



Irish cattle. (Kim Bartlett)

Greenhouse gases are invisible—as is “green” recognition of meat as source

NORWALK, Connecticut—Posting “Ten easy steps to cutting out the #1 contributor to global warming: farmed animals!” on April 6, 2007, the Earth Day Network could not have been more explicit about the most helpful action that average citizens can take to cut greenhouse gas emissions and slow the pace of climate change. But the Earth Day Network message barely reached the celebrants.

Among more than 8.9 million web postings worldwide about Earth Day 2007, 26% mentioned food, mostly as a component of festivities. Only 1% mentioned “livestock,” “cattle,” “vegetarian,” or “vegan” in any way.

Yet “vegan” was mentioned in 88,300 postings. Greenhouse gases, so named because they contribute to the earth-warming “greenhouse effect,” were mentioned in only 83,700 postings, and methane, the most damaging greenhouse gas, emitted mainly by livestock, got just 71,800 mentions.

The “Green Tips for Earth Day” web site, posted by Earth 911 with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, omitted any notice of animal production and meat-eating.

Noting that Earth Day is now

more a cultural celebration than a day of awareness-raising and protest, Vermont environmentalist author Bill McKibben and friends organized “Step It Up 2007,” a “National Day of Climate Action” held on April 13, a week ahead of Earth Day, to try to increase attention to global warming.

More than 1,400 organizations headquartered in all 50 states and many nations abroad took part.

“What do you feel guilty about not doing?” *New York* magazine writer Tim (continued on page 6)

Cracking the case of the pet food killer

PORTLAND, Oregon—As many as 39,000 American dogs and cats may have been injured or killed by pet foods contaminated by melamine, a chemical formerly considered safe, during the three months or longer that the tainted food was in distribution.

Banfield Pet Hospitals, operating 615 veterinary clinics around the U.S., produced this preliminary estimate from information on client visits, from December 2006 through mid-March 2007. During that time the Banfield hospitals handled more than one million animal visits, and saw a 30% increase in cases of cats suffering from kidney failure.

The data suggests that three out of every 10,000 cats and dogs who ate the contaminated pet food developed kidney failure, Banfield told Associated Press.

Receiving consumer complaints about pet foods allegedly poisoning healthy dogs and cats, Menu Foods Inc. ordered test feedings. After 16 cats and dogs died from kidney failure during the laboratory test feeding, Menu Foods



Sammy. (Kim Bartlett)

on March 16, 2007 recalled 60 million cans of dog and cat food. A Canadian firm with U.S. plants in Emporia, Kansas, and New Jersey, Menu Foods supplied products to at least seven different companies, who sold Menu-made pet food under more than 100 brands.

Other pet food makers were soon implicated in a nationwide investigation and series of recalls that swiftly went international. Pet food contaminated with the same chemical was discovered in South Africa and Puerto Rico—and the source turned out to be China.

Receiving more than 15,000 calls about pet food believed to be contaminated dur-

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ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

**May 2007
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Mother Nature fights the seal hunt

ST. JOHNS, Newfoundland—Climatic conditions appeared likely to do the annual Atlantic Canadian seal hunt more economic damage in 2007 than all the protests and boycotts worldwide combined.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press on April 25, sealers were still assessing the combined cost of a sealing season that was almost without ice in much of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, while drifting sheet ice trapped and badly damaged sealing vessels along the Labrador Front, northeast of Newfoundland. A dozen crews had abandoned their boats after ice cracked the hulls.

“Two Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, the *Ann Harvey* and the *Sir Wilfred Grenfell*, are trapped in the ice along with the sealing vessels. Helicopters are flying food and fuel to the stranded crews on the ice,” reported Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

As many as 90 sealing boats were trapped in ice, as of April 23, up from 60 ten days earlier, according to the *St. Johns Telegram*. The icebreakers had managed to free only about 10 boats in five days of effort, before becoming stuck themselves.

“An onshore wind is compacting the ice,” explained Fisheries Canada spokesperson Phil Jenkins. “The boats were on their way back from sealing and then got stuck.”

Earlier, on April 13, the 65-foot *L.J. Kennedy* burned at dockside in Port au Choix, Newfoundland, after taking aboard a full load of fuel and ammunition in preparation to hunt seals along the Labrador Front.

The seal hunt usually occurs in two phases, opening in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is relatively accessible to protesters,

shifting to the Labrador Front after the Gulf of St. Lawrence quota is filled.

This year, lack of ice for birthing and nursing meant that tens of thousands of infant seals drowned.

“I’ve witnessed the hunt for nine years, and I’ve never seen ice conditions this bad,” said Humane Society of the U.S. anti-sealing campaign director Rebecca Aldworth.

Agreed Associated Press writer Rob Gillies, “In the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, the worst ice conditions in more than two decades have nearly wiped out the herd.”

Fisheries Canada cut the 2007 sealing quota from 335,000 to 270,000, in recognition that the Gulf of St. Lawrence population might be jeopardized, but insisted that there are still about 5.5 million harp seals in Atlantic Canadian waters, down just 300,000 from the official peak reached in 2004.

The sealing quotas in recent years have been among the highest ever. In 1900, by contrast, Atlantic Canadian sealers killed only 100,000 harp seals.

Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans researcher Mike Hammill told the *Toronto Globe & Mail* that much of the Gulf of St. Lawrence also failed to freeze in 1969 and 1981, without lastingly reducing the seal population.

“We have been anticipating this in our modeling,” Hammill claimed. “We have been putting into our model the assumption that we’re losing 100,000 extra pups due to poor ice conditions. I think the numbers will be higher,” he allowed, “but I’m not sure how much higher. It’s not an ecological disaster,” Hammill insisted.

(continued on page 14)



Buddy, above, “was confiscated from a dogfight raided in Boso-Boso, Antipolo City, on April 2, 2007, with the help of volunteers from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society,” wrote PAWS president Nita Hontiveros Lichauro. “Fourteen suspects were arrested,” she continued, and “will face charges of violation of the Animal Welfare Act or illegal gambling.” The Philippines has been among the frequent destinations of U.S.-bred fighting dogs and gamecocks, but the traffic will now be illegal. Philippine humane law was strengthened in early February 2007 when Philippine President Gloria Arroyo endorsed a new Rabies Act. The act increases the penalties for selling dog meat, and introduced penalties for electrocuting dogs as a method of animal control. (PAWS/Sherwin Castillo)

Congress passes ban on interstate transport of animals for fighting

WASHINGTON D.C.—The U.S. Senate on April 10, 2007 unanimously passed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, H.R. 137, approved by the House of Representatives on March 25, 368-39. Sent to the White House to be signed into law, the Act creates a felony penalty for transporting animals across state lines—including foreign export—to be used in fights.

Cockfighters and breeders mobilized to urge President George W. Bush to veto H.R. 137, but Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle was unconcerned. “We have it on good word that it will be signed,” Pacelle told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The Act is expected to help in appre-

hending and prosecuting dogfighters and cockfighters. Dogfighting is already illegal in all 50 states. Cockfighting is illegal in 49 states plus nine of the 64 parishes of Louisiana, the last state to allow it.

However, enforcing laws against animal fighting usually requires catching the offenders in the act of staging a fight. The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act enables law enforcement to intercept participants in high-stakes dogfights and cockfights on their way to events, before any fighting actually occurs.

The most frequent application of the Act is expected to be in cases where law (continued on page 5)

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Editorial feature

The lessons zoos teach, & how to teach them better

Trying to talk to animal advocates about good zoos, when most have seen only bad zoos, is much like the proverbial effort to introduce six blind men to an elephant. Merely describing a good zoo, and especially describing how bad zoos can become good zoos, tends to strike most as describing a series of contradictions in terms. Each grasps a different part, and none have any idea how to reconcile the tusks, tail, ears, legs, belly, and trunk.

Unfortunately, the same is also true of trying to describe to zoo planners what makes a good zoo, from an animal welfare perspective. Many zoos include some excellent quarters for species whose needs are well understood by the management, alongside horribly botched exhibits based on gross misunderstandings. An expansive concrete floor polished to resemble ice, for example, is anything but homelike to a polar bear—but the bear may thrive in a habitat which in no way resembles the Arctic, if the habitat includes mental stimulation of equivalent intensity of interest to the bear as the challenge of finding seals beneath ice.

Hardly any zoo succeeds in all aspects of design and management. Probably no zoo completely succeeds at engineering a major new exhibit on the first multi-million-dollar try. Nor do most zoos have sufficient wherewithal to try again immediately, once mistakes are recognized, unless the mistakes jeopardize public safety. Even the best zoos typically mingle a few successes with a variety of exhibits, some not so old, that the staff would very much like to replace, when and if funding becomes available.

Meanwhile, facilities that fail to comfortably accommodate their original occupants are adapted and re-adapted, for example from lion rock to monkey mountain to reptile basking rocks, often for decades, in hopes of finding some species for whom they might work. Sometimes a disaster for the original species becomes a triumph for another, but seldom without years of learning from frustration and error, as animals endure lives of imprisoned misery while keepers try to figure out what is not working, or how to do something effective about it.

This is not so easy as activists often imagine. Despite the intensity of animal behavioral study today, and despite the centuries that some of the most popular species have been kept in zoos, the sum of behavioral knowledge about more than 90% of the species now on exhibit has been collected from observing just a handful of captive animals for only a few decades. Twenty years ago, for example, no one imagined that okapis, solitary in the wild, might prove quite gregarious when not subject to hunting and predation. No one knew that beluga whales might amuse themselves by learning how to set off sonic alarm systems.

Even some of the longest-kept zoo species turn out to have been poorly understood. Elephants have been kept for exhibition and work for nearly 4,000 years, yet barely 15 years ago no one knew that they communicate over phenomenally long distances by making ultra-low frequency sounds that are inaudible to human ears.

There are presently at least 5,000 zoos in the world, of all sorts. Among them are hundreds of bad zoos for every one that is an authentic animal welfare success.

Worse, dozens of the zoos that are most often mentioned as “good zoos” by much of the zoo community are in truth mediocre or even bad zoos from an animal welfare perspective.

This is not so much because of differences of opinion between behavioral researchers and zookeepers as to what individual animals want and need, as because of differences between management and those who actually work with the animals about what the first priorities of a zoo should be. Almost any zookeeper can draw up a “wish list” for the animals in custody that differs little from what most activists might want, short of turning all the animals loose in ideal wild habitat—which, for most exhibited species, does not exist.

Yet what would be most comfortable and congenial for the individual animals is not always most conducive to successful captive breeding, or easy viewing by children, or accommodating photographers. Neither is it necessarily what zoo donors want to pay for.

Further, what animals want is not always what is most likely to ensure their longevity, especially after they are already geriatric by the norms of the wild.

Almost forgotten today is that trying to keep animals alive and well was responsible for the extreme sterility of the featureless steel-barred cement cages built in the middle decades of the 20th century, now thought of as “old zoo” architecture. The advent of “old zoo” design coincided with dawning awareness of the need to protect rare animals from infection. This developed into an obsession at the cost of driving both animals and sympathetic keepers insane—and, ironically, led to generations of elephants developing foot infections from prolonged standing on hard surfaces, a circumstance previously unknown in their evolution.

Zoos today like to think of themselves as conservation institutions, but with rare exceptions, such as the Bronx Zoo under founding director William Hornaday, 1896-1926, conservation was not among the purposes that most zoos claimed until very recently. Conservation breeding, only occasionally emphasized earlier, came abruptly into vogue as a reason for zoos existing after the 1973 passage of the U.S. Endangered Species Act and global

introduction of the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species.

Only then, when zoos became obliged of necessity to breed their own replacement specimens, did the American Zoo Association and major international zoo associations begin organizing Species Survival Plans.

Zoos in most of the world evolved from popular entertainment. Historically, in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America, the chief difference between a zoo and a traveling circus was that the proprietors of a zoo managed to attract enough visitors to their winter quarters to buy more land and settle down. Alternatively, some zoos are descended from royal menageries, originally kept for the personal amusement of rulers and their retinues.

Outside the U.S., most zoos to this day are privately owned, and even within the U.S. there are still more private owned “roadside zoos” and family-operated “sanctuaries” functioning as zoos than there are zoos qualifying for AZA accreditation.

AZA zoos, on the other hand, have their philosophical antecedent in a string of royal menageries established across India by the 16th century Mogul emperor Akbar the Great, with a guiding vision worlds apart from the likes of the infamous Tower Menagerie in London.

“Unlike the cramped European menageries,” recounted zoo historian David Hancocks in A Different Nature (2001), Akbar’s zoos provided spacious enclosures and cages, built in large reserves,” as direct architectural ancestors of the Animal Rescue Centres managed by the Central Zoo Authority of India, profiled in the April 2007 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE. “Each had a resident doctor,” perhaps the first zoos to institutionalize veterinary care, “and Akbar encouraged careful study of animals. His zoos were open to the public. At the entrance to each he posted a message: ‘Meet your brothers. Take them to your hearts, and respect them.’”

Founded to educate

Most major zoos, within the U.S., originated from the same 19th century enthusiasm for public education that created public school systems, state universities, museums, parks, libraries, athletic fields, botanical gardens, and even some humane societies. Few of the founders appear to have ever heard of Akbar the Great. European models were most often cited when they made their arguments for public funding—especially the London Zoo, opened in 1832. Yet from the first, U.S. zoos much more resembled Akbar’s zoos than anything in Europe, including the London Zoo. Most of the oldest began as animal exhibits in parks, set up with at least the pretext of teaching the public about natural history and science.

Over time, the park exhibits often expanded to take over much or all of the park space. The San Francisco Zoo grew from a single cage in a park holding Monarch, reputedly the last California golden bear, certainly the last one captured alive. The San Diego and St. Louis Zoos were park zoos that grew to fill hundreds of acres, adjacent to museums. The Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle exemplifies how many zoos eventually devoured the parks for which they were named. The Oakland Zoo is an example of a park zoo that was moved to the edge of the city so that downtown residents could reclaim their park space.

The common denominator is that major U.S. zoos pretended from the beginning to have a higher purpose than mere entertainment, and as park occupants had a family orientation, in distinct contrast to the violent origins of many zoos abroad, at which baiting and tormenting the animals was historically part of the show, liquor was sold on the premises, and feeding live prey to carnivores was a featured attraction—as it often still is in places, notably at Chinese tiger farms.

During the Great Depression, when funds were especially tight, and during the childhood years of the post-World War II “baby boomers,” many U.S. zoos moved toward entertainment, introducing animal acts, wandering clowns, and even closing-time fireworks. They also expanded their menageries, often by dividing already cramped cages. Attention to either animal welfare or conservation was probably more superficial than at any time before or since, yet everything was quite carefully packaged and promoted as “educational.” Zoo exhibits taught small children their numbers, phonetic reading, and geography. Docents were trained not to teach about animals so much as to reinforce schoolwork.

And that was not entirely the wrong approach. Indeed, it served the times and the zoos well. The children of that era grew up to attend and fund zoos more than ever before, even though opportunities to see animals in the wild have never been more accessible, and opportunities to see them on screen are ubiquitous.

Zoos actually are quite effective at many aspects of educating the public, but mostly not at the aspects that they purport to be good at. Zoos’ own audience research has established, to the chagrin of the zoo community, that most zoo-goers learn relatively little about ecology, because most zoos do not portray functional ecology. Most zoo-goers also learn almost nothing about the natural lives of animals. There are usually no shortage of signs and interactive exhibits at zoos to teach the lessons that they want to emphasize, but these are mostly not the lessons that zoo-goers go to zoos to study.

Zoo-goers tend to learn less about the behavior of the animals they watch than the learn from the behavior they see, including the behavior of the human animals who are watching with them. The major lesson that zoos teach is how humans should interact with other species: whether with consideration, or in strictly a utilitarian manner, or in a balance of concerns. This lesson is imparted chiefly to children, often through the medium of adult response to the animal exhibits. Zoos are essentially an acculturating institution.

What ANIMAL PEOPLE looks for at a zoo, first of all, is whether the animals are behaviorally frustrated by captivity. Space, per se, is usually not the issue. Most animals live their entire lives within relatively closely confined habitat, delineated by natural barriers, scent markings, and other natural warnings that keep them from venturing farther.

These conditions can be met, for most exhibited species, within the limits of zoos—if the zoos are designed to provide genuinely species-specific appropriate habitat, part of which should be the chance for animals to see and scent other species who matter to them in the wild. Predators need to stalk; prey species need the challenge of being alert.

Zebras, giraffes, and antelopes should be allowed to watch lions, as they would in the wild, especially in proximity to a shared water source (split by a secure fence), as well as being able to move away from the lions at other times.

Lions, conversely, should be allowed to try to sneak as close to zebras, giraffe, and antelopes as possible, by a variety of different routes through foliage and other obstacles. Much as house cats are psychologically and physically fitter if they can watch birds through a window, lions who can stalk are healthier, even if they never get a chance to pounce.

Large wandering animals like elephants, who may need thousands of acres in which to roam, are extreme exceptions to the rule that living space need not be expansive if it is varied and stimulating.

Second, we look to see if the animals are aware of being observed.

Large animals with few predators generally don’t mind being watched. African lions are perhaps the most evident example of this phenomenon. African lions, in the wild, are watched constantly by every hooved animal on the savannah, and by every scavenger too. There are often at least a hundred eyes staring at a wild African lion, and African lions have evolved to accept the attention with regal disdain. While many other cats don’t even like to be seen at a distance, African lions will often let anyone watch them do anything.

Naturally gregarious species such as meerkats and baboons also generally don’t mind being watched, and welcome the chance to visit, even perform. But many other species should never be housed where they feel constantly under observation, especially from closer

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The lessons zoos teach *(from page 3)*

than the safety zones they prefer to keep around themselves in the wild.

What a really good zoo does, most of all, is show the public how to treat animals with respect and consideration. If it does that, it is teaching an attitude of respect and consideration toward all animals. If it does not, it is a bad zoo, no matter how successful it is at captive breeding, producing scientific papers, attracting crowds, raising funds, and doing all of the other things that zoos measure themselves by.

ANIMAL PEOPLE does not favor of shutting down all zoos, even all bad zoos. We favor turning bad zoos into good zoos, which would include largely abandoning the notion of captive breeding as the ultimate test of success, and instead using zoos to fulfill the roles now filled by hundreds of small, badly funded sanctuaries—many of which, as noted, actually function more as roadside zoos.

There are quite enough exotic and unusual animals in need of help, due to wildlife trafficking and exotic petkeeping, and quite enough native species who need to be taken into custody after wandering into cities or becoming ill or injured, for every zoo to maintain a varied collection without ever having to breed or capture animals for exhibit.

Such a collection might not have “conservation value,” but reality is that most zoo collections have little conservation value anyway. Focusing on keeping token specimens of vanishing species is a rationale for zoos, not a working purpose. Changing human attitudes toward animals would have far more authentic conservation value, in the long run, than managing any so-called Species Survival Plan.

Yet zoos could still have several extremely valuable conservation missions. As the Bronx Zoo long ago realized in evolving into the Wildlife Conservation Society, zoos are potential fundraising engines for habitat conservation abroad. Many of the best and most ambitious are already fulfilling this role to some extent. Zoo tours of wild & semi-wild habitat are an encouraging step in the right direction.

Zoos could also provide extensive semi-wild habitat exhibits, on a scale far beyond anything achieved by Northwest Trek, Fossil Rim, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, and The Wilds, which are the largest zoos at present.

For example, zoos could partner with land conservancies, to make watching wildlife more accessible, yet less intrusive. Zoos could also acquire suitable property within which to create “lifeboat” environments for species at extreme risk in their native habitat. Thousands of acres might offer viewing and photo opportunities from hundreds of camouflaged “hides,” connected by tunnels or overhead walkways, without the animals ever becoming aware of the human presence.

Exhibiting elephants humanely in landlocked urban zoos may not be possible, but if the Elephant Sanctuary at Hohenwald, Tennessee and the Performing Animal Welfare Society can give former circus elephants good lives on converted farmland, operating with budgets of comparative peanuts, consortiums of major zoos should be able to figure out how to keep herds of elephants in similar spaces.

Despite frequent excesses of activist rhetoric, there is no compelling reason, even within the context of most animal

rights philosophy, to dismantle and abandon either zoos or the zoo concept. Fully respecting the rights of most species to be themselves could be done within zoos, if zoos accepted this as part of their mission—and much has now been done by the best zoos, bit by bit, in that direction, despite the huge funding influence of pro-hunting organizations, animal-using scientific institutions, and mainstream environmentalists.

Much more could be done, especially if the zoo and activist communities rethink their longtime antagonism, which animal-use advocates have quite successfully exploited.

Early in both the 19th century humane movement and the late 20th century animal rights movement, activists hit on zoos as a protest target. The first big success of the London Humane Society, ancestor of the Royal SPCA, was winning the 1832 closure of the Tower Menagerie. Comparably, one of the first actions of the Fund for Animals, the proto-animal rights group founded in 1968 by the late Cleveland Amory, was issuing a list of the alleged worst zoos in the U.S.

In both times and places, hitting zoos first was logical because what was wrong at those zoos could be seen by any visitor. Demonstrating outside a zoo was therefore an obvious way for young organizations to build support.

Zoos themselves were among the beneficiaries. The Tower Zoo animals were moved to the newly opened London Zoo, while each of the “worst zoos” that Amory named received new funding, including from the passage of bond issues approved by voters.

Opportunity

In hindsight, what zoos could and should have done as the animal rights movement gained momentum was welcome activist tabling (as some did), take the opportunity to better inform activists about zoo operations, and accept activist demands to end such abuses as deliberately breeding surplus animals so as to always have babies on display, while selling some of the excess to hunting ranches.

What happened instead was that animal advocacy and management at most zoos became lastingly polarized, even as the American Zoo Association in 1986 and 1991 incorporated most of the major activist criticisms into revisions of the AZA code of ethics. There was resistance, of course, and some non-compliance with the code of ethics has occasionally come to light. Overall, however, no other institutions or industry moved more rapidly than zoos to try to comply with expectations elevated by the animal rights movement about how animals should be treated. The animal rights movement stimulated a revolution in zoo architecture, for instance, more than a decade before a similar design revolution began to transform mainstream humane societies.

