

Heroic dogs

AND SOMETIMES CATS—WHAT MAKES THEM BRAVE?

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y.—“A cat’s a better mother than you are!” Rhett Butler exploded at Scarlet O’Hara in one of the most memorable scenes of *Gone With The Wind*.

Cats are actually devoted mothers. On March 29 a Brooklyn cat named Scarlet proved it, dashing five times into a burning building despite severe burns to rescue each of her four-week-old kittens. Firefighter David Giannelli, a 17-year-veteran of Ladder Company 175, saw Scarlet moving the kittens across the street after getting them out of the fire and called the North Shore Animal League. Now recovering at North Shore, they drew 700 adoption offers within hours of their plight becoming known.

The script-writers of the Lassie and Rin-Tin-Tin serials would have had a hard time topping the heroic animal headlines during the first quarter-plus of 1996. Sixteen times in 15 weeks, mass media reported dogs and cats performing daring or unusual altruistic deeds, on behalf of either humans or other animals.

The streak began on New Year’s Day, when a nameless cat in Minneapolis alerted a sleeping child to smoke in time to save her family from a house fire.

The first case that went national and the first of a trio involving Rottweilers came on January 24, a day after Blake Weaver, age 3, vanished in the Ocala National Forest, of Florida, wearing only shorts and a t-shirt. Samantha the Rottweiler followed. At dusk she pushed the exhausted boy under a bush and lay

on top of him throughout a freezing night. At about 10:45 the next morning, Samantha led young Weaver to rescuers.

Minnie, a stray Rottweiler, was heroine of the moment two weeks later in Hayward, California, racing out of nowhere to intercept David Bruce Jr., age 2, as he darted in front of a speeding car. Out of work, living in a no-pets apartment, David Bruce Sr. took Minnie to the Hayward Animal Shelter, then joined the shelter staff in calling media to make sure she was adopted rather than euthanized.

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, on March 27, a Rottweiler

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ANIMAL

News For People Who

May 1996



PEOPLE

Care About Animals

Volume V, #4

Seeking the psychological well-being of primates

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Even before Congress in 1985 amended the Animal Welfare Act to mandate that laboratories are responsible for the “psychological well-being” of nonhuman primates used in research, Henry Spira may have known that resolving the long impasse in the 200-year-old debate over the ethics of using animals in biomedical research would come down to accommodating primate behavior.

No primatologist himself, Spira brought to animal advocacy a background including a multinational childhood, waterfront union organizing, and 22 years of teaching English in inner city schools. Throughout, Spira noticed that what most people want most in any conflict is not the goal itself, but rather, not to lose.

Losing means losing stature in the troop. Loss of stature means loss of security. Goal-oriented negotiating, Spira realized, means finding a way for both parties to gain stature: to achieve important objectives without sacrificing principle.

In 1976, Spira won the first major antivivisection victory in the U.S. ever, leading rallies that obliged the American Museum of Natural History to cease cat sex experiments that appalled the nation.

Barrel-chested, blunt-talking, notoriously caustic, Spira seemed every inch the tough new chimp in the jungle.

But as the most militant phase of the animal rights movement erupted behind him, Spira would behave more like a wise old silverback gorilla. He would persuade first Revlon and then Avon to become the first major cruelty-free cosmetics manufacturers. Then, as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the National Institutes of Health squared off in a seemingly endless chest-thumping and hooting confrontation over the fate of the 17 Silver Spring monkeys, the colony confiscated from researcher Edward Taub’s cruelly deficient holding quarters in 1981 through PETA cofounder Alex Pacheco’s intervention, Spira quietly persuaded Procter & Gamble to commit themselves to a longterm phase-out of all animal testing, including an all-important pledge to fund as much research as was required to develop and secure approval for non-animal testing methods for the full line of P&G products—including pharmaceuticals.

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Cleo knows enough not to mess with turtles. Louisiana doesn’t. Story on page 20. (M.C.)

Overkill in overdrive Canada halts, then resumes seal massacre

ST. JOHN’S, NEWFOUNDLAND—The good news was that on April 12, a month early, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans halted the bloodiest seal massacre since 1983, claiming—though few believed it—that the quota of a quarter million harp seals had been filled.

The bad news was that on April 16 the DFO told the sealers that it had overcounted, and to go kill another 60,000.

At that, Canadian Sealers Association executive director Tina Fagan said her members might ask for an additional quota of 37,000. Newfoundland fisheries minister John Efford said the additional quota ought to be 150,000.

Newly elected Newfoundland premier Brian Tobin just enjoyed the spoils of having given Canada’s least educated, most welfare-dependent and most resentful province an animal to blame, instead of Tobin’s own policies in his former post as federal fisheries minister, for the likelihood that the cod stocks Newfoundlanders and others fished to the verge of extinction during the 1980s and early 1990s won’t be commercially fishable again in what remains of this century, or in the first decade of the next century.

The seal slaughter was stimulated this year by ice conditions favoring sealers, for the first time in years, as well as by sig-

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animal rights
group?**

Editorial

Peace talk

One of our cover stories this month deals with the ongoing process of strategic disengagement, on both sides, from the 200-year-old battle over animal use in laboratory research—not as a matter of either side abandoning goals, but as a matter of recognizing that common goals may be achieved more readily if the conflict is less intense.

ANIMAL PEOPLE over the past year has advanced 10 suggestions for strategic disengagement in a manner which would simultaneously meet the major practical demands of the animal rights community and the major needs of biomedical research. They are based largely on inclinations already evident among both activists and researchers.

ANIMAL PEOPLE does not pretend that these suggestions can resolve the inescapable conflict over the rightness or wrongness of animal use *per se*. But they might form a mutually acceptable protocol for progress.

1) **Reject fear tactics.** This is requisite for building the mutual trust upon which all other progress depends. Tediously and ironically, just as major progress through disengagement seems imminent, a small sociopathic element within the animal rights cause has markedly escalated the use of violence. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, there were 313 violent animal rights-related incidents within the U.S. between 1977 and June 1993—but since then there have been almost 150 more, about half of them this year. Self-professed animal rights activists in the U.S. and Canada have claimed responsibility for more than 100 firebombings and mailings of razor-blade-filled packages in the U.S. and Canada over the past 20 years, *two-thirds of them this year*. The Animal Liberation Front has claimed most of the arsons, both over the years and recently, while the razor blade attacks are claimed by a splinter group calling itself “The Justice Department.”

It is not popular within animal protection circles to denounce the ALF *et al*, because 10 to 15 years ago, some early ALF actions did take animals out of bad situations, and did bring out evidence that helped end a few shockingly cruel projects. At that time, the ALF vicariously vented the frustrations of many activists as they confronted a seemingly intransigent, inflexible, and unrepentant biomedical research establishment. But the Robin Hood image of the ALF is belied by the reality that violent tactics demonstrate disrespect for civil process that in the long run can only erode progress toward a less violent society.

Yet the violence must be put into perspective. More than half the 450-odd incidents over the past 20 years were petty vandalism, and 11 of the 16 most destructive acts came between Christmas 1983 and July 1, 1989. Even with the recent attacks, the cumulative record of the ALF and like groups, in the U.S. and Canada, is comparable to the record of Halloween in any big city.

Further, the violent acts are at least partially the creation of a fear-based anti-animal rights strategy outlined in the 1986 paper *Defense of the Fur Trade*, prepared for the Canadian government by the public relations firm Thomas Grey Inc., and the 1989 American Medical Association *Animal Research Action Plan*. Both documents argued that the animal rights movement could be defeated by publicizing violence, to link the cause in the public mind with fanaticism. The strategy backfired. There is survey evidence that the public does identify animal rights activism with fanaticism—but it is offset by evidence that animal rights goals have mainstream support and momentum. Polls sponsored by the AMA and Associated Press, respectively, show that between 1989 and 1996, unqualified support for the use of animals in research actually fell from 36% to 8%. Qualified acceptance of the use of animals in research increased from 28% to 62%—which means that three fourths of the people who expressed no qualms about animal use in 1989 now have some qualms.

The percentage opposing animal use in biomedical research held steady at 29%.

While the data indicates that the deeds of the ALF *et al* are irrelevant to the evolution of public attitudes about animals, the sociopaths may never be convinced, especially when many researchers give sociopathy more attention than goes to the 99,999 activists out of every 100,000-plus who do not engage in vandalism or mayhem.

Animal protection leaders including the leadership of some of the most uncompromising animal rights groups have meanwhile denounced arson, property damage, and attacks against people—but in part because of lingering sentiment for the ALF as Robin Hood, and in part because these leaders tend to be preoccupied with achieving illusory “movement unity,” such denunciations have been qualified with sympathy for anyone “trying to do something for animals.” Researchers then hear only the qualifications, and failing to recognize the underlying lack of support for violent acts against them, wrongly presume that sociopathy rather than genuine opposition to violence underlies the animal rights cause.

The potential deal is simple: if the animal rights community will forthrightly and unequivocally denounce violent actions, including all arsons, break-ins, and vandalism, the biomedical research community will cease efforts to link animal rights with terrorism.

Who speaks first? Anyone with the courage to lead. The more who stand up and offer to shake hands on the deal, on either side, the more will stand up—and then progress can come through honoring the bargain struck.

2) **Open all Institutional Animal Care and Research committee meetings and records to the public, with full disclosure of research protocols.** In exchange for open access to information, responsible animal rights leadership must agree that meetings are not to be disrupted and individual participants are not to be harassed. It may be that Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees might have to adopt an observer accreditation procedure, to admit activists and media who behave appropriately, while excluding yahoos. Refusals of admission must be based on actual violations of attendance rules, not on expressions of disagreement with the approval of projects.

3) **Hold well-publicized regular open houses at all laboratories,** as is already done at several institutions, keeping off limits only those parts of research sites that have to be off limits to prevent the spread of contagious disease or protect legitimate trade secrets. Observer accreditation might also be used as a security measure.

If anything revealed by following the above two recommendations does prove unacceptable to the public, it would have to be halted and redesigned, if done at all. ANIMAL PEOPLE hopes most biomedical researchers have the confidence in what they are doing to take that risk. We believe the longterm gains for all researchers to be had by demystifying their work would offset the short-term losses of a relative handful.

Activists, meanwhile, could gain not only by having more access to information, but also by demystifying themselves. IACUC meetings and open houses could be opportunities to impress upon researchers that some of their critics are serious, well-informed, ethical citizens, who deserve positive response to sincere concerns.

In exchange for open access to current information, activist groups must refrain from using old photographs and old descriptions of protocols that in some campaign literature we’ve seen go back to the 1950s and early 1960s, and involve procedures never performed by either the institutions or the individuals targeted by protest.

4) **Biomedical researchers must not leave exposure, denunciation, and termination of cruel procedures or holding conditions up to the most militant activists.** If a profession is to operate with a high degree of autonomy, it also must visibly demonstrate the will and the ability to discipline practitioners.

If and when the biomedical research community demonstrates real willingness to self-police in a meaningful public manner, the animal rights community owes the research community the respect of taking concerns about suspected abuses to the heads of the institutions in question first, before going to the media or straight to the public, and giving the institutions adequate opportunity to rectify bad situations before making a public stink.

5) **Report biomedical use of rats, mice, and birds to the USDA—or publish independent tallies—whether or not the Animal Welfare Act so requires.** Nothing builds suspicion of the biomedical community more than its ongoing adamant refusal to account for the animals who are purportedly more than 90% of all of those used—especially when the numbers used are apparently going down. The biomedical community should be able to provide the necessary data, already available on shipping invoices from suppliers, with much less trouble and expense than is involved in continuing to argue about it.

Once complete data is available, the animal rights community must cease and desist from using old and often ridiculously inflated estimates.

6) **Biomedical researchers must not form alliances with wise-use wiseguys.** Having anti-science “friends” who want to trash the National Biological Service, gut the Endangered Species Act, and deplete natural resources cannot help researcher credibility.

Conversely, the animal rights movement must not align itself with anti-science “friends” either. The object of stopping vivisection is not to be confused with such projects as terminating all public funding of research.

7) **Biomedical researchers must be aware of the need for those humane organizations which are willing to work with them to show gains.** The animal rights community meanwhile must be aware of the need of researchers to show their colleagues that they gain stature, not lose it, when they respond even partially to animal rights concerns.

Each community must be aware of the intense competition for funding among the other, and must understand the need to give a cooperative counterpart some statement, award, or tangible achievement which may be used in a direct mail appeal or a grant application. Empowering loyal opposition, whichever side of the fence one is on, is empowering oneself as well, because it increases one’s effective influence.

8) **Halt classroom dissection at all levels below upper division university level courses for people majoring or minoring in biomedical subjects.** Public revulsion at laboratory use of animals grows directly from the near-universal memory of having been compelled to dissect a frog or whatever, or to watch such a dissection, as nothing more than a rite of passage in a mandatory course somewhere, from which the average student remembers little else with comparable vividness. Whatever scientists may say or do to express concern and respect for the animal lives they take is offset by the memory of lab instructors and fellow students trying to offset their misgivings with dark witicisms.

If the research and teaching communities can bring themselves to give up classroom dissection requirements for non-majors and minors, the animal rights cause will both gain a long-sought victory and lose the most effective means it has of recruiting support for antivivisection work. The trade should help both teams—and save the lives of up to 15 million invertebrates, 3.2 million frogs, 1.5 million mammals, and a million fish per year—about as many animals as are used in actual research and professional training.

9) **Quit buying animals from random source dealers.** Vendors of random-source dogs and cats are now the least important source of animals used in labs, in terms of numbers used, yet cause the most complaints about unethical procurement, including outright theft, and inhumane holding conditions. Every cent that biomedical researchers save in obtaining random source dogs and cats is offset by a dollar’s worth of suspicion.

Cease using random source animals, and the animal rights movement will be obliged to quit claiming that biomedical researchers are responsible for families losing pets.

10) **Advertise your positions to one another,** respectfully acknowledging critics; recognize that while certain disagreements rooted in values and conscience may never be resolved, activists and researchers do share some common concerns; and explain what either side has done to meet those concerns.

ANIMAL PEOPLE believes that if opponents are addressed as one group of conscientious people speaking to another, then as primates, first cousins to both the violent chimpanzees and the peaceable bonobos, researchers and activists can come to respect each other as honorable opposition.

This, we further believe, is the approach most likely to reduce scientific use of animals the fastest.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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ANIMAL PEOPLE does not publish fiction or poetry.



Letters

Working in China

I was interested in the letter from David Usher about animal fighting for entertainment at Wonderland of Southwest China, published in the April edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. As the Far East Representative of the Born Free Foundation (which includes ZooCheck) this kind of problem is very much in my remit. It is a vast problem quite beyond our tiny resources, but we do what we can.

We have several thrusts to our policy:

1. We collect information, which is stored at the BFF headquarters in the United Kingdom. I do a lot of travelling in China and Southeast Asia, and have personally visited many of the zoos, circuses, safari parks, theme parks, etc. In addition, many kind people write to us with examples of problems they come across.

2. We try to forge relationships with the Chinese authorities. In this we have found our cooperation with the International Fund for Animal Welfare invaluable. I see a lot of criticism of IFAW in your paper but certainly as far as China is concerned they are doing a magnificent job. For Earth Day, on April 20th, IFAW, BFF and EarthCare are giving a joint presentation in Beijing.

3. We believe the real answer is basic education and we are encouraging local Chinese groups to set up Humane Education Centres. EarthCare is a Hong Kong registered charity set up with this purpose. If anyone is interested in any of this, please contact me.

I should be very grateful if you would publish this. I am a regular and avid reader of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

—John Wedderburn
8 Vivian Court
20 Mount Kellett Road
The Peak, Hong Kong

Hiring help

Working with animal shelters for over 30 years, I have determined one very important thing: the most dedicated help you will ever find are people who would be doing the work anyway. Large humane organizations should keep this in mind when they are deciding who shall be hired.

—Carolyn Stevens
Inherit The Earth
Crawfordsville, Indiana

Freedom of Information Act

I notice that you are a frequent user of the Freedom of Information Act. Our Cincinnati activist group got its start 15 years ago when a member, John Rockwell, discovered through the Freedom of Information Act that a veterinarian was experimenting on beagles for Procter & Gamble in a lab behind his animal hospital. For several months our small group picketed and generated publicity.

July 4, 1996 marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Freedom of Information Act. I recommend that the law and its author be honored with public appreciation.

—Elizabeth Lemlich
Bellevue, Kentucky

CORRECTIONS

Otters

Because of incorrect information received from the *Chicago Tribune*, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in April that Illinois is “without an otter restoration program.”

Responded Elaine Hopkins of the *Peoria Journal-Star*, “That just proves the *Tribune* doesn’t cover all news. We’ve done a couple of stories on it. The next otter releases will be done on April 20. I’ll cover it, at Bloomington’s Lake Evergreen.”

In fact, Illinois has released 131 otters at six locations since 1994.

Marching Orders

Because the information was received from In Defense of Animals, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in April misattributed to IDA the Freedom Ride for the Animals bus convoy, actually organized by Last Chance for Animals, which will be protesting its way across the U.S. to the June 23 March for the Animals in Washington D.C. For details, call LCA at 310-271-6096.

Wrong Cindy

Reporting on recent staff changes at the American SPCA, we confused Cindy Adams in publications with Cindy Francicelli in humane education. Cindy Adams is still there; Cindy Francicelli departed to become a nurse.

ANIMAL PEOPLE

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More letters

Burnout

In response to Nancy Draper’s letter about burnout, relationships, and coping with animal suffering, if she has been in animal rights for 12 years she has undoubtedly done *something* of value. Hey Nancy, pat yourself on the back and feel good about all the good you do! As long as there are ignorant, careless, and heartless people in the world, senseless animal suffering will continue. You can’t save all the animals right this minute, but you can make a difference just by doing whatever you can and not giving up.

As for stressing out personal relationships with people who are not as involved with animals, when I started picking up strays off the street years ago, my husband would flip out. Now he helps out. I think we all inspire and encourage others by the examples we set.

I don’t preach or judge anyone too harshly for not agreeing with me. Words may come back to that person years later, when he or she is ready to change, and if you come across as a kind, generous, open, compassionate person, chances are your message may be remembered as valuable.

I’ve met lots of odd people in the animal rights movement who are more comfortable in the company of animals than in the company of people, because they cannot express themselves fully or cope with their rage at the world. Some of them care deeply about animals because when they were growing up, the only spirit that cared about them was animal, rather than human. Some of them have such low self-esteem that they don’t think any person would find them worthy, whereas an animal responds to love offered.

I know that bringing joy into this world by saving animal lives is worth the effort. I feel great about myself every time I do. I don’t worry about the people who burn out. I hope others will come forward to take their place. We expect a lifetime commitment of anyone who adopts a rescued cat or dog from us. I have made the same lifetime commitment to reach out and change people’s consciousness about animals.

Of course I have to pace myself and take a break from it at times, but no athlete can run a marathon every day.

—Anne Singer
President
The Hudson County Animal League
Jersey City, New Jersey

Vets barred from helping

I would like to call your attention to a situation that has developed since Florida Statute 474.215 was passed last year, sponsored by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association. The statute basically says that any veterinarian who volunteers or is paid for his service at any location other than his place of business must have a \$250 binannual permit, plus an annual \$25-per-location permit, and must meet strict regulations in order to have any type of non-surgical clinic, such as a low-cost vaccination clinic or other health check clinics.

When FVMA wrote the statute, they promised to exempt all animal welfare agencies, but did not put the exemption in the bill.

Animal welfare groups have been stopped or have announced they will not conduct vaccination clinics for financial and regulatory reasons. One example of this injustice is the Humane Society of Gilchrist County. There is no animal shelter and no veterinarian in the county. They rely on veterinarians to come in from surrounding counties, but this will not happen now because of the fees.

Meanwhile, there were 251 confirmed cases of rabies in Florida last year, and public health officials say we are well on our way to an epidemic.

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Board of Veterinary Medicine has the authority to grant the exemption, but has twice refused to do so.

With the Florida Animal Control Association and the All Breed Rescue Coordinating Council, the Network Of Humane Organizations of Florida is gathering support from the several hundred Florida animal welfare organizations to demand the exemptions. Two national humane organizations, so far, have expressed their concern with this type of legislation and have agreed to work with us.

For the state to require veterinarians to pay a fee and meet strict regulations to volunteer their services to help animal welfare groups help pet owners is unacceptable.

—Paul Kershner
President
Network of Humane Organizations of Florida
Beverly Hills, Florida

Co-option

Your stories of co-option and even fraud by supposed animal rights groups are valuable. However, aren’t you guilty of some co-option yourself? I’m not talking about greed-directed co-option, but socio-political co-option. The women’s lib propaganda takes up way too much room. That movement is thoroughly humanistic, and hypocritical at that.

—Mrs. B.A. Fusaro
Tallahassee, Florida

Goals

Great issue for March on cats. Here are some further thoughts:

Population Control Euthanasia (PCE) at shelters is a polite but not very accurate way of describing the killing of pets by humane means because homes cannot be found for them.

I am not sure that “going where the homeless cats are to do neutering” is either necessary or sufficient to end PCE. For example, we just ran “double subsidy month” for our low-cost spay program in Butte County. We did 95 cat spays in February. If we add to these the cat spays we did in 1995 and assume we will keep neutering at the same rate, we predict we will do 341 cat spays this year.

These cats belong to low income people who would not otherwise have their cats spayed, whose cats are therefore at high risk of breeding. We estimate saving two litters of 4.5 kittens each for each spay done. That would mean 3,069 less births of catchable cats, since the cats we are dealing with were not trapped. Indeed, most of the 5,500 cats brought to our local shelters last year were not trapped. Animal control picked up about half the cat input; the other half were brought in by owners. We will do enough spaying this year to eliminate killing those cats who do not need to be trapped, i.e. tame cats, many of them kittens.

Should we now make a distinction between homeless tame and homeless feral cats? Does it make sense to save the homeless tame, but not the homeless feral? Are not homeless feral cats by definition overpopulation—the ideal population being zero? Is the goal zero population of homeless feral cats? Are not all feral cats homeless? Do we get to zero population by ending births as a better option to killing? Better in what way? Your data shows some 28% of homeless cats die humanely while the other 72% die horrible deaths. After release, do the altered have more gentle endings?

