



The Japanese whaler Kaiko Maru [center] allegedly first rammed and then backed into the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society ship Robert Hunter [left]. Foreground: the Sea Shepherd ship Farley Mowat. [See page 5.] (Sea Shepherd Conservation Society)

Pet market bombings & dog abuse reflect the low price of life in Iraq war zone

BAGHDAD—Who bombed the Ghazil pet market? Four times? Why?

The anonymous perpetrators of the Ghazil mayhem against both humans of animals may pretend to motives rooted in religion and ideology.

Yet, killing and maiming both Sunnis and Shiites, of both genders and all ages, along with countless animals of multiple species, the Ghazil bombings exhibited the same depraved disregard for others' lives as the alleged deeds of former U.S. Army private first class Steven Dale Green.

Green, 21, is soon to stand trial in U.S. federal court in Kentucky, facing the death penalty, for allegedly leading four other soldiers in the March 12, 2006 gang rape and murder of Abeer Qassim Hamza, 14. First, testified the other soldiers, Green shot her parents and her five-year-old sister. Then, after the rapes, Green shot Hamza several times in the head at close range, and set her hair on fire before fleeing the scene.

Green had apparently rehearsed

the acts with an animal victim.

At an August 7, 2006 pre-trial hearing, wrote Paul von Zielbauer of *The New York Times*, soldiers of Green's unit who were called by his defense to demonstrate his purported mental unfitness to be tried "testified to a grisly tale of how Mr. (continued on page 18)



Animal Birth Control is fixing the dogs faster than anti-dog attitudes

by Merritt Clifton

AGRA, AHMEDABAD, BANGALORE, CHENNAI, DELHI, THIRUVANATHAPURAM, VISAKHAPATNAM—The Koramangala pound in Bangalore may have been the quietest location in India having anything to with street dogs in the aftermath of a January 5, 2007 fatal pack attack on a nine-year-old girl named Sridevi.

The Coalition for a Dog-Free Bangalore and similar groups nationwide made Sridevi's death focal to ongoing efforts to reverse the nine-year-old central government commitment to sterilize street dogs instead of killing them. (See guest column on page 7.)

In Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala state, also called Trivandrum, a February 10, 2007 confrontation between dogcatchers capturing dogs for extermination and proponents of the local Animal Birth Control program reportedly burst into violence.

At Koramangala, however, built circa 1934 by the British troops, several hundred dogs rested in low-roofed cement kennels with scarcely a bark. Some awaited sterilization surgery in a clinic where dogs were for 65 years electrocuted. Others were under post-operative observation to avoid infection. Soon they would be returned to the neighborhoods where they were collected.

The unusual quiet of the Koramangala pound may result mostly from the kennels being arranged in single rows, with each front facing the back of another kennel instead of the front of another kennel and an unfamiliar dog staring back. The dogs are housed in compatible pairs whenever possible.

Other ABC headquarters in Bangalore were as noisy as they were busy.

The attractively landscaped Compassion Unlimited Plus Action hospital and shelter on the Hebbal Veterinary College Campus closely resembles the Help In Suffering facilities in Jaipur, whose ABC program was among the first prominent successes. Both institutions were founded by British expatriate Crystal Rogers (1906-1996). Rogers recruited and trained CUPA core personnel Suparna Ganguly, Shiela Rao, and Sanober Bharucha.

CUPA also manages the Koramangala ABC program and an outpatient clinic.

On February 23, 2007 CUPA hosted World Health Organization chief F.X. Meslin and Animal Welfare Board of India chair R.M. Kharb for the formal debut of new national Rabies Free India campaign, sponsored by the Animal Welfare Board and the federal Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Using an oral vaccine developed especially for street dogs, Rabies Free India, "will be launched in Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore," Ganguly explained to *The Hindu*. "The vaccine is ensconced in a food pellet. When the dog bites the pellet, the vaccine mixes with the dog's saliva."

After five years of testing, the oral vaccine was recently approved for general use by the Drug Comptroller General of India.

Another Bangalore ABC program operates from the headquarters of Karuna, formerly called the Bangalore SPCA, across a sidestreet from CUPA on the Hebbal campus.

(continued on page 9)

Chinese activists rescue more than 400 cats from Tianjin butchers

TIANJIN, BEIJING— As many as 100 volunteers rallied by the I Love Cats Home in Tianjin stormed a cat meat market on February 10, 2007 to rescue 444 cats, of whom 415 were taken in by the China Small Animal Protection Association, of Beijing.

"It was a true battle," China Small Animal Protection Association volunteer Dan Zhang told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "The Tianjing volunteers bravely fought for the lives of the cats with the butchers and police for more than 10 hours. Some volunteers were injured and sent to the hospital," one of whom was still hospitalized two days later, rescue organization Wang Yue of the I Love Cats Home told Ng Tze Wei of the *South China Morning Post*.

"The police threatened to shut their mouths," Zhang said. "Volunteers from the I Love Cats Home called us at midnight to ask for our help, after they were not allowed to take the cats away. Professor Lu Di and I kept in contact with them all night. Finally the police agreed that the volunteers could take the cats away if



Rescued cats. (Ai Weiwei)

they signed an agreement with the cat butcher. "

Organizing transportation and volunteers to take the cats to Beijing, "We arrived in the afternoon and got back at midnight," Zhang recounted. "Lu Di and I stayed at the shelter until 6 a.m. to take care of the much tortured and extremely terrified cats.

The *Beijing News* "said the volunteers might be sued by the cat vendors for compensation and be prosecuted for attacking police officers," wrote Ng Tze Wei. "But Wang Yue said that they did not attack the police.

"Ms. Wang said her group first learned late last month that a shop in the wholesale market was keeping more than 400 cats in small cages, but the police and government departments said there was nothing they could do about it," Ng Tze Wei continued.

"Xiao Xue, another group member,"

(continued on page 12)



This pig lives at the Pigs Peace sanctuary in Stanwood, Washington. (Kristin Stilt)

Smithfield & Maple Leaf Farms will phase out gestation crates

SMITHFIELD, Virginia—Smithfield Foods, the largest U.S. pig farming conglomerate and a major producer abroad, on January 25, 2007 announced that it will begin a 10-year phaseout of gestation crates.

Gestation crates are used to keep pregnant and nursing sows immobile for more than three years of their typical four-year lifespan before slaughter. During that time the sows usually birth and nurse five to eight litters of about a dozen pigs each.

Smithfield captured 26% of the U.S. pork market in 2006, raising 14 million pigs at U.S. facilities, and killing 27 million of the 60 million who went to slaughter. Smithfield revenues came to \$11.4 billion.

All 187 Smithfield-owned pig nurseries and all farmers contracting to raise pigs for Smithfield are to move to housing sows in group pens. Smithfield vice president for environmental and corporate affairs Dennis Treacy said that the company will house anywhere from six to 55 pigs in each pen, depending on what kind of retrofitting the design of each individual barn allows.

Smithfield staff will be retrained, Treacy added, to prevent fighting among pigs, often claimed as a reason for crating.

But there are more basic reasons for crating, noted Raleigh *News & Observer* staff writer Kristin Collins. "Because crated sows can't turn around," Collins explained, "their waste falls neatly through the slatted floor under their back feet and never contaminates the food trough that runs through the fronts of the cages. And the sows are safely contained when it's time to artificially inseminate them."

Insisted Treacy, "We didn't do this in reaction to activists' requests, and no customer said they would take away business if we didn't do it. We are trying to be proactive and respond to what we think the customers want. This will not overly stress our system."

"Smithfield officials defended the use of the crates, but said their own research had concluded that they could be replaced by group pens without any long-term problems or cost increases," reported *Washington Post* staff writer Marc Kaufman.

The McDonald's restaurant chain and WalMart had reportedly asked Smithfield and other pig producers to quit using gestation crates, after a panel of outside experts appointed by McDonald's concluded that gestation crates are especially vulnerable to

(continued on page 14)

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Editorial feature

Indian diets & the future of animal welfare

Old news and ancient history have rarely been more relevant to the future of animal protection than in Chennai, India, in early January 2007.

Approximately 350 delegates attended the fourth Asia for Animals conference. Representing more than 20 nations, many delegates had never before been to India. Yet the journey was a philosophical pilgrimage, the conference itself a homecoming.

India is where pro-animal religious and philosophical teachings apparently began, where animal shelters and hospitals were invented.

India is also the second most populous nation in the world, with the fastest-expanding economy, greatest rate of growth in material acquisition, and second-greatest rate of growth in meat consumption, behind only China.

India and China, having between them more than 40% of the global human population, are where the future of animal welfare will be decided.

Asia for Animals 2007 added two days of activity to the schedules of past editions held in Manila (2001), Hong Kong (2003), and Singapore (2005).

A pre-conference seminar promoted improvement in the Animal Birth Control programs, the nine-year-old Indian national strategy for sterilizing and vaccinating street dogs.

A post-conference session formed a steering committee chaired by Arpan Sharma of the New Delhi ABC program Samrakshan to organize a proposed new national umbrella for Indian animal welfare societies. While the government-appointed Animal Welfare Board of India partially funds and loosely guides the activities of the 2,365 currently recognized Indian pro-animal organizations, through a traditional from-the-top-down structure, the new umbrella would seek to provide the cause with a representative collective voice.

The meeting convened in the auditorium of the C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, near a stone that marks where advocates for Indian independence from Britain published their first newspaper. Few examples of articulating nonviolent ideals have had a greater influence.

One example that did, however, came between 2,500 and 3,000 years ago, when the Bishnoi people of the Rajasthan desert, and their neighbors, the Thari and Sindhi, adopted vegetarianism and the belief that animals should never be harmed.

Only traces of the Thari and Sindhi vegetarian cultures persist among their descendants today, many of whom are Muslim residents of Pakistan, but the Bishnoi culture appears to be almost unchanged, tolerating wildlife to the extent that Bishnoi villages serve as mini-wildlife sanctuaries.

Similar teachings were advanced by the Jains. The Jain teacher Mahavir and his contemporary Siddharta Gautama, called the Buddha, emphasized vegetarianism and compassion for animals. Mahavir is credited with either introducing or popularizing the cow shelters, called *gaushalas* or *pinjarapoles*, that have been a feature of Indian life ever since.

International animal advocacy outreach appears to have begun circa 250 B.C., when the Buddhist emperor Asoka enshrined animal protection in the Indian civil code, and sent his son Arahata Mahindra on a missionary expedition to Sri Lanka. On arrival, Arahata Mahindra interrupted a hunt by King Devanampiyatissa, persuading him to give up hunting and create a wildlife sanctuary. Both Asoka and Arahata Mahindra sent emissaries on to Thailand.

The legacy of those times is troubled, but still very much alive.

Asia for Animals 2007 speakers discussed, among other topics, the misuse of Bishnoi habitat by poachers, including the actor and onetime World Wildlife Fund calendar conservationist Salman Khan. Animal Welfare Board of India president R.M. Kharb focused on updating and revitalizing cow shelter management. Some speakers also addressed the perversion of the Buddhist custom of temple monks sheltering animals into the practice of keeping elephants and other species as visitor attractions.

Pro-animal outreach of note from India resumed in the 12th century A.D. with the Cathari, a vegetarian sect probably descended from the Thari. Cathar teachings spread from Persia through Europe from the Balkans to France, undercutting support for the Catholic Church, until the Church exterminated them in the Albigensian Crusade of 1233 and founded the Inquisition to ensure that Cathar ideas were permanently repressed.

Already the Cathari had profoundly influenced St. Francis (1182-1226), and Richard of Wyche (1197-1253), a Bishop of Chichester who attacked the morality of slaughter and appears to have been the first English animal rights advocate.

Six hundred years later, British military officers posted to India encountered pro-animal teachings and returned to England to found the London Humane Society in 1824, re-chartered in 1840 as the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals.

In 1947, at request of Rukmini Devi Arundale, who later became the founding chair of the Animal Welfare Board of India, and with the approval of Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru wrote into the constitution of India that "It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen

of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures." This provision remains unique in national constitutions.

Indian moral leadership on behalf of animals has not yet extended to international institutional leadership, but that may be changing, as Indian animal advocates increasingly discover through conferencing and electronic networking that they have more expertise than they tend to imagine.

Restoring vegetarian prestige

Asia for Animals 2007 focused, like past editions, on the challenges and opportunities resulting from the explosive growth of the Asian human population, and the even faster recent growth of Asian economies. The Indian population, for instance, has more than tripled since 1947, while the total value of the Indian economy has doubled since 1990.

Apprehension of what might happen to animals if factory farming continues to displace traditional farming, and if Asians eat more meat, often expressed at past Asia for Animals conferences, largely yielded in 2007 to recognition that the displacement has already occurred, for the most part, along with the feared rapid rise in meat consumption.

Even in India, where more than half the human population professed to vegetarianism just 20 years ago, barely a third are vegetarian today. There are more vegetarians in India today than ever, but they tend to belong to the Brahmin, Jain, and Buddhist minorities, whose birth rates are much lower than the birth rates of non-vegetarians.

Inevitably, billions more animals will be raised and killed in miserable conditions. Already nearly 50 billion animals per year go to slaughter, worldwide, more than 90% of them chickens. This total could double before the Indian and Chinese human populations and meat consumption stabilize.

Dismaying as all this is to people who care about animals, who had hoped for better, there may have been little that animal advocates could have done to prevent it. Only after the existing demand is satiated are vegetarian and vegan advocates likely to persuade meat-eaters to reject the opportunity to eat as much meat as they always imagined they wanted.

Of greater concern to the longterm prognosis for weaning the world away from meat, animal advocates until recently lacked arguments against increased production and consumption of meat that resonated as well in Asia as in better fed parts of the world.

People who have already rejected Hindu or Buddhist vegetarian teachings, for instance, are unlikely to be swayed by other moral and philosophical contentions.

People who have felt they often did not get enough to eat tend to be oblivious to arguments based on the health effects of overconsumption.

Arguments against animal husbandry in societies where plant crops are produced mainly by hard hand labor tend to sound to the hungry poor like prescriptions for more difficult work and less to eat.

The Animal Welfare Board of India in December 1997 marked the 50th year of Indian independence by holding a conference in Delhi that marked the first meeting of many of the Asia for Animals 2007 participants. Speaker after speaker described the potential impacts of factory farming and the introduction of biotechnology to India. Some accurately anticipated the corrosive effect that the growth of the Indian biotechnology sector would have on protections for laboratory animals.

Yet the only recommendation offered for countering either factory farming or biotechnology was that animal advocates should endorse and promote traditional agricultural methods that had already failed to produce adequate abundance.

Promoting vegetarianism, which could feed the world with vastly less animal suffering and less demands on resources, was in 1997 cripplingly linked to Gandhian notions that the modern world can still rely on bullock carts and biogas for transportation and energy, and that the cost of improving animal welfare must be renouncing technological progress. Cows' urine was offered as a panacea for practically every ailment that biotech might address.

Implicit in the Gandhian arguments, resoundingly made by elderly men in homespun clothing, was the expectation that India would always need to find work for millions of poorly paid illiterate field hands, and that shaping dung cakes for fuel might always be the most lucrative work available to uneducated rural women.

Perceiving themselves as defenders of the poor, the Gandhians reduced the potential for improving animal welfare to such matters as abolishing cow slaughter, with scant attention to the plight of other species; reforming the management of cow shelters; and equipping work animals with more comfortable harnesses.

Such efforts are still needed throughout much of India, but do not even recognize most of the biggest current Indian animal welfare problems. Cow slaughter and cow shelter mismanagement are only some of the abuses involved in the fast-growing Indian leather trade. Runaway expansion of the Indian poultry industry accounts for most of the increase in Indian meat consumption. And whatever the value of cows' urine, still touted by devotees of Ayurvedic medicine, India has become a world leader in pharmaceutical animal testing.

Two years after the 1997 Animal Welfare Board conference, hoof-and-mouth disease spread from India with the illegal export of livestock for slaughter in Saudi Arabia at the Feast of Atonement after the haj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. The outbreak apparently spread throughout the world on soiled shoes and clothing as pilgrims returned home, devastating the cattle industry in much of western Europe, especially Britain.

International outbreaks of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome and the H5N1 avian influenza followed, the latter still raging.

Now the lesson is clear that if factory farming is to be practiced successfully in Asia, maintaining bio-security is essential. In practical terms, that requires abolishing a multitude of abusive traditional customs, including live markets and shipping live animals for slaughter, rather than frozen carcasses. Slaughter must be faster and cleaner. Wild meat markets must be closed, since bringing wildlife into proximity with livestock introduces exotic diseases, like SARS, which can swiftly mutate. Cockfighting, falconing, and the trade in capturing or raising birds for temple release are all disease vectors associated with the spread of H5N1, in particular, and also must be ended, if poultry bred for rapid growth at expense of their immune systems are to be raised successfully in close confinement.

Suddenly agribusiness and animal advocates have some common concerns.

Agribusiness is also beginning to realize (*see page one*) that continuing intensive confinement husbandry requires becoming more concerned about animal welfare, simply because stressed animals are much more vulnerable to infection.

Factory farming, in India and elsewhere, can now be addressed with a three-part strategy: welcoming agribusiness support to eliminate other animal-abusive industries, encouraging reform of agribusiness practices, and promoting vegetarianism and/or veganism to younger consumers, who never felt deprived of meat and so can more easily give it up.

India was never even close to fully vegetarian. "Tribals," lower caste Hindus, and the Muslim minority have always eaten meat. Yet, until quite recently, not eating meat was a mark of education and status. Giving up meat was a way to rise in social standing.

None of the Gandhian dogmatists attended Asia for Animals 2007. Perhaps they have now all passed on. The conference undoubtedly ran more smoothly without them. They probably would have readily agreed with younger activists, however, that restoring the prestige of vegetarianism in Indian culture will be the pre-eminent challenge to the Indian animal welfare cause in the coming years.

SEARCHABLE ARCHIVES: www.animalpeoplenews.org
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Animals harmed in making “The Aftermath”?

I have just watched the HBO/BBC joint production of *The Aftermath*, a fictitious account the Indian Ocean tsunami, filmed in Phuket and Kao Lak.

There is at the end amongst the credits a statement saying that “No animals were harmed in the filming of this production.”

Not so. The scenes depicting the temple north of Kao Lak were actually filmed over several days at the Ban Don temple near Talang on Phuket. Approximately 45 dogs and numerous cats live at this temple, monitored by volunteers who feed and treat them.

The film company built an enclosure for the dogs into which they were all herded. Normally these dogs have distinct territories in

different parts of the temple. The result was repeated fighting. Some of the dogs suffered open wounds. These required veterinary treatment provided by the Soi Dog Foundation after the filming was finished. We were not allowed near the enclosure during the filming.

Nobody knows what happened to the cats, but many disappeared.



—John Dalley
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American Humane screen division chief Karen Rosa responds:

This information is very disturbing. American Humane was never notified of this production. Since it was primarily produced by the BBC and filmed in Thailand, it would not be considered a Screen Actors Guild production (and therefore not subject to American Humane supervision). We are working to make humane treatment of animals in film an international mandate, but it has been slow going and in need of funding.

John Dalley described the kind of poor housing we criticise and prevent from occurring when we monitor a production. We also would never have allowed any aggression to continue, even if it was unforeseen.

Veterinary treatment for the injured animals should have been immediate, not “after filming was finished.”

This is the kind of case that we will use in our continuing argument for funding and jurisdiction on international locations. The unsuspecting viewer has no idea that this is the backstory.

I am following up on the claim that *The Aftermath* is using an end credit that may state “No animals were harmed.” If that is so, we will follow up through our attorney.

[“No animals were harmed” as a screen production note is a phrase trademark by American Humane.]

Rating salaries against the norms

Just to say well done for the interesting compilation of who gets what and where it goes in the December 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—a marathon job.

Tom Regan vs. Peter Singer

Tom Regan, quoted in “Animal Liberation author Peter Singer ires activists by calling some animal testing ‘justifiable,’” in your December 2006 edition, was absolutely correct to condemn the claim that “consequences determine moral right or wrong,” and I am surprised that Peter Singer reportedly accepted inducing Parkinsonism in primates, after the experimenter claimed that “40,000 people have been made better.”

Apparently modern treatments for hypothermia are based on knowledge gained by Nazi doctors plunging Jewish concentration camp inmates into freezing cold water, and then trying various treatments to revive them. Would anyone try to justify those experiments because countless people may have since benefited from the knowledge gained? No one has the right to take another sentient being, human or animal, by force, and subject that being to imprisonment, distress, pain and death in the interests of others, no matter how many.

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CORRECTION

The January/February 2007 article “Thailand re-examines tiger sale” stated that Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo chief executive Plodprasop Saraswadi “had previously been fisheries minister” before becoming minister of forestry, where his work is under investigation by the Thai National Counter Corruption Commission.

Plodprasop Saraswadi was actually director general of fisheries, 1992-1998.



—Anne Collins
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Gorilla Organization

We have changed our name to The Gorilla Organization and are registered as a company limited by guarantee under number 05988371. Our new charity registered number is 1117131.

Dian Fossey’s example of courage and dedication to her beloved mountain gorillas will always be an inspiration to us. However, as we expand our work to help other kinds of gorillas, namely the eastern lowland gorillas in the Congo, being named after someone who is strongly associated with the Virunga mountain gorillas is not necessarily an advantage.

