

# To Huntingdon he did go: inside the world's most controversial lab

## DOGS WHO BARK IN THE NIGHT

(PAGE 16)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, U.K.—Few animal advocates have actually been inside the controversial Huntingdon Life Sciences complex at Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, England, a sporadic focus of antivivisection protest since 1972, and virtually besieged since the July 1997 television airing of an undercover video which led to the firing and convictions for



This little guy was rescued by Primarily Primates. (Kim Bartlett)

cruelty of two technicians shown allegedly punching a beagle.

Even fewer animal advocates have been inside Huntingdon since the December 1999 debut of a group called Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, whose sole mission is seeking to drive Huntingdon out of business. The SHAC founders previously orchestrated campaigns that eventually closed the Herefordshire beagle-breeding firm Consort Kennels and the Oxfordshire cat-breeding firm Hill Grove Farm. Both companies produced animals for lab use.

Like the Huntingdon campaign, the Consort Kennels and Hill Grove Farms campaigns often turned violent. Former Hill Grove Farms owner Christopher Brown, 64, told news media in August 1999 that he quit breeding cats for labs, after 30 years, because “I have been beaten up, my wife has been attacked, and my staff have been attacked.”

Also like the Huntingdon campaign, the Consort Kennels and Hill Grove Farms campaigns did not verifiably save even one animal life. The Royal SPCA found homes for more than 800 animals who would otherwise have been sold to laboratories—but the laboratories bought beagles and cats from other sources and carried on as usual.

Consort Kennels and Hill Grove Farms, however, were relatively unfortified compared to Huntingdon. Huntingdon keeps anyone without official business far from the main offices and animal facilities. That includes any and all animal advocates.

But textile magnate Robert Smith and his wife Alice,

the major funders of the biggest street dog rescue projects in both Turkey and Romania, were two exceptions. They spent several hours inside Huntingdon recently, having wangled invitations through an acquaintance with well-placed contacts.

“Alice and I were shown around on March 4, 2002 by marketing director Andrew Gaye,” Smith told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Smith described Gaye as “an excellent communicator, well versed in the pros and cons of animal research.”

As a business person himself, Smith inquired first into the economic status of Huntingdon, asking almost the same questions at about the same time as *U.S. News & World Report* investigative writer Michael Satchel.

Satchel wrote in the April 8, 2002 edition of *U.S. News & World Report* that “In January 2001, as Huntingdon teetered on the brink of bankruptcy, the company was rescued by a \$33 million loan from the Stephens Group, a privately held \$5 billion Arkansas-based investment firm, and the lab’s largest shareholder, with a 16% stake. Last October, Huntingdon restructured as a U.S.-based company to help hide the identity of shareholders,” who had often been targeted at their homes by SHAC, “and prepared to quit the London stock exchange and list its shares on the NASDAQ board.

“But in February 2002,” Satchel continued, “President and CEO Warren Stephens suddenly capitulated. Stephens dumped his company’s stake in Huntingdon at a reported \$6 million loss, and sold the \$33 million loan to a secret foreign buyer, insisting that the protests did not influ-

(continued on page 6)

# ANIMAL

News For People Who



# PEOPLE

Care About Animals

May 2002

Volume XI, #4

## Dalai Lama hits sport hunting

DHARAMSALA, India—Making perhaps his strongest statement yet on behalf of animals, the Dalai Lama on March 29 reminded Buddhists that sport hunting is contrary to the teachings of the Buddhist religion.

The Dalai Lama had been asked to address the growth of trophy hunting in Mongolia by Fund for Animals spiritual outreach director Norm Phelps, who practices Tibetan Buddhism. Phelps outlined the recent heavy investment of trophy hunting outfitters in promoting safaris to kill argali sheep, snow leopards, Bactrian camels and other species, many of which may not be legally hunted anywhere else.

Phelps pointed out that “An estimated 95% of the Mongolian population of 2.5 million are Tibetan Buddhists.”

The Dalai Lama responded with an open appeal issued in his official capacity as spiritual head of the Tibetan Buddhist religion.

“I am deeply saddened to learn that Mongolia encourages trophy hunting of rare and endangered species for tourism,” the Dalai Lama wrote. “We all know that taking others’ lives is in general against Buddhist principles. How can we destroy and play with the lives of animals merely for fun, pleasure, and sports? It is unthinkable. Tibet, as a Buddhist country, in the past had banned hunting of animals in any form. Today there is greater awareness worldwide for the protection of not only the environment but also of animals, their rights, and their protection against torture. And therefore, even in countries where there are strong traditions of hunting, people are passing laws to ban it. A good case in point is the recent ban on fox hunting by the Scottish Parliament.

“I therefore appeal to all concerned in Mongolia not to indulge in trophy hunting of rare and endangered species,” the Dalai Lama concluded. “I make this appeal as a Buddhist because of our respect and compassion for all living beings.”

The condemnation of sport hunting by the Dalai Lama will have resonance with Buddhists around the world—and among other people where the moral legitimacy of hunting is currently at issue, especially in India, where the Dalai Lama lives in exile at Dharamsala; Nepal, the other ancient Himalyan mountain kingdom; and the U.S. where the life of the Dalai Lama has been subject of several popular films, many books, and celebrity press coverage for more than 40 years.

The opposition of the Dalai Lama to sport hunting may also cause discomfort to many well-placed Republican conservatives, who have long embraced the Dalai Lama as a living symbol of resistance to Communism, and frequently cite the forced annexation of Tibet in 1953 in statements of opposition to liberalizing trade and political relations with the Chinese Communist regime.

The strength of Tibetan Buddhism in Mongolia despite decades of Communist repression is still evident, but during the past 20 years the Safari Club International has probably had more access to political decision-makers there than the Dalai Lama has ever enjoyed, beginning with back-door entry during the Communist era.

Mongolia under Communism was mostly aligned with the former Soviet Union. The constant presence of Soviet troops from the

(continued on page 13)



Pit bull terrier at DELTA Rescue. (Kim Bartlett)

## Fewer fighters, more dogs

PUEBLO, Colorado—Issuing one of the stiffest sentences yet given to a convicted dogfighter, District Judge Scott Epstein of Pueblo, Colorado, on April 15, 2002 sent Brian Keith Speer to state prison for six years.

Speer, 32, of Colorado Springs, is to serve 18 concurrent three-year sentences for 18 felony counts of animal fighting, plus three more years for his felonious mistreatment of one especially badly injured pit bull terrier found in his possession during a June 2000 raid on his trailer home near Boone.

Speer was convicted on February 11, after a four-day jury trial.

“In June 2000,” reported Patrick Malone of the *Pueblo Chieftan*, “36 adult pit bulls and eight puppies were confiscated” from Speer, almost all of whom were later killed at the Pueblo animal control shelter because of aggressive behavior. “Animal control officers also seized performance-enhancing drugs commonly used by breeders who train dogs to fight. Many of the animals had severe wounds at various stages of healing, indicating they had been involved in fights over an extended span. In addition, officers seized a bloodstained rug that had

been taped off into the dimensions of a dog-fighting ring. Evidence,” Malone wrote, “included a poem Speer wrote about Gatoree, a prize dog of his, dying in his arms after a valiant effort in the ring.”

The prosecution indicated that Speer was associated with dogfighters in many other states and possibly in Mexico.

The Speer sentencing came five days after Associate Judge Diane Brunton of Macoupin County, Illinois, ordered accused dogfighter Jeffrey M. Giller to post bond of \$90,000 or forfeit 17 pit bull terriers. Arrested on March 28, Giller, 24, was jailed in lieu of posting bail of \$300,000 on four counts of felony dogfighting, plus \$20,000 bail on misdemeanor charges of domestic violence and aggravated assault.

“Sheriff’s deputies noticed the dogs,” wrote Robert Goodrich of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, “when they went to Giller’s property to investigate a domestic violence complaint by a girlfriend.”

“These are violent crimes,” commented attorney Ledy Van Kavage, representing the Belleville Area Humane Society and the American SPCA. “Dogfighting is a

(continued on page 18)

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I just fell in  
love again  
... with  
an angel on  
an incredi-  
ble  
journey.



February, 2002

Dear Partner,

There are times when words are just not enough.

Picking Elizabeth up in my arms is like picking my own heart up off the floor.

Look at her. Tell me she's NOT an angel sent here to bring us the message of unconditional love.

And I just didn't find this little girl . . . I searched for her for weeks. It all started when an abandoned black dog found one of our feeding stations in the wilderness . . .

From time to time, over the months, I would catch a fleeting glimpse of her. Then one morning, after I put out 12 cans of food at this one station . . . she came out to eat with a vengeance! I was at our van when she broke cover and I grabbed my binoculars to get a good look at her.

"Damn," I said to myself, "she has babies out there too."

"Caroline" was full of milk. That's why she was so hungry. I couldn't rescue her until I found her puppies.

For weeks I searched the brush on foot. I had to find her puppies before the coyotes, hawks, owls and an occasional eagle did!

Then one morning I had an idea! I figured the puppies were about four weeks old now, so I fed Caroline three pounds of hot dogs along

with her canned food. And my hunch paid off. She ate, then she picked up a mouthful of hot dogs and carried them off to feed her children.

I followed her as best I could to get a sense of where she might be headed. But then, as I made my way through the brush toward Caroline, I heard some screeching in the sky. It was a hawk, being held at bay by a small band of ravens. A hawk . . . the pups! I ran to where the hawk was hovering.

Sure enough, I found three puppies. Two were darting like mice in and out of the dense brush. But the third, Elizabeth, was just lying there on her side, shivering . . . either from pain or the cold.

When I went to pick her up, she tried crawling away, but she was too weak . . . and she was paralyzed in the rear.

At our hospital, we found out that Elizabeth had broken ribs on her right side . . . she had been hit with something like a rock . . . she was paralyzed . . . and she was only four weeks old.

With around-the-clock nursing and lots of love, Elizabeth is beginning to recover. Now, two weeks later, only her back right leg is still paralyzed. In time, I hope she will have a full recovery.

Yesterday, after I was sure there were no more puppies out there, I rescued Caroline, the mom. She's frightened, and there are signs that she was abused before she was abandoned, but she's safe now.

And yesterday, I took Elizabeth's pictures for you. I've been staring at them ever since.

I just want to put my arm around her and tell her everything will be alright, that she's home now.

I did that yesterday . . . and now I'm going back to our hospital to tell her again. I can't wait to see those big brown eyes again!

Leo Grillo, founder

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

# Attention: Rescuers and Shelters

**Build your own inexpensive straw bale dog house for your pets' maximum protection, comfort and fun!**

Here at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue, we invented a better housing system for our more than 859 dogs. Using 25 common bales of straw, and three sheets of plywood, two people can build a straw bale dog house in under 10 minutes! This is the same simple structure that withstood our terrible El Nino rains in 1998. The *simple* straw design can last 20 years, but because we are a permanent sanctuary, our houses must last longer.



Our dogs love to play on the straw ... before, during and after construction!



*Simple* straw house, 4x6 foot interior, 10 x10 foot rooftop play area, and steps!



Newly finished "deluxe" stucco version, which will last 100 years or more!



Our dogs climb their steps and play on top and inside their houses. They have a ball!



One village at D.E.L.T.A. Rescue. Two dogs per yard, and a deluxe house for both!

That's why we now build the *deluxe* "stucco" version. Our materials cost for this stucco version is about \$400, while you can put up the simple building for under \$150. Good news! We put all the building instructions for both versions on video tape for anyone to use, or copy in its entirety. And it's FREE! To help us help precious animals, besides our own 859 dogs and 552 cats, please get this video today and pass it around!

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

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



Editorial

“Rescue” should not perpetuate the problem

Nine years ago, in April 1993, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** first brought the plight of the Premarin mares and their foals to the attention of the humane community.

Citing a previously unpublicized investigation by Tom Hughes of the Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust, we pointed out that the farms that gather the pregnant mares’ urine from which the estrogen supplement Premarin is made typically keep the mares stabled and connected to collection tubes from September to April each year. Rarely were the PMU mares released for outdoor exercise then, and their holding conditions now seem little different.

“Most of the foals from the average PMU farm will be sold purely for meat,” Hughes explained. Some of the meat went for human consumption, but most went for dog-food, or to feed mink and foxes who were raised for fur.

There was no other significant demand for the foals.

Three of the five largest newspapers then serving New York City picked the story up from **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and soon published their own investigative reports. Protests, direct mailings, and “investigative reports” by animal advocacy groups followed.

Nationally, one household in four donates to animal protection causes, and more than half of all the donors are women over age 40, in or approaching the age bracket most likely to use estrogen supplements to ease the symptoms of menopause. These demographic facts should have given animal advocacy groups the consumer clout to launch and sustain an immediate international boycott of Premarin, and to expedite the ongoing transition of demand to synthetic estrogens. The synthetic alternatives were already easily available in 1993, and are even more abundant and accessible now.

But “Boycott Premarin!” was not an especially effective fundraising slogan, since it does not contain within it an emotionally compelling reason to send money to an organization. Anti-Premarin campaigns were soon relegated to newsletter items and production of brochures sent to people who were already interested enough to ask for information.

Premarin is therefore still very highly profitable.

The manufacturer, Wyeth-Ayrst, has meanwhile developed great tactical sophistication in suppressing and deflecting criticism.

Early in the campaign, advertising agencies representing Wyeth-Ayrst were heavy-handed about reminding some popular women’s magazines about the size of their accounts. They suppressed publication of articles and animal advocacy advertisements that criticized Premarin, at cost of encouraging media without Wyeth-Ayrst accounts to hit both Premarin and their larger, richer rivals. That kind of mistake is apparently no longer made.

In March 1998, a major PMU foal dealer beat up Project Equus founder Robin Duxbury after she attended an auction. Animal advocates are not beaten up any more, either.

Instead, the PMU industry has learned to copy the tactics of the greyhound and horse racing industries, establishing the pretense that the victim animals will be rescued instead of killed. Today when the dealers see animal advocates coming, they sell the advocates as many horses as the advocates can afford to truck away. Then the PMU producers breed as many horses as ever to sustain the growing rescuer demand at the same time as sustaining the strong European and Japanese demand for horsemeat, following widespread panics over “mad cow disease,” hoof-and-mouth disease, and antibiotics contaminating poultry.

Only the offal from PMU foals is rendered into dogfood or feeds mink and foxes now. Instead of dumping surplus foals at any price to offset the cost of breeding them and bringing them to auction, some PMU dealers are actually breeding mares who are not on the PMU lines just to have more foals to auction off, and auctioneers in the PMU-producing provinces of western Canada are reportedly importing foals from elsewhere.

Animal advocacy direct mailers have learned meanwhile that although “Boycott Premarin!” does not convey an urgent appeal to give, “Save this baby!” does.

Thus animal protection donors are now induced to pump more than \$1 million a year into sustaining the profitability of PMU.

The most foolish actually bid on foals in direct competition with the killer/buyers, helping to sustain the auction prices. Others buy the foals whom the killer/buyers reject as unlikely to survive transportation to a feedlot and then slaughter. These foals are sold at a loss—but any price paid is a gain against the anticipated loss for the auctioneer and the seller.

Even if the foals were given to animal advocates free of charge, however, taking them does nothing to reduce the sum of animal exploitation and suffering. Currently, horsemeat demand is strong enough that for every foal removed from the slaughter traffic, another is bred to be slaughtered. Should the demand for horsemeat slump, the pace of breeding might drop back to the level needed to sustain PMU production, but the net effect of saving a few babies would still be to economically support the industry by helping it to make money from disposing of animals who are in effect the waste products of a manufacturing process, giving the industry an effective public relations shield into the bargain.

And even then, all the PMU foal rescue efforts among them would not actually save even one horse life. If all the adoptive homes for horses and all the horse sanctuaries are filled with PMU foals, who will on average live for 15 to 30 years each, more “retired” race horses and wild horses will go unadopted and will be sold to slaughter.

Only horses removed from U.S. federal property by the Bureau of Land Management are protected from slaughter under the 1971 Wild and Free Ranging Horse and Burro Protection Act, and then for only one year following adoption. Because the adoption demand for these horses is so weak, and because the BLM is mandated to remove more horses from leased grazing land that it has facilities to keep, there is growing pressure within Congress to amend the 1971 law to allow the BLM to dispose of wild horses as expeditiously as other agencies—meaning, allowing it to sell horses directly to professional killer/buyers.

The major players in the PMU industry, and direct mail fundraisers for “PMU foal rescuers,” will be laughing all the way to the bank for decades at how they have hoodwinked animal protection donors into depleting their resources in a self-perpetuating cause. Simultaneously, “PMU foal rescue” gives donors a feel-good, dilutes and diverts the anti-Premarin message, and ensures a need for ongoing fundraising to keep the “rescued” horses fed, from which the fundraisers can continue to collect their cut.

Any value the “rescues” may have in educating the public to boycott Premarin is marginal. Now that the message has become mostly “save this baby,” the emphasis—as in many other campaigns—is on endlessly soliciting and re-soliciting established donors, with little or no attention given to the plight of the mares.

Puppy-millers may be watching, wondering if they can get animal protection donors to similarly subsidize their industry by purchasing their culls at a fancy price.

Maybe the Korean and Southeast Asian dog-and-cat meat dealers will copy the tactic next. They could continue to breed as many dogs and cats as anyone cares to butcher at the same time as selling as many to “rescuers” as the “rescuers” could ransom, and because all the donor money would be diverted into buying and maintaining the “rescued” population, the dog-and-cat meat dealers would never have to worry about animal advocates finally figuring out that the way to end this atrocious traffic is to take the campaign directly to the Korean and Southeast Asian public with humane education and advertising.

Thinking ahead

The humane movement made no progress against pet overpopulation until the cause gradually learned that “saving” a relative handful through adoption placement was a meaningless gesture until and unless the seemingly endless supply of puppies and kittens was stopped. That required a generation of educating the public about the importance of sterilizing pets, and of making pet sterilization surgery more convenient, affordable, and socially acceptable than the consequences of getting caught shooting, drowning, or dumping surplus litters.

The humane community had to teach donors about the importance of preventing puppy and kitten births, and had to acknowledge that saving lives through adoption can be accomplished at a meaningful level only if the numbers of animals born do not exceed the numbers of homes available. Otherwise the adoption process is just a matter of choosing which of the surplus will be killed.

The reduction of the U.S. animal shelter death toll from 115 dogs and cats per 1,000 human residents in 1970 to 16.8 in 2001 was not achieved by “saving” animals one at a time. It was achieved by preventing up to a dozen animal births with each sterilization surgery, which was in turn achieved through effecting an enormous change in public attitudes. The most important part was using advertising, news coverage, direct mail, in-school humane education, and every other medium available to encourage the public to look ahead and act now to prevent future suffering.

Now that the numbers of surplus puppies and kittens are down to a much more manageable level, one can at last make real gains through adoption and rescue toward reducing the shelter killing toll to the level of true euthanasia—meaning that the animal is killed only to relieve immediate suffering which cannot be relieved in any other way.

The recent dramatic growth of no-kill shelters and sanctuaries, high-volume adoption centers, shelterless rescue groups, and neuter/return projects to assist feral cats (and street dogs, in nations which have them) all represent the beginning of the mop-up phase of the movement against pet overpopulation. They demonstrate the appeal to donors, volunteers, and the public of saving animals’ lives. They reinforce the message that animal life has value. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has provided material support to such efforts ever since our debut, by sending a free subscription to every nonprofit animal protection group in the world.

Along the way we have ceaselessly exploded the fallacies that keep catch-and-kill animal control going, by illustrating with hard statistics that catch-and-kill does not lastingly reduce any animal-related problem, and costs far more over time than responses which begin with the premise that animal life is not to be taken when kinder alternatives exist.

Catch-and-kill persists only because of a myopia which fails to recognize that some creature will always fill a habitat niche: if not free-roaming dogs, then more rats, feral cats, pigs, or even monkeys.

Yet the alternatives to catch-and-kill are also funded primarily by people who respond to the sight or story of a suffering animal by reaching into their pockets or writing a check to help that animal immediately, right here and now.

The impulse to donate to an animal rescue program and the impulse to demand that someone kill a problem animal are each acculturated responses. Humane work succeeds or fails to the extent that it replaces the urge to kill with the urge to help. We work to connect the urge to help with considered and considerate action, but no matter how effectively we teach our readers and public policymakers to broaden their understanding of the issues, it is unlikely that fundraisers are ever going to voluntarily abandon appeals to donor emotions, or that most of the public is ever going to be able to take as informed a long view about animal issues as the minority of advocates and donors who read **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

This places an extra burden on this most committed minority: to support and sustain the projects that keep the humane cause growing, advancing, and looking outward. Impulse donors may be relied upon to fund the work that provides an immediate feel-good—and will fund it, whether productive or not. Only the wisest donors contribute to longterm cause-building, yet longterm cause-building brings by far the most effective results.

Longterm cause-building includes advertising in mainstream media, holding conferences that better equip humane workers to do their jobs, reaching young people with the humane message, funding animal protection institutions in underdeveloped nations, maintaining informative web sites, organizing voters to support humane legislation and candidates, and of course publishing **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, now reaching the decision-makers at more than 9,000 animal protection organizations worldwide, as well as offering our most important content online in English, French, and Spanish.

The most effective fundraising appeals typically tell you about the one animal your donations help to save, who represents all those who are not yet helped. But the truth is that there is not enough money in the world to save every animal in distress today.

Only projects that build awareness and activism offer the hope of fundamentally changing human attitudes and practices. Animals need both kinds of help: help for the immediate needs of however many can be saved now, with an equal investment in building a future where there are fewer animals in distress to begin with.

SEARCHABLE ARCHIVES: [www.animalpeoplenews.org](http://www.animalpeoplenews.org)  
Key articles now available en Español et en Français!

ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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**POB 960**  
**Clinton, WA 98236-0960**  
**ISSN 1071-0035. Federal I.D: 14-175 2216**  
**Telephone: 360-579-2505.**  
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**ANIMAL PEOPLE: News for People Who Care About Animals** is published 10 times annually by Animal People, Inc., a nonprofit, charitable corporation dedicated to exposing the existence of cruelty to animals and to informing and educating the public of the need to prevent and eliminate such cruelty.

**Subscriptions** are \$24.00 per year; \$38.00/two years; \$50/three years.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** is mailed under Bulk Rate Permit #2 from Clinton, Washington, and Bulk Rate Permit #408, from Everett, Washington.

**Executive subscriptions**, mailed first class, are \$40.00 per year or \$70/two years.

**The base rate for display advertising** is \$7.00 per square inch of page space. Please inquire about our substantial multiple insertion discounts.

The editors prefer to receive queries in advance of article submissions; unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for use, but will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope of suitable size. We do not publish fiction or poetry.

# LETTERS

## Meat

After more than a quarter of a century as a vegetarian, then vegan, I feel a need to expand that commitment, because my sorrow and horror about the abusive treatment, genetic altering, and cruel confinement, transport and slaughter of farmed animals has only intensified over the years. When meat is served in my presence, I now feel the need to somehow symbolically honor and acknowledge the immense suffering that animal endured.

"Where there's meat, I don't eat," came to me suddenly. I will never again eat in a room in which meat is being served. Knowing this has brought me some measure of inner peace. I'm not sure it is a politically sound decision, for it is surely wise to encourage the offering of vegetarian/vegan alternatives. Yet to eat contentedly in the presence of meat now feels to me like a betrayal of the animal sacrificed.

"Where there's meat, I don't eat" is a one-person protest, on behalf of those whose cries of

protest were never heard, never heeded. Even more so, this is something I am doing for myself. When meat is present, I will still sit at the table and enjoy myself and my friends, but I can only do so knowing that by not eating, I am symbolically and publicly acknowledging the pain I feel on behalf of those who suffered unspeakable and enduring horrors to become the feast.

—Patty Finch  
Phoenix, Arizona  
<pfinch@Vview.org>

—Wolf Clifton

## Nature of birds

The April 2002 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** bird book reviews were quite timely for spring. As reviewer Patty Finch said, those who share their lives with birds know all too well the truth of bird intelligence. *The Human Nature of Birds*, by Theodore Xenophon Barber (St. Martin's Press, 1973) considers this in detail. Writes Barber: "People of the earth, awaken! Open your eyes, look around you, and become aware of the fast-moving lives of your neighbors, the birds. Like you they are enjoying, playing, hurting, feeling, worrying, communicating, planning. Look closer and see the strivings and experiences of the individual animals near you. Wake up! Realize that you are as wonderfully aware, as fully conscious, and as specialized as the other creatures on the earth. Use your specialized intelligence now to change your destructive habits, to save the earth's flora and fauna, including yourself, from further devastation, and to live in harmony with deep enjoyment."