Monitoring zoos, critiquing them, and at times protesting against mistakes by zoo management are all necessary roles of animal advocates. Though these roles should be tempered by deeper knowledge about zoos than activists have sometimes shown, they are not to be abandoned.

Yet the positive roles and potential of zoos should also not be abandoned. AZA-accredited zoos attracted more than 143 million visitors in 2006, more than 20 times the sum

What we learned from zoos

Early zoo visits helped to motivate the lifelong pursuits of both ANIMAL PEOPLE publisher Kim Bartlett and editor Merritt Clifton.

Recalls Bartlett, “I have always been at odds with people who want to close down all zoos, because the animals mostly have nowhere to go.

“Some of my very earliest memories are of the zoo in Jackson, Mississippi, which was among my favorite places to be, second only to the mimosa tree in my great aunt Minnie’s front yard. The Jackson zoo was probably a hell-hole for the animals, but I thought of it as a truly magical place full of wonderful animals.”

Remembers Clifton, “My family did not have pets. Neither did we have television. Most of my early exposure to animals, in the 1950s and very early 1960s, was through occasional visits to the Oakland Zoo, the San Francisco Zoo, and once the Rotterdam Zoo in The Netherlands. Every moment of my zoo visits was remembered, treasured, and became deeply influential, later in life. Even as a child, I recognized some very bad zoo practices. Barren concrete enclosures and too-small cages shocked and upset me. Yet I also saw some good examples, that helped encourage me to believe that good zookeeping need not be an illusion.”

of visits to humane societies and probably 10 times the sum of children reached in classroom visits by humane educators.

Zoos offer a vast array of infrastructure, veterinary and behavioral expertise, fundraising and publicity apparatus, and cumulative stock of goodwill and credibility, all of which could help to accomplish far more for animals.

Zoos have also shown unparalleled willingness to reinvent themselves: more than half rebuild at least one major exhibit each and every year.

After nearly 35 years of emphasis on conservation breeding, there are hints that as zoo management approaches a generational transition, a change of philosophy is underway as well. Phasing out elephant exhibits, for example, unthinkable a decade ago, is now an accelerating trend. The Los Angeles Zoo, Detroit Zoo, and San Francisco Zoo, have each recently transferred elephants to sanctuaries, while the Philadelphia Zoo is trying to close the oldest elephant exhibit in the U.S. and is having trouble placing the three current residents.

Books and popular press articles about rethinking zoos are appearing at a frequency not seen in about 20 years—since the last major round of discussion and debate about what zoos are, what they should be, and how they might evolve.

Most zoos are not soon likely to become humane societies for wildlife, sanctuaries, or ideologically aligned with longterm, broad-front animal advocacy goals—not now. That may happen later, reflecting public expectation. In that regard, it is worth noting that the public tends to expect institutions such as zoos, humane societies, schools, and churches to exemplify higher moral and ethical standards than is expected of ordinary citizens.

Meanwhile, this is an appropriate time to resurrect the role of zoos as educational institutions, and ask them to again emphasize Akbar’s message: “Meet your brothers. Take them to your hearts, and respect them.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite readers to submit letters and original unpublished commentary—please, nothing already posted to a web site—via e-mail to <anmlpepl@whidbey.com> or via postal mail to: ANIMAL PEOPLE, P.O. Box 960, Clinton, WA 98236 USA.

Cats & rabbits

I read with interest the March 2007 ANIMAL PEOPLE article “When the cat is away,” about the feral rabbit population increasing tenfold on Macquarie Island since the island feral cats were exterminated in June 2000.

As a neuter/return volunteer, I have fought extremely hard to change attitudes towards feral cats in a similar situation locally, involving Robben Island, where former South African president Nelson Mandela spent most of the 27 years that he was imprisoned for opposing apartheid. The situation is dire.

—Rita Brock

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Vets Care Organization, in Pakistan, is engaged in animal welfare of animals and uplift of the veterinary profession through arranging seminars, field days, and free veterinary treatment camps.

These camps provide free clinical help and medicines to the poor farmers, and enhance the professional skills of the participating veterinary students.

Vets Care Organization organized our most recent free treatment camp in the Ratu Chak village, Shakar Garh district, Narowal, on March 18. The objective was to highlight the importance of deworming farm animals. More than 30 members of the Vets Care Club at the University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences in Lahore attended.

The participants worked in three teams to de-worm and treat buffaloes, cattle, sheep, goats, dogs and donkeys.

—Waseem Shaukat
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Editor’s note:

John Kieser, who shot more than 100 cats, reducing the Robben Island cat population to just two in February 2007, has been reassigned to shooting the resident rabbits, who have lived on the island for more than 300 years. Without the cats, the 3,000 rabbits have no predator. Cape Town news media report that Kieser is also likely to be asked to shoot 120 fallow deer who live on the island.

Rat poison kills wildlife (can kill feral cats, too)

In response to lawsuits filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and others last year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is finally proposing to take small cardboard boxes that contain candy-like colored pellets of rat poison off of our supermarket shelves, to reduce the 20,000 annual reported incidents of small children eating the pellets. If the EPA proposal takes effect, rat poison will have to be sold in block form, in tamper-resistant bait boxes.

Not addressed is the incidence of wildlife dying from eating rodents who have been poisoned

with the newest line of rodent poisons, called “single feed” poisons, or “second generation rodenticides.”

Eagles, peregrine falcons, endangered kit foxes, and other animals are dying because it takes several days for each poisoned rodent to die. During these several days, rodents can and do eat enough of the poison to kill their natural predators.

The EPA has opened a 60-day comment period that expires on May 18, 2007.

We are asking the EPA to limit “single-feed” rodent poison use to indoors only. This will limit wildlife exposure to only those rodents who are poisoned indoors but die outdoors.

Ideally these five-times-more lethal rodent poisons should be

banned, but this step will save non-target wild lives.

As long as these poisons are placed near every dumpster across our country, our environment will continue to be littered with the bodies of rodents so toxic that they kill the animals who eat them, and we will continue to lose endangered species for the sake of killing a few mice and rats.

—Jamie Ray
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CORRECTION

Eileen Weintraub was credited on page 16 of the April 2007 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE for taking a photograph of Compassion Unlimited Plus Action wildlife rehabilitator Saleem Hameed. Weintraub tells us that the photo was actually taken by Savitha Nagabhushan.



Vets Care Organization at work.

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

Responsibilities include: Wild animal care, rescue of distressed wildlife, answering phone, record keeping, fundraising, environmental education and volunteer management and training. Intern will receive intensive training in wildlife rehabilitation. We are seeking an energetic, dedicated, hard-working individual with a desire to learn about caring for native wildlife. Some experience in animal handling preferred. Bachelors degree in biology or related field preferred. Knowledge of Mac/PC helpful. Free shared housing in quiet woodland setting and partial board provided. Start date: ASAP. Please e-mail resume and 3 references to WIC at wildlifeincrisis@snet.net. To learn more about Wildlife in Crisis visit our website at www.wildlifeincrisis.org.

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Congress passes fighting animal transport ban (from page 1)

enforcement personnel stop vehicles for routine traffic violations or suspicion of intoxicated drivers, and discover suspected fighting dogs, gamecocks, and/or animal fighting paraphernalia in the vehicles.

"The passage of the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act is expected to impact dogfighting and cockfighting in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands," Pegasus Foundation director Anne Ostberg told fellow members of the Caribbean Animal Welfare online forum.

It will also enable U.S. agencies to help thwart a growing commerce in exporting fighting dogs to parts of the world where dogfighting was until recently almost unknown.

Interstate involvement in animal fighting was illustrated especially clearly on April 24, 2007, while the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act awaited White House attention.

As the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** deadline loomed, Louisiana SPCA executive director Laura Maloney e-mailed that a multi-agency raid on suspected dogfighters had seized 42 pit bull terriers "with extensive scarring and some with fresh wounds" from a site in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and had impounded six more dogs from a location in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

"Five dead dogs will be exhumed for evaluation in Mississippi, with multiple burial locations remaining on the property. In addition to the scarred dogs," Maloney added, "the sites are loaded with fighting paraphernalia, including scales for weighing before a match, breed stands used to mate aggressive dogs, treadmills used to prepare dogs for matches, copies of the underground dogfighting magazine *Sporting Dog Journal* and dogfighting-related books, and extensive records noting successes and losses in dogfights."

Other participating agencies, Maloney said, included the St. Charles Parish Humane Society and animal control department, and the Humane Society of South

Mississippi. The American SPCA sent forensic veterinarian Melinda Merck to document the medical condition of the animals.

"The Harrison County Sheriff's Department is charging the Mississippi accused with felony dogfighting," Maloney reported, adding that felony charges were under consideration in St. Bernard Parish.

Interstate involvement in cockfighting was demonstrated on March 30, 2007, when Louisiana state police raided the Sunrise Game Club near Logansport in north Louisiana and the Milk Dairy Game Club in Tickfaw, 50 miles northwest of New Orleans. The cockfighting clubs were located in Sabine and DeSoto parishes, respectively, two of those that prohibit cockfights.

"Sunrise Game Club owner James Butler, 38, of Martinsville, Texas, was led away in handcuffs. He was booked into the DeSoto Parish Detention Center on charges of illegal gambling, contributing to the delinquency of juveniles, racketeering, and money laundering," reported Vickie Wellborn of the *Shreveport Times*.

Texas authorities simultaneously conducted a raid of Butler's home, Louisiana state police spokesperson Doug Pierrelee said.

Two other cockfight participants "were booked into jail on drug charges after authorities found methamphetamine and marijuana in their possession," Wellborn wrote.

"Five men were cited for contributing to the delinquency of juveniles for allegedly having children at the fight with them," added Associated Press.

Sergeant Steve Rachal of the Louisiana state police gaming division told Wellborn that undercover investigators had

monitored the club for almost a year, observing gambling turnover of up to \$50,000 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Several other recent cockfighting raids have exposed significant interstate involvement. The Kentucky State Police in February 2007 promised to investigate the Sally Gap Game Club in Whitley County, after four HSUS investigators produced videotape documenting an all-day series of fights attended by about 400 people. HSUS deputy manager of animal fighting issues John Goodwin told Lexington *Herald-Leader* staff writer Bill Estep that participants came from as far as Michigan and South Carolina.

"The investigators estimated that hundreds of thousands of dollars in entry fees and bets changed hands," wrote Estep.

Two weeks earlier, sheriff's deputies arrested 122 people at a cockfight in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and Department of Homeland Security officers arrested 22 more, "including suspected gang members who are facing deportation," Mecklenburg County Sheriff Danny Fox told reporters.

About three-fourths of the arrestees gave North Carolina addresses.

"The culmination of a seven-month investigation, the raid included about 130 local, state and federal law-enforcement officials, and 25 animal control officers," reported Richmond *Times-Dispatch* staff writer Jamie Ruff. "Animal-control officials seized 126 birds," Ruff said.

Louisiana agriculture commissioner Bob Odom on April 16, 2007 told Doug Simpson of Associated Press that he is now willing to endorse a phased ban of cockfighting. "In years past, Odom has argued against

Cuban animal

HAVANA—The Scientific Veterinary Council of Cuba has drafted a law to guarantee the right to life of all animals in the country, board member María Gloria Vidal Rivalta recently told Dora Pérez Sáez, of the Cuban newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*.

"The draft is being presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and is expected to go to the National Assembly of People's Power soon," reported Pérez Sáez.

"Legal protection for animals, sterilization as a way of reducing the stray dog population, and safety for wild birds are some of the aspects to be addressed by Cuban specialists at the 6th International Congress of the Veterinary Sciences in Havana," Vidal said. Vidal also mentioned a need to address "children who attack animals, dogfighters, people who throw things at zoo animals, and others who keep pets in inappropriate conditions."

outlawing cockfighting," Simpson recalled, "saying a ban would merely drive the practice underground, making state inspections of gamecocks impossible and creating a greater chance that poultry diseases will spread.

"Odom, a Democrat running for reelection, is in his seventh term as chief of the state agriculture department," Simpson continued. "Odom's support of a phase-out ban puts him at odds with Representative Mike Strain, who is running against Odom for the post. Strain, a Republican, has introduced legislation to ban cockfighting immediately."

A similar bill has been introduced by Senator Art Lentini (R-Metairie), who has pushed bills to ban cockfighting before. This year will be Lentini's last opportunity to win a cockfighting ban, due to term limits.

MORE LETTERS

Richard Schwartz

A testament to Animal People's influence is that Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D., writes compelling letters for publication. Richard H. Schwartz is the inspiring and erudite author of *Judaism & Vegetarianism* and *Judaism & Global Survival*. The latter incisively accentuates solutions to major issues including human rights, social justice, ecology, climate change, hunger, world peace, and the global imperative of vegetarianism.



Judaism & Global Survival is a must read for people who care about the earth. Make certain to read the 2002 Revised Edition.

—Brien Comerford
Glenview, Illinois
<Bjjcomerford@aol.com>

Statistical resource

I just wanted to tell you what a wonderful resource **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has been for a project I'm working on about the scope of euthanasia in shelters. The statistical work and data presentation done through **ANIMAL PEOPLE** is first rate. It is really one of the only continuous, reliable sources of information for estimating numbers of stray, feral, and free-roaming cats, and understanding the challenges and dangers they face.

Thank you so much for the work you folks have done over the years, especially taking on this important and much-needed quantitative role!

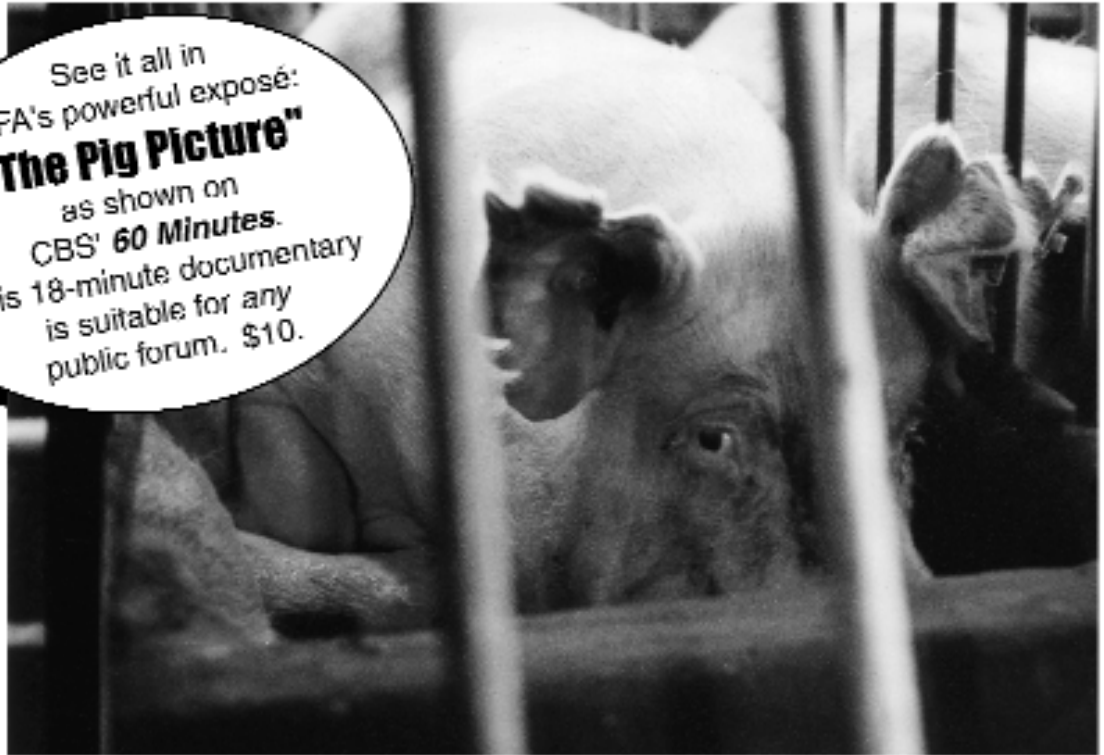
—Holly Anderson
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Along with almost every article from back editions, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site offers translations of key items into French & Spanish ... Lewyt Award-winning heroic & compassionate animal stories...vet info links... downloadable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

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Greenhouse gases are invisible—and “green” recognition of meat as source (from page 1)

Murphy asked New York City “Step It Up 2007” coordinator Ben Jervey.

“I don’t dry my clothes on hangers instead of using a dryer. Or forgo meat altogether. Studies show that meat consumption is not so energy-efficient,” responded Jervey. Jervey, 27, is author of *The Big Green Apple*, a guide to ecofriendly New York City living.

Apart from Jervey’s guilt complex, equating raising animals for slaughter with not hanging up his laundry, “Step It Up 2007” organizers evinced scant awareness of meat-eating as even part of the global warming issue. Meat did not appear to rate so much as a word on the “Step It Up 2007” web site. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found traces of only four “Step It Up 2007” events that encouraged meatless eating.

In Britain, the Portsmouth Climate Action Network advertised “a tasty barbecue, with food for all, including vegetarian and vegan.” In Saratoga Springs, New York, “Step It Up 2007” coincided with the New York Capital Region Vegetarian Expo.

Friends of Animals, based in Darien, Connecticut, coordinated “Step It Up 2007” rallies in both Norwalk and Westport.

“Activists push diet change to the head of climate change,” recounted a *Norwalk Hour* subhead the following day.

Norwalk Hour staff writer James Walker did not actually mention the contribution of meat-eating to global warming until his eighth of 14 paragraphs, but five of his last seven paragraphs either quoted or paraphrased FoA president Priscilla Feral and the Worldwatch Institute on the role of diet in causing climate change.

Stamford Advocate staff writer Michael Dinan also covered the Norwalk demonstration, but did not mention diet, consistent with the general tendency of U.S. news

media to follow mainstream environmentalists in completely overlooking, ignoring, or denying the connection.

U.S. newspaper coverage of global warming has increased by half since 1997, according to a proportionately weighted keyword search by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** of the archives of 1,428 daily newspapers accessible at www.NewsLibrary.com.

This appears to have raised awareness of the possible results of global warming far more than awareness of any of the causes.

An April 2007 survey conducted jointly by the *Washington Post*, *ABC News*, and Stanford University, for instance, found that 84% of Americans recognize that global warming is occurring. More than 70% see it as a major issue.

Asked what to do about it, however, the pollsters found that 62% of respondents believe power plants should be required to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; 42% favor laws requiring vehicles to be more fuel-efficient; 36% want laws requiring air conditioners, refrigerators, and other appliances to be less polluting; about a third favor higher gasoline taxes; and 20% favor higher taxes on electricity to encourage conservation.

“Most say they would be willing to personally change some things they do in order to mitigate climate change, even if it involves some sacrifice,” reported *Washington Post* staff writers Juliet Eilperin and Jon Cohen. “Nearly three-quarters said they have already made an effort to reduce energy consumption at home; seven in 10 said they already use at least one compact fluorescent light bulb.”

But the survey apparently neither asked about meat consumption nor elicited any directly relevant response.

U.S. global warming coverage mentioning cattle rose from 1% of the total in 1997

to 2.6% in 1999—but 1999 was the year with by far the least total global warming coverage. In every other year, just over 1% of the articles mentioning global warming also mentioned cattle.

Global warming coverage mentioning the more general term “livestock” gradually increased from about half of one percent in 1997 to 1% in both 2006 and early 2007.

Global warming coverage mentioning meat rose from 1% in 1997 to 2% in both 2006 and early 2007.

U.N. warning

The paucity of attention from daily newspapers scarcely reflects a lack of scientific evidence. Warned the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization in a November 2006 report entitled *Livestock’s Long Shadow—Environmental Issues and Options*, “The environmental costs per unit of livestock production must be cut by one half, just to avoid the level of damage worsening.”

Elaborated FAO spokesperson Christopher Matthews, “When emissions from land use and land use change are included, the livestock sector accounts for 9% percent of carbon dioxide deriving from human-related activities, and generates 65% of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

“Most of this comes from manure,” Matthews emphasized. “Livestock accounts for 37% of all human-induced methane, 23 times as warming as carbon dioxide, which is also largely produced by the digestive system of ruminants, and 64% of ammonia, which contributes significantly to acid rain.

“Livestock now use 30% of the earth’s entire land surface,” Matthews continued, “mostly permanent pasture, but also including 33% of the global arable land, used to produce feed for livestock. As forests are cleared to create new pastures, [the livestock industry] is a major driver of deforestation, especially in Latin America where, for example, some 70% of former forests in the Amazon have been turned over to grazing.”

Only 39 U.S. daily newspapers

—just 3%—published anything more than a syndicated summary of the FAO findings.

Most U.S. daily newspapers are, however, heavily dependent upon supermarket advertising, especially the intensely competitive meat ads.

The New York Times, as one of the few dailies that does not even carry supermarket advertising, deliberated over the FAO report for a month before editorializing about it on December 26, 2006.

“When you think about the growth of human population over the last century or so, it is all too easy to imagine it merely as an increase in the number of humans,” *The New York Times* editorialists began. “But as we multiply, so do all things associated with us, including our livestock.

“At present,” *The New York Times* editorialists continued, “there are about 1.5 billion cattle and domestic buffalo, and about 1.7 billion sheep and goats. With pigs and poultry, they form a critical part of our enormous biological footprint upon this planet. Livestock—which consume more food than they yield—also compete directly with humans for water. And the drive to expand grazing land destroys more biologically sensitive terrain, rain forests especially, than anything else. But what is even more striking, and alarming, is that livestock are responsible for about 18% of the global warming effect.”

The New York Times summation closely paralleled the statistical summary issued by vegetarian advocate John Robbins 19 years earlier, as part of the promotional kit for *Diet For A New America*.

“There are no easy trade-offs when it comes to global warming, such as cutting back on cattle to make room for cars,” the *New York Times* noted, but concluded, “As *Livestock’s Long Shadow* makes clear, our health and the health of the planet depend on pushing livestock production in more sustainable directions.”

