

## Cat-skinning in

GENEVA—How many cats are skinned for fur in Switzerland?

Probably not nearly as many as the thousands or even tens of thousands recently alleged to media by Tomi Tomek, founder of the Swiss group SOS Chats, and Patricia Dolciani, president of the French Society for the Protection of Animals in Thonon-les-Bains,



(Kim Bartlett)

near the Swiss border—but enough to shock Europe as the trade comes to light.

“As far as we are aware, only a couple of dozen cat furs are produced annually in Switzerland,” Swiss Federal Veterinary Office spokesperson Marcel Falk told Tony Paterson of the London *Independent* in April 2008.

The agency “has asked the country’s tanners about production levels and concludes that the output is minimal,” Paterson reported.

But Paterson confirmed that some cats are skinned in Switzerland. At the Ark Farm in Huttwil, where a store caters to craft artists, Paterson found a “pile of cat pelts lying on a table...on sale with sheepskins, whole calf skins, and fox pelts for five Swiss francs each,” worth about \$5.00 U.S.

“A salesman insisted the cat skins had been brought in by an old woman ‘who did not know what to do with them,’” Paterson reported. “Picking out a grey striped, professionally tanned and perfumed cat pelt from a pile, he stressed, ‘These skins come from cats who were run over,’” unlikely because pelts from any animal who has been hit by a car tend to be damaged beyond use.

Recalled Paterson, “Late last year, an elderly woman at a Huttwil tanners shop was interviewed by French television and not only admitted that cats were skinned for their pelts, but added it was also quite normal to eat what was left over. The traditional recipe on farms

(continued on page 15)



Shelter dogs. (Kim Bartlett)

## Hunters hit foreclosed pets

GRAND RAPIDS—Pressured for just one weekend by the pro-hunting U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, the 182-store Meijer retail chain on April 28, 2008 bagged a pet photo contest meant to benefit the

Foreclosure Pets Fund, a project of the Humane Society of the U.S.

“Meijer Inc. ducked after finding itself in the crosshairs,” reported Shandra Martinez of the *Grand Rapids Press*.

Founded in Grand Rapids in 1932, Meijer now operates stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. The Meijer contest was to donate \$1.00, up to \$5,000, for every entry in the online photo contest.

“Money donated to HSUS through this promotion, while not going directly to its anti-hunting campaign, will free up money from the organization’s general fund that can be used to attack the rights of sportsmen,” the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance charged in an April 25 web posting that urged hunters to contact Meijer chair Hank Meijer.

“Richard N. Cabela, founder of (continued on page 12)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

May 2008  
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## New AVMA elephant standards may help the working elephants of India

SCHAUMBURG, THRISSUR, BANGALORE—Far from India, and perhaps not even thinking of Indian temple elephants, the American Veterinary Medical Association executive board on April 12, 2008 issued a new policy on the humane treatment and handling of elephants which may eventually influence the care of more working elephants in India than the entire elephant population of the United States.

“Elephant handlers and veterinarians generally use two tools in handling and training elephants, tethers to restrict movement temporarily, and a shaft with a blunt hook near one end known as a guide,” explained a May 6, 2008 AVMA press release.

The “guide,” in India, is called an ankus, and in the U.S. is more commonly called an elephant hook.

“Elephant guides are husbandry tools that consist of a shaft capped by one straight and one curved end,” states the new AVMA policy. “The ends are blunt and tapered, and are used to touch parts of the elephant’s body as a cue to elicit specific actions or behaviors, with the handler exerting very little pressure. The ends should contact but not tear or penetrate the skin. The AVMA condemns the use of guides to puncture, lacerate, strike or

inflict harm upon an elephant.

“Tethers provide a means to temporarily limit an elephant’s movement for elephant or human safety and well-being,” the new AVMA policy continues.

“Tethers can be constructed of rope, chain, or nylon webbing. Their use and fit should not result in discomfort or skin injury. Forelimb tethers should be loose on the foot below the ankle joint. Hind limb tethers should fit snugly on the limb between the ankle and knee joints. Tether length should be sufficient to allow the elephant to easily lie down and rise. The AVMA only supports the use of tethers for the shortest time required for specific management purposes.”

The AVMA acknowledged that it adopted the new policy to avoid the passage of bills proposed in several states to ban the ankus and/or chaining elephants as a primary means of confinement.

The significance of the AVMA policy in India is that it gives the humane community a specific international standard to point toward, in absence of specific Indian standards, in responding to rising concern about working elephants running amok in public places—especially at temples during religious

(continued on page 11)



A flock of sheep near Visakhapatnam, India. (Kim Bartlett)

## Meat-eating drives global

LONDON, NEW YORK CITY, WASHINGTON D.C.—History may remember 2008 as the year that world economic analysts and planners belatedly recognized that people eat too much meat.

Whether that recognition translates into cultural and political changes of direction remains to be seen, but by January 2008 the global consequences of excessive meat consumption were already evident.

“The food price index of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, based on export prices for 60 internationally traded foodstuffs, climbed 37% last year,” observed Keith Bradsher of *The New York Times*. “That was on top of a 14% increase in 2006.

“In some poor countries, desperation is taking hold,” Bradsher warned, citing unrest over grain shortages and rising food prices in 12 African, Asian, and Latin American nations. Three months later the list of nations enduring food crises had extended to 37 and continued to expand.

“Soaring fuel prices have altered the equation for growing food and transporting it across the globe,” Bradsher explained. “Huge

demand for biofuels has created tension between using land to produce fuel and using it for food.”

But the biggest single factor, Bradsher continued, is that “A growing middle class in the developing world is demanding more [animal] protein, from pork and hamburgers to chicken and ice cream. And all this is happening even as global climate change may be starting to make growing food harder in some of the places best equipped to do so, like Australia.”

“Everyone wants to eat like an American on this globe,” Daniel W. Basse of the Chicago-based AgResource consultancy firm told David Streitfield of *The New York Times*. “But if they do, we’re going to need another two or three globes to grow it all.”

Assessed Associated Press, “Rising demand for meat and dairy in rapidly developing countries such as China and India is sending up the cost of grain, used for cattle feed, as is the demand for raw materials to make biofuels. In China, per capita meat consumption has increased 150% since 1980.”

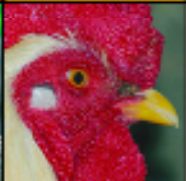
The increase in Chinese meat con- (continued on page 10)

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Editorial feature

Culturing meat

Now among the most talked-about scientific conferences of 2008, the three-day In Vitro Meat Symposium was little noticed by anyone but the handful of participants when convened on April 9 in the Oslo suburb of Aas.

Home of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, best known for associations with the Nobel Prize, Aas almost every week hosts obscure and esoteric scientific conferences. Few rate even a press release. The timing of the In Vitro Meat Symposium, however, could not have been better. In Aas, the assembled scientists and a few investors compared notes on products most often described as “test tube,” “synthetic,” or “cultured” meat. Around the world, mass media reported near-simultaneous civil unrest in multiple nations resulting from a global grain shortage.

The most obvious and politically inflammatory cause of the grain shortage was the diversion of up to 20% of the U.S. corn crop to making ethanol fuel. But the ethanol industry quickly pointed out that the U.S. had in fact raised and exported more grain in 2007 than in 2006. The real problem, ethanol advocates claimed, was that more grain is now going to livestock. Soaring meat consumption in China and India means less grain available elsewhere to bake into bread and pasta.

This is exactly what a June 1997 ANIMAL PEOPLE cover feature projected would occur at about this time, but without particular originality, since others had seen the same crunch coming for 30 years.

Seeking ways to have meat and Hummers too, media pundits became aware through Alexis Madrigal of *Wired.com* that the Aas geeks might have an answer.

Madrigal specializes in covering obscure and esoteric scientific conferences to extract hints about coming trends in technological innovation.

“Meat grown in giant tanks known as bioreactors would cost between \$5,200-\$5,500 a ton,” or 3,300 to 3,500 euros, Madrigal reported. Economic analysts speaking at the In Vitro Meat Symposium projected that this would be “cost-competitive with European beef prices,” Madrigal wrote.

Assessed Madrigal, “Rapidly evolving technology and increasing concern about the environmental impact of meat production are signs that vat-grown meat is moving from scientific curiosity to consumer option. In vitro meat production is a specialized form of tissue engineering,” he explained, “a biomedical practice in which scientists try to grow animal tissues like bone, skin, kidneys, and hearts” for possible transplant. “Proponents say it will ultimately be a more efficient way to make animal meat, which would reduce the carbon footprint of meat products...Researchers can currently grow small amounts of meat in the lab, and have even been able to get heart cells to beat in Petri dishes. Growing muscle cells on an industrial scale is the next step.”

Elaborated Johns Hopkins University researcher Jason Matheny, who is among the 11 cofounders of the nonprofit cultured meat development firm New Harvest, “To produce meat now, 75 to 95% of what we feed an animal is lost because of metabolism and inedible structures like skeleton or neurological tissue. With cultured meat, there is no body to support; you’re only building the meat that eventually gets eaten.”

Nature engineered skeletons and neurological tissues that facilitate locomotion because of the necessity of enabling animals to move toward food and away from danger. These abilities are so little needed in the factory farm environment where pigs and poultry are raised, in particular, that significant economic losses result each year from animals whose underdeveloped legs collapse, causing them to suffocate beneath their own bloated weight.

Under pressure from animal advocates, some factory farm conglomerates are reluctantly moving toward housing that allows pigs and chickens more room to exercise—while fantasizing about using genetic engineering to breed animality out of animals altogether.

As a genetic engineering proponent once told ANIMAL PEOPLE in an off-the-record briefing, “If the problem you people have with meat is strictly with slaughtering sentient beings, we should be able to get rid of sentience. An animal doesn’t have to be sentient to be slaughtered—it just needs to grow and gain weight. From the food industry point of view, the less sentient we can make an animal be, the better.”

Culturing meat approaches the same problem from the opposite direction.

“There is nothing in the production of cultured meat that necessarily involves genetic modification,” explains the New Harvest web site. “The cells that can be used to produce cultured meat are muscle and stem cells from farm animals. It is possible, however, that genetically modifying a muscle cell would allow it to proliferate a greater number of times in culture, and may thus make cultured meat production more economical.

“In theory, a single cell could be used to produce enough meat to feed the global population for a year,” New Harvest continues. “It is possible to take a muscle biopsy from a live farm animal and culture the isolated muscle cells. If stem cells are used, these would likely be from a farm animal embryo. After the cells are multiplied, they are attached to a sponge-like scaffold,” which substitutes for an animal’s skeleton, “and are soaked with nutrients. They may also be mechanically stretched to increase their size and protein content. The resulting cells can then be harvested, seasoned, cooked, and consumed.

“In biomedical research,” adds New Harvest, “most cell cultures have used media made from the blood of cow fetuses. But researchers have now developed media made from plants and mushrooms.

“Within several years,” New Harvest says, “it may be possible to produce cultured meat in a processed form, like sausage, hamburger, or chicken nuggets, with modifications of existing technologies. Producing unprocessed meats, like steaks or pork chops, would involve technologies that do not yet exist, that may take a decade or longer to develop.”

New Harvest contends that, “Cultured meat has the potential to be healthier, safer, less polluting, and more humane than conventional meat...more efficient than conventional meat production in use of energy, land, and water; and it should produce less waste.

“Cultured meat is unnatural,” New Harvest concedes, “in the same way that bread, cheese, yogurt, and wine are unnatural. All involve processing ingredients derived from natural sources. Arguably, the production of cultured meat is less unnatural than raising farm animals in intensive confinement, injecting them with synthetic hormones, and feeding them artificial diets made up of antibiotics and animal wastes.”

Dutch investment

The environmental argument has reportedly already proved persuasive to the Dutch government. The \$5 million Dutch investment in cultured meat research and development may be little more than a token contribution toward the total cost of getting cultured meat into food processing plants and supermarkets, but stands in promising contrast to many previous Dutch schemes to get more economic output out of limited land by using new technology.

Among the most notorious was draining the Zuider Zee estuary after World War II to create “polders,” salty fields brought into often marginal cultivation at enormous cost to wildlife habitat. Pumps keeping the below-sea-level polders drained are powered by a nuclear reactor which itself could be inundated if the North Sea rises slightly due to global warming.

Crating veal calves and so-called “milk-fed spring lambs” were space-saving Dutch innovations in the early 1960s. Administering steroids to livestock to make them grow faster apparently started in The Netherlands at about the same time.

But concern for farm animal welfare also emerged earlier in The Netherlands than almost anywhere else. In recent years, as eastern European nations with vastly larger potential for “factory farming” have entered the European Union and captured ever-growing livestock market share, Dutch producers have recognized that their unique market niche is a reputation—deserved or not—for raising animals in clean and reasonably natural conditions.

The Dutch gamble in funding cultured meat experiments is that cultured meat can claim European market share which might otherwise go to factory pork and poultry producers in Bulgaria, Poland, and Romania, and will not cut into the Dutch upper-end cattle industry.

The projected economics might almost work in Europe, but globally, noted *New York Times* writer Andrew C. Revkin, “The costs of cultured meat can’t come close yet to competing with, say, unsubsidized chicken.”

Yet the real growth opportunity for what New Harvest terms “cultured meat in a processed form” is in the developing world.

Global meat consumption in 2007 was in the vicinity of 270 million metric tons, at a recent rate of increase of about 4.7 million tons per year, almost entirely in the developing world. *Per capita* consumption in the U.S. and western Europe is static or even declining.

“One could envision some day a solar-powered facility in southern California or Singapore basically turning sunlight and desalinated seawater into growth medium, and then tons of cruelty-free, sustainable nuggets of chicken essence,” Revkin allowed.

But Revkin wondered where further investment would come from. As In Vitro Meat Symposium participants acknowledged, “Costs for research, large-scale testing, and public relations will be significant.” Some “anticipated that governments and nonprofit groups would chip in. That seems idealistic, at best,” Revkin assessed, “in a world with deeply entrenched interests linking ranching, the agrochemical industry, and giant restaurant chains.”

PETA challenged Revkin’s skepticism by offering a prize of \$1 million to anyone who can get cultured meat into commercial production by 2012—but while a prize may provide incentive, it is not actual investment. Nor can it be used as collateral. Neither does any developer appear to believe commercial production can be achieved in only three and a half years, at any level of investment.

“In vitro meat is a godsend,” PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk told *New York Times* writer John Schwartz.

Utrecht University cultured meat researcher Henk P. Haagsman told Schwartz that the PETA prize might “spark more interest to invest in the technology.” But Haagsman added, according to Schwartz, that “he would not like to see the field dominated by the animal welfare issue, since environmental and public health issues are such important drivers for this research. Another scientist at Utrecht, Bernard Roelen, said via e-mail that even with strong financing, it would be extremely difficult to produce commercially viable quantities of in vitro meat before 2012,” Schwartz finished.

The big obstacle to cultured meat is convincing major players in the food industry to back it—and that requires convincing them not only that it can be produced at competitive prices, but also that consumers want it. Grocers may be deterred by their experience of 20 years of often costly consumer resistance to milk produced with the aid of bovine somatotropin, called BST for short, and to foods containing genetically modified organisms, better known as GMOs and “Franken-foods.”

The meat industry can be expected to promote opposition to a perceived rival, and to pursue legal action against even calling “cultured meat” by the name “meat,” much as the dairy industry has fought the use of the term “soy milk.”

“Once cultured meat is made,” Madrigal of *Wired.com* concluded, “consumer acceptance is far from assured. What cultured meat will taste like is up in the air. Some scientists think it could be used to create novel foods that won’t be quite meat, but won’t quite be anything else. Most of the trends in food run counter to high-tech meat production,” Madrigal observed. “Heirloom tomatoes, organic produce, and the free-range-raised meat that pack the aisles of Whole Foods harken to lower-tech eras.”

Commented *New York Times* “Dining” section columnist Mark Bittman, who is author of *How to Cook Everything Vegetarian: Simple Meatless Recipes for Great Food*, “Does anyone remember Olestra? You can’t invent food; or at least no one has done so successfully,” with the exception, Bittman allowed, of the orange juice substitute Tang.

(continued on page 4)

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# Can cultured meat gain cultural acceptance? (continued from page 3)

Bittman expressed skepticism of the environmental claims for cultured meat. "Fish farming, the latest attempt to increase the number of animals available for human consumption, certainly leaves a lot to be desired," Bittman wrote. "Yet we're going to trust technology to develop test-tube meat?"

Indeed, some of the environmental claims for cultured meat uncomfortably resembled claims made for ethanol, before the ecological, economic, and ethical consequences of using a food crop to make motor fuel became clear. Just as making ethanol requires substantial energy input, narrowing any net benefit from using ethanol instead of gasoline, cultured meat production would require extensive nutrient and energy inputs, and the nutrients would require pre-processing into a medium which could be absorbed easily by the meat cultures.

Cultured meat producers would have to replace the digestive systems of animals with a high-volume system of synthetic digestion. This is essentially what the food manufacturing industry already does, through a combination of cooking and chemical processes. Agribusiness does not, for the most part, feed livestock on processed material—except for the use of recycled manure and slaughterhouse waste, which is economically efficient precisely because it uses waste.

Cultured meat could be grown in the blood of slaughtered animals, and perhaps will be. Perhaps cultured meat could be grown in manure slurries, too, as mushrooms are. Yet each step toward economic efficiency using recycled materials may be a step away from consumer acceptance.

Meanwhile, the more efficient cultured meat producers are in making use of the biological input materials, the more concentrated the remaining effluent will be, and the more difficult it will be to recycle or dispose of safely. The ecologically redeeming virtue of manure is that it can be used as fertilizer—but the more concentrated it becomes, the more difficult it is to use safely. Cultured meat effluent might be, in effect,

hyper-concentrated manure.

But perhaps engineering uses for cultured meat production waste can be done as part of the cultured meat development process.

"There is already an alternative to meat out there, one that can not only improve individual health but decrease harm to animals and the environment," reminded Bittman. "It's called vegetables. Unfortunately, there are no gold mines in test-tube broccoli."

Agreed Friends of Animals legal counsel Lee Hall, "The *in vitro* meat idea only reinforces the notion that flesh belongs in our diet, while ignoring the beauty and kindness of vegetarianism."

Editorialized *The New York Times* on April 23, 2008, "The meat substitute niche is currently occupied largely by soy," the chief ingredient of meat analog products.

Tofu, seitan, and tempeh appear to have an almost insurmountable economic advantage over cultured meat, and perhaps an enduring aesthetic edge as well, if cultured meat is marketed as a "meat substitute."

But since cultured meat will for all practical purposes be meat, albeit not from a slaughtered animal, the developers have in mind competing chiefly with actual meat.

"We are disgusted by the conventional meat industry, which raises animals—especially chicken and pigs—in inhumane confinement systems that cause significant environmental damage," *The New York Times* editorial continued. "There is every reason to change the way meat is produced, to make it more ethical, more humane. But the result of the technology that PETA hopes to reward could be the end of domesticated farm animals...It will be a barren world if the herds and flocks disappear in favor of meat grown in a laboratory tank."

Writers of letters to *The New York Times* overwhelmingly rejected that argument. Longtime **ANIMAL PEOPLE**

reader Scott Plous of Middletown, Connecticut, recommended that cultured meat should instead be called "clean meat."

Commented Animal Liberation author Peter Singer, to Schwartz of *The New York Times*, "If it is harder to move people on ethical grounds than it is to provide a sustainable humane substitute, I'm all for the substitute."

Said **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president and administrator Kim Bartlett, "I remember reading a science fiction book in the early 1970s that described a time in which lab-grown meat was available, but the main characters were willing to pay for a black market cut of real meat. I wasn't a vegetarian then, but wondered why anyone would want to eat meat from a real animal if they could get it without the suffering and dying. At that time, I still believed that humans need to eat meat. It took me another ten years or so to find out that vegetarianism was actually an option—I was in Texas, and had never met a vegetarian. Once I had stopped eating meat for a time, it became repulsive to me, but if lab-grown meat had been available, I would have given up the real stuff many years earlier."

"I totally agree with opponents of the idea that people are better off eating tofu, tempeh, and seitan instead of meat. Eventually, human beings will adopt a sustainable plant-based diet," Bartlett believes, as science fiction writers including the creators of *Star Trek* have long envisioned, "but I am not optimistic that such an enormous shift will occur in the next hundred years. In many parts of the world now, just as it was for me growing up in Texas in the 1950s and '60s, people believe they need meat, and it is going to be a very long time before they willingly adopt a vegetarian diet. Though vegetarianism may be imposed on them by food shortages and/or climate change, they will always try to get meat unless there is a shift in perspective. If lab-grown meat can be marketed so that die-hard meat-eaters will choose it instead of meat from slaughtered animals, then I am all for it."

## 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.

### Fostering instead of sheltering

Since the local Ontario SPCA shelter closed, I started—with a group of like minded people—It's A Dog's Life Fostering Network. We take dogs from the local pound who have not been claimed by their owners, after their 4-day holding time expires. We have taken all the dogs who would have been killed, had them spayed or neutered, and placed them in foster homes. Since February 2008 we have taken in 12 dogs. Of these, four were surrenders who probably would have ended up on the streets of Kenora, and ultimately at the pound. We have adopted out 10 dogs. We just received one dog today, so we presently only have two dogs up for adoption.

This all came about from your November 2003 editorial "Sheltering is pointless until the need is reduced." I now promote fostering over shelters.