And how do you define a goal for your humane program that has accountability as a bottom line? Here accountability means some numerical measure of how close to the goal is actually reached. Are we trying to minimize suffering of the feline species? Or the tame part of the feline species? How do you factor longevity, presumably a plus, against the suffering at the end, definitely a minus? Is money spent on neuter/release so spent at cost of supplying veterinary care and rehabilitation, that could bring overall improvement in feline welfare?

Obviously it is easier to raise questions than to find satisfactory answers. Sorry about that.

—L. Robert Plumb
Promotion of Animal Welfare Society
Paradise, California

Feral Press, April/May/June

Justin Dalzell, age 3, displayed 25 watercolors last summer at the Boom Boom Room Cafe in West Hollywood, with a sign soliciting funds to help homeless animals. On December 22, Justin donated the take— \$52—to the LA/SPCA. His gift was noted in the April 16 edition of Women’s World. LA/SPCA executive director Madeline Bernstein is at left, his mother Jerry at right. (LA/SPCA photo courtesy of Mary Wamsley.)

Push neutering

Does your favorite animal shelter deserve your donation? Ask before sending in your money if every animal is altered before release to the new owner. If not, your shelter is perpetuating and adding to the number of unwanted animals in excess of available homes.

A contract and a small discount coupon are no guarantee that altering will be done. The grim reality is that a high proportion of these adopted animals will not be altered before they have at least one litter. Many shelters realize this and are changing their policies so that every animal they adopt is altered before release, even six-to-eight-week-old puppies and kittens, in a procedure which the American Veterinary Medical Association has endorsed and which has been very successful. These shelters are recording fewer animals being turned in and lower euthanasia rates.

If the goal of a shelter is to end overpopulation, this is the most important step to take. Make your shelter implement mandatory neutering prior to release of any animal. They need your support; let them prove they are doing a good job by their actions.

—Elizabeth Kantanen
Chicago, Illinois

Kantanen arranged low-cost neutering for Chicago residents for years before it was offered by major shelters serving the area.

SF/SPCA (May, June, July)

Not my problem

After nearly 20 years of dealing with feral cats, it has really been hitting home of late that this is not my problem. For years I have thought that I or my organization must raise more money for the cats, that I or my organization must rescue more animals, that I or my organization must foster, adopt out, and so forth, more and more ferals. Without giving it much thought, I internalized society’s problem and made it my own, simply because I cared. Obviously many others have shared my perspective. But of late, I keep thinking that the feral cat problem is certainly not of my doing, wondering how I can throw it back at society and demand societal participation in curing this ill.

Applying general fund money to subsidize low-cost neutering, as many communities have begun to do in hopes of realizing greater savings in animal control, is a marvelous thought. It can be very difficult, as you well know, to get people responsible for thoughtless breeding or abandonment to recognize and rectify their mistakes. However, the application of even small amounts of general fund money toward preventing homeless animal births constitutes recognition that these animals are a public problem and that society does have an obligation to humanely address it.

—Petra Murray
N.J. Pet Overpopulation Solutions
Howell, New Jersey

Stay tuned for Tweetie and Sylvester!

Cats kill untold numbers

I read with great interest your coverage of homeless cats. Trying to reduce stray cat numbers and euthanasias is an admirable quest.

Neutering stray cats is a fantastic idea; releasing them is not. I work in a wildlife rehabilitation center. Every year we receive hundreds of injured birds and small mammals. Some of their injuries are caused by cars and other factors, but the majority, particularly to birds, are caused by roaming cats. Most of the injured animals die from their injuries, or from the stress of their experience. Most of the deaths could be prevented. Most of the cat attacks are by owned cats; the owners bring in the victims. The owners should recognize their responsibility to keep their cats indoors. Cats kill untold numbers of songbirds, snakes, and small mammals, including bunnies and baby squirrels, every day. These deaths dent the populations of whole species, particularly songbirds. If a cat being fed by an owner hunts and kills animals, imagine what a homeless, hungry cat kills just to survive.

I believe releasing a cat is never a viable alternative. Emphasis must be placed on taking cats to shelters and promoting adoptions. Cats who are not adopted will have to be euthanized. As depressing as this is, it is preferable to endangering more wildlife. Wildlife have enough stresses already, without introducing another predator into their midst.

I am a big cat lover. I have a pet cat at home, whom I rescued from a dumpster. I would like to see all cats happy and healthy, but I also want to keep wildlife healthy, without unnecessary maimings and deaths.

—Kathy White
Virginia Living Museum Rehabilitation Center
Newport News, Virginia

The editor replies:

Behavioral studies indicate the typical free-roaming cat kills an average of one smaller animal per day, enough to meet the cat’s metabolic needs. Feral cats and roving owned cats kill about the same number of animals apiece, but while ferals behave like other predators, killing food, conserving energy by rarely killing what they won’t eat, roving owned cats kill for sport, kill everything that moves, and are correspondingly much more deadly relative to time spent at large.

Of the 63 million owned cats in the U.S., about a third wander, according to Karen Johnson’s studies for the National Pet Alliance. Add about 35 million homeless cats, on year-round average, fluctuating between roughly 26 million in winter, 40 million in summer. Thus 56 million cats likely kill 20.5 billion wild animals per year.

While the carnage is clearly astronomical, it is much less clear that cats “dent the populations of whole species, particularly songbirds.” This is often alleged, but the cat/bird relationship, like most predator/prey relationships, is much more complex than the evidence of killed and maimed carcasses tends to suggest, and warrants more careful study than it has yet received. Undoubtedly, cats damage the populations of some endangered songbirds—and compete with hawks and owls for rodents. Yet the usual response of a prey population to heavy predation is to breed more young. Thus it is possible that feline predation stimulates the reproduction of some birds, as well as mice, rabbits, and squirrels. It is also likely that the fecundity of cats, unique among predators, reflects their own role as prey for larger predators, for example coyotes (and perhaps, their history as frequent victims of human-waged extermination efforts.)

Further, the presence of cats does keep some poten-

tially more dangerous predators away. For example, we brought all the cats in our personal neuter/release project indoors after two years, to halt the killing of chipmunks. One year later, we had abundant chipmunks. But perhaps because the cats were gone, ermine moved into the stone wall where the chipmunks lived. Ermine go right down into dens—and now we seem to have a spring without any chipmunks.

Neuter/release is not a perfect solution, but does paradoxically seem to be the fastest way to eliminate homeless cats—and not only because of the rapid attrition of most released colonies. Homeless cat population dynamics are closely related to the activity of cat-feeders, who differ from rescuers in their emphasis on feeding rather than capture, and are typically middle-aged to elderly, socially isolated (often by bereavement), and are frequently not allowed to keep pets wherever they live. If catch-and-kill is the order of the day, feeders typically form an underground to protect “their” cats from extermination. Organizing them to do neuter/release, on the other hand, gives them much-needed human contact; brings their work under supervision; and wins their trust. When cat-feeders trust humane workers, they are far more likely to help remove adoptable cats, as well as sick or injured cats, and to share the eventual goal of zero homeless cats.

Response to Bennett County

The letters from the Bennett County High School students in your April issue were deplorable. Obviously they were using the arguments of their parents in defense of rodeo, eating meat, and hunting.

These young people should learn some facts. A calf roped and busted suffers medical trauma. Two of the Bennett County students admit that the animals get hurt, but not “that much.” I should like to know these young people’s idea of “much.” Rodeo animals often get their necks, backs, and legs broken, and have to be destroyed.

As for eating meat, the taste is not the point. Informed people know that meat can be the cause of death from various diseases, not to mention heart attacks.

Two other Bennett County students must have had a personal message from God, to claim that beef cattle were put on the earth for our use. In early Biblical times, humans were vegetarians. Eliminating meat and using the grain to feed people in Third World countries would save millions of lives.

Another Bennett County student argues that hunting is safe. If hunting is so safe, why are we always reading about hunters and others being accidentally shot by hunters? And it certainly isn’t safe for the animals.

Finally, these young people should read more carefully. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** obviously does not support trapping and dam-dynamiting!

P.S.—In response to the “Premarin problem” letter, from registered nurse David Knowles, one alternative to Premarin, Estrace, is cheaper here than Premarin, so cost does not have to be a problem. Also, my doctor recommends a vaginal cream that he researched and found to be a synthetic: Ortho-Dienestrol. Other synthetics and non-Premarin generics should be available before long, enabling him to satisfy the interests of his patients and his conscience as well.

—Landra Shane
St. Petersburg, Florida

HUMANE FARMING ASSOCIATION (paid through 1/97)

I was a fish killer

by Steve Hindi

I first fished at age five, with my brother Greg, who is one year younger. Each of us caught a perch out of a lake in St. Paul, Minnesota. Fascinated, we watched the two perch swim around in a small bucket until first one and then the other died. I don't remember what happened to their bodies, but I know they were not large enough to eat.

Perch are plentiful, and easy to hook, and are therefore considered to be a good species for practice fishing.

Many members from both sides of my family were fishers, as well as hunters, trappers, and ranchers. A couple of dead perch didn't rate much concern. Like most children, we learned what we were taught, setting aside whatever qualms we may have felt. Our mother raised us to care for cats and dogs, and we regularly took in strays, despite housing project rules which forbade it. However, we were told that fish had no feelings, and we killed them with abandon.

Our first decade or so were spent pursuing panfish, as they were prevalent around the lakes we were able to walk to. Sometimes family members and friends drove us to other lakes. On a good day we would fill up buckets or stringers of sunfish, crappies, bullheads and perch. Sometimes they were eaten, and sometimes they were simply thrown away. The most important thing was the acquisition: the victory.

In our early teens we also fished for carp. Although they are considered a "trash" species, not recognized as "game," they are much larger and fight much harder. Carp typically were left to suffocate on the shore. We were told this was good for the other fish in the lake, as carp supposedly turned the bottom to mud. Sometimes I would give a fleeting thought to whether these animals suffered as they lay gasping on the shore. Like catfish and bullheads, carp take a long time to suffocate. After a while, we would hit carps' heads with rocks to kill them quickly.

Once we brought M-80 firecrackers to the lake. We stuffed one into the gill of a large carp, lit the waterproof fuse, and released him. Seconds later the water erupted in a red spray. When the muddy water cleared, we saw the carp's head, blasted away from his body. I watched tentacles of flesh sway back and forth in the current. Small fish inspected them with curiosity. For some reason we felt bad about this, although no one said anything in particular. We did not do that again. Looking back at it, however, I guess that victim suffered far less than those who suffocated.

In our late teens we got our own cars, and turned our attention to different lakes and larger game fish - trout, bass, walleyes and northern pike. Of these, northerns were my favorite, because of their aggressive nature. Often we bought large sucker minnows as bait. The suckers were hooked just under and to the rear of the dorsal fin, in a way that would allow as much movement as possible, and would maximize their survival time. Some fishers would run the hook through their eyes. The suckers were thrown out and suspended under a bobber, or were held close to the bottom by a lead sinker. The bobber was big enough to prevent the minnow from pulling it underwater, but small enough to be taken down by a larger predator as it grabbed the minnow.

Although we were told, and wanted to believe, that fish did not feel fear or pain, we almost always knew when a predator approached the sucker. The bobber would begin to bounce and move; although the sucker wasn't big enough to sink the bobber, his or her panic was obvious. The bobber jerked, pulsed, and slowly dragged across the water as the bigger fish approached.

Often the predator would only strike the sucker and let go, probably sensing that something was wrong. We would reel the smaller fish in to find him, or her, often still alive but ripped to shreds. At one point I decided that live bait fishing was cruel and not particularly "sporting," and I pursued my prey thereafter with artificial lures or dead

bait. This, I felt, would be more humane.

As time went on, we increasingly often addressed matters of ethics and conservation, at least superficially. Spokespeople for fishing began talking of catch-and-release. This, they assured, would secure both the future of our victims, and the tradition of humans harassing and killing them. In catch-and-release, we would hook our prey, allow them to suffer as they fought for their lives, and then release them, hoping they would survive to endure this torture again.

What we never bothered to admit was that any supposed quest for food, our supposed primary objective as hunters, played no part in our new ethic. Yet we could not admit that the vast majority of us were pulling hooks into the mouths, eyes, tongues, throats and internal organs of animals simply because we loved the feeling of their struggle against our cruelty.

At about the same time catch-and-release became popular, there came another move to make fish abuse more "sporting." This time the ethical gurus decided that fishers should use lighter gear to fight our victims. It was of course no accident that the move spawned a whole new avenue for profit. There were smaller reels, lighter lines, and lighter rods made of new materials. New record classifications were developed that gave almost anyone a chance to hold a "world record" because he or she killed a weird-size fish with some weird-class line. Fishing magazines taught anglers new methods to use with ultra-light gear. For me, ultra-light methods were a very successful method of destroying many species of fish.

Of course, using ultra-light gear condemned our victims to more suffering than ever in the name of sportsmanship. We thought it was great. A small fish could be fought not for a couple minutes, but perhaps for a quarter of an hour, half an hour, or more. As someone who invested heavily in ultra-light gear, I was able to in some cases extend my victims' misery for hours. I even wrote articles on the subject that appeared in local fishing magazines.

Coming of age

As I reached my early twenties, I continued my quest for bigger fish. One goal was to catch a fish over forty pounds. For a midwestern freshwater fisher, this was not easy. Few midwestern freshwater species ever top forty pounds. I wanted either a muskie or a chinook salmon, and for a few years spent plenty of time, effort, and money in both U.S. and Canadian waters, searching for my trophy. When I wasn't fishing, I was either working to make the money I needed to pursue fish, planning my next expedition, or reading up on my obsession. A library book about shark fishing almost immediately convinced me to try it. Over the next few months, I made ready for a trip to the Atlantic Ocean.

At first, my conversion to shark fishing seemed to quell a fairly quiet but nagging voice suggesting that killing animals, especially those much smaller than me, was not completely defensible as a hobby. Many fish species are under incredible pressure from humans, but I told myself, as sport fishers still tell themselves, that commercial fishers do the real damage. Commercial fishers, of course, claim the opposite. In truth, there is a fine, often indistinguishable line between the two factions. We are all guilty, though few who still fish will admit it.

In the spring of 1985 I drove to Montauk Point, Long Island, New York. I immediately found that my preparations were completely inadequate. Nevertheless, by a stroke of luck and macho stupidity, I succeeded in killing a seven-and-a-half foot, 230-pound mako shark, despite of my under-sized boat and equipment. My fish story about the one who didn't get away was written up in the *New York Daily News*. For the next few years I heard my story retold by those who did not know I was the human participant, and it was a real ego boost.

Experts say koi, a variety of carp, have intelligence at the dog or cat level. (K.B.)

Fishermen love to tell stories, whether their own or someone else's. Every year, the fish became larger and the boat became smaller. In truth, I had ambushed a fish who was merely seeking a meal, and subjected him to five hours of agony before killing him.

For some years the mounted shark hung as a trophy on my office wall. At home were other mounted animal bodies, testimony to my insecurity, insensitivity, and willingness to kill for fun. As I look back, the whole thing seems quite macabre. Over the next few years I went to the ocean at least twice a year, for two or three weeks at a time. I bought a new boat, made for ocean fishing, and named it the *One Resolve*, because of my determination to hunt and kill a rare thousand-plus-pound great white shark. I stole the lives of uncounted victims of many species. But what should have been a killer's dream come true was somehow losing its luster over time and death.

On occasion we would go night fishing for tuna offshore. Tuna are large, very strong fish, with rigid bodies. Once pulled onto the deck of the boat, they beat their tails incredibly fast and furiously. They can break a fisherman's foot. When the bite was on, the deck could literally be full of tuna struggling for life. In order to keep them still, we simply put a cloth over their exposed eye to block the light and calm them, much as you would calm a horse. This was a problem. Much like a horse? How much like a horse? I wouldn't do this to a horse. Why was I doing this?

For years, I managed not to answer that question.

Chumming

There was also the time that sea birds were bothering our lines in the chum slick. A chum slick is a gooey mixture of ground-up fish, dumped into the water to attract sharks. It also attracts birds, who swoop down to pick at bits and pieces of fish. Sometimes birds would hit our lines, or temporarily get their feet caught in the line. One day when the sharks weren't biting, that was more than I was willing to tolerate. One bird was particularly bold, and refused to react to yells, waves or anything else I did to dissuade him. So I shot him.

At that close range, he was dead immediately. His body upended, and his legs flailed. While my logical mind knew he was gone, my conscience told me that I had done something rotten, and to finish it. But the shotgun jammed. The next thirty seconds seemed like thirty minutes as the bird's legs kicked and "ran," and slowly came to a halt. It was almost half an hour before his body floated out of sight. I watched almost the entire time, knowing I was the world's biggest asshole, trying desperately and unsuccessfully to convince myself that I had a good reason to do it.

Then my brother and I encountered a baby mako shark next to the boat, in our chum slick. Mako sharks are fearsome-looking, with large gnarly teeth and coal-black eyes that make them look as if always enraged. But this miniature version, of about twenty pounds, was just plain cute, like a lion cub trying to strut his stuff with baby growls and tiny hops, feigning attack.

My brother Greg asked if he could catch the baby, and have him mounted. This was a common practice, but one that I abhorred. This was, after all, a baby. From a fisher's view, however, he was also a lot cheaper to mount, and did not require the

room a large fish did to display. Initially I refused to allow the capture, but when the baby hung around to gorge on the chum, a sorry version of brotherly love won out.

No effort at all was required to capture the baby. Greg stuck a dead hooked mackeral in front of him, he grabbed it, was hooked, and Greg swung him into the boat, into a fish hold. We did not shoot or even hit the baby in the head: that would ruin the mount. I don't remember how long it took him to die, but it was very long. Every now and then I would open the hatch to see if he was dead yet, and he would look at me. Sharks can move their eyes to a point, and they can and do follow activities around them. I will never forget that baby watching me as I waited for him to die. This was probably the lowest I dropped in my long history of killing.

Then came the day that a friend and I hooked into the largest mako shark I ever saw. She looked like an ICBM missile when she jumped, and my friend and I were so fearful that our legs shook. This was going to be the trophy of our lives. For the next two hours we fought and fought just to get the huge animal close to the boat. But a short time after the fish began the familiar circling around the boat that indicated the start of fatigue, the hook pulled out. Probably she had been "foul hooked," meaning hooked in the body somewhere other than the mouth.

Our dreams of a "monster kill" were shattered. We fished the area for the rest of our trip, but without ever so much as seeing our "trophy" again. When we were ready to leave for home, we were still sulking like scolded puppies. I moaned and groaned my disappointment to the marina manager, with whom I had become good friends.

His response was not what I expected. He looked me in the eye and said, "Steve, I'm glad you didn't kill that fish." I was so taken aback, I said nothing. He told me that such a large mako was almost certainly a female. He said he recently learned that females had to attain many hundreds of pounds before even reaching the age of giving birth. With the mako population in serious decline, he said, we had to stop killing them. This made sense to me, even if I still wanted that "trophy." But then he said, "I'll tell you the truth, I just don't know how much more of this killing I can take."

Oh shit. Now that nagging voice I was hearing for years wasn't just in the back of my mind any more. It was being voiced right in front me, by a friend. I didn't know what to say, except to murmur that I respected his right to his opinion. I didn't say that I was having a tougher and tougher time trying to deny this feeling in myself.

One of the last straws occurred at a most odd time. I was fishing with a friend

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“God knows how I fought to continue to kill.”

and working companion named Rick, with whom I had taken a number of successful fishing trips in the past. We hooked a 200-pound mako shark right at the end of the day. The fish jumped repeatedly and fought hard, all of which we should have enjoyed immensely. Having brought the victim to the side of the boat, I made a good shot with my .357 magnum revolver, right on top of his head, resulting in an instant kill. Rick and I brought our victim right up next to the boat, and as was customary, I sank my hunting knife right behind his head to sever the spinal cord. This insured that sharks, who are very tenacious of life, were truly dead.

As the beautiful luminescent blue of the mako began to turn to turn gray with death, I turned to Rick and said, “You know, I just don’t enjoy this the way I used to.”

There. I had said it. That nagging feeling that had dogged me for so long now had a voice, and was my own. But things got stranger when Rick, his smile disappearing, said, “You know, I feel the same way.”

What was my world coming to?

Hegins

I don’t know how long I might have been able to ignore my observance that I was doing something indefensible. It might have gone on for years. Fortunately, Hegins, Pennsylvania lay close to the route I took from Chicago to Montauk. On the way to my boat in 1989, I chose to stop and see the infamous Hegins Labor Day pigeon shoot.

After witnessing my first pigeon shoot, my perception of my animal trophies was never the same. But I did not quit killing easily. Initially, it never crossed my mind that I would actually stop doing what I had done for three decades. My intention was to stop these vile pigeon shoots, and then go on with the vile things I was doing. I approached many of my hunting and fishing friends for help in fighting pigeon shoots, which as I explained, were not only unethical, but cast all of us “legitimate sportsmen” in a bad light. With the exception of my brother, none of the great hunting “conservationists” were willing to take any time away from killing to actually try to help animals.

It was about a year before I gave up blood sports. God knows how I fought to continue to kill. Leaving blood sports meant accepting a whole new set of values, and eventually coming to terms with owing a debt I could never repay. But after Hegins, it became clear that I would have to try.

Greg and I buried our “trophy” victims, including my first shark and the baby mako, in a grave on our family property, next to the graves of beloved nonhuman family members. I donated the *One Resolve* to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. As I tearfully bade her good-bye, I renamed her the *New Resolve*, for she would now be used to save lives instead of taking them, to rescue marine animals in trouble, and to patrol for poachers. A few years later, we would even be briefly reunited on the coast of California, while trying to stop Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium from capturing dolphins.

When I first talked to activists about fishing, at Hegins in 1989, one person asked me, “Would you still fish if they had vocal cords?”

I believe the answer in most cases

would be no. Fishing is as popular as it is precisely because fish do not have the ability to communicate suffering as readily as cats, dogs, cows, or other mammals. But I know they suffer tremendously, just as we would if subjected to such horrendous treatment.

While many people may at first be taken aback at the mere suggestion that fish can suffer, I believe society can grasp the concept. And if we can make people feel for those who cannot cry out their suffering, how much more will they feel for those who can?

The Chicago Animal Rights Coalition has a plan to fight fishing. But our workload, lack of budget, and limited numbers will not allow us to do it right for probably a couple of years. So call us, at 708-552-7872, and we will happily tell you our ideas, which you can add to and improve. But in any case, please begin the long process of winning consideration for these silent, long forgotten victims.

In the process you might bring some relief and peace of mind to a repentant killer.

