallikattu is held at temples,” explained Justin Huggler of the London *Independent*. “At the most famous, at Alanganallur, the spectacle began with young men competing to grab a gold chain tied around horns of the first bull.

“After that, 500 bulls were released into the crowd, as at Pamplona,” in the most famous Spanish bullrunning event. “But in Pamplona the crowd runs,” Huggler continued. “In Tamil Nadu they compete with each other to try to bring the bulls under control.

“Unlike in Spanish bullfighting, the bulls are not killed. It would be unacceptable for the competitors to kill or try to inflict wounds on them. But this has not prevented animal rights activists from objecting as there have been accidental deaths of bulls over the years. The bulls are also said to be given alcohol before the fight. It is highly probable that

many of the competitors are in a similar state.”

Either three or four men were reportedly killed at Alanganallur, where more than 200 were injured, 50 seriously. Two men were killed, and 64 were injured, three of them seriously, at Seeravayal. The fates of the bulls were not reported.

Legal actions separately filed by the Visakha SPCA and PETA apparently discouraged similar events in Andrha Pradesh and Assam, respectively.

Bullfights, bull runs, and ritual abandonment of bull calves as temple offerings, a leading Visakha SPCA concern, all serve to dispose of surplus bulls born as result of milk production.

India and the U.S. produce almost the same amount of milk per year, but India births 35 million calves to get that volume, while the U.S. births only nine million. The difference is partly because U.S. cows are about three times as productive, on average, and partly because U.S. dairy farmers make more use of embryo transplants and sperm-sorting to ensure that only female calves are born to dairy cows.



The Campbell Soup Company through its subsidiary, Pace Foods, maker of Pace Picante and Salsas, subsidizes the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and individually sponsors steer roper Cash Meyers.

How brutal is steer roping? Nine dead or badly injured steers were dragged out of the ring last November at the Steer Roping Finals in Amarillo, Texas.

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Is anyone watching out for Indian wildlife?

DELHI—"There is no one left to raise hell with," People for Animals founder and former Indian minister of state for animal welfare lamented to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on February 15, after disclosures raised questions as to whether anyone is looking out for wildlife within the present Indian government.

The most humiliating disclosure, had anyone been paying attention, was that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on December 22 recommended that "all Parties [to the United Nations-brokered treaty] suspend commercial trade in specimens of CITIES-listed species with Gambia and India until further notice."

The suspension came because Gambia and India failed to submit legislative plans for strengthening CITES enforcement.

The humiliation might have been acute because the CITES logo was designed in India and India has three times chaired the CITES standing committee.

But hardly anyone in India knew about the suspension, *Times of India* correspondent Chandrika Mago disclosed on February 18.

"Even seniors in the environment ministry have just heard of the decision," Mago wrote. "They hope CITES will relax its stance in a month or so."

Hybrid lions

One of the Indian agencies responsible for CITES compliance, the Central Zoo Authority, was preoccupied as 2005 opened with defending itself against conservationist criticism for having allowed endangered Asiatic lions to hybridize with African lions.

"Angry letters from non-government organizations, animal rights activists, and even various High Commissions are demanding clarification of how uncontrolled and unplanned breeding among captive lions led to a condition where the main objective of conservation—to maintain a pure gene pool—has been lost," summarized Bindu Shajan Perappadan of *The Hindu*.



Bluebull at Sariska. (Kim Bartlett)

Patent on hybrid human denied

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on February 11, 2005 rejected the 1997 application of **New York Medical College** professor of cell biology and anatomy **Stuart Newman** for a patent on a theoretical method of combining human embryonic cells with cells from a nonhuman primate to create a "chimera," meaning an animal with traits of multiple species. The Patent & Trademark Office ruled that the chimera would be too close genetically to a human being to be patented. This was as Newman hoped, since he filed the application to seek a precedent against patenting life forms.

"I don't think anyone knows, in terms of crude percentages, how to differentiate between humans and nonhumans," deputy commissioner for patents **John Doll** told **Rick Weiss** of the *Washington Post*, adding, "It would be very helpful to have some guidance from Congress or the courts."

TRIBUTES

In honor of the Prophet Isaiah,
St. Martin de Porres,
and Cesar Chavez.
—Brien Comerford

In honor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**
and Robert Blumberg
for tsunami relief for animals
and Wolf Clifton for his
heartfelt art expressions
that elevate the animals.
—Michael and Dianne Bahr

"After 1992 rules were in place to disallow hybridization, and we are certain that no cross-breeding has taken place since 2002," said a Central Zoo Authority spokesperson.

The Central Zoo Authority claimed that in recent years the number of purebred Asiatic lions in captivity has risen from 81 to 131. But Indian zoos still have more than 300 hybrid lions to feed, who will be allowed to live out their lives, zoo officials insisted.

Indeed, the hybrid lions are often among the most popular animals at Indian zoos, looking as regal as a lion is supposed to look, and adapting as easily to captivity as any, even if they are not inbred enough to suit conservationist demands that zoo lions be either distinctively Asiatic or African.

Overlooked in the furor was the likelihood that the hybrid lions, not the purebreds, probably most resemble the lost wild population who until recent times roamed the Middle East and Central Asia. This was the greater portion of lion habitat, though probably never as densely occupied by lions as the more congenial parts of Africa.

Breeding albinos

Eager to attract international support by building a reputation for preserving endangered species, the Central Zoo Authority was embarrassed in early January 2005 when Surojit Mahalanobis of the *Times of India* published findings of an internal audit showing a 26% decrease in the endangered species population of Indian zoos between April 1, 2003, and March 31, 2004. The 163 recognized Indian "major zoos" and 113 "mini-zoos" and "deer parks" began the audit period with 31,101 animals, including 9,168 members of endangered species, but finished with 29,195 animals, only 6,771 of them endangered. The non-endangered animal count increased during the audit by 491.

With those debacles in the headlines, the Delhi Zoo disclosed just in time for Valentine's Day reportage that as Bindu Shajan Perappadan put it, "To cater to the Capital's love for the exotic and fair, the zoo by its own admission is busy these days manufacturing albinos, purely for show. The animals are bred only for novelty value and the high return they fetch in the zoo exchange market," Perappadan continued.

"While albinos have been exhibited and bred in Indian zoos for a while now, the Delhi zoo is set for expansion," Perappadan disclosed, to include increasing the resident flock of albino peafowl and obtaining albino blackbucks and sambar.

"Several zoos across the world have albino crow, bison, and even sloth bears," Perappadan added, quoting an unnamed zoo official as hinting that the Delhi Zoo "might get lucky and have one of these animals staying over under an exchange program."

U.S. zoos have also deliberately bred albino animals for exhibition and sale, most

notably white tigers, but the practice is discouraged by the American Zoo Association.

Deer disaster

The flaps over breeding occurred simultaneously with a furor over the deaths of five deer at the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo in Kerala state during the last six days of January, in connection with sterilization surgery.

Zoo director C.S. Yelakki reported to the Central Zoo Authority that two spotted deer "jumped out of their old enclosure out of provocation, and later died owing to exhaustion," largely confirming the earlier explanation to *The Hindu* by a zoo veterinarian that "The herd became panicky and ran helter-skelter as we started firing the tranquilizer gun. The two deaths were owing to shock."

In addition, Yelakki said, "Three sambar deer died a day after the operation was carried out."

Yelakki denied that a fourth sambar "died following a fight between two males who had just come out of anaesthesia and were disoriented," as *The Hindu* recounted. Yelakki called the mortality, among herds of 75 spotted deer and 110 sambar "very minimum."

Perhaps it was, beside the deaths of three out of seven moose who were netgunned the preceding week for the Colorado Division of Wildlife by Quicksilver Air Inc. Quicksilver's previous mortality rate in airborne netgunning of ungulates was reportedly 3%, comparable to the Thiruvananthapuram Zoo deer mortality—but the zoo deer were penned, while the moose deaths occurred in deep snow and rugged mountains, and still generated controversy for weeks.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife had hoped to introduce the moose to other potentially hospitable parts of the state, to expand the huntable population.

"The Thiruvananthapuram zoo director essentially said it was the fault of the deer that they died, as he is an expert," fumed Mrs. Gandhi. She filed a complaint to the Central Zoo Authority about the incident but did not anticipate pursuing it further.

"The only thing I could achieve would be a ban on sterilizing deer in zoos," Mrs. Gandhi said.