—Chris Madison  
Kenora, Ontario, Canada  
<camadison@gmail.com>

### Enderby Island feral animals

Your September 1997 article "Biotech can't bring 'em back alive without DNA," mentioned the efforts of the Rare Breeds Conservation Society to preserve wild shorthorned cattle and Agente de Champagne or French blue rabbits, after rescuing a single cow and about 50 rabbits from a New Zealand Department of Conservation purge of non-native species from Enderby Island.

The cow has produced three cloned calves, and there are now about 300 Enderby Island rabbit descendants.

I breed the rabbits. I set about breeding them naturally, out in the open, and found that they can give birth to new litters every month if the doe wants, so there is a chance that they won't die out.

I hope to find how they arrived, in the early 19th century, not the official date of 1865.

—Christine Lyon  
Rotorua, New Zealand  
<enderby@kol.co.nz>

### Windchill the colt

Thank you for your excellent reporting on the lot of animals around the world. I read each issue cover to cover.

There were errors in your April 2008 obituary for Windchill, the 9-month-old colt. First, South Range is not in Minnesota; it is just south of Superior in Wisconsin. Perhaps the confusion occurred because of the report in the *Duluth News Tribune*. Superior, Wisconsin, and Duluth, Minnesota are twin ports at the tip of Lake Superior. We constantly read and report each others' news.



Also, Windchill could not have been boarded since September 1997, since at the time of his death in February, 2008, he was only 9 months old.

—Norma Stevlingson  
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### Yellowstone bison

Thank you for again covering this issue in **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Two in a row! We really appreciate your helping get the word out!



—Stephany Seay  
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### Editor's note:

More than 1,700 bison from Yellowstone National Park were sent to slaughter or were shot by hunters after wandering from the park into Montana seeking forage during the first four months of 2008. Another 700 bison are believed to have died in the park during the winter, chiefly from effects of harsh weather. With only 2,300 bison remaining in the park, less than half the population in fall 2007, park officials captured and held 255 bison cows and calves at Stephens Creek, to be returned to Yellowstone until spring green-up enables the park grazing habitat to sustain them.

### Representative Tom Lantos

Thank you so much for the editorial feature in the March 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** about the late U.S. Representative Tom Lantos. I knew he was a strong advocate of animals, but was happy to read about all that he and his wife had done. His passing is a loss to the animal-loving community worldwide. Reading about him inspires me to keep going.



Enclosed is a donation in his memory.  
—Marcia Davis  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

### Sri Lanka pound seizure

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Council has informed us that it has concluded an inquiry into the case described in the July/August 2007 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** article "Pound Seizure shocks Sri Lanka," and has taken "appropriate action" against University of Peradeniya veterinarian R.P.V.J. Rajapakse and government veterinarian Wasantha Kumara. Rajapakse and Kumara did invasive surgery in May 2007 on three KACPAW shelter dogs, Perry, Polly, and Wussie, who were "adopted" under false pretenses. Polly died a couple of days later. Wussie died of conditions resulting from the surgery after six months of treatment. Perry is still with us. We are looking for a home for her, where she could live for the rest of her life in a safe and loving environment.

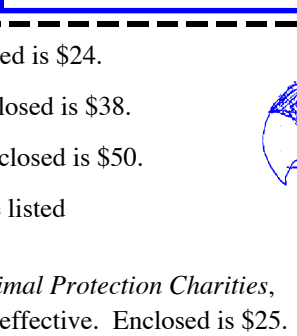
We understand that the two vets have been severely warned and that their activities will be monitored. Since we have not been officially told the nature of the "appropriate actions" against the two vets, we will be asking the SLVC to be more specific. We have urged the SLVC to make a public statement regarding the outcome.

We are immensely satisfied that in the words of the SLVC registrar, Dr Kenderagama, "a committee has been appointed to formulate a set of regulations which will clarify veterinary professional ethics and responsibilities."

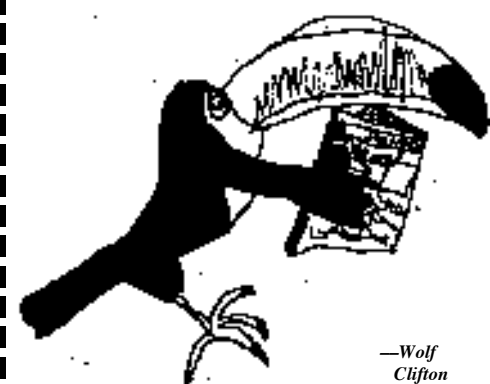
It is hoped that the University of Peradeniya will now be encouraged to publish the results of its own inquiry.

KACPAW's greatest wish is that this incident will bring about strengthened laws against animal cruelty. An Animal Welfare Bill has been gazetted as a private member's bill by Athureliye Ratana Thero, Member of Parliament. This bill could enable Sri Lanka to provide a legislative model for other Asian countries.

—Champa Fernando  
Secretary, KACPAW  
191 Trinco Street  
Kandy, Sri Lanka  
<nihalas@slt.lk>



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—Wolf Clifton

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# Please Don't Kick Me When I'm Down.



Recently, undercover video from the Humane Society of the U.S. documenting the horrific abuse of downed cows at a California meat packing company was widely broadcast by the national news media. Images of slaughterhouse workers repeatedly kicking, electrocuting, ramming with forklifts, and even spraying water down the noses of these animals sent shock waves throughout the nation.

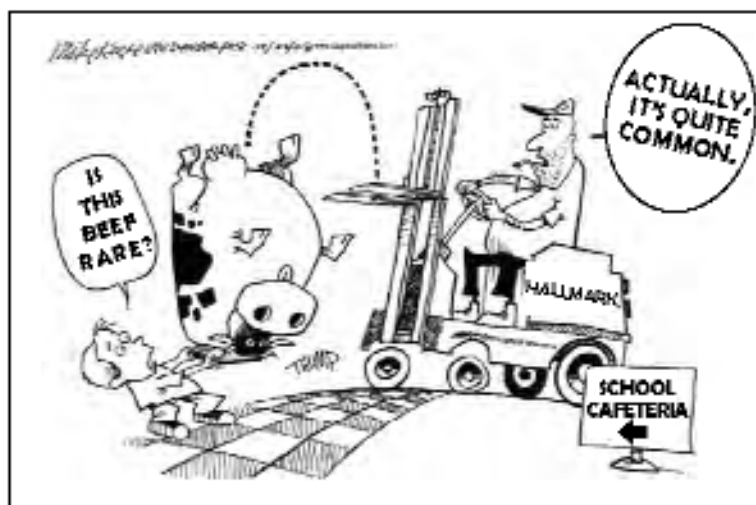
It was soon revealed that nearly 45 million pounds of the contaminated beef ended up in the nation's school lunch programs. Public health professionals have long warned that meat derived from downed animals has a much increased likelihood of passing on the E. coli virus, Mad Cow Disease, and salmonella – all of which can lead to severe human health complications and even death.

These revelations set off the largest beef recall (143 million pounds) in U.S. history due to the risks posed by this meat – deemed by the USDA as unfit for human consumption.

Much of this condemned beef, however, had already been consumed by our nation's school children and the public at large. And due to the well-documented failings of the USDA inspection system, there is still no adequate system in place to prevent downed animals from continuing to enter the food supply.

That is largely due to the fact that industry-crafted state laws, such as California's corrupt downed animal law, do *not* prohibit the processing and sale of meat from non-ambulatory animals for human consumption.

As you know, HFA has steadfastly held that the sale of downed animals must be banned outright – rather than perpetuated by feeble regulations.



And while others caved in to industry lobbyists and falsely proclaimed that they had stopped the marketing of downed animals, HFA's efforts have once again been validated by the test of time. *We are now poised to pass legislation that would outlaw the slaughter and sale of meat from downed animals.*

## This Time:

### A Real California Downed Animal Protection Act

HFA's recently introduced legislation – AB 2098 (Krekorian) – would prohibit slaughterhouses and other entities from processing and selling meat from non-ambulatory animals for human consumption.

This legislation will, for the first time, allow prosecutors to file criminal charges against any slaughterhouse that butchers downed animals for human consumption. Violators would face criminal penalties.

Please contact Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to strongly urge him to sign this important measure into law. Your communication need not be lengthy. Point out that farm animals that are so diseased or injured that they cannot stand or walk should not have their suffering prolonged for the sake of profit. Contact Information: Write to Governor Schwarzenegger in care of State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone: (916) 445-2841; Fax: (916) 558-3160; or email: [www.gov.ca.gov/Interact](http://www.gov.ca.gov/Interact).

***Thank you for standing up for downed animals!***

## Federal Downed Animal Legislation

The recent news coverage of the abuses at the Hallmark meat packing plant has also renewed interest in federal downed animal legislation. Please contact your federal representatives to urge their co-sponsorship of the Federal Downed Animal Protection Act (S. 394 and H.R. 661). This legislation would prohibit the USDA from approving for sale meat from severely disabled cows, pigs, sheep, goats, and other animals. Contact information for your congressional representatives can be found at [www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml) or by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.



# Virginia becomes first state to limit the number of dogs at breeding kennels

**RICHMOND**—Virginia dog breeders may not keep more than 50 dogs over the age of one year after January 1, 2009.

Virginia on April 23, 2008 became the first U.S. state to limit the size of dog breeding kennels. At least 30 states considered “puppy mill” bills of various sorts during 2008 spring legislative sessions, with several others believed likely to pass as the May 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press.

Introduced by Spotsylvania state representative Bobby Orrrock, and amended by recommendation of Governor Tim Kaine, the Virginia bill was pushed by the Humane Society of the U.S. and the Virginia Animal Control Association.

The bill received a boost from a five-month HSUS investigation that discovered more than 900 active dog breeders in Virginia, only 16 of whom held USDA permits to sell dogs across state lines. HSUS released the findings on November 1, 2007.

The next day, responding to a tip from Virginia Partnership for Animal Welfare and Support, of New River Valley, Carroll County animal control officers raided Horton’s Pups, of Hillsville. Licensed to keep up to 500 dogs, proprietor Lanzie Carroll Horton Jr. reportedly had more than 1,100, including about 300 puppies. About 700 dogs were taken into custody. Horton was charged in January 2008 with 14 counts of cruelty, 25 counts of neglect, and one count of failing to update his license.

Allegations of puppy milling made news again in Virginia on March 11, 2008, when Suffolk County impounded 38 small dogs from the kennels of Eugene Gordon Lynch, 74. Licensed to keep 50 dogs, Lynch actually had about 90, said acting Suffolk

County animal control chief Harry White.

Fifty larger dogs were left at the scene, wrote Veronica Gorley Chufo of the *Newport News Daily Press*.

“Investigators found a large amount of American Kennel Club and Continental Kennel Club paperwork and proof of 70-some vaccinations,” Chufo reported.

Lynch was charged with 103 counts of failing to provide adequate care, 31 counts of failure to vaccinate, 10 counts of failure to license, and one count of failure by a dealer to provide adequate care, police spokesperson Lieutenant D.J. George told Dave Forster of the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*.

Publicity about the Horton and Lynch raids and the earlier HSUS findings built on the exposure of Bad Newz Kennels, the pit bull terrier breeding business that fronted for the dogfighting activities of former Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick.

Vick, who pleaded guilty to a federal charge of conspiracy in 2007, is now serving a 23-month sentence at the U.S. penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas. Vick is to return to Virginia to face state felony dogfighting charges on June 27, 2008.

State charges are also pending against co-defendants Tony Taylor, Quanis Phillips, and Purnell Peace. Taylor, who turned prosecution witness, was released from federal prison in March 2007 after completing a two-month sentence. Phillips and Peace are due for release in February and April 2009.

If Bad Newz Kennels had only bred dogs, it might have been permitted under the new Virginia law. Sixty-six dogs were found on Vick’s premises in Surry County, including 53 pit bulls, but many of the dogs may have been under one year of age. Forty-seven pit

bulls and all of the non-pits were eventually transferred to shelters and sanctuaries.

Whether the ceiling of 50 adult dogs set by the Virginia law will actually restrain problematic breeders is unclear from recent law enforcement history.

Of 28 dog breeders brought before U.S. courts during the first four months of 2008 for allegedly neglecting animals, in cases known to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, 17 had fewer than 50 dogs total, and 22 appeared to have fewer than 50 adult dogs. Among them, they had 870 dogs. Three had between 100 and 200 dogs, three had between 200 and 300, and only Horton had more. The six breeders other than Horton with more than 100 dogs each had a combined total of 1,179 dogs, only marginally more than Horton had by himself.

Breeders argue that would-be rescuers are responsible for more animal neglect and suffering than puppy millers, with relatively little regulatory supervision.

Breeders, for example, must be federally licensed to move animals across state lines; nonprofits are exempted. USDA-licensed breeders are subject to inspection; shelters, sanctuaries, and shelterless “rescues” are not, no matter how much money they handle in donations and adoption fees.

Rescuers counter that far fewer animals would need rescue if breeders were not constantly producing more, but self-described rescuers are involved in neglect cases at least as often as breeders, and those operating under nonprofit umbrellas—albeit not always with complete federal and state credentials—are handling comparable numbers of animals.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** received information about 104 individual dog-and-cat hoarding cases that were before U.S. courts during the first four months of 2008, about half of them involving people who claimed to be rescuing, plus eight cases of prosecuted mass neglect at shelters and sanctuaries. The latter eight cases involved more than 200 dogs and more than 1,500 cats, leading to some Internet use of the term “rescue miller” by breeders asserting that rescuers should be brought under the same regulatory regime.

Much of the debate over bills to restrain “puppy mills” pertains to the definition of a “puppy miller.” Animal advocates, regu-

latory agencies, and breeders all claim to oppose “puppy millers,” but tend use the term to mean different things.

To animal advocates, a “puppy miller” is often anyone who breeds dogs for profit, including backyard breeders whose operations are too small to be covered by the new Virginia law. The primary issue is often stopping breeding, to slow the flow of cast-off dogs into animal shelters.

To much of the public and in law enforcement jargon, a “puppy miller” tends to be a “factory farmer” of puppies, operating on a large commercial scale. The primary issue is protecting public and animal health, within an agricultural context.

To people in the dog breeding industry, a “puppy mill” means a substandard breeding facility, no matter how small. The primary issue is selling sick & inbred dogs, who give all breeders a bad reputation. Large commercial breeders producing thousands of dogs per year may deny being “puppy millers,” while pointing toward some of the same backyard breeders as animal advocates.

The earliest mainstream use of the term “puppy mill” that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has discovered at NewspaperArchive.com was a December 1953 warning by an Illinois pet columnist to “Beware of these so-called puppy mill places where they buy and sell puppies.”

But the term “puppy mill” appears to have morphed from the pre-World War II use of the term “doggy mill” in similar warnings—and “doggy mill” already had the same divergent meanings by the mid-1930s that “puppy mill” has today.

Circumstantial evidence hints that the original “doggy miller” was 19th century major league catcher Doggy Miller, who bred hunting dogs in the off-season, allegedly neglected his debts and family before an early post-career death attributed to alcoholism, and may have neglected his kennels too.

Miller’s baseball career overlapped that of Humane Society of Central New York founder Orrin Robinson “Bob” Casey, a professional player from 1876 to 1885.

A frequent orator on behalf of animals, Casey appears to have been perhaps the first to denounce “doggy millers.” He died in 1936 while examining a neglected horse.

## Prominent alleged rescue neglect cases

**PITTSBURGH**—Linda a.k.a. Lin Marie Bruno, 45, who founded Tiger Ranch Rescue in 1993, was on May 6, 2008 ordered to stand trial in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, for 593 counts of cruelty.

A March 13, 2008 raid by the Alleghany County Sheriff’s Department and the Pennsylvania SPCA removed 380 live cats and the remains of 108 others from the 27-acre Tiger Ranch Rescue sanctuary in Frazer Township, Pennsylvania. Of the live cats, 117 died soon afterward or were euthanized as irrecoverable. The rest were housed at a shelter in Clarion County.

Pennsylvania SPCA investigator Rebecca McDonald testified at an April 28 preliminary hearing that Tiger Ranch records indicate receipt of 6,482 cats in 2007 and 786 in the first 10 weeks of 2008, of whom just 23 were adopted out.

Bruno, “in a recorded statement played in court, estimated that she took in 1,500 cats in 2007 and adopted out several hundred, most to qualified horse farms,” reported Dan Nephin of Associated Press. “McDonald said she found no records that any cats went to horse farms. In her recorded statement,” Nephin continued, “Bruno said she had 292 live cats and perhaps 40 to 50 dead cats awaiting burial.”

Bruno was defended in a lengthy web posting by Last Chance for Animals founder Chris DeRose. DeRose told Linda Wilson Fuoco of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* that Tiger Ranch “is one of the best sanctuaries I have seen,” and posted photos of Tiger Ranch taken in fall 2007.

Bruno was also defended, indirectly, by National Animal Interest Alliance founder Patti Strand, a longtime dog breeder in Portland, Oregon. “It’s about power, money, and even TV ratings...about who gets to make these end-of-life decisions for pets: their owners, including sanctuaries in this case, or rich high-profile animal welfare organizations,” Strand told Fuoco.

A comparable case has evolved for almost a year in Pahrump, Nevada, where Sharon Lee Allen, former president of the now closed For Love of Cats and Kittens sanctuary in Pahrump, Nevada, on April 14, 2008 pleaded not guilty to 13 misdemeanor charges pertaining to 117 cats who were removed from her home in August 2007.

“Charges have yet to be filed against Allen or anyone else for the hundreds of cats that were found at the FLOCK sanctuary last summer,” wrote Christina Eichelkraut of the *Pahrump Valley Times*. Nye County animal control officers discovered more than 800 emaciated, ill, and injured cats at the 2.5-acre site in July 2007, about two months after Allen resigned. Sixty cats were euthanized as

irrecoverable. The Best Friends Animal Society invested more than \$600,000 plus six months of staff time in rehabilitating the remainder for adoption through shelters as far away as Minnesota and Texas.

FLOCK, under new management, now does neuter/return and cat adoption in Las Vegas, but no longer has a sanctuary.

Founded in Las Vegas by Sylvia Renee Lyss in 1965, FLOCK moved to a five-acre site in rural Clark County in 1995, where Lyss reportedly kept as many as 400 cats. A July 1999 flash flood allowed hundreds of cats to escape into a nearby housing development.

“According to Clark County records, the facility was cited numerous times for a variety of violations, most of them to do with exceeding their permitted number of cats and failing to remove animal waste from the property,” wrote Henry Brean of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

In 1998 FLOCK hired a man named Sam B. Ockene, who claimed to be a licensed veterinary euthanasia technician. A former casino teller, Ockene pleaded guilty to misdemeanor embezzling in 1991. He became a fundraiser for the Nevada SPCA, but was fired in 1996 for allegedly illegally possessing euthanasia drugs, impersonating a veterinarian, and yelling obscenities at clients, then-Nevada SPCA president Jennifer Polombi told Ryan Oliver of the *Review-Journal*. Ockene in 1997 attempted a hostile takeover of the Nevada SPCA, but in 1998 was ordered to pay the NSPCA \$10,000 in legal fees and permanently enjoined from using the NSPCA’s name. Ockene allegedly gave lethal injections to 210 cats and kittens at FLOCK before pleading guilty in 2001 to illegally practicing veterinary medicine. He was reportedly placed on probation.

In other large cases involving neglect in the name of rescue:

\* Timothy Foust, 32, his wife Aimee Robbins-Foust, and Shawn Embs, 18, each face 117 counts of cruelty in Jackson County, Kentucky, after a March 12, 2008 sheriff’s department raid on their Animal Assist shelter at Sand Springs reportedly recovered 80 live dogs and the remains of about 40 more. The surviving dogs were offered for adoption by the Gray Hawk Veterinary Clinic, also of Jackson County.

\* In Martinsburg, West Virginia, Berkeley County magistrate Joan V. Bragg on March 26, 2008 ordered Second Chance Rescue founder Mara Spade, 63, to pay restitution of \$114,883 to the county for the care of 149 dogs who were seized from the shelter in May 2006. Bragg earlier sentenced Spade to two years on probation and to have no contact with animals for five years, after Spade pleaded no contest to misdemeanor cruelty.



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# Abolition of gas chambers and heart-sticking progresses nationwide

**RICHMOND**—Virginia Governor Tim Kaine on April 13, 2008 signed a bill by Spotsylvania representative Bobby Orrick that prohibits using a carbon monoxide chamber to kill dogs and cats.

"The bill passed the state senate just as Scott County animal control officers received final certification in injectable euthanasia," Margaret B. Mitchell Spay/Neuter Clinic chief operating officer Teresa Dockery told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Scott County was the last shelter in Virginia to convert to injectable euthanasia," Dockery said.

Dockery, then president of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, and longtime Humane Society of the U.S. staff member Kate Pullen initiated the drive to abolish gas chambers in Virginia in November 2000. They obtaining grant funding to provide equipment and injectable euthanasia training to the 23 shelters then using gas. But the money ran out before Scott County, Lee County, and the city of Martinsville were able to make the transition to using sodium pentobarbital.

"Shelters must have two staff members to perform injectable euthanasia," explained Dockery. "These localities did not have the funding for an additional position. In addition, Scott and Martinsville did not have the shelter space" they needed to use injection.

Cisco Systems cofounder Sandy Lerner, of Upperville, Virginia, contributed the \$75,000 needed to get the job done.

The North Carolina Board of Agriculture on February 13, 2008 approved a set of standards for the continued operation of carbon monoxide chambers by the 25 agencies in the state that still use them, but allowed gassing to continue until 2012.