It is our hope that with sufficient support from supporters concerned with the possible extinction of a species, the Gorilla Organization will expand to apply the lessons learned around the Virungas to gorilla populations in all 10 countries where they are found.

—Anne Collins
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Editor’s note:

Key factors in executive compensation besides the size of the organization include professional credentials, special achievements, and tenure on the job. Even considering these elements, however, Fred O’Regan appears to be quite generously paid.



VIVA! U.S.

Your December 2006 edition noted that “VIVA! U.S. office director Lauren Ornelas left Viva! in April 2006 to take a position with Compassion Over Killing. The VIVA! web site no longer lists a U.S. branch.”

I quit COK after about 4 months. Viva!USA still exists, but no longer has an office and is no longer taking donations. I am helping out as a volunteer to ensure that literature orders are filled.

We are still pursuing our lawsuit against Adidas over the import of kangaroo leather. It is currently before the California Supreme Court. I remain the contact person on the lawsuit, in addition to our lawyer.

—Lauren Ornelas
San Francisco, Calif.
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Livestock gifts

Thank you for your January/February 2007 article “Livestock gift charities do not help poor nations, say global critics.” I have been fighting this battle for many years, particularly at our Unitarian congregation’s religious education classes. They cannot be convinced that these cute little animals are destined for slaughter. And did you see Heifer International’s Christmas catalog with all the celebrities cuddling the little baby animals?

At age 83 and a physical wreck, I can’t do much any more, but at the least, I will make copies of your article and distribute it to the Unitarians and others who give to animal charities.

—Roz Hendrickson
Bridgewater, New Jersey



Resident Intern for Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Wildlife in Crisis (WIC) is seeking a Resident Intern.

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—Wolf Clifton

Fur-Bearer Defenders note decreasing trapping

Recent **ANIMAL PEOPLE** references to increasing use of fur seem to overlook the ever decreasing amount of cruel trapping.

Five and a half million animals were trapped in Canada in 1979/80. In recent years fewer than one million animals have been trapped. Here in British Columbia the 1979/80 total was over 300,000. This has decreased

90%, to 30,000. In Alberta, 1.8 million animals were trapped in 1979/80. Recent totals have been about 111,000. Similar figures are available across Canada, as trappers hang up their traps because of low pelt prices.

In the U.S., the 1979-80 estimate of animals trapped was 26 to 28 million. We estimate that the toll is now between three and four million animals per year.

After 35 years of working to end cruel trapping, we are excited to know of the huge number of fur-bearing animals who will now likely never meet a leg-hold trap.

—George V. Clements, Director

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<www.DogCatFur.com>



Eid ul Azha

I have been much vexed because millions of cows, oxen, camels, sheep and goats were slaughtered on the day of Eid ul Azha, after the Haj in Saudia Arabia, and on January 1 in Pakistan. This is a cruel and atrocious massacre of innocent and faithful animals. Animal Save Movement Pakistan not only strongly protests this debacle, but wants to abolish it.

—Khalid Mahmood Qurashi, President
Animal Save Movement of Pakistan
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Slovenian bears

The Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, Janez Podobnik, plans to issue a hunting quota of 106 bears in 2007.

Although our brown bears are an endangered species, protected by the laws of Slovenia as well as the European Union, many bears will be killed, even mothers and their young. The country has no mercy.

—Damjan Likar
Society for the Rights & Liberation of Animals Slovenia
<info@osvoboditev-zivali.org>

world, goats are eaten. Because we love goats, we would like to discourage that. Your article helps to discourage the use of goats for food.

—Jim & Jane Hyde
Goat Rescue
2693 Xanadu Lane
Langley, WA 98260
Phone: 360-321-4747
<osiris@whidbey.com>
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Fire aboard Japanese whaling ship *Nisshin Maru* ends Antarctic killing early

Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research whaling within Antarctic waters ended for the winter on February 24, 2007—far short of meeting a self-assigned quota of 935 minke whales, 50 humpback whales, and 50 fin whales. The latter are both internationally designated endangered species.

“At around 17:30 today,” posted the crew of the Greenpeace vessel *Esperanza*, “the expedition leader of the Japanese government’s whaling fleet radioed, informing us that the *Nisshin Maru*—disabled nine days ago by fire—plans to sail in three hours.

“This is a relief,” the posting continued. “After nine long days, the whaling fleet is finally leaving the Ross Sea, and the unsullied environment of the Southern Ocean.”

The *Nisshin Maru* on February 15 caught fire in a below-deck processing area. Most of the 148-member crew were evacuated, leaving 26 to fight the blaze. One crewman, Kazutaka Makita, 27, was killed by the fire.

The catcher vessel *Kyoshin Maru* returned his remains to Japan, ahead of the rest of the five-ship whaling fleet.

The *Nisshin Maru*, the only working “factory ship” for whale processing left in the world, also caught fire in 1998, en route to the Antarctic. It made a controversial emergency stop at Noumea in New Caledonia. Reportedly most of the *Nisshin Maru* electrical parts and wiring were replaced.

The *Esperanza* and the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Sea* stood by this year while the *Nisshin Maru* lay “rafted up” for emergency repairs between the tanker *Oriental Bluebird* and the catcher vessel *Yushin Maru*.

Conservationists feared that a bad turn of weather might force the Japanese ships

to separate, and that the *Nisshin Maru*, without power, might hit an iceberg. The *Nisshin Maru*, with more than 340,000 gallons of oil aboard, was reportedly about 110 miles from the world’s largest rookery of Adele penguins.

Greenpeace offered to tow the *Nisshin Maru* to safety with the *Esperanza*, a former Russian firefighting ship, whose master had 10 years of salvage towing experience.

But Japan refused Greenpeace help. A spokesperson called Greenpeace “terrorists” for trying to disrupt whaling—although Greenpeace has emphasized a conciliatory approach this year. A Greenpeace online travelogue about Japanese whaling communities, posted at www.whalelove.org/wagon for 10 weeks coinciding with the whaling voyage, included an episode in which a Spanish visitor to an elderly Japanese woman’s home eats whale meat with her and proclaims it delicious.

“We are making very clear that we have no problem with Japanese culture or eating whales,” Greenpeace spokesperson Emiliano Ezcurra, of Argentina, told Agence France Presse. While opposed to whaling in Antarctic waters, Ezcurra added, Greenpeace does not object to coastal Japanese “subsistence whaling,” a longtime target of protest by Greenpeace cofounder Paul Watson, who broke with Greenpeace in 1977 to form the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Sea Shepherds

Flying the “Jolly Roger” as self-proclaimed pirates, the Sea Shepherd ships *Farley Mowat* and *Robert Hunter* stalked the Japanese fleet for weeks. Barred from registration by six nations in six months, the *Farley Mowat* sailed from Australia only hours before

losing Belize flagging, while the *Robert Hunter*’s British registration expired just as the ships returned to Melbourne in mid-February.

The Sea Shepherds finally caught the whalers on February 8. Initial skirmishing included tossing stink bombs on the deck of the *Nisshin Maru*, attempts to plug the ship’s blood drains, and attempts to foul the propeller with a cable.

On February 9, a Sea Shepherd inflatable vessel piloted by Karl Neilsen, 29, of Australia, and John Gravois, 24, of the U.S., collided with the *Nisshin Maru* and suffered a cracked hull. Neilsen and Gravois anchored the inflatable to an iceberg and awaited rescue, hidden in heavy fog for about eight hours, with a malfunctioning radio.

Watson issued a maritime distress call, obliging the *Nisshin Maru* to join in the search until Neilsen and Gravois were found.

On February 12 the *Robert Hunter* crossed in front of the catcher vessel *Kaiko Maru* as it pursued a pod of whales, according to a Sea Shepherd press release. This allowed the whales to escape.

“The *Kaiko Maru* then came alongside the *Robert Hunter* and swerved into the starboard side to push it into some ice,” the Sea Shepherds said.

“The *Robert Hunter*’s hull was penetrated, and a large hole was ripped into the forward compartment area above the main deck.

“Both ships then moved into the ice,” the Sea Shepherds continued, “and began to work their way out of the floe, when the *Kaiko Maru* backed up and rammed into the stern port side of the *Robert Hunter*.” (See page one photo.)

Within another day, low fuel forced

both the *Farley Mowat* and *Robert Hunter* to return to Melbourne—but not before Watson threatened to ram the *Farley Mowat* into the intake ramp at the stern of the *Nisshin Maru*.

“The Sea Shepherd ships were about 1,000 miles from the Japanese whaling fleet when the fire erupted in the factory area of the *Nisshin Maru*,” Watson posted on February 17. “Despite this there are already accusatory rumors.”

On landing, police swarmed over the *Robert Hunter*, a former Scottish fisheries patrol vessel.

“They’re assessing the damage to our hull to try to determine exactly who rammed whom,” Watson said. “Our position simply is that if we had rammed the *Kaiko Maru* then we would admit to ramming it. We have no problem with that. On this occasion, though,” Watson said, “it was the Japanese ship that deliberately targeted us. The video footage and forensic evidence of the damage will show who rammed whom.

“We were hit below the water line,” Watson added, “and will need to get the ship lifted out of the water” for drydock repairs, expected to cost about \$50,000.

The *Robert Hunter*, after refueling and resupplying in Australia, was scheduled to sail to the North Atlantic to protest against the recent Icelandic resumption of whaling and the Atlantic Canada seal hunt. Repairing the hull, however, may keep it in Melbourne until next winter, when the Japanese whaling fleet is expected to return to Antarctic waters.

The *Farley Mowat*, launched in 1958 as a Norwegian anti-submarine patrol vessel, is to be retired after 10 years as the Sea Shepherd flagship.

One Last Fight

By way of update, I wanted to let you know that a Spanish version of *One Last Fight: Exposing the Shame*, produced by The Anti-Cruelty Society, of Chicago, has just been completed. The title is *Una Ultima Pelea: Exponiendo la Vergüenza*. Ironically, you had already published Merritt Clifton’s review in the Spanish section of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site. As director of the original film, I’m pleased that a Spanish version is now actually available.

For details on obtaining DVD copies, please contact Tammie Bouschor at The Anti-Cruelty Society, 312-644-8338, x344, or tbouschor@anticruelty.org.



Pigs

I enjoyed reading about the feral pig situation in your January/February edition. Nebraska reported three areas with feral pigs supposedly due to ferals coming from Kansas last year. In February 2007 they said several hundred domestic pigs had been exposed to pseudo-rabies by feral pigs in almost mid-state.



—Jim Weverka
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Ellen G. White

Ellen G. White (1827-1915), the matriarch of the Seventh Day Adventists, literally inspired millions of Christians and others to become vegetarians. She advocated vegetarianism for Biblical, spiritual, health and animal welfare reasons.

White wrote, “The moral evils of a flesh-food diet are not less marked than the physical ills. Think of the cruelty to animals that meat eating involves, and its effect on those who inflict and those who behold it. How it destroys the tenderness with which we should regard these creatures of God!” Her words were written over 100 years ago. They verify that White was a humane Christian visionary.



—Brien Comerford
Glenview, Illinois

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

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What will be the future of cow shelters in computer-age India?

What is to become of Indian cow shelters?

Enduring frequent spasms of reform and reinvention ever since automobiles began to replace ox carts, cow shelters are among the most distinctive Indian traditions, and are the oldest form of organized humane work.

Perhaps more ubiquitous in India than either schools or firehouses, often endowed with substantial inherited assets, cow shelters appear certain to survive in some form, but their future role and relevance is a matter of intensifying debate.

Among the issues are whether cow shelters should be religious or secular institutions, whether they should be supported by taxation or strictly by charity and the sale of milk and byproducts, and whether they should lead cultural reform, becoming actively involved in politics, as many do, or merely endure as quaint cultural symbols.

Few objections are raised when cow shelters promote traditional Indian values, but controversy explodes whenever the directors point out that their work alone is not enough to prevent cattle from being sold to slaughter, and that prominent politicians and their families are involved in the illegal slaughter traffic.

The terms “gaushala,” “gosadan,” and “pinjarapole” are often applied interchangeably to cow shelters, and often refer to the same facility, but under national regulations published in 1947 and 1954, they have somewhat different legal definitions.

“Gaushalas” have an awkward dual mandate, being officially considered agricultural institutions, as well as having an animal welfare role. Gaushalas often breed cattle, ostensibly to conserve native genetic traits. Many have become commercial dairies.

“Gosadans” are hospices for dying cattle. “Pinjarapole” seems to be the most inclusive term for cow shelters of any type.



At the Visakha SPCA. (Kim Bartlett)

5,300 animals in Ahmedabad cow shelter

AHMEDABAD— From the road, an American visitor might easily mistake the present location of the 400-year-old Ahmedabad Dabla Pinjarapole for a massive feedlot. It is the economic engine for the surrounding countryside, employing more than 80 people, and supporting countless small farms by purchasing fodder.

The facilities housed about 5,300 animals when **ANIMAL PEOPLE** visited, including 2,500 adult cattle, 2,000 calves, 200 buffalo, and other species including donkeys, horses, a camel, a nilgai antelope, and a small troupe of langurs.

Most of the cattle were male, abandoned on the streets of Ahmedabad because cattle cannot legally be sold for slaughter. Many were once working bullocks, but suffered injuries or illnesses that rendered them unfit. Others arrived as starving calves.

Buffalo may be sold to slaughter, but are sometimes surrendered to the pinjarapole by people who choose not to sell retired work animals, yet cannot afford to keep them.

About 1,000 animals per month arrive, on average. About 750 die, explained Mr. Bhyasam, the retired Indian revenue service officer who took over the pinjarapole management as part of a reform movement more than a decade ago. He won release of the funds to build the present facilities in 1996.

Land rents and inheritances have made the Ahmedabad Dabla Pinjarapole wealthier than the Animal Welfare Board of India itself, Mr. Bhyasam asserted. Money for good management is not a problem, Mr. Bhyasam emphasized. What the pinjarapole lacks, he said, is knowledge about how to do a better job—and, perhaps, an understanding of how to make the time-honored work of the pinjarapole relevant to modern India.

Like many Indians of his place and time, Mr. Bhyasam has only one name. He dresses traditionally. But instead of resisting

All, in concept, are places where cattle found wandering at large are confined. All honor the mythic role of the cow as “Mother of India.” Historically, most were projects of specific Hindu, Jain, or Buddhist temples and religious charities, but many today are non-sectarian.

Vedic references are said to mention cow shelters existing as long as 5,000 years ago. By 2,500 years ago they already operated in most major cities.

Moguls, when India was under Muslim rule, often bought public favor by helping to support cow shelters, even though the moguls ate beef. The British governors who succeeded the moguls found cow sheltering somewhat incomprehensible, but did not interfere. Some British officers who studied the concept eventually adapted it into modern dog-and-cat sheltering.

Mohandas Gandhi and followers promoted cow shelters as symbols of nationalism during the struggle for Indian independence. Post-1947, the newly enfranchised Gandhians tried to reinvent cow shelters as vehicles for rural education and economic growth. Secularizing cow shelters, however, may have encouraged the tendency of many to operate for profit, while the abandoned cattle they exist to rescue starve in the streets.

Cow shelters not actively engaged in dairying often exist today as adjuncts to municipal efforts to clear the roads of animals whose meanderings cause accidents and impede traffic. A stereotype has developed of city-run cow shelters as places where cattle are deliberately starved to death so that dishonest staff can sell their hides. This has happened, but in fairness, the cattle who starve in shelters usually come already severely debilitated from having ingested plastic bags that block their intestines. Emergency surgery saves some, but many are beyond help.

Cow shelters operated by animal advocates typically take on more ambitious roles, for instance trying to rescue cattle from the illegal slaughter traffic, rescuing surplus bull calves who are abandoned at temples, and attempting to defend and promote the traditional Brahmin lacto-vegetarian diet.

Much of this activity appears to be swimming against the mainstream. India and the U.S. produce almost the same volume of milk per year, but three times as many Indian cattle are bred to obtain it, resulting in three times as many surplus calves and “spent” cows for farmers to dispose of.

Export to slaughter is the only profitable method, though it can only be done by

change, Mr. Bhyasam proclaimed, he welcomes the contributions of a younger and better educated generation, and looks forward to learning from youth.

Mr. Bhyasam brought out meticulously kept books detailing the causes of animal deaths. Most of the dead, he said, arrive in such poor condition that they cannot be saved. Sprawling as widely as Houston, with about the same human population as New York, Ahmedabad is a harsh environment for working animals. Those who remain ambulatory when they reach the pinjarapole often become longterm residents, but those who drop have low odds of recovery.

At the pinjarapole the animals receive good food and clean water. Other care has been rudimentary, but Mr. Bhyasam recently hired a new veterinary concessionaire, Animal Help Ahmedabad, founded by Rahul Sehgal, 32, whose main project has been running the city Animal Birth Control program.

Within days the Animal Help vets began updating and amending much of the animal care regimen. The first change was that the resident bullocks are no longer drafted each morning to help haul away dead animals—a chore that apparently no one considered before in terms of the possible psychological effect on the working animals.

There are other problems yet to deal with. Monsoon flooding is an annual menace. Mired cattle die of exhaustion. Parasites breed in the standing water.

The few cows among the cattle and buffalo are housed with the males, at risk of impregnation by the occasional intact bull. Traditionally, if calves are born at a cow shelter, their mothers’ milk is believed to convey special blessings to those who buy and drink it, at premium prices.

Sehgal is optimistic that the necessary changes and improvements can be made. Mr. Bhyasam has pledged to cooperate.

trucking cattle huge distances over back roads into the two states that have legal cattle slaughterhouses, or by smuggling live cattle out of India.

Abandoning surplus calves and cattle is less risky, and cuts farmer’s losses.

Indian milk consumption is rising, along with meat consumption, but the rise in milk use is increasing the volume of surplus cattle, and the stress on cow shelters.

Current Indian national cow shelter policy still centers on the Gandhia notion that the shelters should become economically self-sufficient, a contradiction in terms if they are expected to absorb the surplus animals from the ever-expanding milk industry.

“Small is beautiful” in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM— The Visakha SPCA testifies by example that the approach to revitalizing India articulated by E.F. Schumacher in his influential Ghandian treatise *Small Is Beautiful* (1960) can be updated and made to work, with sufficient inspiration and investment capital from donors.

When **ANIMAL PEOPLE** first visited the present Visakha SPCA site in 2000, it was a gravel-strewn dry flood plain—which has since flooded twice, necessitating redesign and reconstruction. The facilities consisted of one makeshift cattle shed.

Today, more than 600 animals including several hundred cattle occupy space that could then barely hold a few dozen. Almost every square inch appears to be in well-planned multiple use. Between buildings and access paths, fast-growing native trees, bushes, and grass provide shade, a congenial atmosphere, and a surprising volume of home-grown food treats for the resident animals: not only dogs, cats, and cattle, but also monkeys, birds of multiple species, and star tortoises, rare in the wild due to poaching, who have found the Visakha SPCA a safe place to breed.

Central to the Visakha SPCA is a biogas reactor that converts the animal waste into fertilizer and fuel to generate electricity.

The Visakha SPCA is a model of the cow shelter modus operandi that the

An alternative approach would tax the dairy industry to support cow shelters. This would encourage increasing milk output per cow, but would contravene the goal of promoting use of native Indian breeds.

Sperm-sorting to prevent bull calf births could help to reduce the cattle surplus, but is prohibited because the technology has been misused to prevent conception of human females. The present Indian birth rate of only 93 girls per 100 boys is considered a looming major threat to social stability.

ANIMAL PEOPLE recently visited two cow shelters that are often mentioned as models—one of them among the oldest and largest, the other relatively new and small.

Gandhians espoused as their ideal; but it is also a hybrid with newer concepts of the role of animal welfare institutions.

The original Visakha SPCA project was protecting sea turtle nests, a relatively rare instance of a humane society managing a species conservation program. The project that most built the organization was persuading the city of Visakhapatnam to stop electrocuting street dogs, accomplished in November 1998, followed by building one of the leading Animal Birth Control programs in India, to reduce the dog population without killing.

Growing with Visakhapatnam, which is among the fastest-expanding cities in India, the Visakha SPCA now provides ABC not only to the central city but also to a constellation of suburbs.

The pinjarapole helps the Visakha SPCA image, founder Pradeep Kumar Nath believes. High-profile rescues of cattle from illegal butchers, and of calves from temple abandonment, help to deflect criticism of the emphasis on dog rescue. Some cow protection donors are so offended by the presence of dogs on the premises, Nath says, that he welcomes their visits at a second entrance that bypasses the kennel area, beside the main gate.

Meanwhile, the Visakha SPCA pinjarapole facilities are full, and cattle and calves continue to be born and dumped.



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Defending Animal Birth Control after a fatal dog attack

by Poornima Harish

None of us are as smart as all of us. This was illustrated in how the animal welfare organizations of Bangalore handled a recent fatal dog attack.

Bangalore electrocuted street dogs until 1999, killing about 200 dogs per day, yet still suffered nearly 40 human rabies deaths per year, plus dog population growth commensurate with the rising human population.

Finally, in keeping with the Indian national policy adopted in December 1997, the city opted to stop the killing and instead support an Animal Birth Control program.