No birds or tigers

A member of the Indian parliament aligned with the now-minority Bharatiya Janata Party, Mrs. Gandhi declared herself equally frustrated about the failure of the present Congress Party government to enforce protection of wildlife habitat.

"The environment minister recently announced that all the villages that were illegally built within our sanctuaries will not only be regularized, but will be served by paved roads now and public buildings," Mrs. Gandhi said. "I can't do anything. Everywhere I look, there is mining going on in sanctuaries. The Keolodeo bird sanctuary in Bharatpur has no



Seen at Keoladeo, In 1997. (Kim Bartlett)

birds," allegedly due to water diversions for human use during an ongoing drought.

"The Sariska tiger sanctuary does not have a single tiger left," Mrs. Gandhi continued, "as they are all poached, and now Ranthambore is approaching that level."

"The government has not released money [for animal welfare] for over two years," Mrs. Gandhi added. "I went to Chennai," where the Animal Welfare Board of India is headquartered, "and found 1,585 files thrown into a room unopened, all of which pertained to money to be given for Animal Birth Control hospitals, ambulances, maintenance, training, and so forth. I opened 1,200, finished their procedures, sorted and computerised them, and then asked for the monies to be released. The minister has now objected and put them back on hold."

Some Animal Welfare Board of India grants for Animal Birth Control programs and other work have been paid, other sources told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, but there is general agreement that the cash flow is slower and more uncertain than during the five years Mrs. Gandhi was animal welfare minister, under the former BJP government—although her tenure included frequent conflicts with civil servants who allegedly delayed payments to retaliate against her.

Mrs. Gandhi's allegations about Sariska and Ranthambore were supported within days by Ranjeet S. Jamwal, Jaipur correspondent for *The Statesman*, of Kolkata.

"A 15-day hunt by wildlife department teams has found no direct signs of tiger presence in Sariska National Park," wrote Jamwal. "The government carried out the hunt after neither tourists nor Sariska National Park officials spotted tigers in the park since June 2004. A just-concluded World Wildlife Fund inquiry also yielded no signs of tiger presence in Sariska," which is surrounded by illegal mining and agricultural encroachment. Aerial photographs indicate that the park has been reduced to little more than a jagged "X" of habitat in two ravines bisected by roads heavily traveled by tourist vehicles.

Sariska claimed 15 to 20 tigers as recently as May 2004, and 25 to 28 in May 2003. "Officials admit the number of tigers may have been over-reported," Jamwal said,

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Bear rescue season follows tsunami

AGRA, CHENGDU—Wildlife SOS founder Kartick Satyanarayan spent most of the first two months of 2005 often literally up to his hips in post-tsunami swamp water and sometimes displaced salt water crocodiles, gorged on human remains. Still, Satyanarayan did not forget that his primary objective for the year was to rescue sloth bears and jail the poachers who supply cubs to dancing bear trainers and bear-baiters.

“Kartick has been madly rushing from tsunami work in the Andaman Islands and Tamil Nadu to anti-poaching work, as this is the peak season for bear cub poaching,” Friendicoes SECA shelter manager Geeta Seshamani told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “We have managed four raids between all the other work and rescued nine tiny cubs and six slightly older cubs at locations in Orissa, Karnataka, and Maharashtra states.”

Wildlife SOS originally partnered with Friendicoes SECA to rescue animals from the streets of Delhi. Friendicoes SECA handles dogs, cats, and other domestic species; Wildlife SOS responds to calls about urban wildlife, mostly snakes and monkeys.

Starting in 1996, Wildlife SOS and Friendicoes SECA built India’s first sanctuary for dancing bears, 17 kilometres from Agra, backed by International Animal Rescue of the U.S. and Britain, Save The Bears of Australia, One Voice of France, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Fielding animal rescue teams after the 2001 Gujarat earthquake and December 2004 tsunami were their next joint ventures.

Interdicting the bear traffic went on all the while, including a February 5 sting

operation in Hubli, Karnataka, that seized five bear cubs and brought the arrests of seven alleged poachers and smugglers. Hubli-Dharwad City Police Commissioner K.V. Gagandeep told the *Deccan Herald* that the suspects trapped bears in the thick jungles of Kalghatgi, in the Dharwad district, and in the forests of Uttara Kannada. Often they killed the mother bear, Gagandeep said, in order to take the two-to-three-week-old cubs.

The poachers sold the cubs to smugglers for less than \$700 each. The smugglers’ markets were said to be in Pakistan, reached via clandestine routes from Gujarat or Punjab; Nepal, accessed through Bihar or Uttar Pradesh; and Thailand, which might have been a relay point for sending them to regions of Southeast Asia, notably China, where bear parts are believed to have medicinal value.

Bears sent to Pakistan are typically pitted against dogs in baiting exhibitions. Bear-baiting is illegal in Pakistan, and has been illegal under strict Islamic law since the time of Mohammed himself, but is still practiced in much of Central Asia, wherever law enforcement is weak or corrupt and bears are available. When the bears are killed or die from neglect and infected wounds, their remains are bootlegged to China.

Ashok & Julie

The “bear rescue season” for Wildlife SOS actually started about 10 days before the tsunami, when two bears named Ashok and Julie arrived at the Agra Bear Rescue Centre after a 17-hour journey from a small zoo in Goa to Agra, where they had been housed for about a month after the Goa Forest Department seized them from two dancing bear trainers.

The trainers, brothers and members of the Kalandar clan, entered Goa from Karnataka. The Kalandars have trained bears since the Middle Ages, and appear to be ancestrally related to the gypsy bear trainers of eastern Europe.

Because no one at the zoo knew how to look after bears, suspect Imam Saabu was employed as their caretaker, but in custody, Satyanarayan said, “The bears were not getting any exercise and the heavy brass ring and the rope through their muzzle started affecting their health. They were losing condition, and their muzzles began to bleed and get infected.”

Wildlife SOS spent a week treating their infections before deciding they could withstand transport.

“Ashok is three years old and Julie is five years old,” Satyanarayan told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Ashok is a



Kartick Satyanarayan and one of the rescued bear cubs from Goa. (Wildlife SOS)

very philosophical bear, who has all his teeth. Julie on the other hand is more irritable, as she has suffered longer and perhaps had a more cruel owner.”

Satyanarayan renamed them “John” and “Jo,” after John and Jo Hicks of International Animal Rescue, who initiated their move to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility.

“Our experience shows that these bears will settle down very quickly at the rescue facility,” said wildlife veterinarian Arun A. Sha, “and in direct contrast to their long years of suffering, they will very soon learn to play and enjoy life like real bears.”

Bile farm bears

Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson spent much of the first half of January 2005 helping with tsunami relief work, chiefly in Thailand, but returned to the Animals Asia China Bear Rescue Sanctuary in Chengdu to supervise the mid-January arrival of another 46 ex-bile farm moon bears, raising the sanctuary total of rescued bears to 185.

One bear came from Laoning state, far to the north. The others arrived from elsewhere in Sichuan state, in groups of 11 and 34, on January 17 and 18. Their transport and unloading were complicated by freezing rain.

Most of the bears “are brought to us by the Sichuan Forestry Administration. They pay the farmers compensation. Their licences are then revoked and the farms closed down,” Robinson told reporters.

While Sichuan now discourages bile farming, “The rescued animals represent only a small percentage of the estimated 7,000-plus bears held on over 200 bile farms across China,” Robinson reminded.

As usual, the bears were transported in the cages into which they had been wedged since their abdomens were first tapped for bile, hardly larger than their own bodies.

“Hooting pitifully into the night and beside themselves with fear and pain, cubs, middle-aged, and elderly bears presented graphic evidence against the farmers’ claims that their new methods of bile extraction are humane,” said Robinson.

“The Animals Asia veterinary team, led by Dr. Gail Cochrane, discovered that a fake ‘free dripping’ technique of bile extraction is now used,” Robinson continued. “Rather than [tapping the bears’ bile through] a fistula, or hole in the abdomen, which was previously lauded as a state-of-the-art technique but which has in reality been killing bears in huge numbers, the farmers are now inserting a clear plastic catheter which is almost impossible to see, unless the abdomen is shaved and examined close-up.”

The new technique is illegal, but appeared to have been used on most of the recent arrivals.

“In addition,” said Cochrane, “the farmers continue to de-claw the bears, cut away their canine teeth, and trap them from the wild.” The evidence of illegal trapping included limb injuries and sometimes missing limbs, as result of capture with spring-powered steel-jawed leghold traps or heavy cable snares. The traps tend to cause more severe immediate trauma, but the snares cause loss of circulation to an entire limb.