The Catawba County Animal Shelter quit gassing just a week later, followed by Burlington Animal Services in mid-March. Wake County, which now gasses about 400 of the 7,000 animals killed in the county shelter each year, announced on April 14 that it will stop gassing by July 1.

The North Carolina Coalition for Humane Euthanasia and the Humane Society of Union County meanwhile sued Union

County for allegedly illegally gassing young, old, injured, sick, and pregnant animals, for whom the plaintiffs contend gassing does not meet American Veterinary Medical Association, HSUS, and American Humane Association standards.

## Sedation controversy

The Athens County, Ohio board of commissioners on April 8, 2008 rejected a request to abolish gassing presented by Friends of the Athens County Dog Shelter, after kennel keeper Sherry Armstrong testified that she prefers to use gas. Armstrong argued that the sedation often given as prelude to a sodium pentobarbital injection leaves dogs terrified. Her contention, as summarized by *Athens Messenger* staff writer Casey S. Elliot, paralleled claims recently made to the U.S. Supreme Court by attorneys for two murderers who were sentenced to death in Kentucky.

"The prisoners contended that the three-drug procedure used on death row—one drug each to sedate, paralyze, and end life—was unconstitutional," summarized David Stout of *The New York Times*. However, the Supreme Court voted 7-2 that the plaintiffs "failed to show that the risks of pain from mistakes in an otherwise 'humane lethal execution protocol' amounted to cruel and unusual punishment," Stout wrote.

The Macon city council in February 2008 postponed acting upon a motion by council member Erick Erickson to switch to lethal injection, in compliance with the intent of the 1990 Georgia Humane Euthanasia Act, which allowed agencies that used carbon monoxide gas chambers to keep using them, but did not allow new gas chambers to be installed.

Macon animal control director Jim Johnson objected that he "would need at least two new full-time staff members," who "likely would spend their entire day performing euthanasia," paraphrased Matt Barnwell of the *Macon Telegraph*.

Council member Larry Schlesinger testified that he witnessed 17 dogs being gassed in January, Barnwell wrote. "'All of a sudden there was this squeal,' Schlesinger

said. 'And then a chorus of squeals. It has haunted me ever since.'"

## Improper injection

Sodium pentobarbital injection can also cause suffering if improperly performed. Under-dosing is one common mistake.

Tony Serbantez, chief of police in Brownfield, Texas, told Joshua Hull of the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* in early May 2008 that the Brownfield shelter "has improved how it euthanizes animals after a former employee and a local veterinarian claimed animals were still clinging to life two hours after drugs were given," Hull reported.

Former shelter worker Lisa Gersbach alleged to the *Avalanche-Journal* that "she was once told by her supervisor to 'choke out' small cats with an animal control stick, rather than use proper euthanizing agents, and that many animals were placed in bags and disposed of before they stopped breathing," Hull wrote. Hired on March 3, 2008, Gersbach resigned on April 14.

A much more often reported practice is the so-called "heart-stick," an obsolescent procedure in which sodium pentobarbital is injected into the heart of the animal, instead of a vein. How common it still is came to light in November 2007, "when a former jail inmate secretly shot video of William Baber, DVM allegedly performing intercardiac euthanasia on animals without sedation at the county animal shelter in Gallatin," reported Jennifer Easton of the *Nashville Tennessean*.

"Baber, a practicing veterinarian for more than 25 years, acknowledged using the procedure," Easton continued, "but said he was unaware of changes in state law made in 2001, intended to prohibit euthanasia by the intercardiac method without sedation. The state Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners suspended Baber's license until April 2008."

A bill to clarify and reinforce the 2001 law unanimously cleared the Tennessee legislature, and was quickly signed by Governor Phil Bredesen. The bill also extended the shelter holding time for impounded animals to at least three full business days.

Publicity about the Baber case and the Tennessee bill brought similar claims from other jurisdictions.

Michigan veterinarian Jeanette Roberts alleges in a lawsuit filed on April 11, 2008 that workers at the St. Clair County animal shelter use the heart-stick, and that the county improperly fired her "after she reported her concerns to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, which oversees animal shelters and launched an investigation," wrote Angela Mullins of the *Port Huron Times Herald*.

Working part-time at the shelter since October 2007, Roberts read an article about the Baber case on February 11, 2008, she claims; brought the article to the attention of her superior; and was fired the next day.

St. Clair County Administrator Shaun Groden told Mullins that the Michigan Department of Agriculture found that the shelter only was heart-sticking feral cats.

The county council in Cherokee County, South Carolina, in late April 2008 began reviewing animal killing procedures at the county shelter after receiving complaints about heart-sticking from volunteers Andrea Gilfillan and Libby Swad, the former president of the now defunct Cherokee County Humane Society.

"An intracardial injection may only be used after the animal is heavily sedated, anesthetized or comatose, according to South Carolina law," reported Lynne P. Shackleford of the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*.

The South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control took notice of the matter, Shackleford wrote, "because the shelter isn't licensed to have sodium pentobarbital on site."

Heart-sticking also attracted concern from the police department in Great Falls, Montana, which took over management of the city shelter from the Cascade County Humane Society in mid-2007. A performance review issued in January 2008 disclosed that the first veterinarian the police department hired used the heart-stick to kill cats. Shelter staff objected, and that vet "was never retained for services after the first day," the review stated.

# SHELTER RESOURCES

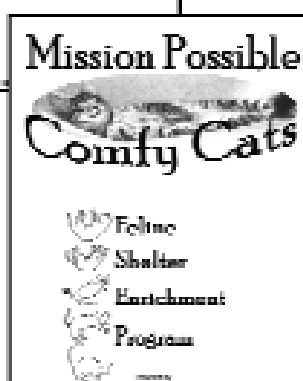
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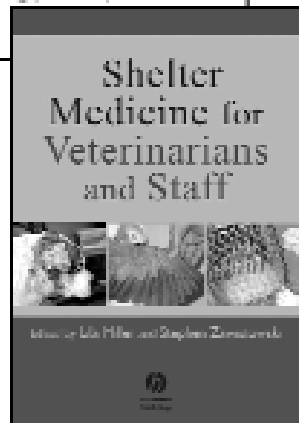
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# Comparative costs of dog & cat sterilization worldwide

Nonprofit humane societies in Japan, Lebanon, and South Korea may pay 30 times more to sterilize a dog or cat than counterparts in India, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found in an early 2008 survey of more than 35 agencies in 14 nations, chiefly in Asia and eastern Europe.

The table at right shows the findings, ordered by nation, city, and the type of veterinary practice that the reporting humane societies use.

In-house clinics are included in “nonprofit.”

Column headings describe the costs of supplies used, including anesthetics, other pharmaceuticals, and surgical items; the wages paid to veterinarians and veterinary technicians; and post-operative expense. The last two columns state the average total cost of sterilizing male and female animals.

Several figures are composites from data reported by multiple humane societies working in the same city. The names of individual societies are not stated, to protect the identities of vets who may give discounts not offered to other clients, and/or give discounts larger than recommended by veterinary guilds.

Despite charging rates equal to or higher than U.S. norms, vets in Japan, Lebanon, and South Korea do not appear to enjoy higher standards of living than vets in India. The costs of living in Japan, Lebanon, and South Korea are all much higher than in India, and the costs of drugs and other surgical materials are proportionally as much higher compared to India as the cost of surgery itself. Beyond that, the higher-priced vets just don’t attract as much business.

Animal Help, paying one of the lowest rates per surgery of all the surveyed agencies, paid vets to perform more than 45,000 surgeries in Ahmedabad, India in 2006—more than 100 times as many surgeries as were performed for any of the agencies paying the highest prices, and probably more than the total of all sterilizations done in Lebanon plus South Korea. Animal Help is no longer working in Ahmedabad, mainly due to delays in receiving reimbursement from the city government, but is still working in several other Indian cities.

Japanese, Lebanese, and South Korean vets appear to be able to charge high rates chiefly because they have little competition. Indian rates are by contrast held down by federal subsidies for surgeries performed as part of authorized Animal Birth Control programs. The subsidies markedly reduce revenue per surgery, but also help to keep clinics busy. The cumulative effect is to stabilize veterinary incomes in the upper middle range of Indian society.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** found that at least two cat sterilization programs in Japan are thriving by charging competitive rates and attracting more clients.

Volume and competition help to keep sterilization surgery affordable in eastern Europe, at about half to two-

## Dog sterilization surgery costs in 19 cities, 14 nations

Nation	City	Type of practice	Supplies-M	Supplies-F	Labor-M	Labor-F	Aftercare	MALE	FEMALE
Bulgaria	Sofia	(private practice)	\$ 12.01	\$ 15.60	\$ 35.10	\$ 46.80	\$ 7.80/day	\$ 44.91	\$ 62.40
Bulgaria	Sofia	(nonprofit)	\$ 12.01	\$ 15.60	\$ 15.60	\$ 21.84	\$ 7.80/day	\$ 35.40	\$ 45.24
Bulgaria	mobile	(nonprofit)	\$ 12.48	\$ 18.72					
China	Beijing	(government)					\$4.29 to \$11.43/day		\$71/\$143
Costa Rica	San Jose	(nonprofit rate)							\$ 20.00
India		(federal subsidy)		\$ 4.22		\$ 2.44	\$ 1.56/week		\$ 9.89
India	Agra	(nonprofit)					\$ 1.76/week		\$ 11.17
India	Ahmedabad	(nonprofit)		\$ 2.97					\$ 10.00
India	Bangalore	(nonprofit)		\$ 4.56		\$ 2.00	\$ 4.44/5 days		\$ 11.00
India	Chennai	(nonprofit)		\$ 4.03		\$ 2.56	\$ 3.75/avg.		\$ 10.34
India	Nilgiris	(nonprofit)		\$ 4.95		\$ 2.11	\$ 1.78		\$ 8.84
India	Visakhapatnam	(nonprofit)					.35/1 day		\$ 9.91
Kenya	Nairobi	(nonprofit rate)		\$ 25.00		\$ 20.00			\$ 45.00
Lebanon	Beirut	(private practice)						\$200.00	\$275.00
Lebanon	Beirut	(nonprofit rate)						\$ 90.00	\$120.00
Philippines	Manila	(nonprofit)		\$ 4.36			45¢/4 days		\$ 11.02
Romania	Arad	(nonprofit vet)	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 26.45	\$ 28.75		\$ 36.45	\$ 44.20
Romania	Bucharest	(nonprofit)	\$ 14.30	\$ 20.44					
Romania	Galati	(discounted)	\$ 23.48	\$ 35.21	\$ 15.65	\$ 26.09		\$ 39.13	\$ 61.30
Romania	Oradea	(nonprofit)				\$ 23.40			
Serbia	mobile	(nonprofit)	\$ 12.48	\$ 18.72					
Slovakia	mobile	(nonprofit)	\$ 14.04	\$ 20.28					
Sierra Leone				\$ 10.00		\$ 2.85		\$ 7.85	\$ 15.70
So. Korea	Daegu	(nonprofit rate)		\$102.98	\$ 46.10	\$ 71.71	\$ 8.20/day	\$165.46	\$199.29
Thailand	Bangkok	(nonprofit)		\$ 19.11		\$ 7.59	\$ 5.55/week		\$ 32.25
Turkey	Istanbul	(nonprofit)						\$ 34.32	\$ 43.68
U.S. average		(nonprofit)						\$ 35.00	\$ 49.14
U.S. average		(private practice)						\$ 65.00	\$199.45

## Cat sterilization surgery costs in 11 cities, 13 nations

Nation	City	Type of practice	Supplies-M	Supplies-F	Labor-M	Labor-F	Aftercare	MALE	FEMALE
Bulgaria	Sofia	(private practice)						\$ 23.34	\$ 46.80
Bulgaria	Sofia	(nonprofit rate)						\$ 10.92	\$ 15.60
Bulgaria	Sofia	(nonprofit)	\$ 4.68	\$ 15.60				\$ 12.48	\$ 14.98
China	Beijing	(government vet)					\$1.43/\$2.15/day	\$ 14.28	\$ 21.43
China	Beijing	(nonprofit)						\$ 7.14	\$ 12.86
Costa Rica	San Jose	(nonprofit rate)							\$ 16.00
Indonesia	Jakarta	(private practice)		\$ 10.87	\$ 37.87	\$ 42.87		\$ 40.00	\$ 53.67
Japan	Tokyo	(private practice)						\$193.64	\$287.47
Japan	Kobe	(nonprofit)						\$ 47.91	\$ 76.66
Japan	Toyama	(government vet)						\$ 36.41	\$ 61.32
Lebanon	Beirut	(private practice)						\$ 90.00	\$160.00
Lebanon	Beirut	(nonprofit rate)						\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00
Romania	Arad	(nonprofit vet)	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 14.95	\$ 19.55		\$ 15.95	\$ 24.55
Romania	Galati	(discounted)	\$ 17.83	\$ 26.52	\$ 10.44	\$ 20.43		\$ 28.27	\$ 46.95
Romania	Bucharest	(nonprofit)	\$ 7.33	\$ 17.94					
Serbia	mobile	(nonprofit)	\$ 12.48	\$ 18.72					
Slovakia	mobile	(nonprofit)	\$ 5.46	\$ 17.16					
So. Korea	Daegu	(nonprofit rate)		\$ 61.48	\$ 30.73	\$ 46.10	\$8.20/day	\$100.92	\$123.98
Turkey	Istanbul	(nonprofit)		\$				\$ 15.60	\$ 23.40
U.S. average		(nonprofit)						\$ 26.00	\$ 35.00
U.S. average		(private practice)						\$ 45.00	\$129.95

thirds of the current U.S. norms.

The largest nonprofit sterilization service provider in four eastern European nations, also active in many other nations, is the Austrian-based group Vier Pfoten. Vier Pfoten program director Ioana Tomescu told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that

while the amounts paid to veterinarians per surgery vary widely even within each nation, as result of widely varying operating conditions, vets who work with Vier Pfoten average 30 surgeries per day in all nations combined, at an average labor cost per surgery of just \$3.90.

## Accidental rabies imports emphasize value of quarantine

**LONDON, BRUSSELS**—Health experts are hoping the prominence of the most recent rescuer involved in accidentally importing a rabid dog will emphasize to the international rescue community the need to quarantine as well as vaccinate.

SOS Sri Lanka founder Kim Cooling and two workers at the Chingford Quarantine Kennels in northeast London were repeatedly bitten by an eight-week-old puppy between April 23 and April 25, 2008. The puppy died later on April 25. Rabies was diagnosed a few hours afterward.

“She just snapped at me and was snapping at the other pups. She was not her usual sweet self. She bit me in three places, on my wrist, hand and chin,” Cooling told Mark Townsend and Caroline Davies of *The Observer*. Cooling, a social worker and former nurse, was hospitalized for observation. “I am shattered at the moment, but I am feeling okay,” she said. “I had already been vaccinated, and have had boosters.”

The rabid puppy was one of 13

whom Cooling brought from Sri Lanka on April 17. Four others were killed and decapitated for rabies testing after the first pup died.

“She had been vaccinated in Sri Lanka, but the infection must already have been in her,” Cooling said of the puppy who bit her. “The other four dogs showed no signs of illness to me. I thought that they could have been monitored,” Cooling added.

Involved in animal rescue in Sri Lanka and Thailand since 1998, Cooling “has found U.K. homes for 40 dogs from Sri Lanka in recent years,” Townsend and Davies wrote.

“Twenty cases of rabies have been reported in England and Wales since 1946, which were all imported,” noted BBC News.

Britain requires a six-month quarantine of dogs imported from nations with active rabies reservoirs. Because the Cooling case occurred in a quarantine center, the rabid puppy had restricted opportunity to infect others. But if the puppy had been quarantined for two weeks before being flown to Britain, the entire incident would not have occurred—at

least not in Britain, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs staff noted.

Two recent Belgian cases were not so well contained. Belgium had not had a canine rabies case since 1999, and has been officially free of canine rabies since 2001, but that status was jeopardized after a family in the Brussels suburb of Beersel in July 2007 smuggled a four-week-old puppy home from a holiday in Morocco. The puppy was euthanized in October 2007 after exhibiting rabies symptoms. When she proved to be rabid, a second dog in the household was also killed. The family received post-exposure vaccination.

In March 2008, a Belgian woman who was on holiday in the Republic of the Gambia rescued and smuggled home a six-month-old puppy whom she found injured in a street. The puppy passed through Dakar and spent time in France as well as Belgium, but apparently did not bite anyone before showing rabies symptoms on April 16. She died at a veterinary clinic on April 21, and was found to be rabid on April 24.

“The delay between the vaccination of this dog and its entry into Belgium and then France did not conform to the delay of one month required by these countries,” noted Eurosurveillance.org, published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm, Sweden. “The criterion of having had a rabies antibody titre three months before entry into these countries was also not met for this particular dog.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention was already worried about accidental importation of rabies into the U.S., reported Susan Donaldson James of ABC News Internet Ventures in October 2007.

In early 2007, James recounted, “a puppy from India got a clean bill of health from officials at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Days later, at its destination in Alaska, the dog was diagnosed with rabies, according to Washington’s Veterinary Board of Governors. In 2004, Los Angeles



Pup at Thai beach feeding station. (Kim Bartlett)

saw its first case of rabies in 30 years, in a puppy imported from Mexico. In Massachusetts, a dog imported from Puerto Rico was diagnosed with the disease.”

Rescuers in the developing world are typically eager to move puppies out of crowded shelters where delay increases the likelihood of exposure to contagious ailments. Lacking quarantine facilities, they often rely on vaccination and luck—but the shelters receiving animals from abroad often lack adequate quarantine space themselves.

Rabies is only one of many diseases that are easily accidentally imported before symptoms are evident—as Adirondack Save A Stray, of Corinth, New York, recently found after accepting two puppies from Puerto Rico.

“Both came down with serious cases of potentially deadly parvovirus,” wrote *Schenectady Gazette* reporter Stephen Williams. “Veterinarians said a quarantine after their arrival might have prevented their getting sick after adoption.”

Responded Fiel, “In rescue, there are no guarantees. We’re rescuing animals. We’re saving lives.”

Saratoga Springs veterinarian Charles Brockett, a regional representative of the New York State Veterinary Medical Association, told Williams that parvovirus takes a week to 10 days to incubate. “The ethical thing would be to quarantine for 10 days, and eliminate any doubt,” Brockett said.

Fiel objected that Adirondack Save-a-Stray is too small to hold puppies in quarantine, if they can be adopted instead.

## Efforts to restrain island nations’

**LONDON**—The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Audubon Society refocused attention on Greenland after Malta on April 25, 2008 banned spring quail and turtle dove hunting and trapping.

Malta acted in compliance with a provisional ruling by the European Court of Justice that the traditional Maltese spring bird season violates the 1979 European Bird Directive, adopted five years before Malta joined the European Union. The European Court of Justice is to review the Maltese response to the provisional ruling in two or three years, reported Agence France-Presse.

Much of the European quail and turtle dove population migrates through Malta. Both species are in steep decline, and are protected against spring hunting and trapping

throughout the rest of the European Union.

Greenland on February 29, 2008 bent the tiny nation’s 2001 Bird Protection Act to extend the kittiwake and eider hunting season for an extra month, as was also done in 2004. About 10,000 of the 56,000 Greenland residents hunt, 2,000 to sell the meat of seabirds, the rest for sport.

“Seabird numbers are nowhere near sustainable, and the decision this year to allow more birds to be killed is a tragedy,” Hasse Hedemand of the Greenland conservation group Timmiaq told WildlifeExtra.com.

The Greenland eider population has declined by 80% in 40 years. A colony of 150,000 Brünnich’s guillemots that thrived at Uummannaq in northern Greenland 60 years ago has been completely exterminated, according to the RSPB.





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## The \$64 million question: is Moscow building new shelters promised in 1999?

**MOSCOW**—"Moscow Dog Attacks Spur \$64 Million Castration Drive," the international financial news web site Bloomberg.com bannered on April 14, 2008.

The headline, in a publication founded by New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, seemed to promise the largest dog sterilization campaign anywhere, ever.

Bloomberg.com Moscow correspondent Henry Meyer reiterated in the lead paragraph of his article that the \$64 million would be spent "to castrate as many as 50,000 stray dogs," in response to dog attacks now occurring at about an eighth of the U.S. rate.

But reality—as Meyer acknowledged five paragraphs later—is that Moscow chief veterinarian Natalia Sokolova told a television audience that the city plans to spend the \$64 million to build 15 animal shelters, meant to impound about 2,000 stray dogs apiece per year. The shelters are to be opened in 2009, ten years after they were first promised.

According to Meyer, "A Soviet-era

policy of shooting homeless animals was abandoned in 2002. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, under pressure from animal-rights groups to uphold the ban, has now decided on a two-year program to stop the dogs from breeding."

Meyer in his last paragraph claimed to have interviewed "Irina Novozhilova, head of the Moscow-based animal-rights group VITA," but VITA newsletters give quite a different picture of the long effort to bring Moscow animal control up to world standards.

Dog-shooting was abandoned in 1999 and the dog sterilization program was officially introduced instead in October 2002, according to VITA. The program was supposed to sterilize 80% of the female dogs in Moscow, as well as building shelters, but got off to a creeping start, leading to an official proposal in 2005 to restart shooting dogs.

VITA mobilized opposition, and publicized what needed to be done.