Beginning in October 2000, Bangalore was divided into three zones for ABC, to be handled by the Animal Rights Fund, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, and the Bangalore SPCA. At about the same time the Krupa 24-Hour Helpline for Animals was commissioned to counsel people about animal welfare and the ABC program.

Two years into the program, several anti-animal (and anti-people) groups mounted a cheap and offensive tirade against ABC. This proved to be a good learning experience for us. Using the arguments of the opposition to reinforce our requests for the resources to do ABC on a larger scale, we increased the pace of dog sterilization to 3,000 per month.

The meaner, more bitter, and more unreasonable the allegations against us were, the more credible our efforts appeared by contrast—because our words were reinforced by tangible action.

The media frenzy over the most recent dog attack offered another opportunity for the animal welfare community to become stronger and better organized, and especially to get the municipality to acknowledge the importance of solid waste management to prevent congregations of street dogs.

The fatal attack occurred on January 5, 2007 in a part of Bangalore called Chandra Layout. The victim, a nine-year-old girl named Sridevi, was killed in broad daylight by a pack of dogs in a busy residential area.

Street dogs do not have a natural predator/prey relationship with human children. Bites occur, but unlike in the U.S. and other nations where dogs tend to be much larger and more territorial, incidents of dogs attacking and killing children in India are almost unheard of.

The attack occurred around 8 a.m. when people in the area were up and about. Although large dogs can quickly inflict fatal injuries, passers-by should have been able to save the girl from an attack by ordinary street dogs. We question why no one intervened, and why the dogs attacked in the first place

when there was plenty for them to eat.

We believe Sridevi began running, stimulating the dogs to attack as a pack.

We immediately visited the scene, which we at the Animal Rights Fund had identified as high-risk in 2002, due to casual disposal of meat scraps. We had identified 1,215 illegal meat shops and other high-risk areas in 35 wards of south Bangalore alone. We repeatedly requested the municipality to take strict action against the offending shops. Unfortunately, nothing was done.

Within the Chandra Layout a vacant lot had become a dump for the meat waste of illegal butchers. The municipality had not cleared the lot for many months, leaving it thick with chopped bones. We photographed the evidence.

Residents we questioned as to why they had done nothing to control the dumping admitted that they did not want the issue to become “communal,” meaning that they did not want to incite tensions between Muslim butchers and their Hindu neighbors.

After Sridevi was killed, the municipality closed some of the illegal meat shops, but most are again doing business as usual. After two days of reactive cleaning, the situation reverted to the former state. Most of the illegal meat shops are again doing business as usual.

The media

The media in Bangalore, as elsewhere, includes responsible and irresponsible sectors. The responsible media took care to ask for our perspective, and fairly represented our comments. Some of the media publishing in Indian native languages, however, did not publish accurate reports, even after being fully informed about how the meat waste attracted the congregation of dogs who killed Sridevi.

Some newspapers stationed photographers day and night in the Chandra Layout area, capturing dog movements and giving whatever color they wanted to the story.

Some residents basked in the media attention. One particular lawyer gave false complaints and accused us of not responding. The next night when he complained of dog barks or bites, we got him to open the locks of his house at 3 a.m., to collect his signed acknowledgement that we had visited the area and searched for the alleged troublesome dog.

We smothered Chandra Layout with more customer service than the residents expected. This effectively stopped the false and exaggerated allegations.



Unlike the street dogs of Bangalore lately, street dogs in Delhi usually sleep unmolested. (Kim Bartlett)

Meanwhile, screaming headlines brought mayhem to innocent dogs. Any sight of a dog seemed to bring complaints to the Krupa 24-Hour Helpline. Personal rivalries were reflected in complaints against neighbors' dogs, and there were hoax calls galore. We had to respond positively to every call. Often the callers were happy to have someone to vent their anger on, or to receive help to find their missing dog, or just to be reassured by a personal answer.

Our staff worked in shifts, with scheduled breaks to keep up their spirits and energy. Their role was akin to that of the many call center employees in India who often hear racist slurs from frustrated people abroad.

Dogs all over Bangalore were killed, most of them non-biters and totally innocent. All of the dogs in the Chandra Layout were killed, even those who were previously sterilized and vaccinated. New dogs immediately moved in, biting more people and livestock. We warned that if a rabid dog arrived and began biting, the result would be catastrophic.

We encouraged animal lovers to write to all media, expressing their anguish. Most of their letters were published. Yet this was not enough.

The newspapers were full of big articles. The letters were buried in small print on inside pages. Effectively counter-

(continued on page 8)

Defending ABC after a fatal attack (from page 7)

ing the big articles required responses from influential people. These required much more effort to obtain than we anticipated. Many celebrities and busy people are cranky and come with egotistical baggage. Some, however, were very sweet, and were prompt to issue statements in our support.

Our site visit to get first-hand information was followed by one camera crew who took footage of our visit, distorted it, complete with obscene voiceovers, broadcast it, then contacted us and told us that they were "ready for a compromise," for a fee! They said that otherwise they would agitate the public to stop our ABC "business." We told them to go ahead if they felt that ABC did not benefit Bangalore.

Animal welfare organizations must understand that the world will not necessarily recognize our good deeds.

Yet times of intense opposition and media pressure are often when the best results for animals can be obtained from an apathetic bureaucracy, if animal advocates keep focused and push for the right things at the right time.

We asked for the introduction of intradermal administration of human post-exposure anti-rabies vaccines, regulation of pet markets, breeder licensing, investigation of which areas might be at high risk for rabies, and expansion of the ABC program to the unincorporated outskirts of the city.

Our survey of high risk areas in 2002 proved to be of immense help in 2007, as we demonstrated that the risk associated with the illegal meat shops could have been avoided.

During our first bout with anti-animal groups in 2002, we realized that our opponents were purposely misleading the public about the local incidence of rabies. This also proved useful in 2007.

Bangalore has an Epidemic Diseases Hospital. People living in communities outside Bangalore are referred there when local hospitals are unable to handle a patient, including in rabies cases. Those patients' deaths are then recorded as Bangalore deaths.

We also discovered that the anti-dog activists counted as dead people those who were "discharged against medical advice" from the Isolation Hospital, usually because their families preferred to have them treated in better facilities. As the Isolation Hospital relied on clinical diagnosis rather the laboratory tests to define rabies cases, some of the alleged victims turned out to be suffering from other conditions with superficially similar symptoms. This continues today.

We persuaded some city hospitals to change their format for reporting dog bites, to distinguish between bites from street dogs and pet dogs. The city hospitals now give modern post-exposure anti-rabies vaccinations free of cost. Many people who are bitten by their pet dogs avail themselves of this service. The system of recording the sources of dog bites still needs to be improved, but a beginning has been made.

Who can help

Such work on specific aspects of problems can only be done by serious organizations whose people make the effort to understand how every involved agency operates. Highly

reactive advocates whose chief preoccupation is venting their own feelings are more likely to get in the way than help. Yet there are other contributions that they can make, appropriate to their abilities.

We strive to welcome whatever anyone is willing to do to help, and to encourage our colleagues with other organizations to target the issues that they are best equipped to address. Social "butterflies," for example, are often quite effective at fundraising and public relations.

Even lethargic and lazy organizations can sometimes be of help, if only by contributing their inert mass to the visible weight of the pro-animal cause. Aligned with us, we can hope they will become inspired to be more active.

It is vital for municipalities to fund ABC work, but city officials do not always understand the need for the work to be done in a professional manner.

We would have liked Bangalore to follow the Jaipur model of implementing ABC in target sectors, after a thorough dog census. Before we received city funding, we were able to focus on specific areas. We would complete a sterilization and vaccination sweep in one area before moving on to the next. This was no longer possible after the terms of city funding required us to attend to complaints all over south Bangalore.

As we write, Bangalore has expanded. The city which was 220 square kilometers when we started is now 741 square kilometres. We are looking at more of the same problems. We have to find more effective solutions.

We might move toward mobile surgery and same-day release, following the model of Animal Help in Ahmedabad, whose six mobile units and 28 veterinarians sterilized 45,011 dogs in 2006. This would require considerably expanding and retraining our veterinary staff. We don't know yet what our approach will be, but we are keeping all options open.

In 1999, as a new organization, operating only on private funding, we rented a dilapidated building that became our animal hospital, and otherwise developed our program in advance of receiving public contracts. We learned that public officials like organizations that seize the initiative. If they think an organization is capable of handling important projects, they will come looking for help.

Amid the brouhaha over the fatal dog attack in Bangalore, we received a request to start an ABC program from Belgaum, located eight hours from Bangalore.

We recommend that animal welfare groups be prepared to respond to such opportunities. If experienced personnel get a local program started, local people can be trained to run it, whereas local people without experience may stumble, causing public officials to lose confidence in their approach.

All is not well yet in Bangalore. We are facing an inquiry panel headed by a man who has written that ABC is an animal welfare tyranny foisted on the ignorant urban poor. We are also fighting a court case in which a man who asked three years ago for all slaughterhouses to be shifted out of Bangalore is now saying that since the city has not managed to move the slaughterhouses, the dogs they attract should be killed.



Under pressure from the organized foes of street dogs, Bangalore municipality on February 2, 2007 called a public hearing on the dog issue. They expected the anti-dog people to turn out in force.

In past statements, however, the anti-dog people had linked their opposition to street dogs to a demand that all dogs be debarked. ARF, Krupa, CUPA, and Karuna (the new name of the former Bangalore SPCA) amplified their statements to the dog-loving public through cell phone text messages and direct calls. This ensured a turnout the likes of which Bangalore had never seen before on any animal issue. As many as 1,000 people packed the meeting hall to speak for dogs, with many others standing outside.

A few days earlier we had joined in a protest against a scheme to serve eggs to school children for their mid-day meals, aligned with Akhila Karnataka Prani Daya Sangha, a charity which promotes cow protection and opposes animal sacrifice. For eight years the AKPDS left dog protection entirely to us. On February 2, however, they supported us.

After the crowd left, one of the commissioners asked me, "Poornima, why were the people so emotional? What is it about dogs, that these people left their work to be here?"

I told him that it is simple: with animals we get unconditional love. Dogs are happy with whatever we give them.

The commissioner, who has two dogs of his own, asked me to repeat this to four of his officials. He pointed out to them that while to the officials the dog issue may be just another problem of civic administration, to us it is a matter of passionate commitment.

[Freelance journalist Poornima Harish is among the most active volunteers for the Animal Rights Fund and Krupa 24-Hour Helpline for Animals. Contact her c/o Krupa, #6, 1st Main, Sripuram, Seshadripuram, Bangalore, India 560 020; telephone 91-98801-94757; <info@arf-india.org>; <www.arfindia.org>.]

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ABC is fixing dogs faster than anti-dog attitudes (from page 1)

Canvassing adjacent neighborhoods for two hours apiece on foot, I found that up to 70% of the adult dogs in the relatively affluent Karuna sector were sterilized, and more than 90% of all dogs in the poorer and more densely populated CUPA sector, which had about half again as many dogs.

Two half-grown litters belonging to unsterilized bitches living near encampments of migrant construction workers accounted for most of the unsterilized dogs in the Karuna sector. They appeared to be almost chubby, with little competition for local food waste.

There were by contrast only two puppies in the CUPA sector, where only six of the 64 dogs seen lacked an ear notch marking them as sterilized and vaccinated.

A third organization, the Animal Rights Fund, handles the outlying southern parts of Bangalore where Sridevi was killed.

While I was not able to canvas the ARF sector on foot, few dogs were visible from bumper-to-bumper car traffic—except around meat shops, as documented by ARF volunteer Poornima Harish (page 7.)

Officially, Bangalore still has 56,500 street dogs, 21% fewer than seven years ago, after sterilizing more than 25,000 in recent years and killing nearly 6,000 who were deemed potentially dangerous.

Granted three acres of prime lake-front real estate on the edge of Bangalore in 2003, on which to build a new state-of-the-art ABC hospital and adoption center, ARF fought squatters for nearly three years to clear the land for construction, and is still trying to raise the \$20,000 estimated construction cost.

The delay, however, may have been indirectly beneficial, in that the ARF design concepts have considerably evolved.

Indian cities lacking effective ABC programs are still killing more than four million dogs per year, chiefly by poisoning, ARF founder Dilip Bafna told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

This is more than twice as many dogs as are killed per year by U.S. animal control agencies and humane societies.

Spectacular successes

The Indian cabinet in December 1997 accepted a unanimous Animal Welfare Board recommendation that ABC should fully replace killing dogs for rabies and nuisance control by 2005. The Blue Cross of India had demonstrated the concept in Chennai since 1964. Successful full-scale ABC programs were already underway in Mumbai and Jaipur as well, but with low visibility, and consequently with relatively little controversy.

The 2005 goal was missed, largely due to thin resources—but where ABC promoters found the means, the results are dramatic. In Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, and Visakhapatnam, the ratio of street dogs to humans has dropped from about one dog per 10 people, still seen in areas without ABC, to as few as one dog per 160 people.

Ahmedabad, starting later, is fast catching up, with an ABC program entirely funded by the city government, managed by the Animal Help Foundation. Working from city buses converted into mobile clinics, the 28 Animal Help veterinarians sterilized 45,011 dogs in 2006, about 10,000 more animals than were sterilized by any other organization in the world, and are aiming for 60,000 in 2007.

In Delhi, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett observed, “The dog populations are down and the dogs you see are in relatively good shape.”

Likewise, in Mumbai, “There are many fewer dogs. I only saw two or three females who seemed to be nursing pups, or had been recently,” Bartlett said. “There were some young dogs, but I saw no unweaned puppies. Most of the dogs I saw seemed to be intact males,” indicative of a strategy—which **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has warned Mumbai ABC program planners against—of sterilizing females first, to reduce the dog population fastest. The hazardous aspect of sterilizing females first is that intact male dogs are the most likely to display aggressive behavior, especially when they congregate around the relatively few remaining bitches in heat.

“There is obviously still much sterilization work to be done in Mumbai,” Bartlett concluded, “but the situation would seem to be much improved. Nine years ago, it was not possible to look in any direction without seeing one or more dogs. Now you may go blocks without seeing dogs. When you see them, there are likely to be two or more,” probably close to a food source.

“There is much less food garbage visible in the streets,” Bartlett noted. “We saw a few areas with garbage dumps and there were always dogs there, but not so many” as before the ABC programs started.

Along with sterilizing and vaccinating dogs, the most successful ABC programs emphasize the necessity of removing food waste from the streets, which if not consumed by dogs may encourage population explosions among feral cats, rats, monkeys, and pigs.

While removing garbage seems to have kept monkeys and pigs from replacing dogs in Mumbai, Bartlett observed that cats appear to be numerous and breeding in the vicinity of a major temple.

“In Agra,” Bartlett reported, “where there is no ABC program, the situation for dogs is as bad or worse than nine years ago.”

In inner Chennai, the Blue Cross of India and People for Animals ABC programs have cut dog numbers to barely more than might be seen in any U.S. city, though the U.S. dogs would not be free-roaming.

Far into the rural districts on the fringe of the sprawling Chennai suburbs, two Blue Cross of India satellite facilities appear to be practicing ABC with remarkable success. Dogs still sprawl in the dust beneath peddlers’ carts, but have conspicuous ear notches.

In and around Visakhapatnam, the situation is similar. Seeing a single unsterilized mangy bitch near an outlying temple was cause for a Visakha SPCA volunteer to summon an animal ambulance—while mentioning that the presence of one untreated dog might indicate the presence of others, who possibly followed job seekers in from the countryside.

On January 18, 2007, the government of Tamil Nadu recognized the success of ABC by allocating 5.8 million rupees to sterilize more than 275,000 dogs in 50 cities.

Fighting in the streets

But then there was the Thiruvananthapuram incident, reflecting hostility toward dogs persisting among Indians who fear recurrent rabies outbreaks, accept religious dogma that dogs are unclean, or promote other uses of the ABC funding.

The official version of whatever happened at Thiruvananthapuram, as reported on February 12, 2007 by an anonymous “special correspondent” to *The Hindu*, was that “The City Corporation sought police assistance after foreign nationals allegedly assaulted a municipal health team...One animal handler who was injured in the incident was hospitalized,” the anonymous correspondent claimed, though later accounts clarified that he was only treated as an outpatient for a hand injury.

“The Kovalam police booked four foreign nationals,” *The Hindu* said, “including Avis Lyons of Animal Rights Kerala, on charges of assault and preventing government officials from discharging their duty.”

The dogcatchers claimed to have been “accosted and manhandled by a gang lying in wait for them,” after they were “lured into a trap.”

“I set up Animal Rescue Kerala to implement ABC,” responded Lyons in an e-mail to members of the Asian Animal Protection Network, “and have been sterilizing street dogs for four years. ARK has sterilized all of the dogs in the Kovalam area, and has memorandums of understanding with the panchayats (village councils) of Vizhinjam and Venganoor, in effect covering the whole of the area.

“In September 2006,” Lyons continued, “the mayor of Trivandrum asked if ARK would teach his staff to do ABC. Twenty Trivandrum staff were at ARK for three days learning how to catch, pre-medicate, and handle stray dogs. They then used this information to kill most of the stray dog population in

Trivandrum,” Lyons alleged, “including dogs sterilized by ARK, and also people’s pet dogs. The Trivandrum staff have been caught on camera killing and burying dogs by the roadside,” Lyons charged. “I am pursuing court proceedings to stop the killings.”

On the night of February 10, 2007, Lyons said, “we saw the dogcatchers’ vehicle full of dogs,” outside a hotel in an area covered by one of the ARK memorandums of understanding. “We were told that the hotel had called the dogcatchers,” Lyons continued. “All of the dogs in the area have been sterilized and vaccinated by ARK. There were 11 dogs in the vehicle, two with collars, one a dachshund very sick with distemper.

“We tried to stop the vehicle, but the police arrived and told us we had to let it go. They would not talk to my advocate, nor would they let me fetch the memorandum of understanding. I asked the policeman in charge for his name, but he hid his badge and then took it off so that I could not see it. By this time the vehicle with the dogs had been driven off, the dogs going to a certain death.”

Thiruvananthapuram veterinarian L. Ravikumar asserted that Lyons and friends “have raised a challenge to the rule of law.”

Commented Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna, “This is most ironic considering that it is the municipality which is not following the rule of law—namely the ABC rules.”

Elaborated A.G. Babu of the SPCA Idukki, “Ravikumar said that he would continue catching and killing stray dogs, and claimed that he would never care for the provisions in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 or the ABC rules. He claimed that killing dogs was part of his style of ABC.”

Affirmed Roxanne Davur of the



Mother and pups at the Visakha SPCA.
(Kim Bartlett)

Terra Anima Trust in Ooty, “All catchers trained by Animal Rescue Kerala for the ABC programme are now used to catch and kill dogs, and besides their salary are paid an extra twenty rupees for any dog killed.”

Thiruvananthapuram health committee chair G.R. Anil reluctantly suspended the dogcatching program amid the exposure, he told *The Hindu*—and revealed the reason for it.

“Every year, we capture a large number of stray dogs from the wards neighbouring the temple during the run up to the Attukal Pongala festival, which attracts tens of thousands of devotees,” Anil said. “There is a likelihood that the devotees will be exposed to marauding stray dogs.”

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Doc rapped for dog use in sales demo

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute, a national leader in researching brain aneurysms, on January 19, 2007 disclosed that it has barred from research for two years a neurosurgeon who used a dog in a January 10 sales training demonstration.

The neurosurgeon was suspended at recommendation of the Cleveland Clinic's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, wrote *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reporter Sarah Treffinger. The committee reported the incident to the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service as a possible Animal Welfare Act violation on January 11.

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and Associated Press disclosed the use of the dog and the clinic response later the same day.

"The doctor, who was not identified in the letter or in a subsequent USDA inspection report, got in trouble after causing an aneurysm in the brain of a large, mixed-breed dog so that a medical device could be used to treat the condition," summarized Treffinger. "The dog was anesthetized for the procedure and afterward was killed."

A January 24 USDA inspection found that the doctor "utilized an approved research protocol with no training component to request the animal be delivered to the lab," and "diverted the animal to his use for the training program he was conducting."

However, because the Cleveland Clinic promptly responded to the situation, the USDA took no disciplinary action beyond issuing a warning that the Animal Welfare Act requires all animal use to be approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

"About two-dozen salespeople from the device's manufacturer watched the demonstration," Treffinger wrote, "and at least some participated in a hands-on exercise."

"The incident took place without permission of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which is supposed to review any request to work with animals. The doctor had submitted an application to the committee, but its members never had the opportunity to review it. They would have rejected it," a spokesperson told Treffinger, "because the Cleveland Clinic does not allow doctors to use animals for the sole purpose of sales training."

PETA research associate Shalin Gala told the *Plain Dealer* and Associated Press that PETA received a tip Wednesday that representatives from California-based Micrus Endovascular Corporation would be conducting the sales training demonstration to promote use of a product called MicroCoil, billed as a less invasive method than surgery for treating brain aneurysms. PETA urged Micrus, the Cleveland Clinic, and the clinic Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to use a non-



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animal demonstration technique, Gala said.

"A Micrus official said that he had no knowledge of the incident," Treffinger wrote, adding, "Are you sure you have the right company?" The neurosurgeon reportedly was not paid by Micrus.