To help discourage the use of bear bile, and to promote animal welfare generally, Animals Asia Foundation representatives visited student environmental protection groups from high-schools and universities across China during the summer of 2004, “and were so moved by the enthusiasm of the students that we decided to set up ‘Friends of Animals Asia’ China Support Groups,” Animals Asia Foundation U.K. director Dave Neale announced in February 2005.

The Animals Asia Foundation “is supplying support groups with event related materials such as display boards, newsletters, educational packs about traditional Chinese medicine, most of which relies on herbal rather than animal products, and Mandarin versions of our *China Bear Rescue....the beginning* and *Dr. Eddie: Friend or Food?* videos,” Neale explained.

The *Dr. Eddie* video, also available in an English version, tells the story of a dog whom Robinson rescued from a live meat market in Guangdong. Eddie is now part of the Animals Asia Foundation Dr. Dog therapy program in Hong Kong, one of numerous Dr. Dog programs started around Southeast Asia to help raise appreciation of dogs.

After showing Eddie on the job, helping humans, the video incorporates black-and-white footage of violent handling of dogs and cats throughout the Guangdong market where Robinson bought him. Many of the scenes show enough background to demonstrate that the incidents in the foreground are not unusual, but are the norm—even with westerners present.

“So far, we have support groups at Beijing Chinese Medicine University, Jiang Chinese Medicine University, Guang Xi Chinese Medicine University, and the Environmental Support Group of Shan Xi High School.”

Already, Neale said, “Students from the Beijing Chinese Medicine University held a series of China Bear Rescue photo exhibitions and collected signatures of support from three high schools in Beijing. Students from the Green Power Society at Zhe Jiang University rolled out a series of exhibitions and promotional activities to 15 high schools,” featuring lectures by Green Power members who had visited the China Bear Rescue Center.



Geeta Seshamani nurses bear. (Wildlife SOS)

TAMPA, Fla.—Florida humane worker Carol Childs may have been the only outside animal rescuer to reach Myanmar after the December 26, 2005 tsnami.

Better known to the world as Burma, and still called Burma by most of the residents, according to Childs, Myanmar has been an isolationist military dictatorship since 1962. News media are strictly censored. Few visitors are admitted. The security-conscious Myanmar regime at first denied having any tsunami casualties, and refused outside aid, but rumors leaked out of at least 90 deaths.

Childs, planning an intensive Southeast Asian excursion that also took in parts of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, in late 2004 managed to secure a tourist visa to go to Myanmar. A veteran of Florida disaster relief efforts, including the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and four hurricanes in six weeks during the summer of 2004, Childs realized that her skills might be needed. She landed in Thailand on January 11 with suitcases of veterinary supplies, but was unable to connect by telephone with any of the Thai animal disaster relief organiza-

tions. Not a computer user, she did not try via the Internet.

Instead, Childs helped the Buddhist monks she found looking after homeless animals and people, and praying over bodies, in some of the coastal temple complexes.

After a few days in the Phuket area, Childs crossed into Myanmar and spent the next 10 days working with monks and others there. As Buddhism is the only nongovernmental institution tolerated by the dictatorship, monks do everything done by nonprofit organizations in other nations, Childs observed, but even the monks are constantly subject to harassment and repression. She treated as many dogs as she could for parasites and eye infections, fed them, and left as much money as she could with an acquaintance who promised to continue the work.

Childs has headed the Florida Humane Society in Deerfield Beach since 1993, and also heads one of several organizations incorporated as the National Humane Society. Hers operates two mobile sterilization clinics and is currently converting a building into an adoption boutique.

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“Too many stray dogs and cat-

CHENNAI, VISAKHAPATNAM, PORT BLAIR

—The first phase of disaster relief is rescue. Then comes accommodating refugees, followed by rebuilding.

“Our immediate relief activities have been now replaced by the medium term to long term relief work made necessary by the animals we have rescued,” Blue Cross of India director Chinny Krishna told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, two months after the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

Eager to start rebuilding, including developing India’s first formal animal disaster relief plan, Krishna found himself still in the middle of refugee accommodation.

“The large number of rescued animals, as well as those surrendered by people who said they found them in their neighborhoods, have made things difficult at our Guindy center,” Krishna explained. “A rescued pig and her litter of eight piglets occupy a large area behind our cattle shed. Rescued dogs occupy every available step on the staircases, and the recent rains in Chennai have sent all the dogs normally in the four-acre outdoor part of the shelter scurrying indoors to have a roof over their heads!”

On top of that, the tsunami only briefly interrupted a Chennai municipal drive to rid the city of free-roaming cattle.

“We are now flooded with more than a hundred cattle,” Krishna said.

The Blue Cross was also continuing to assist the



Cattle rescue. (Visakha SPCA)

Nagapattinam SPCA with cattle feeding in the Nagapattinam relief camps.

Doubling as coordinator of Indian relief operations for the World Society for the Protection of Animals, Krishna announced that “WSPA has sent a further donation of \$15,000 for the relief work in this part of the world,” in addition to the \$15,000 sent at the end of December 2004, “and also has committed £40,000 [about \$75,400] over a 2-year period for a mobile clinic and staffing and operating expenses.”

Meanwhile, chief Blue Cross veterinarian T.P. Sekar flew to Sri Lanka on January 28 to spend a week sterilizing dogs at Arugum Bay to help prevent a dog massacre which might have resulted from an unfounded rabies panic.

“The Blue Cross coordinated the visit of eight vets from India to Sri Lanka to work on this project,” Krishna added. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** funded their transportation. The trip doubled as a crash course in high-volume sterilization and same-day release surgical technique, directed by Eric Davis, DVM, of the Humane Society of the U.S., and the Bali Street Dog Foundation surgical team, who were flown to Sri Lanka by Humane Society International/Asia.

Vowed she wouldn’t return

The Visakha SPCA, at the northern end of the Indian tsunami disaster area, meanwhile received a two-week clinic management tutorial from Animal Rescue League of Boston chief veterinarian Bosmat Gal, 51.

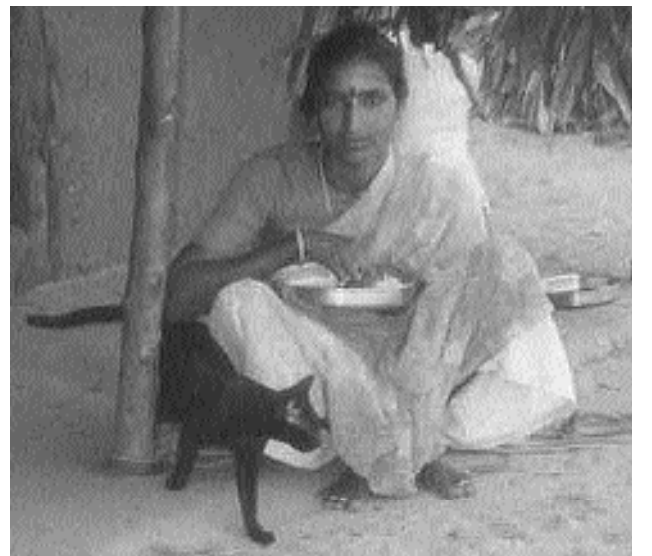
Dispirited by what she had seen in December 2004 on a tourist visit, Gal vowed never to return to India, she told *Boston Globe* reporter Jenna Russell, but “When I had the opportunity to go and do something, it changed everything,” Gal said. “I couldn’t turn away.”

“With her passport and vaccinations updated from her earlier trip,” Russell wrote, “Gal left for India in mid-January, as part of a relief effort organized by the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights based in California, toting four suitcases full of drugs and medical supplies.”

“They’re doing a lot with what they have,” Gal said of the Visakha SPCA Animal Birth Control program, which appears to have gone from start-up to sterilizing more than 80% of the dogs in the city faster than any other ABC effort in India.

The Animal Rescue League and AVAR are now funding gifts of additional equipment to help the Visakha SPCA maintain the pace and improve the standards of care as it extends its services out into the surrounding villages.

While Gal substituted at the Visakha SPCA shelter,



Tsunami survivor with her cat. (Visakha SPCA)

the regular shelter vet and two government vets traveled with mobile teams to help animals in outlying coastal communities.