Even before John Robbins published his heads-up, Worldwatch Institute founder Lester Brown had warned in similar terms

(continued on page 7)

Judge says horse slaughter violates National Environmental Policy Act

WASHINGTON D.C.—U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on March 28, 2007 ruled in Washington D.C. that the USDA violated the National Environmental Policy Act by allowing horse slaughterhouses to continue killing horses for human consumption, after Congress in 2005 cut off funding for mandatory USDA inspections.

The USDA responded to the Congressional budget cut by allowing the three horse slaughterhouses left in the U.S. to fund their own inspections. Judge Kollar-Kotelly held that this action should have been subject to an environmental impact review.

Her verdict was a triumph for the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, an arm of the Animal Welfare Institute, and for the Humane Society of the U.S., who sued seeking to reverse the USDA circumvention of the intent of Congress in February 2006.

“Because of continuing resolutions approved by Congress to fund the government, the ruling is effective immediately,” rejoiced AWI president Cathy Liss.

“The funding limitation on inspections for horse slaughter contained in the 2006 Appropriations Act carry over through September 30, 2007,” elaborated an HSUS media release.

In theory, horse slaughtering plants could kill horses only for animal consumption through September, a much less lucrative trade, and hope to resume business as usual on October 1.

“Because the Congressional act cutting funding for horse slaughter expires in September,” HSUS explained, horse slaughter opponents are “calling on Congress to pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503 and S. 311) to settle the matter permanently.”

Even if the USDA is again funded to inspect horse slaughterhouses, however, the Kollar-Kotelly ruling may offer an opening for further legal opposition.

“The District Court barred the USDA from inspecting horses for human consumption,” the HSUS release continued, “because the USDA failed to conduct any review of the adverse impacts of horse slaughter on the surrounding communities.”

The last three horse slaughterhouses in the U.S. are Dallas Crown of Kaufman, Texas; Beltex, of Fort Worth, Texas; and Cavel International, of DeKalb, Illinois. All three have long been controversial within their communities. Dallas Crown, closed for “restructuring” on March 23, 2007, had oper-

ated since March 2006 in defiance of an order to close from the Kaufman Board of Adjustments, for being an alleged public nuisance and health and safety hazard.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on March 6, 2007 affirmed a January 20, 2007 appellate panel ruling that both Dallas Crown and Beltex have killed horses for human consumption in violation of a 1949 Texas state law.

“As a result of the [Kollar-Kotelly] ruling, the USDA pulled its on-site inspectors, including a veterinarian, from the DeKalb slaughterhouse. The slaughter then ceased,” wrote *Chicago Tribune* staff reporter John Biemer. The Belgian-owned Cavel International slaughterhouse killed about 1,000 horses per week, employing 55 people, Cavel general manager James Tucker told Biemer.

Continued Biemer, “The Cavel plant processed the meat from horses who had already been slaughtered, Tucker said. The company turned away six trucks containing about 200 horses, sending them back to suppliers. Local horse lovers tried to arrange for homes and shelters to take them in. Gail Vacca, a Wilmington-based coordinator for SAPL, said she had lined up quarantined stalls for at least 100 horses.”

HSUS and Habitat for Horses, of Hitchcock, Texas, claimed to have found placements for another 400 horses.

But Illinois Department of Agriculture division manager for food safety and animal protection Colleen O’Keefe predicted to Biemer that the six truckloads of horses would probably end up at Canadian slaughterhouses.

The rescue effort ended up saving only 30 horses, whose Colorado owner contacted HSUS after learning that the horses could not be killed in DeKalb.

Said HSUS, “This group of horses was standing in line waiting to be slaughtered when news of the decision reached officials at Cavel International. While horses still waiting in trucks in the plant’s parking lot were routed to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada, these horses were reloaded onto a truck bound for a stockyard in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

“HSUS agreed to pay the owner’s expenses, and is partnering with the Denkai Animal Sanctuary in Carr, Colorado, to rehabilitate the horses so that they can eventually be placed with loving owners.

According to USDA data, 100,800 horses were killed in 2006 by Dallas Crown, Beltex, and Cavel. About 30,000 horses were exported for slaughter in Mexico and Canada.



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Greenhouse gases are invisible—& “green” recognition of meat as source (from page 6)

since the 1970s about the contributions of the meat industry to the production of greenhouse gases. As recently as February 22, 2007, Worldwatch Institute research associate Danielle Nierenberg described the links between raising animals for meat and global warming to the American Academy of Sciences annual conference in San Francisco.

There were plenty of other warnings. Climate researcher Benoit Leguet, investigating the probable economic consequences of global warming for the French bank Caisse des Depots, told Agence France-Presse in September 2005 that the 20 million cows in France produce 6.5 percent of the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions.

In total, Leguet determined, French cattle produce 38 million metric tons of greenhouse gases per year, more than three times the volume produced by oil refineries.

Summarized Toby McDonald of the London *Times*, “There are 1.4 billion cows worldwide, each producing 500 litres of methane a day and accounting for 14% of all emissions of the gas. Carbon dioxide is by far the biggest contributor to climate change, but methane has 23 times the warming potential of carbon dioxide, so reducing its emission is also considered important.

“Cows need to ferment their low-grade food, such as hay and grass, to get any energy from it,” McDonald continued, “and the main by-product is methane. Between 9% and 12% of the energy that a cow consumes is converted into methane, depending on diet, barn conditions, and whether the cow is producing milk. In Scotland, where there is a greater concentration of agriculture than in other countries, cows produce 46% of all methane emissions.”

This is about 15 times the contribution made by cattle in England, but Scotland has proportionately more cattle and less industrial development.

Biochemist John Wallace of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland, told McDonald that altering cows’ diets could reduce their methane emissions by as much as 70%, but whether this can be done

consistently and in an economically productive manner remains to be established.

Livestock are believed to be responsible for about 12.3% of greenhouse gas emissions from Australian sources, reported Richard Macey of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in June 2006. Researchers Robert Herd and Andrew Alford of the New South Wales (Australia) Department of Primary Industries told Macey that they believe breeding cattle only from the bulls whose offspring most efficiently convert food into protein could cut cattle methane emissions worldwide by about 3%.

“The leader of the research effort, Roger Hegarty, said it may be possible to develop other methane-efficient animals, including sheep,” wrote Macey.

But the sum of the potential gain from selective breeding for methane reduction would be equivalent to the gain from just 3% of the public giving up meat.

Recognizing that livestock were responsible for more than half the New Zealand contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, the New Zealand government in 2003 tried unsuccessfully to tax agricultural methane releases.

The New Zealand Livestock Improvement Corporation is now a member of the Australia-New Zealand Biotechnology Partnership Fund, formed to help produce cattle with more efficient digestive systems.

Using 1938 data

The U.S. lags far behind much of the rest of the world in officially recognizing the greenhouse gas contributions of cattle.

The reasons why include cattle industry lobbying clout, official denial, and use of grossly obsolete data. As of 2005, for example, California air pollution regulations had presumed since 1938 that cows produce an average of just 12.8 pounds of “volatile organic compounds” per year. These are the particulate emissions that contribute to smog, a lower-atmosphere “greenhouse effect,” which in 1938 was the only part of the greenhouse emissions issue known to science.

Cattle industry lobbyists argued that

the 1938 estimate was about two and a half times too high. Smog researchers, however, believe that since today’s cattle are much larger than the cattle of 70 years ago, the typical cow today may emit about 20.6 pounds of “volatile organic compounds” per year—and that’s just the relatively solid material, that does not rise to the ozone layer and hover.

The California smog regulations of 1938 were introduced 30 years after Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford first marketed the Model T, the first mass-produced automobile, and the most popular car in the world for the next 20 years.

The Model T was originally built to run on ethanol, which Ford imagined farmers would produce for themselves, to run cars and his line of Fordson tractors. Very soon, however, Ford realized that farmers preferred feeding corn stalks and other organic material suitable for producing ethanol to cattle and pigs. Distilling fuel with it was economically counter-productive—and was illegal during the Prohibition years, from 1919 to 1932.

Almost a century after Ford gave up on ethanol, the White House under President George W. Bush is still pushing it, as the most officially favored response to global warming, a phenomenon that the Bush administration only formally recognized in 2006.

Summarized Carey Gilliam of Reuters on February 26, 2007, “The Bush administration is proposing \$1.6 billion in federal spending to promote ethanol...A shift to fuels such as ethanol can help to slow global warming,” in theory, by replacing use of fossil fuels, especially gasoline.

“Traditional ethanol facilities use natural gas or coal to fuel the boilers that create steam and distil ethanol from corn or other plant-based sources,” Gilliam continued. “But such operations are vulnerable to volatile natural gas prices, and critics say the pollution associated with coal-fired plants offset the benefits of substituting ethanol for gasoline.”

To get around that problem, a company called E3 BioFuels on February 26, 2007 opened the first U.S. facility to produce ethanol from dung. Located near Mead,

Nebraska, the E3 BioFuels plant is a combination of factory farm with refinery.

“27,000 cattle stand on slatted floors to deposit an estimated 1.6 million pounds of dung daily into deep pits, which are located adjacent to a new ethanol plant,” Gilliam wrote. “The pungent waste is then processed into methane gas, which powers the ethanol plant. Other byproducts of the manure include fertilizer for the surrounding corn fields. Corn is then fed back to the cattle, or distilled into ethanol. The 2,000-acre complex produces about 24 million gallons of ethanol a year.”

E3 BioFuels chair Dennis Langley told Gilliam that the \$77 million Mead plant “is a prototype for at least 15 similar U.S. projects,” including three in Kansas, three in California, two in Nebraska and one in Iowa, each “teamed with feedlots or dairies.”

Wrote International Bird Rescue Research Center public affairs director Karen Benzel, who brought E3 BioFuels to the attention of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “This is not how the planet should be saved.”

But if history is any indication, it won’t be, any more than Earth Day and “Step It Up” events will, if they continue to disregard meat-eating.

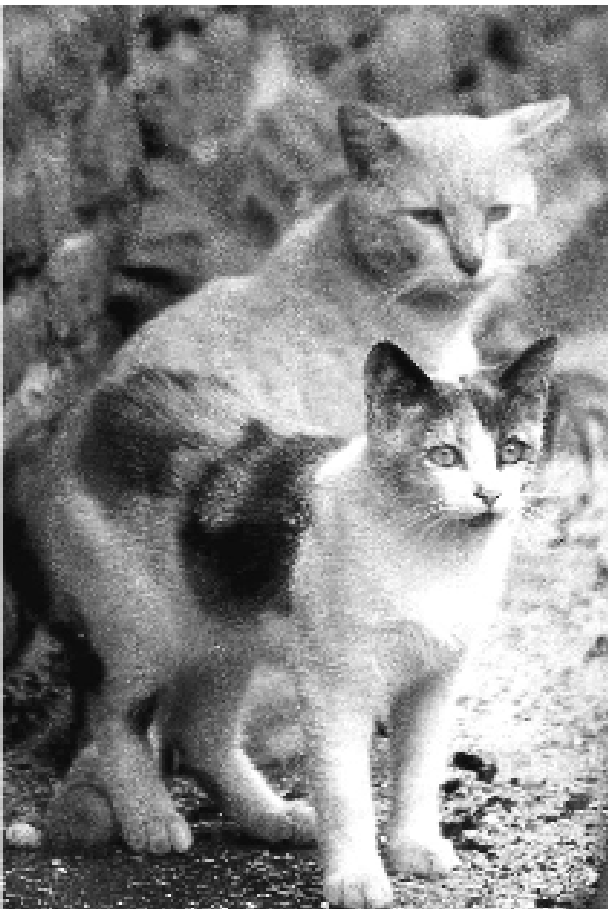
Dung-fueled bioreactors built to operate on the scale that Henry Ford envisioned work very well in some places, notably India. In Visakhapatnam, for example, the Visakha SPCA uses the dung from several hundred rescued cattle to supply the electricity that lights the VSPCA complex at night.

Bioreactors, however, produce relatively little energy from a huge volume of waste, and tend to be climate-sensitive.

Before E3 BioFuels, the biggest U.S. effort to produce energy from dung was a methane extraction plant built by the New Charleston Power Company, of Imperial, California. Opened in 1988, the New Charleston plant lost millions of dollars, and instead of becoming a pollution solution, instead became one of the largest pollution point sources in California. Closed in 1994, the plant was still mired in litigation for at least another five years. —Merritt Clifton

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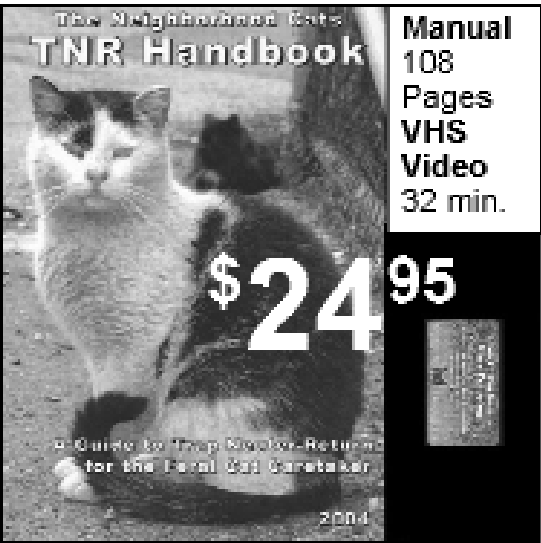
Learn how to run a successful Trap-Neuter-Return program. This comprehensive kit includes *The Neighborhood Cats TNR Handbook: A Guide to Trap-Neuter-Return for the Feral Cat Caretaker* and instructional video, *How to Perform a Mass Trapping*.

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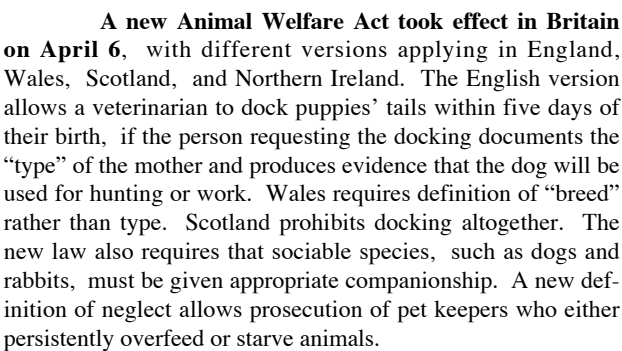
Is Primarily Primates takeover drama near an end?

The "Full and Final Settlement Agreement" is apparently to be challenged by court-appointed receiver Lee Theisen-Watt. Assisted by PETA staff, Theisen-Watt has relocated or euthanized as many as 300 of the 800 animals

Twenty-three cats were killed, 12 were rescued, and five unaccounted for after a March 18, 2007 fire at **Strays Unlimited**, operated by **Paulette Hepworth** and **Vincent Gugliuzza** from their home in New Haven, Connecticut. The fire appeared to be of electrical origin, investigator **Roy Shafer** told **Izaskun E. Larraneta** of the *New Haven Day*.

Vinson in 1994 endorsed a similar attempted hostile takeover of Primarily Primates, also based on complaints by employees who had been dismissed for cause.

The Best Friends Animal Society is managing the **Pets Alive** sanctuary in Walkill, New York, at least through June, after the March 19, 2007 death from cancer of founder **Sara Whalen**, 64. "Sara was a one-woman band with a heart of gold, a will of iron, more than 500 homeless animals, a small local staff, and no succession plan," explained Best Friends president **Michael Mountain**. "Things had deteriorated badly during her illness. Shortly before the end, members of the board asked if we could come to the rescue. We'll be coming up with a series of options for the future of Pets Alive," Mountain said, noting that "The sanctuary has enormous potential to do good," with a strategic location at the edge of the New York City metropolitan region.



Idaho Governor Butch Otter on April 3, 2007 signed a bill making Idaho the 26th state to ban “hunting” animals through a web site, using point-and-click to fire the gun.



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National High School Rodeo loses top sponsor after probe affirms abuse

SPRINGFIELD—“Choice Hotels, has terminated sponsorship, scheduled to run until 2009, of the National High School Rodeo Association,” SHARK president Steve Hindi announced on April 24.

“The early termination, for rules violations and animal abuse, follows a review of video documentation supplied by SHARK,” Hindi said, crediting SHARK staff member Janet Enoch for successful liaison with Choice corporate officials.

The Choice chain “includes Clarion, Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Econolodge, Rodeway, Cambria Suites, Mainstay Suites, and Suburban Extended Stay Hotel,” Hindi said.

Choice quite sponsoring the National High School Rodeo Association 12 days after the Illinois Department of Agriculture belatedly admitted that animals were abused at the 2006 National High School Finals Rodeo.

“Whether anyone will be prosecuted for violating cruelty laws is up to the Sangamon County state’s attorney’s office,” reported Springfield *State Journal-Register* staff writer Bruce Rushton on April 12, 2007.

Rushton wrote six and a half months after sparking the Department of Agriculture investigation with an exposé based on the same SHARK undercover videography that influenced Choice.

“In files turned over to county prosecutors, agriculture officials confirmed that videos showed bulls being poked with sharp objects,” Rushton elaborated. “After viewing still photographs provided by activists, agriculture officials also determined that a man had slapped a bull and that tails were pulled as bulls left chutes. At least one bull was electrically shocked,” contrary to National High School Rodeo Association rules.

“Investigators didn’t identify any suspects,” Rushton continued, “and the department, which is charged with enforcing animal-cruelty laws, did not recommend whether charges should be brought.”

SHARK founder Steve Hindi warned Illinois Division of Food Safety veterinarian Colleen O’Keefe by e-mail while the rodeo was still underway that animals were being shocked and jabbed. O’Keefe responded that no cruelty had been documented.

The frequent reluctance of public officials to charge rodeo participants was displayed in a different arena on March 13, 2007, when District Judge Sara B. Derr of Spokane County, Washington, reversed herself and refused to allow Chris Anderlik, 80, to pursue a private case against sheriff’s deputies Damon

TUCSON—Tucson police chief Richard Miranda on March 19, 2007 announced that the Pima County Attorney’s Office will not charge anyone for causing the February 22 death of five-year-old Brielle Boisvert during the 82nd annual La Fiesta de los Vaqueros rodeo parade. Three years younger than the minimum age for parade participants stated on the entry form, Boisvert was thrown from her horse and trampled by a bolting team of horses who were pulling a wagon.

The parade is promoted as the longest in the world using no motor vehicles—and has had serious accidents before, though no previous fatalities. “At last year’s parade,” recalled Associated Press, “Mayor Bob Walkup bruised an arm and his wife Beth suffered a concussion and whiplash when two runaway horses slammed into a 150-year-old buggy.”

Boisvert was the youngest human rodeo fatality since Braeden Chamberlain, 9, of Benalto, Alberta, fell off a steer and was trampled at a rodeo camp for children in February 2005. The youngest person killed at a rodeo in 2006 appears to have been Stuart Mazanec, 17, who was dragged and then crushed by a horse after his first-ever ride at a rodeo clinic in Byers, Colorado.

The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** files indicate that two or three minors per year die in rodeo events—which typically involve only eight to 10 seconds of action.

Simmons and Ballard L. Bates for killing a six-month-old black Angus calf with stun guns on April 12, 2006. A farm escapee, the calf was deemed a traffic hazard.

“Bates’ stun gun was discharged 42 times,” said Associated Press. “Simmons’ weapon was discharged for more than four minutes. Each packs a 50,000-volt wallop.

“Acting on a motion from Deputy Prosecutor Brian C. O’Brien, a former rodeo bull rider, Derr ruled that she had misapplied a court rule when she initially decided that the case could proceed,” Associated Press said.

The significance of the case to rodeo is that similar shocking devices are routinely used to goad bulls and broncos into bucking.

“DO NOT PASS GO”

While rodeo performers continue to enjoy virtual immunity from prosecution, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association commissioner Troy Ellerman during the last week of February 2007 drew the “go to jail” card for leaking sealed grand jury documents to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, lost the PRCA commissionership, and did not collect \$200,000 in severance that the PRCA board first voted to give him, then rescinded a day later.

A former trick rider, bull rider, and film stunt double, Ellerman ran afoul of the law while representing Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative vice president James Valente in 2004. Valente and BALCO founder Victor Conte pleaded guilty in 2005 to distributing illegal steroids. BALCO clients allegedly involved included several prominent major league baseball players, including single-season home run record holder Barry Bonds.

Ellerman was reportedly exposed by private eye Larry McCormack, who worked for Conte early in the BALCO case. Later hired by Ellerman to head the PRCA Hall of Fame, McCormack told the FBI about the leak after Ellerman fired him in September 2006.

Pleading guilty to charges of obstructing justice, perjury and criminal contempt of court, Ellerman is expected to be sentenced to serve two up to years in jail and to pay a fine of \$250,000. He potentially faced 15 years in jail and a fine of \$2 million.

Ellerman, 43, was named PRCA commissioner in January 2005. He retired most of \$3.6 million in accumulated debt by breaking up the PRCA near-monopoly on staged-for-television events.

“He sold the rights to the association’s bull riding tour—which reportedly was losing more than \$1 million a year—to a TV production company that paid about \$1.5 million for three years,” recalled Yahoo Sports columnist Josh Peter. “Then he sold the rights to another regular rodeo series that was losing money to a group headed by Jack Sperling, owner of the Minnesota Wild of the National Hockey League.”

FALLING AUDIENCE

The International Pro Rodeo Association, a much smaller rival of the PRCA, meanwhile sold itself to survive, “bought for a song by some former, apparently disgruntled PRCA folks,” said Steve Hindi.

Affirmed the pro-rodeo web site RodeoAttitude.com, “Recently rumors spread throughout the rodeo industry that the IPRA, which began in 1957 in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, was in financial trouble and on the verge of dissolving.”

Acknowledged the IPRA web site, “A small group of investors have signed an agreement to purchase the IPRA,” effective on February 26, 2007.

A Gallup poll in mid-December 2006 found that rodeo does not even visibly rank among the spectator sports most often named by Americans as their favorite. The pollsters included rodeo as a possible choice, but with just half a percentage point of audience share, it ranked with volleyball, far behind even figure skating and gymnastics.