Nonprofit programs sterilized and vaccinated dogs while the city program fal-

tered. City dogcatchers, especially in the Northeastern Administrative District of Moscow, under prefect Irina Raber, responded by repeatedly capturing dogs who had already been treated.

"The very first of those attempts was stopped by the regional public prosecutor in June 2004," VITA recounted in 2006, but "the Northeastern District managed to send to the rendering plant 98 tons of animal corpses during just the first half of 2005, with perfect impunity, while killing dogs and cats in the capital territory is forbidden."

Charged VITA, "The dog-catchers do not want to prevent breeding of street animals, because each new animal on the street means earnings."

Attempts to sabotage nonprofit pro-animal initiatives have gone far beyond non-cooperation, VITA reported in March 2008, celebrating that a spurious criminal case against Bimi Charity Fund for Animals president Daria Taraskina was dropped, six months

after VITA undertook a media campaign and appealed to the governor of the Moscow region on her behalf.

Taraskina heads a shelter in Tomilsky, a Moscow suburb, opened in 1989 by the Charitable Society Rus. In 2000, VITA recalled, this shelter "was left without management and means of subsistence when all of its administrators died in a dreadful traffic accident. The dogs spent four days in the heat without water or food. Taraskina, managing two other shelters at that time, took charge. In seven years of Taraskina's management the shelter underwent a complete restoration."

In August 2007, however, road access to the shelter was barricaded, the road was dug up, the shelter was repeatedly raided by police, and Taraskina was eventually charged with facilitating illegal immigration.

"Someone," as yet unidentified, "liked the place where the shelter is situated and was trying to get possession of it," guessed VITA president Novozhilova.

## Events

**May 24: ASPCA Continuing Education Conference for Vet Techs**, Urbana, Illinois. Info: 217-337-9751.

**June 5-7: Natl. Animal Control Association conference**, Spokane. Info: <naca@nacanet.org>; <www.nacanet.org>.

**June 6-8: Compassionate Action for Animals conf.**, Minneapolis. Info: <gil@explorevveg.org>; <www.tlov.org>.

**June 13: National Pigeon Day**. Info: New York Bird Club, <bestbirdclub@yahoo.com>.

**June 15: VeganExpo**, Sydney, Australia. Info: <info@vegansocietynsw.com>.

**July 9-11: 6th Intl. Symposium on Canine & Feline Reproduction**, Vienna, Austria. Info: <joyce@acc-d.org>.

**July 27-August 3: World Vegetarian Congress**, Dresden. Info: <www.ivu.org/-congress/2008/index.html>.

**August 14-18: Animal Rights 2008 conf.**, Alexandria, Va. Info: <1-888-FARM-USA>; <www.arconference.org>.

**August 27-29: Asia for Animals 2008**, Bali, Indonesia. Information: <www.asiaforanimals.org>.

**Sept. 10-13: 4th Intl. Workshop on Assess-**

(continued on page 10)

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## Meat-eating drives grain

sumption just since 1995 has diverted 2.9 billion bushels of grain per year into feeding livestock, more than the entire 2.3 billion bushel demand of the U.S. ethanol industry, reported the trade publication *Biofuels Digest*.

Mexican corn consumption to feed livestock is also sharply up, said *Biofuels Digest*, increasing at three times the rate of the human population since 1993.

Rising 30% in three months, the U.S. wholesale corn price hit a record \$6.00 per bushel on April 3, 2008 "amid dwindling stockpiles and surging demand for the grain used to feed livestock and make alternative fuels," wrote Will Kincaid of *The New York Times*. "Prices are poised to go even higher after the USDA predicted that American farmers—the world's biggest corn producers—will plant 8% less in 2008," due to unfavorable spring planting weather.

"While corn growers are reaping record profits," Kincaid continued, "U.S. consumers can expect even higher grocery bills—especially for meat—as livestock producers are forced to pass on higher animal feed costs, in addition to thinning their herds."

Ethanol demand exploded after Congress in 2007 ordered that 15 billion gallons of corn ethanol be produced by 2015, and 36 billion by 2022, to help the U.S. move away from reliance on imported fossil fuels.

But using a food crop for fuel was

badly received by the increasingly hungry rest of the world. "Producing biofuels today is a crime against humanity," United Nations special rapporteur for the right to food Jean Ziegler told the German radio network Bayerischer Rundfunk on April 14, 2008.

By then, the FAO food price index showed a 57% global increase since March 2007 in the cost of cereals, dairy produce, meat, sugar, and edible oils. The White House estimate was 43%—but either way, the increase was almost unprecedented.

Defending the ethanol industry, U.S. President George W. Bush at a May 5, 2008 press conference noted that 350 million of the 1.1 billion residents of India now enjoy a middle class standard of living. "Their middle class is larger than our entire population," Bush said. "And when you start getting wealth, you start demanding better nutrition and better food, and so demand is high, and that causes the price to go up."

Clarified deputy White House press secretary Scott Stanzel, "As you increase your standard of living, the food you eat can venture more into meats, that require more commodities to feed the livestock, whether it's corn or wheat or other commodities, and it drives up the price."

Wrote *Guardian* columnist George Monbiot on April 15, "You have probably seen the figures by now: the price of rice has



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risen by three-quarters in the past year, that of wheat by 130%. But I bet you have missed the most telling statistic. At 2.1 billion metric tons, last year's global grain harvest broke all records by almost 5%.

"The crisis has begun before world food supplies are hit by climate change," Montbiot added. "If hunger can strike now, what will happen if harvests decline?"

"There is plenty of food," Montbiot emphasized. "It is just not reaching human stomachs. Of the 2.13 billion metric tons [of grain] likely to be consumed this year, only 1.01 billion, according to the FAO, will feed people. While 100 million metric tons of food will be diverted this year to feed cars," Montbiot continued, "760 million metric tons will feed animals. This could cover the global food deficit 14 times. If you care about hunger, eat less meat."

Montbiot acknowledged that "meat

consumption is booming in Asia and Latin America," but pointed out that "booming" is relative. British meat consumption "is still 40% above the global average," he wrote, "though less than half the amount consumed in the United States." Sustainable use of meat and milk, Monbiot calculated, would be about 30% below the current world rate, 40% of British consumption, 20% of the U.S. rate.

"The only reasonable answer to the question of how much meat we should eat," Monbiot concluded, as a non-vegetarian, "is as little as possible."

Seeking ways to keep meat consumption and profits high, European producers meanwhile pressured the European Union to again allow poultry producers to mix the offal from pig slaughtering into feedstuffs.

"The practice, banned in Europe" in 1996 to prevent the spread of mad cow disease, "would save farmers millions of pounds as

prices of cereal feed for chickens soar," reported London *Observer* science editor Robin McKie.

"This is a sinful idea," responded Abdel Majid Katme of the Islamic Medical Association.

The Royal SPCA, wrote McKie, "said it had major concerns about the health risks involved," while the [British] Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs "said it would back the move only if proper safety tests were introduced."

The spring 2008 grain shortage is "the worst crisis of its kind in more than 30 years," United Nations economist and special advisor to the secretary general Jeffrey D. Sachs told Associated Press.

Evaluating rising consumption of animal products in India and China, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** predicted in a June 1997 cover feature that, "As the wealthier part of each society eats more meat, the poor will find it harder not only to buy the grain to feed livestock, but also—in time—to buy enough grain to feed themselves."

—Merritt Clifton



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### More events

(continued from page 9)

**ment of Animal Welfare at the Farm & Group Level**, Ghent, Belgium. Info: <www.waf2008.com>.

**October 1-5: 2nd annual CETA-Life film festival**, Kiev, Info: <cetallife@mail.ru>.

**Oct. 4: World Animal Day**. Info: <info@worldanimalday.org.uk>; <www.worldanimalday.org.uk>.

**Oct. 16-19: Spay USA conf.**, Chicago. Info: 1-800-248-SPAY; <always-spay@aol.com>;

**IF YOUR GROUP IS HOLDING AN EVENT**, please let us know—we'll be happy to announce it here, and we'll be happy to send free samples of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for your guests.



festivals, and nowhere more than in the southern coastal state of Kerala.

One of just two Indian states that permit cattle slaughter, Kerala is notoriously indifferent toward enforcing animal welfare legislation of any kind. Thiruvananthapuram, the Keralan capital, has often openly defied the decade-old Indian national policy against killing street dogs, allege Animal Rights Kerala founder Avis Lyons and other local activists.

But the elephant situation is a bit different, because ignoring humane standards of elephant care gets people killed, often before thousands of witnesses.

"Since January, rampaging elephants have killed 18 people, including eight mahouts, across Kerala," wrote Ka Shaji in April 2008 for the news magazine *Tehelka*.

Elephant rampages occurred at 26 Kerala temples in 120 days between October 2007 and February 1, 2008, including at 15 temples in January alone, reported K. Santhosh of *The Hindu*. That was after elephants "killed 49 persons, 44 mahouts and five others, in the state between August 1, 2006 and March 15, 2007, according to the Kerala Elephant Lovers Association," Santhosh added. "In all, 147 captive elephants died during the same period."

"Unethical treatment provokes elephant fury," KELA secretary V.K. Venkitachalam told Santhosh. "Elephants showing signs of musth are featured at festivals instead of being given rest. Poorly-trained mahouts are appointed. Many of the mahouts suffer from alcoholism," Venkitachalam added.

Former Kerala cabinet minister K.B. Ganesh Kumar, now president of the Kerala Elephant Owners' Federation, told Santhosh that "The Federation will direct mahouts not to drink while they are on duty. We also plan district-level squads to prevent elephants showing signs of musth from being featured in festivals."

But Ka Shaji, for one, expressed little confidence that the Kerala elephant industry is capable of self-regulation—partly because the numbers of elephant-keeping entrepre-

neurs are believed to be rapidly growing, taking advantage of an abundance of young "rogue" elephants who are captured from forests in other regions and broken to labor as a prelude to logging. In earlier times the elephants were used in the logging work itself. Now tractors are used, and the object of capture is chiefly just to get the elephants out of the way.

"Currently, some 700 elephants are in captivity across the state," up from about 650 a year ago, wrote Ka Shaji. "About 260 are with the devaswoms, the temple bodies, while 440 are individually owned. Kerala Forest Minister Binoy Viswam last year said that all elephants will be retired at the age of 65 years," a relatively meaningless promise, since elephants who work on pavement in urban traffic are typically unable to work—or live—much past 45. "But no follow-up action has been taken," Ka Shaji charged. "His other elephant-friendly initiatives such as fixed work hours and safe transportation for the elephants also remain on paper."

Transporting elephants instead of obliging them to walk long distances to their temple appearances is among the KELA recommendations for avoiding rampages. Tired elephants become cranky—as do elephants who become too hot, unable to cool off in a body of water, as they would in the wild.

The India Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and the Kerala Captive Elephants Management and Maintenance Rules forbid parading elephants during the heat of the day, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., but the managing committees of the Thiruvambadi and Paramakkavu devaswoms on March 17, 2008 petitioned the Kerala government to waive the rules during Thrissur Pooram and other major religious festivals.

Some action has been taken on the pledge to retire elephants, *Daily Telegraph* Cochin correspondent Amrit Dhillon reported on April 5, 2008. "India's first retirement home for elderly elephants opens next month inside a tranquil forest at Kottur," Dhillon wrote. "Paid for by the state government, the home will buy old elephants for a nominal sum from owners who cannot or will not look after them properly."



An Indian working elephant. (Kim Bartlett)

The first 30 elephants to be retired to the 1,000-acre refuge are to arrive in May 2008, said Dhillon.

In Karnataka, the state to the north and east of Kerala, "the government has for the first time cancelled the elephant ownership certificate of a temple due to ill-treatment of its elephant," Compassion

Unlimited Plus Action co-founder Suparna Ganguly recently told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "CUPA battled since 2004 to wrest the much abused elephant Girija Prasad," also called Manikantan, "away from the Aiyappa Swamy Temple in Bangalore," Ganguly wrote. "Pressure went on through three chief wildlife wardens and many meetings with various bureaucrats and politicians, including then-chief minister Dharam Singh. The case went through many hearings in the Karnataka High Court," argued by CUPA attorney Brindha Nandkumar.

"Eventually the 18-year-old bull elephant was confiscated by the Forest Department," Ganguly continued, "but his legal status was ambiguous. CUPA partly supported him through his four years at various government centers, and kept a strong tab on his welfare."

The Karnataka High Court refused to convict the Aiyappa Swamy Temple authorities of cruelty to Girija Prasad, and an appeal to the Supreme Court of India in February 2008 brought no immediate results, but on March 13, 2008 current Karnataka chief wildlife warden used his executive authority to cancel the temple's ownership certificate and retire the elephant to the Shakerby Elephant camp, in Shimoga District, about eight hours away from Bangalore. —Merritt Clifton



Chimpanzee and young (left) enjoy watermelon at Primarily Primates.

## Celebrating With a Watermelon Party

The hoots and expressions of delight continued for half an hour. Champy, Tina, Carmen (who's now in her 50s), Duffy, April and Uriah wobbled around with their 20 lb. watermelons, smashed them open, or dribbled them like basketballs for the full length of the outdoor living area.

It was a festive way to bring the chimpanzees into our celebration of the official merger between Friends of Animals and the Texas-based sanctuary Primarily Primates. A truck brought the 60 watermelons—plenty to go around for 66 chimpanzees. The hours-long watermelon party was, we can reveal, a smashing success. Doby Grace jumped up and down on one to crack it open. We wish everyone could have seen her little feat!ly!

The first six chimpanzees, the group living in one of the Air Force enclosures beside the pond, rushed out of their bedrooms to discover seven watermelons displayed high in their resting platforms, perched on climbing structures, or nestled in the grass. How wonderful!

When Amy, 11 year old Hope and one year old Grace found their watermelons, Hope carried hers high to the top of the climbing structure, and pounded the whole melon while Grace danced on top of it, hanging from the enclosure's peak by one arm. Twenty seven year old Amy sounded off with happy grunts, feeding each piece of watermelon to the rind.

Ten year old Thomas never disappoints. Thomas took simple opportunities to fling pieces of watermelon back at

the staff before devouring most of an entire watermelon before afternoon arrived.

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### TRIBUTES

In honor of Genesis 1:29  
and Isaiah 11:6-9.  
—Brien Comerford





the outdoor retailing giant Cabela's Inc., is the [U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance] CEO," Martinex noted. Cabela's and Meijer carry partially overlapping lines of merchandise, and compete for business from hunters and fishers.

"The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance takes aim at animals when they're most vulnerable," commented HSUS senior vice president for legislation Mike Markarian, citing "Polar bears in the Arctic, as their ice floes are vanishing, mourning doves in states where they've been protected for decades, and endangered antelope stocked in fenced pens for captive trophy hunts. But now this Ohio-based trade association for weapons manufacturers has stooped to a new low," Markarian said. "By firing with its blunderbuss, the group is going to wind up with dogs and cats in its trophy case."

The Foreclosure Pets Fund, Markarian said, is "an emergency fund to help the animal victims of housing foreclosures," a fast-growing category of animal surrenders to shelters and rescue groups that before October 2007 was barely recognized.

"The first reports of a foreclosure pet crisis to reach HSUS came late last year out of California, which has the nation's highest foreclosure rates," reported Diane C. Lade of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. "South Florida is close behind. According to the Realestat.com research firm, 1,700 Palm

Beach County home owners and 2,200 home owners in Broward were at least 90 days behind on their mortgage payments in February 2008 and close to foreclosure. That was double the number in February 2007."

The crisis was already developing in February 2007, but went mostly unrecognized until Charlotte *Sun-Herald* correspondent Gerald A. Rogovin noted on October 23, 2007 that "A little known part of the fallout from the record pace of foreclosures of homes has been the impact on pet owners. Four times the number of homes seized by lenders in 2006 were recorded in the first nine months of this year in Sarasota, Charlotte, and Manatee counties," Rogovin wrote, explaining that former home owners who are forced to move into apartments or shared dwellings are often obliged to give up pets they acquired when they had space of their own—and fenced yards.

"For the last two months, we've received an unprecedented number of requests from people pleading for us to take their dogs and cats," Sarasota in Defense of Animals president Elise M. Matthes told Rogovin. "Most who contact us are losing their homes and moving into rentals where pets are prohibited. They are severely distraught, because there is no 'no-kill' shelter or sanctuary in the county that will take pets," Matthes continued. "Most area shelters are bulging at the seams."

As foreclosures tripled in St. Lucie

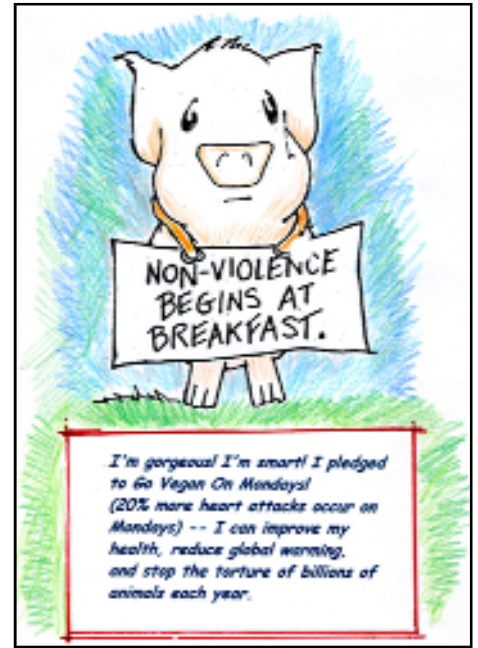
County, surrenders of pets to the Humane Society of St. Lucie County increased by 44%, executive director Frank Andrews told Elliott Jones of the *Vero Beach Press Journal*.

By spring 2008, the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League in West Palm Beach had added foreclosure to their data base on why people give up pets, reported Lade of the *Sun-Sentinel*. In the first month that "foreclosure" surrenders were tracked, only four people cited foreclosure as their primary reason for giving up an animals, Lade summarized, but "another 56 cited 'moving,' and 11 more said they were 'unable to find housing' that allows pets," Lade continued.

Surrenders of pets for the latter two reasons have been common for as long as reasons for giving up and animal have been tracked, since the Great Depression in some regions—and tend to surge with downturns in the economy, while adoptions and donations to animal charities plummet.

"Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control saw a 12% increase in the number of surrenders toward the end of last year, as the housing market worsened," Lade noted.

"We are hoping to identify people who are in crisis and find [their pets] foster homes on a short-term basis," Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League executive director Joan Carlson Radabaugh told Lade. "And we need to show landlords that there are ways they can



[ADVERTISEMENT]

permit pets responsibly."

The "foreclosure pets" issue boosted the efforts of Citizens for Pets in Condos, founded by South Florida resident Maida Genser in early 2007 to try to overcome the frequent opposition of condominium boards to keeping dogs and cats.

The California crisis followed a parallel pattern. Foreclosed families "have a hard enough time even qualifying for a rental because their credit is shot, and 98% of land-

lords don't take dogs," realtor Leo Nordine told *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Martin Zimmerman. "So if you've been foreclosed and you have a pit bull, good luck."

Nordine, of Hermosa Beach, "finds abandoned dogs at least once a month," Zimmerman wrote. "Sometimes they're chained in a yard, sometimes locked in the house. They are often emaciated, if alive at all."

"Foreclosed people don't know what's going to happen to them, and they figure someone will take care of the cat," said Jacky deHaviland of Muttshack Animal Rescue in Los Angeles.

Relocating after a foreclosure with exotic or unusual pets is even more difficult than moving with dogs and cats, putting those animals at greater risk of abandonment. In one case, "More than 200 reptiles worth an estimated \$90,000 were found abandoned in a freezing, filthy room attached to a garage in Hesperia," recounted Victorville *Daily Press* staff writer Brooke Edwards. "Most were alive, though weak. Some had died from cold or dehydration, including two gila monsters."

"Not long ago," Edwards added, "a real estate agent called Joel Almquist of the Forever Wild Exotic exotic animal sanctuary," in Phelan, California, "after finding six potbellied pigs abandoned at a foreclosed property."

Pets "are getting dumped all over," said Humane Society of Stanislaus County president Terri Jennings to Evelyn Nieves of Associated Press. "Farmers are finding dogs dumped on their grazing grounds, while house cats are showing up in wild cat colonies."

Wrote Nieves, "Despite months of warning before a foreclosure, many homeowners run out the clock, hoping to

(continued on page 13)



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forestall an eviction. Then they panic.”

“They’re usually breaking down on the phone,” San Joaquin Animal Shelter dispatcher Kathy Potter told Nieves. “I’m quite direct with them that there’s a 50-50 chance the animals might be put down.”

Placer County SPCA director Leilani Vierra told Cynthia Hubert of the *Sacramento Bee* that at least 20% of the dogs and cats who were surrendered to the Placer County SPCA in January 2008 came from people who had lost their homes or were otherwise in dire financial distress.

The “foreclosure pets” crisis hit

Massachusetts in December 2007. “We started noticing it a month ago,” Salem Animal Rescue League shelter manager Deborah Vaughn told North Andover *Eagle-Tribune* staff writer Margo Sullivan in January 2008.

“Ray Denis, the rescue league’s director of development, said the staff has seen whole families giving up their pets before they go into homeless shelters due to the mortgage crisis,” Sullivan wrote.

By then, “foreclosure pets” were becoming a phenomenon throughout the U.S.

“We’re seeing quite a few animals being surrendered due to economic reasons,

including foreclosure,” confirmed Naperville Area Humane Society assistant executive director Angie Wood to Chicago *Tribune* reporter Mary Umberger.