(Steve Hindi founded CHARC in August 1992.)

Remember what you did on your honeymoon? *Raymond and Lisa spent their honeymoon blasting prairie dogs!!!*

Prairie dog shoots are a booming business, says *The Wall Street Journal*. And though *The Wall Street Journal* doesn’t even have a society page, Raymond and Lisa’s honeymoon got a page one write-up on August 1, 1995:

Jerry Geidd, proprietor of South Dakota’s Western Safari, drives people to dog towns in his mud-splattered Chevy Suburban, then sets up a table and lets clients sit there for hours, blasting away. Miles Hutton, who operates a guide service in Turner, Montana, called Dogbusters, charges shooters \$160 a day, which is about average.

Raymond and Lisa V. went out with Mr. Hutton on their honeymoon in May 1993. We got married on a Saturday and on Tuesday we were out shooting, recalls Mr. V.

The rule, rather than the exception, is that

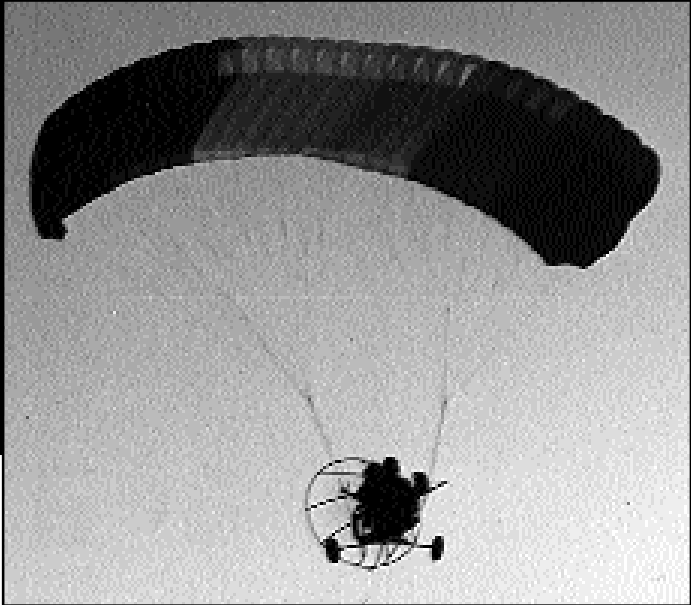
the guys want to see the dogs blown to smithereens, says Mr. Hutton. The terminology among shooters reflects that. A chamois shot is when the shooter sees a hide flying through the air, while red mist is self-explanatory.

Ned Kalbflesh, executive editor of the magazine *Varmint Hunter*, concedes that part of the appeal of prairie dog shooting is the sheer number of animals who can be killed in a day. But, he says, the social aspects of the sport are another big draw. People can talk to each other and sit in lawn chairs under an umbrella, he says. And for a lot of guys, this is the only type of shooting they do

We’re sorry Raymond and Lisa had such hostility to vent, just three days into their union. We’re sorry “a lot of these guys” have such dysfunctional relationships with women. But most of all, we’re sorry that prairie dogs are sadistically killed—by the thousand—to give animal serial killers their warped kicks.

Long persecuted by ranchers who didn’t know any better, prairie dogs are belatedly recognized by science as the keystone species of the Great Plains—the animals whose activity literally makes the most nutritious plants grow, enabling the range to support bison, elk, antelope, even cattle. Prairie dogs today survive at just 2% of their former numbers, on only 5% of their former range. Yet they’ve never been killed faster!

Please give generously to help CHARC use our wings and video equipment to stop this pointless, needless, thoroughly sick and senseless killing!



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Bill Clinton kisses up to hunters

Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON D.C.—Fending off “vicious rumors that the president is anti-hunting,” as one White House official put it, Bill Clinton on March 25 issued an executive order recognizing hunters and fishers as “first partners” in managing the U.S. National Wildlife Refuges.

“Compatible hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation are especially recognized in this Executive Order,” Clinton said.

The order means hunting and fishing may continue in the 274 of the 508 National Wildlife Refuges that now permit them, until and unless a refuge manager rules that they are incompatible with public safety and wildlife management. In effect, Clinton implemented much of the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act, pending before the House of Representatives, without touching other controversial parts.

Commented Paul Bedard of *The Washington Times*, “Mr. Clinton’s election-year move stops cold efforts by some in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban hunting and fishing in the federal refuges.”

Objected National Rifle Association spokesman Jim Manown, “He’s pandering to America’s hunters in an election year.” A longtime NRA goal is to open all National Wildlife Refuges to hunting.

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Dogs and cats to the rescue

(from page one)

puppy named Thunder bit and roused a would-be kidnapper who tried to take Cody Matthews, age 6, momentarily left alone while his mother used a bathroom.

On April 12, near Pilar, New Mexico, state police found Elisabeth Atencio, age 3, missing for 14 hours through a freezing night, safe and well amidst her three dogs—a Rottweiler, a Corgi, and an Australian shepherd.

That incident came a month and a day after a dachshund mix and a “heeler” mix, both strays, found Downs syndrome victim Josh Carlisle wandering in the woods near Cassville, Missouri; kept him warm through a three-day ordeal; and finally attracted rescuers by barking.

Only one of the early-year heroic animals was trained for the deed: Lyric, an Irish setter, who on March 13 pushed a special 911 button on the telephone of unconscious and asphixiating asthma sufferer Judy Bayly, 44, of Nashua, New Hampshire.

Not all the animal heroes seem to have been deliberately heroic. On April 8, police chased a dog running at large in Lake in the Hills, Illinois. Dashing home, the dog led them to Michael T. Day, on probation and wanted in four counties for alleged offenses including drunk driving, speeding, assault, and illegal possession of fireworks.

German shepherds

But who’s to say that the dog didn’t have a plan? One of the least mourned assassination victims in recent years was former Vichy police chief Rene Bousquet, 84, shot in his apartment on June 8, 1993, while awaiting trial for deporting 76,000 French Jews to Nazi death camps during World War II. Killer Christian Didier, 49, told police that when Bousquet’s German shepherd saw the gun, he hid.

German shepherds tend to be brave, loyal, territorial, even unafraid of guns: on January 7, 1986, a German shepherd named King took four bullets for Thomas Perkins, 77, of Boston, who was similarly attacked in his own apartment—but King never quit charging the attacker, finally did roust him, and survived to pose enthusiastically for photographs.

However, German shepherds also tend to be excellent judges of character. Evidently, Bousquet inspired neither the bravery nor the loyalty that Perkins did.

Thirteen German shepherds were among the 78 dogs involved in 75 recent

heroic dog and cat cases recently charted by ANIMAL PEOPLE in search of any common denominators. Most active of the German shepherds was another King, who made headlines in October 1989 by charging down a Toronto alley to chase away two men who were robbing and attempting to rape a 20-year-old woman. This King then licked and comforted the bruised and half-naked victim. Within the preceding year, the King of Toronto had rescued another woman from attempted rape, stopped a teenager from stealing a child’s bicycle, and bit a burglar. Owner Doug McCullough, a former police officer, rescued that King from the city pound, where he was to be euthanized after having being taken from a drug dealer.

Matronly German shepherds achieved memorable child rescues in January 1990 at Riudoso, New Mexico, and February 18, 1992, near Midland, Ontario.

In the New Mexico case, single mother Milay Denise Brady died suddenly while carrying groceries in from her car, leaving her one-year-old son Michael alone in an isolated house at high elevation, in sub-freezing weather, with no heat and the front door open. The family German shepherd took charge, keeping Michael warm until help arrived two days later.

In the Ontario case, Brian Holmes let his dog Samantha out early one morning—and she came back with a half-naked, nearly frozen three-year-old. The child’s mother was in the hospital, after giving birth to a second child the previous evening. The father, up half the night, fell asleep on a couch. The child woke up, got out of bed, and decided to go see his/her mother, not realizing that the hospital was 27 miles away.

Other breeds

Also on the ANIMAL PEOPLE case list were seven collies, collie mixes, and border collies, counted together because the reporting didn’t always make the breed plain. Virtually every common breed was represented, including a 12-pound Yorkshire terrier named Oliver, who on November 1, 1991 fought off an 80-pound Akita to save the life of neighbor Lillian Woodside, 79.

Pit bull terriers, Rottweilers, and wolf hybrids are notoriously dangerous, together accounting for 212 of the 257 life-threatening attacks by pet dogs recorded by the editor of ANIMAL PEOPLE since 1982, and 44 of the 56 actual fatalities. But among the canine heroes were also six Rottweilers,

including the four who distinguished themselves this year; four pit bull terriers; and one roving Malamute/wolf hybrid, who was hurt in knocking a Samoyed, with whom he wanted to mate, away from a speeding car.

A seven-year-old pit bull named Weela, the 1994 Dog Hero of the Year, actually holds the recent record for heroic rescues. During the three months of the 1994 southern California flooding, Weela, trained by Lori and Daniel Watkins, rescued 30 people, 29 dogs, 13 horses, and a cat. In some cases Weela found and led human rescuers to the victims; in others, she brought them to safety herself. The cat was among a group of 18 animals who were stranded on an island. Weela swam to them repeatedly, hauling 30 to 50 pounds of food at a time.

Historic deeds

Though the reporting may be more intense than ever before, the evidence is that some canines and felines have comparably distinguished themselves for as long as humans and their species have been companions—or even close neighbors. Rome, for instance, was founded on the mythic rescue of the twins Romulus and Remus by wolves.

Paul Revere in his memoirs wrote that when the need arose for him to make his famous ride to alert Lexington and Concord, at the outset of the American Revolution on April 18, 1775, he was caught without his spurs, on the wrong side of the British troops. He sent his dog home through the soliders with a note to his wife, and back the dog came, the spurs tied to her collar.

Mark Twain too remarked on heroic dogs. Two of his favorites were Bummer and Lazarus, a pair of San Francisco strays. In 1861, Bummer rescued Lazarus from the jaws of a much bigger dog. Moved, the city council in 1862 exempted both Bummer and Lazarus from San Francisco’s first running-at-large ordinance. Eight days later, Bummer stopped a runaway horse-and-carriage, saving several human lives. Unfortunately, Lazarus was poisoned by a man who said the dog bit his son, while in 1865 Bummer was kicked to death by a drunk. The pair were recalled by the historical fraternity *E Clampus Vitus* on March 29, 1992, with a commemorative plaque affixed to the Transamerica Pyramid, San Francisco’s tallest building, which stands roughly where Bummer and Lazarus lived.

The Canadian heroic dog tradition dates at least to 1832, when a Newfoundland

known only as “George Harvey’s dog” accompanied rescuers in their skiff to the scene of a shipwreck, swam to the sinking vessel, retrieved a rope, and dragged it through the heavy seas back to the skiff. The skiff crew anchored the rope to the shore and pulled 163 people to safety across it.

Recognition

The Dog Hero of the Year program, sponsored by various dog food companies over the years, annually receives 200 to 250 nominations from around the U.S., while Ralston Purina Canada’s Animal Hall of Fame has saluted circa 70 dogs, 20 cats, and a horse over the past 28 years.

Thirty-one messenger pigeons, 18 dogs, three horses, and a cat won the Dickin Medal, a British military honor discontinued in 1949. Among the most distinguished winners were Antis, a German shepherd who flew seven combat missions with Czech bomber pilot Jan Bozdech during 1941. Bozdech joined the Royal Air Force after escaping from Nazi occupation. He and

It wasn’t just Lassie—collies really are frequent heroes. (K.B.)

Antis first distinguished themselves, shortly after arriving in Liverpool, by digging four air raid survivors from the rubble of a bombed house.

Simon the cat won one of the last Dickin Medals. Simon, a black-and-white tom, though singed and wounded by hostile fire, continued to roust rats from the supplies the *HMS Amethyst* was taking up the Yangtse River on April 20, 1949, to relieve the besieged British embassy in Nanking. Dying in quarantine upon entry into Britain, he received the medal posthumously

ANIMAL PEOPLE discovered only one clear trend among the 75 cases we charted: one reported incident is almost always followed soon by another, and another, until the public becomes jaded and heroic animal stories fade from print.

Animals, meanwhile, go on doing what they’ve always done. While most of the animal heroes are dogs and cats, this appears to be simply because most humans are in closest proximity to dogs and cats.

ANIMAL PEOPLE charted 11 cases of dogs alerting humans to fires, fumes, or other imminent life-threatening disasters, and five cases of cats doing likewise. But sleep apnea sufferer Duane

True Nature Network
April-May-June

Rottweilers figured in four early 1996 rescues. (K.B.)

ALLEY CAT ALLIES through May

On January 17, 1994, an earth - quake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale hit Simi Valley, California, collapsing buildings and killing 61 people. Myrna Huffman was nearly among them—but as an oak wall unit toppled on her, as she lay asleep in bed, a Samoyed named Stella leaped to take the blow. Four legs spread the impact; both survived. Another heroic Samoyed, Sara, summoned help on October 4, 1992, when Donald Strickland, 61, of Philadelphia, fell down a steep embankment into the Schuylkill River. Jill, above, is companion to John and Matia Stevenson; John is president of the North Shore Animal League and the Pet Savers Foundation. (Photo by Kim Bartlett.)

Heroic animals (conclusion)

Wright, 47, of Tucson, Arizona, was saved under similar circumstances in May 1994 by his pet iguana. When Wright quit breathing circa 1:30 a.m., the iguana woke him up with her claws and tail.

The 75 cases examined also included 12 rescues of lost or abandoned children, along with five foiled kidnappings, and seven rescues of children from other dangerous animals and/or speeding vehicles.

Strays

The strangest of the 75 cases may be the appearance of a mixed-breed stray at the foot of Mount Aconcagua, Argentina, the highest mountain in the world outside the Himalayas, in mid-February 1995. The dog followed a team led by Austrian guide Armin Liedl as they started to climb, then disappeared, only to reappear later, shivering, outside Liedl's tent. Liedl adopted the dog and named him Summit. At 21,000 feet, two climbers got lost and suffered altitude sickness. Summit found them, then barked to bring help. Eventually Summit joined Liedl at the summit—but vanished on the descent.

The child rescues tend to be the most moving. There are cases on record of both cats and dogs finding and saving abandoned newborns—and frequently the altruistic animals are themselves abandoned strays. No one ever got to thank a German shepherd who saved an abandoned newborn in Detroit on a cold night in November 1986: warming and licking the child for hours, she fled when police picked the child up. A nameless mutt who found and saved an abandoned child near Oakdale, California, on July 13, 1995, did get thanks—and was run over by a TV crew's truck, suffering a broken leg.

In Bhadrak, Orissa state, India, on November 18, 1994, two stray dogs found and revived a baby girl whose "remains" had been exposed to scavengers, as is Parsee custom, after she was pronounced stillborn and dead by a government hospital.

Why?

Such cases are commonly explained by animal behaviorists as examples of the animals extending their parental instincts to humans. The same explanation is offered for marine mammals, especially dolphins, who several times a year reportedly push drowning humans to shore. Supposedly the animals respond to the struggling people as they would to newborns of their own species, shoving him or her to the surface to breathe. That doesn't explain, though, why in 1991 a dolphin off Bangladesh reportedly took a baby in her mouth, who had been swept to sea by a tidal wave, and delivered the child back to his/her home village. The account might have been garbled in translation, but if any semblance of the deed actually happened, it is worth noting that wild dolphins don't normally carry their own babies in their teeth, or anything else that can't be dunked underwater. Maternal instincts may well be involved, but not without thought.

A different instinct supposedly explains Priscilla the Pig, who on July 29, 1984, at age three months, pulled a drowning mentally handicapped boy from Lake Somerville, near Houston. According to newspaper accounts, the pig just happened to be swimming nearby. Carol Burk, a friend of Priscilla's owner, yelled for the boy to grab the pig's leash. He did. Panicked, Priscilla made for shore, without apparent heroic intent.

Self-interest is the sort of explanation also offered most often for cases of cats alerting owners to fires, fumes, earthquakes, and so forth. Cats, it is said, have no altruism directed beyond their own young. Toto the tabby was purportedly just saving his own fur when in March 1944 he went berserk, driving his family outdoors just before Mount Vesuvius erupted, crushing the village and killing 30 of their neighbors.

Likewise, the cat Ugly Sister was purportedly just saving herself on July 16 in Beijing, China, when she woke her family by meowing and scratching their legs, then pushed open a window and fled. But that

Golden retrievers are also frequent heroes.
(Photo by Sylvia Forsmith.)

doesn't explain why she immediately returned inside and pulled the pants of her owner until all six family members followed her out of the house—seconds before the two-story mud structure collapsed. Perhaps Ugly Sister identified the six people with kittens, a reversal of the theory that cats accept humans as surrogate mothers.

Jack Fyfe, 75, of Sydney, Australia, could testify to canine thinking in a pinch. His dog Trixie understood the word "water." Paralyzed by a stroke in June 1992, he lay in his bed for nine days, avoiding death of dehydration by asking Trixie to bring water—which she did by soaking a towel in water and dragging it over his face.

Most dogs are probably not that smart. But then, most humans are probably not as dimwitted as Donnie Chastang, 26, and Robyn Stack, 28, who in mid-July 1991 lost their three-month-old son in the woods during a cocaine party, near Mobile, Alabama. Fortunately their dog, a male chow named Bear, took charge of the boy and protected him from all harm but a few bug bites. Chastang and Stack were jailed.

News media apparently didn't record what became of the boy and Bear, whose motive, whatever it was, certainly was not the hope of making headlines.

—Merritt Clifton

IT WORKS IN SAN FRANCISCO— WHAT ABOUT MILWAUKEE?

MILWAUKEE—Wisconsin Humane Society executive director Victoria Wellens isn't worried about the flak she's catching for giving up 19 animal control contracts over the next year and a half. She's been shot at since she was hired in 1994.

Formerly executive director of the Christophe Memorial YMCA in Waukesha, Wellens inherited a dilapidated shelter, a building fund that wasn't growing fast enough to build much soon, a falling adoption rate, plunging donations, a demoralized staff, and perhaps the most militant cadre of critics between New York and San Francisco—despite overall intake, adoption, and euthanasia statistics that couldn't have been closer to the U.S. norms.

Like San Francisco SPCA executive director Richard Avanzino, who was hired in 1976, Wellens came with no background in humane work. Like Avanzino, she therefore came without preconceptions—and again like Avanzino, decided after study that the direction WHS has taken since it got into animal control work in 1939 is self-defeating, identifying the organization with killing animals instead of saving them.

Unlike Avanzino, who likes to run ideas up the flagpole to see who salutes, Wellens works quietly. Ripped in the media by Kay Mannes of the Wisconsin Animal Protection Society on the one hand last summer, challenged by Animal Lobby president Cindy Schultz' formation of the Wisconsin SPCA on the other, Wellens mostly took the heat—and researched other directions.

No-kill

Schultz announced with fanfare that the WSPCA would by January 1 of this year open the first of a projected chain of no-kill shelters to serve the greater Milwaukee area. That didn't happen, but Schultz was in the headlines when two Gordon setters allegedly left outdoors in unfit weather vanished from Whitefish Bay residents Rebecca and Gregory Smith's yard on January 17. Schultz and others had complained about the dogs' situation to police and WHS, and were apparently suspected by the Smiths of knowing what became of them.

"If somebody stole them, good," Schultz responded to the *Milwaukee Journal*. "But we didn't take their dogs."

Wellens meanwhile in October informed Milwaukee and the 18 other communities contracting with WHS for animal control service that the contracts expiring between now and 1997 will be the last WHS intends to take.

"WHS is now funded by two distinct sources," Wellens told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Municipalities pay us to provide government-mandated animal control services, and service fees and philanthropic contributions fund our animal welfare programs. Over the years, WHS has saved Milwaukee County taxpayers millions of dollars, but our animal control contracts

have consistently underfunded the animal control services we provide. As a result, we have been forced to use private contributions to underwrite publicly mandated services, leading to an inadequate reserve fund for building a much-needed new facility. The time has come to separate the government-mandated and funded animal control services from the privately supported animal welfare, adoption, outreach, and education service of WHS."

New agencies

The split won't come overnight. Contracting cities were given a 24-month timeline for forming their own agencies, assisted by WHS. Wellens anticipates an ongoing partnership with the new agencies, through which WHS would—much like the SF/SPCA—focus on low-cost neutering and other programs to lower animal control intakes and euthanasias, as well as working to increase adoptions.

By giving up animal control, Wellens hopes WHS can follow the SF/SPCA in euthanizing only animals who suffer from irrecoverable medical conditions. Eventually Wellens hopes to emulate the Adoption Pact introduced by the SF/SPCA in April 1994, which guarantees placement of any healthy animal picked up by San Francisco animal control. If the animal control holding period expires without placement, the animal is transferred to the SF/SPCA.

Already, Wellens says, WHS doesn't euthanize animals simply for being "surplus," and has tripled veterinary services to avoid euthanizing animals who may suffer from curable problems. But Wellens is careful of using words which might be misunderstood. "'Adoptable' definitions are highly politically and emotionally charged," she notes, adding, "We're trying to depoliticize 'no-kill,' because it shouldn't mean that one kind of shelter is good and another is bad. Realistically, some animals have to be euthanized. Right now we're just saying we're optimistic that in the future humane societies can place much less emphasis on euthanasia. We should be looking in that direction."

So far, there are few clues as to how the 19 Milwaukee County municipalities plan to organize animal control. "The key players," speculated *Milwaukee Journal* staffer Alan Borsuk in March, "are likely to be local officials who will be strongly concerned about cost and competing priorities," who will probably try to fund the new services by raising licensing compliance, now estimated at 8%.

Intergovernmental pound budget committee chair Jim Ryan told Borsuk that from his perspective, "The animal rights groups believe this is an opportunity to further their agenda. The level of care they want animals to receive is not universally accepted by our constituents."

—M.C.

Wholesome & Hearty Foods, through Jan/Feb 1997.

Seeking the psychological well-being of primates (from page 1)

There was no declared victory. There was no P&G statement of concession to the animal rights movement. For that reason, many leading advocacy groups have never forgiven either Spira or P&G. Demanding a concession as a show of force, PETA, the Humane Society of the U.S., and In Defense of Animals have boycotted P&G ever since. P&G has meanwhile put circa \$45 million to date into alternatives development, more than all other players in the field combined; has cut animal use from 75,000 a year to 34,000 a year, almost entirely in connection with testing pharmaceuticals (90%) and validating non-animal tests to the satisfaction of regulators (6%); and despite the heavily publicized boycott, has tripled sales.