—Eileen Weintraub  
Seattle, Washington  
<eileenwj@attbi.com>

## API FIRES TEXAS SNOW MONKEY SANCTUARY FOUNDER

### "ASA will not let this go"

Although the Texas Snow Monkey Sanctuary is not an accredited member of the American Sanctuary Association, by choice of Animal Protection Institute executive director Alan Berger, many of our sanctuary members and board have had a favorable relationship with ousted Texas Snow Monkey Sanctuary director Lou Griffin for many years. As we are keenly aware of Griffin's commitment to the welfare of the animals, her expertise, and her qualifications, the ASA is compelled to write to express our official objection to her termination (as reported by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in April 2002.)

Quite frankly, we find API's action to be morally and ethically repulsive. Griffin has given 22 years to the care of the monkeys and the development of the sanctuary, most of the time working without pay. Is this how API rewards staff for a lifetime of dedication?

The ASA is also concerned about the future welfare of the monkeys residing at the Snow Monkey Sanctuary. Griffin is not only familiar with each individual animal, but is also a leading authority on the behavior and care of snow monkeys. Griffin has taught primatology students from all over the U.S. and Canada. Without Griffin directing the sanctuary, we do not see anyone there who has either the formal training or expertise to adequately manage the ongoing care of these animals.

It is obvious that a hidden agenda led to this action. The ASA will not let this go unchallenged.

— for the ASA board of directors  
Carol Asvestas, President  
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<www.primatesanctuariesrrp.org>

P.S.: Jim Boler from Houston Humane Society called me and told me that Lilly the lioness who was formerly at Brian Werner's Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge, whom Werner told us had died, as discussed on page 6 of the April 2002 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, is now at the Shambala Preserve in southern California, quite alive. Boler picked her up and sent her to Shambala founder Tippi Hedren. Lilly was spayed.

## Animals Asia update

Thanks very much for the nice mention in the 2002 *Watchdog Report on 101 Animal Protection Charities*. By way of update, we introduced our Dr. Dog pet therapy program to Japan with Pets Alive Japan in December 2001, and will be introducing it to India in May, first with the lovely Chinny Krishna and the Blue Cross of India in Chennai, and then with Compassion Unlimited Plus Action in Bangalore.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare no longer funds any of our projects. Supporting our China Bear Rescue Project is now entirely dependent upon our own fundraising. We expect to receive 40 more bears in August.

Also, you overstated my age by two years. I am 44 this month.

—Jill Robinson, MBE  
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<www.animalsasia.org>

### "I was duped"

As a board member of the Texas Snow Monkey Sanctuary before it merged into the Animal Protection Institute, I take exception to the statement made by API board president Gary Pike, quoted in the April edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, that API saved the sanctuary from imminent collapse. While I will agree that API has invested large sums of money to improve the structures and facilities at the sanctuary, at no time prior to the merger were the animals in any danger. Such alarmist language was sometimes used by one former board member, Dallas attorney Robert "Skip" Trimble, but was never true. Lou Griffin, who managed the sanctuary for 20 years prior to the merger, and the former sanctuary board, would have never allowed any harm to come to the monkeys. Our motive in agreeing to the merger of the sanctuary and API was strictly that API could give the sanctuary more financial stability. The sanctuary was in no danger of collapse.

API executive director Alan Berger stated that API took over "significant debts" in acquiring the Snow Monkey Sanctuary. Not so. All debts were paid, including the mortgages for the purchase of the land and all of the structures on it. API acquired all assets, including the land, buildings, enclosures and equipment, for \$10. API did assume responsibility for all ongoing monthly expenses of the sanctuary, but the transaction was strictly a transfer of assets.

Prior to the merger Lou Griffin spent 20 years nurturing and caring for these monkeys, knowing each one individually, all the while working mostly without any compensation. I expressed my concern for her future to both Berger and Trimble. I was assured by both that I had no need to be concerned. In a fax dated November 16, 1999, Trimble stated, "I am not worried about Lou...having employment. I believe that they [API] recognize [her] talents and will keep [her] on as long as [she] wants to stay."

Berger, in an e-mail to me dated October 6, 1999, stated: "The risk is more on our side than on Lou's. What if she decides to leave? API probably needs more protection than Lou does."

Quite obviously I was duped, as were other former sanctuary board members.

After the merger, Trimble became a board member of API, until his recent resignation to become board president of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Griffin is now prohibited from going anywhere on sanctuary property.

This issue is not over. More will be said as this unfolds.

One more thing. Gary Pike stated that API has developed a "professional sanctuary policy and procedure manual which is now available to other sanctuary organizations." This from a group which has been in the sanctuary business a scant two years? Considering that there are many sanctuaries which have been in existence for 20-plus years, am I the only one who finds this arrogant?

—Vernon Weir  
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**ANIMAL PEOPLE** also received an e-mail from API executive director Alan Berger expressing "disappointment" at our coverage of the Griffin firing, but it was marked "not for publication," did not take issue with factual specifics, and provided no new information.

## "Shall I compare thee to other news media? Let me count

I really value **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and am sincerely astounded at the depth of your journalistic work, so was really taken aback at seeing the editor of *Animals' Agenda* write that while he considers his publication to be the equivalent of the *MacNeil-Lehrer Report*, he sees PETA's *Animal Times* to be like *Entertainment Tonight* and **ANIMAL PEOPLE** as being like *The Jerry Springer Show*. I have absolutely no idea where anyone would get a comparison like that. Lkening you to *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Lancet* I could fathom. But his reference just left me shaking my head.

—Tim I. Martin  
Corona, California

Have you read the latest issue of *Animals' Agenda*? They compared **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to *The Jerry Springer Show*! Actually, I prefer to think of you as at least 60 Minutes/Dateline/Nightline—but you are much, much more.

—Gene Schmidt  
Newburyport, Massachusetts

We received many similar messages. Thanks to all who wrote—but our feelings were not hurt. Our Editor laughed until he choked on his coffee, as when a few years ago an employee of the Humane Society of the U.S. compared us to The National Enquirer. All that happened then is that we picked up a few more readers via the paper that quoted the fellow.

Then came this, from a globally respected horse care expert who has studied and taught extensively in the Middle East:

Congratulations on adding Spanish and French sections to the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site. You are the CNN/Al-Jazeera of the animal interests, but with more depth, like the *Christian Science Monitor*.

—Sharon Cregier  
Montague, Prince Edward Island  
Canada

Others compared us to everything from Baseball America to The New York Times. The range of comparison was so broad that maybe we should just claim to be incomparable.

## CHAMP opposes exotic cat acts

The Pet Savers Foundation became aware, after the 2002 Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy registration brochure was mailed, that among the CHAMP Post-Conference Events offered to attendees at a discount was the "Carnival of Wonders Magic Show," the entertainment independently scheduled by the Reno Hilton Hotel for that week, and that this show includes the use of captive exotic cats—apparently a lion and a tiger.

The Pet Savers Foundation stands in solidarity with virtually the entire animal protection community in opposition to the use of wild exotic animals in entertainment. We are acutely aware of the suffering to animals and dangers to the public and animal care-and-control workers resulting from the proliferation of exotic wildlife in private hands, and of the efforts of animal sanctuaries to cope with the longterm care and rehabilitation of exotic animals who have been bred and sold for use in entertainment.

Our opposition to entertainment using captive exotic wildlife and to breeding captive exotic wildlife as pets or for sale is longstanding and unequivocal.

The arrangement for the Carnival of Wonders Magic Show

to be offered as a CHAMP Post-Conference event was a dreadful oversight on the part of the conference organizers.

Upon becoming aware that the Carnival of Wonders Magic Show includes illusions using exotic animals, The Pet Savers Foundation immediately cancelled it as a post-conference event, and we deeply apologize to all recipients of the 2002 Conference on Homeless Animal Management and Policy registration brochure for having inadvertently included it.

As always, the CHAMP conference will include speakers who will address the many reasons why exotic wild animals should not be bred and sold by the public, and will discuss how we all can help to prevent this ongoing animal tragedy.

—Tammy Kirkpatrick  
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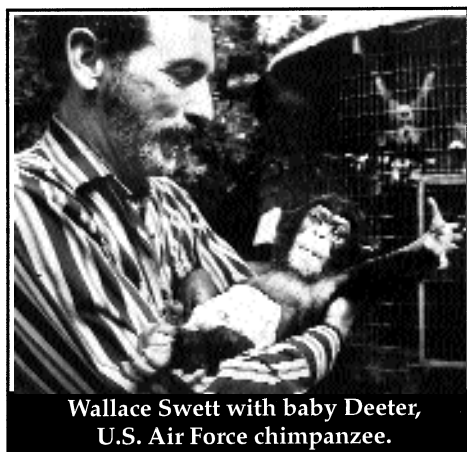


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ask us to send a free sample.*

To Huntingdon he did go: inside the labs (from page 1)

ence the decision. Shares in Huntingdon, a company once valued at more than \$500 million, are now all but worthless.”

Financial situation

“Huntingdon capitalization is amazingly now only about £10 million (about \$16.5 million),” Smith was told. “The value of the land, buildings, and equipment at the Alconbury site alone must be many times this,” Smith observed, noting that, “Huntingdon also has sites in the U.S. and at Eye, Suffolk. They have about £50 million debt in convertible bonds and £22 million debt to a U.S. bank which bought the debt from Stephens,” as apparent intermediary for the “secret foreign buyer” mentioned by Satchel.

“They use the Bank of England as a clearing bank,” to cash checks and pay bills, Smith learned, “but have no overdraft facility,” meaning that Huntingdon has little ability to invest in new projects.

“As Huntingdon returned to profitability in the last two quarters of 2001,” Smith reported, “they have no cash flow problem at present. Customers pay for research in stages, as to a building contractor. But I suppose their cash flow is delicate without an overdraft facility, which the Bank of England cannot grant.”

Privatizing the firm to avoid identification of shareholders would be one way to reduce vulnerability to protest tactics which have included 11 car bombings, two arson fires at homes with children asleep inside, many violent home invasions, and the February 2001 beating of managing director Brian Cass, 53, by three masked men swinging baseball bats. A neighbor who tried to help Cass was teargassed in the face. David Blenkinsop, 35, was in August 2001 jailed for three years for bludgeoning Cass in the head.

“The directors haven’t privatized the company because they cannot afford to,” Smith learned. “They have moved the principal share listing to the U.S.,” as Satchel wrote, “to protect shareholder identity, since in the U.S. only shareholders above 5% are entitled to know the identity of other shareholders.

“Gaye agreed that a wealthy individual could buy control of the company very cheaply if he wanted to,” Smith said, “but he would need considerable courage to do so.”

Huntingdon is now officially a subsidiary of a Baltimore holding company called Life Sciences Research, Inc.

Competitors

Gaye told Smith that “60% of world research on animals occurs in the U.S.. The rest is in Europe and Japan, with a small amount in Israel and Korea.”

The major competitors of concern to Gaye, Smith found, were “within Britain: Covance in Harrogate; Inveresk, about 30 miles outside Edinburgh; and Sequania, near Hereford. These companies seem to suffer less from animal rights activism,” Smith observed, “because they are less obviously situated and better able to keep a low profile.”

Gaye, giving Smith a global overview of the testing industry that probably would have been accurate 10 years ago, overlooked the recent rapid rise of biotechnological research in nations including Australia, Brazil, China, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, and South Africa.

The advent of genetic technology has simultaneously decreased the numbers of animals used per experiment in fields such as cancer research, since purpose-modified animals can more rapidly and reliably develop the specific conditions under study, and has increased the total numbers of animals used, by stimulating an explosion in the number of experiments done—partly because each experiment, by using fewer animals, costs less.

The trend is evident in Britain, where Home Office data collected in connection with enforcement of the 1986 Animals in Scientific Procedures Act shows that 58,000 more animals were used in 2000 than in 1999.

However, the 2% increase in British lab animal use was paltry compared to the 30% increase recorded in New Zealand from 1999 to 2000 by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, and the 87% increase in Australia projected from the available 1998 and 2000 data by the Australia/New Zealand Federation of Humane Societies magazine *Animals Today*.

Australian labs were already using 3.1 million animals per year by 1998, about 340,000 more than Britain—but by the end of 2000 they were using 5.8 million, more than twice as many, according to the projection done for *Animals Today* by Keith Edwards.

New Zealand in 1999 used only 9% as many animals as Britain, but used 12% as many in 2000, an increase of 43,000.

Australia and New Zealand have become major players in biotech simply

because some of their researchers have achieved major breakthroughs in genetic procedures. Otherwise, the regulatory and political atmosphere Down Under is much the same as in the U.S. and Europe.

India has stronger legal protection of animals in laboratories, on paper, than the developed world, but has some significant conflicts of jurisdiction, has economic policies that favor biotech, and has notoriously weak enforcement of the relevant humane laws.

The other nations with rising biotech industries have in common a lax regulatory environment, weak animal rights and antivivisection movements, and relatively fragile civil liberties—and for decades they have lost educated citizens to the developed world. Some of their leaders now see acquiring pieces of the biomedical research industry that have become too controversial for European and American investors as a means of reversing the “brain drain,” keeping educated citizens home and also creating jobs in supporting roles for the less educated.

Smith asked whether the acquisition of the Huntingdon debt by the “secret foreign buyer” Satchel mentioned might indicate a future relocation to an underdeveloped nation, such as Slovenia or Slovakia, whose rulers are also eager to acquire high-tech industry and may be capable of repressing dissent.

“Gaye told me that it is in practice almost impossible for Huntingdon to move to an underdeveloped country,” Smith said, “because of the lack of qualified scientists and the difficulty and expense of attracting British or U.S. scientists to such countries.”

But whether or not Huntingdon itself moves, much of the work it formerly did is moving to subsidiaries or rivals. The business newspapers of Pakistan, South Africa, and Ghana have all hinted within the past year that labs in those nations now have or are bidding on contracts formerly held by Huntingdon, though no specifics have been disclosed.

Where the testing goes, drug manufacturing soon could follow.

Trevor Jones, director-general of the Association of the British Pharmaceuticals Industry, warned in April 2000 that “terrorist attacks” were responsible for a 16% change during fiscal 1999 in the balance of drugs manufactured in Britain against drugs imported, as measured by sales volume. Although the British drug industry exported 7% more merchandise, 24% more of the pharmaceuti-



Cats used in labs today tend to be mackerel tabbies and oranges, bred for docility. (K.B.)

cals used within Britain came from abroad. Sir William Castell, founder of the biotech firm Nycomed-Amersham, warned in November 2000 that he might move genetic research operations to Brazil and China. Castell said he could save £25 million a year by employing 1,000 Chinese Ph.D.-holders instead of British workers.

British Association for the Advancement of Science president Sir William Stewart told London *Times* writers Mark Henderson and Mark Court that the Nycomed-Amersham departure would be, “Potentially the start of an avalanche, really. Small and medium-sized businesses of the sort that Britain is looking to develop and expand are looking globally,” Stewart said, “in a way that only the multinationals have done before.”

“This is something we have long been concerned about,” Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals secretary Samantha Chandler told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Although we want to see the eventual end of all experimentation on animals, closing laboratories in Britain where there are at least some regulations as to animal welfare only means that the experimentation goes on in countries where there are no regulations.”

Chandler noted the aspect of “the old not-in-my-back-yard syndrome” in the zeal of protesters to close European and American laboratories while allowing the biotech sector to grow in the undeveloped world without much oversight, if any.

Type of research

“Approximately half of the Huntingdon research does not involve animals,” Smith found. “Approximately two-

(continued on page 7)

MORE LETTERS

African wild dogs

I wish to comment on a portion of your April article about African wildlife that pertained to the plight of the Cape hunting dog, *Lyaon pictus*.

For decades before the current African human population explosion, many attempts were made by hunters (*Bwana moron*) to annihilate this wild canid. The usual spurious excuse was an objection to the manner in which the dogs captured and killed their prey. The hunters did not poll the prey species as to whether it mattered to them if they were gut-shot by *Bwana moron* or pulled down by the wild dogs, who incidentally evolved in Africa.

Even by the 1970s, the wild dogs’ range had dwindled markedly. Distemper introduced by the sickly and poorly fed mongrel dogs of nomadic tribes then brought another threat. More recently, African lions suffered a severe die-off from a strain of canine distemper that was traced to the dogs of the nomads. This outbreak was eventually controlled by vaccination, but no such efforts were made to help the wild dogs.

The Cape hunting dog is a longlegged sight hunter, which occupies an ecological niche similar to that of the wolf. The majority of their prey appear to be Thomson’s gazelle in some regions, and juvenile wildebeest in more southerly regions, where the dogs appear to be marginally larger.

If there is any veracity to the reports of two boys in Gitega becoming prey to an isolated pack of famished wild dogs, that would appear to be exceptional behavior indeed, and I would consider it in the same light that I would if the boys had died of some infection caused by ritual mutilation for adornment or tribal identification.

Another severely endangered wild African canid is the Simien jackal, or Abyssinian wolf. This attractive wild

canid, unlike true wolves, does not hunt large prey, but depends upon rodents in the Bale Mountains ecosystem. Innocuous to humans, this animal is threatened by human incursion into its habitat, and also by interbreeding with Ethiopian domestic dogs. In addition, dog attacks on sheep and goats are sometimes misattributed to the Simien jackal.

—Marvin J. Sheffield, DVM  
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<rollogs@yahoo.com>

*Efforts to save the Simien jackal, or Abyssinian wolf, also called the Ethiopian wolf, and to institute vaccination and sterilization of domestic dogs in the vicinity of Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia, have been discussed in several recent ANIMAL PEOPLE features, including the May 2001 guest column “The dogs of Bale,” by Bale Mountains National Park employee Efreem Legesse. With ANIMAL PEOPLE assistance, Legesse, Ethiopian wolf conservation program educator Zegeye Zibret, and Bale Mountains National Park warden Hana Kifle subsequently incorporated the Homeless Animals Protection Society, the first humane organization indigenous to Ethiopia. HAPS may be contacted c/o P.O. Box 2495, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 76-15-04; <hapsethiopia@yahoo.com>.*

Snakes

I can appreciate Torben Platt’s protection of poisonous snakes (Letters, April), but I cannot say that I would try to move a rattlesnake out of harm’s way. Perhaps Mr. Platt has never lost a pet to a poisonous snake, but I have had two dogs bitten by poisonous snakes. One died and the other lost a leg, even though he was given a series of extremely expensive anti-

venom injections.

I have known people bitten by poisonous snakes. They survived due to anti-venom shots, but the pain was excruciating. Snake bites can cause nerve damage and scar human epidermal regions for life.

I live in the rural South, where rattlesnakes, water moccasins and copperheads are abundant. Water moccasins are especially aggressive. I stumbled across one on my property and it did not hiss or attempt to escape, just chased me across the yard as fast as my feet could fly.

My dogs are confined by fences. When a poisonous snake slithers into the yard, a dog is naturally going to investigate. The yard is my dog’s turf, not the snake’s. The snake is an interloper who possesses a lethal weapon.

There are many good snakes in my area, such as king snakes, but I draw the line at tolerating snakes who might kill my pets or me just because we got too close.

—Joan Garvey  
Independence, Louisiana  
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ALEC

I picked up and read your April article on the American Legislative Exchange Council just after I heard an extended story on National Public Radio about how ALEC promotes get-tough-on-crime legislation. The story heavily emphasized the memberships in ALEC of the Corrections Corporation of America and other companies which profit from the permanent expansion of the incarcerated population.

The bottom line seems to be that ALEC is an effective tool, of which most Americans are unaware, for broadly advancing the conservative agenda at the state level.

—Chuck Smiler  
South Dartmouth, Massachusetts  
<SmileChuck@aol.com>

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"Cruelty, like every other vice, requires no motive outside of itself; it only requires opportunity." Opportunity can be minimized.

Property and life are of different, and discordant spheres.



*Inside Huntingdon Life Sciences—the world’s most controversial lab* (from page 6)

thirds of the research involves testing the safety of products for pharmaceutical clients. About 20% is for the agrochemical industry. Only 2% is for veterinary products.

“A misconception,” Smith continued, “is that Huntingdon gives animals diseases in order to test cures.” Huntingdon is not currently engaged in primary research, Smith understood. “They only test the safety of products,” Smith explained, which have usually been developed in manufacturers’ own proprietary laboratories.

The LD-10 test, which replaced the notorious LD-50 test, is probably the most common Huntingdon procedure.

“They start by giving a small number of rodents a substance, usually orally (in capsules), so that if the toxicity is higher than expected, as few animals as possible suffer. Once the product has been proved to be safe in rodents, it is then tested on higher mammals such as dogs, pigs, or primates,” Smith explained.

The LD-10 test consists of increasing the dose of a substance until five of the 10 subject animals die. The LD-50 test, developed in 1916, required the deaths of 50 of a group of 100 animals. The number of animals tested was reduced by 90% in most safety testing during the early 1980s, as by then scientists had learned to detect the effects of toxic substances in animals’ remains with much greater exactitude.

The anti-LD-50 campaigns waged by animal advocates during the 1980s were largely successful in part because they coincided with the opportunity for companies to save money by using fewer animals without incurring greater product liability.

“Cosmetic products including shampoos are no longer tested on animals in Britain,” Smith was told.

The Home Office in November 1997 secured a voluntary agreement from British cosmetics manufacturers to phase out animal testing within one year, and in November 1998 announced that the phase-out was complete. Just 1,266 of the 2.6 million animals used in British laboratories during that time were used to test cosmetic products.

New European Union testing requirements may require British firms to perform animal tests on products marketed elsewhere in the EU, but the work could all be done outside Britain.

So far as Smith could see, “Animals at Huntingdon do not have electrodes and so forth stuck onto their bodies, or have tubes inserted other than orally. There are apparently no ‘horror film’ experiments,” Smith said. “It is of course possible that Huntingdon carries out ‘horror film’ experiments tucked away somewhere out of sight,” Smith allowed, “but I doubt it.”

Most of the deeply invasive procedures depicted in antivivisection literature are either done to investigate the physiology of illness and injury, or are part of a teaching regimen. Product testing procedures tend to be relatively mundane, involving the normal avenues of exposure to substances: ingestion, inhalation, or direct skin contact. Rows of beagles breathing cigarette smoke and rabbits with raw skin wounds from exposure to caustic substances are about as visibly gruesome as product safety toxicology testing gets. The worst effects are inside the subject animals,

invisible until they are killed for dissection.

Home Office data indicates that about two-thirds of the 2.7 million animals used in British labs during 2001 were used in research. About 17% were used in product testing, mainly of pharmaceuticals. Teaching procedures account for most of the rest.

**Animals used**

“Huntingdon uses approximately 70,000 animals a year, only 3% of the British total,” Smith learned. “Only 1.8%, about 1,260 per year, are beagles, and only 1.2%, about 840, are primates. Most are rodents, with birds and fish used next most often. Only 30 cats were used in 2001.”

The Huntingdon laboratory in East Millstone, New Jersey, uses an additional 5,500 animals per year: about 5,000 rodents, 200 to 400 dogs, and 100 monkeys.

Total Huntingdon animal use would appear to be down about 30% since 1997—but with slight increases in reported beagle and primate use.

“Normally adolescent beagles are used” in product testing, Smith was told, “because they are the right size, docile, and there is a huge amount of scientific data already available about beagles,” whereas the effects of various substances on other breeds of dog are less documented. The breed of dog is an important variable in product safety testing. For instance, shedding fur is a common symptom of metallic poisoning, but some breeds shed more fur than others anyway. Vomiting is another common symptom, but German shepherds are notoriously more likely to vomit than other breeds.

“A beagle costs £400 to £700,” Smith reported, “so breeding them is very profitable, despite the expense of security for the breeders. No animals are bred by Huntingdon, and no stock of animals is kept, other than for one month of acclimatization,” to avoid problems such as fur-shedding as result of a change in kennel temperature instead of as a result of the testing.

“Experimentation can last from one month to three years, but six to eight weeks is typical,” Smith observed.

Smith came away believing that, “Virtually all animals are killed by lethal injection at the end of each experiment, so that their organs can be examined in autopsy for effects of the product tested.”

Data given to Associated Press business writer Bruce Stanley in January 2002 indicates that Huntingdon actually killed 750 beagles in 2001, about 60% of those used, and killed 190 primates, about 23%—but the surviving animals may be involved in multi-year tests.

“I got the impression,” Smith said, “that Huntingdon is not interested in rehoming even the few animals which do not undergo autopsies, mainly those tested for veterinary products,” which might be because an animal formerly used in a laboratory could become an appealing living symbol of the anti-Huntingdon campaign.

“We couldn’t see the condition of the rodents and had no time to visit the primates,” Smith noted. “The beagles are kept usually two to an enclosure, with a concrete floor and a sleeping shelf,” described as being essentially the same as the kennels at Dogs’ Home Battersea except that Dogs’ Home

Battersea houses each dog individually.

“The acclimatizing beagles were lively, playful, friendly, and in excellent condition,” Smith testified.

By contrast, Smith noticed that “About one third of the older beagles we saw undergoing a test for an herbal veterinary skin treatment cowered in fear. Gaye and the dog section chief told us that they thought this was because we were wearing different white overalls from those of their handlers but this did not seem convincing.

“The beagles’ ears are tattooed without the use of a local anesthetic,” Smith continued. “I said we always use local anesthetics at our animal shelters, and I thought Huntingdon should do likewise.