“We’re probably getting 25 a week coming to us for those reasons,” agreed [Chicago] Animal Welfare League spokesperson Terri Sparks.

Community Animal Relief Effort president Linda Gelb told Umberger that CARE had rescued four dogs in three weeks whose people were losing their homes.

Umberger noted four cases of animals being abandoned in foreclosed properties

when the owners were forced out. She also described how Cincinnati artist and animal rescuer Robin Moro created a web site, <ForeclosureCats.org>, to raise funds for 63 cats who were found in a foreclosed house.

“Complaints to the Michigan Humane Society about abandoned animals have nearly tripled since 2003 to 1,381 last year. They come as foreclosures have jumped 68% percent statewide,” wrote Steve Pardo of the *Detroit News*.

Humane Society of Greater Dayton executive director Brian Weltge told *Dayton Daily News* staff writer Joe Giessler that the humane society received more owner-surrendered animals in December 2007 than in any other year since 2002.

“We’re seeing three times as many owner-surrender calls compared to two years ago,” observed Georgia SPCA director Joan Sammond to Eileen Drennen of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

In Montgomery, Maryland, a suburb of Washington D.C. and Baltimore, “about 15% of animals received in the past two months are a result of foreclosures or related economic dislocations, up from about 3% last year,” Montgomery Humane Society president J.C. Crist told *Washington Post* staff writer Steve Hendrix.

Eviction or foreclosure was listed as the reason for only 43 pet surrenders among a total of 1,346 in 2007 at the Delaware SPCA shelters in Stanton and Georgetown, interim director Vonda Lunsford told Robin Brown of the *Wilmington News Journal*. But any increase in surrenders is of concern when less money is coming into shelters and fewer animals are finding new homes.

Betsy Saul, founder of Petfinder.com, told Tammy Joyner of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that she recently found that adoptions are down at nearly 60% of the shelters in 10 states.

“Most of these [foreclosed] animals are loyal pets,” Animal Resource Center of Montgomery County (Ohio) director Mark Kumpf told Giessler of the *Dayton Daily News*. “You can’t explain this situation to a dog.” —Merritt Clifton

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## Victory for the Horses!

*After SHARK placed relentless pressure on the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo by exposing their cruelty,* the rodeo chair announced that from now on, horses will only be shocked in cases of an emergency.

This is a great first step, but the cruel and deadly events of steer roping, calf roping and wild horse race still have not been addressed by the CFD officials.

Incredibly, the booking company for Cheyenne Frontier Days has filed a *federal lawsuit* against SHARK that is an outrageous slap in the face to the First Amendment, asking that SHARK be barred from informing entertainers about the facts of what **REALLY** happens at the Cheyenne Rodeo.



To view the shocking documentation for yourself and to get more information on this cruel and deadly rodeo, please visit [www.shameoncheyenne.com](http://www.shameoncheyenne.com)

Please help SHARK fight this frivolous lawsuit, which if successful, will silence animal activists everywhere! Help us continue to fight the remaining cruel and deadly events at Cheyenne Frontier Days that include steer roping, calf roping, and the wild horse race.

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## Cat-skinning in Switzerland?! (from

in the region, she said, involved cooking the cat with sprigs of thyme. Television crews conducted investigations,” Paterson wrote, “using hidden cameras that exposed the cat fur trade. Tanners who denied involvement were caught in the act.”

Paterson investigated the Swiss cat fur trade six months after Adam Sage of the London *Times*. “The cat fur trade is small, not very lucrative, and I really can’t see why traffickers would get involved—I sell ten blankets a year,” shopkeeper Sylvaine Ghielmini of Yvonand told Sage.

The shocker for many Swiss is not the size of the cat fur industry, but that it exists at all. Several Swiss animal welfare foundations fund aggressive campaigns against Chinese and eastern European commerce in cat and dog pelts, and against eating cats and dogs.

“Switzerland banned all cat fur imports in 2006,” noted Paterson, “because of concern about the allegedly cruel

methods that were used by the exporting countries to slaughter the animals. But at the end of 2008 a ban on the production of cat fur will come into force throughout the European Union, while Switzerland, a non-E.U. member, will be unaffected.”

Christian Democrat party president Christophe Darbellay and Luc Barthassat, a member of the Swiss parliament, told Paterson that they expect to pass legislation banning cat pelt sales by midsummer 2008.

The Swiss cat pelt trade was exposed a decade after a dog meat farm near Datung, China announced that it had begun breeding imported St. Bernards. Switzerland became a hub of opposition to eating dogs—but Swiss activists were embarrassed in 2002 by a tabloid allegation that some Swiss farmers in remote areas eat puppies.

The unverified story circulated on the Internet for nearly three years.

## South Korean capital defines dogs as

**SEOUL**—Acknowledging the existence of at least 528 Seoul restaurants that sell dog meat, plus 70 more that may offer dog meat as a summer special, Seoul city health officials on April 12, 2008 announced that they would begin inspecting dog carcasses.

“The city will take samples of dog meat from about 530 restaurants and examine them to see if they contain harmful substances such as heavy metals, antibiotics, and bacteria,” wrote *Korea Times* staff reporter Kim Tae-jong.

The unilateral city inspection initiative follows years of efforts by the dog meat industry to have dogs recognized as a “meat” animal, on the pretext that traffic in species not so recognized cannot be regulated under the existing hygiene laws.

Selling dogs’ meat for human consumption has been technically illegal since 1983, but the law has never been enforced, and provides no means for it to be enforced.

“The city also plans to propose that the central government categorize dogs as livestock,” Kim Tae-jong added, recalling that a similar proposal was introduced into the South Korean parliament in 2001, but was scrapped

due to humane opposition. The South Korean ministry of agriculture and forestry then tried to classify dogs as livestock by administrative decree, in 2003, but was also rebuffed.

Waiting four years before trying again, the ministry of agriculture and forestry in July 2007 proposed a new animal protection law that contained a passage recognized by Korea Animal Protection Society founder Sunnan Kum as a back door attempt to legalize dog meat. Other Korean animal welfare organizations disagreed and promoted the law as written. It took effect on January 27, 2008.

“In only two months,” said Sunnan Kum, “Seoul mayor Oh Se Hun announced the introduction of the protocol for lawfully killing and eating dogs. This clearly shows that the revision of animal protection law was prepared only to show foreigners, rather than for animal protection.”

“If you start separating dogs for consumption from pet dogs, you will open a floodgate,” agreed Korea Kennel Federation representative Chung Tae-gyun. “We think dogs should not be consumed at all.”

Oh Se Hun issued the new Seoul Dog Meat Hygiene Management Policy on

March 24. KAPS and Coexistence of Animal Rights in Korea demonstrated against the new policy for the next two days in front of the Seoul city hall, said Pei F. Su of ACTAsia For Animals.

“For years Korean groups have worked on public education campaigns to promote the concept that dogs are not food,” Pei F. Su posted to the Asian Animal Protection Network newsgroup. “They are asking for support from other Asian communities, with the hope that countries that have already banned the consumption of dog and cat meat, including Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines, could help to persuade the Korean government not to legalize this animal abuse.”

The Taiwanese animal protection group EAST supported KAPS and CARK by protesting in Taipei on April 8, 2008, Pei F. Su said.

“Last year, the Research Institute of Public Health and Environment conducted a study and it discovered germs,” Seoul food safety regulator Oh Jae-ho told *JoongAng Daily* reporter Brian Lee. “That is why we think that putting dog meat into the flow of livestock monitoring is needed. We have been

told that last year during summer five to six million [dog meat] dishes were sold. Since many people eat dog meat, we think it is better to bring the issue into the limelight for the sake of public health.”

South Korean restaurant meat buyers currently pay about \$4.00 per pound for dog carcasses, three times the wholesale price of pork, but just a seventh the wholesale price of beef. Up to 100 dishes are prepared from each dog carcass. If all of South Korea eats dogs at the Seoul consumption rate, and 50 dishes are made from each dog carcass on average, about one to 1.2 million dogs per year are eaten—about half the number estimated by the ministry of agriculture and forestry a decade ago, and a third of the estimated peak consumption.

The Korea Kennel Federation estimates that about 3.5 million to 5 million dogs are kept as pets in South Korea.

While the dog meat industry is still big, dog meat dealers Jo Chang-Geun Ko Se-Hoon in July 2007 abandoned an attempt to sell dog meat online, they told Agence France Presse, due public opposition. Their business was based in Seongnam, south of Seoul.



Doomed dogs at the Moran live market in Seoul, South Korea. (Kim Bartlett)

## Pet theft-to-eat cases prosecuted in China, Korea, Hawaii

**ZHENGZHOU**—Eating dogs and cats is legal in China, but stealing them isn’t, a Zhengzhou judge emphasized recently, fining “a man surnamed Zhang” \$214, about two weeks’ wages, for “killing and cooking what he thought was a stray dog,” the *Zhengzhou Evening News* reported.

The dog was actually a lost pet belonging to a woman surnamed Liu.

Summarized *China Daily*, distributing the story nationwide, “Zhang, who likes to eat dogs and cats, hung the dog’s skin from a fence over a bridge so that he could dry and sell it. Upon seeing the skin, Liu tracked down Zhang and demanded that he pay her for killing her pet. The woman recognized her pet’s skin because she had dyed his fur.”

Chinese state-run media have reported increasingly critically about dog and cat consumption in recent years. Reportage linking a disapproved practice to crime is a frequent prelude in China to regulatory discouragement. Also seen recently in connection with wildlife consumption, this trend is more familiar to westerners in reference to praise of the Dalai Lama, the practice of Falun Gong, and uses of Google and Yahoo search engines to research banned topics.

Zhengzhou is the capital of Henan, a province identified in 2007 by the Guangzhou newspaper *Xin Kuai Bao* as one of five that supply cats to Guangzhou live markets. The *Xin Kuai Bao* report, illustrated with photos of a cat being beaten and boiled alive, was intensely critical of the traffic.

The Zhengzhou case was apparently the first publicized prosecution of a case involving dog and cat eating in mainland China since two men were sentenced to serve three months in prison for marketing dog and cat meat as “rabbit” in Shanghai in mid-1939.

A case believed to be the first Hong Kong prosecution for dog-eating in decades ended when the four defendants on June 28, 2007 began serving 14-day jail sentences, reduced on appeal from 30-day sentences issued in December

2006. “Counsel for Lau Lap-kei, 49, Wong Yung-hung, 43, Liu Wai-hong, 41, and Wong Chun-hung, 49, argued that a jail sentence was excessive because no one before had received more than a suspended sentence for such an offence,” reported Anita Lam of the *South China Morning Post*.

Responded Justice Louis Tong Po-sun, “The vast majority of Hong Kongers, whether they keep dogs or not, no longer tolerate killing dogs for food, nor do they believe such an act is a trivial matter. Lenient penalties such as fines no longer reflect the degree of public disgust against such acts, their impact on public hygiene, and the pain it inflicts upon the dogs. A bad tradition should be denied and shunned.”

*Korea Times* staff reporter Kim Rahn on February 19, 2008 reported that “A 52-year-old man identified as Park was booked without physical detention on charges of theft” for killing and attempting to cook his 69-year-old landlady Jeon’s pet Chihuahua. Attempting to sear the hair off the dog, Park set his clothing on fire, and was caught when neighbors called firefighters and police.

Korean newspapers have mostly defended and praised dog-eating, but appear to be following public opinion in taking a more critical view since the broadcast of several well-received TV exposés of the harsh treatment of the dogs.

Covert dog-eating in Hawaii has been under sporadic scrutiny since the December 16, 2007 arrests of then-Moanalua Golf Club employees Saturnino Palting, 58, and Nelson Domingo, 43, both of Kalihi, for allegedly stealing golfer Frank Manuma’s 8-month-old German shepherd-Labrador mix, named Caddy, who had been tethered at the caddy shack while Manuma was on the course. Palting and Domingo “were indicted by an Oahu grand jury on charges of second-degree theft and first-degree cruelty to animals,” reported Nelson Daranciang of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* on January 23, 2008. “Both crimes are felonies punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

## Caught to eat, then

**WINDHOEK**—The all-volunteer Cat Protection Society in Windhoek, Namibia in mid-April 2008 rescued hundreds of cats who were abandoned in company housing after the Malaysian firm Ramatex closed a clothing factory that at peak operation employed 7,000 workers. Many other cats died from neglect before the rescuers learned of their existence, wrote Denver Isaacs of *The Namibian*.

Opened in 2002 with heavy government subsidies, Ramatex-Namibia tried to impose Asian sweatshop conditions, claimed labor organizers. When the Namibian employees unionized, Ramatex quickly settled a strike, but then hired “trainers” from China, the Philippines, and Bangladesh to take over much of the work.

“Surviving cats are being fed on the site until they can all be removed. The Windhoek SPCA has made its quarantine facility available to temporarily house the cats, and all the veterinary clinics in Windhoek are helping by examining the cats and treating those who can be saved,” Isaacs wrote.

Other nations employing imported labor from places where dogs and cats are eaten have had similar problems.

“VITA gets an enormous number of complaints about dogs being caught and eaten by immigrant workers who live in Moscow and the Moscow region,” the March 2008 edition of the VITA newsletter mentioned.

As eating either dogs or cats violates both Russian federal law and a Moscow city ordinance, VITA has asked the prosecutors in the districts where the offenses have allegedly occurred to investigate, and to bring charges where possible.

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# The Watchdog

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

**CHEYENNE**—Romeo Entertainment, incorporated in Omaha but based in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, on April 16, 2008 sued the animal advocacy organization SHARK, of Geneva, Illinois, for allegedly using “false and misleading information” and “threats of negative publicity” in successful efforts to dissuade singer Carrie Underwood and the band Matchbox 20 from performing at the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo in July 2006 and July 2008, respectively.

SHARK founder Steve Hindi sent video of alleged animal abuse at past Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo performances to both Underwood and Matchbox 20, he acknowledged. Romeo Entertainment, headed by Bob Romeo, “has arranged for night show entertainers for Cheyenne Frontier Days at times over the last 20 years,” says the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed nine days before Cheyenne Frontier Days animal care committee chair Bob Budd announced a ban on “the use of hand-held electric shock devices at the rodeo except in emergency situations where they are needed to prevent injuries,” according to Cary Snyder of the *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle*.

## “Bard of rescue” Jim Willis convicted of dog theft

**WILMINGTON**—Jim Willis, 52, author of several much-circulated poems and short essays about animal abandonment and rescue, was on March 20, 2008 convicted of felony dog larceny in Pender County, North Carolina, and sentenced to do 75 hours of community service, spend two years on probation, and keep no more than one pet, reported WECT-TV6 of Wilmington.

The case was one of two filed in 2007 in which neighbors accused Willis of stealing dogs whom he said he had rescued. One dog was recovered at a Wilmington home where Willis temporarily resided. The charges involving that dog were not prosecuted, North Carolina Voters for Animal Welfare founder B.B. Knowles told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The conviction, in a case involving an elderly dog who was well-known and well-liked in her neighborhood, according to *Pender Post* staff writer Jefferson Weaver, was Willis’ second within less than a year, with a variety of other cases pending.

Willis was convicted in Pender County Court on July 26, 2007—the day of his indictment for dog larceny—for making harassing telephone calls to one of the women whose dog disappeared. Hers was the dog who was recovered. Willis was reportedly sentenced in that case to serve 24 months on probation, was assessed fines and fees of \$685, and drew a suspended 30-day jail term.

Willis was arraigned in January 2008 on charges of resisting a public officer and second degree trespass, both misdemeanors.

A pre-dawn fire on January 25, 2004 killed nine dogs and four cats at Willis’ former home in Avella, Pennsylvania, while

“We’re just saying, ‘No, you can’t do it. Period.’ The only exception is if an animal or a human would be hurt,” Budd told Snyder. “We have been discussing it for quite a while,” Budd claimed. “I think his [Hindi’s] video and comments and those sort of things were probably the culmination of a decision that has been coming for 24 months.”

Following the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo in 2006, the *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* published a report and photographs that documented the apparent illegal use of Hot-Shots, including by one stock contractor who asked that the photos not be released because he believed he would be disciplined,” wrote Snyder. “Cheyenne Frontier Days general chairman Charlie West said the decision to alter the rodeo’s Hot-Shot rules was made in early March, and event officials have been working to fine-tune the policy before releasing it publicly.”

The Romeo lawsuit was served eight days after SHARK announced that Matchbox 20 had withdrawn from the scheduled July 18 appearance. Hindi said he was informed of the withdrawal by Matchbox 20 accountant Jeff Lamirault, after he forwarded video of the

Willis was attending a birthday party in his honor organized by Joe Maringo of Southwest Pennsylvania Retriever Rescue.

Willis and several surviving animals relocated to the home of Erin Schmidt, 32, in Forward Township, Pennsylvania, who operated a rescue called Animal Friends. Police and humane agencies removed 74 animals from the home on August 18, 2005. Charges against Willis were later dropped, but Schmidt was convicted on two counts of cruelty.

Moving to North Carolina, Willis in May 2006 became involved in the dissolution of the former Northeast Georgia Canine Angels sanctuary. Founded in Athens, Georgia, by Lynette Rowe and Susan Wells, Canine Angels relocated to Dewey Rose, Georgia, in 2001. “The state Department of Agriculture cited Rowe and Wells for 62 violations of the animal welfare code, and they had racked up more than \$15,000 in fines, before they signed a consent agreement to close the sanctuary,” summarized Claire Davis in *The Legal Animal*, published by the Best Friends Animal Society. “Wells and Rowe later reneged on the terms of the agreement, trying to prevent the Department of Agriculture from closing the sanctuary and seizing the dogs, and eventually signing over ownership of all the animals to Willis,” Davis wrote.

While Willis became the legal owner of the 130 animals, they remained on the Canine Angels property in care of Kat 5, a charity formed in 2005 by Susan Meyer to help animals left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. Kat 5 and the Best Friends Network spent almost a year finding homes for the former Canine Angels animals.

2007 Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo to Matchbox 20 in care of the Sidewalk Angels Foundation.

Formed by Matchbox 20 lead singer Rob Thomas and his wife Marisol, the Sidewalk Angels Foundation helps “people who are destitute or homeless” and “animals who have been abandoned or abused,” according to the Matchbox 20 web site.

“We ask that [fans] please understand that it would be impossible for us to put ourselves in the position of making money from what we believe to be the mistreatment of animals,” Rob and Marisol Thomas said in a statement to Associated Press.

Speaking at a Cheyenne library on the day SHARK was sued, “Hindi presented videos his organization took at the 2007 Frontier Days rodeo,” reported Associated Press writer Bob Moen. “They showed calves and steers being jerked by cowboy ropers and dragged through the mud, and bucking horses in chutes where rodeo hands had small electric shock devices.”

Encouraged by the outcome of contacting Underwood two years ago, “We were watching the lineup at Cheyenne, because if

we found some people with a propensity toward animal care, we were going to get in touch with them,” Hindi earlier told Associated Press writer Mead Grover.

Underwood, a vegetarian since her teens, wore a “V is for Vegetarian” t-shirt during the American Idol performance that launched her to stardom.

“Compassionate fans of Carrie believed she was lending her support to the Cheyenne rodeo,” SHARK recounted on July 27, 2006, “because she simply didn’t realize the cruel reality of this industry. SHARK sent her video of the all-too-common rodeo horrors,” and “created a web site urging Carrie to stop her support of the rodeo. Soon thereafter, a press release from the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo stated, ‘American Idol star Josh Gracin will take the stage with Phil Vassar, replacing Carrie Underwood, who is unable to perform for personal reasons.’”

Although Hindi suspected the “personal reasons” were compassion for animals and revulsion at the rodeo violence, the Romeo lawsuit was the first actual confirmation he had received that the videos influenced Underwood, he told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

## New legislation addresses violent

**Nebraska governor Dave Heineman on April 16, 2008 endorsed into law a bill to ban horse tripping,** a common event at *charreada*-style rodeos. The language that “No person shall intentionally trip or cause to fall, or lasso or rope the legs of, any equine by any means for the purpose of entertainment, sport, practice, or contest” makes the Nebraska law “the strongest such law in the nation, far better than California’s,” or those of Texas, New Mexico, Maine, Florida, Oklahoma, and Illinois, said Action for Animals founder Eric Mills. A bill modeled on the California law cleared the Arizona house of representatives on March 30.

**Georgia governor Sonny Perdue,**

**a former veterinarian, on May 6, 2008 signed into law a bill criminalizing attendance at a dog fight,** breeding dogs to fight, or possessing a dog with the intention of having it fight. The bill received a publicity boost from the 2007 dogfighting-related arrest and conviction of former Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, acknowledged Best Friends Animal Society chief executive Paul Berry. Associated Press writer Shannon McCaffrey credited Best Friends with helping to write the new law. Vick “certainly helped us put it over the goal line,” agreed Georgia state senator Chip Rogers, the bill sponsor.

## PETA littering convictions overturned in N.C.

**RALEIGH**—The North Carolina Court of Appeals on April 15, 2008 overturned the February 2007 littering convictions of former PETA employees Adria J. Hinkle and Andrew B. Cook.

Hinkle and Cook, who then worked for PETA, were arrested in June 2005, after a police stakeout in Ahoskie, North Carolina, caught them in the act of disposing of dog and cat carcasses in a supermarket dumpster.

Judge Rick Elmore wrote for the three-judge appellate panel that while the defendants’ actions leading to the conviction were undisputed, the prosecution failed to prove that the supermarket dumpster where Hinkle and Cook left the remains was an illegal place to dispose of them.