Spira next befuddled even many of his staunchest friends and allies by declaring disengagement. He was satisfied, he explained to those who asked, that the biomedical research field would follow their own leaders. With the biggest maker of both personal care products and pharmaceuticals in the world sold on the Three R's of *Reduction* of animal use, *Refinement* of procedures to use fewer animals, and eventual *Replacement* of animal testing entirely, Spira felt that momentum would accomplish the rest: monkey see, monkey do.

All further confrontation would accomplish, Spira argued, would be to make researchers resistant to taking the direction they would ultimately take anyway, and all the effort put into confrontation would thus be not only wasted but counterproductive.

Silverbacks don't waste much of their immense strength in either fighting or display. They lead chiefly by example. Spira crashed away through the brush toward factory farming. Much of the animal rights movement and the research community screeched on at each other, figuratively flinging feces.

But **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett, then editor of *The Animals' Agenda*, never really felt good about screeching and feces-flinging. In her May 1990 *Animals' Agenda* editorial, she suggested confrontation with biomedical researchers had done all it could do for a while, and recommended moving on to other issues. Some people flung figurative feces at her. Others, on both sides of the debate, followed her as she followed Spira.

Can we talk?

More than five years later, a new direction in relations between the animal protection and biomedical research communities seems to be established. The Foundation for Biomedical Research, formed to fight the animal rights movement, has within the past three years invited Spira, Animal Welfare Institute representative Kathy Liss, and the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, among others, to address the FBR membership in a variety of public forums. Spira and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** have also, by invitation, addressed the Issue Management Council, a consortium including the public relations managers of forty-five Fortune 500 companies. The Animal Protection Institute and the Humane Society of the United States have recognized the strides of Gillette, target of a PETA-led boycott since 1986, which has reduced animal use from circa 5,000 a year to a recent five-year average of circa 2,500 a year. Several of the most aggressive anti-animal rights spokespersons in the biomedical research camp have retired or been retired.

Even Americans for Medical Progress, the nonprofit advocacy group sponsored by U.S. Surgical, is taking a less confrontational approach.

Nearly eight years ago, in November 1988, operatives of a private

security firm hired by U.S. Surgical paid for the bomb a fringe activist planted in the company parking lot, and drove her to the scene, where she was arrested amid a splash of publicity that was intended to discredit opponents of U.S. Surgical use of animals, but instead became Exhibit #1 for the influence of *agents provocateur* on the animal rights movement.

Formed in 1991, AMP rose to prominence through full-page newspaper ads ridiculing activists. AMP still attacks activist claims, as in a recent brochure and letter to the *Christian Science Monitor* in which AMP spokesperson Susan Paris decried the use of inflated and obsolete pet theft statistics by people who still argue that pet thefts are a major source of animals used in laboratories. But in the same brochure and letter, Paris used more space to give pet keepers the same advice they would get from any animal advocacy group about neutering pets, keeping pets leashed or fenced or indoors, and tattooing or microchipping pets to help animal control officers return strays to their homes.

The message from either side is no longer that animal lovers are crazy or that biomedical researchers are sadists. Rather, it's that powerful opposing forces are looking for ways and means to reach mutual accommodation—not compromise, which means giving up essential goals, but rather ways of pursuing goals that are not inherently mutually exclusive.

Going ape

As Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Deborah Blum of the Sacramento Bee recognized in her 1994 opus *The Monkey Wars*, primate research has furnished most of the high-profile issues of the antivivisection and animal rights movements since primate experimentation came into vogue in the 1950s—in part because the public was already having a negative reaction to the use of dogs. Almost every activist knows or soon learns about Harry Harlow and his maternal deprivation experiments on rhesus macaques; Robert White and monkey head transplants; Ronald Wood and drug addiction studies on monkeys; Thomas Starzl and baboon heart transplants; and on the other side of the research controversy, about Peter Singer and the Great Ape Project; Jan-Moor Jankowski and the recently disbanded Laboratory for Experimental Medicine in Primates; the even more recent retirement of the chimps dubbed the Buckshire 12 to Primarily Primates; the chimp work of Jane Goodall; and the intelligence studies of Roger Fouts and Duane and Sue Savage Rumbaugh, among others, who have established that chimps, bonobos, and even squirrel monkeys of average intelligence can easily beat humans at video games.

As Blum pointed out, the paradoxical

crux of the research issue is that researchers claim other primates are valuable subjects because they are so much like us, yet are sufficiently unlike us that they may be used in experiments. Antivivisectionists argue that primates are so much like us that they have, intrinsically, the right to refuse consent to invasive procedures.

As PETA cofounder Ingrid Newkirk says of all species, "Animals are not ours to eat, wear, or experiment on."

Yet, this perspective also argues, in the words of antivivisection author Hans Reusch, that "Vivisection is scientific fraud," because primates and indeed all nonhuman animals are supposedly so much unlike us that information derived from animal research is inapplicable.

The poles of "like" and "unlike" are opposite. But virtually all participants in the struggle, on either side, agree within a few percentage points that we are about 92% genetically identical to gibbons, 95% identical to orangutans, 96% identical to gorillas, 97% identical to chimpanzees, and 98% identical to bonobos, the so-called pygmy chimps whose matriarchal society makes love, not war, and are the closest of the higher primates to extinction, through the aggression of both chimpanzees and human s who encroach upon their native habitat in central Africa.

The fight over the morality of animal use in research is not over the fact of our primate-ness, nor the fact of our animal nature, but rather, what this means in terms of our rights and obligations.

Follow the monkeys

There is a saying in journalism that if you want to understand any complicated issue, just follow the money.

The reason why could be illustrated by tossing dollar bills into a crowd—or bananas into a troop of chimps or bonobos.

But the actual operating principle may be not "Follow the money," but "follow the monkeys," because the key to what happens is not that all creatures pursue self-gratification. Rather, it is that even in the scramble and immediate aftermath, most humans and other primates obey principles of social conduct. Most do not actually kill or maim each other to get the loot, and most in some manner share it with others.

Ethologist Frans de Waal, of the Yerkes Regional Primate Center at Emory University, explains in his newly published study *Good Natured: The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and Other Animals* that even though chimpanzees scramble quite aggressively for a pile of food, all the chimps tend to get enough, if there is enough to go around. This occurs not only through might making right, sexual politics, and other

Why no photographs?

That this feature appears without illustrations in itself illustrates one of the most difficult aspects of the research debate: in the absence of openness and honesty about just what is going on, it is difficult to fairly and accurately interpret much of the evidence. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton wished to show this point with two photographs, shocking at a glance, and definitely depicting situations unacceptable to people who care about animals, which nonetheless may not have shown the atrocities they seemed to show, a possibility Clifton postulated after blowing them up to four times their original size for study on a computer screen.

ANIMAL PEOPLE publisher Kim Bartlett vetoed inclusion of the photos in keeping with our policy against using photos which may be too painful for people who care about animals to to view while also reading potentially disturbing text.

The photographs in question depicted rhesus macaques, and were apparently taken at the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center in Madison, or predecessor facilities, at some point prior to the founding of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1992. They were mailed to us anonymously, among a group of eight related photos, without explanation, in response to our first publication announcement.

The history of WRPRC, site of the late Harry Harlow's notorious isolation experiments, 1930-1970, is enough to color perception of the black-and-white prints—but other University of Wisconsin faculty members dismantled the isolation chambers in 1970, when Harlow left to end his career at the University of Arizona. After a 1979 scandal involving neglect of primates used by dioxin researcher James Allen, WRPRC in 1982 adopted a precedent-setting policy statement that acknowledges, "Maintenance and care standards alone do not constitute adequate protection of the well-being and rights of nonhuman animals."

WRPRC still does much controversial research, but also hosts the Primate Talk online network, heavily used by animal defenders as well as researchers. The sponsor, WRPRC chief librarian Larry Jacobsen, in 1991 put his career on the line, against strong professional opposition, to recognize longtime foe of animal experiments Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League in the *International Directory of Primatology*, which Jacobsen edits. Thus WRPRC is now reputedly in the vanguard of concern among laboratory primatologists for improving the well-being of nonhuman primate research subjects.

As a group, the photos show two macaques in restraint chairs; a macaque either being removed from a tiny steel cage or being put into it; two clench-jawed macaques clutching each other in a wire cage; and several scenes of surgery or dissection. The holding conditions appear to be severely substandard—a hint that the photos might date to Harlow's time, or to Allen's. One restrained macaque is clearly unhappy. But the other has his mouth open in an ambiguous expression—pain? fear? outrage? or pleasure?—and a human hand, at first glance doing something invasive to his head, on closer inspection may be scratching his ears: the hand could hold a small squarish object, perhaps an electric razor, but a gleaming "instrument" turns out to be a wedding band, and the square shape could be a shadow. The caged macaques seem terrified. Yet apparent frost on the window behind them indicates they may instead be cold, and it is interesting, if perhaps coincidental, that they have been given a window.

Seeming to convict WRPRC of cruelty, the photos might show someone's efforts to make a bad situation for the macaques a bit better. They might have been taken as part of an internal effort to improve conditions. But we just don't know. And we can't be sure of getting straight answers, even if anyone still alive could give them.

Orphan Pet Oasis - Humane Society of the Desert (through May 1996)

The influence of the man who inspired the “monkey trial”

obvious strategms, but also through the apparent exercise of moral choice.

One expects altruism among bonobos, who emphasize conflict resolution and mutual aid, but even chimps, combative as they are, seem to exercise a sense of charity, and a sense of collectively enforced ethics to restrain unacceptable behavior by the dominant animals. The application of ethics and charity may be limited to the members of their own troop, but this isn't different in principle from the human concept of patriotism, which enables humans to recite the Ten Commandments, then rob, rape, and kill neighbors with absolution.

What de Waal has done, simply put, is scientifically explain animal behavior in moral terms without anthropomorphizing—taking us not full circle, but full spiral. The Age of Science came when European civilisation still shared the common pre-modern perception that animals are moral beings, subject to human moral restraints and therefore as culpable as humans for such crimes and sins as theft, fornication, and murder. Respected courts tried, convicted, and sentenced animals for all of these offenses.

Erased moral barrier

Rene Descartes (1596-1650), reputedly the first hashish-smoking philosopher within the European tradition, erased the notion of animals as moral beings, albeit not within his own time. Descartes argued that animals are automatons guided wholly by instinct, lacking the capacity for complex thought and feeling. These he held unique to humans, as alleged proof of our Godliness.

Descartes' niece, an early antivivisectionist, held that Descartes had spent too much time smoking dope in his oven, which concentrated the fumes.

The Cartesian argument provided the ethical basis for vivisection, which in Descartes' own time was literally the dissection of unanesthetized living animals. More recently, Cartesian arguments have prevailed, largely for economic reasons, in agriculture, permitting the institution of close confinement husbandry, or factory farming.

But the Cartesian argument self-destructed just as close confinement husbandry began, when B.F. Skinner set out to discover how the supposedly mechanical animal mind is programmed. Skinner conditioned pigeons to peck for rewards—and thereby discovered why slot machines woo gamblers. Either slot machines bring about a human reversion to animality that results in the loose morality of the Las Vegas strip, as some religious fundamentalists have long contended, or animal behavior and human behavior are not inherently different.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) found the missing link between Cartesian philosophy and Las Vegas when he outlined the theory of evolution—still as controversial as it was in 1925, when a Tennessee jury acquitted schoolteacher John T. Scopes of allegedly committing a crime in teaching it.

Fundamentalists of many traditions, not just Bible Belters, have long been uncomfortable with the teaching of evolution. In one common view, evolution suggests that if animals are not moral beings, we have no inherent obligation to be moral, either. We have every reason to rob, rape, murder, fornicate, gamble, blaspheme, and fail to tithe just as much as may suit us, to the detriment of the so-called civilized virtues.

Schooled as a clergyman, Darwin

himself agonized over this possibility—and led a conspicuously moral, orderly, and kindly life.

Darwin founded modern biological science by establishing our relationship to animals. As philosopher James Rachels pointed out in his 1990 study *Conceived From Animals: The Moral Implications of Darwinism*, Darwin also in a sense founded the animal rights movement. The theory of evolution for the first time gave antivivisectionists a means of arguing for the extension of moral consideration to animals, as kin, without having to argue the seemingly impossible case for animals as moral equals. Darwin did not take an absolute stance against vivisection, much to the disappointment of his close friends in the early British humane movement. But Darwin didn't please his friends in science, either, with his statement favoring research on animals if it fulfilled essential purpose, yet opposing such research if performed “merely to satisfy damnable and detestable curiosity.”

This may be the single most quoted phrase in the history of antivivisectionism. Juxtaposing applied research against so-called basic research, it underscores not only the arguments *pro* and *con* animal research *per se*, but also the arguments within Congress and the research community about who should be paid to do what.

It particularly illuminates one of the paradoxes of the animal rights movement, which is generally perceived as a liberal cause. In fact, liberal political administrations have always favored basic research, holding to the tenet that no avenue of intellectual investigation should be taboo. Antivivisectionism has historically always had a strong conservative constituency. Opinion polls tell us that Christian fundamentalists are more likely than Americans of any other religious background to endorse the view that vivisection is scientific fraud, even as they quote the Biblical phrase about humankind being given dominion over animals in rejecting the notion that animals are not ours to eat, wear, or experiment on. Republicans have historically favored governmental funding of applied research, which has obvious economic purpose, but not basic research, which usually does not.

Colorado State University ethical philosophy professor Bernard Rollin often asks his classes of veterinary and agriculture students to divide into two groups: those who believe science should be constrained by respect for animal rights, and those who do not. He asks those who oppose such constraints if they agree that Nazi vivisection of human beings was justified in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. Those who say yes, he identifies as ethically consistent monsters. He points out to the rest that they do in fact

accept ethical constraints on science; they just disagree with animal rights activists as to which constraints apply. Before the animal rights contingent can draw a breath of satisfaction, Rollin hits them with the familiar hypothetical choice of saving their child or their dog. Those who would choose the dog or flip a coin are also termed ethically consistent monsters. The rest are reminded that they have just agreed that they will sacrifice morality to self-interest if necessary. The only issue in doubt is the degree of necessity. Out of a typical group of 50 students who start out believing they hold diametrically opposing views, 48 actually hold essentially the same views when those views are not defined in terms of extremes.

The dynamics of the research conflict exist apart from the substance of it, which all takes place within the shades of grey permitted by the various interpretations of the initial phrase of the Hippocratic oath:

“First, do no harm.”

Gender roles

Demographic studies have repeatedly discovered that the animal rights and biomedical research communities are comparable in level of education (85%-92% college-educated, 33% holding advanced degrees), level of income (80% plus above median), white/Asian relative to nonwhite/nonAsian ethnicity (97%), and distribution of political sympathies on non-animal issues (slightly to the liberal side of the median).

Except in securing passage of the Animal Enterprise Facilities Protection Act of 1992, which was directed at the already illegal activities of the Animal Liberation Front and other vandals, and was not actively opposed by most animal protection groups, the hunting, fur, and other animal use industries have conspicuously failed in trying to form alliances with biomedical research, because as it happens the animal rights and biomedical research communities are even close in outlook on some extremely controversial animal issues. Few biomedical researchers hunt, wear fur, or go to rodeos. Many donate to save whales. The single biggest occupational category among animal rights activists is health care, principally nursing. After animal rights activists and endurance athletes, medical professionals, including nurses, are the subpopulation most likely to be vegetarians.

The one clear demographic difference lies in gender ratio. Three out of four animal rights activists are female, with an approximation of sexual balance only in the youngest population group, where three out of five are female. This is just about exactly opposite the gender ratio, in each age group, among biomedical researchers.

Reviewing recent biomedical

research findings, American Humane Association board member Judy Lang pointed out the implications of gender balance at the 1993 AHA annual conference. For starters, Lang explained, it is not just a cultural cliché that women more rapidly and clearly recognize emotions, including both their own feelings and those of others. Women are much faster to detect the biochemical indicators of emotion, especially in the absence of verbal clues, having on average much keener senses of taste and smell. Women also have a much thicker neuron bundle linking their brain hemispheres, which results in greater capacity for connecting thought with feeling. Thus women are simultaneously less likely to blindly react and less able to distance themselves emotionally from their work. Such traits are operating when female activists tell male scientists that experiments they consider brilliant are unacceptably cruel, and the scientists, going ballistic, retort that the activists are sentimental.

Chimps & bonobos

Lang stressed that the physiological differences are matters of degree, not of absolutes, and should not be considered an excuse for men to be violent or inhumane. What is important is recognizing that men often need to learn modes of response that for women may be instinctive. When activists confront a researcher, Lang suggested, they are likely to be talking different languages, not because activists are sentimental and he's a monster, but because they are women and he's a man—or because the activists are men who have learned to think more like women, and the researcher is a woman who, through working in a predominantly male environment, has learned to think more like a man. The researcher is likely to become obstinate and defensive when accused of atrocity, not because he or she condones atrocity so much as because he or she doesn't recognize it.

Men, as Lang noted, tend to be better at types of abstract reasoning where intuition interferes. More men go into the sciences, this theory suggests, for essentially the same reason that men seem to pick up math and map-reading more easily. This may contribute as well to the apparent greater ability of men to limit conflict within ritualized rules. Lang showed through a quick classroom exercise that men tend to be more acutely aware of their status at all times; women are more acutely aware of whether everyone is getting along.

Male consciousness, in short, has evolved in response to the contest for position within a primate mating hierarchy, while female consciousness is more concerned with keeping a safe atmosphere for the rearing of young. Men are more like chimps; women

(continued on next page)

PIGS - April, May, June



Photo by Arnold Rubin

PRIMARYLY
PRIMATES
(through 7/96)

—Photo by Patty Adjamine (New Yorkers for Companion Animals)

GENDER ROLES (CONTINUED)

are more like bonobos. Men engage in overt dominance struggles, from sports to conversational one-upsmanship, in which display usually matters more than substance. Such contests rarely flare into actual combat because much as predators instinctively understand that preying upon other predators is risky, no matter who wins, men usually understand, perhaps instinctively, the necessity of respecting rules of engagement to reduce mutual risk. Dominance is relative; the loser of one clash may win the next.

A related male understanding, also seen in chimp behavior, involves the use of teamwork to gain a degree of dominance collectively that team members couldn't gain alone. As teams, men and chimps wage war, escalating conflict to a degree that would be suicidal for an individual.

Ironically, it is also often only through teamwork, including at war, that men find the emotionally stabilizing friendships that women tend to form throughout life. This is how the unique self-reinforcing subculture of research has evolved—and the subcultures of police and fire departments, and of Fortune 500 corporations. It is literally true that the inclusion of women in traditionally male subcultures tends to change them so that they no longer serve the psychological needs of the men who most depend upon them: typically, the men who are most alienated from the communicative demands of women, who want peer relationships that they don't have to work so hard to maintain as a male/female relationship, albeit that male peer relationships may actually be quite shallow despite years of familiarity.

When women fight, Lang continued, the issue is more likely to be subliminally perceived as life-and-death. This doesn't mean the issue is serious; only that where men are programmed for nonstop ritual combat, involving frequent low-risk offensive forays, women tend to be programmed to fight to the death if forced to fight at all. This results in a dramatic difference in modes of conflict. Since the issue for men tends to be display, the conflict is overt. Because the issue for women is felt as survival, women to equal degree try to remain hidden. Stereotypically, men challenge; women resort to subterfuge. The male approach is that of power-holders; the female approach is that of the relatively powerless, for whom guerilla warfare is the only viable counterattack. Men known as great strategists tend to be those who have learned to use female strategies; women known as great strategists tend to understand the use of male strategies when strategically appropriate.

Women are generally better at conflict resolution than men, but may be less familiar with managing conflict itself. The result, in the research controversy, is the frequent feeling of either side that the other isn't fair. A female activist, given a place on an Institutional Care and Research Committee, may feel both patronized and violated, since

she is asked to approve of projects, if they meet animal welfare standards, that are still abhorrent to her, and in any voting situation is likely to find herself voting alone. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** gets telephone calls now and then from women in just that position, who seem to need affirmation as much as the scraps of information they request.

The scientists surrounding such an activist may meanwhile feel that she is unfathomable and unreasonable, and that they have already conceded everything they possibly can concede: they have given her the status of a place among them, even though she may lack the formal scientific credentials that are otherwise required of members in their club. Without admitting it, they may actually be vying for her approval, since it is very difficult for most men not to vie for the favorable attentions of a female, as either a symbolic mother or symbolic mate.

The unrecognized subliminal issue for the male leaders is quite likely to be personal status rather than animal suffering. They may not be capable of understanding that to an activist, the knowledge of suffering is a torment like that a mother feels upon hearing a baby cry—a sound to which most females of any age have an immediate physiological response. Typically, men may respond; women *must* respond.

Disengagement

Bernard Rollin points out that a hidden issue for men in any conflict is how to change their behavior without losing status among peers. We see this on Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees and elsewhere throughout the research debate. Denial, Rollin suggests, may indicate not that men are blind to the suffering they causes, but rather that they don't know what to do about it. They not only need an alternative that won't cost them their livelihood, but need a way to embrace it that won't seemingly cost them their manhood, which may be perceptually linked to the size of their research grants and their ability to perform research that gains professional recognition.

As Rollin puts it, “When a guy begins practicing denial, and you know that he knows what you do, then you have to start showing him an easy way out, because he doesn't want to fight you any more. He knows he's wrong. What you have to do is find a way to let him do right.”

The key to progress becomes strategic disengagement, which is distinctively different from relinquishing an essential point. Successful married couples learn how and when to do it. Both animal advocates and research advocates may now be maneuvering toward strategic disengagement that can enable progress—perhaps including eventual agreement on just what the still hotly disputed standards for assuring the “psychological well-being” of nonhuman primates should be.

—Merritt Clifton

New trends emerge in pet theft

The third biennial update of the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pet theft log shows dramatic changes in patterns of both pet theft itself and prosecutions since the 1990 Pet Theft Act amendments to the Animal Welfare Act took effect in January 1992.

Since January 1992, 56 perpetrators have stolen 218 pets in cases where the fate of the stolen animals is known. Taken were 189 dogs (87%) and 29 cats.

Thefts by dogfighters accounted for 48 missing animals (22%); other sadism accounted for 47 more (22%). Sadism accounted for 44% of the thefts overall.