“With modes of transport varying from four, three and two wheels, and even going on foot, as the roads are inaccessible in many areas, we have visited places where there are hardly ten families,” Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath said. “Our efforts included rescuing dogs and cattle especially. Cattle feed, tonics, vitamins, and other medicines were distributed among the villagers.

“Previously we mentioned the hero beach dogs of India, warning many people to flee before the tsunami struck,” Nath added. “The Visakha SPCA tsunami animal relief team is now reporting that cattle too are surprise heroes and heroines. Villagers interviewed have told us that most of the tied cattle were moving restlessly back and forth, indicating impending danger and wanting to escape. Some bulls and buffalos even broke away. Therefore in Iskapalli village there were no deaths at all, despite imminent danger from the Buckingham Canal and sea waters.”

One Iskapalli village dog was stranded on the far side of a bridge that was destroyed by the tsunami.

“Immediate relief measures were provided, and he eagerly came into our arms for rescue,” Nath said

Dogs refused to eat bodies

“The situation in Port Blair,” the capital of the Andaman Islands, “is that quite simply there are too many stray dogs and cattle,” Wildlife SOS founder Kartick

(continued on page 20)

COLUMBO, CHENNAI, PHUKET—Concern for marine life after the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 26, 2004 centered on sea turtles and coral reefs.

Sea turtles, just beginning their nesting season, and usually drowned by the thousands in trawler nets, appeared to be among the few beneficiaries—other than fish—of the destruction of fishing fleets and beachfront development.

Thirty olive ridley sea turtles hatched on February 16 at Tanjung Beach on Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for example, a tsunami-struck resort area where sea turtles had not nested successfully in more than a decade.

But U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service coral reef expert Tom Hourigan told Paul Recer of Associated Press that reefs badly damaged by the regional El Nino effect of 1997-1998 were likely to have taken a further pounding.

“It is very likely that the tsunami would damage the coral and some of the worst damage would come from debris thrown up against the reefs,” Hourigan told Recer.

“Some entire reef ecosystems could have been buried by sediments flushed into shallow environments,” added coral reef division chief Russel E. Brainard of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

Environmental science associate professor Somchai Sakulthap of Phuket Rajabhat University told Punnee Amornviputpanich of *The Nation* that he found piles of broken staghorn coral along the beach after the tsunami, plus sea cucumbers, gulper eels, and many other species not usually washed up from the coastal shelf. He predicted that the reefs off Phuket might take 20 years to recover.

The first post-tsunami coral reef damage assessments, however, found that the damage

was less than feared, and could be minimized by prompt removal of objects which might batter portions of reef apart, moving with tidal action, before they could become anchored by new coral growth.

“We carried out four different surveys of the marine environment [around Sri Lanka] and found low to minimum damage to the coral reef, although the water is still very murky,” Nature Conservancy scientist Sanjayan Muttulingam told Steve Connor, science editor of the London *Independent*.

“The conditions were rough and there were items strewn over the reef, including pipes, blocks of cement, and boat fragments,” Muttulingam continued.

“The coral showed only minimal signs of recent breakage, most notably at the Hikkaduwa Marine Sanctuary. In all, the live coral seemed to have fared well—but unless we clean up the debris left behind, there will be further damage,” Muttulingam said.

Muttulingam worked with Ravi Corea of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society.

“At the request of the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka,” e-mailed Corea, “we conducted underwater surveys of the coral reefs of Hikkaduwa and the Unawatuna, Mirissa, and Polhena beaches. We also assessed the impact on terrestrial habitats in the Bundala and Yala National Parks and in the Kumana Bird Sanctuary. This effort was totally supported by The Nature Conservancy and by the National Geographic Society.”

“We have raised funds to provide new homes to the Department of Wildlife Conservation staff whose homes were destroyed,” Corea added, then described an ecological conflict of interest:

“We are providing new boats, engines and fishing gear to a small fishing community in the vil-

lage of Kariggiwela in the South Province. Major funding for this project is provided by the Abercrombie & Kent Global Foundation. As part of this effort we are also providing funds to a young widow with two children who lost her fisherman husband to start a small business selling devotional items at the Tissamaharama Temple.”

Apart from the need to relieve human suffering, the argument for conservationists helping fishers is that fishing will go on anyway, and helping the fishers gives the conservationists a chance to promote less destructive methods than might otherwise be practiced.

India

Reports from India meanwhile confirmed that the tsunami has helped sea turtles, at least until the fishing fleet recovers and beachfront touristic infrastructure is rebuilt.

Madras Crocodile Bank Trust volunteer J. Subramaneam told *The Hindu* in early February that olive ridley sea turtle nestings along the beach he patrols between Besant Nagar and Neelangarai rose from 17 in 2004 to 41 this year.

“In the post-tsunami period, the number of dead turtles reported is less compared to last year,” Crocodile Bank Trust education officer Kundhavi Devi added.

Farther north, where the tsunami impact was lighter, and far more sea turtles have come ashore in recent decades, “Fishing trawlers continue to be the biggest culprits in making the Orissa coastline a graveyard for turtles,” the *Deccan Herald* reported on February 11.

“None of the trawlers follow the government’s directive to use turtle exclusion devices,” the *Deccan Herald* alleged. “The state government has not been able to procure speedboats for patrolling along the coast during the turtle sea-

son, though the fisheries and forest departments were provided with funding for this five years ago.

“Moreover, despite a clear direction to post 10 armed policemen from the Orissa State Armed Police at the three patrolling stations at the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and the mouths of the rivers Devi and Rusikulya, there is no permanent police detachment.

“A fortnight back, a group of fishers kidnapped two forest guards when they tried to seize equipment from them for illegal trawling inside the restricted zone near the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary. The forest guards had no police escort,” the *Deccan Herald* said.

Wildlife Society of Orissa sea turtle project coordinator Biswajit Mohanty told the *Deccan Herald* that volunteers had already found 5,010 dead sea turtles this year, including 1,500 near the Gahirmatha sanctuary.

The season toll on nesting sea turtles in recent years has varied from 6,000 to more than 10,000.

Thailand

Sea turtle nesting along Thai beaches may be incompletely monitored this spring because of tsunami damage to the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand’s Wild Animal Rescue & Education Centre at Baan Talae Nork in Ranong province. The 200 resident animals fled to safety in the wooded portion of the site, WAR said in an electronic newsletter, “but the center’s bungalows, kitchen, main hall, garden, and toilet were all destroyed. Staff and volunteers are currently camping out in the WAR office, which is seven kilometers from the beach, and helping with relief efforts,” the newsletter added, concluding that “With great regret, we have had to cancel our Sea Turtle



PHUKET, Thailand—As the tsunami waves receded on December 26 and the size of the disaster became evident, Soi Dog Foundation volunteer John Dalley e-mailed to the International Fund for Animal Welfare a plea for help on behalf of the animals. No one responded. Dalley, Soi Dog founder Margot Park, and the other Soi Dog volunteers took in as many human and animal refugees as they could, then tried again.

ANIMAL PEOPLE wired relief funding on December 29. The Best Friends Animal Society sent aid the next day.

The IFAW response came at last on February 16, from IFAW grants manager Laura Saliba. “Thank you for your interest in IFAW grants,” Saliba wrote. “Unfortunately, IFAW is currently not accepting unsolicited grant requests. We receive a large number of worthwhile proposals, and we are only able to fund a portion of those due to limited funds, and the desire to be as effective as possible in the work we support.”

As of the most recent IFAW filing of IRS Form 990, it had cash and securities reserves of approximately \$17.8 million.

IFAW representative Anand Ramanathan meanwhile wrote in a January 1 web posting that “In the tourist destination of Phuket, reports of abandoned dogs and displaced livestock have been received and we are in touch with a local NGO (Soi Dog Foundation www.soidogfoundation.org) to facilitate their animal rescue work.”

Another IFAW representative, Mick McIntyre, briefly visited the Soi Dog Foundation two weeks later, but did nothing. Dalley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, to facilitate any of the Soi Dog animal rescue work.

After the January/February 2005 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** exposed this and other discrepancies between IFAW claims and reports from the field, Edwin Wiek of the Wildlife Friends Rescue Center in Amphoe

Thayang e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on January 29 that “In fact, IFAW has supported the relief efforts from the first week,” but did not reply to a direct question from **ANIMAL PEOPLE** as to just what work IFAW funded, where, when, to what extent.

Busted

But Wiek had other problems. As a Wildlife Friends press release recounted on February 3, “Dutch-born wildlife activist Edwin Wiek was briefly jailed today after appearing in provincial court to face charges relating to the possession of wildlife without proper documents. Wiek, who runs the acclaimed Wildlife Friends Rescue Center, was charged early in August 2004 after a series of raids on his rescue center.”