“Although some animals suffer from the products ingested,” Smith opined, “the degree of suffering is probably negligible compared to that of animals in factory farms, the bile farm bears in China, or even some dogs I have seen in severely substandard animal shelters run by some misguided people in Turkey. And of course what we saw cannot be compared to what happens in biomedical research and teaching,” where the procedures are often far more invasive.

“Small monkeys are now flown in via Paris,” Smith noted, “increasing their suffering and journey time, because airlines caved in to protesters and now refuse to fly them into Britain directly from Mauritius and other source nations, where they are sometimes hunted as pests. This is an example of animal rights protesters’ campaigns inadvertently increasing animal suffering,” instead of decreasing use.

**People**

Gaye told Smith that Huntingdon “employs about 750 people in Britain,” down from 850 a year ago and 1,600 in 1997.

“Nobody seemed very happy or to be having much fun, but perhaps that was because they were on their guard with visitors and a director on patrol,” Smith said. Smith was told that Huntingdon staff “regularly show vis-

itors around, including from the RSPCA and other animal welfare organizations, who normally don’t like to publicize their visits,” but the most recent previous visit to the laboratories of which **ANIMAL PEOPLE** could find any published account was by BBC television in June 2001.

The occasion then was the release of photos showing a baboon who survived for 39 days in 2000 after receiving a heart transplant from a genetically engineered pig. Huntingdon disclosed at that time that it had used more than 420 captive-bred monkeys and nearly 50 wild-caught baboons from Kenya in pig-to-baboon transplant experiments since 1995, along with “thousands” of pigs.

Carlton TV detailed the studies in a documentary called *Organ Farm*. The documentary partially supports claims made in late 2000 by animal advocates who claimed to have conducted two recent undercover investigations inside Huntingdon.

SHAC press releases asserted that these investigations produced documentation of Huntingdon “piglets hearts being transplanted into wild-caught baboons from the Philippines,” a nation which has no wild baboons, although it may have facilities that serve as waystations for baboons in transit from capture in Africa; a monkey escaping from a laboratory; employees using illegal drugs and alcohol on the job; injured animals going untreated; errors in testing procedures that compromised the data; and disregard of safety rules.

Huntingdon denied most of the allegations. The piglet-to-baboon transplant experiments underway there had not yet been disclosed, although piglet-to-baboon heart transplants that were a matter of public record had been done in 1999 by a different Cambridge-based firm, Immutran. The Immutran experiments were transferred to The Netherlands after the Home Office suspended pig-to-primate transplants for about a year because of concern about the possible interspecies transmission of pig endogenous retrovirus.

(continued on page 8)



# South Texas Animal Sanctuary

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Inside Huntingdon

(from page 7)

Called PERV for short, the discovery of the retrovirus raised anxiety that the use of either pigs or nonhuman primates as organ donors to humans could infect humans with previously unknown diseases.

Protecting trade secrets and maintaining biological security have always been big concerns of testing laboratories, but protecting the personal safety of staff against assaults by protesters has become the primary security concern at Huntingdon.

Anxiety has spread to other labs as well. A Mori poll found in February 2001 that among 1,600 laboratory workers surveyed, about 10% no longer spoke in public about their jobs.

“The intimidation of employees and shareholders by protesters is obviously extremely effective,” Smith observed—if effectiveness is measured in terms of fear instilled rather than by animal lives saved.

Since the total volume of laboratory animal use worldwide and the amount of testing being done to meet European Union product safety requirements have both increased since the SHAC anti-Huntingdon campaign began, there is no credible evidence that the campaign has accomplished anything whatever that directly benefits animals.

“If the protesters look as if they will be causing trouble the police are called to keep them in check,” Smith continued. “There were a couple of protesters screaming abuse at the gates [when his party entered], supervised by a few policemen—probably more police than protesters. The protesters had gone home by 6:30 p.m. I suppose they scream abuse as employees leave and then go home themselves, returning the following morning.”

EU testing rules

As Huntingdon appeared to be on the verge of collapse in October 2001, the European Union announced a plan to require toxicity testing of an estimated 30,000 chemicals used in consumer products.

The EU plan, approved by the European Parliament in November, offers perhaps the strongest demonstration yet of the futility of trying to close laboratories while animal-based safety testing methods are still required by law.

The scheme parallels the High Production Volume Challenge, Voluntary Children’s Chemical Evaluation Program and Endocrine Disrupter Screening Program, introduced in the U.S. by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1998, in fulfillment of requirements of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act.

These testing regimens are currently reviewing the safety of about 87,000 chemicals. New testing of various kinds may be required to obtain complete data on an estimated 17,800 chemicals. However, for many chemicals the necessary information may be available through re-evaluating the original testing data. American Petroleum Institute toxicologist Lorraine Twerdok told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in May 2001 that the Petroleum HPV Testing Group had found ways to avoid doing about 90% of the animal testing which might have been required if it had separately tested all 425 substances in the Petroleum HPV category, and expected to have to do tests of any kind on only about a third of the substances.

The idea behind the testing programs, in both the U.S. and Europe, is to

replace the present hodgepodge of data and regulatory requirements pertaining to chemical safety with uniform standards based on data produced using uniform methods.

Many widely used chemical products were approved and introduced into the marketplace long before whole categories of health hazards were even recognized. Some have never before been tested for anything except acute toxicity and carcinogenicity—and some were tested for those effects using obsolete methods which may have missed detecting subtle symptoms of longterm risk.

Exactly how the new testing will be done has yet to be decided by the European Commission, but the EU officially estimated when the draft plan was released that a minimum of 50.2 million animals would be killed. The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection put the probable toll at 63.6 million, figuring that at least 2,123 animals would be killed in reviewing each chemical.

“This would be the biggest animal poisoning program in European history,” predicted BUAV campaign director Wendy Higgins.

Higgins anticipated to Andrew Osborn of *The Guardian* that, “In all likelihood the majority of the testing will go to the U.K., but Neil Eisberg of the British Chemical Industries Association took an opposite view.

“We’re very concerned about the impact on the chemical industry, particularly in the current economic climate,” Eisberg said. “It may drive final product manufacturing overseas, and jobs will follow.”

Gaye indicated to Smith, Smith said, that Huntingdon is “as hostile to EU duplicative testing proposals as we are, even though such duplicative testing would bring extra business.”

But testing requirements that drive chemical manufacturing to the underdeveloped nations would actually bring a decline in tests performed in Britain.

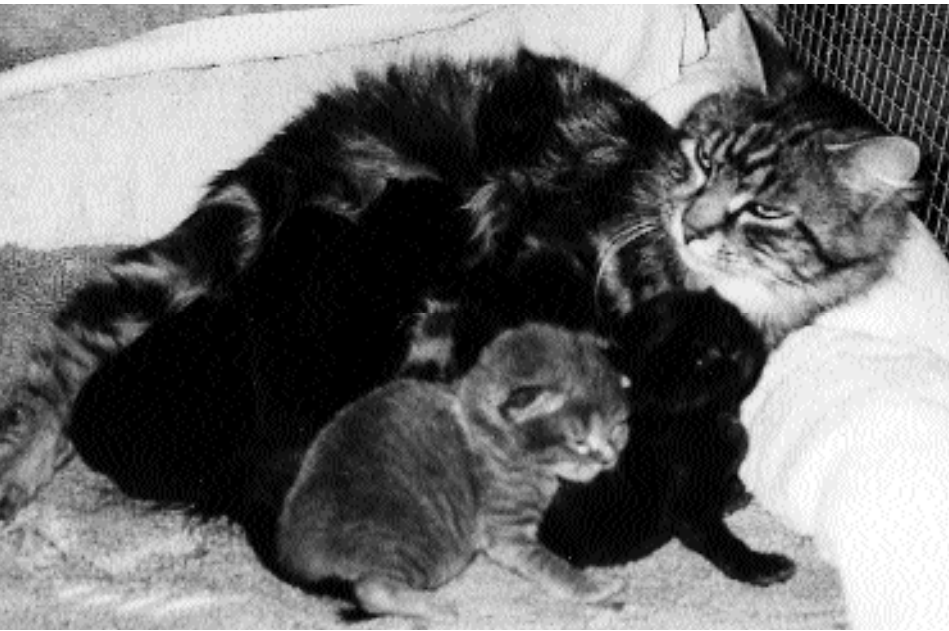
Ethical issues

Gaye agreed, Smith said, that the current British system of laboratory supervision by the Home Office is not credible to animal lovers after the exposure of long-running cover-ups of the human health risks associated with mad cow disease and nuclear radiation. In each instance, extensive animal data indicating the hazards was ignored—and if the data is ignored, even mainstream media have editorially inquired, how much attention is paid to the conditions under which it was produced?

Huntingdon, like other companies doing animal research in the U.S. and Britain, has its own Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, as required by the Animal Welfare Act and Animals in Scientific Procedures Act. Gaye, the Huntingdon senior veterinarians, and an animal welfare lecturer from Cambridge University (among others) sit on the committee to decide whether particular legally permitted animal tests should proceed.

Gaye told Smith that Huntingdon once turned away a contract worth £1 million for ethical reasons, and said Huntingdon had also recently refused to test a purportedly less addictive type of tobacco. The Home Office banned tobacco testing in 1997, but lifted the ban in February 2000.

“Pressure from animal campaigners and the media over the years has made Huntingdon very sensitive to ethical issues,” Smith told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “I believe



Testing on cats was apparently the first hot issue at Huntingdon, nearly 30 years ago. (K.B.)

Gaye when he says that Huntingdon has the highest animal welfare standards of any lab in the world—but I think this is more because of the pressure applied by animal campaigners and the media than because of compassion toward animals in Huntingdon’s hearts!

“Gaye argues that only humans have rights. Since animals have no responsibilities, they cannot have rights in his estimation, other than the right not to suffer gratuitously. So I suppose that he would say that as *homo sapiens* evolved from *homo erectus* we gradually took on a sense of responsibility and thus acquired ‘rights’ which *homo erectus* did not have, and which today’s gorillas and other great apes do not have.

“Gaye distinguishes between animal welfare, which he considers good, and animal rights, a phrase he speaks as dirty words,” Smith continued, “but he readily accepts that this is a matter of legitimate civilized debate, that moral standards are constantly shifting, and that some of the research sanctioned now will be banned in the future. These are matters for politicians to legislate on rather than for Huntingdon to judge,” Smith summarized in paraphrasing Gaye, sensing “an inconsistency here with the role of the ethics committee. When I said the animal rights protesters were a catalyst for debate,” Smith said, “Gaye disagreed, saying that their intimidation stifled reasoned debate. Gaye pointed out the inconsistencies in some animal rights campaigners’ arguments (‘you wear leather shoes’ etc.) But he agreed that it is hard to accept that an Osama bin Laden or Pol Pot has more rights than a beagle puppy. Perhaps tongue-in-cheek, Gaye said that animals are nasty creatures, eating each other most of the time.

“But Gaye agreed,” Smith acknowledged, “that if we had been discussing these issues 200 or 300 years ago he might hypothetically have been defending experimentation on ‘Negro savages’ from Africa rather than on animals, though this is of course conjecture.

“Interestingly the government is applying a kind of ‘species apartheid,’” Smith suggested. “Experiments on the greater primates such as gorillas, chimps, bonobos, and orangutans are totally banned,” since 1997, which caused Oxford University, Imperial College, and York University to export AIDS, hepatitis C, and parasitology experiments on chimpanzees to the Biomedical Primate Research Centre in Rijswijk, The Netherlands.

“Special licenses must be obtained to experiment on gibbons, macaques, and so forth,” Smith continued. “So the Home Office is implicitly allocating more rights to a gorilla than to a gibbon, and more rights to a gibbon than to a beagle, pig or rat. So some animals really are ‘more equal than others’! As a dog lover, I must hope beagles will be soon upgraded to the status of gibbons or gorillas.”

Added Smith, “Gaye could not accept that there might be no moral distinction between experimenting on a relatively intelligent, sentient, cuddly animal and a specially bred, mentally disabled human ‘vegetable’.

“For him any human being, however brainless or evil, has inalienable human rights. For him there is no such thing as ‘animal rights.’ He is, understandably given the intimidation, bitter toward animal rights campaigners. When I said that animal rights are synonymous with animal welfare in the same way that human rights are with human welfare, he begged to disagree.

“Logically, his position is that if there is no equally satisfactory safety testing procedure available for a new product or ingredient, it is justifiable to breed, experiment on, and kill any number of animals in order to potentially save perhaps a tiny number of human beings from illness or discomfort.”

albeit that Gaye and Huntingdon also favor “minimizing both the number of animals used and the suffering of those animals.

“Interestingly,” Smith summarized, “it is also justifiable [from that perspective] to experiment on animals to test the safety of veterinary products, where there is no question of endangering human beings, just the possibility of causing illness or discomfort to pets or farm animals (though this type of research makes up only 2% of Huntingdon activity). Thus Huntingdon sometimes experiments on a small number of animals in order to ensure the safety of many more, the main motivation being of course the profitability of the company launching its new veterinary product.”

The future

Smith said “Gaye didn’t seem to have—or didn’t want to divulge—much idea of where Huntingdon would be in 10 years time. Huntingdon would not want to relocate abroad because of the difficulty of recruiting scientists in less developed countries,” Gaye insisted, “but of course animal experimentation may be forced abroad or to less scrupulous labs, the main weakness of the protesters’ arguments in my view,” Smith opined.

“I suggested that Huntingdon might defuse the campaign against them by inviting the scrutiny of the Royal SPCA, rather than being inspected only by Home Office officials or their own ethics committee, both of which lack credibility to outsiders. Gaye agreed that this would be a good idea, but said the Royal SPCA board had now been ‘infiltrated by animal rights people,’ so he did not think they would agree to supervise Huntingdon.

“He said he regards People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals as a media lobbying group, not genuinely interested in animal welfare. Thus Huntingdon rejected PETA’s offer to install video monitoring equipment in the New Jersey laboratory. The difficulty with inviting the (British) National Anti-Vivisection Society or the British Union Against Vivisection to inspect Huntingdon is that they are dedicated to closing it and stopping all animal research, so could hardly be fair referees.

“I think Huntingdon should install a permanent Royal SPCA office, with veterinarians and animal welfare officers on duty, in a highly visible position to police all of the animal areas, with unrestricted access,” Smith recommended.

“If the Royal SPCA refused an offer from Huntingdon to do just that, as Gaye expects they would, Huntingdon would at least get good publicity,” Smith ventured.

“If the Royal SPCA accepts, policing Huntingdon would help to reduce the inevitable and avoidable mistreatment of animals, however rare this might be, and would set many animal lovers’ minds at rest. It might also deflect some of the anti-Huntingdon campaign onto other animal labs, medical schools, and breeders,” Smith suggested.

Alternatively, Royal SPCA involvement in lab inspection might merely intensify activist criticism of alleged acquiescence to institutional cruelty, an allegation raised almost constantly since the Royal SPCA was founded in 1824. Queen Victoria joined in 1835, making a large donation specifically to enable the institution then called the London SPCA to fight vivisection, but under political pressure the royal charter she granted in 1840 included a provision mandating that the Royal SPCA should work to benefit human as well as animal welfare. That clause has repeatedly been invoked by the Charities Commission and conservative Royal SPCA board members to dismantle campaigns which have sought to abolish animal experiments. —M.C.



Huntingdon kills 200 to 400 beagles per year. (Judy Kaethler, Seattle Beagle Rescue)



# Wildlife/human conflict—U.S., Canada, France, Australia, Uganda

## Where did all the coyotes go?

A complaint to the Better Business Bureau filed in March 2002 by **Laura Nirenberg**, executive director of the **Wildlife Orphanage** rehabilitation center in LaPorte, Indiana, alleges that **Guardian Pest Control**, with offices in two Indiana cities plus Illinois, defrauds customers by promising to relocate nuisance animals and then kills them instead. According to the report forms which all nuisance wildlife trappers are required to file with the **Indiana Department of Natural Resources**, Guardian Pest Control in 2001 released 124 squirrels and 10 bats, but killed 80 chipmunks, 49 feral cats, 40 groundhogs, 126 moles, 10 muskrats, 43 opossums, 363 raccoons, and six skunks.

Guardian Pest Control president **Vince Angotti** told Gary *Post-Tribune* correspondent **Jeannine Athens-Virtue** that his firm also caught 50-60 coyotes in 2001 and released them all.

"The 2001 report did not list any captured coyotes," Athens-Virtue wrote. "When asked why, Angotti said his company captured all the coyotes in Illinois last year." Animal advocates now wonder if the coyotes were actually "released" into chase pens.

Wildlife rehabilitator **Kathleen Bauer** and veterinarian **Rachael Jones** described to Athens-Virtue some of the other ways that nuisance wildlife trappers dispatch animals, commonly used by fur trappers but not even close to meeting the standards for humane killing established by the **American Veterinary Medical Association**.

## Roadkills increase in Canada

**Animal/car collisions** on Canadian roads rose from 25,000 in 1988 to more than 32,000 by 1999, even as the total number of vehicular accidents fell 25%, says **Transport Canada**—and the data includes only accidents in which people were hurt or vehicles were damaged. According to the Transport Canada data, animal/car collisions injure an average of about 2,000 people a year in Canada, of whom about 24 die.

## Fixing deer overpopulation

**Lake County, Illinois**, "has joined forces with the University of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee County Zoo, hoping to surgically sterilize 20 whitetailed does" by doing field surgeries from a mobile unit, *Chicago Tribune* staff reporter **Amanda Vogt** disclosed on March 26. Surgical sterilization of white-tailed deer as a method of population control has rarely been attempted outside of captive situations, because of the difficulty of catching the deer and the cost of doing the operations—but hunting and sharpshooting, the standard wildlife management responses, are also impractical in suburban environments, as well as inhumane; deer who have been shot at before tend to avoid sharpshooters anyway; experiments with the use of injectible sterilants to control deer populations indicate that the technology is still far from fully reliable; and the Illinois legislature in 1994 passed a resolution opposing the use of contraception to control deer numbers, at request of pro-hunting lobbyists who saw deer population control as a threat to the survival of sport hunting.

## Fox rabies finished in France

Having detected no fox rabies in France since December 1998, the French **Ministry of Agriculture** has announced that it "will now use a defensive strategy based on preventive anti-rabies oral vaccination campaigns along 'at risk' borders" to prevent rabies from ever re-entering the country, and will keep an emergency supply of oral vaccination pellets on hand. Commented the moderators of **ProMED-mail**, a program of the **International Society for Infectious Disease**, "This shows that it is possible to eradicate rabies, even in a non-island country."

## Immunosterilizing koalas

The **Department of Natural Resources and Environment** in Victoria state, Australia, is testing immunosterilization to control the fecundity of koalas.

"The sterilization vaccine, given to 30 female koalas on Snake Island, blocks fertility by stimulating the immune system," Melbourne *Herald-Sun* environment reporter **Sarah Hudson** explained. Based on proteins from pigs and brush possums, the vaccine prevents the sperm cells of a male animal from overriding the immune defenses of the female, which it must do to achieve conception.

The experiment was announced one day after **Nature Conservation Society of South Australia** president **Robert Brandle** argued that attempts to control the koala population of Kangaroo Island by surgery and relocation should be halted. Not native to the island, the koalas are viewed by ecologists as a menace to the native birds and flora.

Since 1996, when there were an estimated 5,000 koalas on Kangaroo Island, about 3,700 koalas have been sterilized and 1,380 have been moved to the mainland—while the koala population has grown to between 27,000 and 33,000. Brandle agreed with **Adelaide University** ecologist David Paton that 65% of the koalas should be shot.

**Australian Koala Foundation** executive director **Deborah Tabart**, though opposed to culling the koalas, did not welcome word of the immunosterilization experiment, however, apparently confusing the genetic engineering involved in making the vaccine with somehow genetically modifying the koalas themselves. "Once you put pig and possum genes into koalas," Tabart fumed to Hudson, "where the hell does that go?"

## Squirrels eating chickens?!

**Uganda tourism, trade, and industry minister Edward Rugumayo** on April 2 appointed **Uganda Wildlife Authority** director of field operations **Arthur Mugisha** acting director of the UWA, succeeding South African expatriate **Robbie Robinson**, whose non-renewable three-year contract expired on April 8. Mugisha moved full speed ahead with a controversial plan proposed by Rugumayo to fund the UWA by selling 250,000 wild animals through six Uganda-based dealers. "We are getting complaints from all over the world saying that we are destroying wildlife," Mugisha told **Charles Wendo** of the *Kampala New Vision*, "and yet these are geckos, these are squirrels that are eating people's chicken."

## Events

**May 9-10:** *Humane Ohio* conf., Columbus. Info: Aimee St. Arnaud, 419-482-7101; <astarnaud@toledohumanesociety.com>.

**May 15:** *Maine Fed. of Humane Societies* conf., Waterville. Info: Paula Mitchell, 207-873-2430.

**May 17-22:** *Enhancing Your Relationship & Communication With Animals*, St. John's Retreat Center, Montgomery Center, Texas. Info: 936-597-5757.

**May 18:** *Veggie Pride* demonstration, Paris. Info: <www.veggiepride.free.fr/>.

**May 18:** *Natl. Animal Disaster Preparedness Day*. Info: United Animal Nations, 916-429-2457.

**May 21:** *Empire State Animal Protection Program* conf., Kerhonkson, New York. Info: 800-836-8567 x 222; <www.lollypop.org>.

**May 23:** *World Turtle Day*. Info: American Tortoise Rescue, 310-589-8802.

**May 27-June 2:** *Canadian Fed. of Humane Societies* conf., Ottawa. Info: 613-224-8072; <info@cfhs.ca>.

**June 5-7:** *Southeast Animal Control Assn.* conf., Columbus, Ga. Info: <http://cares.colstate.edu>.

**June 13-15:** *National Animal Control Association* conference, Kansas City, Mo. Info: 1-800-828-6474.

**June 27-29:** *New Mexico Animal Control Assn.* conf., Albuquerque. Information: <NMACA@msn.com>.

**June 28-July 3:** *Animal Rights 2002* conf., McLean, Virginia. Info: <www.animalrights2002.org>.

**July 8-14:** *World Vegetarian Congress*, Edinburgh, Scotland, hosted by Veg. Soc. of the U.K. Info: 44-161-925-2000; <www.veg-soc.org/-congress>.

**August 8-9:** *Louisiana Animal Control Assn.* conf., Baton Rouge. Info: David Marcantel, 337-439-8879; <dmarcantel@cppj.net>.

**August 3-17:** *Vegan Camp*, Cumbria, U.K. Info: <www.vegancamp.org>.

**August 8-11:** *Compassion-Fest 2002*, Cincinnati and Las Vegas. Info: <www.compassion-fest.org>.

(continued on page 11)



Since 1967, The Fund for Animals has been providing hard-hitting information to the public and crucial resources to grassroots organizations and activists. Cleveland Amory's landmark book, *Man Kind? Our Incredible War on Wildlife*, launched the American anti-hunting movement. And today, The Fund carries on Cleveland Amory's legacy by launching campaigns, lawsuits, and rescue efforts to stop animal abuse around the nation. Please visit The Fund for Animals online at [www.fund.org](http://www.fund.org), where you can find the following information and resources.

**Legislative Action** Up-to-the-minute alerts on federal and state legislative issues that affect animals. Look up your legislators, and send them automatic messages. Find out how your federal representatives voted on animal protection issues. And join the Humane Activist Network to get more involved nationally and locally!

**Library and Resources** In-depth reports such as *Canned Hunts: Unfair at Any Price* and *Crossing the Line: When Hunters Trespass on Private Property*. Fund Fact Sheets on everything ranging from entertainment to agriculture, state agencies to student activism, and solving common problems with urban wildlife.

**Humane Education** Free publications for teachers, as well as curriculum units on hunting, circuses, companion animals, and much more. Kids can order free comic books and coloring books on animal protection issues, and can enter The Fund for Animals' annual essay contest.

**Multimedia** View streaming video footage of The Fund's Public Service Announcements featuring celebrities such as Ed Asner and Jerry Orbach. See trailers and clips from award-winning documentaries and view educational videos about humane ways to solve urban wildlife problems.

**News and Updates** See photos and read current updates about the rescued residents at The Fund's world-famous animal sanctuaries. Link to news articles about The Fund, as well as to other animal protection organizations and resources, and subscribe to a weekly email alert telling you what's new at The Fund.

**Online Store** Use The Fund's secure online server to order merchandise such as t-shirts, mugs, and companion animal items, and activist resources such as buttons, books, and videos.



# San Francisco murder-by-dog defendant gets new trial

**SAN FRANCISCO**—San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren on April 12, 2002 granted a new trial to attorney Marjorie Knoller, who was convicted by a Los Angeles jury on March 21 of second degree murder for the dog mauling death of her former neighbor Diane Whipple.

Knoller, 46, was also convicted of manslaughter and keeping a dangerous animal, as was her husband, fellow attorney Robert Noel. Noel indicated that he would also appeal the jury verdict.