Two perpetrators stole 35 animals (16%), all by fraud, for sale to research. This is a preliminary total only, as pending USDA prosecutions of several Class B animal dealers may bring further identifications.

Would-be rescuers stole 51 animals (24%), including 47 of 159 dogs seized in 1993 from Wisconsin 'B' dealer Ervin Stebane, 143 of whom were ordered returned after Stebane was acquitted of cruelty charges brought as result of a sting by Last Chance for Animals. The dogs vanished from various holding facilities during the next fewdays. Stebane was permanently put out of business by the USDA as part of a February 1994 plea bargain pertaining to multiple alleged AWA violations, including failing to identify the sources of dogs.

By contrast, before the Pet Theft Act amendments took effect, thefts for research accounted for 456 of 534 stolen animals (85%) whose fate was known, including animals stolen in cases prosecuted since January 1992 that actually occurred earlier.

ANIMAL PEOPLE archives indicate that 50 stolen animals were identified in cases occurring prior to 1988, of whom 48 (96%) were stolen in six cases pertaining to laboratory supply. However, no pet thieves were successfully prosecuted until after the introduction of the 1988 Pet Protection Act, drafted by Adele Douglass of the American Humane Association and Martha Armstrong,

then of the Massachusetts SPCA, now director of companion animals for the Humane Society of the U.S. The act failed, but publicity about it apparently stimulated successful USDA action against 14 laboratory animal suppliers during the next four years.

Reintroduced as the Pet Theft Act in 1990, the Pet Protection Act was adopted as part of the 1990 Farm Bill.

Class 'B' dealers

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, unanimously voted on March 18 to keep selling pound animals to **Texas A&M, the University of Texas Health Science Center, and Baylor College of Medicine**. Fiscal 1994 figures show Harris County was paid \$76,000 for 1,900 animals.

Dog warden Art Evans, of Greene County, Ohio, announced March 1 that “**Greene County Animal Shelter** will cease releasing animals to individuals or agencies, for research, medical study, or teaching labs.” Greene County formerly sold about 200 animals a year to **Wright State University** in Dayton, chiefly for use in practice surgery.

Montcalm County (Michigan) Citizens for Animal Welfare was to hold a candlelight vigil on April 22 to protest the January 13-0 vote of the county commissioners to continue to kill animals via carbon dioxide suffocation, and continue selling impounded animals to research via **R&R Research Breeders**, of Howard City.

The USDA is reportedly probing allegations that intermediaries have “adopted” dogs from Oregon animal control shelters and sold them to California labs via **Betty Gayle Davis**, 47, of Azalea, Oregon, a Class B animal dealer since December 1994. “We did get a seach warrant, we took a lot of records, and we're persuing those records now,” USDA veterinarian **Robert Willems** said. Davis' license was suspended for three weeks early in the probe, but was reinstated when charges were not filed within that time. Willems at last report was still seeking the previous owners of 29 dogs found on Davis' premises.

AHA early neutering

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possible.*

Bina Robinson through May



The Watchdog

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

Wise-use wiseguys

Putting People First was reportedly set to link Unabomber suspect **Theodore Kaczynski**, **Earth First!**, and animal rights activism at an early-April press conference in Montana—but the Unabomber’s manifesto, published last year by *The New York Times*, described animal rights activists as delusionary; the *San Jose Mercury-News* on April 8 published an interview with **Jo Ann DeYoung**, a former high school classmate of Kaczynski, who remembered that he once slipped the pelt of a dissected cat into her locker; and on April 10 *The New York Times* published letters Kaczynski wrote to a friend, describing how he hunted rabbits. Kaczynski’s brother David, who turned the suspect in to the FBI, was meanwhile described by *The New York Times* as a vegetarian “bunny-hugger.” PPF cancelled the press conference, allegedly because it received anonymous threats but couldn’t get police protection. The purported Earth First! link was made, however, on April 9 by ABC *World News Tonight*. Kaczynski had no known association with Earth First! itself, but of the three people killed and 23 hurt in the 17-year string of Unabomber attacks, two victims worked for firms named on a “hit list” issued in 1992 by *Live Wild Or Die*, newsletter of a splinter group led by Mike Jakubal, which broke away in 1989, after Earth First! renounced tree-spiking. The list was in fact the list of co-sponsors of a 1989 wise-use conference.

Michael Twain, a pet industry representative on the board of the **National Animal Interest Alliance**, was embarrassed on April 10 when the *Portland Oregonian* disclosed that his **Scamps Pet Store**, of Portland, has received repeated USDA warnings for failing to maintain sanitary conditions. Store employee **Benjamin Thomas Coffey**, 24, was charged with first-degree animal neglect on April 8, after seven parakeets and a rabbit died over the Easter weekend from what **Multnomah County Animal Control** officers told the *Oregonian* was probably “a lack of water and food.” The store disposed of the remains before the precise cause of death could be determined.

Henry Spira (April only)

WOOFS & GROWLS (NATIONAL LEVEL)

Fund for Animals president **Cleveland Amory** made the cover of the April 18 *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, which explored the ethics of keeping large reserves. The **National Charities Information Bureau** holds that reserves normally should not be greater than twice a charity’s annual budget. The Fund has reserves of about \$10 million, built mainly through receipt of recent bequests, against a budget of \$3.6 million—the most assets relative to budget of any group whose IRS Form 990 filings **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reviews. “A huge endowment is out of place in certain instances,” Amory said. “But with as many animals as we have in our care, it comes close to being a necessity.” Amory said he hopes to build an endowment able to maintain the **Black Beauty Ranch** and other Fund animal care facilities on interest. Campaigns would still run on direct donations.

DELTA Rescue founder **Leo Grillo**, battling the **Humane Society of the U.S.** for years over HSUS attacks on no-kill shelters, has opened a new front with newspaper ads and a press release attacking the HSUS record on puppy mills—coinciding with an HSUS mailing proclaiming an anti-puppy mill campaign. The release cited a press conference last August at which HSUS legislative director **Wayne Pacelle** and **Senator Rick Santorum** (R-Pennsylvania) publicized a letter they’d written purportedly asking the USDA for stricter law enforcement against puppy mills. In fact, the letter was a gelded edition of a letter signed earlier by three Senators and 110 Representatives, edited by Pacelle and Santorum in collaboration with lobbyists **Jim Holt** of the **American Kennel Club** and **Pamela Abney** of the **American Veterinary Medical Association**, to delete specific requests for new regulations that the USDA sought to close loopholes currently hindering prosecutions of puppy mills. Details appeared in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for September 1995.

Frederick’s of Hollywood “will receive no sponsorship award, no ad space in the *March for the Animals Journal*, no ad space in the World Congress for Animals program, no exhibit space, and will in short have no involvement in these events,” the **National Alliance for Animals** said in a March 26 statement. “We do not support or condone the selling of leather products or products which serve to demean or exploit either women or men.” The National Alliance had come under fire from the **Association of Feminists for Animal Rights** and **Gary Francione** of the **Rutgers Animal Rights Law Center** for accepting \$10,000 from Frederick’s, listed as a top-line sponsor in a February mass mailing. The turnabout drew comparable flak, mainly from female participants in the **AR-Views** online forum, who pointed out that some Frederick’s franchises distribute animal rights literature, that few if any major corporations are entirely vegetarian, and that erotic self-expression can have a central place in liberation philosophy. Even some AR-Views participants opposed to the initial acceptance of Frederick’s argued that the turnabout sent the message that animal rights leadership can’t be trusted to keep a bargain.

Wilderness Society president **Jon Roush** abruptly resigned on March 7, almost a year after **Jeff St. Clair** and **Alexander Cockburn** of *The Nation* disclosed that Roush had sold logging rights to his own Montana land for \$140,000 while opposing logging on public lands in the same area. “Roush nearly brought ruin on the Wilderness Society, which had to close field offices in New Mexico, Florida, and Oregon to pay the enormous balloon lease payment due on the Society’s premises in Washington D.C., which will top \$6 million next year,” wrote Cockburn of the departure. Said Roush, “I have accomplished the goals I set for myself.”

(*Woofs & Growls* , local level, on next page.)

Don't let the photo fool you: Lucky isn't doing time, but Navy petty officers Scott Wilkerson, 21, and Dennis Steven Artzer, 20, were in February sentenced to serve 21 days each for dragging him behind a car last June. They actually served only two days each, Tuolumne County animal control officer Waynette Townsend reports, as overcrowding of the jail forced the early release of prisoners sentenced for misdemeanors, but they are still to pay fines of almost \$3,000, do 400 hours of community service, spend two years on probation, and are likely to be booted out of the Navy. Townsend, who rescued Lucky, has added him to her staff as Office Cat.

Woofs & growls, local level

Former Michigan Humane Society board president and National Society for Animal Protection board member Bob Sorrock, elected to the board of the Humane Society of Tucson in 1995, is reportedly lobbying to replace executive director Carol Munroe, hired in 1993, with longtime friend David Wills. Munroe's situation is apparently shaky due to board resignations. Nominally consisting of 15 members, the HST board is said to have just eight active members at present. Wills headed the Nashua Humane Society, 1972-1978; MHS, 1979-1989; NSAP, 1989-1991; and was vice president for investigations at the Humane Society of the U.S., 1991-1995. Wills' departure from each job coincided with missing money. Wills, 48, was not charged in either Nashua or Michigan, but was sued successfully for failure to repay loans he solicited from NSA board member Sandra LeBost, and has been sued for allegedly taking \$93,000 from HSUS, where he was also accused of sexually harassing three staffers. In a countersuit, Wills claims the allegations were trumped up to deny him a promotion to succeed his longtime mentor John Hoyt, expected to retire this month, as head of Humane Society International, the umbrella group for HSUS and affiliates.

The New Orleans-based activist group Legislation in Support of Animals opened 1996 by announcing a probable name change, to the League in Support of Animals, to better reflect the range of activities it undertakes, and got on about a campaign to improve animal control services in Mississippi and Louisiana, now in its seventh year, that has included doing 70 shelter inspections, suing three municipalities, and accomplishing major reforms in many more. Early 1996 cases included an allegation that Lafayette Animal Control neglected a terminally injured collie, leaving him to lie in excrement for two days while failing to call the number on a veterinary tag, and a long list of complaints against the Vinton Animal Shelter, which

"we believe is poorly constructed, maintained, and supervised," said LISA founder Jeff Dorson.

The future of the Bellingham-Whatcom Humane Society, of Bellingham, Washington, may be decided at a May 21 membership meeting. Executive director Gary Mugridge resigned April 9, effective April 30. Mugridge took the job in August 1994, amid acrimony surrounding the embezzling conviction of former director Mary Henry. Mugridge won the support of most of his staff, but allegations of mismanagement were soon raised by public critics. Exasperated, Mugridge quit after a board meeting at which four of the eight directors lost their seats for failing to pay dues; the other four face a recall vote.

Sun City Animal Rescue, of Phoenix, Arizona, opened a shelter in December, but by March 20 appeared close to dissolution or restructuring, as about a third of the members sought the resignations of four board members and the reinstatement of founder Karen Britten to the SCAR leadership. Britten was reportedly ousted from the board in January for alleging that other board candidates would cause the deaths of hundreds of cats. She was replaced by Jack Fullmer, an unsuccessful board candidate.

Police in Parma, Ohio, in early March seized records from animal warden Samuel J. Roe and asked for a state audit of animal control accounts. Roe, serving Parma since 1986, is also a nuisance animal trapper. In February he was charged with cruelty by North Royalton animal control officer Sandra Grattan, for allegedly keeping a caged opossum in the back of his pickup truck for at least eight hours in minus-20-degree weather. Wildlife officials are reportedly still probing claims that Roe has released raccoons, skunks, and opossums behind the city garage, instead of euthanizing them within 24 hours, as state law requires. Roe reportedly says he releases the animals when he can't get them to a veterinarian soon enough.

Ketch-All
(paid through 10/96)

Frank Zigrang ad--
paid through 1996

Port in a storm

ELLICOTT, Colorado--A nine-month battle with Elbert County officials over health and zoning code violations ended in February when, under 30-day notice to either move, get rid of her animals, or else, Mary Port, 71, moved the grandiosly named but essentially makeshift Colorado Animal Refuge from an allegedly overcrowded 80-acre site near Simla, where she founded the facility in 1983, to a 44-acre former dairy farm in El Paso County, a few miles southeast.

El Paso County has no zoning, but Port is still in violation of the state Pet Animal Facilities Act, Colorado state veterinarian Keith Roehr recently told D'Arcy Fallon of the Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph.

"Basically, nothing has changed," Roehr said. "We'll handle her, whether she's in Elbert or El Paso County." Earlier, Roehr threatened to charge Port with cruelty for allegedly letting dogs run loose, potentially menacing cattle and putting the dogs at risk of being shot. On December 20, 1995, rancher Don Hendricks told county commissioner Bob Morrison that he and a fellow rancher were shooting some of Port's dogs for chasing cows. Despite that, following a Gazette-Telegraph report on April 7, 1995, that ranchers shot about 80 of Port's dogs per year, sheriff Jack Knous and code compliance officer Mark Hestand said they found no remains. Port denied ever having had animals escape.

The Colorado Animal Refuge, called the North American Wildlife Center until 1991, first drew extensive public notice on April 3, 1995, when national newswires reported on a fire--alleged by some observers to be arson--which killed about 50 animals, including cats, dogs, and seven monkeys, according to most accounts.

However, Elbert County planning director Mary Adami told the Pike's Peak Ranchland News that after the fire, she visited CAR and saw the remains of "about 150 cats, dogs, and monkeys who had been burned. There were rats throughout the facility," Adami said. "We saw a lot of half-eaten rats."

Unaware of any problems at CAR, ANIMAL PEOPLE was among the many newspapers that published Port's address, for anyone who wished to send aid.

Denver veterinarian Jeff Young, of Planned Pethood Plus, called ANIMAL PEOPLE to object. Young said he and colleagues Mike Chamberlain and Erin Russell neutered 102 animals for Port at their own expense several years ago--and while at CAR, observed dogs cannibalizing each other, badly housed wildlife, and "hundreds of sick cats in an old trailer," which was apparently gutted by the fire. Further, Young alleged, Port had for a time sheltered Vicki Kittles, an animal collector with legal history in Florida, Mississippi, Oregon, and Washington, also suspected in the 1988 disappearance of her mother.

Two other ANIMAL PEOPLE readers including former CAR volunteer Annie Adam later sent letters of supporting testimony.

Despite the fire losses, Port had an estimated 300 dogs left, plus other animals--and after failing to meet repeatedly extended

deadlines to get the animal population down to 100, still had 65 dogs, 20 wolf hybrids, several burros, a bear, an arctic fox, and a raccoon, when Elbert County ordered her to move regardless. That was after the Denver Dumb Friends League took 20 adoptable dogs and another party took 16, whom she claimed to have boarded with Port.

Port said she spent \$30,000 on improvements after the fire, and had adopted out 300 animals, trying to meet the Elbert County requirements. Colorado Springs feed store owner Bob Friedman confirmed that Port had distributed dogs and cats to his customers one Saturday per month. Roehr, just a day before the December 21 alleged dog shootings, asked Elbert County to grant Port an extension of a deadline she had been given to add perimeter fencing, arguing that it was 90% completed.

Alleged associates

Others argued, however, that Port failed to keep adequate records pertaining to the estimated \$40,000 in donations she received after the fire. She was also sued for alleged nonrepayment of a \$10,000 loan purportedly received in 1990 from former Colorado Senate president Ted Strickland and his wife LuAnne, who has a comparable history.

Editorialized the Denver Post on July 19, 1991, "Under Strickland's care, more than 130 confined cats died in a fire in 1986. Under her supervision, more than 200 cats were discovered in a small, filthy, disease-ridden house in 1987." During 16 months in 1990-1991, the Post added, Strickland was "given custody of 2,012 additional animals" from the Adams County Animal Shelter, "many of whom apparently died for lack of decent sanitation and medical care." About 600 of those animals were still alive when discovered at the Strickland farm that week--along with the graves of many others. Strickland was eventually convicted of a single count of cruelty in that case, while the cost of caring for the rescued animals forced the closure of the Colorado Humane Society's Thornton Animal Shelter.

While Port's problems were often in local newspaper headlines over the past year, the child advocacy group Justice for Children in May 1995 asked public officials to investigate Grant Bremer, 28, said to be a CAR board member, for alleged sexual assault of two non-biologically related female children who were among three girls reportedly in his care.

In November 1995, Bremer was subject of an "unfit home" complaint filed by police who escorted humane officer Julie Young as she served notice that Bremer allegedly had more animals on his premises than were legally allowed. The police report described a brief altercation, said eight dogs and five cats were seen amid filth, and reported that four children including a baby were allowed to remain in Bremer's custody by Colorado Department of Social Services worker Jeanette Varzee and Marty Plassmeyer, identified as legal guardian of the children.

Officer D.J. Dirschell, said the police report, "expressed his strong disapproval of DSS' decision to leave kids in this home."

Phil Arkow
(through May 1996)

Weisman (paidthrough July/August)

Animal control & rescue

No-kills

The International Fund for Animal Welfare in an April mailing asserted that it needs “to raise over \$10,000 each month to continue providing vital support to local shelters worldwide who cannot exist on their own.” IFAW is well-known for many programs, but assisting animal shelters isn’t even mentioned as a program activity on the IFAW filings of IRS Form 990. “During 1994 and 1995, IFAW contributed approximately \$190,000 to some 40 animal protection groups with a no-kill policy,” IFAW director of field activities Paul Seigal told ANIMAL PEOPLE on April 12. “We are now selecting the spring 1996 recipients, who will share \$200,000.” Among the 1994-1995 recipients were shelters in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and South Africa.

Neighbors Brian and Anita Matheson and Mike Milas on March 18 sued the Pets In Need animal shelter in Ringwood, Illinois, seeking \$100,000 in damages because barking dogs allegedly “interfere with the plaintiffs’ quiet enjoyment of their home” and the shelter operates in violation of a zoning ban on the operation of an “obnoxious trade.” The shelter was target of an anti-barking ordinance adopted by the Ringwood council on February 19, two months after McHenry County circuit judge Gerald Zopp overruled previous attempts to close the shelter for zoning violations. In separate incidents after the ruling, shelter operators Pat and Rudy Klimo found a dog and a goat hanged in their yard. The Klimos have been battling unhappy shelter neighbors for more than two years. The Matheson and Milas homes had not yet been built when Pets In Need opened.

The Buddy Foundation, of Arlington Heights, Illinois, recently completed a year of operation with 30 volunteers, 120 paying members, and a mailing list of 400. The young foundation, still without a shelter, placed about 100 animals in homes.

On the beat

As expected, the County Council in Montgomery County, Maryland, has abolished the Department of Animal Control and Humane Treatment, making animal control a branch of the police department, over the opposition of staff and others concerned that the consolidation will limit the budget and authority of animal control and humane officers. The Department of Animal Control and Humane Treatment was targeted by fiscal conservatives eager to ax a visible symbol of bureaucracy, due in part to lingering bitterness over tough breeding control regulations adopted in 1992.

The Humane Society of Sonoma County on March 15 won a 39-month contract to continue managing the city animal shelter in Petaluma, California. HSSC had run the shelter from 1989 into 1995, but lost the contract to a lower bidder, Thunder and Lightning’s Cause, in August 1995. Four months later, however, the Petaluma city council suspended the TLC contract during a police probe of alleged mismanagement, and brought HSSC back on an interim basis. Although no charges were filed, the city council cancelled the TLC contract in January.

“Indiana is considering the institution of a uniform animal bite report format for all agencies that take bite reports and conduct animal bite investigations,” reports Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control director Belinda Lewis. “The state committee is made up of representatives from the Indiana Association for Animal Control, the Indiana Board of Health, and the Indiana Board of Animal Health.” Standardizing the report format is expected to produce better bite statistics, leading to better bite prevention.

Schering-Plough Animal Health, marketer of the heavily touted HomeAgain microchip pet ID system, announced April 3 that its microchip maker, Destron-Fearing, has produced a scanner able to not only detect but read all pet ID chips sold in the U.S.

Laws

Arizona governor Fife Symington on April 5 signed into law a bill upgrading cruelty to animals to a Class 1 misdemeanor, and increasing the maximum fine for harming a trained service animal to \$150,000. The new law was inspired by the poisoning of Moose, service dog of paraplegic Peggy Thomas, whose training by Canine Companions for Living cost an estimated \$10,000. Neighbor Beebee Mouton, who said she set out antifreeze to kill ants, will stand trial under the old law, facing a maximum penalty of eight months in jail, a fine of \$1,500, and four years on probation. Thomas is now aided by a CCL-trained golden retriever named Van.

The Pennsylvania state senate on March 25 unanimously passed a bill to oblige pet sellers to reimburse dog buyers whose animals become ill or die within 10 days of purchase. Similar laws are already in effect in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York. Introduced by Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery), the bill is reportedly opposed by many of Pennsylvania’s 2,771 commercial dog breeders, 184 of whom produce more than 150 puppies per year.

To eliminate duplication of the Illinois rabies vaccination and tagging requirement, the town of Elgin on April 10 abolished both a one-year-old cat licensing ordinance and a dog licensing ordinance enforced since 1945; raised the reclaim fee for animals picked up by animal control to \$50; and imposed fines of \$50 for a first offense, up to \$100 for a third offense, for allowing a cat or dog to defecate on or damage someone else’s property. Nearby Mokena passed a similar ordinance on April 2, but the fine there is only \$25 per infraction.



The Tulsa city council on March 22 approved a draft breeding control ordinance proposed by Joan Mays of the Humane Society of Oklahoma. The ordinance must be ratified in May before taking effect.

People

Broward County Detective Sergeant Sherry Schleuter, 43, was profiled in the March/April 1996 edition of Boca Raton magazine, whose usual subjects are multi-millionaires. Schleuter was noticed because in 1982 she “pioneered one of the world’s only law enforcement units specifically in charge of investigating animal abuse,” a job usually left to humane societies. “In June of last year,” the article continued, “the six-person unit was expanded to include child abuse as well as elder abuse and financial exploitation.” The profile noted that Schleuter is a vegan.

Police chief Jerry Long, public works director Burt Willard, and police officer Mike Wilson, of Newport, Arkansas, dealt with humane inspector Brenda Smith of Arkansans for Animals back in 1993 by charging her with trespassing, for which she was fined \$50 plus \$77.25 on court costs. The last laugh was on them: Smith sued, recently winning \$20,000 from the city of Newport to cover her costs, plus a judicial order that Newport must improve its shelter and operate it according to the guidelines prescribed by the Humane Society of the U.S.