Wildlife Friends accused Thai officials of “trying to stop Wiek’s involvement in investigating the illegal cross-border trade in wildlife, in particular orangutans.

“The Wildlife Friends Rescue Center houses over 150 protected wild animals,” the press release said, “most of which have suffered severe distress, are sick, or have physical disabilities. Officials of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants said that for nineteen of these animals the documents were not in order. Consequently, in July 2004 some of the animals were confiscated and removed from the center with great force on the order of Schwann Tunhikorn, director of the DNP Wildlife Conservation Office and Thailand’s office of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Two of the animals were badly injured during their capture,” Wildlife Friends alleged.

“After hearing about the arrest of Wiek,” the press release finished, “Major-General Sawek Pinsinchai, commander of the Thai Royal Forestry Police, sped to Petchaburi provincial court and bailed Wiek out.”

Wrote Jim Pollard and Sucheera Pinijparakarn of *The Nation* in Bangkok, “Supporters say Wiek is being persecuted by the National Parks Department for pursuing the Safari World orangutan scandal, which received worldwide publicity during the CITES conference here last September. The case is extraordinary, given the department’s lack of action against Safari World over what has been called the biggest smuggling case ever of endangered primates.”

Boxing orangutans

Safari World until August 2003 was notorious for staging boxing matches between captive orangutans. The boxing matches were suspended coinciding with a nationwide crack-down on wildlife trafficking.

On November 22, 2003, Sawek Pinsinchai announced that a raid on Safari World by 200 police officers had discovered 115 orangutans, of whom the park had permits to keep only 44. DNA testing found that at least 12 orangutans could not be offspring of any of the permitted orangutans, and were therefore probably smuggled into Thailand.

After Indonesia and Malaysia sought to repatriate the orangutans, Safari World claimed that 41 of them had died from pneumonia and were cremated. In August 2004 a follow-up police raid found 36 of the “dead” orangutans hidden on the property.

In November 2004, 22 orangutans believed to have come from Safari World turned up at Koh Kong Safari World, a similar facility in Cambodia. “On November 10, the Cambodian office for CITES sent a letter to Ly Yong Phat, owner of Safari World’s parent company, Koh Kong International Resort Casino, inviting him to begin the application process,” reported Liam Cochrane of the *Phnom Penh Post* on December 22. The two Safari Worlds have different listed owners, but “conservationists believe the same animal trainers work in both parks,” Cochrane wrote.

Wiek was instrumental in bringing the case to global notice.

Electronic target

Quite apart from whatever IFAW and Wiek did or did not do, the Soi Dog Foundation ran into difficulties with the Dog Rescue Center Samui, founded in 1999 by German expatriate Brigitte Gomm. Located outside the tsunami-stricken region, the Dog Rescue Center Samui in early January 2005 began electronic fundraising in the name of assisting the Soi Dog Foundation, even though the Soi Dog Foundation has an internationally accessible PayPal account.

Gomm and three staff members then visited the Soi Dog Foundation on January 20, clashed with Dalley and Park, withheld at least 5,000 euros and some dog food they said they had intended to deliver, ripped Soi Dog in an e-mail to donors, and asked for donor approval to transfer the funding to a new animal rescue project on Koh Payam island.

The Gomm allegations against the Soi Dog Foundation distinctly contrasted with evaluations by Humane Society International director of Asian programs Sherry Grant and Animals Asia Foundation founder Jill Robinson, who spent several days helping the Soi Dog Foundation relief effort earlier in January. Both Grant and Robinson were extensively quoted in the January/February 2005 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Gomm received electronic support from one “Aaron M. Mazzillo, Freelance Journalist, *New York Times*.” **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found that no one of that name or any similar name has had a byline in *The New York Times* at least since 1996, appears on the *New York Times* roster of staff and correspondents, or has ever had a byline anywhere that turned up in repeated electronic searches of online newspaper libraries.

“The Soi Dog Foundation has always prided itself on the fact that all funds raised go directly to the animals,” Park said. “We have no paid staff. Expenses, including for vehicles, fuel, our web site, etcetera, are met by our volunteers themselves. We are a very young and small organization which has been catapulted into a huge amount of work and publicity due to the tsunami. We are in the process of finding an accounting firm to help us produce proper reports, which we will link to our website. All this takes time, especially since we are still so incredibly busy. We have many visiting vets here at the moment and need to take advantage of that.”

Soi Dog Foundation balance sheets from 2003-2004 are in possession of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and show no irregularities.

“In the past weeks, we have been visited by the leaders of the World Society for the Protection of Animals, HSI, the Animals Asia Foundation, and IFAW,” Park added. “These people have witnessed our work and [*IFAW excepted*] have pledged funding to us. WSPA in particular is keen to make Phuket an example to the rest of Thailand of how to effectively manage a stray dog population.

“It is often said that out of everything bad, something good happens,” Park continued. “In the case of the tsunami, we have not only been able to alleviate the immediate suffering of animals here, and in the surrounding regions, but are in a position now to be far more effective in the future.

“In the past, the only feeding we could do was through individual volunteers feeding at particular temples at their own expense,” Park said. “We are now setting up a network of people including many Thais, who will monitor animals, feed them, and report any sickness, injuries, or new arrivals to a central number for an immediate response.

“We will also upgrade our clinic,” Park pledged, “including hiring our own Thai vet and vet nurse. This will enable us to sterilize and treat many more dogs and cats than before. New volunteers are coming forward. We are very confident,” Park finished, “that the condition of the stray animal population of



Gill Dalley of the Soi Dog Foundation lost her legs as result of an infection contracted during an October 2004 dog rescue. Above, she inspects recently sterilized street dogs.

“Too many stray dogs & cattle” roam the Andamans (from page

Satyanarayan e-mailed on January 25, just after the January/February edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press. “Even the dogs at the local shelter are severely emaciated and in need of urgent feeding.”

Heading the Wildlife SOS/Friendicoes SECA relief team, whose members had crossed India diagonally from Agra and Delhi to help, Satyanarayan reached the Andamans after weeks of work in Tamil Nadu.

By mid-February, Satyanarayan reported, “We are feeding 1,080 cattle which belong to 708 families. Initially, we helped the villagers drive their cattle into the jungles in the higher lands. But the unowned cattle depend entirely on us.

“Low-lying areas where paddy fields and dry paddy straw are grown provided the main fodder for cattle. Since the tsunami these areas have been submerged in sea water,” Satyanarayan explained.

“Some places are still under six feet of water, even after fifty days. As per the scientific reports, the sea level has risen. The capacity of Port Blair to feed cattle is going to be permanently lower. Fearing this, farmers are selling their milk cows, and we fear that the buyers are not always those who will rear them.

“Our team on Little Andaman could not find more than 20 dogs there on the first day,” Satyanaryan recalled, “although there were plenty of pigs. Survivors reported that the pigs ate decomposing human bodies, but not the dogs. Dogs continued sitting next to the dead bodies of their people and never touched a single body, a constable told one of our team. The constable himself buried more than 40 bodies, and the police depended on the positions of the dogs to locate the bodies. Only after the bodies were burnt did the dogs leave to hide in the forests, or go to the relief camps in search of food.”

Satyanarayan organized feeding stations for the dogs that will be moved gradually to lead them to high ground.

Veterinarian Geeta Godson, of Port Blair, “had a maid who lived on Little Andaman,” Satyanarayan said, “and the waters miraculously left her hut standing when everything else was destroyed. Whenever the boat leaves for Little Andaman we put in flour, milk powder, rice and dal, and the maid with her son Raju cooks packets of it for the dogs. At first the dogs were timid and required much coaxing, but now we are feeding about 50 dogs daily. They wait for the boat to dock and then follow Savitri and Raju to the hut for their meal.

“The most important thing to do now,” Satyanarayan continued, “is to start an animal shelter and treatment center on Little Andaman, as the government may not be restarting one for months. It is impossible to take even a single animal to Port Blair, as the boat is over crowded with fleeing humans and there is only one boat per day.

“Finding surviving animals is difficult as we walk or cycle through a narrow path in thick jungles, with numerous mud-filled streams. There is absolute silence and damaged houses, fallen trees, scattered utensils, broken TV sets, and furniture litter the ground,” Satyanarayan wrote. “When we do find a dog, his face tells his story and how much he is missing his people. Sometimes they follow us for several kilometers, but then run back to where we saw them first.”