Whipple, 33, was killed as she tried to enter her San Francisco apartment on January 26, 2001, after Knoller lost control of two Presa Canario dogs. Not leashed, the dogs each weighed more than either Knoller or Whipple. The dogs were acquired from reputed Aryan Brotherhood prison gang leader Paul “Cornfed” Schneider, who is already serving a life sentence and is facing additional charges. Schneider—whom Knoller and Noel legally adopted—had organized a failed scheme to market Presa Canarios as “Dogs o’ War.”

Presa Canarios are a fighting breed originally produced in the Canary Islands by crossing English mastiffs with pit bull terriers.

More than 30 witnesses testified about previous attacks and other menacing conduct by the dogs kept by Knoller and Noel.

The retrial was granted, apparently, because of the theatrics of Knoller’s original defense counsel, Nedra Ruiz. Knoller is to be represented in the retrial by veteran defense counsel Dennis Riordan, who has handled more than 100 previous murder case appeals.

## Wisconsin cases

In Mausten, Wisconsin, Judge John Brady on April 16 ruled that there is enough evidence to prosecute Wayne Hardy, 24, for homicide and reckless endangerment, for the Valentine’s Day fatal mauling of Alicia Lynn Clark, 10. Hardy and companion Shanda McCracken, 32, left Clark and McCracken’s 11-year-old daughter alone with two adult Rottweilers and a litter of puppies, even though the dogs had previously threatened both girls and had recently killed a cat.

Hardy could get up to 72 years in prison if convicted, having already served time for burglary and possession of a firearm as a convicted felon. Hardy and McCracken earlier pleaded innocent to child neglect, but did not enter pleas on the other charges. McCracken will apparently not be prosecuted for homicide and reckness endangerment, although both charges were also filed against her.

Bradley D. Laskowski, 20, of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, was charged on April 19 with two counts of negligent handling of a dangerous weapon, for allowing his two pit bull terriers to severely injure Danielle Woyach, 11, a guest of his younger sister. The dogs had attacked people at least twice before, police said, and mauled a neighbor’s golden retriever as recently as February 1.

In the first comparable California case going to trial since the original Knoller/ Noel convictions, Michael C. Bryan, 46, won permission to represent himself on five felony counts of owning or controlling a dangerous animal and one count of misdemeanor obstruction of a peace officer. Bryan allegedly

## SHARK files conspiracy suit vs. Wauconda

**CHICAGO**—The activist group SHARK on April 24 sued Illinois associate judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit John T. Phillips, state’s attorney Michael Waller, assistant state’s attorney Daniel Shanes, the Wauconda County Chamber of Commerce, Wauconda police chief Daniel Quick, and three current and former members of the Wauconda County Sheriff’s Department, alleging that for nine years they engaged in a criminal conspiracy to deprive SHARK members of their civil liberties in connection with protests against the annual Wauconda Chamber of Commerce rodeo.

Two private attorneys were also named as alleged conspirators, SHARK founder Steve Hindi said, “for filing a false libel suit in 1997 seeking over \$200,000 in damages against the plaintiffs, who sought to have Deputy Sheriff John Van Dien prosecuted” for roughing up three female demonstrators.

The case was dropped after U.S. District Court Judge James B. Moran reviewed SHARK videotape of the incidents in contention, and found the libel claims to be unsupported.

“However,” said Hindi, “the libel suit was later reinstated.” Then, instead of seeking money, the alleged conspirators “attempted to extort an agreement from the plaintiffs not to use cameras at the Wauconda Rodeo to document animal abuse.”

The SHARK suit alleges a pattern of police harassment continuing at least until April 2001.

SHARK announced the filing by taking the SHARK Tiger video display truck to the federal courthouse in Waukegan and airing the most important video evidence for the next two hours—including video of some of the defendants destroying what they apparently believed were tapes that might incriminate them.

owned five pit bull terriers who severely mauled neighbor Jorge Elizondo on March 2. The dogs disappeared before local law enforcement could take them into custody.

New York State Supreme Court Justice William Wetzel is to sentence Norman Schachter, 49, and Derrick Moultrie, 34, on May 6, in a dog attack case of a different sort. Schachter, a tanning salon owner in New Canaan, Connecticut, and Moultrie, a Bronx dog trainer, were convicted on April 11 of attempted burglary, possession of heroin and cocaine, attempted assault, and attempted witness intimidation. Schachter and Moultrie allegedly plotted to have author Shawn Considine, 65, beaten up, and to plant illegal drugs and child pornography in his New York City apartment.

The case began in 1998 when three Belgian Malinois dogs handled by Schacter’s wife, Debbie Gamiel, 45, mauled Considine in Central Park. Gamiel was charged with assault. She drew probation in July 2001 after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor. Schachter in the interim tried to discourage Considine from testifying. against Gamiel.

Assistant Manhattan district attorney Jon Viega revealed during the trial that Schachter pleaded guilty in 1996 to a charge of aggravated harassment against a medical doctor who had been in a dispute with Gamiel.

## Down Under

In Melbourne, Australia, director of public prosecutions Paul Coghlan in early April recommended the first-ever Victoria state criminal prosecution of a dog owner for an attack—but the charge of reckless conduct is much weaker than the manslaughter charge reportedly sought by Shelly Tarasinski, widow of Leon Tarasinski. A 75-year-old survivor of the Warsaw ghetto during the Nazi holocaust, Leon Tarasinski was trying to collect rent from tenant Debra Susan Marks on February 16, 1999, when her Rhodesian ridgeback-cross attacked him. Marks allegedly kept the dog to guard an illegal marijuana plantation. Tarasinski fought the dog off, despite profuse bleeding, but died from a heart attack soon after reaching the safety of his car.

Giovanni Pacino, 35, of Western Australia, was convicted of manslaughter in 1998 after his Rottweilers killed neighbor Perina Chokolich, 85. Pacino was apparently the first person in Australia to be convicted of causing a death-by-dog—but his conviction was eventually reversed, reportedly due to a procedural error.

The Tarasinski case has stirred demands nationwide for stiffer legislation against keeping dangerous dogs.

South Australia environment minister John Hill noted on April 19 that in Adelaide alone, a city of about one million people, 6,500 people seek treatment for dog bites each year. About 250 children under age 12 are hospitalized each year for emergency aid after dog maulings, Hill added, and about 60 of them require longterm care due to severe head and facial injuries.

In Tucson, Arizona, slightly smaller than Adelaide, only about 2,400 dog bites per year are reported to hospitals and police—down about 400 from the 1997 peak.

Residents of Cleveland, Ohio, and Fort Worth, Texas, cities half again larger than Adelaide and Tucson, report under 1,000 dog bites per year.

The U.S. numbers may be lower, however, only due to underreporting. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 4.5 million Americans per year are bitten by dogs, of whom 800,000 require medical treatment. If dogs bite in Tucson, Cleveland, and Fort Worth at approximately the same rate as in the rest of the U.S., the ratio of bites to human population would be almost the same as in Adelaide.

## Europe

Concern about dangerous dogs has resurged in Europe too. In Italy, where lethal animal control is technically illegal, policymakers are wondering what to do about longterm custody of pit bulls, after two pit bulls who escaped from a nearby home on April 15 killed farmers Vincenzo Ramis and Salvatore Rizzello. both just past age 60, as they worked in their fields outside the city of Brindisi.

In Germany, controversial breed-specific legislation brought into effect a year ago after previous dog attack fatalities got a political boost on March 28—at a price—when a six-year-old boy who was helping a 37-year-old woman to walk her two Rottweilers near the city of Pirmasens tripped and fell. The woman was unable to prevent both Rottweilers from attacking and killing the boy.

In Sofia, Bulgaria, a third larger than Cleveland and Fort Worth but twice the size of Adelaide and Tucson, at least 3,020 people were bitten by dogs in 2001, including 558 children. Since November 2000, when Sofia hosted the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, the city animal control department has reportedly sterilized about 4,000 dogs and put them up for adoption via local rescue groups—and has killed 36,000 dogs found at large. The effort did not help pensioner Andrei Skliar, 71, however, who was fatally mauled on January 30 in the town of Svishtov, north of Sofia.



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## Anti-terror bill targets Yellowstone bison, elk herds

**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**—The bison management wars along the northern border of Yellowstone National Park may intensify with the anticipated passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, if the joint committee working to reconcile the different versions passed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives accepts the inclusion of the Animal Health Protection Act, added as a late amendment to the Senate version by Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa).

The amendment purportedly was written to speed the USDA response to epidemics in livestock, such as the hoof-and-mouth outbreak that devastated the rural British economy in 2001, and also to better enable the USDA to deal with bioterrorism.

However, the amendment would give the USDA authority over any animal bearing an illness which might be passed to livestock.

The Interior Department, whose management philosophy favors letting natural disease outbreaks take their course, was reportedly alerted to the implications for the Yellowstone elk and bison herds by the legislative analysts for several conservation groups. While the USDA and state governments have tried since the 1940s to eradicate the livestock disease brucellosis, it is endemic among the Yellowstone elk and bison herds, albeit to little evident effect on those species.

As elk rarely interact with cattle,

they are not considered likely to pass brucellosis back into cattle herds from which the disease has been eliminated. Bison, however, are closely related to domestic cattle and would share the same grazing range if allowed to do so. In theory, this might allow bison to reintroduce brucellosis to the cattle of the officially brucellosis-free states of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, although there is no actual record of bison ever transmitting brucellosis to cattle.

"For 60 years, the Montana and Wyoming state veterinarians and the USDA have wanted to come into Yellowstone, round up elk and bison, test them, and kill the ones who have brucellosis," chief Yellowstone scientist John Varley told *The New York Times*. "My guess is that this would be their first priority," if the Harkin amendment passes.

Varley said that up to 80% of the Yellowstone bison herd might be slaughtered under that regimen.

Currently, only infected bison who cross out of the park into Montana are killed. The present policy replaced the old Montana policy of killing any Yellowstone bison who entered the state. The killing was done at different times by sport hunters, paid marksmen, and state troopers. Protests against killing the bison were led by the Fund for Animals during the 1980s and early 1990s, and have been led since the introduction of the present policy by the Buffalo Field Campaign.

On April 19, as the Harkin amendment began to attract national news media interest, the Montana Department of Livestock announced that brucellosis had been found in 21 of 34 bison captured as they wandered out of Yellowstone two days earlier. The 21 were trucked to slaughter while the remainder were returned to public land. Another 100 bison were reportedly moving out of the park in that vicinity.

The same day, Idaho state veterinarian Bob Hillman announced that blood testing had confirmed the presence of brucellosis among a small cattle herd in the Teton Valley, 35 miles from the boundary between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Park. Hillman said that the cattle had contact with a wild elk herd among whom brucellosis was found in 1997, and has been confirmed in each year since.

Brucellosis was last detected among cattle in Idaho in 1989, and last appeared among cattle anywhere in the west in 1990, when the last cases were found in California. The only states not now USDA-certified as brucellosis-free are Missouri and Texas.

The brucellosis infection rate among elk at the National Elk Refuge, south of Yellowstone near Jackson, Wyoming, fell from an average of 42% during the 1970s to



*Yellowstone elk. (Kim Bartlett)*

23% in 2000, 8% among 13 elk tested in 2001, and 17.5% among 40 elk tested in early 2002. The low percentage in 2001 is believed to be a statistical fluke resulting from a small sample size. National Elk Refuge biologist Bruce Smith attributes most of the progress to improving the distribution of alfalfa pellets given to the elk as emergency winter rations, so that the elk are less inclined to concentrate in areas where they infect each other.

At the Greys River Feedground, run by the state of Wyoming, the brucellosis infection rate has climbed to 50% during the past two years despite a vaccination program started in 1985. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department reportedly suspects the cause was a bad batch of vaccine.

### Events (from page 9)

**August 22-25:** *Conf. on Homeless Animal Management and Policy*, Reno. Info: <www.CHAMPconference.org>; 516-883-7767; fax 516-944-5035.

**September 19:** *Connecticut Animal Control Officers Assn. conf.*, Cromwell. Info: 860-423-7195.

**September 19-22:** *National Humane Conf.*, Denver. Info: American Humane Assn., 1-800-227-4645.

**Sept. 21:** *75th anniversary*, Humane Society of Baltimore County, Reisterstown, Md. Info: 410-833-2387.

**Sept. 23-28:** *Intl. Orca Symposium*, Chizli, France. Info: <www.cebc.cnrs.fr>.

**Sept. 26-28:** *Pacific Northwest Animal Care & Control Conference*, Seattle. Info: Paul Delgado, 425-745-6175; <paul@city-ofmillcreek.com>.

**Sept. 27-28:** *Critteraid Conf.*, Penticon, British Columbia, Canada. Info: <catbuddy@quadrant.net>.

**October 3-6:** *Southern Regional Leadership Conf.*, New Orleans. Info: Spay/USA, 1-800-248-SPAY, or <www.spayusa.org>.

**Oct. 4-6:** *The Culture of Whales*, American Cetacean Society conf., Seattle. Info: <www.acsonline.org>.

**October 16-18:** *North Carolina Animal Rabies Control Assn. conf.*, Boon. Info: <www.ncarca.com>.

**October 18-21:** *National Institute for Animal Advocacy* political training course. Info: 203-453-6590; <jlewin@igc.org>.

**October 23-25:** *Virginia Animal Control Assn. conf.*, Virginia Beach. Info: Mark Kumpf, 757-441-5503; <Mark.kumpf@norfolk.gov>.

**Nov. 11-13:** *Texas Animal Control Assn. conf.*, Abilene. Info: <laural@ci.brownsville.tx.us>.

**November 13-15:** *International Companion Animal Welfare Conference*, Prague, Czech Republic.

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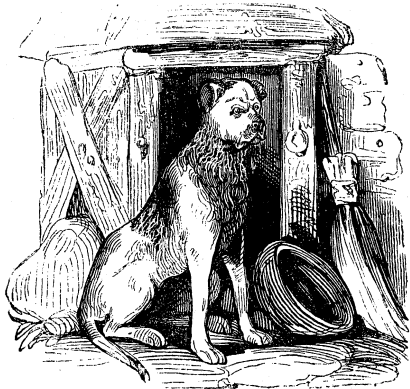
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# The Watchdog

*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.*

## New animal-related legislation passed and signed in seven states

**Florida Governor Jeb Bush** on April 19 signed into law a bill requiring anyone convicted of intentionally torturing or killing an animal to attend an anger management counseling workshop.

**Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating** on April 14 signed into law a bill prohibiting the construction of new poultry barns within 100-year flood plains, within 300 feet of any state-owned waterways; and within a mile and a half of any designated scenic river area, public drinking water well, or water body designated as Outstanding Resource Waters by the **Oklahoma Water Resources Board**. The new law also adds restrictions on poultry manure distribution as fertilizer.

**Washington Governor Gary Locke** on March 29 signed into law a bill allowing felony prosecution of a dog owner whose dog kills or injures someone, if there is clear evidence that the dog should have been considered dangerous, whether or not the dog actually bit anyone. The bill includes exemptions for attacks occurring on the dog owners' own property, and attacks that were provoked, and prohibits classifying a dog as dangerous based on breed.

**The Iowa legislature** in mid-April sent to **Governor Tom Vilsack** a bill to expand the state prohibitions on animal fighting to include penalties for attending events such as dog-fights and cockfights.

**Wisconsin Governor Scott McCallum** in early April signed the first revision of the state law pertaining to captive wildlife since 1972. It includes language barring the sale or purchase of opportunities to hunt captive wildlife, with exemptions for bird species such as pheasant on licensed bird hunting preserves, and deer on registered deer farms—if the enclosure the deer occupy is at least 80 acres. The new law also requires health certification of wild animals newly brought into the state, a rule meant to keep chronic wasting disease out of the Wisconsin wild deer herd. However, at least 10 deer with CWD have already been shot by Wisconsin hunters. Producing symptoms in deer and elk similar to the symptoms of “mad cow disease,” CWD is also believed to be capable of spreading to humans in the form of new variant Creutzfeld-Jakob Syndrome, in which brain tissue degenerations until the victim dies. There is no known successful treatment or cure. First identified among captive elk in Colorado during the 1960s, CWD has now been detected in most of the Rocky Mountain states, as well as Alberta province, Canada, and is believed to have been spread through movements of captive-raised elk among hunting ranches.

**Kansas Governor Bill Graves** on April 18 signed into law a bill increasing the penalties for inflicting harm on search and rescue dogs.

**Maine Governor Angus King** on April 11 signed into law a bill sought by Bath Middle School student **Kelly Davis**, 13, permitting her to raise funds with which to buy bulletproof vests for police dogs. Davis raised \$18,000 and outfitted 18 of the 40 police dogs in Maine before she was warned that Maine law prohibits soliciting donations for law enforcement agencies. To expire in February 2004 unless renewed by the **Maine Legislature**, the bill requires the state attorney general, **Maine Chiefs of Police Association**, and **Maine Sheriff's Association** to report to the legislature in 1993 about whether the bill is working and being used properly.

## LABORATORY UPDATES

**University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine professor Janet K. Yamamoto**, who with **Niels Pedersen** of the **University of California** at **Davis** rediscovered the feline immunodeficiency virus in 1986, in March 2002 announced that she has developed an immunization against FIV, and that the **USDA** has authorized **Fort Dodge Animal Health**, of Kansas, to put it into commercial production. The FIV immunization may be available through local veterinarians by midsummer, priced at \$15-\$25. Up to 25% of all cats may carry FIV in dormant phases. An estimated 5% develop an active infection. Yamamoto predicted that the vaccination method she used might prove helpful in combatting the human immunodeficiency virus, as well, whose victims develop AIDS. But **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center** immunologist **Norman L. Letvin, M.D.**, told *Boston Globe* staff writer **Stephen Smith** that her approach had already been tried against HIV, and had failed.

**Primateology behavior researchers including Sue Savage-Rumbaugh** of the **Georgia State University Language Center** converged on Des Moines, Iowa, on April 19 to join private investor **Ted Townsend** in asking the Des Moines city government to donate 141 acres of land on which Townsend has proposed to build an institution called “The Iowa Primate Learning Sanctuary” with \$10 million raised from private sources. “All humans, bonobos, chimpanzees—we’re all siblings,” Savage-Rumbaugh said. “If we changed our language, could we change the way we act?” Savage-Rumbaugh has taught two bonobos and a gorilla to communicate complex thoughts by pointing to charts of symbols.

**North Carolina State University** chancellor **Marye Anne Fox** announced on April 19 that the university has abandoned attempts to build a “research slaughterhouse” in Raleigh, authorized by the North Carolina general assembly in 1995. The “meat processing laboratory,” as it was also called, was to be located on the campus of the **NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine**. Instead, the \$4.9 million allocated toward the project will mostly be invested in a new poultry-and-swine complex. About \$500,000 will be used to renovate an existing food science building, and \$280,000 will go toward improvements at another poultry research facility.

**Chiba Prefecture** on April 1, 2000 became the 30th of the 47 prefectures and major cities in Japan to halt the sale of abandoned animals to laboratories. Lab demand for random-source dogs and cats has markedly declined, *Japan Times* staff writer **Tetsushi Kajimoto** observed: in 1989, Chiba alone transferred 5,831 dogs and cats to labs, but in 2000 all the labs in Japan used only 6,300 dogs and 1,200 cats. Chiba sent just 13 dogs and cats to labs in 2000, and none in 2001, while receiving 25,400 dogs and cats from the public.

**A new Australian National Primate Breeding and Research Centre** at Churchill in rural Victoria state is to be managed by **Monash University**. **Vanessa Williams** of the Melbourne *Herald-Sun* disclosed on April 2. Absorbing the Melbourne University macaque colony, “It will be Australia’s only farm growing marmosets and macaques for experiments,” Williams wrote. “An unknown number of the monkeys are likely to be killed after experiments,” she added, but the facilities “will include a geriatric unit where monkeys too old to breed can live out their lives.”

## Rats, mice, birds amendment, Jesse Helms & Johns Hopkins

**CHAPEL HILL, NC.; BALTIMORE, Md.**—With a joint U.S. Senate/House of Representatives conference committee expected to decide any day on whether or not to include in the final reconciled version of the 2002 Farm Bill a late amendment by Senator **Jesse Helms** (R-North Carolina) to permanently exclude rats, mice, and birds from protection under the Animal Welfare Act, PETA on April 18 disclosed dramatic and gruesome undercover video of technicians at the laboratories of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill allegedly handling and killing rats and mice in an inhumane manner.

The video footage was obtained by PETA investigator **Kate Turlington**, 24, a North Carolina State University graduate who worked for six months as a technician in the Thurston Bowles animal research building, near the University of North Carolina Hospitals complex.

*Baltimore Sun* reporter **Michael Stroh** on the same day disclosed extensive overcrowding and other deficiencies affecting the care of the 55,285 animals housed at the Johns Hopkins University laboratories—54,238 of them rats and mice, according to geneticist **Roger Reeves**, chair of the Johns Hopkins rodent advisory committee.

“Amid the high-profile overhaul of its human research program last year after the death of a volunteer,” Stroh wrote, “Johns Hopkins University has embarked on a quieter effort to fix problems in how it cares for laboratory animals.”

The effort includes building a \$30 million rodent research, breeding, and housing complex.

However, as home of the

Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, Johns Hopkins was supposed to have already been maintaining exemplary animal care standards.

CAAT was founded in 1981 with consumer product industry funding, at instigation of the late Animal Rights International founder **Henry Spira**, to seek ways of reducing the numbers and the suffering of animals used in product research and testing.

“CAAT and its grantees have helped to develop human tissue cultures that are widely used today in place of live animals to test product safety,” Frank D. Roylance of the *Baltimore Sun* wrote in December 2001, after CAAT director **Alan M. Goldberg** announced a \$100,000 project to explore how mice and rats suffer pain.

“In 20 years, CAAT has made more than 200 awards totaling \$4.5 million to 11 grantees,” Roylance added, but noted that in recent years “It has opposed tighter federal regulation of laboratory rodents as too costly.”

The pain studies are the first work commissioned with \$800,000 donated by the Tamarind Fund and the Mollylou Foundation “to establish a grants program focused on pain assessment and management in laboratory animals,” CAAT spokesperson **Lisa Libowitz** said.


Involving subjecting mice and rats to pain to see what happens, and killing them afterward to study their tissues, the pain studies are to be done by **Norman C. Peterson** of Johns Hopkins; **Alicia Z. Karas** of the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine; **Hal Markowitz** and **Clifford Roberts** of the University of California at San Francisco; and **Bert van Zutphen** and **Vera Baumans** of Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

## “Baby monkeys” case indictments

**CHICAGO**—A federal grand jury on April 14 returned a 12-count indictment for illegally importing wild-caught monkeys against **LABS** of Virginia, Inc., former **LABS** president **David M. Taub**, 59, **LABS** board chair **Charles J. Stern**, 44, and **LABS** board member **William Curtis Henley**, 43. **LABS** and **Taub** were each charged with eight felonies and four misdemeanors.

The federal indictments alleged that between February 20 and May 30, 1997, **LABS** flew to the U.S. in four groups a breeding colony of 1,312 macaques purchased from Indonesian Aquatics Export CV, called **Inquatex**. However, the transaction and import documents allegedly misrepresented wild-caught macaques as captive-bred; the wild-caught macaques were not legally exported from Indonesia; and from 17 to 19 macaques were improperly brought to the U.S. while nursing unweaned young.

“It was five years ago that I received an eyewitness report from a person who had seen dozens of pathetic baby monkeys in crates at O’Hare Airport in Chicago,” International Primate Protection League founder **Shirley McGreal** recalled. “In subsequent years, IPPL members have blitzed prosecutors and wildlife agents with letters, postcards, and petitions demanding justice for the baby monkeys. I myself have never worked harder on a case,” McGreal said, a meaningful statement in view of her leading role in the Bangkok Six case, which exposed a multicornered international wildlife trafficking ring with links to zoos, live markets, and laboratory suppliers in at least five nations. McGreal was also extensively involved in **Jan Moor-Jankowski vs. Immuno A.G.**, a libel case that resulted in an important U.S. Supreme Court ruling against slap-suits and in favor of press freedom.



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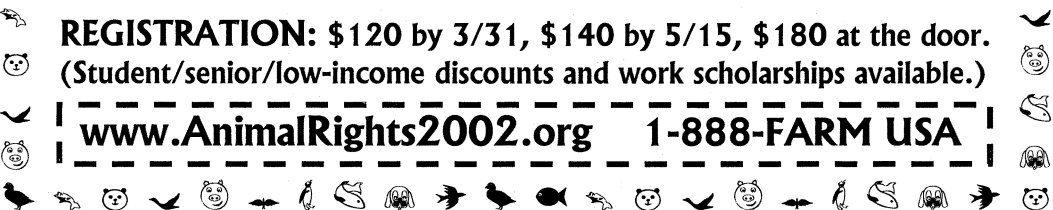
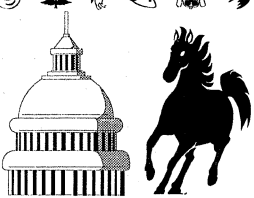
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1920s on probably prevented China from annexing Mongolia as it annexed Tibet. Until the mid-1980s, trophy hunting access was mostly restricted to well-connected Soviet military and political figures, and hunting was conducted at a relatively restrained level.