Treffinger was assisted in bringing the case to light by fellow *Plain Dealer* reporters Michael Sangiacomo and Harlan Spector.

The Cleveland Clinic incident played out in contrast to a protracted conflict between Friends of Animals and the U.S. Surgical Corporation, 1984-1998, over use of live dogs in demonstrations of surgical staples. Many other animal rights groups joined FoA in rallies outside the U.S. Surgical headquarters, a few blocks from the former FoA head office in Norwalk, Connecticut. The group is now based in nearby Darien.

U.S. Surgical founder Leon Hirsch

responded to the protests by hiring a private security firm to infiltrate FoA. Security firm personnel in 1988 gave an occasional demonstration participant the money to buy a bomb and drove her to plant the bomb in the U.S. Surgical parking lot, where she was immediately arrested. U.S. Surgical then blamed the alleged bombing on FoA in a media blitz—but the plot was quickly exposed by news media.

FoA sued U.S. Surgical. The litigation, protests, and dog use in sales demonstrations all continued until shortly before Hirsch sold the company in May 1998.

Dog use in U.S. laboratory procedures peaked at 211,104, in 1979, according to USDA records kept since 1974, and have fallen ever since. The 2005 total was 49,898.

The Cleveland Clinic in 2006 used 360 dogs and 431 other animals, including rabbits, sheep and pigs, in IACUC-approved procedures.

American Humane lands \$34 million from UPS estate

DENVER—A \$34 million bequest from United Parcel Service heiress Doris DiStefano has tripled the American Humane assets and allowed it to nearly double its projected annual operating budget from \$11 million to circa \$20 million.

The paid staff will double in coming years from about 80 to 160, reported Joanne Kelley of the *Rocky Mountain News* after the mid-February 2007 American Humane board meeting.

Coming events

March 15-16: Thinking About Animals: Domination, Captivity, Liberation conf., Brock U., St. Catharines, Ontario. Info: <animalconference@brocku.ca>.

March 17-18: Rocky Mountain Reg. Conf. on Biodefence & Emergency Animal Response, Laramie. Info: 1-866-854-7278; <www.colorados-art.org>; <KevinDennison@colovma.org>.

March 20: Great American Meatout. Info: <www.Meatout.org>.

March 22-25: The Mind of the Chimp conference, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago. Info: <chimp-mind@ipzoo.org>; <www.chimpmindconference.org>.

March 24-25: Inadmissible Comparisons conf., New York City. Info: United Poultry Concerns, 757-678-7875; <www.upc-online.org>.

April 29: Farm Animal Forum, Philadelphia. Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

April 29-May 1: Caring During Crisis: Animal

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Appeals Court upholds Texas horse slaughter ban

NEW ORLEANS—The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on January 20, 2007 ruled that Dallas Crown Inc. of Kaufman, Texas, and Beltex Corp., of Fort Worth, have killed horses for human consumption in violation of a 1949 state law. The ruling in effect reinstated the law, but halted horse slaughter at the two facilities for only two weeks.

Holding about 100 horses who were already on the premises or en route when the court ruled, Dallas Crown refused an offer from the Humane Society of the U.S. to take them to a sanctuary, and killed them on February 5, said HSUS media contact Polly Shannon. “A trailer from Cosco Container Lines Americas, Inc. was seen parked outside the plant,” Shannon said, but what was actually done with the horses’ meat was unknown.

“In 2002,” Shannon explained, “then-Texas Attorney General John Cornyn issued an opinion that the 1949 Texas law applies and may be enforced. The Tarrant County District Attorney attempted to enforce the law, but in 2006 a Texas federal district court ruled that the law was repealed by another statute and preempted by federal law. The District Attorney appealed that decision.”

Dallas Crown, Beltex, and the Cavel International slaughterhouse in DeKalb, Illinois in 2006 killed 100,800 horses for human consumption, up from 88,000 in 2005, according to USDA data. About 33,400 horses were exported to be slaughtered in Canada, Mexico, and Japan.

Illinois state representative Bob Molaro (D-Chicago) on February 22, 2007 introduced a bill to prohibit transporting horses for the sole purpose of slaughter for human consumption. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois Department of Agriculture supported a similar bill that cleared the Illinois Senate in May 2004 but narrowly failed in the state House of Representatives.

The Illinois bill parallels a federal bill introduced earlier by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-Illinois). Similar legislation is pending in the U.S. Senate.

Most major U.S. animal advocacy groups support the federal anti-horse slaughter bills, which nearly won passage in 2004 and 2005, but the bills are opposed by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Humane Association recently withdrew endorsements issued in support of earlier versions.

“Some of our board agree with the AVMA findings that the proposed bill does not adequately address the long-term welfare of unwanted horses, and may actually cause even more inhumane transport of animals to neighboring countries for slaughter,” American Humane president Marie Wheatley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Wheatley also mentioned the “unaddressed fiscal impact of dealing with an increase in the number of unwanted horses,” potentially leading to more neglect cases. At least 963 horses were neglected in cruelty cases before U.S. courts in 2006, down from 1,890 in 2005.

“We continue to stand firm against the inhumane treatment of animals, including horses transported or held for slaughter,” American Humane president Marie Wheatley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “But we feel we should not take positions on people’s ultimate choice of food, either in this country or other countries.”

Reminded that this might imply that American Humane accepts eating dogs and cats in Asia, Japanese whaling, and the meat-producing portion of the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt, Wheatley said she would take this up with the board.

American Humane actively opposed sealing in both Atlantic Canada and Alaskan waters from at least 1933 into the mid-1950s. It most recently affirmed opposition to the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt in 1989.

People & positions

The San Francisco SPCA on February 7, 2007 named **Jan McHugh-Smith** to become only the eighth president of the SF/SPCA since 1868, but the third since 1998, when **Richard Avanzino** crossed San Francisco Bay to head **Maddie’s Fund**, in Alameda. A 23-year veteran of humane work, McHugh-Smith had headed the **Humane Society of Boulder Valley** in Boulder, Colorado, since 1995.

One Voice has left the **www.SaveJapan-Dolphins.org** coalition “to concentrate on French issues,” coalition founder Ric O’Barry told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** at the start of 2006. “The new coalition includes the **Animal Welfare Institute**, **Elsa Nature Conservancy**, **In Defense of Animals**, and the **Earth Island Institute**,” O’Barry said. The coalition opposes the capture and slaughter of dolphins at Taiji, Japan, one of the focal campaigns that O’Barry began in 1970 under the name the **Dolphin Project**.

The American SPCA has hired former **Humane Society International** European director **Betsy Dribben** as senior managing director of legislative services, **Melinda Merck, DVM**, as forensic veterinarian (the first employed by any U.S. humane organization), and former **Humane Society of the U.S.** and **Humane Farming Association** investigator **Robert Baker** to do cruelty investigations.

The World Wild Fund for Nature/South Africa, a **World Wildlife Fund** affiliate, in early February 2007 named conservation director **Rob Little** as interim successor to chief executive **Tony Frost**. Frost told *Cape Argus* environment and science writer **John Yeld** that he was leaving “sooner than planned.”

Former Los Angeles Times writer **John Balzar**, author of *Yukon Alone* (1999), about the Yukon Quest dog sled race, on January 22, 2007 became senior vice president for communications at the **Humane Society of the U.S.**

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The Pet Rescue Foundation

Maddie’s Fund® The Pet Rescue Foundation (www.maddiesfund.org) is a family foundation endowed through the generosity of Cheryl and Dave Duffield, PeopleSoft Founder and Board Chairman. The foundation is helping to fund the creation of a no-kill nation. The first step is to help create programs that guarantee loving homes for all healthy shelter dogs and cats through collaborations with rescue groups, traditional shelters, animal control agencies and veterinarians. The next step will be to save the sick and injured pets in animal shelters nationwide. Maddie’s Fund is named after the family’s beloved Miniature Schnauzer who passed away in 1997.

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Events (continued)

Welfare During Pandemics & Natural Disasters, Guelph, Ontario. Info: 519-824-4120, x 5 3 6 7 7 ; <ovc.uoguelph.ca>.

(continued on page 11)

May 5: Petfest, Whites-town, Indiana. Info: <petfest@hoosierpets.org> ; <www.hoosierpets.org>.

May 9-12: Humane Society of the U.S. Expo 2007, Dallas. Info: <expo@-hsus.org> ; <www.animalsheltering.org/expo/>.

May 18: Friends of Animals’ 50th anniversary gala. Info: 203-656-1522; <www.friendsofanimals.org>.

May 19: Humane Soc. of Missouri “Bark in the Park,” St. Louis. Info: <www.hsomo.org/bark>.

May 25-27: All-Africa Humane Conf., Cape Town, South Africa. Info: <avoice@yebo.co.za>.

June 11-12: Searching for the Animal of Animal Ethics conf., Sandham, Sweden. Info: 46-18 6 1 1 - 2 2 - 9 6 ; <b i o e t h i c s @ - bioethics.uu.se>.

July 19-23: Animal Rights 2007 conf., Los Angeles. Info: 1-800-632-8688.

August 25: Animal Acres Gala, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404, x302;

TRIBUTES

In honor of the Prophet Isaiah, St. Martin De Porres and Ellen G. White.
—Brien Comerford



Chinese activists rescue 400 cats *(from page 1)*

told Ng Tze Wei that "the carcasses of dead cats were seen dumped next to the shop last month. The cats rescued on Saturday appeared to be another batch," Ng Tze Wei wrote. "A Tianjin reporter told the group that angry local residents broke down the shop's door" on February 9, the day before the I Love Cats Home raid, "to retrieve lost pets they suspected had been stolen by the vendors," Ng Tze Wei reported.

Admitted Wang Yue, "By rescuing the cats we broke the law. However, we cannot pursue these cat thieves under the law because we cannot catch them in the act."

Wang Yue hoped that the China Small Animal Protection Association, seeking homes for the cats in Beijing, could help with whatever legal problems might follow. She appealed for adopters to step forward.

"The media coverage attracted much attention," Zhang said. "We received many calls from people who wanted to help, either to adopt or to donate money."

However, Zhang added, the total contributions actually received, as of February 19, amounted to "less than \$1,000 altogether." [ANIMAL PEOPLE had already sent \$500 to the aid of the cats c/o Animal Rescue Beijing, which is now helping the China Small Animal Protection Association to look after the cats, and will be happy to relay readers' donations. Checks should be made out to ANIMAL PEOPLE, labeled "for the Chinese cats."]

"My artist friend Ai Weiwei went to the shelter with us yesterday afternoon," Zhang continued, "and he was shocked to see how bad the conditions were," with the new arrivals joining the 200 cats and 700 dogs who were already housed there. He immediately decided to rent a place in order to adopt as many cats as possible, as soon as possible. His

wife, a painter, took four home immediately. One was pregnant and gave birth to several lovely kittens."

Ai Weiwei eventually took 21 cats. Zhang and two friends adopted 10. "Most of them are injured," Zhang reported. "Volunteer Ms. Wang Yin took more than 300 cats to be sterilized," Zhang added.

The Hong Kong SPCA was sending a team of veterinarians to assist, Ng Tze Wei said.

The Tianjin cat rescue came nearly eight months after 40 cat-lovers backed by "a large crowd including children," according to *China Daily*, stormed the newly opened Fang Company Cat Meatball Restaurant in Shenzhen on June 17, 2006. Finding the remains of one butchered cat, they extracted a promise from the owner to serve cats no more.

The Shenzhen raid started when the founder of the Shenzhen Cat Net web site, identified only as "Isobel" by *China Daily*, carried a white rose to the restaurant in memory of the slaughtered cats. Supporters followed, holding banners and distributing handbills denouncing both eating cats and eating dogs.

Among them was Gao Haiyun, Miss Shenzhen for 2005, who according to *China Daily* told restaurant customers to "stop eating cats and dogs and become civilized."

"It's hopeless to realize how many cat meat and fur markets remain in Tianjin alone," Zhang said, "not to mention Guangdong, the most bloody province in China, where people believe cat and dog meat are good for their health."

But Zhang anticipated using the Tianjin cat incident to help promote the introduction of long awaited national animal welfare legislation.



News photographers crowd around truck hauling the rescued cats. (China Small Animal Protection Association)

"We're going to exhibit the cages that the cat butcher used to store cats and pigeons at the annual meeting," Zhang said. "It will be a shock to most of them."

Agreed China Small Animals Protection Association vice president Cai Meng, to Ng Tze Wei, "The ultimate solution to animal protection lies in legislation," a goal of the association ever since it was formed in 1994.

"We cannot solely rely on empathy," Cai Meng said.

Added Ng Tze Wei, "Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference representative Hu Qiheng, who accompanied the association to collect the cats from Tianjin, has drafted a petition to be presented when the conference convenes its annual session in March."

Events (continued)

<outreach@animalacres.org>.
Sept. 13-16: Southern Regional Spay/Neuter Leadership Conference, Memphis. Info:

<www.spay-usa.org>.
Sept. 18: Intl. Conf. on the Relationship between Animal Abuse and Human Violence, Oxford, U.K. Info: <director@oxfordanimalethics.com>; <www.oxfordanimalethics.com>.

(continued on page 12)

Sept. 29-30: World Vegetarian Weekend Celebration, San Francisco. Info: 415-273-5481; <www.sfvcs.org>.

Sept. 30-Oct. 6: Intl. Vegan Festival, Murdeshwar, Karnataka, India. Info:

<www.ivu.org/-vegan-fest>.

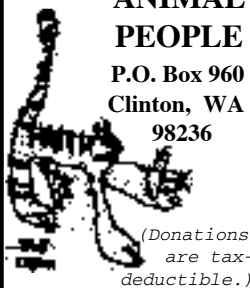
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Smithfield & Maple Leaf to quit crating sows (from 1)

humane criticism and easily done away with. The panel, reviewing all animal handling practices of McDonald's suppliers, was appointed in fulfillment of a 1994 agreement negotiated with McDonald's by Coalition for Nonviolent Food founder Henry Spira, who died in September 1998.

"McDonald's hailed the Smithfield decision," wrote Kaufman, "saying it was in line with advice it got from panel member Temple Grandin in particular," a Colorado State University professor of psychology and agricultural science who worked closely with Spira for more than 15 years, initially seeking to reform kosher slaughter. Grandin identified stereotypical head-waving and gnawing on the metal bars of gestation crates as common signs of crated sows in distress.

"It's a big step, but it's not quick enough," Colorado State University professor of agricultural ethics Bernard Rollin told Lauren Etten of the *Wall Street Journal*.

"I can't think of anything more important in terms of humane treatment of animals that has occurred in the agribusiness sector," said Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle. "This decision changes the dynamic of the industry. It will be very hard for other companies to not follow

Smithfield."

HSUS and Farm Sanctuary funded ballot initiatives that banned gestation crates in Florida in 2004 and in Arizona in 2006.

Neither Florida nor Arizona hosts many pig farms, but both are home to hundreds of thousands of retirees of the generations who eat by far the most pork per capita.

The United Kingdom banned gestation crates in 1999. The European Union has committed to phasing them out by 2013.

The Winnipeg Humane Society urged Manitoba pig producers to follow the Smithfield lead. Maple Leaf Foods, the largest Canadian producer, on January 31 agreed to phase out gestation crates in favour of group housing at the farms it owns, which supply about 120,000 pigs per year. Maple Leaf slaughters nearly half a million pigs per year, nearly a third of the Canadian total.

"This is the most significant farm animal welfare advance in Canadian history," said Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals director John Youngman, echoing Pacelle.

However, Maple Leaf is downsizing its pig-rearing operations. Only about 50,000 pigs per year will actually be raised in group housing, according to current company plans.

National Pork Producers Council

chief executive Neil Dierks pointed out that the American Veterinary Medical Association continues to endorse gestation crating—which leaves the AVMA trailing behind the perceptions of the industry leaders. The AVMA in 2004 barred the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights from tabling against gestation crates at the AVMA annual conference, and then extended the ban to the Animal Welfare Institute in 2005. AWI had exhibited at the AVMA conference on various themes 21 times during the preceding 42 years.

CorcPork case

The Smithfield and Maple Leaf announcements overshadowed another in a series of legal setbacks for Farm Sanctuary in a multi-year effort to sue CorcPork Inc., of Corcoran, California, for alleged cruelty to pigs in using gestation crates. Originally dismissed in 2005, the case was again rejected in the third week of January 2007 by the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Los Angeles. Farm Sanctuary pledged to appeal again, to the California Supreme Court.

Both the lower court and the 2nd District Court of Appeals held that Farm Sanctuary lacks standing to bring the case, under Proposition 64, a California law that bans private parties from suing a business unless the business has demonstrably harmed them personally and financially.

As the 2nd District Court of Appeals verdict was anticipated, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, East Bay Animal Advocates, and three individual activists filed a similar case against CorcPork, apparently hoping to find another way around the standing problem.

"Also named as a defendant is Clougherty Packing Co., which sells products under the Farmer John brand," reported Jim Doyle of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Clougherty, a Los Angeles-based subsidiary of Hormel Foods Corp., is the state's leading pork packer. The individual plaintiffs, who claim to have purchased and consumed Farmer John products, accuse the brand of fraudulent business practices by allegedly misleading consumers in ads that say that the pigs were raised in 'a family tradition since 1931.'"

Wiles case

The Humane Farming Association meanwhile succeeded in bringing cruelty charges against key personnel at a pig farm in Creston, Ohio, targeted in full-page ads in the December 2006 and January/February 2007 editions of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Owner Ken Wiles, 54, was charged with two counts of allegedly depriving

Vealer drops crating

HARLEYSVILLE, Pa.—Wayne Marcho, founder of the 36-year-old Marcho Farms integrated veal production empire, on January 29, 2007 announced that his company has already moved thousands of calves from veal crating to loose housing, and will shift entirely to loose housing within the next few years. Marcho is believed to supply 15% to 20% of the U.S. veal market.

"Smithfield and Marcho Farms were both strong proponents of keeping animals in narrow crates," said Farm Sanctuary president Gene Bauston. "Their back flip begs the question: what else are pigs, calves and other farm animals rightfully entitled to?"

animals of veterinary care, food, and water. General manager Joseph Wiles, 22, was charged with six counts of cruelty for similar alleged offenses, plus allegedly carrying animals in a cruel or inhumane manner, and torturing, beating, mutilating, or killing animals in violation of the law. Employee Dusty Stroud, 18, was charged with two counts of beating and torturing animals.

Each charges carries a potential penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$750 fine.

The charges "stem from incidents occurring between April 1 and November 9, 2005," summarized Wooster *Daily Record* staff writer Christine L. Pratt. "Activity at the farm was investigated after an HFA field investigator contacted the Wayne County Sheriff's Office in September 2005."

"This is a very important case. It's not every day you see a case of animal cruelty as serious as this," HFA president Brad Miller told Pratt at the arraignment. "There were piglets being smashed head-first into poles, and large hogs being slowly strangled."

HFA placed the same full-page ads that appeared in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in Ohio newspapers to rally public opinion in favor of the prosecution.

"We're very pleased that charges were filed," Miller told Bill Lilley of the *Akron Beacon-Journal*. "But we believe there finally should be jail time for animal abuse in Ohio. Right now it is just a misdemeanor, but in many states [this case] would warrant a felony charge."

Pig farmers have previously been successfully prosecuted for deliberately starving pigs, a charge central to the Wiles case. Most notably, Piggy Bar Farms owner Daryl Larson, of Delmar, Iowa, ran into trouble for starving as many as 3,000 pigs in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998 on several different premises in both Iowa and Missouri. Eventually convicted in both states, Larson was fined more than \$17,500. —Merritt Clifton

Battery cages are going out, too

WASHINGTON D.C.—Humane Society of the U.S. factory farming campaign director Paul Shapiro is struggling lately to find new ways of wording announcements that major buyers are, at HSUS request, giving up using eggs from battery-caged hens.

The Burgerville restaurant chain, based in Vancouver, Washington, announced it would make the switch on January 17, 2007. Finagle A Bagel, of Newton, Massachusetts, made the switch on January 29. The State University of New York at New Paltz dining halls followed on February 13.

Shapiro had already made similar announcements on behalf of the dining halls at more than 100 other universities, among them Vassar, Princeton, Tufts, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The anti-battery caging drive picked up momentum in September 2006, after the Vermont ice cream maker Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc. announced that it would begin a four-year transition to using only cage-free eggs.

The change will take that long because Ben & Jerry's is such a big user that an adequate cage-free egg supply is not immediately available. The phase-in gives present

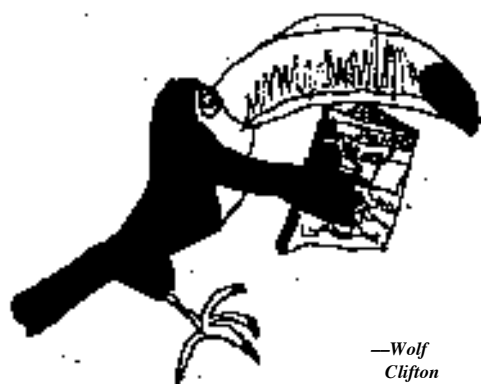
suppliers time to revamp their operations to comply with Ben & Jerry's new policy.

Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals director John Youngman noted the success of the HSUS campaign in a February 15 op-ed column for the *Vancouver Sun*, challenging Canadian egg users to join in.

"AOL and Google have stopped serving battery eggs in their corporate dining facilities," Goodman wrote. "American grocery chains Earth Fare, Whole Foods Marketplace, and Wild Oats Natural Marketplace have agreed to stop selling battery eggs. Trader Joe's has converted its brand eggs to cage-free. The Canadian retailers Capers Community Markets and Planet Organic have stopped selling battery eggs."

"The cities of Toronto, Vancouver, Richmond, North Vancouver and New Westminster are considering cage-free egg policies," Goodman said. "The University of Guelph, the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the B.C. Institute of Technology are considering similar policies. The writing is on the wall for Canada's egg industry," Goodman declared. "Get cracking and unlock the cages, or consumers will do it for you."

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A rescued hedgehog. (Uist Hedgehog Rescue)

Scottish Natural Heritage halts Hebrides hedgehog cull —agrees to relocate instead

INVERNESS—The Scottish Natural Heritage board of directors on February 20 “approved a trial translocation of hedgehogs from the Western Isles to the mainland,” the government-backed trust announced.

“The move followed consideration of new advice received from the Scottish SPCA that a trial translocation should be conducted rather than a cull,” Scottish Natural Heritage admitted—without admitting that this is exactly what the Uist Hedgehog Rescue coalition recommended all along.

The coalition includes Advocates for Animals, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue Trust, and International Animal Rescue.

The Scottish SPCA dropped support for killing hedgehogs to protect birds after “new research by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society found that island hedgehogs survive if relocated,” summarized *Independent Scotland* correspondent Paul Kelbie. “The study, by ecologist Hugh Warwick, published in the scientific journal *Lutra*, showed that 80% of the hedgehogs relocated to the mainland survived when deaths unrelated to relocation were discounted. Another study, published in 2006 by Stephen Harris of Bristol University, also said hedgehogs could be relocated successfully.”

Thus ended four years of persecution of the alleged most deadly hedgehogs since *Deinogalerix*, the two-foot-long “terrible hedgehog” who terrorized the middle Mocene epoch, 15 million years ago.

Gardeners seeking a natural method of slug control in 1974 imported diminutive native British hedgehogs to North Uist, South Uist, and Benbecula islands in the Outer Hebrides off Scotland’s west coast. By 2002, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds alleged that more than 5,000 descendants of the original few pair were nest-raiding the islands’ native wading birds into extinction.

Starting in 2003, Scottish Natural Heritage managed to kill 690 hedgehogs. Racing the killers to find hedgehogs, Uist Hedgehog Rescue volunteers relocated 756.

“The Uist hedgehog fiasco was just the latest lunacy from Scottish Natural Heritage,” said Animal Concern campaigns consultant John Robins, of Dumbarton, Scotland. They have also been promoting deer stalking and shooting of dwindling grouse numbers, while failing in their duty to monitor the issuing of government licenses to cull certain species of birds.” Robins asked Scottish First Minister Jack McConnell “to instigate an independent investigation into the management of SNH and their use of public funds.”

Instead, wrote *Guardian* Scotland correspondent Severin Carrel, “The Scottish Executive is expected to confirm

When the cat is away...

SYDNEY—Seven years after exterminators in June 2000 killed the last feral cats on Macquarie Island, an Australian possession within the Antarctic Circle, the island’s feral rabbit population has soared from about 10,000 when the cat-killing began in the mid-1980s to an estimated 100,000. “Rabbits are destroying Macquarie Island’s fragile vegetation, causing erosion and exposure, which threatens its seabirds,” University of Tasmania geographer Jenny Scott warned in a report commissioned by Birds Australia.

The Australian federal government and state government of Tasmania are now disputing over which is to pay the \$15 million (Australian) estimated cost of killing all the rabbits. “The last supply boat of this season leaves Hobart in early April, so the two sides need to come to a cost-sharing arrangement and get their people and equipment on that boat,” World Wildlife Fund representative Julie Kirkwood told Nick Squires of the *South China Morning Post*.

The plan to kill the rabbits is also supported by the Australian Green Party.

Both cats and rabbits were apparently left on Macquarie Island by whalers circa 1820. About 2,500 cats kept the rabbit population in check, but were blamed for allegedly killing as many as 60,000 sea birds per year.

soon that it will be a criminal offence, punishable by up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine, for anyone to release one of nine species on to a Scottish island: badger, hedgehog, red fox, pine marten, common rat, red squirrel, stoat, weasel and wild cat.

“The National Trust for Scotland has just spent £500,000 eradicating more than 10,000 rats which had colonised Canna,” Carrel continued. “No rats have been seen since last year, and there were 273 successful razorbill nestings in 2006, compared with 27 in 2005.”

“Scottish Natural Heritage and the National Trust are considering culls of mink and rats on Rum, Iona, Mull and the Ardnamurchan peninsula,” Carrel added. Feral mink, escaped or released from fur farms before mink farming was banned at the end of 2002, are blamed for “a complete collapse in tern breeding,” Carrel wrote.

While attempting to purge hedgehogs, Scottish Natural Heritage spent £1.65 million to kill 230 mink in the Uists and Benbecula, reported Jeremy Watson of *The Scotsman*.

Counselors from the islands have now asked Scottish Natural Heritage to gas rabbits, whom they blame for causing severe erosion of the machair, or sand pastures, along the Atlantic coast of the Outer Hebrides. The pastures have traditionally been grazed heavily by crofters’ sheep. Considering rabbits a nuisance and rival for the sparse grass, crofters have historically killed them by any means available

EU rules for moles

BRUSSELS—The European Commission in February 2007 upheld a ruling by the European Union Health & Safety Executive that strychnine may no longer be used to kill moles. The verdict means all burrowing mammals should now be safer from poisoning, either as targeted or accidental victims.

“Last September a new EU law regulated a wide range of poisons, including strychnine, to ensure they were safe and had no harmful effect on the environment,” explained Charles Clover of the *Daily Telegraph*. “Manufacturers failed to offer evidence that proved strychnine does not harm the environment, so the British government appealed to the EU on behalf of the 3,000 licensed users of the poison who kill moles on grassland or golf courses.”

The appeal was denied.

Anticipating that more moles may now be trapped, Member of the European Parliament Chris Davies, a Liberal Democrat, called upon the U.K. Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to introduce a requirement that mole traps be checked every 24 hours.

“Banning this chemical is good news for the environment,” Davies said, “but urgent action must be taken to ensure it doesn’t lead to even more cruel deaths for moles. It is time,” Davies added, “to realise we cannot simply exterminate a creature because it pushes up a few daisies.”

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Go to www.CingularSponsorsCruelty.com for contact information for Cingular.

Steve Hirsch

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Kenyan reporter flushes out USAid effort to repeal national ban on hunting

NAIROBI—"Killing wildlife for fun may be re-introduced in Kenya if the government implements a new wildlife policy believed to have been influenced by the U.S.," wrote John Mbaria in the February 24 edition of *The Nation*, the leading Kenyan newspaper.

"The draft policy calls for lifting the 1977 ban on hunting, and asks the government to allow game ranchers and communities in wildlife areas to crop, cull, and sell animals and their products," Mbaria said.

"These recommendations are a radical deviation from what communities in 18 of the 21 wildlife regions in the country proposed during a nationwide views gathering exercise carried out by the National Wildlife Steering Committee," Mbaria continued.

Affirmed Akamba Council of Elders representative Benedict Mwendwa Muli. "We overwhelmingly said no to sport hunting. We requested the government to restock wildlife so that we can start receiving tourists."

The draft policy, however "advises the government to give ranchers the right to kill and use animals at will," Mbaria wrote.

Mbaria said he was told by unnamed insiders that the draft policy was framed "by game ranchers operating under the auspices of the Kenya Wildlife Working Group, as consultants seconded to the committee by the United States Agency for International Development. Tourism & Wildlife assistant minister Kalembe Ndile is believed to have supported the ranchers," who come from Laikipia, Nakuru and Machakos, Mbaria said.

"Besides bankrolling the process with 41 million Kenya shillings, USAid is

reported to have hand-picked four consultants to draft the policy," Mbaria alleged. "According to sources in the Kenya Wildlife Service, the four are business development specialist Nderitu Wachira, wildlife ecologist Wilbur K. Ottichilo, and lawyers Patricia Kameri-Mbote and Kanyi Kimondo.

Admits the draft policy preamble: "The ministry with the support of USAid Kenya appointed the financial management agency to manage the process and provide technical support."

"Together with a Dr. Brian Child," Mbaria said, "the experts worked for USAid as consultants on a project that assessed the status of the country's wildlife and which also asked Kenya to lift the ban on sport hunting and other uses that require killing of wildlife."

Brian Child, originally from Zimbabwe, was the architect of the USAid-funded Zimbabwean hunting scheme called the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources, CAMPFIRE for short, named by Child's colleague Rowan Martin.

From 1989 through 2004, USAid pumped more than \$40 million into CAMPFIRE, essentially subsidizing trophy hunts. CAMPFIRE raised about \$2.5 million per year in revenue, mostly from hunting. Mostly, though, CAMPFIRE rewarded Mugabe regime insiders for neglecting the leftist goals that brought them to power—until Mugabe encouraged the land invasions, beginning in 2000, to placate supporters who had anticipated land allocations for nearly 20 years.

Child, in a paper recently published by the Property & Environment Research

Center, a so-called "wise use" front based in Bozeman, Montana, acknowledged that as of 2003, "The central [CAMPFIRE] institutions had all but collapsed in function and, fueled by vast amounts of donor money especially from USAid, had become bloated."

But Child insisted that CAMPFIRE was still a success, because "Almost half the money generated from the sale of wildlife was still getting to the communities, albeit this was down from about three-quarters" eight years earlier, when Child left Zimbabwe to push the CAMPFIRE approach in Zambia.

Zambia, reported Bwalya Nondo of *Zambia Daily Mail* on January 27, 2007 "has launched a campaign to lobby the U.S. government" to allow more hunters to import trophies from Zambian elephants. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presently issues permits under the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species for up to 500 elephants shot in Zimbabwe, but only 20 shot in Zambia.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service assistant director for international affairs Ken Stansell, at the 2007 Safari Club International convention in Reno, "assured the Zambian delegation that U.S. authorities would study the Zambian case," Nondo wrote.

Minister supports ban

The new Kenya draft policy emerged from a team appointed by Tourism and Wildlife minister Morris Dzoro.

Dzoro told Mbaria that USAid "came in and asked to facilitate the process."

However, wrote Mbaria, "He denied that the agency had taken part in draft-

ing the policy," and "ruled out the resumption of hunting" in Kenya.

Kenyan vice president Moody Awori made similar statements in November 2006, while accepting a donation of 10 million Kenya shillings from the International Fund for Animal Welfare, toward the cost of putting up solar-powered electric fencing to protect crops from wildlife in Laikipia.

"Wild animals in Laikipia, Nakuru and Machakos" are "highly coveted by the global hunting fraternity represented by elitist clubs such as Safari Club International," Mbaria observed, noting Safari Club influence in the White House.

"In 2004," recalled Mbaria, "a protracted U.S.-backed campaign culminated in the repeal of the [Kenyan] Wildlife Conservation & Management Act," including the prohibition on hunting.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki vetoed the repeal after the indigenous Kenyan organization Youth for Conservation mobilized nationwide last-ditch opposition.

The Safari Club, pointed out Mbaria, had "sponsored a number of Members of Parliament, some media personalities, and government officials for a trip to countries in southern Africa that allow wild animals to be killed for fun: Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, and Zambia.

"Twenty-two African countries allow killing animals for fun," Mbaria wrote.

Many are now aggressively competing for some of the hunting business lost in recent years by Zimbabwe as result of land invasions and unrestrained poaching.

PETA defendants in North Carolina animal killing are acquitted of cruelty, convicted of littering

WINTON, N.C.—A Hertford County jury on February 2, 2007 cleared PETA staffers Adria J. Hinkle and Andrew B. Cook of cruelty charges, after a two-week trial, but convicted both of littering for leaving dead dogs and cats in a dumpster.

The animals were taken from animal control holding facilities in Hertford, Bertie, and Northampton counties.

"The two were each given a 10-day suspended sentence, 12 months of supervised probation, 50 hours of community service, and a \$1,000 fine. They will split the \$5,975 restitution costs," reported Lauren King of the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot*.

"Their van will be confiscated," added Samuel Spies of Associated Press.

"The important thing is the jury recognized they were never guilty of cruelty," said PETA spokeswoman Kathy Guillermo. "We're relieved, we're happy."

Hinkle, 28, of Norfolk, Virginia, and Cook, 26, of Virginia Beach, were arrested by an Ahoskie police stakeout on June 15, 2005. The Ahoskie police had been investigating abandonment of animal remains in the dumpster since May 2005.

Hinkle and Cook acknowledged killing the animals by lethal injection in the back of a PETA van, but contended that the

killing was necessary euthanasia.

Each initially faced 21 felony cruelty counts, plus seven counts of littering. Hinkle was additionally charged with three counts of obtaining property by false pretenses from Hertford County veterinarian Patrick Proctor.

Superior Court Judge Cy Grant reduced the charges to eight misdemeanors before sending the case to the jury. Grant ruled that the prosecution failed to prove malice, essential for a felony conviction.

"Employees of the Ahoskie Animal Hospital testified that Hinkle had asked whether a mother cat and two kittens had names, and promised everyone in the office, including a 9-year-old girl, that she would find them homes," summarized Raleigh *News & Observer* staff writer Kristin Collins. "Hinkle euthanized them a few minutes after leaving."

Wrote Spies, "Hinkle testified that she told the hospital she would take good care of the animals," without stipulating how.

Much of the trial focused on similar cases. "A Bertie County animal control officer testified that Hinkle said she would have 'no problem' finding homes for two Dalmatians named Annie and Toby," recounted Collins. "The dogs were dead before they left the shelter's parking lot. The same officer said he handed over his own dog, a terrier named

Happy, because he had had trouble house-breaking the dog. Hinkle sent him a picture of the dog in a garden, standing in front of a house, but didn't mention that the dog had been euthanized upon arriving at PETA headquarters," Collins added.

Wrote King, "The defense called veterinarians, PETA staff members, and a former local police officer who initially asked PETA for help at the Bertie animal shelter. They testified that PETA's euthanasia policy was not a secret, even to those who testified for the state. The defendants apologized for dumping the animals, but said it was a very hot day, and the smell in their van was unbearable. Hinkle also admitted using the trash bin at least one other time to dump animals," King added.

PETA director of domestic animal and wildlife rescue Daphna Nachminovitch testified that PETA policy is to keep animals' remains at the PETA headquarters in Norfolk until they can be cremated, and that records describing each animal and the drugs used for killing the animal are kept on file, as required by federal and state law.

"However, records were not kept of the animal carcasses when they were deposited in the freezer," King recounted of the testimony, "so Nachminovitch said she had no way of noticing if animal carcasses were not being returned to Norfolk. Nachminovitch also testified that PETA has a policy that requires people to sign a form when surrendering animals," King continued.

"In Virginia, that form gives the agency the authority to immediately euthanize the animal. Nachminovitch could not produce any forms signed by any Bertie County officials or the Ahoskie Animal Hospital, but said the form is not required in North Carolina."

PETA drug use also came under scrutiny. "Brian Reise, division group supervisor for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Greensboro, testified that although PETA is registered to use controlled dangerous substances in Virginia, that does not transfer to North Carolina," King reported.

But PETA general counsel Jeff Kerr testified that in 2000 he was told by the Drug Enforcement Agency office in Washington D.C. and several Virginia and North Carolina authorities that PETA staff could use pentobarbital to kill animals in North Carolina.

Hertford and Northampton county officials admitted to Collins of the *News & Observer* before the trial that they did not ask many questions when PETA volunteered to take animals from them.

"All I knew was they came in, they said they had X-amount of animals, and they were carrying them to Virginia, and I didn't question them," said Hertford County animal control chief Charles Jones, who is also the county fire marshal and head of emergency medical services and emergency management.

"The verbal agreement was, if they felt like the animals could possibly be adopted, they would be," said Northampton County animal control director Sue Gay. "We thought at least some of them were being adopted."

"Soon after the arrests" observed King, "Bertie, Northampton and Hertford counties discontinued or suspended work with PETA. PETA continues to offer services in the region, but Bertie County has taken back full control of its animal shelter. The dog shelter has been renovated. New fencing surrounds the area," King said, "and a metal roof shades half of the open dog run. A small puppy pen is similarly outfitted. In all, capital improvements cost the county about \$9,200.

"PETA's cat shelter is still on the property but rarely filled with cats," King continued. "Most are taken to the Powellsville Pet Clinic, which tries to arrange for their adoption. Dogs can be adopted by contacting shelter director Barry Anderson or animal control officer Skip Dunlow. Animals who are not adopted are euthanized by a veterinarian who visits once a week."

Bertie County manager Zee Lamb told King that the county is planning to build a shelter in partnership with the local SPCA.

Hertford County has also reclaimed its animal control program from PETA. "County manager Wayne Jenkins said a new shelter is in the five-year capital plan, and will be a topic of discussion when next year's budget is drafted," King wrote.

While Hertford, Bertie, and Northampton counties "no longer give animals to PETA," Collins noted, "the town of Windsor, in Bertie County, still turns over all its stray animals to the group. " Even after the prosecution, Collins wrote, "Town administrator Allen Castelleo said he has never checked into what PETA does with the animals."

KFC owner tries to buy PETA warehouse

NORFOLK, Va.—Yum Brands, the owner of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain, recently offered \$1 million to buy a warehouse in Norfolk, Virginia, Andrew Martin reported in the January 17, 2007 edition of *New York Times*.

Unknown to Yum, the warehouse belongs to PETA.

"PETA would be willing to give Yum this warehouse, free and clear," PETA responded, "if KFC requires its chicken suppliers to adopt the recommendations made by members of its own Animal Welfare Advisory Council on March 11, 2005. A copy of these recommendations is enclosed for your reference."

The Animal Welfare Advisory Council suggested that KFC suppliers should quit using antibiotics to expedite chicken growth, stop breeding chickens to have breasts so big that the chickens have difficulty

walking, and should switch from electrically stunning chickens to killing them with "controlled atmosphere" gassing.

Animal Welfare Advisory Council member Temple Grandin resigned six weeks later, after Yum Brands asked council members to sign a confidentiality agreement that would have kept them from making their recommendations public.

Wrote Martin, "Matt Prescott, PETA's manager for factory farm campaigns, said PETA made the offer [of the warehouse] because protecting chickens from what it considers abusive treatment is worth more."

Yum Brands declined to accept.

A PETA undercover investigation in July 2004 caused Pilgrim's Pride, a major KFC chicken supplier, to fire 11 employees at a slaughterhouse in Moorefield, West Virginia, and retrain managers at 24 slaughterhouses in all, to prevent similar abuses.

Failure to isolate & vaccinate incoming animals shuts shelter

LAS VEGAS—A six-member Humane Society of the U.S. shelter evaluation team in mid-February 2007 joined Lied Animal Shelter staff in euthanizing more than 1,000 of the 1,800 animals in custody.

About 150 of the animals were ill, and 850 were believed to have been exposed to the illnesses, with a high likelihood of becoming infected.

"It has been a mess, but we are almost out of the emergency phase. Adoptions will open again soon," Animal Foundation of Nevada president Janie Greenspun Gale told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on February 19. Gale promised to identify a newly hired executive director for the shelter "soon."

The Animal Foundation operates the Lied Animal Shelter, which houses animals for the city of Las Vegas, Clark County, and North Las Vegas.

The evaluation team, headed by HSUS director of animal sheltering Kim Intino, found both parvovirus and distemper among the holding kennels for incoming dogs, and discovered panleukopenia among the incoming cats.

University of California at Davis shelter medicine program chief Kate Hurley, who was one of two veterinarians on the HSUS inspection team, also identified a bacterial infection that caused a fatal hemorrhagic pneumonia. This "had not been documented in a shelter before," Hurley told Steve Friesse of *The New York Times*. "There was some uncertainty of how to best manage the bacterial infection and what best to do," Hurley said. "We were in new territory, and found it in both cats and dogs."

As well as participating in the Lied Animal Shelter evaluation, Hurley was in Las Vegas to present a daylong seminar on shelter disease outbreaks at the Western Veterinary Conference.

"Although shelter officials were not aware of problems," wrote Mike Kalil of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "the HSUS team noticed dogs and cats suffering from serious respiratory and intestinal diseases shortly after it arrived."

"We didn't realize this was happening," affirmed Lied Animal Shelter manager Diane Orgill.

"Vets found a much lower rate of disease in the approximately 800 dogs and cats in Lied's adoption park," Kalil reported. "Infected animals were concentrated in the shelter's intake area, where at any time about 1,000 animals typically spend three to 10 days," awaiting reclaim, sterilization surgery, or euthanasia, based on veterinary and behavioral assessment.

Orgill acknowledged that overcrowding "undoubtedly hastened the spread of disease," Kalil wrote.

"The number of animals we have increases the chances of this happening," Orgill said.

Originally handling only Las Vegas animals, the Lied Animal Shelter opened in February 2001. The Lied management almost immediately came under intensive criticism for purportedly killing incoming animals too

quickly, after an incident in which a child's dog was euthanized by accident.