Satyanaryan flew home on Valentine’s Day, after 45 days in the field.

“He will rest a couple of days and we will plan carefully all the follow-up work and consolidate things,” Friendicoes SECA shelter manager Geeta Seshamani told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Our work at Andamans and Nicobar continues. The team is still there, and we are going to be there for the long haul. Not only do we have an Animal Birth Control program to start from scratch, but the poaching there is appalling. Crocodile meat, deer meat—everything is openly sold. Boats come from Thailand and birds are trapped—species

which are all on our highly protected list!—and they are carried off,” probably to be sold for release at temples, if they survive capture and transport.

The Thai supply of birds available for purchase at

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Anti-rabies drive shifts gears to sterilization *(from page one)*

Care, mobile surgical hospitals staffed by teams from the Bali Street Dog Foundation in Indonesia and the Humane Society International division of the Humane Society of the U.S. began doing sterilization at Arugam Bay in early February, where the threat of dog massacres loomed largest.

About 500 dogs had been sterilized by Valentine's Day, Blumberg said.

After 10 days at Arugam Bay the HSI team "moved to a nearby area on the east coast and continues to sterilize about 40 animals per day, both dogs and cats," Blumberg recounted.

ANIMAL PEOPLE funded the participation of veterinarians from several Animal Birth Control programs in India, who learned small-incision surgery and prevention of surgical site infections from the HSI vets. The HSI team leader, Eric Davis, DVM, formerly taught high-volume, same-day-release sterilization technique at the University of Tennessee veterinary school.

"Vier Pforten, of Austria," whose surgical team arrived a few days after the HSI team, "began operations in the town of Habaradua, near Galle," Blumberg said. "Austrians are help-

ing to rebuild this town. Vier Pforten established a vet clinic, began vaccinating, and introduced a mass sterilization program."

Later the Vier Pforten team split into two teams, in order to begin field operations on the east coast in coordination with HSI, and a Japanese veterinary team arrived to help.

"Both HSI and Vier Pforten are integrating local vets into their teams, and are teaching vet students to their techniques," Blumberg said.

"There has been some local confusion over several aspects of these activities," Blumberg noted. "One is that the sterilizations and rabies vaccinations are being done at the same time. This is the norm in most of the world, but is apparently not customary in Sri Lanka. There has also been concern," Blumberg said, "about the same-day-release sterilization methods used by HSI and Vier Pforten.

"These are not 'business-as-usual' sterilizations," Blumberg explained. "They are done with a high degree of asepsis. Special surgical techniques are used, including a small incision with three layers of suturing, so that there are no sutures exposed, with a fourth layer of Superglue—not to add strength, but to seal the incision.

"There also is need to demonstrate that field surgery can and should be done with the same standards of asepsis as clinic conditions," Blumberg continued. "Long-acting antibiotics are given, as are analgesics for pain. Both HSI and Vier Pforten are welcoming observers, including other vets and university students.

"These methods have been used by the HSUS/HSI team, Vier Pforten, and the Bali Street Dog Project to do thousands and thousands of animals over the last several years. We hope that people will come and see for themselves that these methods work, as it means that sterilizations can be done without the logistic complexities of kenneling," Blumberg invited.

WSPA & IFAW

The vaccination campaign was by mid-February wrapping up.

"The World Society for the Protection of Animals has ended its vaccination drive near Galle," having also vaccinated about 12,000 dogs plus about 650 cats, according to WSPA director general Peter Davies, "and is putting longer term programs into place. The International Fund for Animal Welfare has completed several additional days of vaccination," Blumberg said. Starting two weeks after the first teams Blumberg fielded,

and staffed mainly by students, the IFAW team worked at a markedly slower pace.

Funded by WSPA and the Royal SPCA of Britain, the Kandy Association for Community Protection Through Animal Welfare also organized vaccination and sterilization efforts.

KACPAW president Champa Fernando anticipated that "Two WSPA-funded mobile clinics will begin operating in April 2005, on the east coast from Trincomalee downward, and on the south coast from Kalutara downward. These clinics will concentrate on sterilization, vaccination, and awareness, and will run for two years. KACPAW will manage the east coast mobile clinic and Bluepaw [another Sri Lankan animal welfare organization] will manage the other one.

"These programs will be coordinated in many areas with the government veterinary surgeons," Fernando promised. "A national committee appointed by the minister of health is developing a plan to eradicate rabies [from Sri Lanka] through humane methods. KACPAW will have at least 15 government vets from the Central Province trained very shortly.

"A rabies-free nation could mean, ideally, no more suffering of our dogs," Fernando hoped. "Sri Lanka could become yet another rabies-free island nation."

Veterinary casualties

Sri Lanka Veterinary Association chief executive Tissa Jayatileka Hony on February 1 announced a relief collection to assist the survivors of three veterinarians who were killed by the tsunami, along with two vets who lost their clinics and one who lost a mobile unit.

Paradeniya University veterinary faculty Upul and Ramani Ariyaratne were killed along with their two children at Balapitiya, while A.E. Jayaweera and his son died at Kalkudah Beach, along with 10 members of their extended family. Jayaweera's wife and eight-year-old daughter "escaped miraculously," Hony said. —M.C.

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



(Robert Blumberg)

Humane Horse Care For Equine Wellness *by Andrew F. Fraser* • 280 pages, paperback. \$25.00.

A Guide To Carriage Horse Care & Welfare *by the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust* • 46 pages, paperback, \$10.00.

Both from: Canadian Farm Animal Trust (22 Commerce Park Drive, Unit C, Suite 306, Barrie, Ontario L4N 8W8), 2003.

CANFACT founder Tom Hughes sent these two very useful manuals exactly one year ago. I looked them over as thoroughly as I could, then tried to find a reviewer with appropriate experience in evaluating horses in normal working and riding condition.

Horse rescuers tend to see the worst of the worst—but the purpose of these manuals appears to be to enable a humane inspector to recognize potential problems long before they develop, so as to put in a few words of preventive advice.

Horse advocates are often more interested in philosophical and regulatory issues than in basic care. From the perspective of many animal rights activists, *Horse Care For Equine Wellness* and *A Guide To Carriage Horse Care & Welfare* start off on the wrong hoof by presupposing that if horses exist anywhere in proximity to humans, they will be used for something.

Rather than discouraging horse use, including breeding, veterinarian Andrew Fraser and the other contributors emphasize that good care brings better performance.

Veterinarians might have brought to *Horse Care For Equine Wellness* and *A Guide To Carriage Horse Care & Welfare* more advanced prior knowledge than the intended users will usually possess.

Meanwhile, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** visited eastern Europe, where workhorses may still outnumber tractors. Certainly they do in Romania. I took the opportunity there to observe the distinct differences between how gypsies and other Romanians handle their teams,

partially informed by *Horse Care For Equine Wellness* and *A Guide To Carriage Horse Care & Welfare*.

In general, the gypsy horses seemed to be more lightly built, quicker on the road, and much more responsive to voice command. Many gypsy drivers scarcely used their reins at all.

Gypsy horses seemed to get more time off. Of course I could not know exactly how long each horse I saw had been working, but I could see some gypsy horses wandering while others worked, and sometimes saw gypsy men changing teams in mid-day. Others seemed to use only one team, with no horses not working if any worked.

But others tended to use horses with more pulling power, who maybe needed less rest.

Few Romanian horses I saw seemed to be mistreated or neglected. Horses appeared to be at least as much valued by those who had them as motor vehicles—and this was consistent with my observation, long ago, of some of the last men who farmed with horses in rural

Quebec. The suffering horses I have seen were mostly either victims of complete neglect, or were rented riding horses, handled by different people all day every day, rather than by one person whose livelihood depended not just on using the horse but upon establishing a cooperative relationship with the horse, day in and day out.

Back home, I seldom see a horse—just our two big California desert jackasses, adopted in 1998 after Wild Burro Rescue saved them from being shot by the National Park Service. They "work" sometimes at dismantling fences and digging up septic fields, but have never been harnessed or trained. Helping me to review *Horse Care For Equine Wellness* and *A Guide To Carriage Horse Care & Welfare* was not part of their job description.

Months passed with both

books on my desk. Every time I picked them up, I read something I didn't previously know, even though horses have been part of my news beat for 28 years. But only once could I remember having urgent need of the information. That was the time I was called to evaluate a horse in distress, when neither a veterinarian nor an official humane investigator could be found.