Mongolian trophy hunting opportunities opened to European and North American hunters after the Soviet and Mongolian Communist governments fell in 1990—and that brought a hunting boom. The basic arrangements had already been developed through many years of behind-the-scenes activity by prominent U.S. trophy hunters who were especially anxious to kill the argali sheep they needed to qualify for some of the most coveted awards offered by the Safari Club International.

As Phelps explained, “The argali is the world’s largest wild sheep, whose spectacular curved horns make it a prime target.”

## Mission to Mongolia

Backed by the Safari Club, Smithsonian Institution staff biologist Richard Mitchell in 1984 founded the American Ecological Union to promote sport hunting in both China and Mongolia. The Smithsonian then loaned Mitchell to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a year to study the endangered species status of the argali, the snow leopard, and other rare Mongolian animals.

During that year, Mitchell arranged an argali sheep hunt in Mongolia, presented to the Smithsonian as a research expedition. Participants included former Texas gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams, his wife Modesta, and several friends—all of them associates and political allies of former U.S. President George H. Bush and current President George W. Bush, his son. Both Bushes are life members of the Safari Club.

Mitchell, Williams, and friends killed and imported the trophies from four argali sheep. Charged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with violating the Endangered Species Act, Williams got the case dropped, reportedly with help from U.S. Senators Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas) and Pete Wilson (R-Calif., later governor of California), and Representative Jack Fields (R-Texas).

Mitchell himself was in 1993 convicted of illegally importing a urial sheep pelt, but was fined just \$1,000, served two years on probation, and continued to review endangered species trophy import applications for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Scientific Authority until June 1996. The Smithsonian Institution reportedly spent more than \$650,000 to defend Mitchell against the charges, which were brought by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Mongolian ministry for nature and the environment became aware by 1995 that trophy hunting pressure was already depleting native wildlife, and in June 1995 introduced a conservation law which banned killing snow leopards; stipulated that only 15 permits per year would be offered to hunt the argali, at \$10,000 each; and introduced limited protection for musk oxen, antelopes, Siberian elk, reindeer, beavers, hyenas, otters, bustards, pheasants, swans, cranes, wild horses, Bactrian camels, and sturgeon.

Reuter correspondent Irja Halasz wrote then that although 19-day safaris to hunt

snow leopards were offered to Americans at \$25,000 apiece, “pelts from the rare cats can be bought from local hunters for as little as \$25 apiece” on the streets of Ulan Bator, the Mongolian capital.

Enforcing the Mongolian legislation proved difficult, however, as subsequent summer droughts and harsh winters have devastated the rural economy and increased the incentives for hunting guides to take a bribe and look away if a hunter wants to shoot an animal without having the proper permit.

The George W. Bush administration has meanwhile moved to relax the restrictions on the import of argali sheep trophies.

“The Fund for Animals, along with other wildlife protection organizations and two Mongolian scientists, filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in April 2001 to prevent the import of sport-hunted argali trophies, and to list the argali population as endangered throughout its entire range in Asia. That suit is pending,” Phelps said.”

## Evangelical hunters

The Dalai Lama himself has struggled to maintain an apolitical public persona, but his role as head of a theocracy-in-exile is part of the political and philosophical construct used by some evangelical fundamentalist Christians to rationalize support for Israel as a Jewish theocracy, Saudi Arabia as a quasi-Islamic theocracy, and legislation which would accord Christianity constitutional recognition as the national religion of the U.S.

Their argument, essentially, is that theocracy based on regional cultural dominance is the form of government favored by God, and that “secular humanism” which separates church from state is contrary to Biblical commandment.

It is among evangelical fundamentalist Christian conservatives that support for sport hunting is strongest in the U.S., and it is from them, a sector which has long supported the cause of Tibetan independence, that the Dalai Lama is most likely to feel a backlash.

Among the organizations whose members the Dalai Lama might hear from are the Christian Sportsmen’s Fellowship, of Atlanta, with 300 local affiliates across the U.S., known for selling camouflaged pocket-sized abridged editions of the Bible, and the Special Youth Challenge Ministries, also based in Georgia, whose major activity seems to be taking handicapped children to shoot animals at canned hunts. Unification Church founder Sun Mying Moon, 82, fined for exceeding the salmon fishing limit in Alaska in August 2000, might also put in a few words, as one of the staunchest anti-Communists on the religious right.

Seventh Day Adventists, on the other hand, are advised to practice vegetarianism, conveying an implicit injunction against hunting, and Mormons could be reminded that both Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founder Joseph Smith and later president Joseph F. Smith spoke against sport hunting.

Joseph Smith wrote in his *History of the Church* that he “exhorted the brethren not to kill a serpent, bird, or an animal of any kind unless it became necessary in



*Bactrian camels. (Robert L. Harrison)*

order to preserve ourselves from hunger.”

Joseph F. Smith wrote in *Gospel Doctrine* that, “I do not believe any man should kill animals or birds unless he needs them for food. I think it is wicked for men to thirst in their souls to kill almost everything which possesses animal life.”

Fund for Animals spiritual outreach director Norm Phelps reminded current Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints president Gordon Hinckley of those statements in an October 2001 letter asking Hinckley to end the Mormon operation of hunting ranches in Florida and Utah.

Sport hunting—and catching fish with hooks—are also prohibited within Judaism, to which the Mormons claim to have more direct roots than other Christian denominations. Be that as it may, Jewish opposition to sport hunting and fishing have rarely been voiced in the form of a rebuke to non-Jewish hunters and fishers, and has therefore not troubled evangelical Christian support for Israel.

## Hindu divide

The political and cultural ramifications of the Dalai Lama’s condemnation of hunting speak to similar divides in Hindu culture, from Nepal at the northern end of the one-time Hindu subcontinent to Karnataka in the south of India.

As among Americans of all faiths, just a small percentage of Hindus hunt, but hunting among those who do is closely intertwined with quasi-religious ritual—which is not, however, part of the main body of Hindu religious teaching. The trophy hunting practices of the Nepalese royal family appear to have been copied from Mogul and British rulers of India, centuries ago, while the “sacrificial” hunts of birds, jackals, snakes, foxes, and other species conducted by mostly illiterate and only nominally Hindu “tribals” may be a vestigial remnant of a Dravidian hunter/gatherer culture most closely related to

that of the Australian aborigines.

Historically, the Indian caste system probably developed through a long series of invasions, through which conquered peoples were relegated to the most menial occupations and waves of better educated and more technologically advanced conquerors became the middle and ruling classes. Hunting was never a common pursuit of the middle and upper Hindu castes, especially the Brahmins, whose most distant ancestors may have come from a split in one of the ancient Egyptian dynasties. Although the caste system was officially abolished in 1936, the cultural and political divides that created it remain strong, and continue to influence hunting-related politics in India, which typically pit Hindus against Christians and Muslims, overlapping the perennial public conflicts over cow slaughter, and also pit Hindus of the educated classes against the “scheduled castes,” the poorest classes, who are the beneficiaries of affirmative action in academic admissions and government hiring, and are the Hindus most likely to convert to Christianity, in part because it condones hunting.

## Related faiths

The Dalai Lama is influential in India, even though barely 1% of the Indian population practices Buddhism, because much of the Hindu majority (83%) regards Buddhism as a major branch of Hinduism, no farther removed from the Hindu mainstream than the tribal sacrificial hunts and the animal sacrifices of Kali-worshippers. Siddharta, who became the Buddha, was a Hindu prince, and Buddhism evolved out of the same vegetarian nexus as both modern Hinduism and Jainism, and the beliefs of the staunchly vegetarian and militantly anti-hunting Bishnoi tribal people, who still occupy parts of the Rajasthan desert and within the past two centuries have spread into the southern Punjab.

*(continued on page 14)*

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

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John Boy was confiscated from a wildlife park, where he was found living in a small wooden cage. He had sores on his feet and body from sitting in pools of urine and feces. He was underweight and weak. John Boy made a full recovery and now lives with two other jaguars at the Wild Animal Orphanage.



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Their southeastern neighbors, the Sindhi of Pakistan, maintain pro-vegetarian and anti-hunting teachings within Islam. (Sindhi people living within India, however, are mostly Hindu.)

Valmik Thapar, executive director of the Ranthambore Foundation, described the Bishnoi in his 1997 book *Land of the Tiger* as “the primary reason that desert wildlife still exists on the subcontinent. The women of the community have been known to breastfeed black buck fawns and save insect life, while many of the men have died in their efforts to counter armed poaching gangs.”

Of special note currently is that the long delayed poaching trial of Muslim film star Salman Khan and seven prominent confederates including fellow film stars Saif Ali Khna, Sonali Bindre, Tabu, and Neelam (who use only first names) has finally reached the pre-trial deposition stage. The eight were apprehended in October 1998 after a swift but broad-reaching Bishnoi investigation, followed by 10 days of protest. A month later, 5,000 Bishnoi marched in Mumbai, the center of the Indian film industry, to reinforce their demand that justice be done.

Tariq Hasan of the *The Times of India* on March 24 described a case exemplifying what might have happened in the Khan case without the Bishnoi involvement:

“In the first week of February,” Hasan wrote, “Rajesh Nigam, a ranger of the forest department posted in the Pilibhit Reserve Forest, was arrested and charged with ‘abducting with the intention of murder of two persons.’” Inquiries by this correspondent, however, reveal that Nigam’s only crime was that a day earlier he had detained two poachers who had killed several birds inside the forest. These two persons somehow managed to escape from Forest Department custody, and then using their “influence,” an apparent allusion to bribery, “turned the tables on the Forest Department staff. Rajesh was kept in jail for more than 15 days.”

## Horse sacrifice

Words against hunting from the

Dalai Lama may not help against corruption, but by way of example might reinforce the efforts of federal minister for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi to persuade the Hindu Religious Endowment Board and other religious authorities to issue firm directives against animal sacrifice, which typically peaks each spring when “tribals” conduct “sacrificial hunts” of foxes and jackals just before lambs and goat kids are born, and fertility festivals are held in honor of local deities, coincidental with planting.

Her efforts were supported this year by home minister Mallikarjuna Kharge.

“Send to jail those who sacrifice animals, however influential they might be,” Kharge told news media after opening a March festival at Davangere in honor of the goddess Durgambika. Animal sacrifice has been sporadically practiced at the annual festival for at least 200 years.

This year, of 1,000 animals originally slated for sacrifice, only one ox was killed, agreed *The Deccan Herald* and *Sify News*, and one sheep was sacrificed later in a village ritual 10 days after the main festival ended.

“The other 998 animals are likely to meet a less public death at the hands of the local butchers,” *Sify News* remarked.

Whatever gains were made in Davangere were offset when Mrs. Gandhi was unable to persuade chief minister of Orissa state Naveen Patnaik to halt a March 29 horse sacrifice in Juna Padia, Orissa state.

Reported Azizur Rahman, Calcutta correspondent for the *South China Morning Post*, “The fundamentalist Hindu group Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Council, organized the ceremony. About 150 priests performed the ritual, as 10,000 of their supporters chanted in praise of the god Rama. Many Hindus believe the mythical god Rama sacrificed 10 horses to please the creator of the universe, and happiness returned to his kingdom. As required by the ritual, 10 white stallions in peak condition were taken on a tour of Orissa before being slaughtered on an altar on the 10th day. The animals’ blood was collected in hundreds of earthen pots to be sprinkled on a fire and distributed among supporters to

preserve in their homes. Before the sacrifice a purification ritual was performed in which the horses were forced to stand in the middle of circles of fire. The horses suffered extensive burns,” according to witnesses.

Countered one of the priests, Bishwanath Acharya, “The horses were only burned a bit. Considering the immense luck the sacrifice will bring to all of us, we should not be complaining over such trifles.”

Similar horse sacrifices were apparently conducted in the region by royalty from circa 236 BC until about 566 A.D., and were reportedly last performed about 500 years ago. In original form, the rituals included kings and queens symbolically mating with the dead horses, equine expert Sharon Cregier, Ph.D., told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and were sometimes accompanied by human sacrifice.

World Hindu Council leaders have allegedly instigated much of the deadliest religious strife in recent Indian history, but skipped human sacrifice—this time.

The event reportedly cost \$123,000 U.S. to stage.

Patnaik stood aside, Rahman suggested, because his political party, Biju Janata Dal, “is a member of the ruling coalition in New Delhi, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.”

But so is Mrs. Gandhi.

“Some anti-Hindu elements tried their best to stop this whole ritual, but the god was on our side,” World Hindu Council leader Maharshi Girisurya Swami said of her attempted intervention.

## Cow slaughter

Had Mrs. Gandhi limited her efforts to preventing cow slaughter, which has been among the most prominent activities of her organization, People for Animals, since inception in 1984, Patnaik and the World Hindu Council might have supported her.

Much of India rejoiced in mid-April when the Allahabad High Court upheld a total ban on the slaughter of bovines imposed in December 2001 by Uttar Pradesh state.

The new law closed loopholes in the 1975 Prevention of Cow Slaughter Ordinance which allowed the slaughter of cattle for research purposes, unproductive bullocks, and any cattle over 15 years old.

Justices M. Katju and Rakesh Tiwari and Cow Protection Commission chair Parmanand Mittal each reportedly seized the opportunity to lecture Muslims on the importance of respecting the sanctity of cattle within the majority Hindu culture.

“If we permit such activities [as cow slaughter], a situation like Gujarat may recur,” said *The Times of India*, referring to riots which killed more than 800 Muslims in Ahmedabad, after militant Muslims torched a train, killing 56 Hindus.

Mrs. Gandhi, however, has little patience with activism that hits cruelties practiced by minorities while exempting others. She welcomed the ban on cow slaughter—and argued that it should extend to killing any animal.

“Preventing animal sacrifices must begin with the majority,” she told K.S. Narayan of the *Deccan Herald*.

“In a country where there is widespread condemnation of the sacrifices that take place on Bakrid,” as the Feast of Atonement practiced by Muslims is called in India, “it is disheartening that the number of animals sacrificed in Hindu temples per week is larger than the number of goats killed on Bakrid,” Mrs. Gandhi elaborated in the People for Animals handbook *How To Stop Animal Sacrifices*.

In her view, ethnic and cultural minorities will feel more self-confident about abandoning their archaic rituals when the majority no longer insists on doing similar things.

## Nepal

The revival of horse sacrifice in Orissa coincided with a series of Biju Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party defeats in regional elections. If the death of the horses brings any kind of good fortune, it may be the disgusted turn of Indian voters away from fundamentalism and xenophobic forms of nationalism. However, when bar-

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barism and patriotism become intertwined with religious faith, introducing change can be difficult and dangerous—even when a society seems to be ready to accept the transition.

Nepal may be in that situation,

following the June 2001 massacre of the King, Queen, and at least seven other members of the royal family by Crown Prince Dipendra, 29, a trophy hunter and gun collector who went berserk after an argument at a family dinner. Dipendra then shot himself through the head—and, by law and custom, succeeded to the throne while comatose and connected to life support.

Clearly the traditions of Nepal are going to have to change. The constitutional monarchy can no longer rule the nation, which was the only Hindu theocracy. Continuing to regard the reigning king as an incarnation of God is no longer practical, if even possible.

Obviously the king will no longer be able to personally preside over the sacrificial slaughtering of as many as 5,000 buffalo every five years on a lake bed at Birgung village in Baryapur District, just north of Katmandu—an event seen as blasphemy by much of India.

“The entire lake gets so polluted by the blood of the cattle that absolutely nothing can live in the water. It takes almost five years for the lake to regenerate, by which time it is sacrifice time again,” one witness told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Animal sacrifice dominates the Nepalese form of Hinduism.

“Except for the Pashupathi Nath temple,” the well-placed witness told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, speaking anonymously for diplomatic reasons, “almost every temple—large or small—has places to sacrifice animals. Sheep are imported by the government and sold at a subsidized price before Dussera, the main sacrifice time in Nepal and many parts of India, like Bengal, Bihar, and Andhra Pradesh. The sheep are weighed at the time of sale by hooking them through their skin with a hand-held spring balance, when all that is required is a sling to lift them up in.

“Cruelty to animals and to fellow men go on hand in hand in Nepal,” the witness continued. “For the first time, I felt ashamed to call myself a Hindu! In fact, I felt ashamed at calling myself a human being.”

The source contacted **ANIMAL PEOPLE** not to condemn Nepal, however, but to explain the many cultural obstacles that must be worked around in order to introduce changes beneficial to animals in Nepal.

We introduced the source to Lucia de Vries, a volunteer for Friends of the Nepal SPCA in Dhobhighat, Katmandu.

“The Nepal SPCA recently opened a clinic and office in Pashupatinath, Katmandu, close to the airport,” de Vries said. “Our group, Friends of the Nepal SPCA, will focus on awareness-raising and fundraising. Much work needs to be done. The Nepal SPCA has not so far fulfilled its objectives, and has a long way to go before it can help abolish animal cruelty thru legal amendments at the

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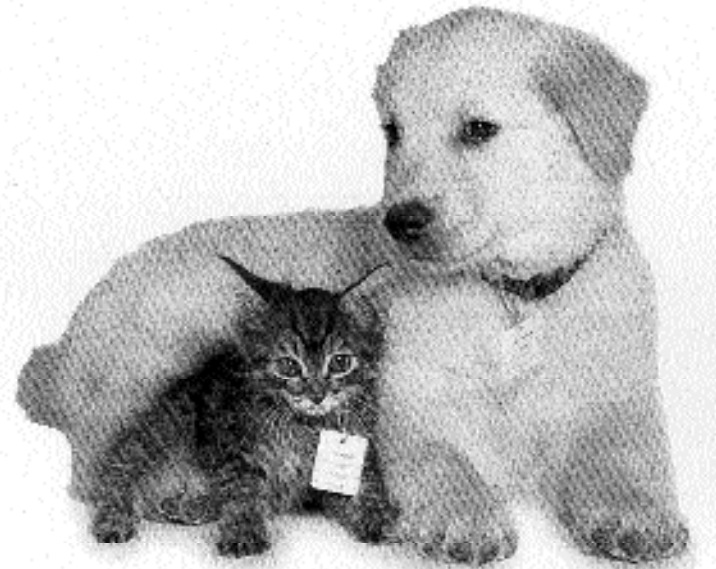
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## MEAT & HUMAN MURDER

**ANTWERP, Belgium**—More than 200 witnesses are expected to testify in the anticipated seven-week trial of four men for the February 1995 murder of Belgian veterinary inspector Karel Van Noppen, shot multiple times in his car while investigating illegal traffic in clenbuterol, a banned steroid used to promote livestock growth. The trial began in Antwerp on April 14, 2002.

Van Noppen was believed to have been the victim of a “hit” by the so-called “hormone mafia.” He was seeking indictment of cattle breeder Alex Vercauteren at the time of his murder, but police were unable to build a case against Vercauteren, now facing charges, until an unidentified informant fingered arms dealer Carl De Schutter and traveling fair worker Albert Barraaz, who reportedly became acquainted while serving prison time together. Apprehended in France in 1996, De Schutter named Vercauteren and livestock dealer Germain Daenen.

While assembling the evidence, police raided 82 Belgian veterinary facilities, gathering documentation linking the Belgian and Dutch clenbuterol traffic to the widespread illegal use of clenbuterol in Ireland and the U.S.—where raids on veal feed distributors and veal production facilities allegedly using clenbuterol had already been quietly underway since early 1994.

Pressured to prosecute by the Humane Farming Association, the U.S. Justice Department won a series of convictions of veal industry leaders, all of whom were closely associated, personally and professionally, with Aat Groenveld, the Dutch immigrant who in 1962 founded the Provimi veal empire, introduced the practice of immobilizing calves in veal crates to North America, and also developed the market for “milk-fed spring lamb,” a euphemism for lambs raised in close confinement like veal calves.

Misuse of clenbuterol had already surfaced on the livestock show circuit. Between 1993 and 1995, at least 18 award winners at six of the most prestigious livestock shows in the U.S. were caught illegally using

clenbuterol.

The use of illegal drugs in the meat industry is now well-known, as is the frequent incidence of animal abuse in the backgrounds of killers of humans. The Van Noppen case is among the first, however, to directly link routine meat practices with murder in mainstream reportage.

Yet examples of meat workers committing murder, often using their workplace skills, are quite common.

In recent high-profile cases:

- One-armed Egyptian immigrant butcher John Ghobrial, 31, on April 10, 2002 drew the death penalty from Superior Court Judge John J. Ryan in Orange County, California, for the 1998 molestation and dismemberment murder of Juan Delgado, 12.

- Slaughterhouse worker Katherine Knight, 46, on November 8, 2001 became the first woman in Australia to receive a life prison sentence. Knight was convicted of stabbing, skinning, beheading, and cooking parts of John Charles Price, her estranged companion of six years, who had sought an order of protection against her. Knight had terrorized a previous ex-partner by killing his puppy in front of him.

- Former Pilgrim's Pride chicken-killer Danny Kay Taylor, 41, escaped a possible death sentence in Las Vegas in October 2001 by plea-bargaining a five-years-to-life term for the 1991 murder of his ex-girlfriend Cheryl DiSantis. DiSantis had accused Taylor of molesting her four-year-old daughter.

- Czech immigrant butcher Vaclav Plch, 40, was convicted in Manchester, New Hampshire, in November 2000 of the dismemberment murder of Mary Stetson, 40.

- Stuart Alexander, 41, owner of the Santos Linguisa Factory in San Leandro, California, is awaiting trial for the June 2000 gun rampage murders of USDA inspectors Jean Hillery, 56, and Tom Quadros, 52, and California Department of Food and Agriculture inspector Bill Shaline, 57, and attempted murder of Shaline's inspection partner, Earl Willis, 51.

## Fixing dog & cat overpopulation

**Ed Boks, director of the Maricopa County Animal Care & Control department** in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 16 introduced differential incentives to encourage residents to sterilize and release feral cats instead of turning them in to be killed. The county will now charge \$61 to kill a cat—or \$20 to sterilize the cat and send him or her “home.” **The Arizona Humane Society**, which requests a \$15 donation to kill a cat, reports an increase in cat intake, as have smaller local shelters. However, said Maricopa County Animal Care & Control spokesperson **Julie Bank**, “We’ve spent 30 years trying to control feral cats the traditional way, and the problem is not stopping, “with feral cat turn-ins averaging a steady 10,000 a year. “We hope in the next three to five years to see a decrease,” Bank added.

**The Humane Society of Indianapolis and Indianapolis animal control department received 1,836 fewer dogs and cats and killed 2,371 fewer** during the past seven months than in the same seven months a year earlier, FACE high-volume, low-cost sterilization clinic founder **Scott Robinson, M.D.**, told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on April 24. The data confirms Robinson's decade-long contention that a high-volume, low-cost sterilization clinic could make a dramatic difference in the Indianapolis numbers, which had plateaued well above the U.S. norm for shelter killing per 1,000 residents until the FACE clinic opened three years ago. The data also validates the impact of an investigative series on Indianapolis animal sheltering issues commenced by *Indianapolis Star* reporters **Bill Theobald** and **Bonnie Harris** in October 2001, exactly seven months ago. The series earned Theobald the 2001 **George Polk Journalism Award** for metropolitan reporting, presented by Long Island University.

**Spay-Neuter Assistance Program** founder **Sean Hawkins**, of Houston, announced on April 11 that the **Texas Department of Transportation** has raised \$846,886 through the sale of 15,311 “Animal

Friendly” license plates, enabling the **Texas Department of Health** to make available \$250,000 “to eligible organizations for spaying and neutering dogs and cats belonging to the general public. This is the first time,” Hawkins added, “that the State of Texas has funded spaying and neutering programs for dogs and cats.” Texas Department of Health **Zoonosis Control Division** chief **Jane Mahlow, M.D.**, said that “Successful applicants will be those who demonstrate a collaborative approach to ending dog and cat overpopulation in Texas, with innovative programs not duplicating existing efforts.” Application details may be downloaded from <[www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis/rspet/animal-friend/rfp.pdf](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/zoonosis/rspet/animal-friend/rfp.pdf)>.

**Hawkins on April 16 announced that SNAP has accepted a \$1.5 million, three-year contract from the City of Los Angeles, California**, to sterilize dogs and cats belonging to low-income families. Founded in 1993, SNAP currently operates five mobile sterilization clinics and two fixed-site clinics, with existing programs in Houston, San Antonio, Albuquerque, and Monterrey, Mexico. Hawkins anticipates using a mobile clinic to sterilize about 5,000 pets per year in Los Angeles.