Trial testimony established that PETA has for approximately seven years collected and killed animals from North Carolina

shelters and animal control agencies. Usually the animals’ remains are taken to the PETA headquarters and cremated, but Hinkle acknowledged that on several occasions she disposed of animal remains in the supermarket dumpster where she and Cook were arrested.

“They had faced 21 charges of felony animal cruelty, seven counts of littering, and three counts of obtaining property by false pretenses,” summarized Lauren King of the *Virginian-Pilot*. “Superior Court Judge Cy Grant reduced the charges to eight misdemeanors before the jury began to deliberate. He said the state failed to prove malice and any specific motive, necessary elements for the felony charges. He also dropped the three charges of obtaining property by false pretenses against Cook.”

Hinkle and Cook were acquitted of misdemeanor animal cruelty.

## What is the cost of fraud & theft to animal charities?

**NEW YORK, N.Y.**—Data gathered by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and evaluated by four professors of nonprofit accounting indicates that U.S. charities are losing about 13% of their annual income to fraud and theft—more than twice the 6% rate of loss for all organizations, including government agencies and for-profit businesses.

The sum stolen, estimated at about \$40 billion in 2006, is roughly equal to the sum of all giving by corporations and private foundations, Independent Sector president Diana Aviv told Stephanie Strom of *The New York Times*.

The amount stolen from animal charities, if proportionate to total charitable giving, would be

about \$400 million: three times the total income of the Humane Society of the U.S., with about half the amount stolen from animal care organizations and the rest from organizations chiefly involved in advocating for wildlife and habitat.

Among 58 cases reported to the fraud examiners in a random survey of charities, the typical thief was a female employee paid less than \$50,000 a year, who had worked for the organization at least

three years. The average amount she stole was less than \$40,000.

The largest thefts were committed by male executives who were paid between \$100,000 and \$149,000 per year, and were usually the senior person in the organization.

Fraud cases involving animal charities appear to fit the pattern, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE**

archives indicate. The amount stolen, according to the fraud examiners’ projection, is similar to earlier **ANIMAL PEOPLE** estimates.

Researchers Janet S. Greenlee, Mary Fischer, Teresa P. Gordon, and Elizabeth K. Keating published their findings in the December 2007 edition of *Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly*.



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# An Abbreviated History of IDA's 15-Year Campaign to End the Torture of Chimpanzees in our Nation's Laboratories.

*Where We Are Today, and How We Got There*

**1993:** IDA learns of plans to lease 150 Air Force Chimpanzees to Fred Coulston, a notorious toxicologist and primate experimenter.

**1994:** IDA launches its investigation of the huge Coulston Foundation (TCF), which had controlled almost half of the chimpanzees in U.S. labs. This campaign will last eight years and result in intense Congressional scrutiny, international media attention, and the historic closure of the lab.

**1995:** IDA, with assistance from Dr. Jane Goodall and other organizations, convinces Congress to block the transfer of the 150 Air Force chimpanzees to TCF; Congress instead enacts a bid process.

**1995 through 1996:** IDA exposes violations of law at New York University (NYU) that leads to the closure of its chimpanzee lab and the retirement of over 100 chimpanzees. IDA helps to prevent substantial NIH funding of research on aging on chimpanzees, and spearheads the legislative effort that will eventually result in the passage of the 2000 CHIMP Act.

**1995 through 2001:** IDA provides information to the USDA that results in four sets of formal USDA charges against TCF for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

**1997:** IDA testifies before a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel calling for an end to chimpanzee research, and later blasts NAS call for an increase in chimpanzee research.

**1998:** IDA assails the Air Force's giveaway of 111 of its chimpanzees to TCF and provides critical support to a lawsuit against the Air Force filed by Save the Chimps (STC), which had bid for them, and eventually results in STC's retirement of 21 chimpanzees.

**1999:** IDA testifies before the NIH against a proposal to infect chimpanzees with a mutant strain of HIV that could gravely sicken them. NIH drops plans to proceed with the project—the last gasp of experimenters to broadly exploit untold numbers of chimpanzees in AIDS research.

IDA files the first of multiple complaints with the FDA against TCF for violations of data integrity and human safety regulations. These complaints resulted in the FDA's first-ever disqualification of an entire lab, devastating Coulston's private client base.

Based on whistleblower information, IDA stops pharmaceutical giant Pfizer from performing an invasive diet study on chimpanzees.

H.R. 5852 is a bi-partisan federal bill to ban federally funded invasive chimpanzee research and testing. Please contact your Representative and Senators, urging them to support this historic legislation. Visit [nihchimpancecrucelty.com](http://nihchimpancecrucelty.com) for additional information and ways that you can help.



**2000:** IDA testifies before Congress about the abhorrent conditions at TCF, and the NIH's illegal financial support of the lab. IDA requests an investigation of the NIH, and reissues our call for an end to chimpanzee research and breeding. NIH takes possession of 288 chimpanzees from Coulston.

**2001:** The NIH is forced to stop its funding of TCF. NIH renames the 288-chimpanzee lab on Holloman Air Force Base the "Alamogordo Primate Facility" (APF) and contracts with Charles River Laboratories to operate it. This is the death knell for Coulston's lab.

**2002:** TCF is forced to shut down as a result of IDA's eight-year campaign. Over 300 chimpanzees and monkeys are permanently retired to the Save the Chimps' sanctuary in Florida, thanks to crucial funding provided by the Arcus Foundation.



**2003:** Based on IDA information, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce launches a broad investigation of the NIH's oversight and management of billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded research grants.

**2004:** IDA provides information to New Mexico D.A. Scott Key, who conducts an independent criminal investigation and files historic criminal cruelty charges against Charles River Laboratories.

IDA files a federal lawsuit against the NIH for its refusal to release chimpanzee medical records from its APF lab, including those directly related to alleged chimpanzee cruelty that is the subject of the unprecedented criminal charges.

IDA provides the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* with evidence that researcher Garth Urkun covered up

results of drug tests in which he had a financial interest, failing to disclose that three of eight chimpanzees died. The paper runs a front-page exposé.

IDA begins providing crucial research and documentation for the production of the Nature/PBS documentary, "Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History" about the chimpanzees rescued from the Coulston and NYU labs. The heart-rending piece airs in November, 2006, to wide acclaim; producer Allison Argo thanks IDA before and after she wins a research Emmy in 2007.

**2005:** IDA takes on the University of Louisiana's New Iberia Research Center (NIRC) over its dismissal of whistleblower Narriman Fakier. IDA's Eric Kleiman becomes an official member of her legal team, helping draft the lawsuit that exposes shocking cruelty, such as the deliberate burning and scalding of chimpanzees. The Louisiana Board of Ethics files unprecedented charges against NIRC, alleging that the lab illegally retaliated against Ms. Fakier.

**2007:** NIRC's fourth attempt to dismiss the whistleblower lawsuit fails. IDA terms the lab the "New Coulston," because it is now the world's largest chimpanzee lab, and also tests on chimpanzees. It even cites Coulston's 1982 tests of industrial solvents on chimpanzees.



**2008:** IISUS and NEAVS announce the introduction of H.R. 5852, The Great Ape Protection Act. IDA's lawsuit against the NIH and the civil lawsuit against NIRC proceed as part of IDA's long standing campaign to end chimpanzee research and expose cruelty in labs—a groundbreaking 15-year campaign encompassing law enforcement, Congress, the courts, legislation, the media, stopping research, and continuing to make history on behalf of our closest genetic relatives.

For a complete history of IDA's efforts to end chimpanzee research and what you can do to help, please visit [t.nihchimpancecrucelty.com](http://t.nihchimpancecrucelty.com)

A heartfelt thank you to our IDA members and supporters for making all of our efforts possible. We dedicate all of our endeavors to Dr. Jane Goodall, our source of inspiration, for showing the world the way.

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## Will seizing Sea Shepherd ship help Canada to hold off European

**TOKYO; SYDNEY, N.S.**—The Institute of Cetacean Research acknowledged on April 14, 2008 that pursuit of the Japanese whaling fleet by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vessel *Steve Irwin* had held their winter “research whaling” catch to just 551 minke whales, 55% of their self-assigned quota of 985 minke whales and 50 fin whales.

“We did not have enough time for research because we had to avoid sabotage,” said a prepared statement from the Japan Fisheries Agency.

The statement affirmed claims issued by Sea Shepherd founder Paul Watson almost a month earlier.

Watson in web postings enjoyed the whaling industry concession, but in the wake of one of the Sea Shepherds’ most dramatic successes in 30 years of whale-saving, the 2008 Sea Shepherd anti-sealing campaign was all but stifled.

Acting on orders from Canadian fisheries minister Loyola Hearn, “a black-clad Royal Canadian Mounted Police squad brandishing submachine-guns” stormed the Sea Shepherd ship *Farley Mowat* on April 12, recounted Keith Doucette of Canadian Press. The 17 crew members were jailed overnight in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The *Farley Mowat* was towed to Sydney.

Captain Alex Cornelissen, a Dutch citizen, and first officer Peter Hammarstedt, of Sweden, were charged with approaching within 900 meters of sealers on the ice without an observer’s permit. Both were deported to their home nations, but were required to return to Nova Scotia for trial on May 1.

“Hearn said the *Farley Mowat* came within nine metres of a group of sealers on March 30, shattering floes as sealers scrambled to get back to their boat. The charges could result in fines of up to \$100,000 or up to one year in jail, or both,” wrote Doucette.

Multiple time best-selling author Farley Mowat himself, now 86, posted bail of \$5,000 each for Cornelissen and Hammarstedt.

Watson had planned to join the *Farley Mowat* crew for part of the Atlantic Canada campaign, but was still in New York City when the ship was seized. On April 24, Watson issued a press release claiming to have “set the conditions for the Canadian government to release the *Farley Mowat*.”

Contended Watson, “At no time did the *Farley Mowat*, a Dutch registered yacht, ever enter the 12-mile [Canadian] territorial

limit. Therefore the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society considers this action to be an act of high seas piracy. The Society will not post ransom or bond on the ship. The Society demands the return of the ship in the condition it was seized; compensation for the loss of the vessel while under seizure; [and] the dropping of charges against the captain and first officer. The Society demands an official apology from Loyola Hearn.”

Watson said that he expected Cornelissen and Hammarstedt to be acquitted, and intended to sue the Canadian government for damages, including “punitive damages for high seas piracy.”

But with the *Farley Mowat* tied up in Sydney and Watson far from the ice, the episode and the seal hunt itself dropped out of frequent news coverage.

The Canadian government had already largely muzzled the other major institutional sealing opponents, by denying early-season observers’ permits to more than 60 applicants, including Humane Society of the U.S. representative Rebecca Aldworth. Aldworth and other HSUS representatives reportedly did reach the ice later, but the seal hunt was no longer a front-page item at the HSUS web site by the mid-April peak of the sealing season.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare offered a brief, distant video clip of a sealer clubbing one seal who escaped despite probable severe injury, then killing another seal, who was dragged aboard a waiting boat. PETA offered a page one link to a site protesting the much smaller Namibian seal hunt, but nothing about the Canadian hunt.

Lacking new visual imagery and information to post, many leading animal advocacy groups had never posted anything about the 2008 hunt at all.

Anti-sealing protest momentum continued in Europe. Demonstrators in many cities on April 25 asked the European Union to ban imports of seal pelts and other products made from seals.

Pledged EU environment commissioner Stavros Dimas to Reuters on April 12, at a gathering of EU environment ministers in Brdo, Slovenia, “We will propose a ban of seal fur imports if [a nation] can’t prove they were obtained in a humane way. I’m very much concerned at the way the hunt is conducted,” Dimas said, but added that actually enacting the ban “will take some time.”

## Sealing protest & media

Conventional activist wisdom is that confrontation attracts publicity, which builds opposition to a grievance. An **ANIMAL PEOPLE** analysis of Atlantic Canadian seal hunt coverage, however, shows a low yield from ongoing efforts to confront and document the activities of sealers on the ice, the chief protest tactic since the 1970s.

The *New York Times* during the first two weeks of the 2008 sealing season published just one brief article about it, and since 1981 has published an average of just 1.4 articles per year about the hunt. The *New York Times* total of 39 articles about Atlantic Canadian seal hunting and related protest contrasts with 312 articles about Japanese research whaling published in the same years.

The 2,064 U.S. newspapers, plus five from Canada, whose archives are searchable at NewsLibrary.com have published an average of just 0.7 articles per year about Atlantic Canadian sealing, half as much as the *New York Times*. Coverage in 2008, however, rose to the *New York Times* average. Japanese research whaling has received more than four times as much coverage.

Searches of Canada.com, including

the archives of 14 Canadian daily newspapers and 10 TV channels, but for 2008 only, indicate that Canadian news media produced an average of 2.5 items apiece about the seal hunt, from January 1 through the first two weeks of the 2008 sealing season. Japanese research whaling had received only one item per newspaper or channel.

Of the 1,546 total items of seal hunt coverage that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found, 22% mentioned Greenpeace, not even involved in anti-seal hunt protest in the past 25 years. Ten percent mentioned Brigitte Bardot. Prominent in seal hunt protest before the offshore hunt was suspended in 1984-1995, Bardot has returned to Canada just once since the offshore hunt resumed.

Nine percent of seal hunt coverage mentioned the International Fund for Animal Welfare; 7% mentioned Rebecca Aldworth, who initially represented IFAW and now represents the Humane Society of the U.S.; 6% mentioned the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society; 5% mentioned Paul Watson; and 2% mentioned IFAW founder Brian Davies.

No other opponent of sealing was mentioned in even 1% of the coverage.

Newfoundland and Labrador premier Danny Williams and Nunavut premier Paul Okalik told Reuters correspondent Chris Morris in St. John’s, Newfoundland a few days later that they expected the EU to vote on a ban of imports of seal products in June 2008. Okalik had just returned to Canada after lobbying in Europe against the possible ban. Williams and Okalik said they had asked Ottawa to ban the use of hakapiks, or seal clubs, to improve the image of sealing.

“We need to show that we are genuinely interested in resolving the concerns of people in Europe and around the world,” said Williams, who first recommended banning hakapiks in 2006.

Responded Aldworth of HSUS, “Some of the worst examples of cruelty that we filmed this year were sealers shooting at seals, wounding them, and the seals suffering on the ice. Rifles are every bit as inhumane.”

Canadian Sealers Association spokesperson Frank Pinhorn objected to CBC News that banning hakapiks would be “like taking a hammer from a carpenter.”

An EU seal product import ban as Dimas has outlined it would actually address the Namibian, Norwegian, and Russian seal hunts as well as Canadian sealing, but all of the other seal hunts combined kill a fraction as

many seals as the Atlantic Canadian harp seal hunt, which is distinct from the much smaller Native Canadian ringed seal hunt conducted by the Inuit of the far north.

The Atlantic Canadian sealing quota for 2008 was 275,000, up from 270,000 in 2007. About 30% of the Atlantic Canadian quota are killed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This is the relatively accessible and much documented first phase of the hunt. The Gulf of St. Lawrence hunters chiefly use hakapiks. Because the seals are mostly younger and killed at close range, the rate of retrieval of clubbed seals is believed to be relatively high.

About 70% of the Atlantic Canadian quota are killed during the sparsely monitored second phase of the hunt, along the remote Labrador Front.

Labrador Front hunters mostly use rifles. They may kill far more seals than the number actually landed and skinned, since wounded seals often manage to reach water before sealers reach them, and those who die in the water tend to sink.

Of all the protest groups who have tried to observe and document the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt, only the Sea Shepherds—twice—have managed to reach the Labrador Front. Most of the published information about it comes from sealers’ own accounts.

## About six million U.S. dogs live on chains, Dogs Deserve Better count projects

**TIPTON, Pa.**—How many dogs are chained or penned in abnormally close quarters as their primary means of confinement?

The quick answer appears to be about six million dogs, 9% of the U.S. dog population, based on an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** analysis of data gathered by Dogs Deserve Better founder Tammy Grimes and public liaison director Dawn Ashby.

Grimes and Ashby in mid-April 2008 spent 12 days counting chained or closely penned dogs in a dozen southern and southeastern states. They found 1,051 chained dogs in 1,483 residential road miles, or about one mile in 2,648 of the U.S. residential road mile total.

Grimes believes they saw

about half of the actual number of dogs along their route who are usually kept chained or closely penned. They saw mostly yard dogs. Not visible from the road were puppy mill breeding dogs, hunting dogs, many guard dogs, and fighting dogs. Sled dogs, usually kept chained, would not have been common along their route.

“There are definitely states where chaining and penning is much more likely to occur frequently than in other states, and we hit 12 of the worst,” acknowledged Grimes.

Grimes and Ashby covered a route running from Missouri through Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky,

Virginia, and West Virginia. These states are not demographically or climatically representative of the U.S. as a whole, but appear to have a disproportionately large share of the total U.S. dog population.

“I don’t know of any studies that identify how many dogs are chained,” Grimes told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** before the journey. “It would be really tough to do,” she guessed, “because of dogs who are hidden in the vast expanses of rural areas, chained dogs behind fences, the really scary cases of dogs who are chained in basements, and those luckier chained dogs who aren’t chained all of the time, but actually do spend some time indoors. I threw together some numbers based on dog ownership, recent fatal attacks, and an older dog bite study, and came up with the estimate that 8.1 million dogs in the U.S. are tethered.”

Though this now appears to be about two million high, Grimes’ preliminary estimate incorporated enough older data to perhaps project accurately the prevalence of tethering before Dogs Deserve Better began mobilizing opposition to chaining in 2002.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** confirmed Grimes’ preliminary estimate by adding up the numbers of dogs of breeds who are often kept chained, based on classified ad counts, and guessing that the numbers of these breeds who are not chained might be approximately equal to the numbers of other breeds who are chained.

Crude as these approaches are, they converge on a likelihood that chained dogs are hugely disproportionately involved in fatal

attacks, especially on children. Why this is, however, is unclear and intensely debated.

Reviewing hospital data now nearly 20 years old, then-Centers for Disease Control & Prevention public health economist Jeffrey Sachs reported in 1996 that about 29% of all fatal dog attacks on children involved chained dogs. But Sachs also found that nearly half of the attacks were by pit bull terriers. This was closely comparable to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** findings from an ongoing log of dog attack fatalities and maimings kept since September 1982.

As Sachs told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, his data was insufficient to determine whether the dogs were chained because they were dangerous, or were made dangerous by being chained.

The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** log continues to show that about half of all fatal attacks are by pit bulls, who are about 5% of the U.S. dog population. About 30% of the fatalities appear to involve chained dogs.

Grimes and Ashby encountered hazards during their dog count including, “A mastiff wanting us for dinner, a paranoid woman freaking the moment she saw us, and a couple of inebriated

folks vowing to ‘put lead in someone’s ass if they didn’t stop talking to them about their dog.’ Dawn was bit by a chained German shepherd,” Grimes recounted, “who faked nice and then grabbed her ear, and was lunged at by a Rottweiler as she tried to give him water.”

They made efforts to entice dog caretakers to quit chaining with “offers of free fencing, free collars, leashes, dog treats, and toys, which we handed out with a smile and a friendly attitude,” Grimes said. “Each day we interacted with around 20 caretakers, and left information for at least 20 more who were not home.”

## Order protecting duck said to

**MASTIC, N.Y.**—A protective order issued on April 3, 2008 on behalf of a duck named Circles was believed to be a legal first. Ylik Mathews, 21, a neighbor who allegedly shot Circles in the neck with a pellet gun, received the order after pleading not guilty to felony cruelty in Central Islip First District Court. Previously convicted of first degree robbery, Mathews faces up to two years in prison. He was held on bail of \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 bond.

“To my knowledge, it’s the first order of protection for a pet in Suffolk County outside of domestic violence cases,” prosecutor Michelle Auletta told Luis Perez of *Newsday*.

“In 2006, then-Governor George Pataki signed into law a legal provision to include pets in orders of protection,” Perez wrote. “The measure was first used when a judge in Queens listed Be Be, a 5-year-old bichon frise, as a party in a domestic dispute.”

Maine and Vermont also adopted legislation authorizing orders of protection for animals in 2006. California and Nevada followed in 2007. At least 13 other states have had similar legislation introduced.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** is aware of protective orders issued to keep people away from specific animals that predate the enabling legislation, but they involved a direct risk to human safety, and were issued chiefly to individuals who developed potentially dangerous obsessions with zoo animals, for example trying to release them or enter their habitats.

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## High-tech cameras help to put the Japanese spotlight on Taiji dolphin killing

**TOKYO**—Dolphin Project founder Ric O’Barry thought the 2007 discovery that the mercury content of meat from dolphins killed at Taiji is 30 times higher than the Japanese government-recommended limit might rouse enough citizen outrage to end the annual “drive fishery” massacres.

The main reason why Japanese

### Spared by court, sea lions are shot

**PORTLAND**—The National Marine Fisheries Service is investigating the early May 5 fatal shooting of six California sea lions who were trapped in floating cages used by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to capture sea lions who are believed to be contributing to the depletion of endangered salmon runs.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on April 23, 2008 granted an injunction to the Humane Society of the U.S. and coplaintiffs which allowed Oregon wildlife wardens to capture sea lions who eat endangered salmon below the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River, but prohibited killing sea lions.