I checked his teeth, his hooves, his coat, the bones that showed, and his limping gait. An adolescent girl had been told he was 18 when she bought him from a local riding stable for a price that sounded much too low. I guessed he was a hard-used 23. He appeared to me to have chronic stress fractures of both hind legs, possibly as a legacy of excessive riding by someone who was too heavy. He was ambulatory, but just barely. Eventually,

I recommended to the weeping girl that he should be euthanized.

The girl's father insisted on waiting for a veterinary opinion. Late that afternoon a vet dispatched the horse with a captive bolt gun. The horse was 30-plus, we learned, and had spent most of his life plodding in circles to turn a carousel.

Local horse rescuers were irate with me later. They said the horse could have been saved.

Maybe. I'd have felt more comfortable saying so.

Horse Care For Equine Wellness, in the right hands at the right time, might have prevented the whole miserable incident.

—Merritt Clifton



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Making Kind Choices:

Everyday ways to enhance your life through Earth and animal-friendly living *by Ingrid Newkirk*

St. Martin's (175 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2004. 464 pages, paperback. \$13.95

We were somewhat surprised to read a book by the formidable president of PETA, and find it light and chatty as a housewives' tea party. *Making Kind Choices* will appeal primarily to women, especially in the developed world. Unfortunately for animals, most women in the Third World would understand neither the lifestyle to which the advice is directed, nor the moral philosophy which underlies the choices she suggests. The gulf between the First and Third worlds is never so wide as in the paradigm of animal rights.

Newkirk gently points out how, if we only take a little time to analyze our lifestyles, we will find that in almost all areas of human activity there is egregious cruelty to animals. This occurs through both habit and commercial convenience. Her message is that when we educate ourselves to avoid lifestyle choices that perpetuate cruelty, we will eventually compel commerce and industry to introduce kinder methods.

Newkirk discusses hidden animal ingredients in cosmetics and household products, raising ecologically aware and animal-friendly children, and dressing in style without using animal products, among other tips about adjusting one's life in little ways to make this a better world for other species as well as ourselves.

Each chapter is followed by a list of web sites for further reading or for related resources.

—Beverly Pervan & Chris Mercer
[Kalahari Raptor Centre]

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ANIMAL OBITUARIES

Bear, dog of Rockinghorse Ranch riding stable owner Dale Stone, of Big Baddeck, Nova Scotia; **Tio**, Great Pyranees of Brian Cherry and Peg Klouda of Victor, Montana; and **Bubba** and **Savannah**, mas-tiffs of Marcela Egea of Belton, Missouri, all strayed recently into traps near their homes and were killed. Tio, Bubba, and Savannah all could have been released but were shot instead. Cherry and Klouda have formed an organization, Trapping Information Offensive, in memory of Tio. Trapper Michael Kartman, 39, who admitted killing Bubba and Savannah, was cited by Missouri Department of Conservation agent Phil Needham for fail-ing to label his traps with his name and address and for improper disposal of the remains of a raccoon, two opossums, and a skunk.

Kumba, 35, the first western low-land gorilla born at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, was euthanized on February 12 due to acute kidney failure.

Koby, 29, one of the first pair of chimpanzees obtained by the North Carolina Zoo, died of a heart attack on February 8 while anesthetized for a physical exam. Arriving at the zoo in 1978, moving to an out-door exhibit in 1979, Koby sired nine off-spring, leaving a colony of 12 chimps.

Chobi, 15, remembered by Animal Refuge Kansai founder Elizabeth Oliver as her “public relations dog,” died on January 20, 2005. “Found as a starving pup on a rubbish heap, he symbolized the plight of homeless animals and won the hearts of hundreds of people,” Oliver said. Animal Refuge Kansai, opened in 1990, is now the largest nonprofit humane society in Japan.

Daphne, the female of a pair of hand-reared paradise sheldrake ducks who greeted visitors at the wharf of the Tiritiri Matangi wildlife sanctuary in Whangaparaoa, New Zealand, was among 20 to 30 birds who were shot at the Gulf Harbour Country Club in early February 2005, reportedly to “tidy up” the grounds before the mid-February New Zealand Open golf tournament, although club dirctor Peter Wall later denied that this was the reason. Public outrage over Daphne’s death threatened to upstage the tournament. Her mate was reportedly missing.

HUMAN OBITUARIES

Miriam Rothschild, 96, died on January 20 in Northamptonshire, England, recalled by *The Times* of London as “Beatrix Potter on amphetamines.” Like Potter, Rothschild performed dissections and vivisection early in life, but became a strong animal advocate later in life. The daughter of banker Charles Rothschild, who as a hobby identified more than 500 flea species, Miriam Rothschild catalogued more than 30,000 flea species between 1953 and 1973. Her uncle Lionel Walter Rothschild also encouraged her interest in biology, collecting more than 2.3 million butterflies, 300,000 bird skins, 300,000 birds’ eggs, several pet cassowaries, and 144 giant tortoises. Miriam Rothschild followed them into entomology, working with Nobel Prize-winning chemist Tadeus Reichstein to decode the relationship between insects’ consumption of toxins to deter predators and their protective coloration. She also became a leading expert on parasitic flatworms. After a World War II air raid destroyed her seven years’ worth of flatworm research, she broke codes for British military intelligence, while housing 49 Jewish children who had escaped from Nazi Germany. Eventually she began to think about the ethics of her scientific work. “I was once taken aback,” she wrote in her 1986 book *Animals and Man*, “by an unusually able assistant of mine suddenly deciding to quit zoology. Apparently she had been given a live, instead of a dead mouse, to feed to a stoat. Not hav-ing the courage to kill the mouse herself, she hurriedly pushed it into the cage. She watched fascinated while the animal crouched terrified in a corner, facing the tense, bright-eyed stoat preparing for the kill. To the girl’s consterna-tion she then experienced a violent orgasm... Looking back at the first half of my life as a zoologist,” she continued, “I am particularly impressed by one fact: none of my teachers, lecturers, or professors, none of the directors of laboratories were I worked, and none of my co-workers, ever discussed with me, or each

other in my presence, the ethics of zoology. I know several zoologists,” she added, “who have admitted that they suffered from the fear of being dubbed ‘unmanly,’ and struggled to overcome their dislike of causing animals pain, or killing them.”

Ernst Mayr, 100, died on February 3 in Bedford, Massachusetts, remembered as “the leading evolutionary biologist of the 20th century” by *The New York Times*, and “The Charles Darwin of the 20th century” by Reuters. An avid birder as a boy in Germany, Mayr at age 19 “was about to leave for medical school,” wrote Carol Kaesuk Yoon of *The New York Times*, “when he spotted a pair of red-crested pochards, a species of duck who had not been seen in Europe for 77 years. Though he took detailed notes, he could not get anyone to believe his sighting,” until he met Berlin Zoological Museum ornithologist Erwin Stresemann, who invited Mayr to become a weekend assistant. Completing a Ph.D. in natural history, Mayr collected—and ate—more than 3,000 birds between 1928 and 1930, doing field research in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands as an employee of Lionel Walter Rothschild (see *Miriam Rothschild obituary*, above). This work inspired his theo-retical exploration of how species come to be differentiated. Mayr cofounded the Society for the Study of Evolution in 1946 and was first editor of the journal *Evolution*. Joining the Harvard faculty in 1953, he remained active in evolutionary study to the end of his life. He was credited with identifying 24 bird species and more than 400 bird subspecies.

Barbara Jo Petry, 57, better known as the mystery writer Barbara Burnett Smith, was killed by a car on February 19 near her home in Austin, Texas, while trying to retrieve a newly adopted rescued Airedale from the street. Petry was known to friends for her love of her two cats, Naranja and Sinatra, and her older rescued Airedale, Rafferty.

Katlyn Collman, 10, of Crothers-ville, Indiana, on January 25 detoured into a rundown apartment house on her way home from a convenience store to tell a resident that his dog had been hit by a train. Unawares, she saw a methadrine lab allegedly operated by Charles Hickman, 20, and two alleged co-conspirators. Her remains were found in a stream five days later, hands bound behind her back. Hickman is charged with murder. Two other men are charged as accomplices.