**Maddie's Fund** announced on April 10 that a three-year feral cat sterilization program and a one-year pet sterilization program for low-income caregivers that it has funded via the **California Veterinary Medical Association** are both to be completed by May 15. “In less than three years,” Maddie's Fund president Richard Avanzino said, “more than 200,000 sterilization surgeries will have been performed on targeted populations of dogs and cats which have historically been underserved. The \$12 million in grant monies that Maddie's Fund has awarded to the CVMA exceed the total amount given by all foundations to perform sterilization surgeries since the animal welfare movement began in this country,” Avanzino added.

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# Animal control is people control

**PORTLAND, Maine**—The Maine Supreme Judicial Court on April 7 ruled that the subject of anti-barking ordinances is not the behavior of dogs, but rather the behavior of a petkeeper who persistently permits one or more dogs to upset the neighbors.

The verdict upheld a 1997 ordinance adopted by the town of Baldwin which prohibits allowing dogs to “unnecessarily annoy or disturb” anyone through “continued or repeated barking, howling, or other loud or unusual noises any time day or night.”

Kennel owner Kari Carter, fined \$3574 in penalties and costs for violating the ordinance, contended unsuccessfully that it is unconstitutionally vague because it does not spell out exactly how much noise dogs are allowed to make.

The court responded, however, that the issue is not what dogs do, but rather whether what dogs do is permitted to become a problem “to a reasonable person, not merely to some supersensitive or hypercritical individual.”

The ruling came as a common-sense reminder that animal control bylaws are about people control as much as animal control. Animal control departments exist to protect human lives and property, but the ordinances defining their workloads are written mainly to improve human relations within a community, by removing reasons why neighbors fight.

People who love animals tend to measure the success of animal control programs and humane societies by the number of animals their shelters kill. Animal care-and-control experts increasingly look at the numbers of dogs and cats killed per 1,000 human residents of the community. For either the experts or the amateurs, fewer dead animals is better.

The rest of the public may take a distinctly opposite view. People who do not love animals do not care how many dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens are killed. Saving animals’ lives is not even a consideration, much less a priority.

What people who do not love animals care about is whether someone responds promptly and effectively to their complaints about animal damage, animals at large, feces on lawns or sidewalks, and dogs barking long into the night.

Many an animal control director who has reduced animal control killing by replacing catch-and-kill with intervention-and-education of offending petkeepers has been shocked to be upbraided by municipal authorities and perhaps even fired if citizen complaints about nuisance animals increase—even if the complaints come from just a handful of influential cranks.

Many nonprofit humane societies holding animal control sheltering contracts are under constant pressure from local office holders to kill more animals, faster, so as to cut the cost of removing problem animals from streets and yards.

This is one reason why the San Francisco model for achieving no-kill animal control begins with separating humane societies from animal control work. The purpose of a humane society is to protect animals from people, the purpose of an animal control agency is to protect humans and property from animals, and even though the work greatly overlaps, the inherent contradiction of goals tends to make conflict inevitable.

Inasmuch as Cleveland is as close to being the average U.S. city as any, in demographic terms, the 2001 Cleveland animal control workload probably gives as representative a picture as any of what the public expects animal control departments to be doing.

The 478,000 Cleveland residents called in 4,992 complaints to animal control during 2001. This would work out to approximately one call per 11 residents, or per four households, except that people who call animal control departments at all tend to call many times. The 4,992 complaints probably came from half or a third that many people. In fairness, however, many of those people undoubtedly were complaining repeatedly about animals and petkeepers whose activities had genuinely become problems to whole neighborhoods.

## Barking dogs

Nearly half of the complaints to Cleveland animal control in 2001—46%—concerned chronically barking dogs.

This is no surprise. The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** files indicate that year in and year out, barking dogs are the animal control problem most likely to surface as a community issue. In a typical year, nine U.S. cities adopt new anti-barking ordinances. Both 2000 and 2001 were typical years.

But there are cultural and regional patterns to barking dog complaints. Barking dogs seem to be a recurring political issue in older and denser communities—especially in resort and retirement areas, such as the lake country of the upper Midwest and along coastal Florida. Barking dogs contrastingly rarely become a political issue in the Southwest, possibly because the mostly new cities sprawling across the deserts of California, Arizona, and New Mexico feature larger yards, or maybe just because sound does not carry well in low humidity.

Cleveland animal control received a fairly normal 4.8 calls about barking dogs in 2001 per 1,000 human residents.



(Diana Nolen)

The sleepless folks of Seattle, on the other hand—notorious for imbibing more coffee than the residents of any other city in the world—called in 7.5 complaints about barking dogs per 1,000 human residents. The Seattle shelter killing rate of 11.2 dogs and cats per 1,000 residents is among the lowest in the U.S., but the frequency of barking dog complaints suggests that a substantial minority of the human population would cheerfully kill more dogs, if allowed to do so.

There is a tenuous association between barking dog complaints and the computer software industry, a mainstay of the Seattle economy. In Montpelier, Vermont, also a center of software development, an organization called the Noise Pollution Clearinghouse has emerged as a collective voice of sorts for people who are annoyed by barking dogs. The NPC web site offers links to more than 150 articles about barking dog legislation, court cases, and related health hazards. But the NPC is not obsessed about barking dogs *per se*. The NPC site offers many more links about other common noise sources, with airport noise being apparently the topic of most concern.

Ironically, the only recent legislative attention of note to barking dogs at the state level concerned dogs who do not make enough noise to warn public safety officers such as police and firefighters of their presence.

Surgically removing the vocal cords of dogs to silence chronic barking came into vogue several decades ago as a last resort to keep dogs in rental housing after other tenants complained to the landlord. Except in affluent communities with perennially scarce pet-friendly accommodations, however, the procedure has never really been popular.

In the mid-1990s, drug dealers began turning to debarking to facilitate using dogs to guard their premises without running the risk that noise might attract the attention of law enforcement. Dogfighters also took up debarking, to keep neighbors from becoming aware of their activities.

Groups representing police and firefighters joined with humane organizations in 2000 to push anti-debarking legislation in California, New Jersey, and Ohio. The California and New Jersey bills died due to strong opposition from veterinary groups, who saw anti-debarking laws as a step toward banning cosmetic surgical procedures on dogs such as ear-cropping and tail-docking—which have in fact been banned in Britain. The Ohio anti-debarking bill survived, however, and was signed into law by Governor Robert Taft in August 2000.

## Running dogs

Dogs and sometimes cats running at large are the next most frequent topic of complaints to Cleveland animal control, accounting for 34% of the total complaint volume; 3.5 calls per 1,000 human residents. This seems to be a reasonably normal complaint level for any U.S. city. Cleveland cited the custodians of about one dog in four who was reported to be at large, issuing 0.9 citations per 1,000 human residents.

Oddly enough, while residents of Southwestern cities seem relatively unconcerned about barking, Tucson issued 1.37 citations for dogs running at large per 1,000 residents, in a city whose geography suggests that this might be much less a problem than in cities of greater density.

Establishing legal opportunities for dogs to run off-leash emerged as one of the hottest of all dog-related causes during the latter half of the 1990s, and was a high-profile in at least 12 cities during 2001.

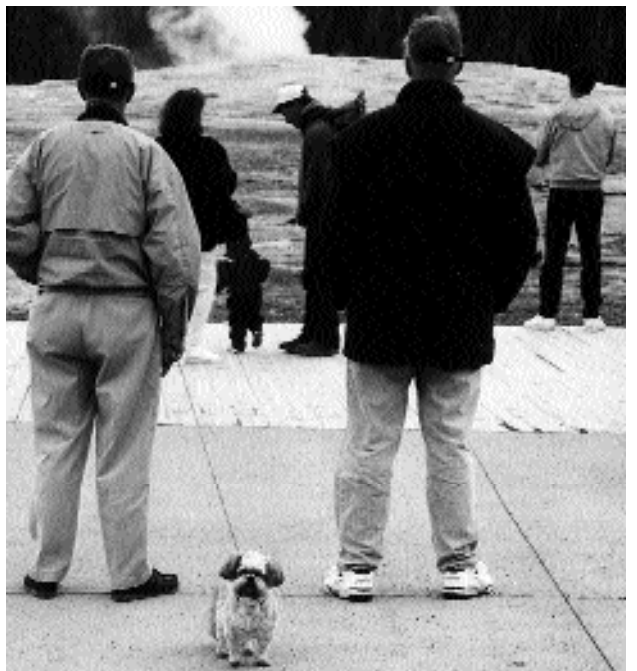
Organized efforts to designate “dog parks” and “dog-running hours” came as an apparent backlash by dogkeepers against legislative efforts to reduce dog bites and fecal deposits in public places. Typically this meant amending old ordinances requiring that dogs be “under control” when in public places by adding language specifying that “under control” means leashed, and sometimes also harnessed and muzzled.

The drive to open off-leash running opportunities for dogs has met intensive resistance from other users of public space, including non-petkeeping senior citizens, who can easily suffer bone fractures and permanent disability from bumping or pushing by an exuberant dog; parents’ associations concerned about fecal contamination of playgrounds; nature lovers concerned about the harm dogs do in chasing birds and squirrels, and by digging up vegetation; sports enthusiasts who object to softball diamonds and soccer fields going to the dogs; and taxpayers’ groups, who are aware that allowing dogs to run loose on public property can carry a high liability risk.

Some attempts have been made to operate private for-profit “athletic clubs” for dogs and their people, but most have not been economically successful. A few humane societies have also tried to offer workout space to dogs, partly as a fundraising activity. These projects have succeeded to the extent that the organizations had land and volunteer staff available. The longevity of humane society-managed off-leash facilities tends to be short, however, because usually a humane society has land available only if the land has been acquired by purchase or bequest for some other purpose, such as building a new shelter. The off-leash facility typically operates only until construction is ready to start.

The Doggie Day Care Center formerly run by the San Francisco SPCA was a typical casualty of a shelter expansion getting underway. The demise of the Doggie Day Care Center, however, was only a footnote in terms of controversy beside a decade-long conflict between the SF/SPCA and the National Park Service over dog access to Fort Funsten, at the Presidio, the former military complex located near Golden Gate Park and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which extends from Marin County on the north side of the bridge to San Mateo County, and includes the entire western San Francisco shoreline, the Fort Funsten site



*Old Faithful dog. (Kim Bartlett)*

became the most popular off-leash area in San Francisco after the military facilities were decommissioned in 1979.

As the Park Service took over management, however, the Park Service philosophy of opposition to nonnative species possibly competing with wildlife led to closures of increasingly large sections of Fort Funsten and surroundings, mostly to protect native plants and nesting habitat for the endangered western snowy plover.

The issue is not strictly confined to dogs off leash, as the Park Service also views the presence of leashed dogs in certain areas as a threat to the habitat and the security of the estimated 17 million human visitors per year who use the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

However, off-leash running opportunities have dominated the public discussion.

From circa 1993 until November 2000, the SF/SPCA Law and Advocacy Department vigorously opposed restricted access for dogs, poked holes in the scientific and historical claims of the Park Service, and appeared to be headed toward a possible landmark courtroom confrontation with Park Service policy when for unrelated reasons Law and Advocacy department chief Nathan Winograd and his entire staff resigned.

Winograd in mid-2001 became executive director of the Tompkins County Humane Society, in Ithaca, New York, where he led the city to achieving no-kill animal control. The SF/SPCA Law and Advocacy Department never fully regrouped, and was disbanded as part of major budget cutting toward the end of 2001, as SF/SPCA income plummeted after the high-tech stock crash of early in the year and the post-September 11 general economic collapse.

Yet even with the SF/SPCA taking a much lower profile, the off-leash issue in San Francisco did not cool off much. In December 2001 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors asked the Park Service to continue to allow dogs to run off leash at Fort Funsten. The Park Service in February opened a public comment period on proposed permanent rules to restrict dogs, which was to close on April 12 unless extended or reopened to allow further public input.

## Biting and poop

The most obvious issue underlying concern about dogs running off leash is the risk of unruly dogs attacking people—the oldest reason for the existence of animal control departments, and the reason why state animal control statutes are frequently indexed under “rabies control,” as before the advent of vaccination the major cause of dog attack deaths was rabies rather than direct effects of biting and mauling.

Dogbites are still the animal control issue receiving the most public attention, but responding to complaints about bites and other allegedly dangerous behavior is a relatively small portion of the typical animal control workload. In Cleveland, bite cases and “vicious dog” complaints accounted for 20% of the calls to animal control in 2001: 2.4 complaints per 1,000 Cleveland residents. This was in the mid-normal range for major U.S. cities, which is from about 1.5 up to 4.5.

There seems to be a relatively predictable relationship of about 1:10 between the volume of bite cases and “vicious dog” calls that an animal control department receives and the rate at which the shelters of the community kill animals.

But while biting and “vicious dog” cases get vastly more attention, they are not the main cause of public complaints about animals running at large. Anecdotally, the leading topics of animals-at-large complaints are dogs and cats defecating or urinating on neighbors’ property; dogs and cats getting into trash; dogs and cats digging in neighbors’ gardens; and dogs and cats merely trespassing, crossing human boundaries which may be as obvious as fences to us but are especially obscure to outdoor cats, to whom the tops of fences typically appear to be a safe corridor, elevated above dog threats, as they make their way from one yard to another.

U.S. animal control agencies relatively rarely deal much with poop, trash, and trespassing issues, because the

(continued on page 17)

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# Animal control is people control *(from 16)*

animal control mandate is to protect public safety, not the aesthetic and territorial aspects of property. Most will respond to routine “loose dog” or “stray cat” complaints, but only if there is no actual public safety threat requiring priority. Since animal control agencies typically operate at only a fraction of the staffing levels recommended by the National Animal Control Association, many are hard-pressed to do much more than investigate the 20%-or-so of complaints which do involve allegedly dangerous animals.

## *The most dangerous animal*

But that is overlooking the most dangerous animal: the one with two legs, a trigger finger, and nominally a brain.

Frustrated by the failure of animal control officers to respond to poop, trash, and trespassing issues in what a small but deadly percentage of complainants believe should be the appropriate manner, some of these people take resolving their grievances into their own hands.

The outcome takes five typical forms. Three, however, are almost impossible to quantify:

- Common but difficult to distinguish from other cruelty cases are instances in which a person with a grievance shoots or otherwise kills the animal. Even when the killing is witnessed, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** files indicate that cases of people shooting, stabbing, strangling, or bludgeoning a pet for a stated reason pertaining to an animal control issue tend to be complicated by other personal history involving the killer and the caretaker of the animal victim. Often the animal appears to have become a surrogate for an interpersonal dispute having origins in something other than animal behavior.

- Common but difficult to recognize are instances of a person capturing and dumping a neighbor’s pet somewhere. The animal simply disappears. The disappearance may be attributed to wild predators, negligent caretaking, roadkill, or any of many other reasons—and even if the animal is later found in a shelter somewhere, there is rarely any way of knowing how the animal got there.

- More common than is generally recognized even among animal control professionals are cases of neighbors “surrendering” others’ pets to shelters to be killed, pretending that the pets are their own.

Back when U.S. shelters were killing an annual average of 115 animals per 1,000 Americans, circa 1970, shelter personnel tended to believe that the seeming indifference of many people “surrendering animals” to near-certain death merely reflected “irresponsibility.” Though most of these animals were presented as “found,” shelter workers knew this was often untrue, because the animals seemed too familiar with the people. What was actually happening in many such cases, however, eluded analysis.

Now that the national per-1,000 killing rate has dropped to 16.8, increasing numbers of shelters eager to lower their killing totals further have begun instituting holding periods before dispatching either “owner-surrendered” or “found” dogs and cats, to see if the owners change their minds, and have discovered that a surprisingly high percentage of these animals—especially those who are young and healthy—were actually brought in by someone other than the owner, who comes in later, looking for a “lost” pet.

The advent of microchipping dogs and cats for identification is also leading to the detection of “surrenders” and “found” cases involving others’ pets. And seldom producing definitive answers, but often raising questions leading to further investigation, are surrender interviews which have become oriented toward gaining further information about an adoptable animal, rather than toward shaming the individual for bringing the animal to the shelter.

If the person surrendering the animal cannot answer basic questions about reproductive status, vaccination, and previous veterinary care providers, something may be quite

wrong. If the person “found” an apparent pet wandering his/her neighborhood and made no verifiable effort to locate the home of the animal, something may be wrong, and a shelter staff member willing to take the time to ask around the neighborhood can often achieve a rehoming.

Shelter employees who have encountered such cases are finding themselves rethinking the paradigm of the “irresponsible” owner. Irresponsibility tends to be a factor in such cases, but the irresponsible acts involve allowing a pet to annoy neighbors, not deliberately giving the pet up to be killed.

## *Pet-poisoning*

Then there are the two quantifiable vigilante responses to animal control problems: pet poisoning, and pet-related homicide, which occurs or is attempted almost as often as a pit bull terrier kills a person.

To be precise, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has logged 123 instances of pet dogs killing a person since 1992, including 45 killings by Rottweilers, 33 by pit bulls, and 45 by all other breeds combined. During the same years, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has logged 51 instances of pet-related homicide and attempted homicide, which resulted in 32 human deaths.

Pet poisoning occurs frequently enough that on April 19, 2000, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** spent several hours in file-searching and identified 423 then unsolved but still open pet poisoning cases, which had occurred in 25 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces. The earliest case dated to 1994. The known victims included 332 dogs and 91 cats.

Returning to the topic of pet poisoning almost exactly two years later, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** identified 40 convicted poisoners, including 32 men (80%) and eight women (20%), who were responsible for killing at least 38 dogs and 44 cats. Of the 28 poisoners whose age was identified, only one teenager was younger than 31. The median age was 50; the average was 51. The poison of preference was antifreeze, used in 80% of the cases. Various agricultural pesticides were used in all but one of the remaining cases.

Evident was that pet poisoning is overwhelmingly a crime committed by older people with an extreme sense of territoriality. Among the 28 perpetrators who stated a motive, nine killed dogs and/or cats for defecating in their yards, five were upset by dogs and cats getting into their trash, three were outraged by barking dogs, three were avenging themselves against neighbors who testified against them in court cases, three were infuriated by cats leaving muddy tracks on vehicles, and one was trying to protect quail he was raising to hunt.

Almost all of the poisonings were executed with clear premeditation.

## *Pet-related homicide*

One individual was perpetrator of both a pet-related homicide attempt and a pet poisoning case, both on the same evening. Otherwise, the identities and statistical profiles of the perpetrators revealed little in common except the sense of exaggerated territoriality.

The 51 perpetrators of pet-related murder and attempted murder, including 38 men and 13 women, had an average age of 36 and a median age of 37. Only eight were older than 50.

All 51 murders and attempted murders appeared to occur in spontaneous explosions of rage—and in 25 of the 51 cases, the killer or attempted killer at least perceived the action as a defensive response on behalf of a pet, against a person believed to have harmed or threatened the pet. In 15 cases the triggering event was that a pet was killed, injured, or stolen. In eight cases the killer or attempted killer retaliated against a neighbor for complaining to animal control about alleged biting, barking, running at large, pooping on the neighbor’s property, or otherwise creating a nuisance. In two cases, one petkeeper killed another after their pets fought.

Among the cases in which the murderer or attempted murderer was the person with a grievance against an animal, the triggering event in six instances was that the animal defecated on the property of the assailant. Barking was the triggering event in five instances. Biting was twice the triggering event. No other cause was cited more than once.

Pet poisoners and people who kill each other in tantrums over pet behavior represent the most extreme degree of annoyance and frustration over what they believe to be unfairly neglected grievances.

One could argue that because they



(Sue Clark)

represent a relatively rare and extreme response, studying their behavior may shed little useful light on the attitudes of normal people toward common problems.

On the other hand, these phenomena are common enough that career animal control personnel and humane workers are likely to encounter them; and they do represent the tip of the iceberg as regards human tolerance of animal behavior. The anger that seethes out in the acts of a poisoner or rage-killer is more extreme in expression than in origin. Even many people who love animals and would never harm an animal may curse a blue streak if a pet repeatedly defecates in the wrong place, knocks over the trash, bites, interrupts sleep, or damages a treasured possession.

The difference in response between the petkeeper who curses because of something his own animal just did and the non-petkeeper who takes lethal vengeance may reflect, in part, that the petkeeper also gets frequent emotional reinforcement from the positive behavior of the pet. The non-petkeeper encounters only the negative behavior, with no positive reinforcement to offset it.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorially pointed out in October 1999, pet poisoning is a form of passive/aggressive abuse, having much in common with animal-hoarding even though animal-hoarding is a superficially opposite behavior. Instead of controlling animals to the point of killing them by neglect, the pet poisoner attempts to control inanimate property.

Pet poisoners and animal hoarders tend to share an exaggerated sense of territoriality, plus tendencies to be furtive and covert, to imagine conspiracies against them, to practice detachment and denial about what they are doing, and to exhibit a sublimated but all-consuming fear of aging and death.

Animal hoarders are typically people who accumulated animals well before the onset of hoarding behavior, but fall into hoarding after the loss, usually through death, of a child, parent, spouse, or sibling.

Pet poisoners are typically people with time on their hands to brood and nurture grievances, who typically acquired cherished homes, yards, and cars while in their peak earning years, who have subsequently been downsized out of the jobs that gave their lives meaning, or were otherwise forced into unwilling early retirement, or are economically insecure for other reasons. Like animal hoarders, they are deeply insecure. Unlike animal hoarders, but oddly enough like bored confined animals, they become obsessive about grooming—but instead of grooming themselves until their fur falls out, they groom the possessions that define their lives’ accomplishments.

Jealousy is often involved in all common forms of abuse, as the animal victims are associated with absent or unresponsive human associates. This appears to be a factor in many animal hoarding cases, and in pet poisoning cases, in which the poisoner often overtly expresses resentment of the affection lavished by the petkeeper on the animal victim.

Symptomatic of the social alienation characterizing most pet poisoners is the impersonal and distant nature of their attempt to dominate a place or situation without risking close involvement. The deeds of pet poisoners may seem sadistic, yet pet poisoners are not sadists in the classic sense, and may not wish to see the victim animals suffer, nor even wish to know they have died. They seem to prefer that death be neat and out of sight. Pet poisoners seem to derive a sense of power from what they do, but seeing too much of the outcome appears to diminish rather than heighten their illusions.

The most noteworthy of those illusions may be that killing a particular animal will not only remove an immediate irritant, but will generally improve their sense of security and quality of life. This illusion may well be shared, albeit to lesser degree, by most people who call animal control after seeing an animal acting like an animal within the one small space over which the human callers can claim dominion.

—M.C.



(Mary Bloom)

### Seeking Farm Manager for West Virginia animal sanctuary

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# Fewer dogfighters but more fighting dogs (from page 1)

blood sport. Those who do this are usually not nice people. Usually drug crimes and weapons crimes are involved, too.”

For example, *Tallahassee Democrat* staff writer James L. Rosica found in looking up the criminal history of Arthur “Mo Jo” Hutchinson, 45, of Family Circle, Florida, that in addition to the four felony charges of dogfighting, cocaine possession with intent to sell, and possession of drug paraphernalia brought against him in November 2001, Hutchinson had been in trouble since 1975 for possession of a sawed-off shotgun, auto burglary, auto theft, grand theft, robbery, and aggravated child abuse. He served nine years in state prison on the child abuse charge.

## Criminal histories

Repeated arrests for dogfighting are also common. Samson G. Pruitt, 28, of Knightdale, North Carolina, was convicted in 1997 of marijuana possession and misdemeanor cruelty to animals after police seized 27 pit bulls from his home. Pruitt escaped a felony penalty conviction because the North Carolina felony penalty for dogfighting and attending dogfights was not introduced until the following year. Pruitt did eventually serve a year in prison, however, for violating parole. He was out of prison just seven months when arrested for felony cruelty, dog-baiting, and—again—possession of marijuana. Sheriff’s deputies on November 1 seized 81 pit bull terriers and a variety of reptiles from Pruitt, including a baby Nile crocodile, a Gabon viper, three green tree pythons, a monitor lizard, and a Western diamondback rattlesnake.

Drug-related crimes and/or homicide have been among the charges filed in 56 of the 257 most recent U.S. dogfighting cases known to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**: 22%. But sales of illegal drugs are believed to be the major source of money gambled on dogfights, whether or not drugs are actually found on the premises when arrests are made. This is why the Office of the U.S. Attorney in February 2002 seized the home, pickup truck, two station wagons, and other property valued at a total of \$700,000 from Christopher Devito, 33, owner of Smiling Buddha Kennels in Newton, New Hampshire.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jean Weld explained to reporters that federal law permits custodial seizure of assets in suspected drug cases ahead of filing criminal charges, to prevent suspects from disposing of assets or concealing them while charges are pending.

Devito, 33, was charged with 37 counts of cruelty in January 2002, after police found 37 pit bulls, a bloodstained pit apparently used for dogfighting, a treadmill, steroid drugs allegedly used to make the dogs bigger and more aggressive, and \$292,000 in unex-

plained cash in a raid on the Devito premises. Devito was jailed in lieu of posting bond of \$125,000.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, a Superior Court ruling was pending as to whether or not the Devito dogs could be killed. Keeping them at the Rockingham County shelter was costing taxpayers \$10,000 a month, prosecutor Jim Reams said.