“Gallup broke the responses down by age, gender, and geography,” pointed out Hindi. “If we were to believe even a tiny bit of rodeo propaganda, we would find rodeos to be a significant activity in the west—but it didn’t

show up,” and likewise did not show up as a favorite of either men or women, old or young, in any region. Similar polls showed rodeo topping 1% in audience share only four times since 1937, all between 1994 and 2005.

“According to the PRCA,” Hindi continued, “in 1953 there were 578 PRCA-sanctioned rodeos, while the number in 2004 was 671, an increase of 16%,” as the U.S. human population rose by 88%.

MORE CRITICAL PRESS

Livestock fair promoters have guaranteed themselves newspaper coverage by helping local papers to sell ads for special sections, filled with “advertorial” text often written by publicists rather than news staff.

As rodeo emerged from livestock fair arenas to seek an independent audience, similar co-promotions roped newspaper publishers into becoming *defacto* rodeo sponsors. Reporters assigned to cover rodeo usually came from the sports or farm beats, tending to lack an investigative orientation.

The uncritical newspaper attitude toward rodeo may be changing, as more hard news reporters become aware of rodeo issues, and as weak reader interest plus electronic competition cuts the revenue potential of rodeo supplements. Newspaper reportage about rodeo has dropped 21% since 1995, according to a proportionately weighted **ANIMAL PEOPLE** analysis of the 1,428 daily newspapers archived at NewsLibrary.com, while self-critical appraisals of how rodeos have been covered have emerged even in such traditional rodeo strongholds as San Antonio, Texas.

“Why doesn’t the *Express-News* provide fair and balanced coverage of such a brutal and inhumane sport?” rhetorically asked animal advocate Trudy Land, in a February

2007 letter about coverage of the annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo.

ANIMAL PEOPLE publisher Kim Bartlett asked similar questions about Texas newspapers’ coverage of rodeo more than 30 years ago, but back then the editors did not bother to answer.

Responded *San Antonio Express-News* public editor Bob Richter to Land, “The *Express-News* has devoted hundreds of column inches to the 2007 stock show and rodeo, and hasn’t yet quoted anyone who says it hurts calves to be lassoed at high speed, or that broncs who are bred to buck aren’t having fun. In fact, *Express-News* researcher Mike Knoop reports that the *Express-News* hasn’t explored that angle in coverage since 2000.”

After the Illinois Department of Agriculture confirmed the rule-breaking and abuses at the 2006 National High School Finals Rodeo, Steve Hindi asked the Springfield *State Journal-Register* to drop sponsorship of the 2007 National High School Finals Rodeo, to be held July 23-29 in Springfield.

Wrote *State Journal-Register* staff writer Rushton, “Sue Schmitt, publisher of the *State Journal-Register*, said the newspaper will withdraw neither its sponsorship nor its scrutiny of the event from a news perspective.”

The Illinois Department of Agriculture re-examined Hindi’s videotapes after Rushton on October 1, 2006 reported that, “Video footage appears to confirm that animals were often goaded to buck, contrary to state and National High School Rodeo Association standards.”

Editorialized the *State Journal-Register* the same day, “We suspect such abuse is not uncommon at rodeos...There is one way to mitigate the public relations damage: end the abuse, so it can’t be videotaped.”

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Judge halts Alaska wolf bounties

ANCHORAGE—Alaska Superior Court Judge William Morse on March 30, 2007 ruled on behalf of Friends of Animals, Defenders of Wildlife, and coplaintiffs that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game does not have the authority to pay bounties to aerial gunners for killing wolves.

However, Morse added, the Alaska Board of Game can authorize bounties. Morse held that the 1984 repeal of a state law allowing bounties applied only to administrative actions of the Department of Fish & Game, not to actions of the Board of Game. Thus, while the Morse verdict suspended a bounty program introduced on March 21, it left the possibility that the Board of Game may reinstate it, or start a new bounty program.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game for the winter of 2006-2007 authorized hunters, trappers, and aerial gunners to kill up to 664 wolves in five target areas, with a goal of killing at least 382. Through March, the toll was just 151. The department then sought to encourage the 111 registered aerial gunners and 82 aerial gunnery pilots to hunt more wolves by offering \$150 per wolf they killed.

“Critics of the program said the state has overestimated the number of wolves, based on outdated information,” summarized Associated Press writer Rachel D’Oro. The official state wolf population estimate is markedly higher than recent federal estimates.

“We think it would be a great idea for the state to put the money from the bounty program toward conducting a proper survey of the wolf populations before any more wolves are shot,” said Defenders of Wildlife representative Tom Banks.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game on April 3, 2007 suspended culling wolves in the Nelchina Basin, near Fairbanks, the area historically generating the most political pressure to kill wolves.

Because the Nelchina Basin is accessible from Fairbanks, it is among the most hunted parts of Alaska. The Board of Game has for decades sought to keep the Nelchina Basin wolf count to less than a third of the carrying capacity of the habitat to keep moose plentiful for human hunters.

From 1989 to 2006, however, the Nelchina Basin wolf population resisted reduction to the decreed levels. When the moose count dropped by half, wolves were blamed.

Aerial gunners shot 33 wolves in the Nelchina Basin during the winter of 2006-2007, while hunters and trappers killed 62, with almost a month left of the wolf hunting season. Aerial gunners had killed just 55 wolves in the other four targeted areas combined. Of the 660 wolves killed by aerial gunners in the five years since the present wolf culling program started, 288 were killed in the Nelchina Basin.



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IFAW takes over Cape Cod Stranding Network

HYANNIS—The not-quite-10-year-old Cape Cod Stranding Network is now a project of the Yarmouthport-based International Fund for Animal Welfare.

IFAW director of animals in crisis and distress A.J. Cady and Cape Cod Stranding Network executive director Katie Touhey announced the merger on April 11, 2007.

The five stranding network staff will join IFAW, now employing 135 head office personnel and 350 other people worldwide, reported *Cape Cod Times* staff writer Doug Fraser. Currently housed at the National Marine Life Center in Buzzards Bay, the Cape Cod Stranding Network is to relocate soon to the new IFAW headquarters in Yarmouth.

“Cady said the \$400,000 operating budget for the stranding network would be integrated with IFAW’s budget, but fundrais-

ing and grant writing would continue separately,” wrote Fraser.

IFAW now has total global revenue of about \$90 million.

The Cape Cod Stranding Network assists about 220 stranded marine animals per year. The workload has increased over the years, surging during the winter of 2005-2006, when more than 100 common and whitesided dolphins and at least nine pilot whales became stranded along Cape Cod Bay after storms.

The merger announcement came less than a month after the Humane Society of the U.S. strengthened its presence on Cape Cod by breaking ground for a new Cape Wildlife Center in Cummaquid.

The new center will replace a much smaller site in West Barnstable, sponsored by HSUS since 1995.



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Coming events

May 6-12: 93rd annual Be Kind To Animals Week. Info: <www.americanhumane.org>.

May 7: Sarasota In Defense of Animals open house & picnic, Sarasota, Fla. Info: 941-9 2 4 - 2 5 0 5 ; <smatthes@aol.com>.

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

May 12: Farm Sanctuary Country Hoe-Down, Orland, Calif. Info: 607-583-2225, x221.

May 12: Compassion Into Action Festival, Animal Acres, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-0986, x302; <events@animalacres.org>.

May 18: Ribbon-cutting at new Dorothy Dorsett Brown Louisiana SPCA, New Orleans. Info: 504-368-5191, x154; <info@la-sPCA.org>.

May 18: Friends of Animals' 50th anniversary gala. Info: 203-6 5 6 - 1 5 2 2 ; <www.friendsofanimals.org>.

May 19: West Coast Dog: An Event for Pit Bulls in Watts, Los Angeles. “Get your pit customized: fixed, vaccinated, & micro-chipped for free.” Info: Downtown Dog Rescue, 888-349-7388.

May 19: Fate of the Chicken & Captive Parrots: A Hidden Crisis, lectures by United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis and Foster Parrots founder Marc Johnson, New York City. Info: <nycompanionbird-club@yahoo.com>;

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

Cracking the mystery of melamine, the pet food killer

(from page 1)

ing the first 30 days after the initial recall, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration assigned 400 employees to find the suspect shipments, respond to callers, and test 430 samples of potentially contaminated wet and dry food, FDA director of field investigations Michael Rogers told media. More than twice as many people called the FDA about the pet food recall, spokespersons said, than normally call in a year about all issues combined.

The 30,000-member Veterinary Information Network reported receiving unsolicited reports of more than 500 pet illnesses and 104 deaths.

While Menu Foods became convinced by the test results that it had sold tainted product, identifying the contaminant perplexed toxicologists for weeks.

The New York State Food Laboratory on March 23 identified traces of a chemical called aminopterin as the likely culprit, and began trying to identify which specific component of the recalled pet food had become contaminated.

But American SPCA senior vice president Steven Hansen, DVM, was skeptical. Hansen, a veterinary toxicologist, manages the ASPCA's Midwest office, including the Animal Poison Control Center.

"Aminopterin," now used in some nations as a rat poison, "has been used to treat cancer in people, since it is able to disrupt rapidly-growing cells," Hansen explained. "In

animals, it should result in effects that mimic this function, including bloody diarrhea, bone marrow suppression, abortion, and birth defects. Renal damage—seen in the affected animals—can occur at high doses.

"However," Hansen said, "to be consistent with the effects of aminopterin, we should also see a significant number of affected pets showing the accompanying signs of severe intestinal damage."

"We have seen reports coming in from all around the country that animals who ate the contaminated foods are suffering from renal failure," Hansen acknowledge. "But the data we've been collecting does not conclusively prove this connection."

Hansen's skepticism was affirmed on March 29, when the FDA and Menu Foods announced that they had discovered another chemical called melamine in the contaminated food, and that it appeared to be turning up consistently. Initially detected in the wheat gluten component of the recalled pet food, melamine has been commonly used for more than 60 years to make hard plastic dishes, cleaning products, stain-resistant laminates, flame-retardant foam, soundproofing, and nitrogen-releasing synthetic fertilizer.

Melamine had apparently never before been found as a food contaminant—not in pet food and not in people food.

FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine chief Stephen Sundlof told reporters that the

FDA had not found any studies of melamine in cats, and found the results of only a single 1945 study that tested it on dogs. That study suggested the chemical increased urine output when fed to dogs in large amounts.

"We don't think this is the final conclusion," said New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets spokesperson Jessica A. Chittenden. "Melamine is not a known toxin. There is not enough data to show that it is toxic to cats. We are confident we found aminopterin," Chittenden insisted, "and it makes sense with the pathology."

However, the FDA did not find aminopterin in the pet food samples it tested. The Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine also did not find aminopterin, but found melamine both in recalled pet food and in urine and tissue samples from afflicted cats.

The Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory rushed to confirm the Cornell findings. But the next shocker came from the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System at the University of California's Davis campus.

Not initially involved in the pet food recall, the Davis lab eventually offered to test unrecalled foods. The staff expected to help reassure the public about pet food safety, U.C. Davis professor of veterinary clinical toxicology Bob Poppenga told *Sacramento Bee* staff writer Carrie Peyton Dahlberg.

On April 7, however, U.C. Davis

toxicology professor Birgit Puschner notified the FDA that she had found melamine in six brands of cat food that were not on the original recall list, and in several additional varieties of foods sold by some of the recalled brands.

"In light of the new findings, toxicologists at U.C. Davis are stepping up their offer to test other foods to ensure all problems are found," wrote Peyton Dahlberg.

"There aren't that many labs that are doing this kind of testing right now. It's our obligation to follow up," said Poppenga.

Within days melamine was found in wheat gluten, rice protein concentrate, and corn gluten pet food components, all imported from China. As the materials were labeled "food grade," the FDA investigated whether any had entered the human food supply.

The investigation spread with the discovery that some pet food was diverted for use as hog feed after it was deemed unsafe for pet consumption.

In the first verified case, rice protein concentrate imported from China by Diamond Pet Food Inc. was sold to American Hog Farm, in Ceres, California. Similar materials may have been fed to pigs in New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Ohio, and at least one poultry farm in an unspecified location, FDA chief vet Sundlof said.

Melamine was found in the urine of pigs raised in California and both North and South Carolina, Sundlof confirmed.

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The Pet Rescue Foundation

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

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510-337-8989, info@maddiesfund.org, www.maddiesfund.org

Events (continued)

<www.manhattanbirdclub.com>.

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

May 23: World Turtle Day. Info: <info@tortoise.com>; <www.tortoise.com>.

(continued on page 11)

May 31-June 2: Natl. Animal Control Assn. Training Conf., Cincinnati. Info: 913-768-1319; <naca@interserve.com>; <www.nacanet.org>.

June 11-12: Searching for the Animal of Animal Ethics conf, Sandham, Sweden. Info: 46-18-6 1 1 - 2 2 9 6 ; <bioethics@bioethics.uu.se>.

June 18: An Evening of Peace & Bliss with film star Olivia Hussey, to Support the Oneness Dog Mercy Program near Chennai, India, in cooperation with the Blue Cross of India. Marina Del Rey, Calif. Info: 805-695-8405

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

July 28-30: Taking Action for Animals conference, Washington DC. Info c/o Humane Society of U.S., 3 0 1 - 5 4 8 - 7 7 0 8 ; <tafa@hsus.org>.

August 25: Animal Acres Gala, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404, x302; <outreach@animalacres.org>.

TRIBUTES

In honor of the Prophet Isaiah, St. Martin De Porres, John Wesley, Ellen G. White, & Cesar Chavez.
—Brien Comerford



How Chinese ingredients contaminated U.S. pet foods

BEIJING—How and why melamine came to contaminate wheat and corn gluten and rice protein concentrate manufactured in China is still unknown.

But, as a maker of wheat gluten, MGP Ingredients vice president Steve Pickman has voiced an idea.

“It is my understanding, but certainly unheard of in our experience,” Pickman told media, “that melamine could increase the measurable nitrogen emitted from gluten, and then be mathematically converted to protein. The effect could create the appearance or illusion of raising the gluten’s protein level. Understandably, any acts or practices such as this are barred in the U.S. How the U.S. can or cannot monitor and prevent these types of situations from occurring in other parts of the world,” Pickman concluded, “is the overriding question.”

Said U.S. Food & Drug Administration chief veterinarian Stephen Sundlof, “Melamine was found in all three [pet food ingredients imported from China.] This would certainly lend credibility to the theory that the contamination may be intentional. That will be one of the theories we will pursue when we get into the plants in China,” Stephen Sundlof, the FDA’s chief veterinarian, told reporters.

But getting U.S. inspectors into China to visit the plants in question proved difficult. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois)

alleged in early April that the Chinese government had refused to grant visas to FDA personnel. An FDA spokesperson clarified that the visas were not overtly refused, but added that the agency had not received the necessary invitation letter to get visas.

Xinhua News Agency editor Lu Hui meanwhile announced on April 6 that, “China is carrying out a nationwide inspection on the quality of its wheat gluten after the United States claimed that the pet food at the origin of a number of cat and dog deaths used tainted wheat imported from China.”

“Sampling and examination are under way,” said Xia Wenjun, a press officer for the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

There is no longer any question that the melamine tainting U.S.-manufactured pet foods for at least three months in 2006-2007 was of Chinese origin.

Wilbur-Ellis Company, of San Francisco, in July 2006 began importing rice protein concentrate from Futian Biology Technology Co. Ltd., Wilbur-Ellis president and chief executive John Thacher told MSNBC. Wilbur-Ellis resold the material to five pet food manufacturers, including Diamond Pet Foods Inc., of Meta, Missouri, which produces the Natural Balance pet food line at a manufacturing plant in California.

Thacher said an April 4, 2007 deliv-

ery from Futian Biology included 146 1-ton bags of rice protein concentrate. All were white except for a single pink bag, which was stenciled “melamine.”

Aware that melamine had been identified five days earlier as a contaminant in wheat gluten used to make pet food, Wilbur-Ellis held the shipment at a warehouse in Portland, Oregon, and had samples tested. Melamine was found in the pink bag, but not in two white bags, Thacher said.

Futian Biology told Wilbur-Ellis that the pink bag had been used to replace a damaged bag, and that “the product was all fine,” Thacher explained.

The tainted wheat gluten was earlier traced to a different supplier, Xuzhou Anying Biologic Technology Development Company, of Shanghai. Xuzhou Anying general manager Mao Lijun told *Los Angeles Times* staff writers Marc Lifsher and Abigail Goldman that the company and the Chinese government’s inspection and quarantine administration are investigating how melamine got into the product.



Rousseau, 1987-2006, loved his greens. (Kim Bartlett)

Xuzhou Anying sales manager Geng Xiujuan told Christopher Bodeen of Associated Press that Xuzhou Anying is a broker, not a manufacturer.

“Anying produces and exports more than 10,000 tons of wheat gluten a year,”

(continued on page 13)

Events (continued)

rg>.

August 25: Gender & Animals conf., Uppsala, Sweden. Info: <mans.andersson@gender.uu.se>; <www.gender.uu.se/node25>.

Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Animal Law In Australasia workshop. Info: 64-9-3737599, x88802; <p.sankoff@auckland.ac.nz>; <www.lawstaff.auckland.ac.nz>.

Sept. 13-16: Southern Regional Spay/Neuter Leadership Conference, Memphis. Info: <www.spay-usa.org>.

(continued on page 12)

Sept. 13-16: Midwest Birding Symposium, Moline, Ill. Info: 800-747-7800; <amusal@visitquadcities.com>.

Sept. 18: International Conference on the Relationship between Animal Abuse & Human Violence, Oxford, U.K. Info: <director@oxfordanimalethics.com>; www.oxfordanimalethics.com>.

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

Sept. 30-Oct. 6: Intl. Vegan Fest, Murdeshwar, Karnataka, India. Info: <www.ivu.org/vegan-fest>.

October 4: Intl. Animal Rights Protection Film Festival, Kiev, Ukraine. Info: <www.ivu.org/vegan-fest>.



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How Chinese ingredients contaminated U.S.-made pet foods (from page 12)

reported Alexa Oleson of Associated Press, “but only 873 tons were linked to tainted U.S. pet food, raising the possibility that more of the contaminated product could still be on the market in China, or abroad.

Anying export director Li Cui told Oleson that the U.S. is the company’s only foreign market.

“There has been no reaction among the Chinese public to the tainted wheat gluten,” Oleson said, “and Beijing authorities

have not said whether they are investigating. An official at the Chinese Ministry of Health, who refused to give his name, said the case was not an issue for the ministry, and directed questions to the Ministry of Agriculture. An official there, who also refused to give his name, told Associated Press to stop calling.”

Throughout China, Bodeen wrote, “Pesticides and chemical fertilizers are used in excess to boost yields, while harmful antibiotics are widely administered to control dis-

ease in seafood and livestock. Rampant industrial pollution risks introducing heavy metals into the food chain.

“Farmers have used the cancer-causing industrial dye Sudan Red to boost the value of their eggs, and fed an asthma medication to pigs to produce leaner meat,” Bodeen recounted. “In a case that galvanized the public’s and government’s attention, an infant formula with little or no nutritional value has been blamed for causing severe malnutrition in hun-

dreds of babies and killing at least 12.”

The European Union and Japan have banned imports of a variety of Chinese agricultural and aquaculture products due to the products containing excessive antibiotic or pesticide residues, Bodeen wrote.

“Hong Kong blocked imports of turbot last year,” Bodeen recalled, “after inspectors found traces of malachite green, a possibly cancer-causing chemical used to treat fungal infections, in some fish.”

Contrary to the common belief in the U.S. and Europe that products from small farms are safer than the output from factory farming, Bodeen suggested that, “One source of the problem is China’s fractured farming sector, comprised of small landholdings which make regulation difficult. Small farms ship to market with little documentation. Testing of the safety and purity of farm products such as milk is often haphazard, hampered by fuzzy lines of authority among regulators. Only about 6% of agricultural products were considered pollution-free in 2005,” Bodeen said, based on USDA data collection about the Chinese agricultural sector.

U.S. agricultural product purchases from China have increased 20-fold in 25 years.

“FDA inspectors are able to inspect only a tiny percentage of the millions of shipments that enter the U.S. each year,” wrote Bodeen. “Even so, shipments from China were rejected at the rate of about 200 per month so far this year, compared with only 18 rejected cargoes per month from Thailand and 35 a month from Italy.



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Liability cases loom over melamine-

EMPORIA, Kansas—"To the extent that we identify that the cause of any expenses incurred [by pet keepers for veterinary care] are related to the food, Menu will take responsibility," Menu Foods chief executive Paul Henderson pledged, after ordering the first of a flurry of pet food recalls.

But that was just before pet keepers and law firms coast to coast began alleging in more than two dozen attempted class action cases that Menu Foods responded too slowly to the crisis, caused by melamine contamination of pet food ingredients. The contamination kills dogs and cats—especially cats—by attacking their kidneys.

"There have been media reports that Menu Foods started getting complaints as early as December 2006, but FDA records state the company received their first report of a food-related pet death on February 20," wrote Christie Keith, contributing editor for the Universal Press Syndicate feature *Pet Connection*. "On February 27, Menu started testing the suspect foods. On March 3, the first cat in the trial died of acute kidney failure. Three days after that, Menu switched wheat gluten suppliers, and 10 days later, on March 16, recalled the 91 products that contained gluten from their previous source. At that point, Menu had seen a 35% death rate in their test lab cats. Another 45% percent suffered kidney damage. The death rate for animals in Menu's tests was around 20%."

In the interim, alleged Keith, "No veterinarians were warned to be on the lookout for unusual numbers of kidney failure in their patients. No pet owners were warned to watch their pets for symptoms. Thousands of pet owners kept buying [contaminated] foods for their dogs and cats.

Pet Connection began asking pet keepers to submit reports about dogs and cats who might have been poisoned by the contaminated foods. By mid-April the alleged toll included 3,900 dead pets and 12,000 suffering from possibly related illnesses—and this was still less than half of the number of cases anticipated in a study done by Banfield Pet Hospitals.

The first round of blame-fixing came at an April 12, 2007 U.S. Senate hearing.