Myrtle “Myrt” Starr, 62, died of cancer on February 9 in Lompoc, California. From 1984 to 1996 Starr ran the petting zoo at the Alisal Ranch in Solvang. “We had sheep in the closets, baby pigs in the oven, we even had a bobcat and a hawk,” daughter Susan Mailander told Hildy Medina of the Santa Barbara *News-Press*. “Everyone was always bringing animals to us who needed a home.” In early 2003 Starr found several hundred neglected horses on the land of an acquaint-ance, Buellton rancher Slick Gardner, while looking for a foal whom Gardner had promised to give her. Gardner was eventually convicted in one of the largest neglect cases ever, jailed for a year, and put on probation for five years. Starr cofounded an organization, Wildhorses in Need, to help look after about 300 horses who were removed from the Gardner property.

Jerry Berard, 85, died on February 15 in Wausau, Wisconsin. A 30-year employ-ee of Standard Oil, Berard upon retirement became an animal control officer for the Humane Society of Marathon County, work-ing in that capacity for 24 years.

Gerd Kohl, 39, a seven-year keep-er at the Vienna Zoo in Austria, was impaled on the tusks of a four-year-old bull elephant named Abu on February 20, while giving the elephant a shower. Kohl had raised Abu since infancy. Founded in 1752, the Vienna Zoo last had a keeper fatality in 2002, when a 21-year-old woman was killed by a jaguar.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Lota, beaten in 1990 by Milwaukee zoo personnel to make her board a trailer bound for a circus operation. After 36 years of service at the zoo, given away to the Hawthorn Corporation, forced to perform and suffer for another 14 years, she finally made it to sanctuary in November 2004. Rest now sweet girl, the bullhooks are gone. —Michael & Dianne Bahr

Moostic, age 10, our charming lady cat, ambassador for peace and close friend of Twany, our Saint Bernard dog, has left us on the day of the tsunami. She will always stay in our hearts. —Eleanor Moser



In memory of Oreo, the spunky Dalmatian who brightened our lives immensely. Lost to cancer 12-24-04. So loved and missed. —Elizabeth & Ed Kirkpatrick



In memory of Fluff, 15.5 years our farm coon. —Katherine Day

In memory of a sweet natured horse, Well Kept Secret, and my all-time favorite cat, Georgie.



—Laura Davis

In memory of Moti, beloved companion of the Petzak family: Within the space of six short winters you claimed my heart, luminous pearl—sparkle on! —Jamaka Petzak

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87), Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87), Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85),

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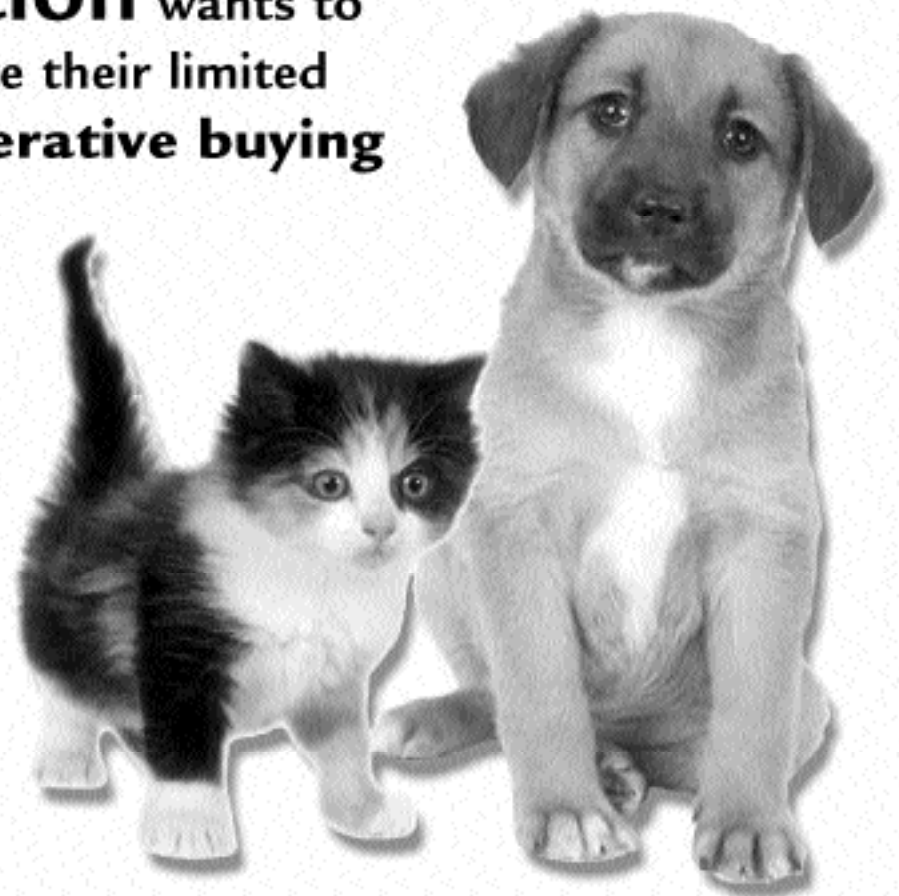
Cooperative Buying Program

Save Money Today . . .

Save The Pets Of Tomorrow!

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

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



Read about our partners in saving lives . . .

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



Nylabone®, the premier manufacturer of pet chew products for over 40 years, is the standard against which all other chew products are measured. Nylabone products are designed to promote good canine dental hygiene, enhance overall mental fitness, and encourage positive behavior.



Midwest Homes for Pets is an innovator in training cages. The best products at an attractive price with two different programs to earn significant income for your organization:

Retail Plan – buy crates below regular wholesale prices and stock them in your retail space to sell to adopters a good price.

Direct Ship Plan – sell crates to adopters who purchase with a credit card direct from The Pet Savers Foundation, with shipment right to their doorstep; no inventory to buy, just the opportunity for an attractive commission to your organization on every sale!



Kong® established “the standard” for dog toy performance and durability, and today Kong toys are enthusiastically used and recommended by veterinarians, trainers, dog professionals and satisfied customers worldwide. Millions and millions of dogs have confirmed the Kong is “THE WORLD’S BEST DOG TOY!”



American Leather Specialties Corp. is an international manufacturer and distributor of collars, leashes, chains, grooming products, dishes, cat pans, rawhides, toys, beds, and many other quality pet accessories.

Exclusively for coop members, we have developed pre-packaged starter kits that are easy to order and inventory.



T.F.H. Publications, Inc. has been at the forefront of pet publishing for half a century, creating and sustaining publications for owners of a wide variety of companion animals. TFH was a pioneer in bringing full-color books to pet guardians, and has maintained a wide selection of breed, care and training titles to satisfy the needs and interests of all pet guardians.



SIGN UP FOR SAVINGS TODAY!

To receive a **FREE** introductory kit which includes catalogs and pricing, call us at **1 (800) 233-7544**

pet adoptathon®

save the dates!

April 30th & May 1st, 2005



***"Adopt a shelter pet and
make a friend for life,"***

— Judge Judy Scheindlin,
International Spokesperson.

Be part of the largest world-wide adoption extravaganza by joining Pet Adoptathon® 2005! This year on April 30th and May 1st, shelters across the country and around the world will be united by one common goal – to find loving homes for all the animals in their care. Register and

receive free promotional materials, a listing on the Pet Adoptathon Web page, access to our online How To Guide and national publicity for your shelter. Since 1995, Pet Adoptathon has helped over 210,000 dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens around the world find new, loving homes.



north shore
animal league
america®

pet adoptathon®

don't delay! • register today!

for more information visit www.nsal.org/adopt or call
1.877.BE.MY.PAL

*Thank you to
our sponsors!*



There is NO REGISTRATION FEE and there is NO COST for any of the support materials provided to your organization.

Yes, our organization would like to participate in Pet Adoptathon 2005!

Organization Name _____

Event Contact Person _____

E-mail address _____

Organization's Mailing Address (for regular U.S. Mail- No PO Boxes please)

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Shipping Address (to be used for UPS delivery)

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Actual location of your event (or where you'll be holding your Pet Adoptathon 2005 event. (if different from left – no PO boxes please)

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

☐ Check here if you do not want the above address posted on the Pet Adoptathon Web page, or given to potential adopters who call our 877 referral hotline.

Organization's Phone Number _____

Fax Number _____

Web Site _____

By filling out this form, I am officially registering for Pet Adoptathon 2005 and agree to submit my adoption figures after the event is over.

Signature _____

Please complete and fax to (516) 812-7287 or mail to North Shore Animal League America,
16 Lewyt Street, Port Washington, NY 11050 or sign up online at www.nsal.org/adopt



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animal league
america®

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