Eight of 61 sea lions targeted for removal were trapped on April 24, of whom one died while awaiting transfer to Sea World. Zoos and aquariums had agreed to accept about 20. No others were impounded before the program was suspended. The National Marine Fisheries Service had authorized Oregon officials to kill any for whom homes could not be found.

whaling is not stopped by the Japanese people, O’Barry has believed since his first visit to Japan in 1976, is that most Japanese people don’t know about it. Neither coastal whaling as practiced at Taiji nor so-called “research whaling” on the high seas has ever drawn much Japanese media notice, so while Japanese donors strongly support causes such as saving koala bears, Japanese whaling opponents remain isolated and underfunded.

The mercury finding got some attention, especially after Taiji city council member Junichiro Yamashita warned constituents that dolphin meat should be considered “toxic waste.” What really put Taiji in the spotlight in Japan, however, appears to be the Japanese cultural fascination with cameras. The trick was using technology advanced enough to interest electronic trade magazines.

On March 1, 2008, a web site called *DigitalContentProducer.com: Film & Video Production in a Multi-Platform World* published one of the most detailed exposés of the Taiji massacres yet. But the details were highly technical. Author Kristinha M. Anding packed in brand names and model numbers of the equipment that O’Barry and Oceanic Preservation Society colleagues used to make a soon-to-be-released feature film about Taiji. Japanese camera buffs were soon informed about Taiji as never before.

*Japan Times* correspondent Boyd Harnell told the story behind the story on March 30. Few people have written more about Taiji over the years than Harnell, but never previously was he given so much space at once. The pictures were worth 3,500 words—chiefly about how they were taken.

“Producers of the OPS documentary are aiming for a worldwide release in June,” Harnell wrote, “including a Japanese version creatively marketed and circulated to ensure maximum viewing even if major distributors turn it down. The narrator will be an actor from Hollywood’s ‘A list,’ they said.”

Taiji officials have been trying to hide their annual dolphin massacres since 1978, when U.S. environmental film maker Hardy Jones first filmed the killing and brought it to global activist attention.

Other activists have managed to get some video and still images from hiding places around the two coves where the dolphins are trapped and killed. O’Barry himself brought back video from Taiji as recently as 2004, sponsored by the French group One Voice.

But nobody managed to get high-quality, state-of-the-art visual documentation from Taiji before, because of the combination of high cost and difficult logistics.

That changed when Netscape founder Jim Clark invested \$5 million to hire a world-class crew headed by Louie Psihoyos, assisted by Charles Hambleton.

“From their base in Boulder, Colorado, the OPS group made six trips to Wakayama Prefecture,” recounted Harnell, “where they were constantly followed by local police and stalked and harassed by whalers. Despite this, their high-tech film gear was covertly inserted in the killing coves and extracted 16 times. Their hidden, high-definition cameras successfully recorded the horror that unfolded behind Taiji’s blue tarps.

“Captured dolphins were filmed writhing in pain as Taiji whalers speared them

repeatedly or cracked their spines with spiked weapons,” Harnell wrote. “Stricken dolphins are also shown thrashing about wildly, blood pouring from their wounds. Meanwhile, a number of dolphin trainers and officials from the Taiji Whale Museum are shown cooperating in the slaughter, some even laughing.

“Perhaps the most iconic scene,” Harnell suggested, “is one in which a baby dolphin leaps to her death on the rocks after her mother is killed.”

Psihoyos and Hambleton used cameras disguised as rocks, underwater microphones, and an underwater camera assembled by team member Simon Hutchins.

Seven-time world free-diving champion Mandy-Rae Cruickshank and her coach and husband, Kirk Krack planted and retrieved the underwater equipment. Cruickshank recently free-dived to a depth of 88 meters and returned in two minutes, 48 seconds, breaking her own world record. The killing cove is only about 12 meters deep, but Cruickshank and Krack had to work in silence and darkness.

“Meanwhile,” Harnell wrote, “Psihoyos’ team was embedded in camera blinds on overlooking hillsides, sometimes for as long as 17 hours a day. Dressed in full camouflage and wearing face paint, they looked like military sniper teams. Black masking tape covered reflective surfaces on their cameras to avoid detection. When filming from the camera blinds, they subsisted on energy bars and water,” while evading security personnel.

The yet-to-be-named documentary may attract an audience in part through the drama of how it was made. The Japanese edition may include a lot about the cameras.

## Swinging Canadian elections keeps the sealers swinging clubs

Thirty years ago, when I first wrote about the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt as a rural Quebec newspaper reporter, both the hunt and protests against it already seemed to have gone on forever—but I had hopes that the efforts of Brigitte Bardot and Paul Watson would soon end it. Bardot brought global celebrity status to the campaign; Watson had just introduced the then new tactic of actually confronting the sealers on the ice, as cameras rolled.

I had known about the hunt and the protests for close to 10 years, first hearing of it soon after Brian Davies moved his Save The Seals Fund to the U.S. from New Brunswick and retitled it the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

When the U.S. Postal Service introduced nonprofit bulk mail discounts in 1969, the seal hunt was among the topics that built IFAW, the Animal Protection Institute, Greenpeace, and the Fund for Animals. The seal hunt was already a *cause célèbre* before Bardot gave up acting to start the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, before Watson formed the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society while Greenpeace retreated from the sealing issue.

I was on Parliament Hill asking Canadian political leaders for their views on the seal hunt before the formation of PETA, or any of the other animal rights groups that emerged in the early 1980s—and already, their answers were long rehearsed. *Sea of Slaughter* author Farley Mowat and my late *Townships Sun* and *Sherbrooke Record* colleague Bernard Epps, among others, had been to Ottawa asking the same questions well before I got there.

Though I knew the seal hunt was among the older issues on my beat, I had no idea how long protest against the seal hunt had been waged until a few years ago **ANIMAL PEOPLE** inherited old humane literature that documents anti-sealing campaigns being waged as far back as 1900.

Allowing for technological change, the protest tactics of 100 years ago differed little from those of today. Europeans sought to ban seal pelt imports. Scientists testified, activists wrote to newspapers, witnesses distributed images of the killing, and some of the largest and most prominent humane societies of the day tried to launch consumer boycotts.

None of this succeeded. The seal hunt was interrupted only by World War I, World War II, some years of scarce seals, and most recently by the tenure of Brian Mulroney as prime minister of Canada, 1983-1994. Mulroney in 1984 imposed a moratorium on the offshore phases of the hunt, which held until 1995.

At the time, and to this day, seal hunt opponents have asserted that the suspension under Mulroney was due to a boycott of Atlantic Canadian fish products. In truth, the Atlantic Canada cod and salmon populations were already in collapse. Fishers could barely catch enough to fulfill the export contracts they already had.

What had actually happened was than Mulroney, a Progressive-Conservative from Baie Comeau, Quebec, was the first and only prime minister ever to hold majorities in both Quebec, traditionally Liberal territory, and Ontario, the traditional Progressive-Conservative bastion. Winning majorities in both Quebec and Ontario, Mulroney enjoyed a wide majority in Parliament regardless of how his party fared in the four Maritime provinces—and the Mulroney government may have been the only government in Canadian history that could afford to shrug off Maritime opposition.

The Maritime provinces are New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. With a small part of Quebec, they surround the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where the first phase of the seal hunt each year is

conducted. The second phase occurs along the Labrador Front, north of Newfoundland, the province in which the sealing tradition is oldest and strongest.

The Maritime provinces actually have little representation in Parliament, yet usually have furnished the swing votes that determined which party would govern the nation.

Much has changed since Mulroney left office. The Progressive-Conservatives split into two parties, then rejoined as the present Conservatives. Quebec tipped from the Liberals toward the Bloc Quebecois, descended from a political alliance-of-convenience between Mulroney supporters and Quebec separatists. The left-leaning New Democratic Party, strong a generation ago, has all but collapsed.

### The balance of power

Yet the Maritime provinces still hold the swing votes, in a nation in which only three prime ministers in 40 years have held clear Parliamentary majorities, one of whom was Mulroney, while another, Pierre Trudeau, governed for part of his tenure for a minority position.

Among the 305 current Members of Parliament, there are now 127 Conservatives, 96 Liberals, 48 Bloc Quebecois, 30 NDP, and four independents.

Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper holds office only by keeping the support of the entire Conservative delegation plus at least 26 other Members.

In practical terms, this means placating the eight Conservatives from the Maritimes, including three from Newfoundland, plus the Bloc Quebecois. The Bloc Quebecois, strongest in rural areas, holds the one seat representing the part of Quebec where seals are hunted.

As politicians usually do what keeps them in power, Harper outspokenly favors sealing.

The Liberals are almost as close to bringing down the Conservative government as the Conservatives are to forming a majority, and could do it with NDP and independent help—but only if they keep their 21 Maritime members, who have been elected in part because of the Liberal legacy of unbroken support of the seal hunt.

Even if 90% of Parliament opposed the seal hunt, as up to 70% of all Canadians have said they do in opinion polls, sealing might continue because the 10% of Parliament who represent sealing regions possess the balance of power.

If either the Conservatives or the Liberals moved to stop the seal hunt, the opposition would swiftly take advantage of Maritime discontent. Voters elsewhere in Canada, with their own issues to consider, cannot be expected to make their feelings about the seal hunt pivotal in a national election.

Neither do threats of boycott make a positive impression on voters who in Montreal are more than 800 miles from anywhere that seals are hunted, in Toronto are 1,100 miles away, in Winnipeg are 2,200 miles away, in Calgary and Edmonton are more than 3,000 miles away, and in Vancouver are 3,600 miles away.

Yet huge opportunities are open to sealing opponents, if appropriate tactics are used.

National Institute for Animal Advocacy founder Julie Lewin wrote her 2007 book *Get Political for Animals and win the laws they need* for U.S. animal advocates. Much of the book outlines how American government works, and where political opportunities exist within U.S. electoral politics. Lewin freely admits to knowing little about Canadian politics and the

Parliamentary system. Much of her advice, however, is directly applicable to the politics that keep the heavily subsidized and protected seal hunt going.

One of Lewin’s first lessons: “Ignorance of political dynamics leads to repeated, avoidable failures.”

Thus far, no anti-seal hunt campaign has even tried to influence the Parliamentary balance of power.

Everything Lewin teaches about how the mere 4% of Americans who hunt retain dominance over U.S. wildlife and habitat management could be said about the sealing industry too, except that the sealing industry has just a fraction of the economic strength of sport hunting, and has fewer participants than there are deer hunters in almost any state.

The Atlantic Canadian seal hunt will end when the political cost—not the economic cost—of continuing it is greater to the governing party than the cost of opposing it. The present Canadian balance of power is so precarious that neither the Conservatives nor the Liberals can afford to lose support anywhere, but losses in the Maritimes would be most critical.

If animal advocates could defeat even a few incumbent Members of Parliament, especially in the Maritimes, pro-animal concerns would begin to be taken seriously. Even if a pro-sealing Member was replaced by a pro-sealer of a different party, while pro-animal votes went to a losing candidate, the turnover could profoundly influence Canadian national political party strategy. To either win or hold a secure majority, a party would have to court pro-animal voters, which could make further courting sealers a risky gambit.

In many ridings, as Canadians call electoral districts, tipping the political balance could require influencing only a few thousand votes—and in some, just a few hundred. The funding needed to do it should be much less than is annually invested in confrontational campaigns on the ice.

Canadian election law, like U.S. election law, limits the ability of non-citizens to influence voting with financial contributions. Yet more than half of the total Canadian population lives within broadcast range of U.S. television and radio stations, which are often more watched in nearby parts of Canada than either of the two Canadian national networks, the CBC and CTV. U.S. pro-animal organizations need only air educational ads affirming positive Canadian values in contrast to the behavior of sealers, helping to build a supportive climate for grassroots Canadian electioneering.

Between 25 and 30 years ago, in separate conversations, several then-and-future Canadian cabinet ministers, of all three of the then largest political parties, outlined to me—off the record and strictly hypothetically—what they thought ending the seal hunt would take. The short answer was always that it would happen only when and if protest matured into grassroots political mobilization. They never imagined that animal advocates could demonstrate the needed level of

**The Longest Struggle:**  
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# Redemption:

*The Myth of Pet Overpopulation & the No Kill Revolution in America*  
by Nathan J. Winograd  
Almaden (www.almadenbooks.com), 2007.  
229 pages, paperback. \$16.95.

The very title of Nathan Winograd’s book *Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation & the No Kill Revolution in America* offers a challenge to conventional thinking.

Winograd introduces *Redemption* as, “The story of animal sheltering in the United States, a movement that was born of compassion and then lost its way...The story of the No Kill movement, which says we can and must stop the killing...most of all, a story about believing in the community and trusting in the power of compassion.”

The opening portion is a succinct history of how humane societies came to be doing the work of animal control agencies, despite decades of warnings from American SPCA founder Henry Bergh that this would be a tactical misstep for the humane movement. Winograd explores in depth the origins of the prevailing belief among animal control and humane workers that population control killing is necessary, and responds with a rebuttal from his own experience in humane work. Since Winograd is still short of 40, this goes back surprisingly far.

Winograd introduced himself to me by telephone one afternoon in 1988, soon after I received a PETA press release which hinted but did not actually state that then-PETA board member Jeanne Roush had released into the wild several beavers who had been abandoned to starve by a failed fur farm in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Since beavers have never been farmed for fur successfully, despite many attempts, the failure of the farm and the investors’ abandonment of the beavers did not surprise me. However, beavers spend all summer building or repairing a winter-proof lodge and stockpiling the food they need to survive the winter. Knowing that these beavers had little more chance of survival in the wild than at the fur farm, I called PETA to ask what had actually been done with them.

PETA founder Ingrid Newkirk herself took my call. Without admitting in so many words that the beavers had been killed, Newkirk recited an extended and colorized version of the 1968 Phyllis Wright essay “Why we must euthanize,” then seen on the wall of almost every animal shelter.

“Why we must euthanize” has always reminded me of the elderly sisters in the 1939 Joseph Kesselring play *Arsenic & Old Lace*, who poison old men for their alleged own good. Those who internalize “Why we must euthanize” frequently exhibit what even then I called “The *Arsenic & Old Lace* syndrome,” continuing to kill animals even when there are alternatives, because to stop would be to contradict a quasi-religious faith which has become integral to self-image.

Winograd, then a Stanford University undergraduate, called to tell me about the success of a feral cat neuter/return project he helped to coordinate on the Stanford campus. He spoke with absolute poise and self-confidence, quoting statistics about the cats in and around each campus building, and refuting Newkirk point by point when I threw her arguments at him to see if he could respond.

Our conversation 20 years ago was similar in gist to the comparison-and-contrast offered by Newsweek.com on April 28, 2008. Author Jeneen Interlandi juxtaposed Winograd’s positions with those of PETA vice president Daphna Nachminovitch.

Since *Redemption* appeared, Winograd has become perhaps the third most-quoted animal advocate in the U.S., according to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** searches of News-

Library.com. Without the help of a multi-million dollar organization or any public relations staff, Winograd appears to trail in news media adjudged quote-worthiness only Newkirk and HSUS president Wayne Pacelle.

Often Winograd is quoted in response to comments from Pacelle and other HSUS spokespersons, but he most often rebuts PETA. This was not initially by choice. Between our conversation in 1988 and December 1994, Winograd tried repeatedly to win PETA endorsement of neuter/return feral cat control, at least in qualified situations.

“We do not support ‘right-to-life’ for animals,” Newkirk wrote at last.

Winograd, a vegan since his early teens, does support right-to-life for animals, including feral cats, pit bull terriers, neo-natal kittens, hard-to-adopt large black dogs, indeed every animal whose suffering can be relieved by treatment and who is not an imminent threat to the lives and well-being of other animals and humans.

## San Francisco

A longtime volunteer for the San Francisco SPCA, Winograd had already personally rescued, rehabilitated, and placed for adoption practically every sort of “impossible to place” animal, and had recruited other volunteers to help. After graduating from the Stanford University law school, Winograd worked as a criminal prosecutor, but left that job to start the Department of Law & Advocacy at the San Francisco SPCA. The department under Winograd worked to further animal rights legislation, promote neuter/return, and educate the public about not eating meat.

Winograd was integrally involved in making a success of the Adoption Pact, which in April 1994 made San Francisco in effect a no-kill city. The pact requires the SF/SPCA to find a home or provide lifetime care to any healthy or recoverable animal who is not rehomed by the San Francisco Department of Animal Care & Control.

After then-SF/SPCA president Richard Avanzino crossed the bay to head Maddie’s Fund at the end of 1998, Winograd served for a time as the SF/SPCA operations director, then took the Tompkins County SPCA to no-kill status while providing animal control sheltering for Tompkins County and the city of Ithaca, New York.

A frequent speaker at the No More Homeless Pets conferences formerly held twice annually by the Best Friends Animal Society, Winograd in 2004 founded the No Kill Advocacy Center. His blog, at <www.nathanwinograd.com>, is read by more than 40,000 people.

Winograd’s once bluntly outspoken mentor Avanzino now promotes let’s-all-get-along projects such as the Asilomar Accords in hopes of gently persuading the conventional sheltering community to “buy into” life-affirming policies. Rejecting the Asilomar approach, Winograd indicts by name many of the most prominent and best-respected leaders in sheltering and animal advocacy for pursuing policies that Winograd believes are contributing to the shelter death toll.

Repeatedly Winograd challenges animal advocacy leaders to rethink animal sheltering policies, especially in terms of what kind of example they set while trying to extend humane consideration to livestock, wildlife, work animals, and animals in parts of the world where organized, well-funded animal advocacy is still just a rumor.

Winograd has little patience with no-kill critics who persist in conflating the multi-dimensional package of services he insists a no-kill city must have with “warehousing” animals, a practice he regards as emblematic of failure and of

## “Activist vegetarian” elected to head

**MONTREAL**—The Canadian SPCA board of directors on April 9, 2008 affirmed the promotion of former vice president Nancy Breitman to acting president, following the ouster of Pierre Barnoti, president since 1995. The CSPCA board also elected six new members to fill eight vacancies.

Breitman told Max Harrold of the *Montreal Gazette* that under Barnoti she was ostracized as “a radical, tree-hugging, activist vegetarian.”

Breitman pledged to reduce the numbers of animals killed at the two CSPCA shelters, in Montreal and Laval, by “as

much as possible.”

The CSPCA in recent years has killed about 6,000 dogs and cats per year, about 40% of the total for the Montreal municipal region. The toll has dropped by about two-thirds during the past 20 years.

Formerly providing animal control sheltering to the Montreal Urban Community, the CSPCA lost the contract to a private firm called Berger Blanc shortly before the beginning of Barnoti’s tenure.

Barnoti continues to head the U.S.-based charity SPCA International, incorporated in Delaware in 2006.

as they often do, about what happened next.

According to *P.I.* reporter Gregory Roberts, the King County council “approved a motion arranging for private veterinarians to volunteer their services and calling for a stepped-up pet-adoption campaign among county employees, businesses, and animal-rescue groups. County Executive Ron Sims issued a declaration of emergency at the shelters to streamline the measures.

According to *Seattle Times* staff reporter Keith Ervin, the council itself declared the “health crisis.”

## Other cities

Winograd’s No Kill Advocacy Center is meanwhile pursuing a lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control, alleging multiple violations of the 1998 Hayden Act, which requires California animal control shelters to make healthy animals available to rescue groups, regardless of whether the animals are deemed “adoptable.”

On the first weekend in May, Winograd presented a “No Kill Solution Conference” in Indianapolis, hosted by the local group Move to Act.

Indianapolis, like King County, has long enjoyed a progressive reputation, and until recent financial reversals, the Indianapolis Humane Society was among the wealthiest in the nation. However, the Indianapolis Humane Society and animal control department have resisted most of the approaches that Winograd recommends to reduce shelter killing. The major provider of low-cost sterilization service to the community is the Foundation Against Companion Animal Euthanasia, begun by emergency room physician Scott Robinson. Since the FACE clinic opened in 1998, the Indianapolis rate of shelter killing per 1,000 human residents has fallen from 28.8 to 16.7.

Winograd is also advising efforts to lower the shelter killing rate in Philadelphia, which just over 130 years ago became the first U.S. city to delegate animal control to a humane society. The Pennsylvania SPCA returned the animal control contract to the city in 2002, as Winograd recommends humane societies should do, based on the San Francisco model—but the volume of dog and cat sterilization done in Philadelphia was nowhere near enough to put the city within easy range of going no-kill.

*Redemption* contains a few statistical hiccups, among them rounding off U.S. shelter killing to five million when the current figure is below four million; repeating the oft repeated false claim that no one really knows the size of the feral cat population, which can be estimated in exactly the same manner as deer populations and is now under 12.5 million at summer peak; and frequently citing “euthanasia rates” and “save rates,” which can vary up or down without in the least reflecting actual community success in reducing surplus dog and cat births and shelter killing.

Winograd also repeats the false claim of pit bull terrier enthusiasts that German shepherds, Dobermans, and Rottweilers were all once feared fighting dogs. None have ever been used in professional dog-fighting, as Rick Crownover has established through exhaustive historical research. Neither have either German shepherds or Dobermans ever figured more often in dog attack fatalities and maimings than they do right now—but they were much more feared for decades, because pit bulls and Rottweilers were a fraction as numerous as now, and dog attack fatalities and maimings were almost unheard of in the U.S. for most of the first 80 years of the 20th century.

The loose ends barely matter. Winograd’s arguments would be only strengthened by using better data—and as it stands, *Redemption* is probably the most provocative and best-informed overview of animal sheltering ever written.