The pet food industry "is highly regulated, but not effectively regulated," testified veterinarian Elizabeth Hodgkins. "We don't have products that are as safe as the labels suggest."

"Because only about 30% of pet food plants are inspected every three years, quality control is based largely on self-regulation," wrote Karoun Demirjian of the *Chicago Tribune's* Washington D.C. bureau. "Individual companies are supposed to inform the FDA when it appears that pet food coming from their plants may have been compromised," as Menu Foods did.

The melamine contamination "was a foreign substance," responded Pet Food Institute executive director Duane Ekedahl. "All the regulation in the world would not have captured that substance."

Mother Nature fights the seal hunt

(from page 1)

However, Fisheries Canada moved the next scheduled comprehensive seal census forward a year, to 2008, to better assess the impact of the lack of ice.

About forty boats were eligible to hunt seals in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from ports in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, but Canadian Press reported that only two boats ventured out on opening day. International Fund for Animal Welfare observer Sheryl Fink told Canadian Press that she could find only one boat from the air.

Fisheries Canada spokesperson Jenkins said just 860 seals were killed during the first three days of the 2007 hunt.

The 2007 on-the-ice observation and protest phase was among the quietest in years. Barred from entering Newfoundland or otherwise approaching the sea massacre, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson could only observe through electronic media. IFAW activity, after the first few days, appeared to consist entirely of "virtual press conferences" conducted from the IFAW headquarters in Cape Cod.

Aldworth, a Newfoundland native, observed the hunt for two weeks, mostly from the air. She left on April 14.

Aldworth and Fink of IFAW were denied observer permits for the first two days of the commercial Gulf hunt.

"To us, that says there's something the Canadian government didn't want the public to see," Aldworth told Andrew Buncombe of *The Independent*. "In this case, I believe it was the image of just a few seal pups clinging to tiny pans of ice and seal hunters still coming with clubs and guns and shooting and killing every last pup they could find."

Fisheries Canada spokesperson Jenkins told Canadian Press that observer permits were not issued because so few seals, hunters, and boats were involved this year, implying that the government felt it was necessary to keep the few protesters on the scene from creating a traffic jam.

"The ice floes are now empty, and the only signs of the pups who were once here are the blood trails left across the ice," Aldworth wrote on April 13, in her last of a series of web postings from the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"We would typically also see thousands of carcasses discarded on the ice," Aldworth said. "This year, sealers have kept the dead seals aboard their boats, not throwing the carcasses into the ocean until our cameras are out of view. The sight

of hundreds of seals, some still moving, stockpiled on each sealing vessel's deck, awash in blood, is one of the most disturbing images I have seen."

Earlier, Aldworth and other personnel were mobbed at their helicopter refueling site. "About 20 carloads of people surrounded us," Aldworth wrote. "They shouted at us and banged on our truck, telling us to stop filming the hunt. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police surrounded our team, but said they could not remove the crowd." The mob left only after puncturing the truck's radiator.

Accompanying Aldworth for several days of observation was *Daily Mail* animal welfare writer Danny Penman, whose vivid account of "unimaginable sadism and cruelty" appeared on April 6.

But there has never been any lack of testimony as to the brutality of seal-clubbing. Jack London in *The Sea Wolf* (1904) made the sadistic sealing captain Wolf Larson his most memorable villain.

The March 1933 edition of *The National Humane Review*, published by the American Humane Association, recalled that sealing in both Atlantic and northern Pacific waters brought intensive humane protest before 1911, as "No cruelty was too horrible for the seal hunters."

The pioneering ichthyologist David Starr Jordan (1851-1931), for whom the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research ship *David Starr Jordan* was named, was an early and outspoken opponent of seal-clubbing.

Another noteworthy early critic of seal-clubbing was Sir George Baden-Powell, who helped instill in his younger brother Robert the love of nature that inspired him to found the Boy Scouts.

The first wave of protest against sealing ended after then-President Theodore Roosevelt in 1911 endorsed into law a set of fur seal conservation measures that eventually were combined with whale and dolphin protection legislation to become the Marine Mammal Protection Act. But contrary to widespread impression, encouraged by the sealing industry, the 1911 law did nothing to make sealing less inhumane.

Protest was revived after an exposé of the Atlantic Canada seal hunt appeared in the July 1929 edition of *The National Geographic*. Further exposés subsequently appeared in at least five leading British magazines, along with a 1932 pamphlet called *The Cruelties of Seal Hunting*, by Sydney H. Beard, of London.

Protest reignited repeatedly—after Harry Lillie obtained the first film of the Atlantic Canada seal hunt in 1955, after New Brunswick SPCA inspector Brian Davies started the "Save The Seals Fund" in 1960; after Davies transformed the "Save The Seals Fund" into IFAW in 1968; after Greenpeace activists led by Paul Watson confronted sealers on the ice in the early 1970s; and, when Greenpeace backed away from anti-sealing and anti-fur campaigns, after Watson formed the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in 1977.

A boycott of Atlantic Canadian cod brought a 10-year suspension of the offshore seal hunt, beginning in 1984, but when overfishing caused the cod stock to collapse—as Watson among others had predicted—blaming seals for the collapse proved politically convenient, and the seal hunt resumed. Sealing opponents have been looking ever since for something else to boycott effectively, a difficult task because Newfoundland exports so little.

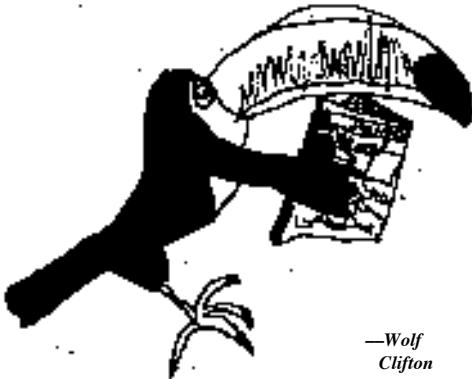
Boycotting Canada as a whole would be counterproductive because public opinion is already opposed to the seal hunt in the provinces that export the most. Canadian political support for the seal hunt reflects the unique position of Atlantic Canada as the perennial sources of "swing votes" in competition for dominance among three major parties.

HSUS has for several years promoted a boycott of Canadian seafood, now boosted in Europe by British organization Respect for Animals, and endorsed by hundreds of smaller activist groups.

"British supermarkets have already begun reviewing their fish buying policies," wrote Penman of the *Daily Mail*. "Canadian authorities are clearly rattled by the possibility of a consumer backlash. International outrage against this year's slaughter has reached unprecedented levels. Belgium has banned the import of all seal products. France, Germany and Italy are all considering following suit. The European Union is coming under increasing pressure to extend its ban on seal pelts, and the European Parliament has voted for a complete ban. The present ban," explained Penman, "only applies to seals less than twelve days old. This allows fishermen to profit from battering to death seals just a few days older. The U.K. government says it supports a European ban, and will continue pushing for it."

The major seal pelt markets, however, are in Russia and China.

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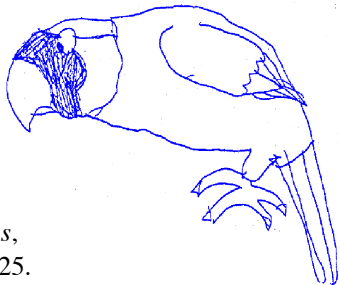
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National Marine Fisheries Service shuts down Marine Animal Lifeline, largest New England seal rescue site

WESTBROOK, Maine—The National Marine Fisheries Service on April 17, 2007 abruptly revoked the operating permit for Marine Animal Lifeline, the largest seal rescue center in New England.

"We're taking this action to immediately reduce any risks to wildlife posed by continued operation of the facility," National Marine Fisheries Service northeast regional administrator Patricia Kurkul said in a prepared statement.

Twenty-one seals were seized and trucked to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut. The Mystic Aquarium has rehabilitated and released stranded seals for 30 years, aquarium spokesperson David Labbe told Associated Press, but usually handles only about 20 per year.

The National Marine Fisheries Service alleged that Marine Animal Lifeline had released approximately 80 seals since June 2006 without testing them first to ensure that they were not carrying marine morbillivirus, a disease related to human measles and canine distemper. Occurring in many marine mammal species, marine morbillivirus killed 20,000 seals in European waters in 1988, 18,000 in a 1998 recurrence, and killed 22,000 seals in yet another recurrence in 2002.

Ironically, the National Marine Fisheries Service became concerned that marine morbillivirus might strike New England waters after Marine Animal Lifeline founder and president Greg Jakush drew attention in 2004 to an unusually high volume of seal strandings occurring along the Maine coast.

"Every individual animal was displaying different priorities or cause of death," Jakush told Emily Aronsen of the *Portsmouth Herald*. "There was no smoking gun."

But Jakush repeatedly sent tissue samples to the National Marine Fisheries Service, which was unable to identify an underlying cause.

New England Aquarium stranding program director Connie Merigo also reported an increased number of strandings, but observed that most seemed to be malnourished pups.

Marine Environmental Research Institute director Susan Shaw suggested the possibility that a virus was attacking pups with compromised immune systems. Her work had recently found accumulations of pollutants including PCBs, DDT, and mercury in harbor seals living in the Gulf of Maine, decades after most uses of the long-lasting substances were restricted or banned. Such accumulations, Shaw explained, could be passed along with mothers' milk and put pups at risk.

"The permit revocation caught Marine Animal Lifeline off guard and sent board members into a closed-door meeting that lasted for hours," wrote *Portland Press Herald* staff writer Elbert Aull. "Greg Jakush, the group's president,

said federal officials never told him about the new rule, had earlier approved paperwork for seals who had not been tested, and were on a mission to shut his nonprofit down when they arrived for an inspection" on the morning of April 17.

"They came in knowing they were going to shut us down, come hell or high water," Jakush told Aull. Jakush said the inspection lasted only 10 minutes.

"Jakush said he was angry," Aull wrote, "that the service wrote a press release saying his permit had been revoked before it did the site inspection."

Marine Animal Lifeline spokesperson Dianna Fletcher told Associated Press that the National Marine Fisheries Service distributed the press release before Jakush learned of the problems.

National Marine Fisheries Service spokesperson Teri Frady told Aull that the press statement was prepared beforehand "because officials came from out of state and had to be ready in case Marine Animal Lifeline failed the inspection."

Frady said the National Marine Fisheries Service asked all seal rescue centers to begin testing for morbillivirus in June 2006. The agency itself pays for the testing, done at the University of Oklahoma.

Frady told Aull that about 300 seals found stranded on beaches in the northeastern U.S. had been tested since the order was issued, with several positive findings.

"Officials got curious," Aull wrote, "when the lab had no record of samples from Marine Animal Lifeline, which has released about 80 seals since the order was given."

"Marine Animal Lifeline has an annual budget of about \$500,000," Aull reported. "About \$100,000 of that is provided by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the National Marine Fisheries Service."

But the funding relationship has had previous rough patches. Marine Animal Lifeline in 2005 "lost a federal grant that accounted for most of its operating budget," reported David Sharp of Associated Press. "The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded Marine Animal Lifeline \$180,000 to \$200,000 for each of the preceding two years," Sharp said, "but rejected the 2005 request for \$157,000."

Frady told Sharp that NOAA funded 95 grants in 2005, totaling \$8.4 million, more than twice the amount awarded in preceding years, but the Marine Animal Lifeline proposal lost out in a competitive evaluation process.

Marine Animal Lifeline handled 805 animals in 2004, 145 more than the previous high, but received only 533 in 2005, and 323 in 2006, the lowest total since the first three years that the center operated.



Harbor seal. (Kim Bartlett)

Marine Animal Lifeline was nonetheless the biggest seal rescue and rehabilitation organization in the region, handling almost as many animals as all the rest combined: 4,449 total, over 11 years, with capacity for holding 60 at a time.

Other seal rescue groups serving the northeast include, besides the Mystic Aquarium, the Cape Cod Stranding Network; New England Aquarium; the University of New England, in Biddeford, Maine; and Allied Whale, a project of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.

Many seals received by the other organizations were eventually sent to Westbrook for rehab and release.

Besides Jakush, Marine Animal Lifeline reportedly employed a veterinarian and three vet techs.

Jakush, originally from Chicago, founded Marine Animal Lifeline after working for several years as a dolphin trainer at the Dolphin Research Center in the Florida Keys.

"At that facility," Jakush told Scott Douglas of *The Bolland* in April 2006, "they had a side program for strandings. I got involved with that, and realized that's what I wanted to do: I wanted to help remove suffering from animals. I wound up managing the program and really getting involved."

After three years of researching opportunities for opening a dedicated stranding center, Douglas founded Marine Animal Lifeline in 1996.

"We didn't have the facilities to do rehabilitation, so we just started with rescue," Jakush recalled. "We'd rescue the animals, and beg every facility on the Eastern seaboard for space to take them. We did that for a couple of years. In 1999, we were able to get enough grant money to lease a facility," in Westbrook, "and begin our rehabilitation program. The first year, in the summer season, we rehabilitated only six harbor seals. We're up to the several hundreds now."

"We're close to outgrowing this facility," Jakush told Douglas. "We just purchased a piece of property in Scarborough. We hope to move by the end of 2007."

Losing the National Marine Fisheries Service permit may put that plan on permanent hold.



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SACRAMENTO—“As of today, [founder] Terri Crisp is no longer associated with Noah’s Wish, Inc. in any capacity,” the Noah’s Wish web site announced on March 28, 2007. “We wish her well in her future endeavors.”

Signed by the “Noah’s Wish Board of Directors,” the message disclosing Crisp’s departure followed two days after a similarly signed March 26 acknowledgement that “Noah’s Wish is in the midst of an ongoing civil investigation by the California Attorney General’s office concerning funds received by Noah’s Wish during Hurricane Katrina.”

Noah’s Wish told the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* in November 2005 that it had received \$6.5 million in donations after Katrina.

“Tax documents for Noah’s Wish obtained by the *Sacramento Business Journal* reported revenue of \$8.4 million, almost all of it from contributions, between July 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2005,” reported *Business Journal* staff writer Kelly Johnson on March 30, 2007.

“Some \$4.8 million was in unrestricted assets,” Johnson said, while \$1.5 million was declared as “temporarily restricted assets.”

Charitable donations are deemed legally “restricted” when the donors in some manner expressly communicate, at the time of giving, that the donations are meant exclusively to serve one particular purpose. A vague statement such as “to help animals” does not restrict a donation, but a statement stipulating “to help the New Orleans animals” or “to help the Katrina animals” might be construed as a binding restriction.

Elaborated the “Noah’s Wish Board” in their March 26 statement, “The California Attorney General has taken the position that certain funds donated to Noah’s Wish during this period, and its immediate aftermath, are restricted, and may only be used for the animal victims of Hurricane Katrina, rather than the animal victims of other disasters or for general disaster preparedness.

“Noah’s Wish disagrees with the Attorney General’s position with respect to those funds,” the board said, “but is working cooperatively with the Attorney General toward a timely resolution of the dispute.”

Added the March 26 board statement, “In response to the California Attorney General, Noah’s Wish has set aside the disputed funds, and agreed not to use those funds pending final resolution of the investigation.

“Noah’s Wish is unable to predict when the matter will be resolved,” the March 26 board statement continued. “Because Noah’s Wish does not presently have access to the disputed funds, it is unable at this time to continue to provide disaster preparedness services and volunteer training.”

Johnson reported that Noah’s Wish “was preparing to close its El Dorado Hills headquarters. About a dozen workers have resigned or been laid off since late last year. Staff members are being paid through April 11,” but as of the end of March, “only the office manager remained at the El Dorado Hills headquarters to close things down.”

Wrote Johnson, “The California Attorney General’s Office has been investigating the organization since last summer. According to documents obtained by the

Business Journal from a former employee, an accounting firm hired by Noah’s Wish to examine its books concluded that it would be impossible to conduct a reliable audit.

Stated a letter from John Waddell & Co., Certified Public Accountants, “A significant portion of corroborating evidence such as vendor invoices, receipts, deposit slips, and other supporting data were not maintained during the period that the organization was responding to the needs of animals during Hurricane Katrina. The records that remain are not sufficient to permit the application of auditing procedures that would be adequate for us to express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements.”

Lori Polk, chair of the Noah’s Wish board during Katrina, “left the board the month after the hurricane,” Johnson disclosed. Polk told Johnson she resigned because she felt she was “fighting a losing battle trying to maintain my fiduciary responsibility to the organization,” as Noah’s Wish “did not make decisions based upon board approval,” and made “expenditures without approval.”

The Hurricane Katrina relief effort started in first days of September 2005. Noah’s Wish volunteers who lived within driving distance of the disaster area were on the scene almost immediately. Establishing rescue bases in Slidell Parish, Louisiana, and Pearlington, Mississippi, Noah’s Wish helped with animal rescue and care in the disaster area for 11 weeks. Individual Noah’s Wish volunteers and employees were still reuniting animals rescued from New Orleans with humans who were evacuated as late as August 2006, according to news accounts.

Warnings

But complaints and warnings about Terri Crisp’s activity in connection with the Katrina relief effort reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** as early as September 20, 2005, beginning with a widely distributed e-mail from Wildlife Rescue of Dade County (Florida) founder Lloyd Brown.

Involved in animal disaster relief since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Brown alleged that Crisp had been escorted from the vicinity of three subsequent Florida disasters by sheriff’s deputies, for failing to get proper authorization to be there.

“I have no knowledge of the people who volunteer for Noah’s Wish being involved in any illegal or unethical activities,” Brown clarified. “I will even go as far as to say that if they would operate within the established system and agree to play by the rules, then we could probably work with them just fine. It is their director, Terri Crisp, whom I have a problem with.”

Brown was employed by the Humane Society of the U.S. to help after six disasters in 13 months during 2004-2005, including the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but acknowledged that “I was told to take a break in the middle of our rescue work in Mississippi,” because of stress symptoms.

Crisp herself acknowledged in an August 29, 2004 web posting that Noah’s Wish did not have authorization to participate in the Hurricane Charley disaster relief effort,

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Mitt Romney becomes first 2008 Presidential candidate to pander to hunters

KEENE, N.H.— Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney on April 3, 2007 became the first 2008 Presidential contender to identify himself as a hunter, and the first to be embarrassed when his claims about hunting could not be verified.

Questioned at a campaign event in Keene, New Hampshire, about his position on gun control, Romney responded, “I support the Second Amendment. I purchased a gun when I was a young man. I’ve been a hunter pretty much all my life. I’ve never really shot anything terribly big,” Romney confessed. “I used to hunt rabbits.

“Shooting a rabbit with a single-shot .22 is pretty hard,” Romney added, so—according to his statements—he switched to using a semiautomatic rifle.

Associated Press political reporter Glen Johnson investigated Romney’s story.

“In boasting about his lifelong experience as a hunter, Romney may have shot himself in the foot,” Johnson concluded. “The Republican contender has told audiences on several occasions, most recently this week in gun-savvy and early voting New Hampshire, that he has been a longtime hunter. But it turns out he has been on only two hunting trips, at the bookends of his 60 years: as a 15-year-old, when he hunted rabbits with his cousins on a ranch in Idaho, and last year, when he shot quail on a fenced game preserve in Georgia.

“The 2006 trip was an outing with major donors to the Republican Governors Association,” Johnson noted, “which Romney headed at the time.”

Said Romney, after shooting the

captive-reared quail, “I knocked quite a few birds and enjoyed myself a great deal.”

Reported Dave Wedge of the *Boston Herald* soon after that expedition, “The governor and 15 others piled into four buggies at The Lodge at Cabin Bluff in Georgia and killed several quail, according to preserve manager Patty Daniels.”

Affirmed Daniels, “They did kill quite a few quail. But I don’t know how many Romney personally killed.”

“The report that I only hunted twice is incorrect,” Romney responded at an appearance in Indianapolis, three days after Johnson’s article appeared. “I’ve hunted small game numerous times, as a young man and as an adult,” Romney insisted, while admitting, “I’m by no means a big game hunter. I’ve always been a rodent and rabbit hunter, small varmints, if you will. I began when I was 15 or so, and I have hunted those kinds of varmints since then. More than two times.”

Said Associated Press, “His staff refused to provide details about his hunting history, including whose gun he used, with whom he hunted and whether he hunted in Utah as a college student or as an adult. Romney does not own a firearm, despite claiming to earlier this year.”

Recalled Johnson, “During a 1994 U.S. Senate campaign, Romney said he supported the Brady gun control law and a ban on assault-style rifles.”

In the 2002 Massachusetts gubernatorial campaign, Johnson continued, “Romney pledged to do nothing to change the state’s firearms statutes.”

Said Romney then, “We do have

tough gun laws in Massachusetts. I support them. I won’t chip away at them. I believe they protect us and provide for our safety.”

Wrote Johnson, “True to his word, Romney went on to sign one of the toughest assault weapons laws in the country.”

However, Johnson added, “The ban on assault-style weapons included provisions extending the term of a firearms identification card and a license to carry weapons from four years to six years. It also created a Firearm License Review Board to provide an appeals process for people whose license applications had been denied.

“In 2006,” Johnson continued, “Romney signed National Rifle Association-backed legislation creating exemptions for makers of customized target pistols who had found it too expensive to sell their guns in Massachusetts because of a state regulation requiring them to test at least five examples of new products ‘until destruction.’”

Added Johnson, “In January, Romney was touting such measures as he and his wife Ann toured the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Orlando, Florida, with Wayne LaPierre, the NRA’s executive vice president.” Romney admitted seeking NRA endorsement of his candidacy.

Rodeo, dissection

Even before coming out as a self-proclaimed hunter, Romney offended animal advocates on multiple occasions, beginning as president of the organizing committee for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. The accompanying “Cultural Olympiad” included a “Command Performance Rodeo.”

As a global campaign pressuring sponsors to cancel the rodeo gained momentum, Romney convened a December 2001 meeting in Salt Lake City with protest leaders including SHARK founder Steve Hindi, Vermont veterinarian/attorney Peggy Larson, Eric Mills of Action for Animals, Deb Probert of the Vancouver Humane Society, German activist Mathilde Mench, local activist Colleen Gardner, and Tony Moore, president of the Foundation Against Animal Cruelty in Europe. All except Gardner, who lives in Salt Lake City, flew to the meeting at their own expense.