## Dogs hard to shelter

In Durham County, North Carolina, district attorney Jim Hardin and animal control shelter director Dean Edwards estimated in January 2002 that keeping seven pit bulls and five puppies seized in a dogfighting raid 13 months earlier had cost taxpayers at least \$40,000. The dogs were still alive because of repeated postponements of the civil forfeiture procedure.

“People don’t realize how dangerous these dogs are. They are very unpredictable,” Edwards told *Raleigh News & Observer* staff writer Barbara Barrett.

The risk that alleged fighting dogs pose to shelter personnel is considerable. One pit bull named Hercules twice bit shelter workers, Barrett wrote.

“The dogs are too dangerous for playtime or outdoor exercise,” Barrett explained—but lack of play and outdoor exercise in turn makes them more hyperactive.

Alleged fighting dogs are also notorious for the amount of damage their strength enables them to do to shelter facilities. Accounts of impounded pit pulls tearing down chain link fences with their teeth and dislodging cement blocks by hurling their bodies against walls in a fury at other dogs in a shelter are not uncommon.

The highest price of keeping alleged fighting dogs in an animal shelter, however, other than the price paid by the alleged fighting dogs themselves, who are almost invariably killed, is paid by other dogs who are killed due to lack of cage space while the doomed alleged fighting dogs occupy cages for months or years as their owners await trial—just one dog to a cage or run, to prevent fights. The Speer case cost the lives of at least 50 otherwise adoptable dogs, according to observers in Pueblo.

Apart from the danger posed by the dogs, there is the risk that dogfighters will raid a shelter, attempting to steal their dogs back, which happens around a dozen times a year around the U.S., occasionally with inside help.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reported in January/February 2002, about half of all verified dog and cat thefts in 2001 were in evident connection with dogfighting, including about 60 of the 68 solved cases of theft for alleged violent abuse, and 61 other cases involving thefts of pit bull terriers who were held as evi-

dence in dogfighting cases.

The pit bull thefts, plus the theft of 14 alleged fighting cocks held as evidence at one shelter, drove the total number of reported thefts from shelters in 2001 to a record 108.

Already in 2002 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has received reports of 64 pet thefts in apparent connection with dogfighting: 60 pit bulls, two Rottweilers, one boxer mix, and one English bulldog.

Less risky than stealing pit bulls, either from private owners or from shelters, is to adopt them from shelters under false pretenses, sometimes by placing a gang member inside a major shelter staff. Many large shelters have been burned in this manner, including the Pennsylvania SPCA for a few months in 1994. Already more experienced in dealing with dogfighters than most humane societies, the Pennsylvania SPCA learned to be even more careful in supervising new personnel.

## Bogus breed rescuers

Other shelters—and private citizens—have been duped into surrendering pit bulls to “breed rescue” organizations which turned out to be fronts for dogfighters. Convicted in 1999 for directing a major dogfighting ring in California, Cesar and Mercedes Cerda, now 30 and 29, had a supply and support network whose members stole at least 18 pit bulls held as evidence from shelters as the Cerdas awaited trial, reputedly included shelter employees, and also reputedly included links to two different pit bull rescue groups. Police in several states have subsequently arrested self-described pit bull rescuers for allegedly supplying fighting rings, in cases all still pending before various courts.

Christopher Devito, facing trial in New Hampshire, has claimed through his attorney to be a pit bull rescuer, but the most widely watched case of this sort is probably that of former New Jersey resident Patricia Edmondson, 45.

Edmondson formerly solicited donations of pit bulls under the business names Save-A-Pet and Pit Bull Rescue League and is reportedly still representing herself as a pit bull rescuer in Pennsylvania. What exactly Edmondson did with the pit bulls she collected is still unknown, but almost all of them seem to have vanished. Edmondson was reportedly fined in December 2000 for improperly confining four pit bulls, and was sued in October 2000 by seven people who had entrusted pit bulls to her on the promise that they would be adopted into new homes.

In August 2001 Edmondson was arraigned on 15 counts of theft by deception. She declined an opportunity to plea-bargain a sentence of eight years in prison. Her attorney moved in March 2002 that the charges should be dropped. A ruling is pending.

Women are rarely involved in dogfighting: among 1,066 people arrested in connection with 257 dogfights and related incidents since 1997, just 19 were female. However, 16 of the 19 were either convicted of related felonies or were intimate associates—wife, daughter, mother, or girlfriend—of at least one of the defendants who were convicted of felonies. All were allegedly involved primarily with breeding, training, and procuring dogs, rather than in actually handling dogs in the ring.

Three women are currently facing related felony charges. In Rochester, New York, Bam’s Pet Shop owner Bernita Hawkins, 37, was charged in March 2002 with practicing veterinary medicine for dogfighters without a license. In Salt Lake City, Tawnya Sutherland, 25, and Lynn Yakovich, 21, were charged with training dogs to fight, a rarity not only because they are women but also because their case is the first in Salt Lake City to be prosecuted under the 1987 state law that made dogfighting a felony in Utah.

## Pit bulls preferred

Of the 3,444 dogs seized most recently in U.S. fighting-related cases, 15 were identified as pedigreed Staffordshire terriers; 12 were Rottweilers; two were German shepherds; two were boxers; and one was a mastiff. All the rest were identified as pit bull terriers or mixes of pit bull with imported “fighting” breeds such as the Presa Canario, Fila Brasileiro, and Japanese tosa.

Pit bulls, especially of unknown history, were problematic for animal shelters even before the dogfighting boom.

Excluding fighting dogs and guard dogs, pit bulls kept as pets have accounted for 612 of the 1,354 life-threatening attacks by



Pit bull at SHKD, Turkey. (Kim Bartlett)

owned pet dogs logged by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** since 1982 (45%); 291 of the 747 life-threatening attacks on children (39%); 223 of the 372 life-threatening attacks on adults (60%); 51 of the 155 fatalities (33%); and 336 of the 744 attacks resulting in disfigurement or disability (45%).

Although the numbers of attacks grew fivefold from 1992 through 2001, the ratios from 1982 through 1991 were similar.

The dogs inflicting those injuries were not trained to fight. Yet the behavior and physical strength leading to the disproportional severity of those injuries is generally believed to reflect the selective breeding of pit bulls for fighting, not just individual temperament and background.

Relatively few of the pit bulls entering animal shelters have actually been seized in dogfighting raids, but investigators believe that only a very small percentage of dogfights are detected and raided by law enforcement, while a much higher percentage of the pit bulls found running at large, surrendered by owners, or seized for other reasons are believed to have been used or trained for fighting.

Humane Society of the U.S. regional representative Sandy Rowlands, of Bowling Green, Ohio, told Akron *Beacon-Journal* staff writer Carol Biliczky that as many as 250,000 pit bulls may be fought each year in the U.S., but admitted that this is only a guess.

The risk that any pit bull brought to a shelter may have been bred and trained for fighting increases the reluctance of shelter managers to keep pit bulls any longer than necessary, to try to house them with companions, to allow volunteers to walk them, or to even attempt to rehabilitate them for adoption.

With liability awards for fatal and severely disfiguring dog maulings now running in excess of \$400,000, some shelters report being unable to get liability insurance if they adopt out pit bulls. Many more see the proliferation of suspected fighting dogs, especially pit bulls, as the biggest problem they face in achieving no-kill animal control.

Pennsylvania SPCA executive director Eric Hendricks, in announcing the December 2000 decision of the Pennsylvania SPCA to relinquish the city animal control contract effective on July 1, 2002, cited frustration with the reluctance of the city council to adopt a breed-specific ordinance to curtail the backyard reproduction of pit bulls and other “fighting” dogs.

Philadelphia paid the Pennsylvania SPCA \$790,000 to handle animal control in 2000-2001 under the current contract, but Hendricks estimated the actual cost of the program at several million dollars more.

“We don’t have the resources to continue to subsidize animal control, nor do we have the desire to continue to simply process thousands of animals on their way to death,” Hendricks told *Philadelphia Daily News* staff writer Gloria Campisi.

The Pennsylvania SPCA killed 3,500 pit bulls in 2000, 4,000 in 1999, and 3,200 in 1998, Hendricks said. Many of the dogs were suspected veterans of illegal fighting.

The Pennsylvania SPCA experience is not unique. Rochester Animal Services, in upstate New York, noted that the 1,600 pit bulls it handled in 1998 were 60% of the total volume of dogs it received. The number of pit bull bites reported to Rochester Animal Services had doubled since 1994.

Chicago police officer Steve Brownstein, assigned to investigate dogfighting in May 1999 as a one-person task force, seized 700 fighting dogs and made 200 arrests during the next 18 months.

Cleveland impounded 536 pit bulls in 1999, 621 in 2000, and nearly 700 in 2001. Akron, where a 1989 pit bull ban held the

(continued on page 19)



Pit bull terrier mixes at the Humane Society of the Desert. (Kim Bartlett)

## New Mexico pound worker breeds pit bulls

**AZTEC, New Mexico**—Among the more incongruous personal histories of which **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has lately heard in the animal control field is that of Aztec Animal Shelter employee Kristen Valencia.

On October 10, 2001, Valencia was reportedly one of two witnesses who affirmed an anonymous written allegation to Animal Protection of New Mexico cruelty inspector Michele Rokke that Aztec Animal Shelter personnel improperly killed animals with inanesthetized intracardiac injections.

Rokke recommended remedial training. On October 30, the Aztec Animal Shelter sent Valencia and coworker Lauren Gardner to a three-day training event sponsored by Animal Protection of New Mexico.

However, as Albuquerque shelter

reform advocate Marcy Britton soon pointed out, the session did not include “formal, certified and official euthanasia training.”

On October 26, meanwhile, Valencia surrendered to the Aztec Animal Shelter an adult pit bull terrier who had attacked a neighbor’s beagle and bit the neighbor. The pit bull was quarantined for 10 days and then killed.

Valencia had bred and sold pit bulls for at least four years.

In December 2001 Valencia was fined \$500 and sentenced to serve 90 days in jail for failing to fence her kennel, suspended on condition that a fence was built.

Britton has called for a grand jury probe of Aztec Animal Shelter operations.

## Fewer fighters, more dogs *(from 18)*

average number of pit bulls impounded down to about 50 per year throughout the 1990s, reportedly impounded close to 500 in 2001.

Milwaukee animal control received 1,477 pit bulls in 2001, of whom 265 (18%) were impounded during drug raids.

Denver impounded 371 pit bulls in 2001, and had already impounded 111 through March 6, 2002.

“Every year for the past few years there has been a substantial increase in the number of pit bulls we are getting,” Denver animal control shelter director Doug Kelley told *Rocky Mountain News* staff writer Brian D. Crecente.

A national surge in dogfighting became apparent in 1998, as the number of major cases and people arrested both approximately doubled, and the number of dogs seized nearly quadrupled. All the numbers approximately doubled again in 1999, before leveling off somewhat in 2000-2001. But the surge was already apparent by 1996 in inner cities, including Detroit, where the number of dogfights reported to the Michigan Humane Society doubled from 1995.

### Cracking down

The good news is that law enforcement is becoming increasingly serious about stopping dogfighting, especially as recognition spreads about the links among dogfighting illegal drug trafficking, gambling, domestic violence, prison gang activity, and—especially in the South and Pacific Northwest—remnants of the Ku Klux Klan.

A wake-up call for North Carolina law enforcement came in July 2001 when a Lee County jury convicted Gaston Williamson Jr., of dogfighting, but a local judge let him walk with a suspended sentence and allowed him to reclaim and sell 152 pit bull terriers seized in a March 2001 raid that also found 2.5 pounds of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, \$2,300 in cash, and 31 firearms including pistols, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles. Called “The Undertaker,” Williamson, 60, reportedly fought dogs as far away as Texas and sold pit bull puppies to suspected fighters from California to the Virgin Islands.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Department and Wake County Animal Control responded by forming a statewide dogfighting task force that first met on January 11, 2002.

The 12-member Ohio Dog Fighting Task Force, formed in August 2001 under the direction of state department of agriculture law enforcement chief Jim Hoekstra, recommended in April 2002 that dogfighting should be

upgraded to a third degree felony, carrying a mandatory year in jail for anyone convicted and allowing for sentences of up to five years in jail. Currently, first-time offenders in Ohio and most other states get only probation.

Other statewide anti-dogfighting task forces have formed in recent years, have begun sharing information about cases and suspects, and in some cases have produced evidence enabling the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to bring Animal Welfare Act charges against suspects who sell dogs for fighting across state lines without possession of Class A or B dealers’ permits.

There are signs that as law enforcement becomes more effective in responding to dogfighting, the surge of recent years may crest. Notably, while the numbers of arrests and dog seizures during the first three months of 2001 predict new records, the numbers of people actually found at dogfights and dogfight training facilities are down by 43%.

In addition, more raids on breeders and trainers seems to be translating into fewer cases of street corner dogfighting. Among 195 dogfighting arrests logged by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** from 1999 through 2001, 59 appeared to involve casual street corner fighting, as opposed to fights arranged in an organized semi-professional manner. Dogfights of that sort have either dropped out of the news in 2002 or have markedly declined in frequency.

Fads and trends typically follow a trajectory from obscurity to prominence that attracts big investment followed by professionalization of the money-making opportunities. As the professionals take over, amateurs quit, and the support base for the activity erodes.

This may have happened to dogfighting. The professional dogfighters who have dominated the activity since the combined opposition of author Jack London and Massachusetts SPCA founder George Angell drove it out of respectable sporting newspapers early in the 20th century have apparently reclaimed control, through their traditional alliances with illicit distillers, backwoods producers of methamphetamines and marijuana, car theft rings, prison gangs, and in inner cities, the crack cocaine trade. The street corner dogfighters of a few years ago may have either gained entry into the professional inner circle, or been driven out.

There is more dogfighting going on, and more gambling money in it now, than ever before. Certainly there are more dogs. But there are markedly fewer casual participants and spectators who have only to walk up to be invited to place a bet. —M.C.



Fighting chicken farm, Waimanala, Hawaii. (Carroll Cox)

## U.S. animal fighting, 1997-2002

### Dogfighting

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 to 3/31
Major busts	11	24	54	66	75	27 [projects to 108]
Related drugs/homicide	3	9	13	12	16	6 [projects to 24]
People involved	76	136	237	297	282	40 [projects to 160]
Dogs seized	95	365	791	896	869	428 [projects to 1,612]
Felony convictions	1	2	7	25	18	14 [projects to 42]

### Cockfighting

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 to 3/31
Major busts	10	15	18	19	35	20 [projects to 80]
Related drugs/homicide	0	6	6	3	5	3 [projects to 12]
People involved	350	498	389	874	1508	460 [projects to 11,840]
Birds seized	725	763	1023	876	7995	1759 [projects to 7,036]
Felony convictions	0	0	3	9	0	1 [projects to 42]

A “major bust” for the purposes of this table is defined as any police seizure or arrest of any size that was recognized as newsworthy by local news media. This definition is used because we have no practicable way of tracking the volume of activity which goes unreported, and because excluding cases simply because they involve relatively low numbers of animals or alleged perpetrators might miss important trends—such as the apparent decline of casual street-corner dogfighting in 2002, even as the number of “major busts” is up 33% and the average number of dogs seized per case has almost doubled from 2001.

## Cockfighting tripled in five years

WASHINGTON D.C.—The number of reported U.S. cockfighting arrests has more than tripled in five years, a review of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** file data has discovered.

The number of fighting cocks seized by law enforcement is up tenfold.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the nation are anxiously looking toward the 2002 Farm Bill for help, as an amendment approved by the House of Representatives in October 2001 and by the Senate in February 2002 could bring federal aid by outlawing the interstate transportation of fighting cocks. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, however, cockfighting lobbyists and members of Congress from New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana were reportedly still trying to strip the anti-cockfighting amendment from the reconciled Farm Bill that was expected to go before the House and Senate for final approval perhaps as early as April 25.

Cockfighting is now illegal in 47 states, with New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Louisiana the only exceptions, but cockfighters throughout the nation pretend to be merely breeding birds for sale to fighters in the three legal states. Consequently, most people caught at cockfighting raids pay only token fines for being found on the premises of an illegal activity—if they receive any penalty at all—and only 13 gamecock breeders and trainers have been convicted of related felony charges during the past five years.

Cockfighting benefits as well from a widespread view that it is less a crime than a remnant of rural culture. Cockfighters tend to fall into four distinct ethnic categories: Hispanic men of Caribbean or Mexican background, who currently account for about two-thirds of all the participants who are arrested; Caucasians from the rural South, who tend to be older; Southeast Asian immigrants; and Hawaiians, mostly of Asian descent.

Twenty-three cockfighting cases since 1998, 16% of the major cases prosecuted, have also involved drug possession and sales, drug trafficking, or homicide. The association of cockfighting with drug crimes and violence is somewhat less than the association of dogfighting with similar offenses

(23% of recent dogfighting cases overlap drug offenses and homicide).

However, the locations of illegal cockfighting activity tend to closely coincide with the major regions for poultry growing and slaughter—especially in the Southeast and lower Midwest.

Cockfighting as a spectator sport appears to thrive on the presence of a large poorly educated workforce including many men with wages to bet and no nearby family. Gamecock breeders appear to do best in regions where purchasing poultry supplies and equipment do not attract attention.

Although the cockfighting explosion of recent years coincides to some extent with the growing reliance of the U.S. poultry industry on immigrant labor, it coincides at least as much with the increasing concentration of the poultry industry in the Carolinas, Arkansas, Missouri, and other areas where cockfighting was already prevalent.

### Hawaii

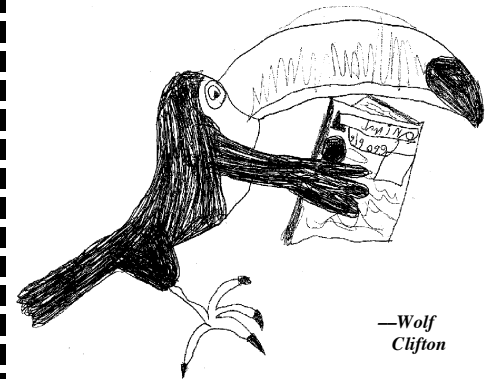
Hawaii is something of a special case, in that Hawaii has never had a large commercial poultry industry and has not had much low-paid and poorly educated immigrant labor since Chinese and Japanese workers were imported by the thousand to work on pineapple plantations during the early years of the 20th century. However, cockfighting caught on among both the immigrants and the native Hawaiian community, and has persisted as a common but illegal pursuit among several generations of descendants.

The Hawaiian Humane Society pushed a bill to introduce a felony penalty for cockfighting and the possession or manufacture of cockfighting equipment in the spring 2002 legislative session, but state house judiciary committee chair Eric Hamakawa (D-South Hilo/Puna) pledged to kill it, six weeks after the Animal News Center Inc. of New York City incorrectly reported that the bill had become law. The “victory” was widely touted on the Internet and in activist newsletters whose editors failed to fact-check.

Bills to legalize cockfighting cleared Hawaii legislative committees in both

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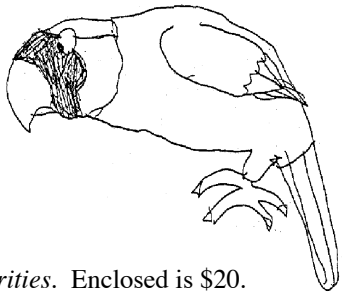
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# Feral cats, “gophers,” & Canadian politics of cruelty

**TORONTO, OTTAWA**—Convincing Ontario Court Judge Ted Ormston that their intent was to produce an artistic statement about slaughtering animals for meat, two men who videotaped themselves as they slowly tortured a cat to death walked free on April 18.

Anthony Wennekers, 25, was sentenced to the time in jail he had already served since his June 2001 arrest. Jesse Power, 22, reportedly the son of two wealthy Montreal artists, drew 90 days in jail to be served on weekends, plus house arrest and three years on probation.

The Power sentence was arranged to enable him to continue studies at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Reported Nancy Carr of Canadian Press, “For 15 minutes the men and one other, who remains at large, hung a cat by the neck; slit her throat; stabbed, kicked, and skinned her; plucked out her eye with a dental tool; and ripped off her ear with pliers.”

The activity commenced after the men ingested jimson weed, a plant with hallucinatory properties.

“There are worse ways that this cat could have died,” Ormston told the courtroom. “I find that the cat died a cruel death at the hands of these men, but I do not find it was the worst offense.”

Ormston ruled that the deeds were “misguided” rather than criminally intended.

Toronto Humane Society spokesperson Amy White disagreed, pointing out to reporters that Power had already videotaped himself killing and eating a chicken as an “art” project, worked at a slaughterhouse, and

defleshed carcasses at the Royal Ontario Museum to help prepare taxidermy exhibits—all demonstrating a macabre fascination with death and dismemberment.

“Clearly his behavior was escalating,” White said. “We are taking a huge risk in letting him out—a risk we should not take.”

## Hoping for C-15B

Canadian animal advocates hoped that evident public outrage over the light sentence would help boost the long-stalled federal bill C-15B to passage, updating the 110-year-old national anti-cruelty law by increasing the penalties for animal abuse, providing a felony penalty for repeat offenses, and allowing humane societies to charge the owners of abused animals for costs incurred to restore the animals to health.

The idea that animal life should be better respected in government policy got a boost on April 18 from Guy St. Julien, Member of Parliament for St. Julien, Nunavik, who apologized to Inuit leaders in lieu of an official Canadian government apology for Canadian and Quebec governments extermination campaigns against sled dogs, 1950-1975.

Explained Jane George of the *Nunatsiaq News*, “The dogs were shot ostensibly to control canine diseases such as rabies and distemper, and also to reduce numbers of loose dogs in fledgling communities in the Baffin region and in northern Quebec. Until snow machines became common many years later, hunters with no dog teams had trouble providing their families with food, and quickly became dependent upon handouts and gov-

ernment assistance.”

The dog massacres coincided with intensive mineral exploration in the Far North, and with a series of largely failed schemes to relocate the Inuit to southern Canada.

St. Julien did not mention C-15B, but Inuit hunters, trappers, sealers, and whalers have been anxious about the implications of the bill for their traditional way of life on the one hand, and on the other have often asked rhetorically why animal advocates did not campaign on behalf of their dogs as vigorously as they have against hunting, trapping, sealing, and whaling.

In fact, and not necessarily by coincidence, the dog massacres were halted at almost exactly the same time that major international animal protection organizations discovered sealing as an issue, after about 20 years of sporadic campaigning by concerned individuals and smaller organizations.

## Gopher derby

But C-15B, introduced by Liberal justice minister Anne McMillan, is bitterly opposed by the Progressive Conservative and Canadian Alliance Parties. The Liberal Party is dominant in Quebec, with scattered strength elsewhere, but the Progressive Conservatives are dominant in the Maritime provinces which practice seal hunting, and the Canadian Alliance is strong in the west.

Although C-15B includes strong exemptions for cruelties committed by farmers, Member of Parliament Roy Bailey (CA-Saskatchewan) on March 20 called it, “unofficially a declared war on agriculture,” while Nova Scotia MP Gerald Keddy (PC-Nova Scotia) asserted that it “clearly pits rural Canada against urban Canada.”

Bailey and fellow Canadian Alliance MPs Rob Anders, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Voc Toews escalated their opposition, regaling the House of Commons with anecdotes about shooting, poisoning, and bludgeoning Richardson’s ground squirrels, after Sinikka Crosland of Westbank, British Columbia, called for a boycott of tourism to Saskatchewan in protest against the Ken Turcot Memorial Gopher Derby. Crosland is chair of the Committee for Compassionate Living within Canadian Health Action Professionals.

The gopher derby is sponsored by the Saskatoon Wildlife Federation, an affiliate of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Started on April 1, it is to continue until June 23. The winner is to be the person who submits the most tails of Richardson ground squirrels and blacktailed prairie dogs (a close relative found



Prairie dog. (Robert L. Harrison)

in the same region) to the judges.

The Saskatoon and Canadian Wildlife Federations have no official funding or governance relationship with the U.S.-based National Wildlife Federation, but they are closely parallel organizations. Both distribute the NWF-developed Project Wild outdoor education kit to schoolrooms and send the NWF magazine *International Wildlife* to donors.

The National Wildlife Federation has solicited funds on behalf of saving prairie dogs since 1998, and has petitioned to have blacktailed prairie dogs listed as “threatened” under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. It has not commented on the gopher derby.

The CWF told Crosland on April 18 that “The views expressed by many Canadians and CWF supporters about the Saskatoon gopher derby raise issues that are not covered within our existing policy.”

Saskatoon Wildlife Federation business manager Len Jabush told Darren Bernhardt of the Saskatoon *Star-Phoenix* that he “politely told Crosland to piss off.”