Modean Barry, elected president of the Humane Society of North Texas to succeed longtime president Art Brender, on February 8 named as interim executive director Thomas Murnane, DVM, who replaces James Bias. Brender and Bias resigned, separately, in January. Murnane served from 1947 to 1949 with the joint USDA/Mexico task force to eradicate hoof-and-mouth disease; joined the U.S. Army later in 1949, retiring in 1980 as brigadier general in charge of the Army veterinary corps; spent three years with the InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture; was regional vet for the Texas Department of Health from 1983 to 1993; and was among 10 vets honored on February 6 by the Fort Worth City Council for operating rabies vaccination clinics.



“For an initial fee of \$100 (with a \$10 yearly renewal), you can obtain personalized animal welfare plates,” explains a recent mailing to all New Jersey drivers. “These special plate sales will help fund the animal population control program run by the Department of Health.” Founded in May 1983, initially funded by a dog licensing surcharge, the New Jersey program was the first of its kind in the U.S.; at peak, it funded 15,000 neuterings a year.

The Florida Animal Health Foundation is leading a petition drive to start a similar program in Florida. Before issuing a special plate, the Florida Department of Transportation requires that 10,000 vehicle owners pledge to buy it, and that the sponsors post a deposit of \$30,000, to be refunded when \$30,000 is collected from actual plate sales. To pledge, write to FAHL at 17200 SE 58th Ave., Summerfield, FL 32691. FAHL is headed by Leo Lieberman, DVM, who popularized early-age neutering.

Washington Humane back in D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C.—The Washington Humane Society on March 1 reacquired the Washington D.C. animal control contract for at least 120 days, after the contract was held for four months by Animal Link, an upstart rival headed by local activist Dee Atwell. WHS had provided animal control service since 1980, but was unhappy with short-term contracts and late payments due to the city’s shaky financial status.

WHS executive director Mary Healy told ANIMAL PEOPLE that her staff found it was as hard to police Animal Link—whose operation WHS raided at one point—as to do animal control itself. She added that WHS is now resigned to doing animal control at a loss.

A March 4 inquiry by the D.C. Committee on Human Services heard from former Animal Link volunteer Franklin Maphis that under Atwell, treatment of injured animals, recordkeeping, adoption screening,

Special programs

The Doris Day Animal League claims 51,000 cats and dogs were neutered on or around Spay Day USA 1996, up from 28,000 on or around Spay Day USA 1995.

On the air since 1990, the southern California TV show The Pet Place claims to have arranged nearly 6,000 adoptions of animals shown on the program, while helping facilitate nearly 20,000 more adoptions from 22 shelters within the broadcast radius.

The Animal Defence League of Canada reports that funding for low-cost neutering has been restored to the City of Ottawa budget for fiscal 1996. Ottawa has funded a neutering clinic since 1978, but was considering axing it to save money.

sanitation, and euthanasia were often deficient. Atwell denied the allegations, but acknowledged a lack of capable staff.

U.S. Attorney’s Office spokesperson Kevin Ohlson said the period of Animal Link management, “is under review to determine if criminal violations may have been committed.”

As WHS returned to duty, the House Appropriations legislative branch committee allocated \$100,000 in emergency funding to deal with another D.C. animal care crisis by moving the Capitol Police K-9 Training Facility from a decrepit site where one of the 27 dogs housed there—valued at \$25,000 to \$50,000—died from a rare virus transmitted by rats.

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News from abroad

The Royal SPCA is “reviewing our opposition to experiments on primates,” according to a spokesperson, after receiving a warning from **Richard Fries, Chief Charity Commissioner for Great Britain**, that it would be acting in a manner “inconsistent with its charitable status” if it argues that, as **Andrew Pierce** of the *London Times* paraphrased Fries’ argument, “the infliction of pain on animals could not be justified if it was for the good of man.” Fries’ warning, Pierce said, apparently also enables fox hunters to challenge RSPCA opposition to fox hunting, since the hunters claim killing foxes is for the good of farmers. The warning comes as the 28,000-member RSPCA is fighting an attempted hostile takeover by the **British Field Sports Society**, which in March asked its 80,000 members to join the RSPCA in time to vote at the June annual meeting.

Jim Barrington, director of the League Against Cruel Sports, 1988-1995, announced April 8 via the London *Sunday Telegraph* that his newly formed **Wildlife Network** has the support of former LACS chairs **Mark Davies** and **Howard Hodges**, has received funding from “private sources,” and is now funding “scientific research” into humanely “controlling” foxes. Barrington resigned from LACS last year, taking with him five of 12 executive committee members, the board vice president, and several senior staff, after the remaining board and membership rejected his argument that hunting should be reformed rather than abolished.

The **Australian research group Petcare** projects the first recorded decline in the Australian pet cat population, from 2.9 million down to 2.8 million, based on an annual survey of 12,000 households. Australia still has the highest per capita cat population in the world.

A **British White Paper on the European Union**, published March 12, reportedly included a call for amending the Treaty of Rome, the EU charter, to impose penalties against nations which fail to enforce animal welfare standards in any areas covered by EU legislation. This would exempt bull-fighting and fox hunting, but would strengthen rules governing livestock transport and the EU ban on use of leghold traps.

A **British House of Lords select committee of peers** on March 18 endorsed a bill sponsored by **Lord Houghton of Sowerby** which would allow magistrates to spare dogs who might otherwise be euthanized under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act. The act now mandates that any pit bull terrier or other dog of fighting breed found in Britain after November 30, 1991 must be euthanized if not registered, tattooed for identification purposes, neutered, and muzzled when in public. In addition, any dog who attacks a person is to be euthanized. About 8,600 pit bulls were registered before the act took effect, but attempts to enforce the act’s provisions have had mixed results. In one case, a pit bull named Dempsey was impounded for three years, at cost of about \$125,000, before a death order was judicially overturned. In February, a dog named Tyson was ruled to be not a pit bull—after he died in custody.

The **British House of Commons** on March 23 approved the Dogs Fouling of Land bill, which allows town councils to designate “mess free zones,” which may include private property by consent of the owner. A similar bill was killed last year in the House of Lords because some lords feared it might be used to stop foxhunting. The current bill excludes enforcement in rural areas, National Parks, and commons.

Noting a recent recovery by the owner of a lost dog in a shelter 30 miles from where a stranger picked the dog up, the **National Canine Defence League** has issued an appeal throughout Britain for finders of strays to turn them in to the closest shelter, not necessarily the nearest no-kill. “Anyone concerned that if they hand a dog over to either the police or local authority, it will be destroyed, should check to make sure that this is not the case beforehand,” the NCDL advised. Not explained is what to do if the dog would be killed. As well as operating a nationwide no-kill rescue network, the NCDL sponsors a Neutering Roadshow, which has altered 3,500 dogs over the past five years for about \$35 each. About 50,000 homeless dogs were euthanized in Britain last year, says the NCDL, about one per 1160 humans, compared with 1.5 million euthanized in the U.S., for one per 174 humans.

Forty grand to give it away?!

Concern for Helping Animals in Israel has a fully outfitted \$26,000 animal ambulance ready to donate to the Tiberius SPCA—except that at the last minute, after CHAI founder Nina Natelson thought she had secured an exemption for the vehicle from customs duties, the Israeli government demanded \$40,000. The edict followed the success of CHAI members in obtaining a restraining order, scheduled for April 21 judicial review, temporarily halting stray animal poisoning in the towns of Arad and Emek-Hefer. Israeli environment minister Yossi Sarid “recently issued a pronouncement saying that strychnine poisoning would be banned in Israel,” notes Natelson, but Amnon Shimshony, head of veterinary services within the Israeli department of agriculture, immediately notified all municipalities that they may go on poisoning if they use alpha chlorolose, another poison of similar effect. “We were able to eliminate poisoning in municipal pounds,” Natelson said, “and encouraged the government to use the oral rabies vaccine as a substitute for poisoning. Field tests of the vaccine are underway, but meanwhile, poisonings may continue.”
(Photo by Rachel Levine.)

Bruntingthorpe, England, in February formed a DNA data base on village dogs, intending to use genetic markers from bits of hair to identify animals who soil the streets. Perhaps inspired, executives of the major kennel clubs of Britain, the U.S., and Europe met at Birmingham, England, on March 15 to coordinate setting up a DNA-based dog registry, which would reduce the incidence of forging papers by making it possible to establish definitely and quickly just which dogs descend from whom.

The **Animal Protection Society** of Vienna, Austria, severely overcrowded with 250 dogs in space for 86, was stunned on March 22 to find that an unknown intruder had drugged at least 10 large dogs including German shepherds and Rottweilers, in a cage that held 24 dogs, muzzled them all, shot eight dead with a captive bolt gun, and slashed the throat of another. A 10th victim died from a drug overdose. Blaming either

“fanatics” opposed to the crowding or a disgruntled former staffer, APS president **Lucie Loube** posted a \$2,000 reward. “It had to be an inside job,” she said. “Otherwise the dogs would have been barking wildly,” alerting the night watchman.

Turkish animal rights activist Emel Yildez told Reuters on April 17 that his group plans to sell t-shirts reading “Our animals were killed for you,” at the **United Nations** “Habitat II” conference coming up June 3-14 in Istanbul. “There is a massacre of animals in the streets,” Yildez explained, claiming local authorities “strew the streets with poisoned meat to get rid of cats and dogs, and seagulls eat the meat too, and die.” Leading Turkish newspapers have recently published photos of dead dogs and seagulls. Istanbul veterinary official **Mehdi Eker** said the poisonings were not ordered by his department, but added that, “If individual districts choose to do such a thing, it is up to them.”

BAD DOGS & WORSE PEOPLE

Hearing testimony from attack victims Allison Judah, 14, and Tiara Dews, 13, the Washington D.C. city council on April 2 passed an ordinance requiring that pit bull terriers and Rottweilers be muzzled in public. Violations resulting in human injury may be punished by fines of up to \$20,000. On February 19, **Anthony A. Fuller, 22**, allegedly led a gang in sexually threatening Judah and Dews. They fled into an apartment building, but were chased out by the manager, whereupon Fuller allegedly set his pit bull on Judah. Her leg injuries will require plastic surgery. **Washington Humane Society** executive director **Mary Healy** objected that, “If our kennels fill up with Rottweilers and pit bulls who are outside without muzzles, we will have no space for adoptable dogs.”

Responding to complaints about dogfighting, the San Francisco Housing Authority has evicted about 50 residents since last July for illegally keeping dogs.

The **housing authorities of Alleghany County, Pennsylvania**, and **New London, Connecticut** are proceeding with similar crackdowns. However, to avoid lawsuits arguing that the crackdowns unjustly discriminate between types of pet, after fighting such a suit to the state supreme court last October, the Alleghany County housing authority has barred all pets of any type.

A **10-agency series of busts** on March 21 in Berkeley, Oakland, Fremont, and Milpitas, California, nabbed 44 pit bulls from reputed members of the same ring whose dogfighting tournament was raided in San Francisco in March 1995. Nine pit bulls, firearms, and \$52,000 in cash were seized.

Montgomery County (Alabama) Humane Society executive director **Mary Mansour** and chief deputy **David Cooper** on March 11 seized seven pit bulls from **Samuel Henderson, Cortez McDay, Ronnie Robinson**, and **Rickey Henderson**, who allegedly stole a pit bull puppy and cut his ears off as preparation to fight. **Judge Craig Miller** of Montgomery County District Court on April 11 fined them each \$500, and gave them 30 days in jail.

Former Houston Oilers running back Todd McNair, 30, was charged on April 4 with 81 counts of abusing 22 pit bulls found chained on land he owns in **East Greenwich Township, New Jersey**. Many of the dogs bore apparent fighting wounds, according to the **Gloucester County SPCA**.

Dogfighting is on the rise, warns Tom Skeldon, dog warden for Lucas County, Ohio, after seizing 144 pit bull terriers in 1995, up from just 50 in 1993.

Exotics

Doll Stanley-Branscum of In Defense of Animals on April 2 filed cruelty charges against erstwhile exotic animal rescuers **Catherine Graham and Lawrence Twiss** of Philadelphia, Mississippi, for allegedly keeping a menagerie including 46 lions, 21 tigers, six ligers, five bears, five cougars, a camel, and a leopard in crowded and filthy conditions, often without water—and bid for custody of the animals at a Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding. According to Stanley-Branscum, Graham-Twiss “started her personal collection from rescues and allowed them to breed.” Stanley-Branscum said many of the animals had lost their tails in fights, while some cubs had been eaten.

Humane Society of the U.S. director for companion animals **Martha Armstrong** on March 11 told representatives of ferret interest groups that HSUS will no longer oppose legalization of ferrets in California, the last state where they are still banned, if the state keeps a ban on selling ferrets in pet stores, requires that pet ferrets be neutered, requires permanent microchip or tattoo identification, prohibits the establishment of commercial ferret breeding farms, and “requires all independent breeders to be registered or licensed.”

JES Exotics, of Sharon, Wisconsin, has announced the split of founders **Jill and E.J. Shumak**. Surviving a zoning dispute with local authorities, the sanctuary is now raising funds to buy out E.J.’s share in the property. “I’m donating my half to JES because it’s important for me to know my work will be continued 100 years from now,” wrote Jill, who carries on with son Corey and volunteers.

Bartlett, Illinois, on March 5 adopted an exotic animal ban in response to the presence of a half-Siberian, half-Bengal tiger cub named Cujo, who was born at the **Land O’Lorin Exotics** wildlife refuge in nearby Batavia. Bartlett realtor **Lois Kieffer**, a refuge volunteer, brought the cub home to nurse on December 26, intending to return him to the refuge when older.



Animal Education Protection & Information

A nonprofit foundation formed in 1986, we are developing our first Exotic Animal Sanctuary on 100 acres near Fordland, Missouri. Initially, our sanctuary houses two unwanted elephants and a flock of rheas we saved from slaughter. Other animals will be welcomed from zoos, circuses, and private owners as we complete appropriate facilities. Our goal is to enable these animals to live out their lives without stress from improper confinement, travel, display, or performance.

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A matter of brains

MAD COW DISEASE PANIC CONTINUES

LONDON, BRUSSELS, PARIS, WASHINGTON D.C.—International panic over the possible linkage of “mad cow disease” with the brain-destroying Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, just beginning to wane as the May edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, may rebound with the publication of data suggesting that the disease may be carried from species to species by mites—and may be virtually impossible to eradicate.

“You could remove all the poor cows and then find that weren’t even the source in the first place,” said Henryk Wisniewski, whose team at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities discovered the possible role of mites, publishing their findings in the *The Lancet*, a leading British medical journal. Exploring the theory that bovine spongiform encephalopathy is a mutated form of the sheep disease scrapie, Wisniewski injected hay mites from a scrapie-plagued part of Iceland into the brains and abdomens of 71 mice. Ten of the mice developed the microscopic spongelike holes in the brain that are symptomatic of scrapie, BSE, and CJD.

“There is no question that the mite agent crossed the species barrier,” Wisniewski said, suggesting that the findings may explain why healthy sheep often develop scrapie just from being in the same barns and fields that infected sheep occupied as long as five years before.

The same tendency has been seen in some British cattle herds, but the number of infected cattle peaked at 10,403 among cows born in 1989, falling to 3,140, 956, 48, and one among cows born in each ensuing year through 1993.

The leading current theory about the mode of transmission is that scrapie somehow jumped into cattle via processed offal supplements that until 1989 were commonly used in Britain to fortify feed grain. Even after the use of potentially infected offal in cattle feed was banned in Britain, British processors exported 15,674 tons of feed containing cattle offal to France, and 13,480 tons to The Netherlands.

Offal cattle feed supplements are still commonly used in the U.S. and Canada.

Cannibals

How exactly BSE might have gone from cattle to humans, if it did, is still unclear. While consumption of bovine nerve tissue would be an obvious possibility, two of the known victims of the unique form of CJD believed to be related to BSE have been vegetarians—who may, however, have consumed protein supplements made from infected cattle, unaware of their animal content, or might have eaten meat from diseased cattle at some point prior to becoming vegetarian. The infectious agent for scrapie, BSE, and CJD is apparently a rogue form of a kind of protein particle called a prion. Prions are normally found on the surface of nerve cells. The disease-causing proteins, though they carry no genetic material, apparently can somehow convert normal prions into the abnormal and deadly kind.

Wisniewski’s findings suggest chiefly that the disease-causing prions may have multiple avenues of transmission.

Until the appearance of 10 CJD cases in Britain among people younger than age 42, CJD was found only in elderly people and seemed to have a hereditary component, since cases clustered in one region of Slovakia,

among Libyan immigrants to Israel, and Sephardic Jews who immigrated to France from Tunisia and Algeria. At least 62 cases were linked to injections of human growth hormone taken from cadavers; others were linked to corneal transplants. A similar disease, kuru, was formerly found among the Fore cannibals of Papua New Guinea, but has disappeared with the decline of cannibalism. Comparable diseases have turned up in cats, ranched mink, squirrels, and deer.

Investigation of possible avenues of BSE/CJD transmission turned up news that shocked Switzerland on April 5, when officials of two Zurich hospitals admitted that for 20 years they had sold human placentas to cattle feed producers. Zurich chief veterinarian Regula Vogel immediately stopped the practice, but said it had never been illegal. Switzerland has had the most BSE cases of any nation other than Britain.

Texas to sue?

The BSE/CJD scare gave advocates of vegetarianism unprecedented opportunity to talk about beef and health before mainstream audiences. Former Montana rancher Howard Lyman was apparently particularly effective on the April 16 *Oprah Winfrey Show*. After Lyman’s appearance, live cattle futures crashed on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, prompting Texas agriculture commissioner Rick Perry to demand that state attorney general Dan Morales prosecute Lyman for using “sheer innuendo and deceptive insinuation” to defame a food product in violation of a state law against circulating false information that “implies that a perishable food product is not safe for consumption by the public.” Lyman is currently executive director of the Eating With Conscience Campaign, a project of the Humane Society of the U.S.

In Britain, anti-pesticide campaigner Mark Purdey argued that BSE was produced by livestock being exposed to organophosphate pesticides, particularly phosnet, a blend of organophosphates with the notorious drug thalidomide, which British farmers were obliged to use in the 1980s to fight a warble fly outbreak. Purdey’s theory was carefully considered by participants in the PRO-MED-AHEAD online discussion of zoonotic disease, sponsored by the World Health Organization, but was generally rejected because the effects of organophosphates have a well-established path of attack, which CJD cases do not follow.

The British government labored unsuccessfully from mid-March to mid-April to lift boycotts of British beef imposed by virtually every regular overseas buyer. At the beginning of April, officials seemed resigned to eventually having to slaughter the entire British cattle herd of 12 million, burning the carcasses to prevent anyone from rendering them into any product for either human or animal consumption. The European Union on April 2 agreed in principle to pay 70% of the cost of the BSE eradication effort. On April 17, however, the EU balked at the scale of the projected killing, which had been diminished to a target of 4.5 million cattle, all of those now more than 30 months old, who are believed to be at most risk of carrying BSE. These would be killed at the rate of 15,000 a week, or 700,000 a year, for the next five to six years, at cost of \$1.5 billion a year.

Britain was to present a plan on April 29 for burning the remains of the culled cows at power plants.

Diet & Health notes

The BSE/CJD scare broke in England on March 20 just as the **Farm Animal Reform Movement** celebrated the 12th annual **Great American Meatout** with more than 1,000 vegetarian events across the U.S.

Earth 2000 National founder Danny Seo is to be featured in a forthcoming McGraw-Hill math textbook “People in the News” feature, which will encourage students to apply math skills to an investigation of vegetarian diet. Seo started Earth 2000 National, billed “the country’s largest youth-advocacy organization fighting for animals,” in 1989. Membership inquiries are welcomed at POB 24, Shillington, PA 19607-0024.

Joseph Connelly has formed the **Syracuse Area Vegetarian Education Society (SAVES)** at POB 302, DeWitt, NY 13214; 315-4378-2163.

Photo by Donna Carter.

Religion & animals

A Sarajevan mob for reasons unknown assaulted a Hare Krishna street procession on April 20, injuring two members from Britain, one from Australia, and a young Bosnian recruit. “The clash was unexpected,” reported Reuter. “The Hare Krishna movement was very active in Sarajevo throughout the war, performing their dance and songs in the city streets even during the worst of the shelling and winning sympathy for their courage from the besieged residents.” In Sarajevo, Grozny, and other wartorn cities behind the former Iron Curtain, Hare Krishnas are also known for their bakeries and vegetarian soup kitchens. “There may be places in the world where simply seeing a bunch of Hare Krishna members would make people turn tail and run. But Grozny isn’t one of them,” *New York Times* correspondent Michael Specter recently reported. “Here they have a reputation like the one Mother Teresa has in Calcutta: it’s not hard finding people who swear they are saints. Each day they serve more than 1,000 hot meals, as many as any organization in the city. There are no temples here, or meetings to discuss the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. There is just the rule that the members of the sect must live by: no people within 10 miles of their residence should go hungry.”

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad pledged on March 28 to make an Indian general election issue of cow slaughter in response to the global “mad cow disease” scare. VHP general secretary Acharaya Giriraj Kishore said the scare demonstrates the truth of Hindu teachings against cow slaughter, which in New Delhi is a crime punishable by up to five years in jail. Media around the world then soberly reported—on April 1—that the World Council of Hindus had offered to transport to India and take care of the British herd of about 12 million cattle, rather than have them be killed to stop the spread of “mad cow disease.” It was a nasty hoax, obliging Hindu leaders to explain, more to their embarrassment than that of the duped media, that they hadn’t made the offer and have no means to do any such thing.

Since November 1995, Israeli soldiers have had the right to wear non-leather boots if they so choose for reasons of conscience. The boots must be approved by the Israeli Defence Force chief medical officer. The policy was adopted on behalf of 17-year-old Jerusalem vegans Ido Ayal and Yishai Baklesh, at request of Knesset members Ran Cohen and Naomi Chazan.

The decade-old “mural ministry” maintained by Canon Neville Chamberlain at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Edinburgh, Scotland, shocked churchgoers at Easter with a 10-foot-square image of a cow crucified on meathooks. Associate rector Michael Fuller said the mural was inspired by “the apparently offhand way in which people are contemplating the destruction of large numbers of cattle. We would much prefer to stay out of politics, but there are some issues of considerable ethical and moral import that the Church, however reluctantly, is obliged to speak upon.”