ENPA gets 1st female chief since 19th century

ROME—The Italian charity ENPA, whose name translates literally as “Entity for the Protection of Animals,” on March 30, 2007 announced the election of a new president, Carla Rocchi, to succeed Paul Manzi, president since 1999.

“Manzi assumes the role of national prime minister of ENPA,” ENPA said.

Rocchi, who had headed the Rome chapter of ENPA, becomes only the second woman president. The first was Anna

Winter, a British-born close associate of Giuseppe Garibaldi, the unifier of modern Italy. Winter, Garibaldi, and Timoteo Riboli jointly founded ENPA, then called the Animal Protection Society, in 1871.

About two dozen other Italian animal charities formed during the next 66 years. Legislation pushed by the dictator Benito Mussolini forcibly merged them into the Animal Protection Society, and conferred the name ENPA, in 1938.

Vier Pforten buys South African game lodge to turn into sanctuary

BETHLEHEM, South Africa—What will become of lions reared in captivity by South African ranchers to be shot as trophies, who after June 1, 2007 may no longer be killed before enjoying two years of a semi-natural life?

Racing to complete a new sanctuary called Lionsrock by mid-summer, projected as the world’s largest, the Vienna-based international animal charity Vier Pforten anticipates taking in at least some of the lions.

Best known for operating mobile dog and cat sterilization clinics in Bulgaria, Romania, and other former Communist nations of eastern Europe, Vier Pforten has gradually expanded into many other animal welfare activities, including disaster relief and wildlife rescue.

Managing Lionsrock will be a new focal project, but Vier Pforten anticipates that visitor revenue will eventually fully support it. Two for-profit subsidiaries will operate lodging and a restaurant.

How many lions from “canned hunts” will Lionsrock accept? How many will be offered to sanctuaries is still anyone’s guess—but Lionsrock will have a considerable animal population whether or not any “canned hunt” lions are available. Vier Pforten acquired 25 lions, a pair of leopards, and other mammals of at least 16 species when it bought the former Camorhi Game Lodge near Bethlehem, South Africa.

In addition, Vier Pforten already had responsibility for many other lions in need of homes.

The future Lionsrock sanctuary consists of five square miles of former asparagus and corn plantation, surrounding a volcanic outcropping that resembles “Pride Rock” in the Walt Disney Productions film *The Lion King*.

The site will be “adapted according to the latest standards of animal welfare,” Vier Pforten announced on February 1, 2007, to “provide lions as well as other big cats such as tigers and leopards with a new home appropriate to the species.” Lionsrock architect Ivan Tonchev previously designed the Vier Pforten sanctuary for former dancing bears at Belitza, Bulgaria.

Vier Pforten president Helmut Dungler pledged that Lionsrock would take in lions from around Africa as well as Europe—but the sanctuary plans were unveiled nearly three weeks before South African environment minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk on February 20, 2007 introduced the regulations against so-called “canned hunts.”

The South African Predator Breeders’ Association warned after van Schalkwyk’s announcement that from 3,000 to 5,000 lions may be killed as unmarketable surplus, whom no one can afford to feed.

The new South African regulations require that each captive-reared lion must be released at least two years before being hunted into a “system large enough and suitable for the management of self-sustaining wildlife populations in a natural environment which requires minimal human intervention.”

“Once the new regulations come into effect, there

will literally be thousands of lions wanting homes,” predicted Drakenstein Lion Park proprietor Paul Hart, in a March 21, 2007 e-mail to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The new regulations also for the first time recognize the existence of private wildlife sanctuaries, like Lionsrock and the Drakenstein Lion Park, but make no provision for funding the sanctuaries to accommodate cast-off lions, or otherwise helping them to handle the anticipated lion dumping.

Many South African wildlife facilities call themselves sanctuaries, but until now the term has had no legal meaning. All sanctuaries in South Africa, along with other wildlife facilities, have had to register with the government as either game farms, involved in breeding and selling animals; wildlife rehabilitation centers, whose intent is to return animals to the wild; or exhibition sites, open to the public and run as businesses.

“Sanctuary” also has no legal meaning in the U.S., at the federal level, but many states have defined “sanctuary” in terms that distinguish sanctuaries from other animal keepers.

The lack of a South African legal definition has meant that some South African sanctuaries-in-name scarcely resemble the care-for-life, not-open-to-the-public modus operandi recommended by the American Sanctuary Association and The Association of Sanctuaries. Relatively few South African sanctuaries are nonprofit. Many sanctuaries-by-intent incorporate aspects of game farming, wildlife rehab, and/or exhibition, to support themselves—like the Drakenstein Lion Park, which is a for-profit wildlife viewing venue.

“Drakenstein Lion Park was established in 1998 as a lifetime care facility,” Hart told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “Once the law allows, we will register our facility as a sanctuary.”

But that step by itself will not enable rapid expansion to handle all the lions Hart expects game ranchers to try to unload. Already, Hart said, “I receive regular requests for homes for lions, an average of 30 per annum. Sadly I cannot take all of these animals,” let alone the numbers who may soon be in limbo.

Rough reception

Logically, Hart and other South African sanctuarians might have been expected to welcome Vier Pforten, to accept at Lionsrock some of the animals the others must refuse.

Even more, opponents of hunting might have been expected to welcome Vier Pforten, whose investment in Lionsrock is among the largest commitments to South Africa ever made by an anti-hunting organization. The only comparable investment was made more than a decade ago by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, to buy elephant habitat so that elephants would not be shot in allegedly overcrowded national parks.

Yet Lionsrock and Vier Pforten received a hostile reception, not only from hunters, as anticipated, but also from South African animal advocates.

Vier Pforten began looking for an African sanctuary

location in November 2004, 10 months after the Gaenserndorf Safari Park closed, not far from the Vier Pforten headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

As the Vier Pforten web site explains, “The animals became a living bankrupt’s estate. Some animals could be quickly placed elsewhere. Some were sold. The large lion pride, however,” 14 lions in all, “remained in Gaenserndorf,” and were in reported danger of being killed due to lack of placement options. Vier Pforten at last “bought the lions to protect them from death.”

For more than two years Vier Pforten continued to feed and care for the lions in the former safari park. One elderly lioness died, but that still left 13 to place.

The initial Vier Pforten plan was to transport the Gaenserndorf lions to an African facility willing to give them sanctuary care, as Vier Pforten did in 2002 with four lions born at the Tecuci Zoo in Romania.

Recounted Mihai Vasile of the Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism, “In the winter of 2002, Vier Pforten discovered four lion cubs with some photographers in Brasov. The animals had been bought from Mircea Nicu, the manager of the Tecuci Zoo. The cubs were only three weeks old. They were suffering from malnutrition. They were exploited non-stop, during daytime on the ski slopes and at night in bars and discos, most of the time under sedation. After ‘working hours’ they slept in tight cages in a car trunk. The Vier Pforten team succeeded in confiscating and repatriating the four cubs, Shiba, Alex, Tommy and Jack,” although the exhibitors soon obtained two more lion cubs and went back into business.

“Those four lions,” Vier Pforten president Helmut Dungler told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “were delivered to the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve,” a wildlife viewing venue at Kromdraai, northwest of Johannesburg.

“Shiba, Alex and Jack are still at Rhino & Lion, and are in good condition,” Dungler said. “To Tommy happened a tragic accident. In January 2006, he was killed in a fight between male lions.”

But placing those four lions exhausted the capacity of the Rhino & Lion Park. “Despite extensive research, it was impossible to immediately find a new area” in Africa that could accommodate the entire pride, Vier Pforten explained to donors.

Meanwhile more lions from substandard European captive venues needed help, including Lutu and Frida, two young lions born in decrepit Romanian zoos whose fate **ANIMAL PEOPLE** explored in March 2006.

While Vier Pforten was trying to decide what to do about the Gaenserndorf Safari Park pride, actress Amanda Holden raised \$250,000 to enable the Born Free Foundation to send Lutu to the Shamwari private wildlife viewing reserve in South Africa.

Instead, Lutu disappeared in August 2004, only days before the planned move. Born Free eventually bought a

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but said she and her volunteers had tried to obtain the necessary permissions for more than two weeks. Noah’s Wish volunteers eventually participated under auspices of Sarasota In Defense of Animals, Crisp said.

Allegations that Noah’s Wish was not fulfilling financial obligations in connection with Hurricane Katrina surfaced on January 9, 2006, when Arizona equine rescue volunteer Shawna McHargue posted an appeal for funds “on behalf of my friend and fellow rescuer Stephanie Wolfe of Animal Rescue Cooperation,” a rescue network listed on Petfinder.com and identified as being active in California and Oregon.

McHargue claimed Wolfe and her husband were at risk of losing their home due to debt incurred from taking in “12 pit bulls from the Katrina disaster with the help of Noah’s Wish.” McHargue said Noah’s Wish had failed to make timely reimbursements for renting a vehicle, veterinary care, and putting up fencing needed to hold the pit bulls.

Noah’s Wish also “committed \$1 million to the city of Slidell, Louisiana, for construction of a new animal control center,” Johnson of the *Business Journal* reported, as the old shelter was so severely damaged by Katrina as to require replacement. Slidell city attorney Tim Mathison told Johnson that none of the money had been received.

But Mathison praised Noah’s Wish for their care of 1,900 marooned animals. “They did a wonderful job,” Mathison told Johnson. “We didn’t have the resources to do what they did.”

Crisp got \$140,900

Noah’s Wish was spending money.

“Expenses shot upward from about \$212,000 in 2004-2005 to more than \$2 million in the last six months of 2005,” Johnson wrote. Nearly \$400,000 was spent, Johnson said, “to purchase vehicles.”

“In early 2006,” related Johnson, “the group bought a storage building in East Alton, Illinois, for \$65,125, and leased office

space in New York City, according to documents provided by a former [Noah’s Wish] employee.”

The New York City office was closed in January 2007, Johnson said.

IRS Form 990 filings accessible at www.Guidestar.org show that Crisp was paid \$6,200 in 2004-2005.

“For the second half of 2005,” Johnson wrote, “Noah’s Wish paid \$405,948 in salaries and compensation, according to a Form 990 supplied by the former employee. Of that, Crisp received \$140,900. The second-highest compensation went to Sheri Thompson at \$118,125.”

Reported Deb Kollars of the *Sacramento Bee*, “Crisp said she didn’t know where the \$140,900 figure came from. Her pay rose to \$132,000 in 2005 to make up for her past tiny paychecks, she said, and was to have shifted to \$80,000 this year.”

The Form 990 filing shown to Johnson has not yet been posted by Guidestar, the subcontractor hired by the IRS to make Form 990 filings accessible.

National salary norms published by the Chronicle of Philanthropy show that the average compensation paid to the head of a charity with revenue of \$5 million to \$10 million per year was \$120,531 in 2005.

In northern California, reported Johnson, “The annual median base salary for the executive director of a nonprofit of this size is \$130,000, according to the 2006 *Compensation and Benefits Survey of Northern California Nonprofit Organizations*, produced by the Center for Nonprofit Management in Los Angeles.”

The California Attorney General’s mandate, Johnson noted, includes “investigating the loss of substantial funds during one year, illegal use of funds, diversion of funds from their intended purpose, and excessive amounts paid for salaries, benefits, travel, entertainment, legal and other professional fees.”

California attorney general Bill Lockyer’s office has not issued a public statement about the Noah’s Wish investigation.

“A spokesman for the state’s top

lawyer would not confirm or deny an investigation,” Johnson said.

Johnson reported that “Ralph Nevis of Downey Brand Attorneys LLP in Sacramento, who represents Noah’s Wish, would not discuss the nature of the inquiry.”

Noah’s Wish board chair Amy Maher did not return calls, Johnson said.

“We are in a holding pattern until we resolve this issue,” Maher told Kollars of the *Bee*. Maher told Kollars that she could not comment on the investigation, or Crisp’s removal. A prosecutor for the Illinois state attorney’s office, Maher joined the Noah’s Wish board following former president Lori Polk’s resignation. Maher’s husband Roger Smith is also on the board, Kollars wrote.

“Board members Lyn Kendrick, Gail Monick, and David Lesser declined to comment,” added Johnson. “Another, Heather Hathaway, did not respond to a request for an interview.”

Crisp told Johnson that she left the Noah’s Wish board in February 2007, only days after signing the organization’s most recent and perhaps last appeal to donors, “partly because it’s a conflict of interest,” and because the California Attorney General’s office “had asked for me not to remain on the board.”

Wrote Johnson, “Crisp said she did not have the latest information on the investigation or details about what it covers,” and said she had not been questioned by the investigators.

“I don’t know of any misuse of funds,” Crisp told Johnson.

“It’s almost over with,” Crisp told Kollars in mid-April, blaming the investigation on a disgruntled employee.

“I’m confident the outcome is going to be positive,” Crisp said.

“SUV rescuers”

Crisp, then a consultant for United Animal Nations, and Doll Stanley, an employee of In Defense of Animals, were among the most prominent animal rescuers in the aftermath of the Berkeley/Oakland Hills

fire of October 1991. The fire destroyed or damaged nearly 3,500 homes, killing 25 people and displacing more than 10,000 people plus about 5,000 pets.

Stanley went on to found Project Hope, an IDA-sponsored sanctuary and humane outreach program in Mississippi.

Crisp, as disaster relief director for UAN, developed systems for coordinating large numbers of volunteers and tracking rescued animals that began to prove themselves after Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in September 1992.

Before Hurricane Andrew, humane disaster relief efforts were relatively small and sporadic. Typically just a few trained respondents ventured into disaster areas, while Spontaneous Unsolicited Volunteers, called “SUV rescuers” for short, were discouraged. Crisp devised ways of bringing the “SUV rescuers” into the disaster relief system, beginning by hosting seminars all over the U.S. between disasters, to teach her methods to hundreds of others.

Either directly or indirectly, the Crisp approach soon became the predominant modus operandi for animal relief agencies. Incorporating most of the “SUV rescuers” into the relief operation was a big part of why the animal relief effort after Hurricane Katrina was noticeably less chaotic than much of the human relief work—at least until the leading agencies withdrew, between two and four months later.

ANIMAL PEOPLE heard few complaints from the field about Crisp’s work until September 1999, when after Hurricane Floyd hit North Carolina her teams conflicted with local agencies and rescuers coordinated by the Humane Society of the U.S.

That appeared to be an isolated case for several years, but **ANIMAL PEOPLE** received similar complaints after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Crisp left United Animal Nations in November 2001, founding Noah’s Wish in March 2002. Complaints followed about Crisp’s work after the southern California wildfires of 2003, the Florida hurricanes of 2004, and flooding that hit much of Romania in 2005.

Vier Pfoten buys former Camorhi Game Lodge

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lioness named Achee from a Bucharest car dealer and sent her to Shamwari in Lutu’s place.

As the Lutu mystery simmered, Bogdan Popescu, general manager of Radio Total in Bucharest, on June 25, 2005 bought Frida. His girlfriend, Gabriela Savu, raised Frida for months in an apartment.

“We did that,” Savu explained in January 2006, “in hope of providing the baby lion a life in the wild, free, instead of in a cage not much bigger than her. We thought Africa could be an ideal place for a lion.”

Eventually Popescu and Savu asked both the Born Free Foundation and Vier Pfoten to try to find an African sanctuary for Frida.

Ken Heuer

Neither organization had any immediate placement possibilities, but Vier Pfoten introduced Popescu to South African wildlife transporter Ken Heuer, who had flown the four lions rescued in 2002 to the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve.

Heuer had formed an entity called Great Cats of South Africa on land near the Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve. According to the African Conservation Foundation web site, which promotes ecotourism throughout Africa, “Great Cats of South Africa (is) a division of (the) Millbank Lion Sanctuary and Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve...Great Cats of South Africa is an affiliated member of Great Cats in Crisis.”

Great Cats in Crisis, formed by Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge founder Brian Werner, of Tyler, Texas, in 2001-2002 raised funds in the name of helping a lion named Marjan, at the Kabul Zoo in Afghanistan, including in one mailing sent out after Marjan died. However, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out in March 2002, Great Cats in Crisis had no connection with the official Kabul Zoo relief effort headed by North Carolina Zoo director David Jones.

Heuer apparently became involved with Great Cats in Crisis somewhat later, as part of a scheme Werner pushed to link sanctuaries into a chain of co-promoted ecotourism destination resorts. Although search engines still provide links to the Great Cats in Crisis web site, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was unable to get the links to open.

Heuer meanwhile was embroiled in a long dispute with Enkosini Wildlife Sanctuary founders Greg Mitchell and Kelsey Grimm over possession of 10 lions who were boarded for some time at the Camorhi Game Lodge, then owned by Marius and Maryn Prinsloo.

Before the Enkosini case started, Mitchell testified in a court case that Prinsloo and Heuer “organized for wild cheetahs to be captured in Namibia and flown into South Africa,” according to www.Cannedlion.com founder Chris Mercer. Mercer helped Mitchell and Grimm in their conflict with Heuer. In recent years Mercer has also been a frequent book reviewer for **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The Prinsloos were in the business of raising animals to be hunted, including lions—and still are, at a much more remote site called Ingulule, with a Bethlehem business office. When the Prinsloos vacated Camorhi after selling it, they left most of the animals, but took as many as 23 lions with them, believed to have been their most valued breeding stock.

This appears to have been a gamble that breeding lions to be hunted could remain profitable at remote locations. While the new regulations had not yet been announced, they had been discussed and rumored for nearly 10 years, and van Schalwyk had made clear that they would soon be coming.

Vier Pfoten president Dungler, spokesperson Josep Pfabigan, and veterinarian Amir Khalil separately told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** at different times in 2006 and 2007 that they knew nothing of Heuer’s involvement with the Prinsloos and hunting when they put Popescu and Savu in touch with Heuer.

Heuer arranged to send Frida the lion cub to Camorhi. “Eventually, after five months, we got all the papers we needed,” Savu wrote in a January 2006 appeal to Mercer for help. “Her departure was approved both by Romanian and South African authorities. Unfortunately we couldn’t go with her but we got her plane ticket for December 5th,” 2005.

“In the meantime,” Savu said, “we found horrible things on the Internet about Camorhi Game Lodge, the reservation where we sent her. We strongly disagree and disapprove of canned hunting and captive breeding! Considering that leav-



Frida as a cub. (Gabriela Savu)



Lionsrock, formerly The Carmorhi Game Farm, near Bethlehem, South Africa. (Vier Pfoten)

ing Frida at Camorhi would not respect” the CITES permit conditions, which stipulated that Frida was being sent to South Africa for introduction into the wild, “we found a new place for Frida, free of any suspicions—the Drakenstein Lion Park. But the owners of Camorhi refuse to let Frida go to Drakenstein,” Savu continued. “At least so says Ken Heuer, an associate/partner of Marius Prinsloo. We cannot get in touch with Marius or Maryn Prinsloo, the owners of Camorhi Game Lodge.”

Elaborated Dungler, “The official CITES permit says that Mr. Prinsloo was the owner of Frida, until she was sold to Lionsrock,” in November 2006. “The transport was organized and done by Radio Total from Bucharest to Johannesburg. From Johannesburg to Camorhi, the transport was organized and done by Heuer.

“On December 4, 2005,” Dungler told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “I was informed by my colleague Ioana Tomescu from Bucharest,” who represents Vier Pfoten in Romania, “that she was informed by a telephone call from Tricia Holford of the Born Free Foundation that Camorhi was not clean and might be involved in the hunting industry. I told Tomescu to immediately inform Radio Total and to discuss the new situation. Tomescu informed Radio Total about this new information. Radio Total decided to go on with the transport of Frida on the following day, and to look for a better place for her in the following months.”

How Vier Pfoten got blamed

Savu, in her initial e-mail to Mercer, never mentioned Vier Pfoten. But Mercer, in his response to her, blamed the transaction on Vier Pfoten, apparently because of Vier Pfoten’s prior association with Heuer in relocating the four lions to the Rhino & Lion Park in 2002.

Mercer also outlined a strategy for pressuring Vier Pfoten “to rectify their mistake,” and drafted a press release for Savu to distribute “to European media” toward that end.

Following up the 2002 lion transfer, earlier in 2005, Mihai Vasile of the Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism had obtained a photo of the remains of Tommy, the young lion who was killed by another male lion.

“Ioana Tomescu in February 2006 showed this photo to Paul Hart,” Dungler said, “who asked for a copy. At this time we were in close contact with Hart, because Drakenstein was a possible opportunity for Frida. Therefore Tomescu sent the photo to Hart. Some weeks later this photo was published on websites with slogans ‘this can happen to Frida,’ and other stupid sentences. And of course this was done without asking the photographer, without any right to publish it, and without any copyright.”

By that time Mercer, Savu, and others had ratched up an electronic campaign accusing Vier Pfoten of having delivered Frida to a canned hunt supplier, despite warnings.

While aware of the Camorhi association with hunting, Vier Pfoten was apparently still unaware of Heuer’s involvement. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** forwarded particulars to Josep Pfabigan of Vier Pfoten on February 16, 2006, but the information and an accompanying inquiry brought no response until they were retransmitted to Amir Khalil on March 30, 2006, and to Johanna Jirka, the Vier Pfoten head of international marketing and communication, on April 6, 2006.

Meanwhile, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in March and April 2006 reportage mistook the Vier Pfoten non-response for “no comment.” Unknown to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Vier Pfoten was trying to straighten out the situation.

Soon after the April 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, Khalil on March 29, 2006 acknowledged that “The Drakenstein Lion Park is a good place for Frida, but due to communication errors lately,” meaning the allegations against Vier Pfoten, “the Vier Pfoten board and Radio Total decided to find a neutral place for this lion. Vier Pfoten and Radio Total agreed to move Frida to a third place, which will be advised and accepted by the local animal welfare [community]. I plan to be in South Africa in the next days,” Khalil said, “to undertake the necessary steps for moving Frida to a place which is accepted by everyone involved.”