The shelter was expanded two years later to also hold the Clark County animals.

Las Vegas and Clark County animal control were handled for many years before 1995 by Dewey Animal Care, a for-profit veterinary contractor that still serves some Las Vegas suburbs. Dewey killed most incoming animals soon after arrival, as did most U.S. animal control shelters.

Isolation overlooked

As there was no anticipation that many animals would be in longterm care, and therefore at risk of catching diseases from constant exposure to newcomers, shelters built before recent years usually did not incorporate the extensive isolation and quarantine facilities that are now standard in shelter planning.

Until under 15 years ago, the most common reason for quarantining shelter animals was to see if a dog who had bitten someone might be rabid. The quarantine time in such a case was typically two weeks, but shelter designers rarely anticipated that a shelter would have more than a few dogs in quarantine at any given time.

Quarantining cats did not become a routine consideration until ambitions of no-kill sheltering spread in the mid-1990s. Recognition gradually followed that keeping healthy cats in large numbers requires quarantining new arrivals to avoid the spread of upper respiratory infections of all sorts, to which cats are much more susceptible than dogs.

The Animal Foundation of Nevada, founded by Mary Herro to perform high-volume, low-cost dog and cat sterilization, debuted in 1988 in a former shelter building owned by the city of Las Vegas, predating the Dewey contract. The much-emulated clinic has sterilized more than 200,000 dogs and cats.

The Animal Foundation took over first the Las Vegas shelter contract and then the Clark County contract at request of elected officials, Herro told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Both jobs proved bigger than was anticipated.

Seeking a successor and trying to retire for several years, Herro amid the 2001 controversy turned the Animal Foundation over to Gale, whose family long owned the *Las Vegas Sun*. The rival *Review-Journal* was usually first to expose issues involving the Animal Foundation, often raised by other humane organizations.

The *Sun* is now published as a *Review-Journal* insert—but while friction between competing news media affecting Animal Foundation coverage may have diminished, other local humane organizations are not less critical.

"Sheltering is all about disease control," Las Vegas Valley Humane Society president Karen Layne reminded Friesse, of the *New York Times*. According to Friesse, Layne alleged that "Gale and other shelter officials simply thought disease was a normal part of running a shelter."

"This is unforgivable in light of the fact that it was absolutely preventable," Heaven Can Wait Sanctuary legal counsel

Holly Stoberski told Associated Press. "They were not properly vaccinating the dogs and cats in a timely manner."

"No-kill" issue

Gale "tearfully faced critics at a hastily called public meeting," Friesse wrote, and acknowledged that the Lied Animal Shelter animal intake policies had been misguided. "Gale said her organization had been operating the shelter like a rescue operation and had not been euthanizing enough animals to keep the space safe and sanitary for the adoptable ones," Friesse summarized.

"Our policies were written to save every animal we possibly could," Gale told Friesse.

"Our problems became unmanageable," Gale told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "when we began getting 200 or more animals every day. We scrambled for space, even though we built a shelter three times larger than the new one we built five years ago, but still the issue of space and [finding enough] vets to do [both] high-volume spay/neuter [and shelter disease control] were our Waterloo."

The central conflict between public expectations and what the Animal Foundation could do had escalated for years.

Explained Gale to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in a September 2002 e-mail, "The major criticism we encounter is that early on, based on the 'no-kill city' definition we understood from publications such as yours, we said we wanted to make Las Vegas a no-kill city, with our new [adoption] shelter as the beginning of the process. Now all the other groups throw that at us, saying we are not no-kill, and we are perpetrating a fraud on the community."

ANIMAL PEOPLE reminded Gale in response that, "The now-defunct *No-Kill Directory* and all literature for the No-Kill Conference series, 1995-2001, always carried on page one the phrase, 'Implicit to the No-Kill philosophy is the reality of exceptional situations in which euthanasia is the most humane alternative available.' Those exceptional situations include irrecoverable illness or injury, dangerous behavior, and/or the need to decapitate an animal who has bitten someone, in order to perform rabies testing."

ANIMAL PEOPLE also warned Gale that the humane society mission of trying to save every animal, limited only by donor generosity, is inherently incompatible with the animal control mandate of protecting the public, limited by what taxpayers are collectively willing to support. Guiding both the Lied Animal Shelter and the Animal Foundation successfully, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** advised, would require building a firewall between their respective roles, to avoid having animal control issues jeopardize humane objectives.

Shorter holding time

Suspending most routine shelter operations for a week to cope with the emergency, the Lied Animal Shelter reopened with a pledge to hold animals deemed unadoptable for only 72 hours on the chance that they might be reclaimed.

"We are not abandoning our princi-

ples," Gale emphasized. "We are just being more vigilant in identifying unadoptable animals and letting go of them earlier. The others will have 120 days to find homes, and rescues are always welcome."

Animal Foundation spokesperson Mark Fierro said the Lied Animal Shelter would also begin vaccinating all incoming animals against the most common serious shelter diseases, as recommended by HSUS, and already practiced by progressive shelters worldwide, including several that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** recently visited in India.

The Lied Animal Shelter either adopted or returned to homes 12,079 dogs and 6,279 cats in 2006, killing 7,065 dogs and 16,492 cats. The Las Vegas area rate of shelter killing was approximately 12.3 dogs and cats per 1,000 people in 2006, slightly below the U.S. average of 14.8, and down by about a third since the Animal Foundation took the Las Vegas animal control contract.

But the Lied Animal Shelter also lost 3,652 animals, including 1,105 dogs and 2,280 cats, to illness and other causes of death besides lethal injection.

Shelter losses to "illness and other" are normally a negligible percentage of intake. For example, all shelters in the state of Virginia combined lost just 697 dogs and 1,455 cats to "illness and other" in 2006, out of 96,875 dogs and 86,953 cats handled.

Other shelters hit

However, the Lied Animal Shelter disease outbreaks were scarcely unprecedented—just unusual because of how large they were and how long they apparently festered.

The Humane Society of Indianapolis in January 2007 stopped accepting kittens for two weeks after receiving nine cats who were suffering from feline panleukopenia.

Indianapolis Animal Care & Control meanwhile was reportedly overwhelmed when just one individual surrendered 60 cats who had symptoms of upper respiratory illnesses.

The Hillsborough County Department of Animal Services, in St. Petersburg, Florida, suspended adoptions in October 2006 after six dogs developed symptoms of canine distemper. Two dogs died, two were euthanized, and two were treated. All 305 dogs at the shelter were vaccinated against distemper.

The Cheyenne Animal Shelter reopened in early May 2006 after euthanizing 42 dogs due to canine influenza and closing for a month of cleaning and reorganizing procedures. Shelter director Alan Cohen instituted a four-day quarantine before incoming dogs are allowed to mingle with the general population.

Despite the quarantine and other new precautions, 19 dogs at the shelter developed canine influenza in early February 2007, forcing the shelter to close until March 2.

None of the sick dogs will be euthanized this time, Cohen told Associated Press.

"One of the biggest differences this time is that everyone's knowledge level is a little bit higher," Cohen said. The recovery rate from canine flu, Cohen said he had learned, is believed to be more than 90%.

—Merritt Clifton

Colorado blizzards hit wildlife, sanctuaries, cattle, & pigs

DENVER—The Colorado Wildlife Commission on February 13, 2007 authorized spending up to \$160,000 on emergency feed rations for as many as 2,000 mule deer and pronghorn antelope who remained stranded nearly two months after a trio of blizzards paralyzed parts of the west from the Rocky Mountains to Kansas.

"An aerial survey found distressed animals in small clusters of 50 to 100 in a belt stretching from Burlington south to Lamar and west to Trinidad," Associated Press reported.

"Initially we were using food to lure animals away from highways, train tracks and haystacks," Colorado Division of Wildlife southeast regional manager Dan Prenzlowl said. "Now we are feeding some of those same animals," just to help them survive.

Snowdrifts up to 10 feet deep caused deer, elk and pronghorn to cluster on plowed roads and railways. Forty-one elk were hit by trains between Trinidad and Aguilar in only four days at one point, CDoW spokesperson Michael Seraphin said. Altogether, the blizzards were blamed for more than 200 elk/train collisions.

"When the snow gets that high," district wildlife manager Travis Black explained, "animals look for anywhere they can stand where it's blown clear and they aren't buried up to their chest. Once they get on a roadway or the train tracks, they are vulnerable because the banks are so steep that when a car or a train approaches, they have no place to flee."

Initial reports indicated that the storms killed only about 3,500 cattle, but as roads and water sources remained under deep snow weeks later, Colorado Cattlemen's Association executive vice president Terry Fankhauser estimat-

ed that the final toll would be between 10,000 and 15,000, far fewer than the 30,000 who were killed by an exceptionally bad blizzard in 1997, but still among the bigger losses on record.

A hay shortage caused the cost of feeding animals to double and triple.

At least two animal sanctuaries were hard hit. Big Cats of Serenity Springs director Nick Sculac told Andrea Brown of the *Colorado Springs Gazette* that snow removal alone had cost the 17-acre sanctuary nearly \$15,000. Big Cats of Serenity Springs houses 147 lions, tigers, leopards and other big cats, and was already having hard times since founder Karen Scular, 47, died from pneumonia on August 12, 2006.

A fire subsequently destroyed bookkeeper Collette Colvin's home, including a computer that contained the master copy of the sanctuary mailing lists and donation records.

Wolves Offered Life & Friendship sanctuary cofounder Frank Wendland meanwhile appealed for volunteers with snowmobiles to haul food and medicine to 13 wolves who were stranded on sanctuary land six miles south of Nederland, three miles from the nearest open road.

The 30 wolves at the main WOLF site, 20 miles northwest of Fort Collins, were unaffected.

Free-range pig farm debacle

Responding to a call from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the American SPCA "deployed personnel to assist in the evacuation of Pioneer Pork, a pig farm in Lamar, Colorado," spokesperson Anita Edson announced on January 10. "The 5,000-acre farm includes hundreds of free-range pigs," Edson elaborated, "many of whom are piglets in need of

nursing because sows have perished."

Pioneer Pork passed an audit by the American Humane Free Farmed Certified labeling program in September 2005, and was to be audited again in October 2007," American Humane executive director Marie Wheatley told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

"American Humane was the original, lone responder to the dire situation at the Pioneer Pork facility," Wheatley continued. "We spent a tremendous amount of hours and money to assist Pioneer for several days. When it became apparent to us that the situation was much more dire than originally predicted, and with an additional snowstorm moving in, we strongly suggested and in fact directed Pioneer to request a larger, state-sponsored disaster response."

"In the interim," Wheatley continued, "Pioneer Pork went into receivership. Following the blizzard, our staff became aware that some standards of our Free Farmed program were not being met, probably due to financial difficulties. Thus, American Humane immediately suspended Pioneer Pork's certified status. Regardless of that, we continued to help Pioneer Pork attempt to save as many animals as possible."

"If and when Pioneer Pork recovers financially and operationally," Wheatley said, "we will reassess, reinspect, and, if appropriate, reinstate their certification."

The Humane Society of the U.S. contributed \$55,000 to emergency feeding programs, including \$10,000 to the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation's Animal Emergency Relief Fund to assist stranded livestock. The fund helped the National Guard and Civil Air patrol to drop 80 tons of hay to starving animals in the first week of January 2007 alone.

Pet market bombings & dog abuse reflect low price of life in Iraq war zone (from page 1)

Green tossed a puppy off the roof of a building and set the puppy on fire.”

Two of Green’s alleged partners in crime, Specialist James P. Barker, 24, and Sergeant Paul E. Cortez, 24, pleaded guilty to rape and murder in November 2006 and February 2007, respectively, receiving sentences of 90 and 100 years in prison. Barker will be eligible for parole in 20 years, Cortez in only 10 years. Privates first class Jesse Spielman, 22, and Bryan Howard, 19, are still awaiting court martial.

Ghazil market

At the Ghazil pet market on January 25, 2007, “Blood stained the ground and small birds chirped in battered cages around the small square in front of an ancient Sunni mosque,” reported Alastair Macdonald of Reuters. “Tattered black Shi’ite prayer flags hung in the clear, still air. The population of the busy area is religiously mixed,” Macdonald wrote. “A police source said witnesses believed Friday’s market bomb was planted in a cardboard box that the bomber had punched with air holes, to pass off as containing birds. Parrots, canaries and more exotic pets are prime attractions at the Ghazil market.”

Associated Press elaborated that a witness said “a carton containing pigeons blew up as potential buyers gathered around.”

“My friends and I rushed to the scene,” customer Raad Hassan told Associated Press, “where we saw burned dead bodies, pieces of flesh, and several dead expensive puppies and birds.”

Fifteen people died. Fifty-five were wounded. No source counted the dead and injured animals.

“The Ghazil pet market is a popular destination on Fridays,” Associated Press continued. “People gather to sell and buy monkeys, cats, dogs, and other animals.”

Baghdad has one struggling zoo, but in the whole of Iraq there are no functioning humane societies or animal shelters, and are few opportunities other than pet markets for most people to see animals other than dogs, cats, and those used for work or food.

But someone is making a concerted effort to close the Ghazil market, an institution believed to have endured—with occasional relocations—since before the time of the Prophet Mohammed.

The first two Ghazil bombs detonated

in rapid succession on June 2, 2006, killing five people, wounding 57. The bombs were reportedly left in bags that looked as if they might hold snakes.

Three people died in the next bombing, on December 1, 2006.

Attacks on Iraq pet keepers and pets in the first months after the 2003 U.S. invasion were mostly attributed to sectarian militants expressing rejection of U.S. and British pro-animal values. Wiring dogs with explosives, alive or dead, was allegedly a gesture of cultural defiance, as well as a means of killing.

Death threats for “collaborating” with Americans to found the Iraq Society for Animal Welfare in mid-2003 forced former Baghdad Zoo veterinarian Farah Murrani to flee Iraq toward the end of 2004. Surviving for at least another year, the Iraq Society for Animal Welfare is now apparently dormant.

But the Ghazil pet fair has nothing to do with American or British invaders, nor with western values, nor with any clear strategic objective of either Shiite or Sunni warring factions, other than the general notion of making Iraq ungovernable by any other faction.

The Ghazil bombings appear instead to indicate the involvement of non-Iraqis espousing a strain of extreme Islamic fundamentalism most often seen in Afghanistan and adjacent parts of Pakistan.

The predominant Shiite and Sunni interpretations of Islam both accept keeping caged birds, as well as other pets.

The Taliban, however, who governed Afghanistan from 1996 to 2003, believe Islam forbids keeping birds in cages. Soon after the Taliban took control of Kabul, the Afghan capital, they forced the release of all caged birds, no matter how dependent the birds were for survival on human feeders.

The Ghazil market also sells dogs, a practice explicitly forbidden by at least three Hadiths, or sayings, of Mohammed.

“Allah’s Apostle forbade taking the price of a dog,” agree Hadith 3:439, 3:440, and Hadith 3:482.

Shooting dogs

Street dogs and fear of dogs due to endemic rabies are both ubiquitous in Iraq, as elsewhere throughout the world. Wherever refuse collection is haphazard, dogs do much of the rodent control, and vaccination and dog sterilization have yet to become commonplace.

U.S. troops were often portrayed as protectors of dogs and other animals in the first phases of American involvement in Iraq. Soldiers who adopted Iraq street dogs, and sometimes cats, often found ways of transporting them stateside, with the help of the Iraq Society for Animal Welfare and the Boston-based organization Military Mascots.

Between sixty and 100 animals adopted by U.S. soldiers reached the U.S. before the most accessible routes were cut off by intensified biosecurity measures imposed at all U.S. ports of entry in 2004, after outbreaks of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the H5N1 avian influenza spread from southern China throughout the world.

By March 2005, e-mails and web postings from U.S. troops in Iraq indicated that the attitudes of some toward dogs had become overtly hostile, to the consternation of others.

Read one e-mail forwarded to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “Hi my name is M. D. formerly of A TRP 1-10 CAV 4ID. While in Iraq we had a sport of killing dogs whenever the Iraqis weren’t shooting us. I shot one at about 50 yards with my M4 and it ran yelping to lower ground. We had to finish it, so my friends and I went to it and started shooting it. I’ve never seen a dog take as many shots to the head, at least four, as this one did. After we thought it was dead we dug a hole and when I picked it up with the shovel it came back to life, so we shot it a couple more times.”

The e-mail included the web coordinates of a malfunctioning video clip that the sender described as “pretty funny.”

“I am currently stationed in Iraq with the Tennessee National Guard,” wrote another soldier in mid-2005, identifying himself as Mike Hoback. “We have several dogs whom the National Guard states are wild. However, these dogs have never once tried to bite or harm any soldier, and are loved and cared for by the soldiers. We are fighting for our lives every day over here,” Hoback said, “not knowing if we will make it to the next day, but upon arriving back at the camp and seeing the dogs, all of our worries go out the window and we feel at peace with our K-9 friends.”

Unfortunately, Hoback alleged, “The Tennessee and Texas National Guards have a policy that the animals are to be caught using a device similar to an old bear trap. Several dogs have been caught in these traps, and for some reason a week later the traps are still on them. Once the dogs are caught, they are transported to a garbage dump and used for target practice, sometimes requiring ten to fifteen shots before finally being killed.

“I don’t understand this, as the military provides medicine to put dogs to sleep,” Hoback continued, “but our leadership will not try to get it, stating ‘We will be gone by the time it gets here.’ I have been fighting this battle with my chain of command for almost two weeks,” Hoback said, “and right now they have suspended the use of traps and shootings until they look into the law, but I need help fast.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE forwarded the e-mail to several potential sources of help, but received no further particulars and no confirmation that the response ever reached Hoback.

On September 28, 2005, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received a forwarded e-mail from someone identifying himself as “a soldier in 2nd of the 3rd ACR,” who was “ordered by my company commander to kill all dogs I see. We are living at a place called Ft. Telfair,” the soldier said. The company commander allegedly called the dogs a health risk. “This is not true,” the soldier wrote. “The dogs help keep us protected. At night the dogs bark at anything coming near us.”

The soldier claimed the order to kill dogs came after a litter of puppies defecated in the commander’s quarters.

“People just started shooting dogs like it was some kind of sport,” the soldier said. “I even heard over the radio that one of the tank crews killed a cat with a main gun round. At my last count, there were 26 dead dogs here at the fort in the last two weeks.”

Killing dogs, however, was not only not U.S. policy, but was explicitly against orders for soldiers on patrol.

A medic’s combat trauma training

KARMA, Iraq—Petty Officer Third Class Dustin E. Kirby described his training as a combat trauma media to C.J. Chivers of *The New York Times* in an article published on November 2, 2006.

“In one course,” Chivers wrote, “the instructors gave each corpsman an anesthetized pig.

“The idea is to work with live tissue,” Kirby explained. “You get a pig and you keep it alive. And every time I did something to help him, they would wound him again. So you see what shock does, and what happens when more wounds are received by a wounded creature. My pig? They shot him twice in the face with a 9-millimeter pistol, and then six times with an AK-47, and then twice with a 12-gauge shotgun. And then he was set on fire. I kept him alive for 15 hours. That was my pig.

“That was my pig,” Kirby repeated.

Shot on Christmas Day, Kirby lost seven teeth, part of his tongue, and the right side of his lower jaw. His prognosis is good, Chivers reported on February 25, 2007.

“Coalition troops in Iraq have been warned not to run over or shoot stray dogs they see watching them from the roadside,” reported Brendan Nicholson of the *Melbourne Age* on August 2, 2005, “because they may be cut-out shapes hiding a home-made bomb.

“Explosives experts say insurgents have created bombs with the trigger mechanisms hidden behind these fake dogs,” Nicholson explained. “The terrorists have apparently used fluorescent tape to create eyes in their canine cut-outs, to make them look more realistic in a vehicle’s headlights.

“The device includes two metal plates,” Nicholson said, “that when hit by a bullet or the wheel of a truck, are jammed together, closing an electric circuit and setting off the bomb. Coalition soldiers say the dog bombs are the biggest threat they face.”

Notice at last

Reports of U.S. troops killing or abusing dogs in Iraq drew only sporadic activist notice for more than two years. News reports occasionally mentioned suspected rabid dogs being shot in combat areas, but death squad activities and frequent revelations of abuse of human prisoners tended to draw attention away from anything done to animals, until January 2007.

Then a video clip posted to a public web site drew more than 287,000 mostly outraged hits within a matter of days. The clip showed an injured dog lying in ruts left by the recent passage of a vehicle. Not clear was whether the dog had just been hit, or was injured earlier. Several U.S. soldiers walked near, taunting and stoning the dog, laughing at the dog’s awkward efforts to limp away.

“There is no one in Iraq to rescue animals in need of help,” posted Colorado activist Gayle Hoenig, after days of trying to identify and help the dog. “The Iraq Society for Animal Welfare cannot operate under these dangerous conditions. They are no longer a contact and not an option. There is no place to take animals even if someone does rescue them. There is no way to get animals out of Iraq. The U.S. military in Iraq is doing what-

(continued on page 19)

Poaching in Afghanistan

Poaching, never well-controlled in Afghanistan, appears to be more blatant than ever, freelance correspondent Jeff Hodson reported for the *Seattle Times* in mid-January 2007.