“The Life Experience School is a place where young people with life challenges become active participants in life,” located in Sherborn, Massachusetts, explains the recently published first edition of the school newsletter, *Strawberry Fields*. “In 1988, Mother Teresa came to visit and bless the students and staff. Her visit prompted the founding of the Peace Abbey,” which “provides a spiritual environment for people who follow the peaceful teachings of the religions of the world.” Since Christmas Eve, it has also been home of Emily the Cow, who, recounts folksinger Ben Tousley, “at five years old was being led into the Arena Slaughterhouse in Hopkinton, when suddenly, mysteriously, she broke free, scaled a five-foot fence—her weight at the time was 1,400 pounds—and ran off into the nearby woods, where she eluded hunters for 40 days and 40 nights.” Peace Abbey staffers Lewis and Meg Randa bought Emily from Arena for a dollar, caught her, and explain to visitors, as Lewis puts it, that “Emily is here to remind us of the cruelty of using animals for food. Veganism is the most compassionate form of pacifism, for it takes into account the blessedness of all God’s creatures.”

Evangelical minister J.R. Hyland, who serves prisoners and migrant farm-workers, has commenced a periodical, *Humane Religion*, devoted to social justice issues including vegetarianism, and has reissued his 1988 book, *The Slaughter of Terrified Beasts: A Biblical Basis for the Humane Treatment of Animals*. “I think you will find that Rev. Hyland brings a unique perspective to this work,” writes Viatoris Ministries publications manager Jean Burns. “No excuse is offered for wrong teachings and callous attitudes toward animals.” *Humane Religion* is \$18/6 issues; *The Slaughter of Terrified Beasts* is \$6.95. Both are distributed by Viatoris: 1715 Stickney Point Road, Suite C-8, Sarasota, FL 34231.

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Vegetarian travelers

U.S., Peru split on dolphins —K.B.

WASHINGTON D.C.—The House Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on April 18 approved HR 2823, a bill by Representative Wayne Gilchrest (R-Maryland) to implement the 1995 Declaration of Panama. Endorsed by the Clinton administration, Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Center for Marine Conservation, HR 2823 and a Senate companion bill, S 1420, change the definition of “dolphin-safe” to allow the resumed import of tuna netted “on dolphin,” if the number of “observed” dolphin deaths is less than 5,000 for the fleet for the year.

Proponents of the bill argue that netting “on dolphin” is less harmful to sea turtles, sharks, and other endangered marine species. Opponents disagree, including the Humane Society of the U.S., the Sierra Club, and most other animal and habitat protection groups. “HR 2823 is deadly to dolphins,” explains Adele Douglass, Washington D.C. director for the American Humane Association, “because it repeals all U.S. dolphin protection laws,” to bring the U.S. into compliance with the North American Free Trade Agreement ban on the use of “process standards,” governing how something is produced, in restraint of trade.

“If this bill passes,” warns Earth Island Institute executive director David Phillips, “the only winners will be the Mexican dolphin-killers, who will again be able to dump their dolphin-lethal tuna onto U.S. supermarket shelves.” Adds Sam LaBudde, whose undercover video of dolphin slaughter in tuna netting, together with similar video from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, led to the 1990 adoption of the “dolphin-safe” definition that HR 2823 would repeal: “This is exactly what we were promised wouldn’t happen when NAFTA was passed.”

As the U.S. Congress moved to weaken dolphin protection, the Peruvian Congress on April 10 adopted Peru’s first dolphin protection law, strengthening existing regulations by making dolphin-killing and/or selling dolphin meat punishable by from two to four years in jail.

ANIMAL PEOPLE received material published in support of the new law from Olga Rey, president of the Campaign for Life Association, who said Peruvian waters are home to 20 of the world’s 42 species of dolphin; the Peruvian Center for Cetacean Studies, which said Peru hosts 18 of 46 dolphin species; and author Rebecca Howard, a resident of Peru, who claimed, “More than 31 of the world’s 80 known cetacean species cruise Peru’s coastal waters.”

Said Ric O’Barry of the Dolphin Project, who flew to Peru to help Rey lobby, “I just know it’s a lot of dolphins. They were being killed illegally and sold as ‘sea pig,’ but when Campaign for Life put up some billboards telling the people what ‘sea pig’ really is, nobody wanted to eat it any more.”

Oceanariums

Sea World took a high profile in marine mammal rescue efforts at opposite corners of the U.S. in early April:

- In Florida, Sea World Orlando biology staff led efforts to discover the cause of 238 wild manatee deaths—more than ever before recorded even over a full year—during the first third of 1996. The toll of 100 through the first 90 days of the year was already considered alarming, when 138 more died between March 5 and April 20. About 2,600 manatees inhabited Florida waters when the deaths began. Strangely, all of the victims have been adults. The deaths roughly coincide with a toxic red tide that hit 150 miles of Florida’s South Gulf Coast in April, and red tides can be lethal to manatees: a red tide in 1982 killed 39 manatees. However, forensic examination of remains hasn’t found any direct link between the red tide and the deaths.

- On April 5, Sea World and the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium of Tacoma offered to take in Hondo and four other California sea lion bulls who were apparently within hours of being shot for their habit of waiting at the foot of the fish ladders at Ballard Locks, near Seattle, ambushing steelhead trying to make their spawning runs and thereby threatening to wipe out several biologically unique endangered runs. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife both promptly accepted the offer. Hondo, weighing more than 1,000 pounds, has been a popular local character since 1988. He’s also a missing character, reportedly last seen in January.

The Vancouver Park Board on April 10 asked the city legal department for advice in drafting a bylaw to ban further imports of whales into Stanley Park, home of the Vancouver Aquarium. According to Annelise Sorg of the Coalition for No Whales In Captivity, “The proposed bylaw might even ban captivity altogether, but would have some sort of grandparent clause for the existing collection.” The Park Board also asked the aquarium for a policy statement “clarifying whether it is planning to expand the orca pool and import more cetaceans,” Sorg said. “It was further requested that the aquarium produce a report on how much it would affect its finances if the whale and dolphin programs eventually decline.” The Vancouver Aquarium, which 30 years ago was the first ever to capture an orca, now has the orcas Finna and Bjossa; five belugas; and a Pacific whitesided dolphin. The orca tank is much smaller than the current standard, set by Sea World, but the Park Board has blocked attempts to expand into the space formerly occupied by the defunct Stanley Park Zoo.

Two years after Ric O’Barry of The Dolphin Project and Russ Rector of the Dolphin Freedom Foundation began complaining about alleged structural deficiencies at the Miami Seaquarium, the Seaquarium closed under pressure from Metro Miami to fix a 26-year-old grandstand. “Saltwater splashed by Lolita, the Seaquarium’s orca, has eaten away at the steel rods that support the stands,” Don Frefrock of the Miami Herald reported. “We have to do maintenance,” Seaquarium chief executive Arthur Hertz acknowledged. “It could be days; it could be weeks.”

Overkill in overdrive (from page one)

nificant federal and provincial make-work subsidies that raised the price paid for seal meat from 20¢ per pound to 27¢ a pound. As in past years, however, when there were no visible markets for the remains of many fewer seals, real demand for seal products was scarce. Despite DFO claims that pelt prices were averaging \$20, up from \$16 last year, the price list circulated by the primary buyer, the Carino Company Ltd., showed \$20 as the very top price paid for any type of harp seal.

Control

Prices of \$20 or more were offered for five types and grades of hooded seal. That may be why the sealers this year killed 16,000 hooded seals, twice the hooded seal quota. The hooded seal hunt was officially stopped several days before the false stop to the harp seal hunt—but when Arthur Cady of the International Fund for Animal Welfare suggested that, “Somebody should be asking some serious questions about this and the government’s inability to control what’s going on,” DFO Newfoundland director-general Lorne Humphries insisted the hooded seal population could withstand the killing of even 24,000.

The DFO emphasized damage control throughout the hunt. According to the Canadian news magazine Maclean’s, the provincially funded Nova Scotia School of Fisheries in Pictou even devoted half of a two-week course on sealing for would-be sealers to “communications.”

Yet, information reached reporters about other apparent instances of the government losing control. Reported Kathryn King of the CBC on April 4, “The DFO isn’t saying anything much about a series of seizures it conducted today in the seal harvest. It sent out a statement this morning saying it had obtained search warrants and was seizing pelts and records. It’s investigating possible violations of the Marine Mammals Act. People on the Northern Peninsula say the DFO is seizing records and pelts regarding blue black-hooded seals. They say a buyers’ house in St. Anthony was raided this morning and his receipts taken. There are also rumors that some 10,000 to 12,000 pelts have been taken and that the [seal-processing] plant in Dildo was raided.”

Salmon

Canadian fisheries minister Fred Mifflin

on March 30 declared that the government would cut the British Columbia salmon fishing fleet of 4,400 vessels in half over the next three years, via license buy-backs. Fishing industry representatives said the plan wouldn’t do much to help depleted salmon recover, however, because 75% of the catch is taken by the 20% of the fleet most likely to stay active.

Also to protect salmon, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans the same day announced the closure for this year of the commercial sockeye fishery on the mouth of the Fraser River, and said native and recreational fishing might be closed there as well. This year’s Fraser River salmon run is expected to be the lowest on record.

Global warming has cut the ocean habitat for Atlantic salmon by 20%, says Dave Reddin, a Canadian government scientist stationed in St. John’s, Nova Scotia. “Sea temperatures in the northern part of the habitat have been getting colder,” explains Reddin, an effect of more Arctic ice melting, sending cold water south on the Labrador current, “but in the south the temperatures have been getting warmer, so the area the salmon can inhabit is collapsing on itself.”

Lend-A-Paw Relief Agency

DFO figures on the seal hunt generally raised suspicion. On March 30, for instance, less than two weeks before the brief closure, the official seal toll stood at 69,224. Lisa DiStefano of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society told ANIMAL PEOPLE that although she and Sea Shepherd captain Paul Watson overflow parts of the sealing area repeatedly, she saw little chance that the count could have gone markedly higher. “The ice is gone and the seals are in the water,” DiStefano continued. “Even where we did see ice, we didn’t see a lot of bloodstains where seals had been.”

Brushing seals

Watson and DiStefano eschewed protest again this year, for the third year in a row. “We didn’t even contact any media,” DiStefano said. Instead, Watson and DiStefano established a base of operations on Prince Edward Island, where growing potatoes has always been bigger than killing seals, and then took German millionaire entrepreneur Tobias Kirchoff and Reinhard Ollic of the Origo mail-order fashion house out to the ice to witness seal-brushing. In 1994 Watson and DiStefano tested the brushing technique, finding that molting seals at the beater stage welcome the attention. Last year they tried to interest the sealers of the Madeleine Islands in seal-brushing, only to be attacked by a mob. This year they brushed enough seal wool to enable Kirchoff and Origo to spin sample garments.

Watson’s belief is that just as soon as enough people take up brushes and combs instead of seal-clubs and guns, seal wool can be gathered in enough volume to become the basis of a cruelty-free industry far more lucrative than sealing ever has been. The wool is water-resistant, he points out, lightweight, and is a thoroughly renewable resource.

Logically the Canadian government should be interested, having poured millions of dollars into other forms of job creation in Atlantic Canada, ranging from subsidizing sealing to building DeLorean sports cars. But seal-brushing doesn’t suit the self-image of sealers, or give them an outlet for their impotent rage at being left behind by the 20th century, with little hope of making up ground in the 21st.

Sea Turtles —K.B.

Earth Island Institute, The Fund for Animals, and the Humane Society of the U.S. on April 19 announced the formation of a 30-organization “consumer-powered campaign to end the slaughter” of sea turtles in shrimping by seeking “turtle-safe shrimp eco-labelling,” patterned after the dolphin-safe labeling campaign of 1990.

Ecologist Paul Robertson, executive director of Bat Conservation International 1988-1989 and field director at the Center for Rainforest Studies in Queensland, Australia, 1991-1995, is new executive director of the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, sponsor of the Sea Turtle Survival League, founded in 1959 by the late sea turtle advocate Archie Carr.

Like winning both ‘Cy Young’ and ‘MVP’

Patti Olsen, DVM, recently named to the newly created post of Director of Veterinary Affairs and Studies for the American Humane Association, received the American Animal Hospital Association’s Humane Ethics and Animal Welfare Award in March—and the Geraldine Dodge Humane Ethics in Action Award in April.

American SPCA honors American Airlines

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The American SPCA on March 27 honored American Airlines with a Corporate Citizen Award, a year after American Airlines received the Animal Transportation Association’s Animal Welfare Award.

Both awards recognize not only safe routine handling of about 100,000 animals per year, but also American Airlines’ donation of transportation in connection with numerous exotic animal rescues facilitated by ASPCA wildlife programs director Kathi Travers. In one instance American Airlines put a jumbo jet on a route normally handled by smaller aircraft, to fly three African lions to a sanctuary near Fort Worth, Texas.

Travers and American Airlines recently teamed up to make a training film about airport and in-flight animal handling.

But Travers’ longtime chief contact, corporate communications executive Gus Whitcomb, left American Airlines one day before the ASPCA award ceremony, to take a job at Air West.

ESA revision bill unlikely to go to vote

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Biodiversity Legal Foundation on April 1 led a coalition of grass-roots groups in filing suit against Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for alleged violation of the Endangered Species Act and Administrative Procedures Act on February 27, when in keeping with the moratorium on listing new endangered species agreed to by President Bill Clinton and Republican Congressional leaders, about 4,000 species were dropped from consideration as “formal candidates” for protection.

A motion to lift the moratorium failed by just two votes in the Senate on March 14, as the Clinton administration failed to back it, but the momentum reversed two weeks later when Senator Bill Bradley (D-New Jersey) threatened to filibuster a bill that would have protected two million acres of Utah while opening more than twice as much now-protected habitat to mining and development. This time a motion to block the filibuster failed by two votes.

The Endangered Species Coalition, a consortium of environmental and animal protection groups, on April 17 outlined via the Gannett News Service the highlights of a proposed Endangered Natural Heritage Act. “We’ve seen moderate Republicans band together to oppose efforts to gut the ESA, we’ve seen enormous public outcry, and we’ve seen a president who stumbled but came to realize the environment is an issue he can win on,” said Brian Vincent of the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance. “We’re taking advantage of that by launching an offensive strategy.”

House Resources Committee chair Don Young (R-Alaska) on April 17 held a hearing on the bill to drastically curtail the ESA that he introduced last fall with Richard Pombo (R-California).

“Although Republican leaders say there is still a chance that the bill could reach a floor vote in the House,” Timothy J. McNulty of the *Chicago Tribune* reported, “the likelihood of that is slim.”

International wildlife news

Africa

Rangers at Garamba National Park in Zaire on March 28 reported the poaching kill of a 10-year-old pregnant female northern white rhino, one of under 30 in existence and the second to be poached in 12 days. “This is a tragic loss,” said World Wildlife Fund director-general Claude Martin from Geneva. As of February 14, when WWF announced the vulnerability of the rhinos to media, no endangered animals of any kind had been poached at Garamba since 1984, despite heavy poaching of elephants and hooved stock, blamed on Sudanese rebels and refugees, whose camps flank the park.

“**For the first time in 29 years,** no breeding herd elephants will be killed in Kruger National Park and no juveniles will thus be available for sale,” the South African National Parks board announced on April 1. “We will, however, continue to remove elephants by translocation in family groups as and when suitable destinations arise.” Previous practice was to sell families to zoos, and formerly, to circuses; adults for whom there were no takers were shot. About 8,000 elephants inhabit Kruger, which is larger than many nations. The Parks Board said the moratorium on culling came as a result of a policy review, adding that it might cull again “under scientifically justified circumstances.” The Parks Board was offered \$5 million to stop lethal killing by “a coalition of animal rights groups,” *Newsweek* reported on February 26.

A tame baboon was accused of witchcraft and “neck-laced” with a burning tire by a mob of about 150 villagers on March 17, near Kruger National Park, South Africa. In the same region, on April 17, a previously unknown group calling itself Spear of the Tiger claimed to have begun “total animal liberation in Africa” by releasing animals identified by British sources as radio-collared lions, leopards, and springbok from two facilities alternately called “huge concentration camp farms” and “game reserves.” As radio-collared animals could be easily traced, and the release of predators from a protected area provides a pretext for killing them, some wildlife experts suspect the claim may be a hoax. Also, there are no tigers in Africa.

Britain

Environment secretary John Gummer and about 260 Members of Parliament are ready to back a bill to reform the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, Charles Clover of the *Daily Telegraph* reported on March 20. “At present,” Clover wrote, “owners of sites of special scientific interest have only to threaten to exploit them to qualify for compensation in lieu of ‘profits foregone,’” a precedent with implications for the wise-use theory that the U.S. Endangered Species Act should be amended to pay land owners for ‘takings’ of property rights. Clover reported that Viscount Cranborne, leader of the House of Lords, gets \$100,000 a year to refrain from logging his estate; former Scot Rail chair John Cameron got about \$2.5 million to refrain from tree-planting on his estate; and a piggery owner got \$175,000 to forgo expansion plans.

A billion-dollar cleanup of the Thames basin has encouraged the National Rivers Authority and the Wildlife Trusts of Berkshire, Hampshire, and Wiltshire to commence an otter restoration project by digging holts with plastic-pipe entrances at concealed sites along the Kennet River. Said Wiltshire Wildlife Trust official Mark Satinet, who chose the holt sites, “Pollution and habitat loss have caused the number of otters to decline rapidly since the 1950s.” Considered vermin, otters were actually all but exterminated by lurchers and lampers, the British equivalent of coon-hunters, until otter rescuer Gavin Maxwell’s books *Ring of Bright Water* (1960) and *The Otter’s Tale* (1962) turned public opinion in favor of otter protection.

Another whitewash of hunting comes from a survey of the British brown hare population done by Bristol University for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. A team of 500 volunteers found the national hare population is down to about 820,000, from four million in 1900—which the report authors blame wholly on habitat loss. “Field sports such as shooting, coursing, and beagling affect a small proportion of the brown hare population and are not believed to pose a threat,” they wrote, overlooking that as habitat shrinks, the amount of shooting, coursing, and beagling occurring on the rest has an ever-greater impact.

Asia

The Vietnamese government and the conservation group Fauna and Flora International on April 12 announced a joint effort to rebuild the Viet population of Asian elephants, down from around 1,000 fifteen years ago to perhaps 250 today. About a quarter of the \$600,000 project budget is to be donated by J&B Scotch Distillers’ “Care for the Rare” campaign, possibly inspired by the success of Rhino Chasers beer, brewed by William & Scott Inc., profits from which help African Wildlife Foundation efforts to protect black rhinos in Kenya and Namibia.

In what Reuter called “a rare example of investigative journalism,” the Chinese state TV news show on April 7 showed alleged violations of a February order by Yunnan province officials that logging halt in Deqing county, home of about 200 of the last 1,000 to 1,500 wild snubnosed golden monkeys.

Chinese wildlife officials on March 27 captured a giant panda who pushed his way into farmer Gu Yingming’s home in Shaanxi province. “I was both surprised and excited to find my special guest,” said Gu Yingming, the mayor of Yangxian village. The panda lived for four days in Gu’s cattle pen, eating a pail of honey and bamboo shoots from the grove around the house. The panda fell ill, necessitating his removal, after Gu and his mother gave him meat.

Australia

At request of the Australian government, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on April 12 announced that Australian saltwater crocodiles would be reclassified as threatened, rather than endangered, and said a special rule would be issued to allow their hides and those of Nile crocodiles to be imported.

Grizzly bear. (K.B.)

North America

British Columbia environment minister Moe Sihota on April 12 announced an omnibus grizzly bear protection plan. A key grizzly salmon-fishing site at the confluence of two rivers north of Bella Coola, formerly slated for logging, will become a 255-acre sanctuary, and the fine for poaching a grizzly, first offense, will increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Western Canada Wilderness Committee spokesperson Joe Foy expressed disappointment that Sihota didn’t halt hunting grizzly bears. From 10,000 to 13,000 grizzlies live in British Columbia, believed to be half the Canadian population and 25% of the total North American population. Sihota didn’t announce any measures on behalf of the rare Kermode bear of the British Columbian rainforest—a black bear who is born white. The Valhalla Wilderness Society and Bear Watch had poured resources into a TV ad blitz in both Canada and the U.S. on behalf of the Kermode bear, starting March 18.

February flooding along the Columbia River killed about 150 Columbia whitetailed deer in the Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Refuge near Cathlamet, Washington, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Alan Clark told media on March 16. Already weakened by winter, the deer didn’t drown, but were overstressed by battling water that covered most of the refuge to a depth of two to three feet for two weeks. About 5,400 of the small deer, on the Endangered Species List since 1974, survive at three other locations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was reportedly on the verge of delisting the deer as “recovered,” and some biologists favored introducing limited hunts to reduce the numbers of older deer—who apparently took the brunt of the flood losses.

American Humane Association group membership (through December 1996)

The Animal Welfare Information Center at the National Animal Disease Library has lost three of six staff positions to USDA budget cuts—and barely survived a move to merge it back into the main USDA library. AWIC is used by about 3,000 people a year, 53% of them biomedical researchers. Animal protection groups are also heavy users.

Fields’ survivors charged in Love & Care case

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Attorney general Jeff Sessions on February 28 announced the indictments of Ronald Lee Denney, 30, Tina Elizabeth (Fields) Denney, 33, and H. Louis Jones, DVM, for criminal conspiracy. The trio allegedly diverted donations to the former Love & Care for God’s Animalife no-kill shelter to their own newly formed organization, Saving Animals From Euthanasia. They were also indicted for allegedly receiving stolen property, misrepresenting themselves in order to adopt eight dogs and 12 cats who were evacuated from the Love & Care premises to a temporary adoption center set up in Montgomery by the North Shore Animal League and the Montgomery County Humane Society. They then claimed in a funding appeal that they had saved the animals’ lives.

Earlier, the Denneys and Jones issued numerous appeals, apparently using the Love & Care mailing list, asserting that court-appointed receiver Alan Cory intended to euthanize the 754 animals who were left after Tina Denney’s mother, Ann Fields, 49, died suddenly on October 21, 1995, at home in Indian Wells, California, while facing legal action for fraud begun by assistant Alabama attorney general Dennis Wright in June 1995. The action originated in part out of a dossier on Love & Care compiled by ANIMAL PEOPLE from 1988 to 1994 and forwarded to Wright’s predecessor on the case.