Johanna Jirka on April 6, 2006 denied the “rumors and misunderstandings” concerning Frida that had been “going around” in “many e-mails and petitions,” and requested retransmission of the background sent on February 16, 2006.

By then, according to Dungler, “Heuer, our former consultant in South Africa, presented to us few possible areas for a sanctuary, including Camorhi.”

“After extensive research in various countries,” the Vier Pfoten web site later explained, “we decided to invest in

an already existing park in South Africa. In the center there is a prominent rock called Lionsrock, after which the new big cats’ hideaway will be named. On this approximately 1,250 hectare area, close to the city of Bethlehem, north of Lesotho, some lions and a tiger are living beside zebras, gnus, horses and antelope. Although the park offers ideal conditions concerning its location, as well as a water supply, its current standard does not meet by far the requirements of Vier Pfoten regarding appropriate big cat husbandry. Before the first ‘new’ animals can be moved to Lionsrock, the infrastructure of the park has to be brought to a standard which corresponds to other Vier Pfoten projects, as at the Baerenwald Arbesbach in Austria, and the dancing bear park at Belitsa.

“The new sanctuary will provide the young lioness Frida with optimal living conditions,” Vier Pfoten said.

Heuer brokered the original purchase agreement. “The first draft of the contract was for about 7.8 million rand,” Dungler told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “But this pre-contract had a lot of failures. This was the reason we stopped our cooperation with Heuer, who did these negotiations. We had to negotiate again. Vier Pfoten began negotiations about Camorhi [directly] with Mr. Prinsloo in August 2006. The final amount paid was 8.8 million rand. Because of the development of the exchange rate of the currencies, we paid less” in euros, the currency in which Vier Pfoten raises funds.

Between April and November 2006, when the sale closed, the South African rand plummeted 20% in value against the euro. Thus, even though the final purchase price of 8.8 million rand was more than a million above the initial agreed price, Vier Pfoten ended up paying approximately 941,600 euros instead of 1,045,200.

Heuer, excluded from the deal, reignited Mercer and Savu in amplifying concerns about Frida, plus a variety of other allegations against Vier Pfoten, most apparently originating from statements Heuer made in an affidavit to Mercer.

One charge was that there was something irregular about Khalil’s role as registered agent for Vier Pfoten in incorporating Lionsrock and completing the purchase.

“Khalil did his work in South Africa on behalf of Vier Pfoten,” affirmed Dungler. “Khalil is not the personal owner of Lionsrock, and all rumors that he can go on with this for personal interests are just stupid!”

Of particular concern to Mercer and others was that the sale of Camorhi did not include the animals whom the Prinsloos kept and relocated.

A further complication was that Frida reportedly mauled a young woman visitor to Camorhi in October 2006, about a month before the sale closed. Liability for the injury is reportedly unresolved.

Articles paralleling the March 2006 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** coverage of the Frida case, by then thoroughly outdated, were published by several South African and European newspapers in early 2007.

“The project of Lionsrock is proving that the dirty campaign that was initiated against Vier Pfoten during the last months is based on totally unfounded allegations,” responded Vier Pfoten in a prepared statement. “Vier Pfoten is by no means involved in the breeding and canned hunting industry in South Africa.”

WSPA findings

Dungler is a board member of the World Society for the Protection of Animals. Visiting Dungler in Vienna recently on WSPA business, WSPA director general Peter Davies e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that he had asked Dungler “why had he not built a similar sanctuary in Europe to provide a home for lions and other big cats who are confiscated from European zoos and circuses,” or from exotic pet-keepers.

“His answer was pure economics,” Davies told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “It is cheaper to bring them to Africa and look after them with local staff than to build on land in Europe, even if available, and look after them there. He also reminded me that the big cats would be much happier in the climatic and topographical conditions of their natural homes in Africa.

“Vier Pfoten plans to open the sanctuary to receive big cats from Europe and Africa in the autumn of this year,” Davies confirmed.

Dungler “assured me,” Davies said, “that his organization would not have any contacts whatsoever with those exploiting big cats for hunting or canned shooting. He personally abhors such use of big cats, and was clear that even a hint of such connection would totally destroy Vier Pfoten. From everything he told me,” Davies concluded, “I feel reassured that all is well.” —Merritt Clifton

Bangalore dog panic spreads to Hyderabad

HYDERABAD—The fear and outrage about dog attacks gripping Bangalore for more than three months spread to Hyderabad in April 2007, two years after the city administration took over the local Animal Birth Control program and allegedly used the pretext of capturing dogs for sterilization as cover for killing dogs in high volume.

Partly because of that history, the Hyderabad dog panic was relatively muted. And, as many reporters pointed out, there were plenty of administrative failings to blame for Hyderabad incidents, beyond just the dog policies.

The first of the dog attacks that incited Hyderabad came on March 28.

“Eight-month-old baby boy Ritesh was taken to the Dhobighat,” a tributary of the River Musi, “where his parents washed clothes,” recounted Radhika Iyer of NDTV. “Residents say the riverside has virtually become a garbage dump,” due to deficient local trash collection, “that attracts dogs.”

“The dog was eating garbage, then took away my baby,” said the victim’s mother. “He was conscious when I found him. He drank milk. The doctors gave him oxygen, but his heart stopped.”

“The question is,” asked Tejeswi Pratima and Uma Sudhir of NDTV, “who killed Baby Ritesh, a stray canine or an insensitive public health system? An official inquiry has now been ordered to find out why the baby had to be rushed from one hospital to another and was denied what could have been life-saving treatment.”

Ritesh’s mother Mira took him to four hospitals in four hours, visiting two of them twice, before Ritesh succumbed to his wounds. Each hospital referred them to another. Only two of the hospitals provided any actual help.

Observed Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna, “Once again,” as with all three of the fatal dog attacks in greater Bangalore in early 2007, “this happened in an area without Animal Birth Control. The Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad two years ago stopped the successful ABC program carried out by the Blue Cross of Hyderabad and People for Animals, saying they would do it themselves. Close to 20,000 dogs were caught in the last two years and less than 1,500 were fixed, as per municipal records. The Blue Cross of Hyderabad meanwhile began to do Animal Birth Control in

housing societies, with their usual dedication and great cooperation from the residents.”

The Blue Cross of Hyderabad, headed by former actress Amala Akkineni, was formed in emulation of the Blue Cross of India, but as with other societies using the Blue Cross name, they are not affiliated.

The next sensational attack came on April 9, when 12 dogs bit 10 young women who were waiting to take exams at Osmania University’s Women’s College in Koti.

Chief veterinary officer P. Venkateshwar Reddy sent 30 dog catchers and two vehicles to the scene, where they captured 21 dogs and found the remains of two of the alleged biters, who had been beaten to death by university staff.

More than 100 dogs were removed from the Osmania University grounds during the next few days, while politicians paraded through to proclaim their outrage.

Sterilization and vaccination “will not solve the problem,” fulminated Karnataka

State Human Rights Commission chair Justice B. Subhashan Reddy, pledging to seek changes in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to expedite killing dogs.

“There is no way that animal welfare can be superior to human welfare. When human rights and animal rights are in contention, human rights will have to take precedence,” asserted Justice Reddy.

But chief veterinary officer Reddy told *The Hindu* that some of the women’s dormitory residents “wanted us to give them some friendly dogs to serve as their guards. That food is given to dogs inside the college is a well-known fact,” Reddy said.

Osmania University women’s dormitory residents had already complained before the dog attacks about a lack of clean water, bad food, and inadequate overnight security.

Yet another dog attack of note came on April 17, when just one dog bit nine people including five children in an overnight 12-hour rampage through two neighboring apartment blocks in Trimulgherry, a residential suburb. Locals beat the dog to death before police belatedly responded.

Hyderabad and nearby Secunderabad, often identified as “twin cities,” have between them more than 100,000 street dogs plus about 11,000 free-roaming pet dogs, said *The Hindu*.

Reported dog bites have soared since the municipal corporation took over the ABC programs, climbing 23% in 2006 alone, when 53,437 people sought rabies post-exposure vaccination. Human rabies deaths have increased 68%, from 164 to 241.

Dangerous dog complaints to the municipal corporation doubled to 40 a day after the Osmania University rampage, chief veterinary officer Reddy told *The Hindu*, noting that many of the calls came from beyond

the city limits.

“The city did intervene and sent its dog squad to a 1,000-acre defence facility following a distress call,” the day after the Osmania University attacks, “but it is clear that they do not have the men, machinery or mandate to tackle the dog menace throughout greater Hyderabad,” *The Hindu* said. Hyderabad reportedly has 60 dogcatchers, but only five vehicles outfitted to haul dogs.

“We are already undertaking special drives,” emphasizing capturing dogs in slum areas, “and our men are putting in extra hours,” said Reddy.

Ordering staff to capture roving pigs and cattle, as well as dogs, and to prevent illegal animal slaughter, Reddy “indicated that his veterinary staff was facing resistance from anti-social elements and also a few locals,” *The Hindu* noted. “Therefore, he sought protection” for his staff, from “at least three armed police personnel.”

A conflicting report about who was at risk in greater Hyderabad came from Saroornagar resident Meenu Dastoor, a realtor, who alleged that dogcatchers killed his pet dog Gowri and were interrupted in the act of preparing to kill another of his dogs, Tommy, after the two of them bolted from his house.

Dastoor told media that municipal workers beat him, his sister, and his brother when they went to the municipal commissioner’s office to complain about the incident.

Alleged Dastoor, “There were over 50 workers, including women, and they beat the three of us and locked us in a room. Finally the police let us out.”

Dastoor said that both his brother and sister suffered fractures.

Saroornagar sanitation inspector K. Koteswar Rao reportedly denied that dogcatchers killed Gowri, and claimed that Dastoor assaulted workers after being told not to litter.

Like Bangalore, Hyderabad turned eventually to “the Ahmedabad model,” contracting with the Animal Help Foundation to do mobile Animal Birth Control in outlying areas. A three-month visit by one of the Animal Help surgical teams is expected to double the local rate of sterilization surgery to more than 3,000 dogs a month.



Impounded dogs at CUPA shelter. (Savitha Nagabhushan)

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM—Kerala state minister for local self-government Paloli Mohammed Kutty less than 10 days before the end of April 2007 “directed the heads of local self-government institutions to take effective steps to end the stray dog menace before May,” *The Hindu* reported on April 22.

The order followed a Kerala High Court ruling that local governments have the authority to kill dogs to end a perceived threat to public health and safety, despite the decade-old national policy, never fully implemented, favoring Animal Birth Control.

Kerala, officially 25% Islam and 19% Christian, also with a strong Communist party, is among just two states of India where cattle slaughter is legal, has a large cattle export industry, and is perhaps the only state where resisting mainstream Hindu cultural dominance has political currency.

Cattle slaughter and animal sacrifice were already political flashpoints in Kerala long before the advent of ABC, which soon became a comparable target.

Political exploitation of cultural divides appeared evident in the rhetoric on March 30, 2007, as the Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation council heatedly rejected a recommendation from People for Animals founder Maneka Gandhi that the city should back a four-year-old ABC program conducted by Animal Rights Kerala.

Mrs. Gandhi, who was federal minister for animal wel-

fare under the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party, alleged that killing dogs is in violation of the federal Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, a contention soon afterward rejected by the Kerala High Court.

Mrs. Gandhi “also alleged that a senior Thiruvananthapuram official was intimidating animal welfare groups opposing the slaughter,” reported *The Hindu*, and “demanded that the official in charge of the program be shifted.”

Continued *The Hindu*, “Welfare standing committee chairman Rajendra Das alleged that People for Animals and Animal Rights Kerala have links with companies manufacturing anti-rabies vaccine. Poojappura councillor Maheswaran Nair called for subjecting their accounts to audit. Mayor C. Jayan Babu said there was no question of signing an agreement with ARK, which is facing criminal charges for assaulting corporation officials,” after founder Avis Lyons on February 10, 2007 confronted dogcatchers who were impounding vaccinated and sterilized dogs.

Lyons in September 2006 trained 25 dogcatchers to participate in a purported Thiruvananthapuram municipal ABC program, but the program never started.

Instead, the dogcatchers “used all the information we had given them to go out and kill all the dogs in Thiruvananthapuram and surrounding areas, including our sterilized dogs,” Lyons alleges.

Paid per dog caught, the catchers subsequently hired themselves out to catch and kill dogs in other cities, including Bangalore.

Ironically, vaccinating street dogs to eradicate the rabies reservoir is much less profitable for vaccine makers than selling post-exposure vaccine for use in treating humans who are bitten.

Pointed out Compassion Crusaders Trust founder Debasis Chakrabarti, during a similar debate in Kolkata, “Since it costs only 25 rupees to vaccinate a stray dog against rabies, compared with 1,500 rupees to vaccinate a human, it is more advisable for the sake of humans to spend the money on vaccinating dogs.”

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High Court favors impounding dogs

MUMBAI—The Constitutional bench of the Bombay High Court on April 20, 2007 heard arguments on the constitutionality of Animal Birth Control programs in Mumbai and Goa. The cases before the High Court parallel claims made by ABC program opponents in Bangalore and Hyderabad that releasing street dogs after sterilization unconstitutionally jeopardizes the safety of citizens.

“The 3-judges bench is expected to direct setting up committees as per the ABC rules to monitor the implementation and progress of ABC in Mumbai and in Goa,” reported Mumbai attorney Norma Alvares. “The judges have accepted the argument that killing dogs is not the solution to the problem, and want to give ABC a chance to show that it is effective in reducing the numbers of dogs and curbing rabies.

“One of the judges wanted the dogs to be moved out of the city once they are sterilized,” Alvarez noted. “That would have been impossible to do, and would be contrary to the program,” which counts upon sterilized dogs occupying food sources so that unvaccinated and unsterilized dogs cannot invade their

habitat and multiply.

“Finally,” Alvares continued, “he accepted that all dogs cannot be sent out, but still felt that at least some dogs must go to a pound so as to reduce the number of dogs on the street. The court is therefore directing that the authorities set up dog pounds.

“I supported the idea of state dog pounds,” Alvares said, “because all of us receive complaints now and then from people about aggressive dogs troubling people on the street, and none of us have place to accommodate such animals over long periods of time. If the government sets up a dog pound, these animals can be transferred there and this will appease the public.”

Mumbai municipality and Goa state are to report progress to the court on June 22, Alvares said.

The Bombay High Court heard the case one day after Puducherry chief minister N. Rangasamy told the Puducherry Congress that his administration is soon to institute dog impoundment, emulating Bangalore.

Puducherry, on the southern coast of the Bay of Bengal, is the onetime French outpost formerly called Pondicherry.



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Aftermath of Bangalore dog purge vindicates Animal Birth Control

BANGALORE—Newly released Bangalore dog bite data vindicates the local Animal Birth Control programs and demonstrates that the programs were working, until they were suspended in early 2007 amid a civic frenzy over two fatal dog attacks on children that occurred outside the ABC program boundaries.

Official Bangalore bite statistics collected and tabulated by veterinarian Susan Shaw, released in mid-April 2007, showed a 62% decline from 2005 through 2006 in dog bites requiring medical treatment, said Compassion Unlimited Plus Action cofounder Suparna Ganguly.

The numbers “reflect the ground reality before the tragic culling and displacement of dogs in March 2007,” Ganguly told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “In March and April 2007, we feel that all our good work has been undone. Rabies has already returned to Bangalore.”

“We succeeded in seeing that no humans died of rabies in Bangalore after 2003,” elaborated Animal Rights Fund volunteer Poomima Harish to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “This is an opportunity to silence detractors. But I am very worried for the dogs.”

The return of rabies to Bangalore was confirmed after ARF caught a biting dog in Ramachandrapura, a former suburb overtaken by urban sprawl, on March 28. The dog died two days later, and was confirmed rabid by post mortem examination on April 2. ARF immediately notified all relevant officials, but apparently nothing was done to find the bite victims while all government offices took a four-day holiday.

“We caught some dogs and did dog anti-rabies vaccination in the neighborhood,” said Harish.

At request of Bangalore municipal veterinarian Prakash Reddy, ARF also sent an eight-member team to respond to a dog bite complaint in the Mariyappana Bhavi area, another suburb swallowed by the fast expanding city. A dog unknown to the neighborhood had bitten six people in an apparent rabid frenzy before being beaten to death by a mob.

ARF, “with the help of local residents and police, caught 20 dogs,” who were held for observation, and retrieved the carcass of the dead dog. The dead dog was confirmed rabid. Returning to the scene, ARF ensured that all six known bite victims received post-exposure vaccination.

“In the recent past we seem to have developed a knack of attracting goons,” Harish recounted. “We sure did on April 6, 2007. Our name, the Animal Rights Fund, to an illiterate person roughly equates with money: ‘If you are from some Fund, give me money.’ Out of nowhere, exactly as people

described the dog attack, a goon came from nowhere and told our staff in a blackmailing sort of way, ‘If you don’t give me money, I will ensure that the dog bite victims don’t take medicines.’ It was good that our people went in a big team. We had enough people to see that while one person kept this rabid guy occupied with small talk, the critical counseling was handled by the other team members. It was important to isolate this guy.”

Public education

Animal advocates on April 8 distributed nearly 100,000 copies of an newspaper insert promoting and defending the role of Animal Birth Control in preventing dog bites and rabies.

“We tried to cover almost all 100 wards of Bangalore, and also outlying areas such as Krishnarajapuram, which witnessed some horrific violence against animals,” explained project coordinator Gopi Shankar. “We made efforts to cover all papers in both English and Kannada, and in all areas. But we are working from limited resources, and managed to cover just a quarter of the over 440,000 newspapers that are distributed in Bangalore every day.”

CUPA on the same day began a series of Sunday sterilization and vaccination demonstrations in Bangalore parks. Eight dogs were sterilized and 29 were vaccinated on the first day of the program.

“Things are getting better, for the humane societies, but culling dogs in smaller towns and cities is still going on,” CUPA chief veterinarian Shiela Rao told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “It is so arbitrary and sporadic that it makes no sense at all. Savitha Nagbhushan,” whose photographs appeared in the April 2007 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and in this edition, “has been tirelessly photographing mounds of dead dogs and preventing further culling in those towns that she visits, but [the killers, a mercenary crew from Kerala state] just move to the next location and repeat the process.”

“Killing in smaller towns is nothing new,” pointed out Arpan Sharma and Erika Abrams, as cofounders of the recently formed Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations. “Local authorities do take recourse to random killing, wherever pressure from animal groups or local citizens [on dogs’ behalf] is not strong. As far as we have been able to determine,” Sharma and Abrams agreed, “killings in other cities are not a reaction to the events in Bangalore. It does not appear that Bangalore has started any sort of a chain reaction,” but rather, the spotlight on Bangalore may have exposed the routine practices of outlying communities.

Mob attacks on dogs and municipal

dog pogroms began in Chandra Layout, a Bangalore suburb, after three dogs killed a five-year-old girl named Sridevi on January 5, 2007. Exactly as CUPA, the Animal Rights Fund, and other Bangalore animal welfare organizations warned at the time, indiscriminately killing or impounding dogs other than those directly involved in the attack only opened habitat to others.

Often dogs who had been sterilized and vaccinated were replaced by unvaccinated, unsterilized dogs from outlying districts, who invaded the city to take advantage of meat wastes that continue to be dumped in vacant lots by illegal butchers. Typically dogs follow migrant construction workers into the city, taking up residence wherever they find an unguarded food source.

“Now, there are dogs who do not belong here, bigger and more ferocious. I cannot let my children out for fear that they might be hurt,” Chandra Layout resident K.N. Chandrasekhar complained to Swathi Shivanand of *The Hindu*.

Other suburbs were afflicted by dog-dumping, as catchers paid by the head tried to unload dogs as quickly as possible.

Nine residents of Somasandrapalya, a Bangalore suburb, were bitten on March 22-23. At least four were younger than school age. Two suffered head bites, one of them a four-year-old girl who was bitten on the nose.

Haralur Welfare Association president Srinivasa Reddy told *The Hindu* that Bangalore employees “brought a van full of stray dogs, probably from the dog pounds after they were sterilised, and left them in our area on March 18. The problem started after that,” Reddy said.

Almost certainly the dogs were not sterilized, as the Bangalore area ABC programs were suspended at the time, due to lack of municipal support.

Hemanth Kumar, 6, of Yelahanka, a northern suburb of Bangalore, died from rabies on April 9, two weeks after a dog bit his legs on March 25. He was treated at a local clinic, but reportedly did not tell his parents immediately, and did not receive post-exposure vaccination.

Neighbour S. Parthasarathy told *The Hindu* that others had also been bitten, and that dogcatchers from Bangalore “seem to be releasing dogs from other areas to our area.”

Animal Help

Yelahanka “is not covered by ABC, or for that matter any sort of dog management,” observed Gopi Shankar. “Yelahanka is one of the areas in which the Animal Help Foundation is expected to sterilize 1,000 dogs,” Shankar added.

Having sterilized more than 45,000

dogs in Ahmedabad during 2006, using much faster and more stringently aseptic procedures than the Indian norm, the Animal Help Foundation is now offering to introduce the same methods to other cities around India. Bangalore and Hyderabad are among those accepting the offer, but the start of work in Bangalore was delayed because Animal Help founder Rahul Sehgal requires guaranteed full municipal funding. Having not paid the local ABC programs for their services, as contracted, since September 2006, Bangalore officials balked at paying Animal Help.

“Considering that nearly four months have lapsed since the first unfortunate incident in Bangalore, if only the city’s authorities had tackled this problem in a scientific and rational manner, Hemanth Kumar’s death would perhaps not have happened,” charged Shankar.

Requesting “patience and accurate reporting” from Bangalore news media, Animal Help founder Rahul Sehgal was soon disappointed when one newspaper alleged that the Animal Help program was off to a “dismal start,” after only one day on the job.

“My team is settling down, and they need to be given some time to get adjusted to the new environment, where people don’t speak their language, don’t eat their food, and definitely do not understand them,” Sehgal said. “They are in your city to help you and work with you. I leave the judgment to you as to what will help us get motivated to work harder and what kind of a support we really need to get comfortable in Bangalore.