Saskatchewan SPCA investigations coordinator Dave Long meanwhile told Sean Pratt of *The Western Producer* that he received 198 complaints about farmers starving or otherwise neglecting livestock during the last nine months of 2001, up from 100 during the last nine months of 2000. Long attributed the increase in complaints to the effects of a prolonged drought.

Winter drought tends to increase the population of burrowing species like Richardson’s ground squirrels and prairie dogs because fewer down in their dens after spring snowmelt. But the tunneling activity of ground squirrels and prairie dogs also helps grasslands to recover quickly from drought, by creating networks of small, near-the-surface *defacto* reservoirs. When rain does fall, the burrowing animals’ many passages convey water underground for safe storage among the grassroots. Much of the water would otherwise create flashfloods, cause soil erosion, and then evaporate before sinking in where

# Busting an abuser? Get a warrant!

**RALEIGH, N.C.**—The North Carolina Court of Appeals on April 16 threw out six cruelty convictions against Carolyn Nance of Rowan County because county animal control officers seized her six horses in December 1998 without a warrant.

The county contended that no warrant was necessary because the horses were in imminent jeopardy and were clearly visible from public property. However, three days elapsed between when the horses were first seen and when they were taken.

“Clearly, obtaining a warrant would not have presented an impracticable delay,” wrote Judge Patricia Timmons-Goodson.

Also seized in the December 1998 raid was a horse who later died from the effects of prolonged malnutrition. Two hors-

es were found dead in the same field.

Circuit Judge Hubert Lindsay of West Palm Beach, Florida, delivered another recent reminder of the importance of obtaining valid search warrants, ruling on December 12, 2001 that the warrant used to arrest two alleged dogfighters and 60 spectators in a July 2000 raid by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office was invalid because the sheriff’s office did not get a required judicial waiver of a provision of the state privacy law which mandates that warrants in animal cruelty cases must be served during daylight.

Among the arrestees were two off-duty Palm Beach County sheriff’s deputies who were fired but later won reinstatement.

The improper warrant service meant that all charges filed as result of the raid were thrown out.

# HANGIN’ JUDGE ROY BEAN “JUSTICE” PREVAILS IN TEXAS FOR FERAL CATS

**WACO, Texas**—Circa 1883, Val Verde County justice of the peace Roy Bean, “The Law West of the Pecos,” ruled at one of the most infamous trials in U.S. history that “There ain’t no law in the state of Texas against killing a Chinaman.”

That verdict was recalled on March 19 in Waco when a McLennan County jury decided that there is no law in the state of Texas against killing a feral cat, no matter how it is done.

The three-man, three-woman jury deliberated for just 55 minutes before finding former

Baylor University pitcher Derek Brehm, 21, innocent of misdemeanor cruelty for admittedly shooting a cat named Queso with a pellet gun on the patio of a Taco Cabana restaurant in March 2001, battering the cat with a golf club, and then decapitating him, skinning his head.

Defense attorney Ross Hunt convinced the jury that the Texas anti-cruelty statute does not apply to feral cats because it defines “animal” as a domesticated or captured creature, to avoid application to hunters and trappers.

Hunt argued that Taco Cabana night manager Teresa Jones had not domesticated or captured Queso, although she did feed and name him.

Hunt also asserted that Queso was not tortured because, Hunt claimed, Queso must have

ted, prosecutor Crawford Long dropped cruelty charges against Bowers, since the evidence against him was the same.

Either a “guilty” or “not guilty” finding could have been a problematic precedent. Practitioners of neuter/return feral cat control became concerned as the case developed that a conviction might have established a precedent that anyone who takes responsibility for the well-being of a cat is an owner. This in turn might have exposed people who release feral cats after sterilization to abandonment charges.

From March through May 1994, Humane Society of the U.S. general counsel Roger A. Kindler and field representatives Kate Rindy and Jim Tedford (now executive director of the Lollypop Farm Humane Society in Rochester, New

1996 found East Bernard High School baseball players Britt Sensat, Danny L. Crane, and Ryan Walters, plus a juvenile, all guilty of cruelty for tying a feral cat named Tiger inside a feed bag, beating her with their bats, driving over the carcass, and tossing the remains into a creek.

The case that Tiger was an owned animal was weaker, since she had several different feeders, none of whom fed her every day.

Brehm and Bowers were both suspended from the Baylor baseball team for eight games. Brehm was dropped from the baseball team after a September 2001 arrest for drunk driving. He lost his scholarship to attend Baylor as result of that offense, did 50 hours of community service at the Waco animal shelter for the drunk driving charge, and then transferred to the University of Texas at Arlington. Bowers is still attending Baylor, but is no longer playing baseball.

Dallas attorney and Animal Legal Defense Fund president Robert “Skip” Trimble told reporters that the Queso case exemplifies the need to update and

improve the Texas cruelty statute.

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# Bad spring for seals

**ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland**—Northeastern Newfoundland sealers in mid-April 2002 reported their most profitable seal hunt in decades, while sealers from the west of Newfoundland, the Magdalen Islands, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Labrador were all but excluded from the killing.

Ice failed to form over much of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and melted early where it did form, drowning thousands of newborn harp seals whose remains washed ashore in western Newfoundland.

"In five days of flying over the entire region, we haven't been able to spot a single seal pup. Usually there are 200,000 to 300,000 harp seals born in the Gulf of St. Lawrence," marine biologist and Canadian director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare Rick Smith told *Boston Globe* reporter Colin Nickerson in late March.

"This could spell devastation for the population," Smith predicted, "not only in the Gulf but off [the east of] Newfoundland, where the hunt may become even more intense to compensate."

Smith was right about that. The lack of seals in the Gulf of St.

Lawrence drove the average "Grade A" pelt price to \$71.70, from \$35 in 2001 and just \$13 in 2000, while strong ice conditions in the Gulf of Newfoundland enabled the northeastern Newfoundland offshore sealers to kill almost the entire 2002 quota of 275,000 harp seals themselves.

As of April 20, 249,000 seal pelts had been landed, with 25 days remaining in the season if any quota remained unfilled.

Despite the potentially catastrophic reproductive failure of the Gulf of St. Lawrence seal herd and lethal impact of concentrating the hunt in the Gulf of Newfoundland, the Canadian Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, an industry advisory group, on April 17 called for killing even more seals, whom it blamed for the failure of overfished cod stocks to recover despite the virtual closure of the Atlantic Canada cod fishery since 1994.

Until the cod stocks collapsed, forcing the closure, the fishing industry and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans consistently overestimated the numbers of cod left to be caught, setting unsustainably high cod quotas from the very start of fisheries regulation.

# 100 Birds & How They Got Their Names

by Diana Wells, illustrated by Lauren Jarrett

Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill (708 Broadway, New York, NY 10003), 2002. 297 pages, hardcover. \$18.95.

The title *100 Birds & How They Got Their Names* is somewhat misleading, because only a small part of each of Diana Wells' species entries actually concerns how or why the likes of the booby, goat-sucker, and titmouse came to be identified as they are.

At that, some of the entries could be disputed, as Wells consistently favors descriptive origins over the onomatopoeic, even when the onomatopoeic explanation is seemingly obvious. Wells insists, for instance, that the titmouse is named "from the Old Icelandic *titr*, meaning 'small,' and the Anglo-Saxon *mase*, 'small bird,'" though she concedes that, "The chickadee's name is onomatopoeic, from the sound of its call; the Cherokee Indians called it *tsikililit*."

The titmouse makes a similar sound and scurries through the brush like a mouse—but Wells claims "Tits are sometimes called tomtits, although their call is often described as sounding like 'Peter, Peter, Peter.'"

Explaining name origins is among Wells' motifs, but *100 Birds & How They Got Their Names* is actually more a cultural history. Among the more revealing entries, coming just a page after the discussion of tits, is the entry for the turkey. Apparently turkeys from the New World were introduced to Spain circa 1511, but "were confused with guinea fowl, which have the same flecked plumage and had already been imported from Asia." Somehow the English mis-assumed turkeys came from Turkey, while the French

believed they were cocks of India: *coq d'Inde*, which became *d'Indon*, and then the modern term *dindon*.

Eating turkeys was slow to catch on, due to a belief that because turkeys' main defense is flight, eating them might inspire cowardice. Wells resists conjecture about any relationship between the Puritan opposition to military service and their role in relegating turkeys to the status of poultry.

Under other headings, Wells points out that though the starling is maligned for an allegedly unmelodious song, among other reasons, the composer Wolfgang Mozart bought one as a pet in 1784 because he so admired the song.

Hummingbirds, we are told, were believed by the Mayans to be made from the scraps left over after the creation of all the other birds.

Many anecdotes are told about the ornithologists who named many bird species. Wells rightly hints that John Audubon was a trigger-happy philanderer, but seems more appreciative of Thomas Nuttall, who used his gun mainly as a tool to dig up plants he meant to take home, and choked the barrel with mud on one occasion just as his whole expedition was suddenly surrounded by hostile Native Americans. He did, however, live to tell the tale.

Agree or disagree with Wells' linguistic contentions, *100 Birds & How They Got Their Names* is fun, easily read either at a sitting or an entry or two per day. —M.C.

# Best Friends for Life: Humane housing for animals and people

Doris Day Animal League (227 Mass. Ave. NE, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20002), 2002. 40 pages, paperback. \$2.95.

The price of *Best Friends for Life* is certainly right: individual copies are free. Ordering is quick and easy: call 202-546-1761, or send an e-mail to <info@ddal.org>.

Jointly published by the Doris Day Animal League and the Massachusetts SPCA, *Best Friends for Life* updates and greatly expands a manual originally issued in 1996. The first edition covered only the right of disabled people to keep pets in federally assisted housing. The first half of this edition revisits that subject, adding discussion of recent relevant court cases. The second half presents information useful to any tenant, any landlord, and any organization which deals with the problems associated with keeping pets in rental housing.

One of the organizations that compiled *Best Friends for Life*, the MSPCA, has long been among the most successful innovators in opening rental housing to petkeeping tenants. It offers landlord/tenant advice that worked in Massachusetts, with a nod to the even more ambitious and successful pet-friendly housing initiatives of the San Francisco SPCA.

The other compiling organization, the Doris Day Animal League, is among the national groups with the longest involvement in support of neuter/return feral cat population control, and shares much information from that perspective.

As feral cats are not mentioned in most other manuals about animals and landlords, yet are perhaps the second most frequent cause of landlord/tenant conflict, after barking dogs, this addition—though containing nothing new to veteran cat rescuers—is timely and necessary.

*Best Friends for Life* offers no specific information about the peculiarities of keeping exotic predators, birds, reptiles, fish, and hooved animals in rental accommodations. Few other publications do, either. Relevant sections could be added to future editions, as the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** files indicate that among the kinds of animals-in-housing conflicts most likely to blow up into lawsuits or other public incidents are neighbors' discoveries of lions, tigers, wolf hybrids, and other large predators in rented property; birds making noise at dawn; flies attracted by bird excrement; snakes escaping into other people's apartments; fish tanks breaking or overflowing; and noise and mess associated with keeping large hooved animals in small back yards. The conflicts typically result from a combination of irresponsibility on the part of the tenants, objections from neighbors, and landlords who readily accept a tenant with an unusual pet if the price is right, but are equally quick to evict if reminded of a potential liability.

The major weakness of *Best Friends for Life* is that for philosophical reasons, and perhaps in deference to the

vociferousness of pit bull terrier advocates, it categorically opposes any sort of breed-specific restrictions on dog-keeping.

States a sidebar, "The MSPCA believes that breed-specific bans are not an effective way to control dangerous or aggressive dogs. A breed ban does not impact dogs of other breeds that may be dangerous."

This is disingenuous, because dogs of breeds which frequently kill and maim people and other animals in their first known biting incidents are inherently more potentially dangerous than dogs of breeds which rarely if ever kill or maim anyone—just as any loaded gun is inherently more potentially dangerous than an unloaded gun or no gun, no matter how carefully the gun is kept locked away.

Further, the existence of breed-specific regulation, whether in a city or in a duplex, does not preclude also enforcing a "comprehensive pet policy banning all dangerous or aggressive animals," of any breed or species, as the MSPCA and *Best Friends for Life* recommend instead. The two concepts are not mutually exclusive.

*Best Friends for Life* is correct in noting that in legal terms, "pit bull terrier has proven to be particularly difficult to define because it is used to describe many types of dogs, some of which vary widely in appearance and size."

This does not mean, however, that a landlord should be given the implied choice of either accepting all dogs except those individuals somehow officially deemed aggressive, or no dogs—especially considering that landlords are liable for injuries occurring on their property, and have often been sued for the conduct of tenants' dogs.

One such case before the courts right now resulted from the failure of a San Francisco landlord to evict two Presa Canarios named Bane and Hera from the apartment of Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller. In January 2001, Bane and Hera killed neighboring tenant Diane Whipple.

Even should the landlord prevail, as landlord Harrison Aldrich did in a similar case decided on January 30 by the Maine Supreme Court, the landlord must still bear the stress and expense of fighting liability claims, and may lose insurance coverage if the insurer decides that winning or losing, the landlord is incurring unacceptable economic risk by accepting certain types of dog, big dogs, or any dogs.

## Landlord options

Insurers are at liberty to set breed-restrictive policies, and often do. Landlords are at liberty to change insurers, but in practice, that is not easily done in many areas, and landlords are rarely at legal liberty to be uninsured. Therefore, the rental policy choice is often between "all dogs" and "no dogs."

Under that circumstance, "no dogs" or even "no pets" is by far the safest choice. "No dogs" and "no pets" policies in turn deny homes to somewhere between 4.3 million and 6.5 million dogs and cats per year, according to data developed by pets-in-housing advocate Ruth Smiler in a March 2000 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** guest column. These are the numbers of additional pets who would be kept if renters in pet-restricted housing were allowed to keep animals in the same numbers as other renters, and/or kept animals in the same numbers as home owners. Implicit in the numbers is that the number of pets who might be adopted if renters were allowed to adopt is almost the same or even larger than the number of dogs and cats who are killed each year in U.S. shelters (currently about 4.6 million).

Considerable animal advocate confusion about the relevant issues having to do with risk and principle may occur because all dogs are, biologically speaking, members of a single species. No such confusion occurs with cats because *felis domesticus* occurs only in a relatively non-threatening size

range. Hardly anyone has any difficulty accepting that possession of a cat large enough to kill and eat people and other pets of normal size should be regulated differently from *felis domesticus*, because a cat that big is usually a lion, a tiger, or a puma, each clearly a different species. Domestic dogs, however, range from teacup poodles smaller than most housecats up to Great Danes, who stand higher than any cat and can outweigh a puma.

To confuse matters further, although all reputedly dangerous dog breeds are large, size *per se* is not their distinguishing trait. Presa Canarios and mastiffs are near the upper end of the size range, but many breeds which rarely kill or injure anyone, such as St. Bernards, are typically much bigger than pit bulls, Rottweilers, and wolf hybrids.

As many legal and philosophical problems as these facts pose, however, they no more mean that landlords—and legislators—should treat all dogs as if they were the same than the fact that lions, tigers, and pumas can also be trained to use a litter box means that they should be regulated like *felis domesticus*. There are inherent differences among breeds of dog, just as among species of cat, which as a matter of common sense must be recognized and taken into account.

The alternative is to continue to pretend that it is mere happenstance that pit bulls for 20 consecutive years have accounted for approximately half of all the life-threatening and fatal dog attacks in the U.S. and Canada, Rottweilers have accounted for approximately 25%, and the other 95% of the dog population has accounted for the remainder. Neither German shepherds, Dobermans, chows, Akitas, huskies, nor any other breed has ever approached doing a comparable level of mayhem, regardless of propensity to inflict non-life-threatening bites—but a reasonable case can be made that any breed of high bite risk should logically be housed with greater care than breeds which rarely bite.

The idea behind pretending that all dogs are equal is supposedly to save pit bull terriers, Rottweilers, *et al* from "breed discrimination," and thereby to save their lives. This is not working. Forcing landlords and communities into "all dogs" or "no dogs" choicemaking has not in the least diminished the numbers of pit bulls and Rottweilers killed in animal shelters, which have soared even as killing of all other dogs has plummeted. However, this pretense is causing tens of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of other dogs to be killed because rented homes are closed to them, whose doors might be open if the landlords were allowed to say, "German shepherds, yes, if well behaved and kept under control; pit bulls no," because pit bulls who kill someone were often well-behaved—perhaps better behaved than the average dog—right up until the moment of the fatal attack. —M.C.



(Nancy Wedlock)

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ANIMAL OBITUARIES

**A.J.**, a 21-month-old male dolphin, died on March 22 at the Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach, Florida. He fell ill soon after the late February death of his half-sister **Jasmine**. Their causes of death are unknown. A.J., Jasmine, and Allie, a half-sister of both, were sired by Albert, the long-time Gulf World star attraction. More than 40 years old, and unsuccessful in 30 years of breeding attempts, Albert suddenly fathered the three young dolphins, by three different mothers, just before his death in 1999.

**Manook**, 6, white German shepherd of Francisco Deleon, of Boise, Idaho, was found dead near his home from a hunting arrow on March 13, with his black German shepherd companion standing over him.

**Elvis**, 6, a California sea lion who was rescued from the Monterey Dunes on June 1, 2001 after washing ashore repeatedly with a wound that proved to be a bullet in the head, died on April 13 at the Indianapolis Zoo, his home since December 2001. The cause of death appeared to be lymphatic cancer.

**Sammy**, 18, a Denver Zoo sea lion, was euthanized on February 28 due to irreversible painful conditions of age.

**Winnie**, 26, an orca captured in Icelandic waters who performed in England and at the former Sea World theme park in Ohio before coming to Sea World San Antonio in 1999, died on April 12 after a month of illness, the cause of which is still unknown.

HUMAN OBITS

**Jason Trotman, DVM**, 48, of Atlanta, Georgia, stayed an extra five hours at the Southern Crescent Animal Emergency Clinic on Sunday, March 31, to assist another veterinarian with a surgery. He was killed at a stoplight on his way home at about 11 p.m., when his vehicle was hit by the get-away car used by twin brothers Melvin and Marvin Mitchell, 22, who had allegedly just robbed a grocery store of \$6,500 and were under police pursuit. The Mitchells were charged with felony murder, armed robbery, and reckless driving. Trotman left his wife and three children.

**Dinesh Bhansali**, a diamond merchant who headed the Bhansali Trust and was a longtime trustee of Beauty Without Cruelty/India, died on February 2 in Mumbai. BWC/India chair Diana Ratnagar recalled that in the 1970s, Dineshbhai, as he was called for short, instigated the BWC “Ahimsa soap” project, which produced the first vegan soap marketed in India. In March 1988, Dineshbhai and the Bhansali Trust bought out the attempt of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to start a Karakul lamb industry, in which lambs would be killed for their pelts within 48 hours of birth, and put the lambs into sanctuary care—after sterilization, so that no one could exploit any offspring. Most recently, Dineshbhai and the Bhansali Trust were active in relief of both the human and animal victims of the January 2001 Gujarat earthquake.

**Judy Ann Nikodym**, 59, executive director of the Clallam County Humane Society in Port Angeles, Washington, died on April 2 from a heart attack.

**James Clyde Brock**, 62, died on March 24 in Charlotte, North Carolina. “Always on the lookout for the downtrodden, he befriended and helped in any way he could all the feathered, scaled, and furry friends his children allowed to wander into their home. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle, compassionate man who had room in his heart for all creatures great and small,” wrote his son and daughter-in-law Jason and Susan Brock, of Vancouver, Washington.

**Lalit Jain**, “instrumental in saving thousands of lives of animals, especially of cattle, who gave us 100% support during our case against the National Circus, has been brutally murdered in front of his residence at Bhiwani, India, allegedly by people whose vested interests were disrupted by his animal welfare work,” colleague Shakuntala Majumdar e-mailed on April 24., adding “Bhiwani is very tense at this moment and has been cordoned off.” Bhiwani is east of Delhi, near the border of Rajasthan.

**Paul S. Mangione**, 45, died on April 3 from cancer at his home in Parkville, Maryland. A longtime cat and dog rescuer, Mangione was known for his dedication to two kittens whom he adopted in 1990, after distemper killed their mother and caused them to suffer brain damage. “Despite veterinary advice to euthanize the kittens, Paul padded and carpeted his entire apartment to prevent them from injuring themselves when they fell. They are alive and well,” his wife of a year, Jeannette Patricia Barker, told the *Baltimore Evening Sun*.

**Valerie Hunt**, 10, died on April 2 in Toronto from hypothermia. Hunt was taken off life support one day after she endured an hour in an icy pond near her home in Lakehurst, Ontario. Hunt and a seven-year-old friend were playing “fetch the stick” with Hunt’s German shepherd when the dog crashed through the ice of the pond. Hunt fell through the ice in neck-deep water while attempting to rescue the dog, who managed to escape the pond unharmed. The seven-year-old fell into shallower water as she tried to pull Hunt out, but struggled ashore and brought Hunt’s mother, Caroline Hunt, who called 911 after failing to extricate her. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has collected information about 18 human deaths since 1997 resulting from falls through ice while trying to save dogs. In 14 cases, the dogs survived, mostly through their own efforts. The three dogs who died may have succumbed because they tried to save their people. The fate of one dog was never determined.

**Leo**, 17, the only lion at the Abilene Zoo in Abilene, Texas, was euthanized on February 26 due to progressive kidney disease, a painful condition of age.

**Desert Mountain**, who broke his shoulder in the Martell Red Rum Handicap Chase, **Anubis Quercus**, who broke his neck in the Martell Fox Hunters’ Chase, **Manx Magic**, who broke his neck at the 20th fence in the Grand National, and **The Last Fling**, who long led the Grand National field but fell at the 24th fence, were all killed during the three-day Martell Grand National steeplechase meet at Aintree, U.K., April 3-5.

**Fantom of the Opry**, 16, who won 17 harness races worth a total of \$138,884, then served as a New York City Parks Department police horse, was killed in an April 11 barn fire at Lovenest Farms in Franklin Township, New Jersey, when he broke free from rescuers and charged back into the blaze just as the barn collapsed. Ridden by park ranger Marie Prendamano, Fantom of the Opry carried the U.S. flag in two Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parades, and rode escort during two New York City marathons. Prendamano and Michelle Varriano retired him to Lovenest Farms in 1999, where he worked at a riding camp for children.

**Captain Caloosa**, a 250-pound manatee found near Fort Myers, Florida, on January 30, suffering from cold stress, died on April 15 at the David A. Stratz J. Manatee Hospital in the Lowry Park Zoo. “Since 1991, the zoo has treated 101 manatees,” said Lowry Park Zoo spokesperson Heather Sutton. “Of those surviving longer than 48 hours,” Sutton said, “85% have returned to Florida waters.”

**#380**, 5, a 315-pound male grizzly bear, was killed on April 2 after breaking into a guest cabin three times in two days at the Sleeping Giant ski area and trying to break into a parked pickup truck. #380 was first captured and radio-collared in May 2001, after repeatedly turning up at lodges, camps, and private cabins near Yellowstone National Park, where he became known as a roadside forager. Wyoming Game and Fish Department rangers killed a record 13 grizzlies during 2001 for coming into repeated conflict with humans. People reported 123 potentially dangerous encounters with grizzlies, nearly twice as many as were reported in 2000.

**Laden**, 40, an 80-ton male Indian elephant who had killed at least four people in the Raika forest range since November, was shot by Indian forest department staff on February 24 and ceremonially cremated by villagers. The 36-hour job used six truckloads of wood. His 14-member herd remained nearby.

MEMORIALS

In memory of Bruce Merritt.  
—Mrs. Lola Merritt

In memory of Jason Trotman, DVM,  
a man of extraordinary compassion.  
—Carlton Parrott

In memory of my husband Michael.  
—Marie O’Sullivan

In memory of Callie Cat, my precious queen.  
—Russell W. Field

In memory of Fritz, the love of my life.  
—Edna Paine

In memory of Vertigo.  
—Heidi Guth

In memory of all farmed animals brought  
into this world to suffer unspeakable cruelty,  
deprived of even basic needs.  
Your lives do matter.  
—Dianne & Michael Bahr

To my little Angel.  
—Barbara Fleming

In memory of Lupita, Pumpkin & Smoky.  
—Ann & Bill Koros

In memory of Mouth, a big black beautiful  
sweet kitty much missed.  
—Ann Van Nes

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87),  
Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87),  
Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85),  
Miss Penrose (11/18/98), Duke (11/1/98)  
and Blackie (9/9/96).  
—Mary V. Wilkinson

—Wolf  
Clifton

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**Nov. 13-16:** *Florida Animal Control Association* conf., Indian Rocks Beach. Info: <asshq@l-tgraye.com>.

**Nov. 17-20:** *Carnivores: From the Mountains to the Sea*, hosted by Defenders of Wildlife in Monterey, Calif. Info: 202-789-2844, x315.



















national level. But after the palace incident on June 1, 2001, the culture is in a shift,” de Vries agreed, “and I feel that slowly the moment is coming to question age-old traditions which harm animals.”  
—*M.C.*