“The skins of wolves and wild cats hang in fur shops in Kabul,” Hodson wrote, “along with rabbit-skin rugs and full-length fox coats, despite a nationwide ban on hunting and international laws prohibiting their trade. Foreign soldiers and aid workers are the main buyers, according to conservationists.”

Wildlife Conservation Society director of Afghanistan programs Alex Deghan told Hodson that “he knows of one aid worker who had a comforter made from two or three snow-leopard skins.”

Civet traffic falls in China

GUANGZHOU—Repeated health inspections of specialty meat markets across Guangdong province hint that masked palm civets may at last be getting some respite from Guangdong exotic meat buyers.

In January 2007, the Xinhua News Service reported, 7,000 health inspectors checked for civets at 10,000 restaurants, finding one live civet and several frozen civet carcasses. A restaurant in Foshan was fined for buying civets, and 18 restaurants were fined for unspecified reasons. The contraband was markedly less than was found in a November 2006 raid on an underground warehouse and nearby meat shop that found 45 masked palm civets, 98 ferret badgers, and 31 other wild animals who are barred from sale for consumption.

“The vendors told us the civets were from the northern part of China,” Guangzhou Forestry Public Security Bureau commissar Chen Xibiao told Ivan Zhai of the *South China Morning Post*. “There are masked palm civet farms in some provinces like Hubei and Shanxi,” Zhai alleged, “that have not prohibited the sale of masked palm civets like Guangdong has.”

As many as 10,000 civets confiscated from markets and warehouses were killed after Guangdong

ed in rapid succession on June 2, 2006, killing five people, wounding 57. The bombs were reportedly left in bags that looked as if they might hold snakes.

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Unfortunately, Hoback alleged, “The Tennessee and Texas National Guards have a policy that the animals are to be caught using a device similar to an old bear trap. Several dogs have been caught in these traps, and for some reason a week later the traps are still on them. Once the dogs are caught, they are transported to a garbage dump and used for target practice, sometimes requiring ten to fifteen shots before finally being killed.

“I don’t understand this, as the military provides medicine to put dogs to sleep,” Hoback continued, “but our leadership will not try to get it, stating ‘We will be gone by the time it gets here.’ I have been fighting this battle with my chain of command for almost two weeks,” Hoback said, “and right now they have suspended the use of traps and shootings until they look into the law, but I need help fast.”

ANIMAL PEOPLE forwarded the e-mail to several potential sources of help, but received no further particulars and no confirmation that the response ever reached Hoback.

On September 28, 2005, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received a forwarded e-mail from someone identifying himself as “a soldier in 2nd of the 3rd ACR,” who was “ordered by my company commander to kill all dogs I see. We are living at a place called Ft. Telfair,” the soldier said. The company commander allegedly called the dogs a health risk. “This is not true,” the soldier wrote. “The dogs help keep us protected. At night the dogs bark at anything coming near us.”

The soldier claimed the order to kill dogs came after a litter of puppies defecated in the commander’s quarters.

“People just started shooting dogs like it was some kind of sport,” the soldier said. “I even heard over the radio that one of the tank crews killed a cat with a main gun round. At my last count, there were 26 dead dogs here at the fort in the last two weeks.”

Killing dogs, however, was not only not U.S. policy, but was explicitly against orders for soldiers on patrol.

Assam bomb kills birds

GUWAHATI, Assam—

Harmlessly botched, according to most reports, a February 4, 2007 bombing attributed to the United Liberation Front of Assam killed “dozens of egrets, crows, and other birds” in central Guwahati, e-mailed news videographer Azam Siddique, who hoped to alert rescuers.

“The bomb was placed in a car near a temple,” Siddique said. “As the car was left in a no parking zone, it was towed to the police station and parked below tall trees which are used by birds as shelter.” Apparently meant to detonate at 3:00 p.m., the bomb instead exploded at 3:00 a.m.

Whether anyone responded to Siddique’s alert is unknown. Animal welfare groups have little presence in Assam, a remote state that lies between China to the north, Bangladesh and Burma to the south.



Civet. (Kim Bartlett)

banned the sale of civets in January 2004, under pressure from Beijing, to help halt the spread of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome. Emerging in Guangdong in 2003, SARS infected approximately 8,000 people worldwide within months, killing about 800, including 299 in Hong Kong and nearly 500 in mainland China.

SARS strains are endemic among both masked palm civets and Chinese horseshoe bats. Investigators suspect SARS originated among the bats, then mutated in masked palm civets into the form that attacks humans.

A survey of 24,000 people in 16 Chinese cities, released in April 2006 by WildAid and the China Wildlife Conservation Association, found that 72% had not eaten wild animals in the past year, up from 51% in a 1999 survey.



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Pet market bombings & dog abuse reflect low price of life in Iraq war zone *(from page 18)*

ever they want," Hoenig added. "Current U.S. military policy is to shoot dogs who pose a threat or a nuisance."

But U.S. Army chief of public affairs Brigadier General Tony Cucolo on February 2, 2007 wrote to Hoenig and others that the Army is taking the videotaped incident seriously.

"We know from the uniforms and the unit patches," Cucolo said, that "the video

was shot in the late 2003 to late 2004 time frame. We know the unit, but have yet to identify the individuals who were present three years ago. We consulted the appropriate experts, who are making inquiries. We are trying to determine who is responsible, as well as what actions can and should be taken."

Although discharged U.S. soldiers—like Steven D. Green—can be recalled

to the military to face trial on felony charges, throwing rocks at a dog is usually charged as a misdemeanor, if charged at all.

"I ask to you understand this is not at all representative of our soldiers," Cucolo wrote. "My personal experience in 27 years of service, deploying to difficult and challenging environments such as the Balkans in the mid-1990s, and both Afghanistan and Iraq, is that the overwhelming majority of American soldiers are kind to animals, in particular dogs, because they remind us of home.

"This video has had other effects," Cucolo continued. "My duties include training senior officers and non-commissioned officers (sergeants) who are headed to key command positions. I now use this video to show Army leaders the far-reaching impact of the negative acts of a misguided few.

"We will continue to pursue this issue and strive to see that this does not happen again," Cucolo promised.

Responded U.S. Army Sergeant Roy Batty, in e-mails to Hoenig, "Unfortunately, this is pretty much standard soldier stuff. If you take a bunch of young guys, stick them in a country where people are trying to kill them, and have them live in a place which is very boring except for the occasional moment of sheer terror, some will react with cruelty. I've had to stop some of my own soldiers from doing similar things.

"In a country where humans are brutally torturing and killing other humans," Batty added, "and dumping the carcasses in whatever street, lot, or river is closest, for everyone to see, I would question the logic behind trying to discipline a soldier for throwing rocks at a dog."

But historically, worldwide, what humans can do to a dog with impunity sets the floor for what may be done to fellow humans. The safer dogs are, the higher the general level of respect for human rights.

U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Jay Kopelman, 46, in November 2004 adopted and sent home a puppy named Lava while fighting in Fallujah, in acknowledged violation of General Order 1A, forbidding such rescues.

"We had to kill dogs while I was in Fallujah, when they endangered our troops," Koppelman posted to his personal web site. "Yet I would never—not for one second—tolerate any of my troops treating an animal as these soldiers have. This is the kind of behavior that must require the Department of Defense to re-think GO-1A. It should also be a wake-up call to the Department of the Army that its recruiting practices and Big Army are terribly broken if the people depicted in this video are typical of who they enlist. We don't

Bringing birds back to Iraq

BAGHDAD—Rediscovering and restoring the bird life of Iraq is an obsession for ornithologists who remember the nation as the crossing of flight paths for migratory species coming and going from all parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

The Mesopotamian marshlands, twice the size of the Florida Everglades, were reputedly the richest birding habitat in the world before dictator Saddam Hussein drained 90% in 1991 to try to flush out rebels against his rule.

About 40% of the marshlands have been reflooded and restored since 2003. All 150 bird species known to have lived there in 1979 have been seen in recent winter-and-summer surveys, Birdlife International adviser Richard Porter told BBC News in January 2007.

That leaves many of the 237 species native to the rest of Iraq still largely unaccounted for, between habitat loss and decades of unrestrained shooting.

The effort to find and protect Iraq birds advanced with the January 25, 2007 publication of a *Field Guide to the Birds of Iraq* in Arabic, assembled by Iraqi and Jordanian birders and biologists who were funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank, and the Ornithological Society of the Middle East.

Canada-Iraq Marshlands Initiative director Barry Warner hoped that the book would encourage Iraqis to better respect birds and bird habitat. But continued fighting tends to thwart most efforts on behalf of any animals, no matter how small.

Alabama Wildlife Center director Anne Miller and colleague Chris DePew, for instance, in June and July 2006 spent two months advising and encouraging civilian contractor John Mayberry by e-mail, as Mayberry worked to rehabilitate an injured fledgling Hutton's little owl that he discovered near the Baghdad airport.

"Mayberry made some progress," DePew told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "but unfortunately the owl died from the stress of a nearby mortar attack before he could be released into the wild."

need immature, ignorant and abusive people fighting this war. Soldiers who have abused a helpless animal are not who should be representing our country."

Commented Humane Society of the U.S. senior policy advisor Bernard Unti, "We are planning to act on the goal of securing revisions to the Universal Code of Military Justice some time in 2007, on the assumption that it would help to minimize and eliminate such incidents, and worse ones."

—Merritt Clifton

Film to help Turkish street dogs

ISTANBUL—"It is with pleasure that we launch the trailer of *Ghosts of the City*, a documentary explaining the situation of stray dogs in Turkey," e-mailed Spanish activist and film maker Ivan Jiminez to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on Valentine's Day 2007.

Ghosts of the City, Jiminez said, explains "the necessity to implement sterilization of both stray animals and house pets, and

elaborates on issues such as the status of the dog in the Qu'ran and responsible pet care."

Jiminez is involved in efforts to pressure the city of Istanbul into properly fulfilling a national mandate adopted by the Turkish government in 2004 to replace killing dogs with an Animal Birth Control program similar to the one underway in India since 1997. (See page one.)



Sunay Birsen feeds the residents of the Doga ve Hayvan Sevenler Derneği (Nature & Animal Lovers Association) shelter in Kutahya, Turkey.

Babylon's Ark: The Incredible Wartime Rescue of the Baghdad Zoo

by Lawrence Anthony, with Graham Spence

Thomas Dunne Books (c/o St. Martin's Press, 175 5th Ave., New York, NY 10010), 2007. 240 pages, paperback. \$23.95.

At the same time that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received a web link to a video clip of U.S. troops stoning an injured dog in early 2007, we received a link to another video clip showing lions being released from cages to kill and eat several donkeys, as soldiers cheered.

"Three times per week the zoo keeper buys donkeys to feed the starving lions," the caption said.

This is not how Earth Organization founder Lawrence Anthony taught the Baghdad Zoo staff to operate, after making his way there from South Africa because he thought the zoo animals might need help after the U.S. military invaded Baghdad in May 2003.

Anthony did give staff members money to buy donkeys as lion food, he admits in *Babylon's Ark*, because no other meat was available. But he also brought the zoo's slaughterman back to work by paying him—and all the staff—long owed back wages.

With frequent help from sympathetic soldiers, Anthony improvised a watering system for the animals, to replace a system damaged by fighting and dismantled by looters. He drove looters out of the zoo, expanded the depleted men-

agerie by taking in the remnants of the private animal collection of Saddam Hussein's even more murderous son Udai, and added more animals by closing a notoriously substandard private zoo on the far side of Baghdad.

Anthony also encouraged and assisted volunteer zoo veterinarian Farah Murrani in founding the Iraq Animal Welfare Society, which for nearly two years operated from the zoo premises—although Murrani herself was forced to flee death threats in late 2004.

In addition, Anthony led efforts to recover whatever remained of Saddam Hussein's renowned private horse collection. In mid-2005 the horses were returned to the government of Iraq as a national trea-

sure. The last public act of the Iraq Animal Welfare Society appears to have been relaying to the horses' government caretakers funding and equipment for the horses collected by U.S. horse trainer Ed Littlefox, who called his project Tack for Iraq.

Anthony intended for *Babylon's Ark* to end happily, with the Baghdad Zoo again accommodating the millions of visitors who walked the grounds in better times. He did not expect the conditions to regress to what they were at Udai's facility, where political opponents and rivals for the interest of young women were apparently thrown to the lions—and where U.S. interrogators threatened to feed entrepreneurs Thahe Mohammed Sabbar, 37, and Sherzad Kamal Khalid, 35, to the

lions, Sabbar and Khalid alleged in a June 2006 press conference.

Backed by the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First, Sabbar and Khalid in March 2006 sued the U.S. government for other purported interrogation abuses, but did not mention the

lion incident in their court case, which would have occurred before Anthony's arrival.

Anthony anticipated Baghdad returning to civilization. As with other declarations of "Mission accomplished," his hopes were premature.

—Merritt Clifton

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Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching

by Michael Greger, M.D.

Lantern Books (1 Union Square West, Suite 201, New York, NY 10003), 2006. 465 pages, hardcover. \$30.00.



Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching, by Humane Society of the U.S. director of public health & animal agriculture Michael Greger, M.D., is at once a meticulously researched timely warning about the potential threat to humanity from the H5N1 influenza virus, and a book that will not be read and heeded by nearly enough people—even after a strain of H5N1 apparently jumped from factory farms in Hungary into the facilities of the British turkey producer Bernard Matthews in February 2007, underscoring most of Greger’s major points.

Bernard Matthews imported turkeys from a Hungarian farm just 20 miles from a known H5N1 outbreak—and then sent 20 tons of potentially contaminated meat processed in Britain back to Hungary for sale.

Agribusiness and the pharmaceutical industry have combined to create conditions which may expose humanity to a pandemic of unprecedented proportions, Greger suggests, if—or when—H5N1 mutates into a form easily transmitted from person to person.

Greger traces how factory farming has produced literally billions of genetically almost identical birds and pigs with severely compromised immune systems, each an incubator for viral mutation. The recent introduction of U.S. and European intensive confinement farming methods to southern China and parts of Southeast Asia multiplied the risk. Live poultry markets, cockfighting, and intensively raising ducks, geese, and quail are contributing factors in the spread of H5N1, but the factor of most concern is simply the proximity of high-risk birds to huge numbers of increasingly mobile people.

Greger reviews the case histories of dozens of disease outbreaks resulting from factory farming, each demonstrating how rapidly H5N1 could spread and how deadly it could become. Having accurately predicted the jump of “mad cow disease” into humans in 1994, two years before the jump was confirmed, Greger has credibility as a prophet of doom. Now as then, governments dither under the influence of lobbyists whose work is in effect to persuade lawmakers that protecting public health is less urgent than protecting profits.

As Greger points out, the U.S. more than any other nation has had the resources and opportunity to set a positive example through prevention and preparedness, but instead still enforces no effective regulation of confinement farming, and

has done less by way of preparedness than at least 40 other nations. The current U.S. antiviral drug reserves could protect barely 2% of the human population against an H5N1 pandemic. The common practice of feeding factory-farmed poultry and pigs a diet including their own offal and excrement meanwhile replicates on a vast scale the experiments which in laboratory settings have exponentially amplified the virulence of viral diseases.

“Tragically, it may take a pandemic with a virus like H5N1 before the world realizes the true cost of cheap chicken,” Greger concludes, after a chapter of apocalyptic recommendations about storing food and water to survive the pandemic, and an explanation of how limited supplies of the antiviral drug Tamiflu could be extended, if those who cannot get doses drink the urine of others who are dosed adequately.

Taking the discussion into the realm of “Mad Max” movies dilutes rather than strengthens the impact of Greger’s arguments. Because most people feel there is little or nothing they can do to avoid end-of-the-world scenarios, from getting nuked to getting hit by a comet, these issues tend to attract less focused concern than such comparatively small threats as the possibility of an aircraft being hijacked by terrorists.

Ultimately, one must wonder whether Greger went into the “Mad Max” stuff simply because he ran out of things to say. Little of substance in *Bird Flu* is not repeated two or three times. But redundancy is the least of the tedious writing: interesting ideas and good stories can bear some repetition and re-examination.

Much more problematic is Greger’s habit of failing to source claims and quotations, stating over and over that “one so-and-so said such-and-such” without providing a hint as to the context. Footnotes sprinkled like chicken droppings after seemingly every other sentence sometimes provide the missing information, but at least as often merely show where someone might go to look for it.

As a 150-page mass market paperback, *Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching* might have reached tens of thousands of people who could have read it within the span of an average air trip. In the present cumbersome format, it might mostly reaffirm Greger’s status as a Cassandra, to whom no one will listen until much too late.

—Merritt Clifton

Donkey: The Mystique of Equus Asinus

by Michael Tobias & Jane Morrison

Council Oak Books (2105 E. 15th Street, Suite B, Tulsa, OK 74104), 2006. 213 pages, hard cover. \$19.95.

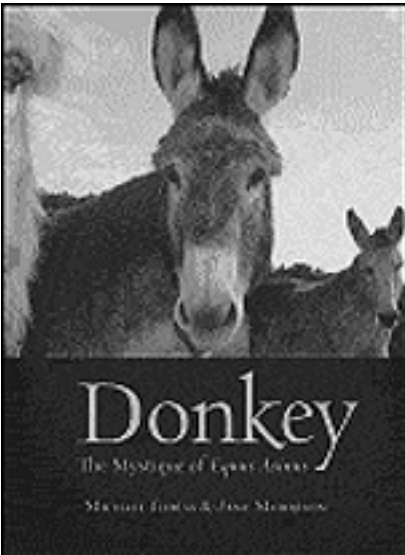
“This book has emerged out of our responses to donkeys: donkeys as a species and donkeys as individuals,” write co-authors Michael Tobias and Jane Morrison, longtime partners in producing books and films about nature and animals, and in directing the California-based Dancing Star Foundation wildlife sanctuary.

“The book grazes, feeding on a landscape both real and historical, imagined, desired and underfoot, inspired by a creature that has, strangely, embedded itself into the very fabric of philosophy, religion, art, the environment, human history, as well as in our hearts,” Tobias and Morrison continue. “Donkeys did not bray for this attention, but their own subtle beauty and gentle-

ness have attracted our kind, while their utility has brought them loads of woe.”

As well as reviewing the interaction of donkeys with humans through history, Tobias and Morrison discuss the individual personalities of donkeys. Chapter headings include “A transcendent reality begins to emerge,” “The quiet solace of donkeys,” “The secret imagination of donkeys,” and “The genius of donkeys.”

Though Tobias and Morrison cover many events in the history of donkeys, and have often endorsed animal advocacy organizations and causes, from Animal Acres to PETA, they oddly omit any reference to the famous wild burro rescues carried out by Cleveland Amory and The Fund for Animals in Grand



Canyon National Park, which helped to bring national recognition to the rise of the animal rights movement.

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

Hollywood Hoofbeats: Trails Blazed Across the Silver

Coffee-table books don’t come more lucidly written or thoroughly researched than *Hollywood Hoofbeats*, a definitive history of horse use in American film making, with frequent emphasis on humane issues.

Horses were still basic transportation when the film industry started, but began to be displaced by automobiles coincidental with the early growth of Hollywood. Film makers took advantage of an abundance of cheap cast-off horses for a time, treating them as expendable commodities.

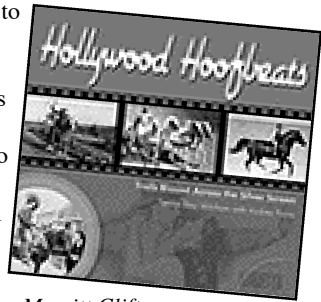
Chapter 4 of ten chapters, titled “Unsung Horse Heroes and Humane Advances,” describes how Errol Flynn led the first vocal effort to reform film makers’ handling of horses. Starring with Olivia DeHaviland in *The Charge of the Light Brigade* (1936), Flynn threatened to bring cruelty charges himself against the producers. An explosion of public outrage over a horse being deliberately galloped off a cliff in the 1940 Tyrone Powers vehicle *Jesse James* finally brought about American Humane Association supervision of animal use on the sets of Screen Actors Guild productions. SAG has no jurisdiction over off-set handling and care, however, nor over non-union and foreign productions, and the screen industry has resisted all efforts to extend the American Humane role beyond the SAG limits.

Other chapters of *Hollywood Hoofbeats*, focusing on individual horses, actors, films, trainers, and stables, often include insights into how humane problems were handled, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Allowed access to the archives of the American Humane Association’s Hollywood office, authors Petrine Day Mitchum and Audrey Pavia are at their best in detailing how difficult and dangerous stunts were performed, sometimes using still photos to show readers details not readily visible on screen. At least once they show a bad accident just about to happen—which resulted in a serious injury to a stuntman, not the horse who landed on top of him.

Even in the early years of film-making, well-trained acting horses often won a measure of stardom, commanding top fees and preferential treatment. The price of using the most popular horses soon came to include hiring only horses from particular stables. As the best-trained horses tended to come from the stables that treated horses better at all times, the stable system helped significantly to improve movie horse treatment.