—Merritt Clifton

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mental illness. Winograd does not hesitate to denounce those who practice “slow-kill” sheltering through overcrowding and lack of disease control, yet is equally contemptuous of shelter directors who object to using the term “no kill” because of the challenge it implies to population control killing.

Winograd may be most condemnatory of those who claim to practice “no kill” by killing only “unadoptable” animals.

## King County

Winograd’s most prominent recent public conflict is with Ron Sims, a longtime politician in King County, Washington, now county executive, who was widely lauded in the early 1990s for winning passage of a “mandatory” pet sterilization ordinance.

Like most and perhaps all other such ordinances, the King County version is actually just differential licensing with an unusually high fee for licensing an unsterilized dog or cat. Like other such ordinances, the King County version is no more enforced than any other licensing requirement, and has not demonstrably reduced shelter killing. In fact, the King County rate of shelter killing per 1,000 human residents, low when the “mandatory” sterilization ordinance passed, has barely declined at all since then.

Yet except for one 1994 statistical critique by the late Robert Lewis Plumb, published by **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, the King County ordinance and aftermath for more than 16 years received barely a glance from animal advocates. A 1997 King County audit found that the King County animal control department was chronically underfunded. Little was done about that. A veterinarian in October 1998 complained in writing to the King County council about almost exactly the same kinds of neglect of animal health and well-being that Winograd noted and detailed in March 2008, in a 147-page inspection report.

Winograd became involved as a consultant after a 10-member King County Animal Care & Control Citizens Advisory Committee in September 2007 informed the council that conditions at the two King County shelters are “deplorable,” and rejected Sims’ claim that King County remains a “recognized leader” and “model” for animal control agencies nationwide.

The county responded by ordering King County animal control to achieve a “save” rate of 80%, but did little about providing ways and means.

Winograd in *Redemption* had expressed skepticism of the value of the King County licensing ordinance, based on a data analysis similar to Plumb’s. Once Winograd actually spent time in the King County shelters, he found much more wrong than just an inflated sense of achievement. Winograd was visibly shocked and upset when he described his findings to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—and so was the community when the key findings of his report were amplified by both the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and the *Seattle Times*.

Sims and the union representing King County animal control workers accused Winograd of merely grinding an ax for no-kill. Nonetheless, Sims and King County announced a \$965,000 improvement package, to include “hiring a director of operations, writing a new animal-care protocol, hiring a shelter medical staff, and starting a population management plan,” summarized *Seattle Times* staff reporter Sharon Pian Chan.

Sims had already invited an independent evaluation by a five-member panel from the Koret Shelter Medicine Program at the University of California at Davis. The U.C. Davis panel in April affirmed Winograd’s findings in a 151-page report.

The U.C. Davis team identified in particular “a breakdown in care leading to animal suffering, illness and likely unnecessarily high levels of euthanasia and death.”

The *Post-Intelligencer* and *Seattle Times* published slightly conflicting accounts,



## Cats in the Louvre

by Frederic Vitoux &  
Elisabeth Foucart-Walter



## Dogs in the Louvre

by Francois Nourissier &  
Elisabeth Foucart-Walter

**Flammarion (c/o Rizzoli New York, 300 Park Avenue South, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10010), 2008. Each 80 pages, hardcover, illustrated; \$19.95.**

Elisabeth Foucart-Walter, chief curator of the painting department at the Louvre art museum in Paris, has teamed with Académie française member Frédéric Vitoux and Académie Goncourt president François Nourissier to produce *Cats in the Louvre* and *Dogs in the Louvre*. The substance of these twin volumes emerges from Foucart-Walter's eye for the animals in the corners, backgrounds, and occasionally the foregrounds of some of the Louvre's most famous works.

Rarely are the cats and dogs the actual subjects of the paintings, drawings, and statues that Foucart-Walter examines, but often their activities comment on the subjects, and at times the animals' behavior clarifies now obscure situations. We mostly no longer know many of the stories that inspired the artists whose works fill the Louvre, but how cats and dogs respond to the subjects still tells much about who they are.

Foucart-Walter has selected for comment 40 works including cats and 40 including dogs. These may be just the 80 works depicting the individual animals about whom Foucart-Walter has discovered the most; but she seems well-acquainted with many. Foucart-Walter points out that several animals appear time and again in paintings by certain artists, or showing certain families. Sometimes Foucart-Walter recognizes probable relationships among animals in different paintings. At times she cites historical mentions of the animals.

Because dog pedigrees have only been formally recorded for about 200 years, there is a widely held misconception that purebred lines only go back that far. *Dogs in the Louvre* illustrates otherwise. Perhaps because only the rich could commission paintings and sculptures, most of the dogs in *Dogs in the Louvre* works are purebreds, of breeds still recognized today. About half are hounds, bred for hunting, though more often shown in other contexts. The rest are mostly lap dogs, including one who puts up a heroic but futile defense against the intrusion of a murderer. There are no street dogs.

Feral cats do sneak into *Cats in the Louvre*, including two shown stealing fish from vendors, among many lap-kitties who exhibit great patience with the children holding them. Mostly, *Cats in the Louvre* affirms that pet cats were often allowed indoors and highly valued well before the advent of clay litter and prepared pet food, but perhaps mainly by people who could afford servants—and artists. —Merritt Clifton

# Starving a dog as “art” brings pressure on Nicaragua to adopt a humane law

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras**—Costa Rican shock artist Guillermo “Habacuc” Vargas may become a real-life Central American counterpart of the Ancient Mariner, whose fictional excess and punishment helped an entire society to consider how to respond to cruelty toward animals.

More than two million people have signed Internet petitions denouncing Vargas. Thousands have pledged to ensure that he will not escape his past.

“As part of an exposition in Managua, Nicaragua, in August,” summarized Rod Hughes of *Costa Rica News* on October 4, 2007, “Vargas allegedly found a dog tied up on a street corner in a poor Nicaragua barrio and brought the dog to the showing. He tied the dog, according to furious animal lovers, in a corner of the salon, where the dog died after a day. The exhibition included a legend spelled out in dog food reading ‘You are what you read,’ photos, and an incense burner that burned an ounce of marijauna and 175 ‘rocks’ of crack cocaine. In the background, according to reports, the Sandista national anthem was played backward.

“According to the artist,” Hughes continued, “his ‘art’ was a tribute to Natividad Canda, a Nicaraguan burglar killed in Costa Rica by two Rottweilers guarding property he had entered at night.”

Hughes’ account was largely translated from the newspaper *La Nacion*, of San Jose, Costa Rica, which added, “The dog died the day after the exhibition, as was confirmed to *La Nación* by Marta Leonor Gonzalez, editor of the cultural supplement of *La Prensa* in Nicaragua.”

The severely emaciated condition of the dog has been documented in numerous published photographs of the exhibit, many of them close-ups of the dog, others showing the dog in the background while focusing on other parts of the gallery.

“We heard about this three days after it happened, and the poor dog had already died,” McKee Project administrator Carla Ferraro told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The McKee Project, the leading dog-and-cat sterilization program in Costa Rica, was only one of many Costa Rican pro-animal organizations to respond—but Vargas was beyond prosecution. The dog was tied and starved outside of Costa Rican jurisdiction, while Nicaragua has no humane law.

“Vargas, 32, said he wanted to test the public’s reaction, and insisted that none of the exhibition visitors intervened to stop the animal’s suffering,” reported Gerard Couzens, Madrid correspondent for the London *Observer*, after the furor followed Vargas to an appearance in Spain. “He refused to say whether the animal had survived the show,” Couzens added.

“Juanita Bermúdez, director of the Códice Gallery,” where the Nicaraguan exhibition was held, “insisted Natividad escaped after just one day,” Couzens continued.

Claimed Bermudez, “Natividad was untied all the time except for the three hours the exhibition lasted, and was fed regularly with dog food that Habacuc himself brought in.”

“Our attempts to discuss the matter with Vargas’ representative were met with silence,” posted the World Society for the Protection of Animals. “When Vargas was invited to enter the VI Central American Visual Arts Biennale, to be held in Honduras this year, WSPA met with Empresarios por el Arte, one of the sponsors of the Honduras Biennale.”

The outcome, WSPA announced, was that “the Biennial organizers have agreed not only to make the Honduras Association for the Protection of Animals and their Environment official observers but also to include new competition rules that prohibit abuse of animals.”

In addition, WSPA said, it and a Nicaraguan member society “are supporting a campaign, led by the Commission for Natural Resources and Environment of the Nicaraguan Assembly, calling for legislation to protect animals in Nicaragua.”

If Nicaragua adopts a humane law, the Vargas case will parallel the influence of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in a way largely overlooked by literary critics.

Samuel Coleridge published the first edition of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in 1798, 22 years before Britain had a humane law—but Coleridge was aware of the need for one, and moved in the same circles as some of Britain’s most prominent early animal advocates. As *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* gained popularity, parallel to the efforts of William Wilburforce and “Humanity Dick” Martin to push a humane law through Parliament, Coleridge produced updated and expanded editions in 1800 and 1817.

The central character of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is a sailor on a ship that is led out of treacherous Antarctic waters to safety by an albatross. The Ancient Mariner shoots the albatross. Catastrophe follows. All of the crew die except the Ancient Mariner, but not before he is punished by being forced to wear the remains of the albatross around his neck, to remind himself and the world of his deed.

One of Samuel Coleridge’s descendants, Stephen Coleridge (1854-1936) acknowledged *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* as his inspiration throughout a long tenure as president of the British National Anti-Vivisection Society.

Stephen Coleridge’s 9-point “Animals’ Charter” is believed to be the earliest incarnation of the document now called the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, promoted by WSPA in hopes of getting the United Nations to adopt it as an international convention.

Costa Rican president Oscar Arias Sanchez on March 5, 2008 became the one millionth person to sign a petition seeking passage of the Universal Declaration. Costa Rican vice president Laura Chinchilla, environment minister Roberto Dobles, and education minister Leonardo Garnier signed the petition at the same ceremony, and then passed the petition among the audience to collect further signatures, said a WSPA press release.

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—Wolf Clifton

# Wildlife Direct leaders express conflicting

**NAIROBI, JOHANNESBURG**—Wildlife Direct chief executive Emmanuel de Merode on May 1, 2008 partially blamed a new South African elephant management policy for the poaching massacre of 14 elephants in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, just six weeks after Wildlife Direct founding chair Richard Leakey endorsed the policy.

“The upsurge in elephant killings in Virunga is part of a widespread slaughter across the Congo Basin,” de Merode told Agence France-Presse, “and is driven by developments on the international scene: the liberalisation of the ivory trade, pushed by South Africa, and the increased presence of Chinese operators who feed a massive domestic demand for ivory in their home country.”

Reported Agence France-Presse, “The killings were announced as South Africa lifted a 13-year moratorium on elephant culling, raising concern about a return to the international trade in ivory seen in the 1970s and 1980s, Wildlife Direct said.”

Leakey explained his perspective in a March 21, 2008 “Green Room” column for the BBC News web site. “I was part of the community of concerned professionals who objected to the culling of elephants in southern Africa during the 1990s and before,” Leakey reminded in opening. “By 1990, long-term research in Kenya and elsewhere had revealed that elephants have highly organised societies and a surprisingly well developed ability to communicate. We consider them sentient creatures like whales and apes who deserve special consideration when it comes to their management.

“While I will never like the

idea of elephant culling,” Leakey said, “I do accept that given the impacts of human-induced climate change and habitat destruction, elephants in and outside of protected areas will become an increasingly serious problem unless some key populations are reduced and maintained at appropriate levels.”

The South African National Park Service, which lobbied against the moratorium almost from the day it was imposed, claimed to have no immediate plans to kill elephants.

“According to the new norms and standards,” explained Fran Blandy of Agence France-Presse, “contraception and translocation would continue to be the preferred population control measures.”



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# Death of filly Eight Belles mars the Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE—Eight Belles, 3, a filly trained by Larry Jones and ridden by jockey Gabriel Saez, 20, charged home second in the Kentucky Derby on May 3, trailing undefeated Big Brown by four and a half lengths, but broke both her front ankles seconds later while “galloping out” around the first turn, and was euthanized where she fell.

“There was no way to save her. She could not stand,” trainer Larry Jones told Associated Press racing writer Beth Harris.

“Galloping out” is the post-race slowdown of the field. Racehorses are stopped gradually to avoid pile-ups and injuries.

“She didn’t have a front leg to stand on to be splinted and hauled off in the ambulance,” said track veterinarian Larry Bramlage. “In my years in racing, I have never seen this happen at the end of the race or during the race.”

The injuries to Eight Belles were inevitably compared to the ankle injury at the start of the Preakness that felled and eventually caused the death of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro. An injury similar to Barbaro’s ended the racing career of a colt named Chelokee in an undercard race preliminary to the Kentucky Oaks, the race for elite fillies held the day before the Kentucky Derby.

“Chelokee,” given only a 50% chance of survival, “was trained by Barbaro’s trainer Michael Matz. He won five of 10 lifetime starts, including the Barbaro Stakes last May at the Preakness,” said Associated Press.

Eight Belles sought to become the

fourth filly to win the Kentucky Derby—an event no filly has won since Winning Colors in 1988, and no filly had entered since 1999. “Her owners chose to keep her out of the Kentucky Oaks,” said Associated Press, “so she could run with the boys. And run she did.”

“When we passed the wire I stood up,” said jockey Gabriel Saez, 20, a first-time Derby rider. “She started galloping funny. I tried to pull her up. That’s when she went down.”

PETA called for Saez to be suspended from racing, but Kentucky Horse Racing Association executive director Lisa Underwood told McMurray that racing stewards found no evidence of wrongdoing by Saez.

“This kid made every move the right move,” trainer Jones told Associated Press writer Jeffrey McMurray. “He did not try to abuse that horse to make her run faster. He knew he was second best, that she wasn’t going to catch Big Brown.”

Jones also trained Kentucky Oaks winner Proud Spell.

PETA, the American SPCA, and the Humane Society of the U.S. all took the opportunity to campaign for changes in horse racing, including abolishing whipping and running on dirty tracks.

“Jones acknowledged changes could be made to make the sport safer, although he doubts any would have saved his filly,” wrote McMurray. “Stewards could, for example, mandate lighter whips or riding crops, Jones said. However, he said his training program

takes great care to make sure no horse is abused, even in a rush for the finish.”

Said Jones, “My horses don’t come back from races with welts on their body.”

Earlier in 2008, McMurray recalled, “Jones petitioned officials at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas to let him send out a jockey without a whip. Jones’ petition was accepted despite initial concern the jockey wouldn’t be able to control the horse.”

“As for the prospect of changing dirt tracks to synthetic ones,” McMurray continued, “Jones said he supports research on how that will improve safety. He insisted, however, that the track at Churchill Downs was not to blame for the loss of Eight Belles.

“Churchill’s track was as close to perfect as it could be,” Jones said. “The moisture in it was wonderful.”

“Eight Belles was a tragic manifestation of a problem that is more pronounced every year,” wrote Andrew Breyer of NBC Sports. “America’s breeding industry is producing increasingly fragile thoroughbreds,” who “have shorter and shorter racing careers before going to stud to beget even more fragile offspring.”

“The value of a horse is no longer related to how much he can win,” agreed veterinarian Bramlage. “It’s related to how likely he can get you to one of those events. The breed creeps toward a faster and faster individual, but that individual may be brilliant because of having a lighter skeleton. We’re inadvertently selecting for the wrong thing.”

## OBITUARIES

**Appaji Rao**, 71, vice chair of the Animal Welfare Board of India since 2005, died of a sudden heart attack on April 20, 2008 in Chennai. A graduate of the Madras Veterinary College, Rao “volunteered at the Blue Cross of India from 1964-1966 and was our first veterinary volunteer,” recalled Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna. “He joined the Madras Veterinary College as a lecturer,” Krishna said, “and rose to head the department of epidemiology.” Retiring in 1995, Rao continued to assist the Blue Cross of India and other animal welfare charities. For the Animal Welfare Board, Rao helped to produce draft rules for fish keeping, dog breeding, and animal euthanasia, “recently finalised and sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests for notification,” Krishna said. “He was also the moving force,” Krishna added, “behind the workshop for a rabies-free India held in 2006, and for drawing up the protocols for Animal Birth Control. Rules for temple and captive elephants he formulated were to be released by the Governor of Rajasthan” during the week of his death. Among Rao’s last acts was to telephone Idduki SPCA chief executive A.G. Babu, asking him to seek an injunction from the High Court of Kerala “against the indiscriminate killing of stray dogs [by municipal dogcatchers] all over Kerala,” Babu posted to the Asian Animal Protection Network. The injunction was granted, Babu said on April 26.

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**Rudy Komarek**, 79, died in early March 2008 of a heart attack in Florida. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was informed by upstate New York herpetologists Randy Stechart and William S. Brown. “Apart from several well-known bounty hunters who took thousands of timber rattlesnakes at taxpayers’ expense in three northeastern New York counties and one western Vermont county, no single individual had a detrimental impact on northeastern populations of this species as great as that of Komarek,” Stechart and Brown said in a jointly signed statement. Stechart and Brown estimated Komarek poached as many as 6,000 timber rattlers in New York and adjacent states, continuing to capture them for at least 14 years after they were designated a threatened species. Calling himself the Cobra King, Komarek was arrested in New York state for illegally capturing and possessing timber rattlers in 1991 and 1992, served a four-month federal prison term for trafficking in timber rattlers in 1993, and “was arrested in Kansas and deported from that state in 1995.” Brown recounted on a 1998 “wanted poster” he distributed as part of an effort he began as a graduate student and continued for more than 20 years to try to deter Komarek from further raids on timber rattler dens. Brown started his pursuit of Komarek after Komarek plundered several dens that Brown had under study, documenting their threatened status. Several other herpetologists argued that Brown had made the otherwise obscure Komarek into something of an outlaw celebrity, who after relocating from New York to Florida sold maps allegedly showing timber rattler dens to other collectors. Daytona Beach *News-Journal* reporter Virginia Smith won the 2004 American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors top

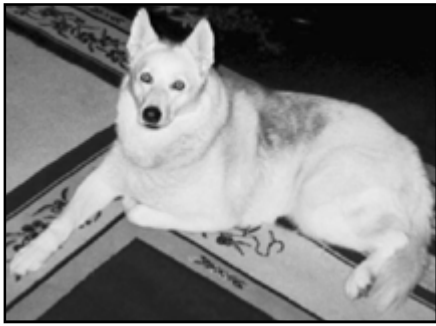


award for feature writing for a profile of Komarek and history of the Komarek/Brown feud. Before Brown made Komarek famous for poaching timber rattlers, he may have been most notorious for selling three of them to former firefighter Frank Giovanelli, who on October 7, 1986 slipped them under the door of his downstairs neighbor, Robin Goldman. Goldman had repeatedly complained that Giovanelli made too much noise. One of the snakes bit one of Goldman’s cats, who survived. Giovanelli and Komarek were each sentenced to serve 90 days in jail plus three years on probation.

**Terry LaPointe**, 48, founder of the Fund for Dogs & Cats shelter in Pepperell, Massachusetts, died suddenly on March 13, 2008. LaPointe started the Fund for Dogs & Cats from her home in Townsend in 1994. The no-kill shelter found homes for about 4,000 dogs and cats during her lifetime, estimated veterinarian John Lindermuth, who assisted her from the beginning. Volunteers kept the Fund for Dogs & Cats open after LaPointe’s death.

**Stephan Miller**, 39, was fatally bitten on the neck by a five-year-old grizzly bear on April 22, 2008 at his cousin Randy Miller’s Predators in Action performing animal training center near Big Bear Lake, California. “It was a flash bite and hit him in a very vulnerable spot,” during the making of a promotional video, Randy Miller told Gillian Flaccus of Associated Press. “The bear, named Rocky, recently appeared in the Will Ferrell sports comedy *Semi-Pro*,” wrote Flaccus. Fellow trainer Chemaine Almqist of Forever Wild, in Phelan, California, praised the Millers’ work and attention to safety. In 1999, however, “Randy Miller came under fire from animal rights groups for arranging a wrestling match between an 800-pound Alaskan grizzly and a 290-pound weightlifter at a public event,” Flaccus recalled.

## MEMORIALS



In loving memory of a beautiful girl called Tacarea, 4/3/91-3/22/08.  
Forever loved and missed.  
—Earle Bingley

In memory of Chocolate, our street dog.  
—Marta Fuenzalida Gutierrez  
Presidenté, Fundatia Pindy Maccallan  
Punta Arenas, Chile



For our precious Bubbie (above left), who brought love and light into our lives, and stayed far too brief a time on earth.  
A sweeter spirit we will never find.  
With our love, tears and memories,  
—Lindy, Marvin  
and all of your brothers and sisters

In memory of Rocky, a terrific and courageous New York City shelter dog.  
—Shari Lewis Thompson

In honor and memory of animal lovers who passed on and left dear pets who were killed by wicked people.  
You are missed dearly and your animals too.  
—Helen Kett

In memory of Tina, whose courage will live on as an inspiration to us all.  
We will never forget you.  
—Lindy, Marvin and Melinda

In memory of Congressman Tom Lantos.  
—Marcia Davis

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), Muffin (1/2/08), Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).



—Wolf Clifton

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It is almost impossible to determine an exact number of animal cruelty cases. With so many going unnoticed or unreported, we can only estimate the statistics. It is also impossible to answer the question, "Why do people abuse animals?" There are many reasons why people abuse animals and many variations on the definition of abuse; but one thing is certain: animal cruelty in any form, for any reason is appalling and unacceptable.

### You Can Help Fight Animal Abuse

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