“I have contracted to spay/neuter 5,000 dogs in five months, and promise to achieve it. We might do only 1,000 till July and may complete 4,000 more in August. This is entirely dependent on circumstances beyond our control, so kindly give the project some time to establish itself.”

Steering for political middle ground, Karnataka High Court Justices Chidanand Ullal and Ashok B. Hinchigeri on April 17, 2007 ordered the Bangalore city government to “expeditiously take steps to tackle the stray dog menace,” and “spare no effort to ensure human safety,” but recommended that dogs be impounded for care by nonprofit organizations, funded by the city—as is already done.

Petitioner Krishna Bhat had asked the court to suspend Animal Birth Control programs that release dogs in Bangalore, and reinstitute killing dogs as official policy. Bhat contended that ABC programs violate constitutional provisions guaranteeing the lives and liberty of Indian citizens, and that sterilizing dogs had only made them more dangerous. His petition was endorsed by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority.

Further action on the case was postponed until May 29.

Reports of a new chemosterilant being used in Chennai were premature

CHENNAI—Tamil Nadu state health minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran on April 18, 2007 stirred hope worldwide that Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University had developed a new and better injectable chemosterilant for male dogs.

“Male dogs can be sterilized through injection of cadmium chloride. This procedure is simpler than birth control surgery,” Ramachandran told a Chennai workshop on rabies prevention and stray dog control.

Ramachandran indicated that cadmium chloride injections would soon be field-tested in Chennai by the local Animal Birth Control programs. His remarks were amplified that evening by Sanjay Pinto of NDTV, and by *The Hindu*, a Chennai-based nationally circulated newspaper, the next morning.

That Chennai would be first to test a new chemosterilant seemed plausible. The Blue Cross of India introduced the Animal Birth Control program concept in 1964. In 1990 the Blue Cross of India introduced a chemosterilant called Talsur that was promptly withdrawn after injected dogs developed excessive scrotal swelling. In 2005 the Blue Cross of India tested Neutersol, the first chemosterilant licensed for U.S. use. Although Neutersol has long been used successfully under similar conditions in Mexico, it

failed Indian scrutiny when some of the injected dogs developed scrotal swelling reminiscent of the Talsur experiment.

But Blue Cross of India chair Chinny Krishna told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** and fellow members of the Asian Animal Protection Network that cadmium chloride is far from being ready for broad deployment, and may never be an acceptable sterilization method.

“Cadium chloride works as any other corrosive, cell-killing drug would work,” Krishna said. “It causes scar tissue to form and then slough off, leaving the dog sterile. However, an unacceptable level of pain and swelling results, as with most other chemosterilants. Calcium chloride has been experimentally tried on just six dogs, under lab conditions. No long-term study has been made—no short-term study, even.”

Chennai municipal com-

missioner Rajesh Lakhoni told Kannal Achuthan of *The Hindu* that the city estimates there are about 115,000 dogs at large, of whom about 75,000 (65%) are sterilized. The municipal ABC program sterilizes about 10,000 dogs per year, of about 13,000 per year who are impounded.

The success of the Chennai ABC program has encouraged the Tamil Nadu state government and other cities in the state to start parallel efforts.

Salem, for instance, with an estimated 5,925 street dogs and 2,540 household pet dogs, and 1,800 reported bites in 2006, in March 2007 introduced an ABC program.

“Health and veterinary authorities will sterilize and vaccinate the street marauders and intern them for seven days in the SPCA’s Hasthampatti dog kennel for post-operative care,” said *The Hindu*.

But Tamil Nadu has not been immune from the anti-dog furor that hit the Bangalore and Hyderabad areas after recent fatal attacks.

“Dharmavaram municipality, Anantapur district,” in southern Tamil Nadu, on April 14, 2007 “started killing dogs without any reason or public complaint,” alleged Clementien Pauws of the Anantapur-based Karuna Society Puttaparthi. “Approximately 200 dogs

were killed in three days,” Pauws said, among them many dogs who had been sterilized by either the Karuna Society or another local ABC program.

An ABC delegation to officials managed to stop the Dharmavaram killing, but “The hysterics from Bangalore and Hyderabad seem to be very infectious, serving different interests and politics,” Pauws observed.



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The Moral Menagerie: *Philosophy and Animal Rights*

by Marc R. Fellenz

Univ. of Illinois Press (1325 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820), 2007. 301 pages, paperback. \$25.00



Marc Fellenz, a philosophy teacher at Suffolk County Community College in New York, writes from a broader and deeper perspective than is typical in debates over animal rights theory. Reviewing the major animal rights theories, Fellenz fails to find any that lack significant shortcomings. He goes on to look for a better intellectual basis on which to ground an ethical theory on behalf of animals.

Fellenz rejects Peter Singer's utilitarianism because one cannot weigh the benefits of most activities against the costs with any precision.

Tom Regan's deontological rights-based theory is based upon sentience, Fellenz points out, and since sentience exists along a continuum, no one knows where the arbitrary lines of exclusion should be drawn.

The Aristotelian ethic of emphasizing the moral virtue of the human, rather than the moral effect of the activity, also fails to indicate where the virtuous line in our dealings with animals should be drawn.

The theory that society and ethics are based upon a social contract, to avoid perpetual warfare, is not easily applied to human/animal relations, because humans usually have nothing to gain by voluntarily refraining from exploiting animals.

Fellenz terms all of these approaches "extensionist," i.e. seeking to inappropriately extend human constructs to the animal world.

An environmental ethic, Fellenz claims, would "do more than establish a ground for our moral obligations to nature; it would risk making the natural world so sacrosanct that humanity's very presence in it cannot avoid being morally objectionable."

Fellenz compares the theoretical constructs for animal rights to the theories behind deep ecology and ecofeminism. Deep ecology and ecofeminism each provide a logical and compelling moral basis, Fellenz believes, for undermining the narrow anthropocentrism which contaminates traditional moral philosophy, and allow us to deal realistically with non-human animals.

Fellenz quotes John Berger's apt description of a zoo as an "epitaph—a monument to the permanent marginization of animals and a concession that authentic wildness is itself an endangered species. As wilderness and our access to it continue to shrink," Berger continued, "we may have little choice but to rely upon such impoverished and self-defeating devices as the game farm and zoo to preserve the memory of the very existence of the animals' world... 'Wildlife management' is

thus an oxymoron, for if it has to be managed it is not truly wild."

Some of Fellenz's statements in regard to hunting may raise a sceptical eyebrow. For example, Fellenz writes, "it is telling that while the humane animal advocate feels compassion for the suffering animal it may be the hunter who truly befriends the animal, and heeds its call."

Some humans enjoy escaping the stultifying self-domestication that we call civilization through sport hunting, but to suggest that by taking up predation a person can actually "befriend" his victims is to make a claim at odds with the reality that wild predators usually do not kill and eat their friends, and do not hang their heads on the wall.

Like most philosophers, Fellenz seems to have little feeling for animals, and little direct experience with them. Extending sympathy and understanding to non-humans should not be rejected as "extensionist," when those who do this know that it elicits the same responses from many animals, including wildlife, as from humans in need of care.

But such experience has little meaning to moral philosophers. Instead, Fellenz provides a fascinating summation of the philosophy of hunting and other ritualized or institutionalized forms of animal abuse, citing parallels with sacrifice and totemism. There are disquieting similarities between the ancient high priests, with their knives and sacrificial altars, and the hunters and vivisectionists with their knives and guns, likewise eager to sacrifice animals for their gods, now named "conservation" or "science."

Just as guilt about killing was in ancient times expiated by collective rituals and a professed totemic kinship with animals, so contemporary hunters deceive themselves by ritually reciting that they are "lovers of nature," who are "keeping down the numbers," or "removing problem animals," or "investing money in the Third World."

Vivisectionists have a parallel ritualistic vocabulary. From their own perspective, what they do is "sacrifice" individual animals for the perceived greater good of society.

This book will not easily be understood by readers who are not already familiar with animal rights theory. But for those who can endure the turgid prose, the dense text and the multisyllabic philosophisms, the rewards are great. There is wisdom on every page, even if the book groans under the weight of it.

—Chris Mercer

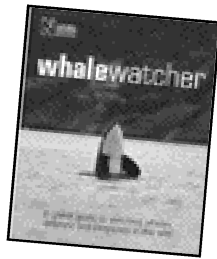
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Whalewatcher:

A global guide to watching whales, dolphins and porpoises in the wild

by Trevor Day



Firefly Books Lt. (66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada L4B 1H1), 2006. 204 pp., paperback, illust. \$19.95.

Though *Whalewatcher* is structured as a field guide, armchair travelers will probably spend more time with it than marine mammal observers seeking to compile a life list.

More than 10 million people per year watch whales, dolphins, and porpoises or about as many as watched birds a generation ago, before the recent global explosion of interest in birding.

However, while anyone can watch birds from anywhere, few people have any opportunity to watch marine mammals from their homes, workplaces, or during a commute, and even those of us who do have the opportunity rarely manage many sightings.

United Nations Development Program zoologist and marine biologist Trevor Day in *Whalewatcher* describes 41 whale, dolphin, and porpoise species—about half of the known varieties. Day focuses on the most observable species, except for the Chinese baiji, or river dolphin, now officially extinct.

Yet, even though the listed species are mostly relatively easily seen, if one can go where they live, seeing all 40 would require visits to every corner of the world. Compiling a life list of 400 bird species would be comparatively simple.

In view of the difficulty and expense of whale-watching, one must wonder why Day omits mention of three of the most accessible venues: the junction of the Saguenay River with the St. Lawrence River estuary in Quebec, hosting minke whales, fin whales, a small population of resident belugas, and occasional visiting blue whales; the Stellwagen Bank off Cape Cod, featuring minke and fin whales, with many other species passing by; and Lime Kiln Point, on the western side of San Juan Island in Puget Sound, renowned as an especially good spot for watching orcas and Dall's porpoises, occasionally visited by minke and grey whales.

—Merritt Clifton

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America

Fifth Edition

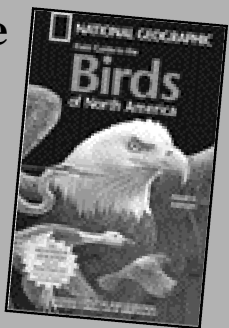
Edited by Jon L. Dunn & Jonathan Alderfer

502 pages, paperback. \$24.00.

National Geographic Birder's Journal

502 pages, paperback. \$16.95.

Both from the National Geographic Society
(1145 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036), 2006.



How many National Geographic Society birding manuals can one person use?

For that matter, how many birding manuals from the many rival publishers can possibly find an audience?

According to the publisher's flack sheet, there are now from 46 million to 85 million birders in the U.S., depending on whether one counts only those who buy field guides and keep life lists of species seen, or

includes everyone who watches and identifies interesting birds now and then.

Further, as the Baby Boomers reach retirement age, the numbers of active birders are expected to expand to about 128 million—comparable to the numbers of people who share their homes with cats and dogs.

"Forty percent of birders travel more than a mile from home to bird," says the flack sheet. "On average, bird enthusiasts spend 120 days a year observing birds around the home, and 17 days on bird-watching trips."

By those standards, and assuming that all trips including a substantial amount of time watching birds qualify, even if they have a different primary purpose, I'm in the 40%, and have been for much of my life. I watch birds almost every day, mentally identify most of those I see, and reach for a birding reference about once a week.

Yet even at this relatively high level of interest, I cannot imagine myself needing or wanting a birding library as extensive and overlapping as the National Geographic Society now offers, apparently trying to

repackage every scrap of information to fill every possible market niche.

Having reviewed the *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America* and the *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds—Washington & Oregon* in April 2006, I was quite surprised in October to receive the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* and *National Geographic Birder's Journal*. They seemed, at a glance, to be heavily redundant.

And I do mean heavily. *The Field Guide to Birds* is not remarkably different in content or organization from competitor volumes, but it is among the heftier field guides around. The one time I actually took it outside, I dropped it in the mud, learning the hard way that it is not to be managed with just one hand. It also lands on one's toes with a substantial impact.

The Field Guide to Birds does, however, have the virtue of presenting the range maps of birds on the same pages as their pictures. That eliminates the problem presented by some other field guides of having to look in two different places to see if X species could really appear in Y location.

The Birder's Journal turns out to be handy for persons interested in compiling a life list, which seems to include most male birders, as well as many women. The length of one's life list is the currency of status among birders, many of whom take up birding as a use in retirement for the competitive drive that they formerly applied to careers in business, law, and finance.

Included in *The Birder's Journal* are sketches of all 967 bird species considered native to North America, opposite pages in which the birder can record the date, time, and place of each sighting, along with any other relevant notes.

This is a very neat, handy, organized way to collect information that birders formerly kept on index cards or in notebooks and looseleaf binders.

Compiling a life list has so far never seemed to me worth doing. To my birding friends, this confirms my status as a common loon. If I were going to do it, though, this is how I would begin.

—Merritt Clifton

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ANIMAL OBITS

Ralph, a young whale shark, died on January 11, 2007 at the Georgia Aquarium. Aquarium executive director Jeff Swanagan and Robert Heuter, director of shark research at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Florida, disclosed on March 28, 2007 that Ralph had been force-fed for months, and apparently died from peritonitis after the feeding tube punctured his stomach. “Only one other aquarium, in Okinawa, keeps whale sharks, who may live as long as 120 years in the wild,” reported Brenda Goodman of *The New York Times*. A study of 16 whale sharks kept at the Okinawa Expo Aquarium from 1980 to 1998 found they survived, on average, 502 days in captivity. That facility has kept at least one whale shark for more than 10 years.

Atari, 46, matriarch of the 13-elephant herd at Ramat Gan Safari near Tel Aviv, Israel, was on April 3, 2007 unexpectedly charged and killed by Yossi, 33, a bull elephant nearly twice her size. “What happened to Yossi, who grew up all his life with Atari, and they always got along?” asked Ramat Gan Safari veterinarian Yigal Horowitz afterward on Israel Radio. “Here and there were small fights, but they never had a fight like this.”


r-Y, 23, a whooping crane hatched and banded in 1983, was found dead on April 18, 2007 in a field near Almont, North Dakota, apparently a natural casualty of the whoopers’ annual northward migration. r-Y had helped to hatch and guide seven chicks south for the winter since first nesting successfully in 1986. r-Y “was one of 25 whoopers in his flock still fitted with a band,” reported *Bismarck Tribune* outdoors writer Richard Hinton. The flock was banded in 1977-1988, and r-Y and his mate were radio-collared as well, but the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service quit the banding project after concern developed that banding may inhibit birds’ survival. “Only 236 whooping cranes comprise the flock that winters on the Texas Gulf Coast and breeds at Canada’s Wood Buffalo National Park on the Alberta-Northwest Territories border,” wrote Hinton. “It’s the largest wild flock in North America,” recovered from fewer than two dozen whoopers in the 1940s.

MEMORIALS

In memory of my wonderful miniature poodle Peanut Butter.
—Shari Thompson

In memory of Shadow, Freddie, Sherman, and BeeGee.
We will love and miss you always.
—Lindy and Marvin Sobel

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





P.J., 7, an American paint parade horse belonging to the Krazy Horse Ranch & Polo Club in Black Canyon City, Arizona, was shot on February 24, 2007 by Maricopa County sheriff’s Deputy George “Buddy” Acritelli after abruptly spooking, rearing back, and impaling himself on a hay wagon pole at start of the Parada del Sol in Scottsdale, Arizona. P.J. “was a very experienced horse, accustomed to loud music, trail rides, and parades,” Parada del Sol spokesperson Kendra Cea told Diana Balazs of the *Arizona Republic*. His death was the first serious accident at the Parada del Sol since four coach horses bolted in 1989, damaging two cars.

Maureen, 30, a California sea lion resident at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. since 1978, died on April 11, 2007. Rescued as a one-year-old who lost all her teeth after becoming entangled in a fishing net, Maureen “had for years been part of a zoo performance designed to illustrate the dangers of pollution,” recalled *Washington Post* staff writer Michael E. Ruane. “She had been trained to retrieve debris that keepers would throw into the pool as part of the demonstration.”

Marah, born on Christmas Day 2000 in captivity near Bethlehem, South Africa, returned to the wild with her three cubs on June 8, 2004, by Linda Tucker of The Global White Lion Protection Trust, died in early April 2007, Tucker announced, when a warthog burrow caved in on her while she was hunting. “The Global White Lion Protection Trust is focused now on the survival of Marah’s three-and-a-half year old sub-adult offspring,” wrote Tucker, “who learnt their hunting techniques from their mother. The three offspring have all hunted successfully on their own, killing prey as large as adult wildebeest.” Marah was the first white lioness to be returned to the Timbavati region as part of Tucker’s effort to restore the white lion population once found there. White lions were last captured in the Timbavati region and sold for breeding and exhibition in 1993.

Angayarkanni, 41, a cow elephant long kept at Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai, India, died on March 31, 2007 from degenerative conditions resulting from a life mostly spent standing on the concrete temple floors.

Ziggy, 15, and his mate, **Sue Ann**, 9, Louisville Zoo siamangs whose first son, Zoli, was born on February 20, 2007, were both found dead of no clear cause on the morning of April 4. “We are at a loss as to what happened,” general curator Steve Wing told Sheldon S. Shafer of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. “They were fine the night of April 3 when we checked on them—active, bright, alert, and eating well.”

OBITUARIES

Veronica Parker, 41, and her daughter **Charlotte**, 10, were on March 24, 2007 trampled by an elephant in musth in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, after leaving their vehicle to try for a closer look at the elephant from behind an anthill. Kelvin Parker, husband of Veronica and father of Charlotte, was uninjured. Tour guide Andy Trevillia, 38, was seriously injured after trying to stop the elephant with a rifle shot. Noted Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force founder Johanny Rodriguez, “The elephants in Hwange have become increasingly skittish around humans because they associate them with gunfire due to subsistence poaching, commercial poaching (for ivory) and the fact that Zimbabwe is the only country in Africa where shooting game for weekly rations is legal. The recent removal of 12 juveniles from their herds for use in the tourist industry and elephants being trapped in wire snares doesn’t help their mood either.”

C.N. Madanraj, 67, and his wife **Tara Bai**, 63, of Hyderabad, India, on April 1, 2007 hanged themselves in grief, three days after burying Poppy, their dog of 13 years.

Kathy Manuela Attardo Clafflin, 54, a longtime resident of New Orleans who had relocated to Franklinton, Louisiana, “died suddenly overnight” on April 2, 2007, leaving 30 rescued cats, reported Pinckney Wood of Humane Heart, who with other local rescuers tried to find homes for the cats. “She was in poor health and had been stressed for about a year and a half by a man who lives nearby, his wife, and son,” Wood said. “A number of Kathy’s cats were shot.”

Dirk Brink, 58, owner of the Krugersdorp Game Reserve near Johannesburg, South Africa, was on April 20, 2007 fatally mauled by as many as five lions. Reported Kashiefa Ajam of the Cape Town *Cape Argus*, “Brink had been testing a new camera given to him by his daughter when he was attacked, said family spokesman Peter Beeker. It is unclear whether Brink knew the lions were in the vicinity.”

Dustin Otis, 21, of Hughes Springs, Texas, on April 15, 2007 drowned in Lake Wright Patman while trying to rescue Flash, his 8-week-old basset hound, who had jumped out of a boat that Otis was sailing with his father Dwayne Otis.

Yan-Yan, 22, a giant panda female who was given by the Chinese government to former German chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1995, died on March 26, 2007 in her cage at the Berlin Zoo. Yan Yan was initially expected to produce offspring with a male named Bao Bao, but after Yan Yan suffered a miscarriage in 1997 they never again mated. Her death came as up to 30,000 visitors per day visited her neighbor Knut, a baby polar bear who has been bottle-fed by keepers since being abandoned by her mother, a former East German circus performer.

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Dorothy Bush, 87, died on one of the last days of March 2007 while planting flowers near the doorway of her home in Lincoln, Nebraska. “Bush was co-founder of the now-defunct Mickle-Bush Neuter-Spay Foundation,” begun in 1983 with her longtime friend Loretta Mickle, “and more recently was instrumental in forming Break the Link, which neuters, spays and helps animals from domestic violence situations,” recalled Maureen Hutfless of the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Added Cindy Lange-Kubick, also of the *Journal Star*, “She served on the board of the Capital Humane Society, the Coalition for Pet Protection, and PALS. She donated seed money to start a spay/neuter program at Hearts United for Animals, a no-kill shelter near Auburn. When Dorothy’s husband Gene died, she buried his ashes at Rolling Acres, a pet cemetery,” where she also buried at least 10 of her favorite pets. An energetic lobbyist for animal welfare bills, Bush approached a young attorney named Mike Johanns for help in forming the Mickle-Bush Neuter-Spay Foundation, and remained in touch with him as he became mayor of Lincoln, Governor of Nebraska, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. “She and Loretta were so committed,” Johanns told Lange-Kubick. “They gave literally everything they had to the welfare of animals.”

Virginia Knouse, 82, died on April 5, 2007 at her home in Edmonds, Washington. Knouse and her husband of 45 years, Fred Knouse, in 1967 founded the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, of Lynnwood. Virginia Knouse continued as board president until 1997, by which time PAWS was among the most prominent humane societies in the U.S., active in animal advocacy as well as sheltering, with an annual budget of \$1.7 million and assets of \$4.2 million.

Melisa Casco, 19, died on April 12, 2007, after undergoing surgery to amputate one of her legs due to injuries inflicted by a giant anteater. Her other leg had also been clawed and her abdomen opened. “Casco worked at the Florencio Varela zoo outside Buenos Aires as part of a conservation and reproduction project involving endangered giant anteaters,” said Reuters. There were no witnesses to the unprecedented attack. Casco was apparently already in critical condition when found.

Foxy, 10, a brindle pit bull terrier well known in Hoboken, New Jersey, as companion of homeless resident Randy Vargas, 46, on March 19, 2007 “saw a dog she knew across Hudson Street, dashed across to say hello, and was hit by a white pickup that stopped briefly and then sped off,” reported Peter Applebome of *The New York Times*.



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