However, with the decline of westerns in the 1960s and the beginning of the continuing trend toward making films with large human and animal casts abroad, the stable system collapsed. Relatively few horses and trainers in the U.S. still specialize in film work. Some veteran observers of Hollywood horse use suspect lack of experience, among horses, trainers, and riding actors, is contributing to an increased accident rate—but statistics do not exist to prove it.

Statistics do exist to demonstrate that humans working with horses in film are injured about three times more often than the horses. This appears to have been so for as long as American Humane has monitored film sets, because while people fall off of horses, horses don’t fall off of people.



—Merritt Clifton



Fox, by Martin Wallen, & Cat, by Katherine M. Rogers

Reaktion Books Ltd. (33 Great Sutton St., London EC1M 3JU, U.K.), 2006. 206 pages each, paperback. \$19.95.



Fox and *Cat* are the most recent editions to a Reaktion Books series now including 21 titles.

Martin Wallen, an English professor at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, presents not a book about fox behavior by an expert on animals, but rather a study of the relationship between fox and human as gleaned from books, history, and film. Although Wallen offers a taxonomical look at the fox family tree, he mostly deals with myths, folk tales, and allegories.

Perhaps the most unusual belief about foxes is the notion that they can assume human form, occurring in several cultures, apparently persisting today in remote parts of Japan.

Foxes have historically been identified by the superstitious with evil, though evil deeds involving foxes have always been the work of humans, with foxes the victims. For instance, the Biblical warrior Samson is supposed to have burnt 300 foxes alive in order to set fire to Philistine cornfields.

A chapter on fox hunting takes a dispassionate look at the history of foxhunting in England, its ritual importance to the aristocracy and social climbers, and the dishonesty of the pro-hunting arguments. But Wallen might be stretching the political psychology of the 2005 British ban on foxhunting when he writes that “In banning fox hunting their intention is not to save the foxes, but rather to realign control over the countryside. Just as Oliver Cromwell’s soldiers slaughtered the King’s stags in order to end Royalist control over the land, so Labour has again stymied the aristocratic regulation of the landscape through the institution of fox hunting.”

While there was an element of class struggle in the ban on fox hunting, animal welfare was clearly a central con-

cern; and the ban applies to working class varieties of hunting with dogs such as lamping and lurching, as well as to the pursuits of those who can afford to keep horses.

Wallen reviews the history of how wearing fox fur began, the rise of fur farms, and the present tension between the fur industry and anti-cruelty campaigners.

“But the ubiquity of fox fur,” Wallen concludes, “especially as it has come to be disguised as unreal fur, reminds us that, however we condemn them, torment them, trap them and exploit them, foxes live close to human culture by defining the limits of that culture.”

What exactly that means is anyone’s guess.

Cat author Katherine M. Rogers reviews the cultural history and symbolic meanings of the domestic cat, deified as the Goddess Bastet in ancient Egypt but persecuted with horrifying cruelty in medieval Europe.

In contrast to European attitudes, Mohammed taught that Allah requires kindness to all creatures, and was especially fond of cats. Cat purges in Europe at least twice preceded devastating outbreaks of bubonic plague, carried by the fleas on rodents. Plague also ravaged southern China after cat-eating started circa 1350. The Islamic world, however, remained relatively healthy.

After the last of the major cat purges, in the early 17th century, Europeans began to accept cats as house pet, as attested in many paintings by famous artists. In recent decades cats have surpassed dogs in popularity in both

the U.S. and Britain, coinciding with female economic emancipation and a surge in the number of female-headed households.

Cats have always been more closely associated with women in symbolic terms, especially in representing seductive traits. And even the street-wise slob tomcat Garfield dominates by wile a mild-mannered man.

Cats have also always been seen as more independent than dogs—and this may suit the times.

Rogers maintains that as we become less comfortable with a hierarchical society, we expect cats (and dogs) to be equal companions more than property, and we have begun to use terms such as “guardian,” rather than “owner,” to emphasize a cultural shift away from expecting that pet keepers should dominate and control their animals, instead of simply appreciating them.

—Chris Mercer
<www.cannedlion.com>

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Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty:

A Guide for Veterinary & Law Enforcement Professionals

by Leslie Sinclair, DVM, Melinda Merck, DVM,
& Randall Lockwood, Ph.D.

Humane Society Press (c/o Humane Society of the U.S., 2100 L St., NW,
Washington, DC 20037), 2006. 262 pages, paperback. \$59.95.

Cruelty investigators and shelter veterinarians who take their jobs seriously will read *Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty* cover to cover, then wear it to tatters re-reading and referencing it. The \$59.95 price tag is steep for a paperback book, but the information within it can save the cover cost many times over in resolving even one cruelty case, by saving investigative time, helping investigators to avoid false alarms and dead ends, bringing more perpetrators to justice, and winning more convictions on stronger charges.

Though fluently written, *Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty* will not be easy reading for non-professionals. Chapters headings include Thermal Injuries, Blunt Force Trauma, Sharp Force Injuries, Projectile Injuries, Asphyxia, Drowning, Poisoning, Neglect, Animal Hoarding, Animal Sexual Assault, Occult & Ritualistic Abuse, and Dogfighting & Cockfighting. Each chapter includes detailed discussion of what to expect, what to look for, and how to handle the evidence. Several chapters also review the sociology and demographics of typical offenders.

The discussion of Occult & Ritualistic Abuse offers an especially valuable description of the differences among the practices of the various animal-using religions. The authors rebut the common notion that “witches” and “Satanists” who participate in

organized rituals are inclined to harm animals, noting that the number of verified cases is practically nil. Ritualistic animal killing is far more often the work of isolated individuals whom the authors call “self-styled Satanists,” and teenagers, whom the authors call “youth subculture Satanists.”

Natural predator and scavenger behavior often results in false alarms about alleged ritualistic killings, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in November 1998 and September 2003. *Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty* provides similar analysis, and adds particulars about “cattle mutilation” cases, which typically result from observers failing to recognize how coyotes, crows, and magpies go about dismembering a cattle carcass. *Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty* does not quite cover everything useful to know about predator and scavenger behavior when investigating alleged cruelty, especially in cases involving hawks, owls, and eagles—but that material is accessible in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** articles, and what the book includes is far more than has previously been included in humane investigation training materials.

—Merritt Clifton



Paix pour les Dauphins

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Peace for the Dolphins

Cats Of Africa by Luke Hunter

Photography by Gerald Hinde

Johns Hopkins U. Press (2715 N. Charles St., Baltimore,
MD 21218), 2006. 176 pages, hardcover. \$39.95.



As well as the well-known lion, leopard, and cheetah, and the less familiar but still reasonably common caracal, serval and African wildcat, Africa hosts the golden cat, jungle cat, sand cat, and blackfooted cat. *Cats of Africa* author Luke Hunter, a Wildlife Conservation Society carnivore specialist, covers them all—but his volume is not to be confused with the distinguished *Cats of Africa* by Anthony Hall-Martin and Paul Boleman, published in 1998, now out of print.

We were surprised to read that “none of the big cats purr.” This has been alleged by others, but we have personal experience that cheetahs purr, a loud deep purr sounding much like a small motorbike. Lion expert Paul Hart, of the Drakenstein Lion Park near Cape Town, South Africa, advises that lionesses in heat express themselves by what could be described as purring.

Cats of Africa suffers from Hunter’s effort to cover everything from taxonomy to animal behavior to the pro-hunting arguments for all 10 species of cat. Much of the detail he presents may be of absorbing interest to biologists, but means little to others, while obser-

vations such as “Cheetah have a harder time surviving in habitat where lions are present” tend to belabor the obvious.

Hunter asserts that, “For considerable parts of Africa the only realistic solution” to habitat conservation “is hunting. There is no doubt,” he claims, “that hunting makes a substantial contribution to protecting African wilderness. Concessions given to trophy hunting comprise huge areas of many African countries, and the revenue generated by the industry ensures that governments do not consider those areas for alternative uses like agriculture or cattle.”

This sweeping statement would not bear serious analysis, even without the example of seven years of government-promoted land invasions in Zimbabwe, which have reduced countless former hunting ranches to degraded pasture.

First, hunting is notoriously difficult to police or supervise, with abuses widespread. Hunting stunts wildlife by reversing natural selection to take out the big and strong instead of the sick and weak. Target species live in a state of elevated stress. Hunting ranches offer a façade of wildlife habitat, but the habitat is often extensively manipulated to build concentrations of target species in accessible areas.

Thus Hunters’ statement really amounts to an argument that allowing hunters to terrorise wildlife can be called conservation if the activity keeps out cattle. But often hunting ranch operators keep cattle as well.

Hunter refers with approval to the Ju-Hoan project in Namibia, where a settled Bushman community was given an opportunity to tap into ecotourism. But Hunter fails to mention the experiment failed dismally because the Bushmen would not refrain from killing leopards, no matter how much more money they made from tourists.

This is not a book for animal lovers.

—Chris Mercer

<www.cannedlion.co.za>

South Africa

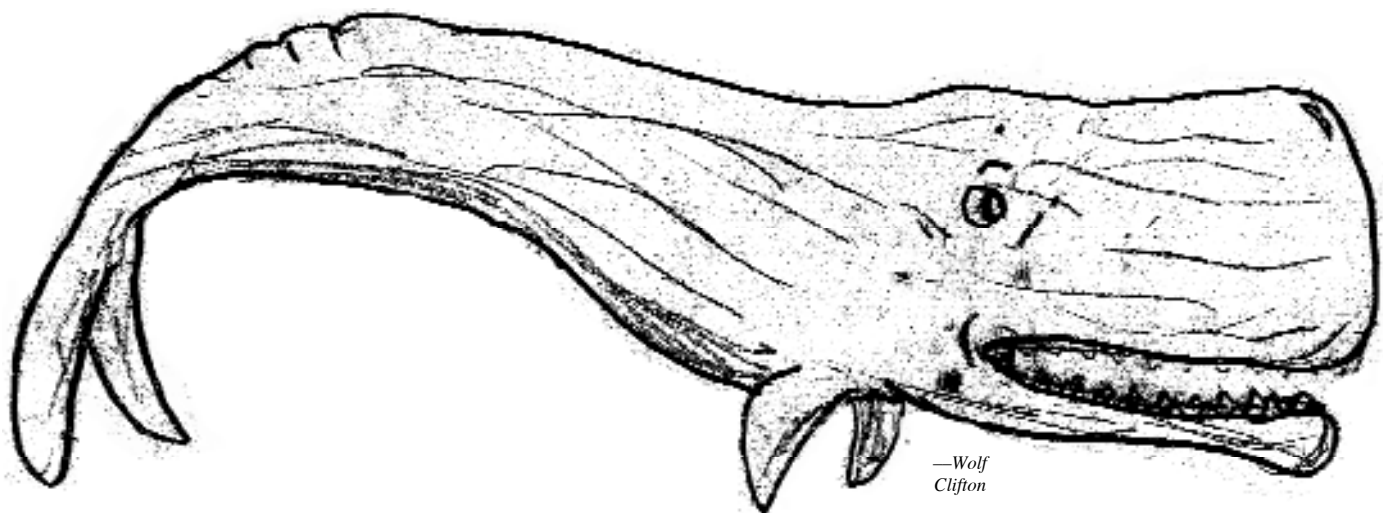
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—Wolf
Clifton

Kinship With The Wolf by Tanja Askani

Park Street Press (One Park St.,
Rochester, VT 05767), 2006.
144 pages, paperback. \$19.95

The text accompanying this collection of superb portrait photographs of wolves describes the social lives and behaviour of a family of wolves living in captivity at the Luneburger Heide Wildlife Reserve in Germany. Author Tanja Askani gives an absorbing account of the emotional lives of wolves, and of their complex social structures and rituals.

Askani mentions that some wolves take an instinctive dislike to a particular person for no apparent reason, and gives a fascinating description of how wolf family life can give leadership lessons to business executives. She includes a particularly interesting chapter on the status of wolves in Europe, reviewing the current wolf population estimates and conservation initiatives in each nation of the European Union. Outside the EU, wolves continue to be viciously persecuted in Norway and Russia. Even within the EU, where wolves are nominally protected, the protections are often not enforced.

About a third of the entire European wolf population, estimated at about 3,000, inhabits the Carpathian mountains of Romania. Another 800 wolves roam parts of Poland. But wolves are hunted in both Romania and Poland—and in Finland, which has fewer than 200 wolves.

The reputed voraciousness of wolves scarcely matches that of the humans who are hellbent on killing them. —Chris Mercer

ANIMAL OBITS

Sled dogs Jewel, 5, running for Yuka Honda, **Melville**, 5, running for Brent Sass, and **Hope**, 6, running for Kelly Griffin, died between February 11 and February 21 in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest, the first dogs to die in the race since 2002. Jewel reportedly choked on her own vomit during a team run-away when Honda stopped to untangle several dogs just past the Braeburn rest point, and her snow anchors failed to hold the team. The causes of death of the others were unclear. All three were older than most racing huskies.

Choromatsu, 29, a Japanese macaque who starred in a popular 1987 Sony Walkman commercial, died in early January 2007 at the monkey theatre where he lived in Minami-Asomura, Kumato Prefecture, Japan. He "retired" to the theatre in 1990, after years with the Suo-Sarumawashi monkey acting group in Hikari, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Gasper, 17, a beluga whale acquired from a Mexican aquarium in 2005 with his mate Nico, was euthanized on January 1, 2007 at the Georgia Aquarium due to incurable painful chronic conditions.

Buffy, 7, a German shepherd who on January 10, 2007 fought off an armed robber to protect Will Bartley, 44, in East Oakland, California, was euthanized on February 15 due to complications of a gunshot wound she suffered during the struggle.

Tricks, a boxer mix, shot by San Antonio police during a Valentine's Day evening drug raid that nabbed seven suspects, died after being picked up by San Antonio Animal Care Services more than 24 hours later. Figuring out what happened was the latest of many challenges for Animal Care Services director Craig Brestrup, who took over the department in May 2006, and has been revamping it ever since. As of 2005, San Antonio had the highest rate of shelter killing of any major U.S. city, but Brestrup has introduced a five-year plan to achieve no-kill animal control by 2012.

Barbaro, 4, winner of the 2006 Kentucky Derby, was euthanized due to incurable pain on January 29, 2007 in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, after nearly two dozen surgeries to try to repair a shattered right hind leg suffered within yards after the starting gun at the Preakness States on May 20, 2006. More than \$1.2 million was donated to the Barbaro Fund, formed to try to help the horse recover, and to help other injured racehorses.

Mardos, a baby elephant who was rescued from a well in July 2005, but was severely injured in a fall a year later while being transported for a school show, was euthanized on December 26, 2006 at the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary in Lanchang Pahang, Malaysia.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Pretty Boy, Maria Callas, Whitey the Good & Blackie the Bad (PA); Lara Catten Ricken-Racker, Winifred Pooh Winkles, MugWumps & Chubber-Nubbs (IN); Sexy Sadie & Stewart the Stud (FL); Lucy-Lockett (Saudia Arabia); Chevy-Cat (UK); Stinker-Roo (NC); Stan the Man & Ollie by Golly (VA); Ms. Sake (MA); Emily (Germany); Good King George (SC); Miss Bessie the Bashful (GA); Big Beaner (Iraq); Oscar (AL); My Beloved Baby Boy Sir BackGammon ChairPurrson of the Board (IN, OH & SC); Babette, Alfred the Great, & Delores (WA);

In Honor of Greymalkin the Jellicle MurrhMaid, Antonio J Rudipuss Pinckley-Penis, Delphinia Divine DooLittle, Simon the Possum, Benny our Retarded Squirrel, Prince Mau-Mau, Isabella Catalini, BooBoo Baggins (SC) & Grandma's Gang (NY); And With All My Love and Gratitude to the thousands of cats and animals all over the world who have touched, loved, inspired and forever changed me.

—Amy S. Whitaker, *Feral Friends, Inc.*



—Wolf Clifton

In memory of Mandy (4/1/90-1/21/07): gone from my life but forever in my heart.

—Judy Meincke

In memory of Muriel Cohen, an outstanding journalist who was not an animal person but would have appreciated the excellent work of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and your unwavering commitment to it.

—Shari Thompson

In memory of Alfred the Great: born in Quebec, died in Washington; succeeded Voltaire on the Pillow Throne. He will always be loved and respected. Godspeed.

—Rebecca Trevino

In memory of Bouncer (3/92 to 10/06), who was always smiling and wagging his tail, and was known at Stern Grove and Fort Funston as everybody's favorite dog.

—Marlene Stoner

In memory of Lynn Herrera.

—Marilyn Weaver

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87), Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87), Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85), Miss Penrose (11/18/98), Duke (11/1/98), Purr Box, Jr. (5/1/04), Mylady (8/1/06), Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).

There is no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), with address for acknowledgement, if desired, to

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OBITUARIES

Tamara Monti, 37, from Lake Como, Italy, employed as a dolphin keeper at Oltremare Park in Riccone, was fatally stabbed on February 4, 2007 by neighbor Alessandro Doto, 35, who lived with his parents in the flat above Monti's. Doto, arrested at the scene with the knife in his hand, claimed he was driven mad by the barking of Monti's two dogs while she was at work. Monti had worked exceptionally long hours since September 2005, raising a grampus dolphin named Mary G who was rescued with her mother from a June 2005 stranding. The mother died, but Mary G survived. Mary G refused to eat after Monti's death, however, and was in dire condition as of February 20.

Mark Loren Morris Jr., DVM, 72, died on January 14, 2007 in Topeka, Kansas. The son of Science Diet brand pet food company and Morris Animal Foundation founder Mark L. Morris, "The junior Morris followed in his father's footsteps," recalled Barbara Hallingsworth of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, "leading a business that conducted research and development and did other services for Hill's. Morris developed the Science Diet line of pet foods," by adding many new varieties, "and worked with former Topeka Zoo director Gary Clarke to develop ZuPreem products for zoo animals." His son David Morris now heads ZuPreem.

Martha McPhee, 51, died suddenly of unknown causes on February 6, 2007, only five weeks after presiding over the merger of the Animal Humane Society of Golden Valley, Humane Society for Companion Animals, and Great West Humane Society, the three largest humane organizations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. McPhee had headed the Animal Humane Society since 2005. Involved in many other nonprofit organizations, in multiple fields, McPhee was also treasure of Pets Across America, and a past board member for the Medina Horse Association.

Anna Nicole Smith, 39, died suddenly of unknown causes on February 8, 2007, in Hollywood, Florida. A former Playboy model who inherited the fortune of Texas oil billionaire J. Howard Marshall II in 1995, after a 14-month marriage, Smith "was a great friend to animals and used every opportunity to speak out against senseless cruelty," eulogized PETA in a prepared statement. "A long-time vegetarian, Anna Nicole posed as Marilyn Monroe in one of PETA's most striking ad campaigns, 'Gentlemen Prefer Fur-Free Blondes.'"

Nour Nadi, 17, of Fayyum, Egypt, on February 5, 2007 became the 12th Egyptian to die from the H5N1 avian influenza, after trying to conceal her symptoms in order to save her chickens from massacre. H5N1 has killed 167 of 270 people known to have been infected, worldwide.

Robyn Alexandra Schuttai, 70, known as Sister Ambrose-Martin de Porres Claret, died in a January 8, 2007 single-car accident near her home in Glendale, Oregon. "She was a member of the Order of St. Dominic, and founded St. Martin's World Mission for Animals in 1988," wrote Jeff Duewel of the Grants Pass *Daily Courier*. Volunteers from several other local organizations recovered 15 dogs, 20 cats, and several birds from her home, Douglas County Animal Control officer Gloria Free told Duewel.



Dorothy "Dotsie" Palouze Keith, 71, died from complications of lung cancer on December 23, 2006 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. "A native of Richmond, Virginia, Mrs. Keith adopted a stray Dalmatian when she was 12 and had her first champion Dalmatian as a teenager," recalled *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer Sally A. Downey. Keith later raised championship Bichons, but fought breeders and the pet store industry when as vice president and legislative chair of the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, she won legislation that in 1982 strengthened the state Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, and in 1997 allowed puppy purchasers to return sick pups to the sellers for either a full refund or payment of veterinary bills.

Bessie D. Sanders, 65, of Washington D.C., known to neighbors as "The Cat Lady" because she kept many cats and fed strays, died in a January 17, 2007 housefire started by one of the candles she used for light after her utilities were shut off due to nonpayment.

Betsy DeWallace, 67, died on January 11, 2007, after a long illness. DeWallace served 35 years as animal control officer for Sudbury, Massachusetts, also serving the nearby town of Maynard for 26 years, and serving Acton and Hudson for briefer intervals.

Mary Lou Henry, 78, of Texas City, Texas, died in a February 1, 2007 housefire while trying to carry one of her cats to safety. That cat and another cat died with her. "Two other cats were given oxygen by paramedics, two were unharmed, and another is missing," reported Armondo Villafranca of the *Houston Chronicle*.

Karen Aerts, 37, of Antwerp, Belgium, was fatally mauled on February 11, 2007 after hiding in the Olmense Zoo until after closing hours, finding the key to the cheetah cage, and letting herself into it. Aerts, a frequent zoo visitor, sponsored the feeding of one of the cheetahs, named Bongo, and apparently wanted to pet him.



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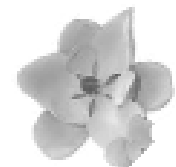
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