In fact, 484 dogs and 198 cats from Love & Care were placed for adoption or lifelong shelter care, while 27 dogs and 45 cats died or were euthanized. Other leaders in the placement effort included the Alabama Federation of Animal Control and Humane Societies, the Chicago-based Society of St. Francis, and the Humane Society of North Pinellas County, of Clearwater, Florida.

Millions

The Denneys and Jones were all long associated with Love & Care, founded by Ann Fields in Rockdale County, Georgia, in 1963, but not incorporated until 1976. Sued as an alleged public nuisance in 1979, Love & Care was ordered to move in 1984.

Fields and her first husband, Jerry Fields, opened a second shelter; turned over management of both facilities to Ronald Denney; and moved to California to evade arrest. They already drew more than \$1 million a year in donations, but still pleaded dire poverty in “urgent” appeals, often bearing handwritten notes about fictitious disasters.

The Georgia secretary of state revoked Love & Care’s charitable status in 1987. In November 1989, Rockdale County closed the two Love & Care shelters; Fields moved some animals to a new site near Andalusia, Alabama, where it was soon business as usual.

Fields reportedly visited the Andalusia shelter just once. She divorced

Jerry Fields and married a much younger man, Victor Lagunas, in 1993. Some sources have identified Lagunas to ANIMAL PEOPLE as being actually the boyfriend of longtime employee Linda Lewis. In June 1994, Fields announced the firing of Ronald Denney, whom she accused in the Love & Care newsletter of stealing equipment and running drugs. Lewis purportedly quit in September 1994, providing damaging information about Love & Care to the Alabama Office of the Attorney General.

Suicide

Fields’ body was purportedly discovered by Lagunas and also identified by Jerry Fields and Lewis, who told police she was Fields’ “daughter, but not by blood.” According to information received by ANIMAL PEOPLE from sources close to the investigation, Fields’ death, from an overdose of Propoxyphene (Darvon), in a horse-sized capsule, was first classed as a homicide. It was reclassified a suicide because there were no marks on her body indicating that the ingestion of the drug might have been forced. The body was released by the coroner on October 24 and buried in Mexico two days later.

The Love & Care shelter was burned as a public health hazard following the removal of the animals. Authorities continue to seek Fields’ assets; at her death, she owed more than \$1 million in unpaid taxes.

Was MOVE an animal rights group?

PHILADELPHIA—Jury selection began April 2 for the trial of MOVE activist Ramona Africa’s damage suit against the city of Philadelphia.

Ramona Africa and her 13-year-old son Birdie were the sole survivors of the May 13, 1985 bombing by Philadelphia police of the MOVE headquarters, ending a 90-minute siege during which the police fired an estimated 10,000 rounds. MOVE members had two pistols, two shotguns, and a .22 rifle. Six adults and five children were killed; 61 homes burned.

The siege is widely noted as a landmark in the history of Afro-American militant conflict with authority. Recent accounts have often added the claim that MOVE had an “animal rights” orientation. From the April 2 edition of *The New York Times*: “MOVE, an interracial group founded in the early 1970s around the issues of animal rights and police brutality, preaches a back-to-nature life.”

The source of this information seems to be Ramona Africa herself, who has claimed in recent writings and lectures that MOVE was vegetarian and animal-oriented. In an e-mail to ANIMAL PEOPLE, she claimed MOVE in the 1970s led demonstrations, purportedly violently repressed by police, against Canadian sealing, the Philadelphia Zoo and baboon-head-crushing experiments at the University of Pennsylvania. She also claimed MOVE founder John Africa “did more to stop dogfighting in Rochester, New York, than anybody else up there,” without citing specifics as to when or how.

Elaborating, MOVE supporter Marpessa Kuppen-

dua said MOVE had a “20-year history of getting their asses kicked while protesting at zoos, circuses, and pet stores,” and alleged online that, “Dick Gregory stole his entire [vegetarian] health empire from the writings of John Africa.”

However, ANIMAL PEOPLE has so far found no confirmation of these claims in sources predating the bombing

- The electronic archives of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Philadelphia Daily News* include extensive coverage of MOVE, which was locally prominent for more than a decade before the bombing, and was involved in a 1978 shootout that killed a police officer; nine MOVE members drew 30 years to life

in prison. The only animal-related coverage, however, pertains to neighbors’ complaints about apparent animal-collecting, which Ramona Africa describes as rescuing, involving the accumulation of unneutered, un-vaccinated dogs in filthy conditions.

- Contemporary animal rights literature takes no notice of MOVE, even in seeking Afro-American links. *The Animals’ Agenda* magazine apparently never mentioned MOVE, despite the interest of longtime staffers in cause linkage and racial justice.
- Nothing about MOVE appears in histories of animal rights activism, including the works of Rod Preece and Lorna Chamberlain, David Helvarg, Rik Scarce, Richard

Ryder, Lawrence and Susan Finsen, James Jasper and Dorothy Nelkin, and Andrew Rowan.

- The extensive ANIMAL PEOPLE files on the head injury lab protests and on the Philadelphia Zoo include nothing mentioning MOVE.

- Anti-animal rights literature, which seldom misses a chance to link animal rights views with fanaticism, takes no notice of MOVE, either.

- MOVE did not rate a mention in the 1993 U.S. Department of Justice Report on Animal Rights Terrorism.

Ambiguous references linking MOVE to some animal rights concerns were included in a 1987 book about the bombing, *Burning Down The House*, by John Anderson and

Tools for humane work

New from **Doing Things For Animals**,
POB 2165, Sun City, AZ 85372-2165:

When Bob Frank of the Society of St. Francis needed help to find homes for the last of the hundreds of animals left behind by the demise of Ann Fields and her Love & Care for God’s Animalife shelter in rural Alabama, he picked up the 1995 *No-Kill Directory*, edited by Lynda Foro, and started calling. It worked. Now the 1996 edition is out, thicker than ever with approximately 250 listings. Price: \$15.

From the **American Humane Association**,
63 Inverness Drive E., Englewood CO 80112-5117:

The Case for Early Neutering: a tool for companion animal population control. Video and handbook, \$14.95 together; \$3.95 per extra copy of the handbook. Organizations trying to sell their own staff, board, or funding source on early neutering will find this video and handbook useful. Portions might be excerpted for public education, but graphic scenes of surgery will be more than most people want to know. The handbook will, however, provide quick answers to whatever questions the public may ask. A rave comes from Jessica Bart-Mikionis, executive director of the Bennington County Humane Society in Shaftsbury, Vermont. In 1990, BCHS had a euthanasia rate of 73%, near the national average. In 1995, however, Bart-Mikionis reports, a year after beginning to promote early neutering, “We received fewer animals than ever on record in our 36-year history.” Puppy intake crashed, while kitten intake continued to grow slightly, “and for the first time were able to place more animals into loving, permanent homes” than were euthanized. “With 704 animals placed in 1995, our adoption rate climbed to 50%, up from 26% only five years ago,” when 402 animals were adopted, out of 1,664 received. “Correspondingly,” Bart-Mikionis adds, “our euthanasia rate was down to 47%.”

A Training Guide for Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse for animal control officers and humane investigators. \$20/single copy; \$50/5 copies; \$80/10 copies. This guide can be hard reading: it includes photographs illustrating the tell-tale marks of common forms of child abuse—exactly what an animal control officer or humane investigator needs for reference when trying to intervene in a child abuse case. Thorough yet concise, this guide is appropriate for both desk use and as the basis of in-service training seminars.

Final Report for a Limited Cultural Assessment of the Pet Overpopulation Crisis in the Colorado Hispanic/Latino Community summarizes the findings of a series of focus group meetings recently convened by AHA in an attempt to improve minority outreach. These findings could be valuable to any organization serving a substantial Spanish-speaking population. Underscored are the need to provide transportation for pets as part of a low-cost neutering program, since many lower-income people don’t have cars; the lack of accurate humane information published in Spanish; and the need to integrate humane services and education into Spanish-speaking culture.

Sentencing John Kevin Cooper, 24, and Douglas Grant Rustay, 25, for illegally plucking the tail feathers of two golden eagles at a nature center, U.S. Magistrate Claude Hicks of Macon, Georgia, on February 1 ordered the men to pay fines of \$500 and restitution of \$600 apiece by working a 40-hour week as chicken-pluckers.

BOOKS

Out of Harm’s Way: the extraordinary true story of one woman’s lifelong devotion to animal rescue by Terri Crisp and Samantha Glen.

Pocket Books (Simon & Schuster Inc., 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 1996. 394 pages, \$23.00 hardcover. Portions of the proceeds are donated to United Animal Nations.

I remember seeing film footage back in the late 1950s of people rescuing animals during a flood, wondering why they were doing that. Raised on an isolated Quebec farm, with animals as my constant and only regular companions, I knew animals were pretty smart, and I thought they were capable of surviving or escaping disasters of all sorts on their own.

Terri Crisp, who has spent much of her life organizing animal-rescue operations during natural disasters, has found this common perception to be one of the biggest obstacles to her work. Whether rescuing pets from the 1983 Alviso or 1993 Missouri floodwaters, the Los Gatos hill fires, or Florida’s Hurricane Andrew, the situations were always exacerbated by the ignorant or callous actions of pet owners who all too often abandoned pets to fend for themselves. Notes Crisp, “...we have made pets depen-

dent on us by meddling with their ability to escape injury and death during disasters. When animals are confined in a cage, run, pasture, house, or barn, they need a person to save them from an approaching fire or rising floodwaters.”

Crisp finds, too many times, that people are so intent on saving furniture, mementos, and other property, that they don’t even take the simple expedient of freeing pets to fend for themselves, much less remove the animals from danger. She also finds that animal control agencies and humane societies often lack contingency plans for disaster. The Red Cross, which shelters human disaster victims, does not shelter pets.

Out Of Harm’s Way is Crisp’s account of more than 12 years of work to rectify these problems. She got her training the hard way, slogging through flood waters and picking through debris, rescuing animals and taking them to emergency accommodations. She also took on the job of training other volunteers to do such work, and of setting in place agencies which help mobilize volunteers for disaster rescue.

An interesting and useful account, Crisp’s book should be sent to every municipal or county government to convince them of the necessity of drawing up disaster plans for rescuing animals; and should be read by anyone who cares about animals, to guide them in safeguarding their pets in the event of large-scale emergency.

—P.J. Kemp

Coming events

Ongoing: The library at the Long Island Campus of Polytechnic University in Farmingdale is hosting rotating exhibitions of photographic art by ANIMAL PEOPLE photographer Robert Harrison on a permanent basis.

Ongoing: More comprehensive listings of animal-related events are available on the World Wide Web from Advance, >>http://www.earth-base.org/advance<<, and on the Internet at >>BestFriends@nism.com<<.

May 4: The Animal Fair, Littleton, Colorado, hosted by The Cat House Foundation. Info: 303-979-6473.

May 5: New England Vegetarian Extravaganza, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Info: 617-625-3790.

May 9-10: Oklahoma Animal Control Association 27th Semi-Annual Seminar, Afton, Oklahoma. Info: 405-760-6413.

May 16-18: National Animal Control Association annual conference, in Kansas City, Missouri. Info: 1-800-828-6474.

May 19: Animal-Kind 1996, workshops sponsored by United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee. Info: 212-410-3095.

May 19: Walk for Animals, to benefit Neponset Valley Humane Society, at Borderland State Park, Sharon, Mass. Info: 617-341-2675.

June 1: 3rd annual Pet Walk, to benefit Humane Society of Lackawanna County, noon, Lackawanna State Park, Clark’s Summit, Pennsylvania.

June 1: Deadline for nominations for the 1996 American Humane Association Be Kind to Animals Kids Award. Info: 303-792-9900.

June 1: Deadline for nominations for the 1996 Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing award. Info: c/o Alan Goldberg, >>CAAT@jhuhyg.sph.jhu.edu<<.

June 8: New York Turtle & Tortoise Society’s 9th Annual Seminar, Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Info: 212-459-4803.

July 13-14: Natural Pet Care Expo ‘96, Annandale, Virginia, sponsored by Lend-A-Paw Relief Organization. Info: 703-827-0908.

September 1-4: International Congress of Whale-watching, Buenaventura, Colombia. Info: >>ropardo@biomarina.univalle.edu.co<<.

September 14-16: Independent Pet & Animal Transportation Association International conference, New Orleans. Info: 903-769-2267.

September 25-29: Roots & Shoots North American Youth Summit, sponsored by the Jane Goodall Institute, Denver, Colorado. Info: 203-431-2099.

Bunny Huggers' Gazette ad (free—can bump)

The Flight of the Red Knot, by Brian Harrington with Charles Flowers. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. (500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110), published in association with WGBH—Boston and Manomet Observatory, 1996. 192 pages; \$29.95.

Subtitled “A natural history account of a small bird’s annual migration from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America and back,” this is a beautifully illustrated book about the remarkable yearly journeys of a species of sandpiper known as the red knot. Measuring approximately 10 inches long and weighing about 20 ounces, this hardy traveller migrates nearly 18,000 miles every year—an awesome distance by any reckoning.

As well as being an extremely detailed and comprehensive study of the red knot, The Flight discusses bird migration habits in general, as well as some interesting sidebars on the life cycles of the various species which constitute the diet of the red knot. Harrington also includes observations about the need for conservation of habitat, and the disrupting effect that environmental pollution has on the survival of these species.

—P.J. Kemp

Alligators & Crocodiles, by Eric D. Stoops and Debbie Lynne Stone. Sterling Publishing (387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016-8810), 1996. 80 pages, illustrated, \$13.95 paperback.

At about age four, I was terrified of a mummified baby Cuvier’s Dwarf Caiman belonging to a student who roomed with us—in part because he was dead. I sensed that the caiman no more wanted to be among us than I wanted him to be there. Alligators & Crocodiles brought that 40-year-old memory back with a photo, captioned “Studies of the contents of the stomach of the Cuvier’s Dwarf Caiman suggest that these caimans sometimes eat their young.” Adds a second caption, “Probably the Cuvier’s Dwarf Caiman is the rarest.” Small wonder. Most other crocodilians are, if nothing else, devoted mothers. And this book tells everything any child is likely to want to know about them.

—M.C

The Dogs Who Came to Stay by George Pitcher Dutton Books (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 1995, 163 pages, \$18.95, hardcover.

If you enjoy reading about dogs, but don’t expect much from their guardians, here’s a book for you. George Pitcher has written a biography of two dogs, Lupa and Remus, that will have you smiling for the dogs while crying for the author.

A pregnant Lupa arrives and produces a litter of seven pups. Six are given away, while the runt, Remus, and his mother win the hearts of Pitcher and his housemate, who predictably doesn’t want to keep any animals.

All dogs can charm, and these two certainly do—as much for what their adoptive parents put them through as for anything they do themselves. Two trips across the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth II and around the south of France highlight the love it must take to be Pitcher’s dog.

The author’s upper crust lifestyle doesn’t connect emotionally with the dogs’ stories. References to art or fine wine add nothing; readers will find themselves shaking their heads far too often. Remus, for instance, is not neutered until he is 13: “The thought of Remus without testicles would have struck me as quite horrible,” writes Pitcher, who meanwhile takes him to a fancy French restaurant only to have him “creep toward a beautiful blond cocker spaniel bitch” in the middle of dinner. He allows the dogs to chase deer and cats on their walks; one assumes leashes are hard to come by in Princeton, New Jersey. And when Lupa disappears on a visit to friends—now elderly, and vision-and-hearing-impaired after a brain seizure—Pitcher searches for her only “between each course of our uneasy dinner.”

—Joseph Connelly

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OBITUARIES

Lacey, age 8, female Irish wolfhound belonging to Boston Globe pet columnist Vicki Croke, the inspiration for many of Croke’s columns, was euthanized at Croke’s request on March 29, to end incurable suffering from osteosarcoma. “When you first met the 140-pound Lacey,” Croke remembered, “one of our dearest friends said, you’d think ‘Wow! What a huge dog,’ but soon she seemed just like a funny-shaped person. Only better. A friend’s two-year-old son once sat feeding Lacey cookies. After about the fifth, he decided he wanted it back and reached into Lacey’s huge mouth, practically up to his armpit, and retrieved it. Lacey would never hurt anyone—just ask our burglar.”

Lester Aronson, 84, who studied sexual biology at the American Museum of Natural History from 1938 until some years after his official retirement in 1977, died April 7 at a nursing home in Old Tappan, New Jersey. Animal Rights International founder and president Henry Spira debuted in animal rights by leading protests against Aronson’s cat sex experiments, halted in 1976 as the first major victory of the animal rights and antivivisection movements.

There's no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), along with an address for acknowledgement, if desired, to POB 205 Shushan, NY 12873.

MEMORIALS

Our son, Peter Berg, died in 1991. As an ethical vegetarian and a dedicated animal activist, his life was fervently devoted to seeking compassionate treatment for all sentient creatures. —Flora & Bern Berg

In loving memory of Monique, the most loving, adorable cat, who went to heaven in March of 1996. Monique was one of the lucky ones who had a most loving, wonderful home with her “mom” Amy, who rescued her from deplorable conditions at a so-called shelter four years ago. —Solveig Jentner

Your love for animals can go on forever. The last thing we want is to lose our friends, but you can help continue our vital educational mission with a bequest to ANIMAL PEOPLE.

Fellow lover of animals,

... and suddenly my prayer was answered. There in the distance I spotted Bruno ... a hungry old shepherd ... stumbling along the trail ... hurrying to get a morsel of food ... before it was all gone.

Watching him amble toward me, gray around the muzzle, I wondered who abandoned him in the forest ... and why.

Every time I fed him ... I felt his loneliness ... his longing to be loved ... just once in his life.

Bruno always watched me hug the other dogs when I rescued them ... and he just looked up at me, sadly. My heart always ached for him ... I desperately wanted to rescue him.

This morning, he was late ... and I soon found out why.

Bruno had injured his leg.

In order to get him medical attention I had to immediately lure him into our cage trap ...

... it was risky because if I failed, he might never come near me again ... he wouldn't trust me.

He watched as I loaded the trap with his favorite can of food. Then I walked away while he went up to it and began eating.

Five times he entered the cage and backed away.

But finally ... on the sixth try ... he went all the way in and tripped the door. I was overjoyed!

Running up to it, I hugged the trap with the nervous Bruno in it. He calmed right down ... I poked my fingers through the cage on the ride to our shelter, stroking his face ... he pushed his head into me for more.

Bruno was probably a "junk yard" guard-dog. He never knew the love and tenderness of a real family ... and when he was too old and stiff to work anymore he was taken "for a ride" ...

... abandoned ... in the wilderness ... left to starve to death slowly ... to die alone.

I've been feeding hungry, frightened dogs—abandoned in the forest—for years.

People who want to help me save them ... donate \$30, \$50, \$90 or more to feed them in the forest, rescue them ... and care for them.

Whenever I show up these abandoned dogs ... expecting a feast ... gather around the van. One at a time they eventually begin to trust me ...

... when they do, I pick them up and take them to our no-kill sanctuary. But Bruno always stayed just out of reach.

I rescued many dogs at this spot ... a campsite in the forest ... but never Bruno ... until this lucky morning.

Now at our 89-acre "No-Kill" sanctuary, for the first time in his life Bruno is loved and cared for. He doesn't have to "earn his keep" ... and every day he trusts a little more.

And the other day he wagged his tail at me!

Bruno is living proof of the difference our love can make ... and the difference you can make to an abandoned dog with no hope of survival.

For \$30 you can feed an abandoned dog like Bruno ... for \$50 you can neuter him and treat his wounds ... for \$90 you can give him warmth and love at our sanctuary.

Bruno always had plenty to eat in the forest ... thanks to people who care ... but it wasn't like that when I first started rescuing abandoned cats and dogs.

... back in 1979. I still remember that morning as if it were yesterday ...

... sadly, I found 35 dogs in the forest that day ... so hungry they knocked over garbage cans full of picnic trash ... trying to find a morsel of food ...

... they even ate paper sandwich wrappers.

I was so shaken by this, I drove to the city and bought four large fifty pound bags of dog food.

Back in the forest, I spread them over the ground.

Then I whistled for the dogs—they ran toward my car ... all 35 of them! What a sight! I can still see their faces ... all my old friends.

They dove into the food piles up to their elbows and started munching loudly ... while they ate, they smiled at me ... thanking me for helping them.

Moved to tears ... I never left their side.

We were together in the cold winter rains—when they were sick with pneumonia ...

... and I put medicine in their food to help get them through it.

I remember feeling so helpless that I couldn't do more for them ... my best friends were homeless ...

... living on the cold ground ... trying to sleep through the pounding storms ... in puddles of water—rain beating constantly on their heads.

It took a full year to get them all out of the forest, but I did ... before the next winter's rains. I found loving homes for some, but many I kept myself ...

... I was too much in love with them to say "goodbye."

I didn't start out to build the only dog and cat wilderness rescue organization in the country. It just happened ...

... because of these 35 beautiful dogs. ...

... and as each one passed away over the years, my sadness became a renewed commitment to dedicate my life to saving their friends ... whatever it takes.

I'm here for these animals ... 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

With your gift of \$30, \$50, \$90 or more today, I can continue to feed them, rescue them ...

... and shower them with love ... at our spacious 89-acre sanctuary ... home to over 750 abandoned cats and dogs.

They can stay as long as they like ... because we run a "No-Kill" shelter. When it gets crowded, we build more.

And it gets crowded!

Because of the poor economy, people are dumping their pets at an alarming rate.

We must all do something about it.

What can you do?

Simply fill out the coupon below and support this mission with a gift of \$30 to rescue a starving animal—like Bruno—in the wilderness ...

... or \$50 toward his neutering and medical care ... or \$90 to care for him at our huge sanctuary ... or even more.

Your gift will make the difference ... for at least one animal like Bruno. For his sake ... send right now.

For the animals,

Leo Grillo, Founder

YES, LEO! I want to help save an animal like Bruno, abandoned in the wilderness. Here's my gift to spend over the next month...

q **\$30** to rescue a pet, like Bruno, in the wilderness.

q **\$50** to spay or neuter and medicate this animal.

q **\$90** to care for him at our No-Kill Shelter.

q **\$250** to care for a mother and her litter.

Other \$ _____

Please send me your free book of animal rescue stories, *Is This The Place*.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Please make your check payable to: **D.E.L.T.A. Rescue**. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Thank you!

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

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