

## SHELTERING IS POINTLESS UNTIL THE NEED IS REDUCED (Editorial, page 3)

### Bill to ban exotic cat traffic clears Senate, has key House support

WASHINGTON D.C.—Scaring exotic cat breeders and sellers for Halloween, the U.S. Senate on October 31 unanimously approved the Captive Wildlife Safety Act.

“The bill bars interstate and foreign commerce in dangerous exotic animals for the pet trade, including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars,” explained Humane Society of the U.S. publicist Peg McCarthy in a prepared statement.

Co-sponsored by Nevada Republican John Ensign, DVM, and Vermont independent Jim Jeffords, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act evolved out of the Shambala Bill, promoted since 1999 by Shambala Sanctuary founder and actress Tippi Hedren.

In original form the Shambala Bill sought to outlaw all private posses-

sion of dangerous exotic animals, a goal beyond the constitutional reach of federal legislation because the relevant jurisdiction is allocated by the Ninth Amendment to each individual state.

House Resources Committee chair Richard W. Pombo (R-CA) on November 10 “announced consensus on the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, now prepared for full consideration before the House,” said a press release by Resources Committee communications director Brian Kennedy.

Sponsored by Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), the House version of the Captive Wildlife Safety Act cleared the Resources Committee in September after exemptions were added for all holders of valid federal permits,

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This roadside zoo was closed by the USDA in 1997. (Kim Bartlett)

### Roadkills of cats fall 90% in 10 years —are feral cats on their way out?

BALTIMORE, SALT LAKE CITY, MENTOR (Ohio)—Is the U.S. outdoor cat population down 90% since 1992?

The feral cat population might be.

Roadkills of cats appear to have fallen 90% in 10 years, after apparently rising sixfold while the pet cat population nearly doubled during the 1980s.

An eightfold surge in the population of feral cats, mostly descended from abandoned and free-roaming pets, probably accounted for about two-thirds of the roadkill increase during the 1980s, but the trend is now completely reversed.

Current indications are that without continuing replenishment from wandering pet cats, the fast-falling feral cat population would probably stabilize at a thinly distributed level resembling the norms for other small felines such as bobcats, lynx, and caracal.

The large suburban feral cat colonies seen in recent decades may be an anomaly made possible only by the extirpation of street dogs and the temporary absence of native predators capable of eating either rodents or cats. Only in high-rise communities like Hong Kong and inner cities ringed by miles of pavement, like the oldest part of Rome, are large cat colonies likely to persist—and then only if humans supply enough food to sustain them.

Roadkill counts are among the sources of animal population data considered most reliable by wildlife biologists. Roadkill counts cannot tell in isolation how many animals are at large, but roadkills tend to be a relatively constant source of mortality as a percentage of the total number of deaths within a

species, since the volume of traffic, exposure of species to roadways, and the behavior of the species around vehicles all tend to be consistent from year to year.

If roadkills of any species rise or fall, it is usually safe to suggest that the species is increasing or declining proportionately.

*The American Journal of Veterinary Research* in 1986 published a study by James E. Childs and Lloyd Ross which found that from 1978 through 1980 the city of Baltimore, Maryland, picked up an average of 2,721 roadkilled cats per year. At least 20%, Childs and Ross believed, were pets or former pets.

That was the earliest comprehensive count of roadkilled cats known to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Since many studies indicate that both the U.S. pet cat and feral cat populations tend to mirror human population distribution, and Baltimore lies close to the climatic midpoint for the U.S. as a whole, the Baltimore ratio of one roadkilled cat per 270 residents can be projected to the nation with reasonable hope of accuracy.

The U.S. had 226 million residents according to the 1980 census, and thus probably had about 839,000 roadkilled cats.

The Baltimore data can also be compared to the 2000-2003 roadkill toll in Salt Lake County, Utah, of one cat per 488 residents, published on October 14 by *Deseret News* reporter Lynn Arave.

Salt Lake County in recent years is actually much more representative of the U.S. as a whole than Baltimore was in 1979-1980, offering a good balance of both habitat types

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## Rehabilitating Asian bears

CHENGDU, AGRA—The Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center and the China Bear Rescue Center stand just miles apart, on opposite sides of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan state in southwestern China.

The Wildlife SOS Agra Bear Rescue Centre is 1,500 miles away, on the far side of the Himalayas, 10 miles from the Taj Mahal, within the Sur Sarovar Sanctuary, near Agra, India.

The giant pandas, red pandas, and Asiatic black bears of two subspecies whom the three sanctuaries host were all caught in the cross-fire of late 20th century Marxist class struggle, but that was just the latest of their species' misfortunes.

Each are descended from some of the first bears to lose habitat to humans.

Products of parallel evolution, bears and large primates, including humans, developed to fill approximately the same ecological niches.

Bears came from the carnivore family, emerging in the northern hemisphere only slightly earlier than the first raccoon-sized advanced primates emerged in northeastern Africa.

Most bears and the most widely distributed large primates developed omnivorous diets. The biggest bears evolved limited bipedalism and relatively small, little used tails; some of the largest primates became fully bipedal and shed their tails. Primates developed opposable thumbs. So did the raccoon branch of the bear/raccoon line.



Jill Robinson with anesthetized bear. (K.B.)

All of the bears and raccoons and all of the large primates appear to have become perhaps the most intelligent and adaptable mammals within their range. Most of the bear/raccoon continuum, along with humans, chimpanzees, and baboons, are able to forage for edible vegetation, hunt, scavenge, or even fish for food as necessary.

While the bear/raccoon continuum split into regionally specialized species ranging from the lemur-like ringtails of South America to the giant polar bears of the Arctic, large primates divided

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# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

November 2003

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Village dogs near Bale National Park, Ethiopia. (Efrem Legesse)

### Conservation group experts urged dog shooting in Ethiopia

GOMA, Ethiopia—Why were free-roaming dogs shot in November 2003 in and around Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia? How much did the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme and Born Free Foundation have to do with it?

Why, after Homeless Animal Protection Society of Ethiopia cofounder Hana Kifle photographed a probable rabid wolf in August, was the EWCP vaccination program for pet dogs and working dogs, underway since 1996, not extended to homeless dogs?

Oral rabies vaccination of the Ethiopian wolves was reportedly approved by the Ethiopian government on November 7, apparently long after the EWCP first requested permission to use it.

But the dog-shooting continued.

“After we reported that the health problem occurred among the critically endangered wolves,” HAPS president Efrem Legesse told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “the vet team came to the area [weeks later] and decided to destroy all dogs. Without spending much time at all where the wolves are dying, they finally convinced the park warden that shooting is the only solution.

“There are two main wolf habitats in the park,” Legesse continued. “The team only

spent one night in the first habitat and half a day in the other. Then they went to Addis Ababa with the park warden and prepared their report. Their report convinced the top authorities to allocate a budget and borrow the gun, with ammunition. Then the warden sent dog-shooting teams to the two wolf habitats.

“We found a copy of the report,” Legesse said. “Our friend Naji Mohammed,” a contributor of information to Legesse’s May 2001 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** essay *The Dogs of Bale*, “helped us to scan and send it to you.”

The scanning assistance was just one example among many of community cooperation described by the HAPS volunteers as they scrambled to try to save the local dogs.

Dated October 20, the seven-page report identified as co-authors Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization research and veterinary team leader Fekadu Shiferaw, EWCO veterinarian Kifle Argaw, Bale National Park warden Fekadu Gardew, and EWCP veterinarian Zelealem Tefera.

“The EWCP has been working in the Bale Mountains since 1995,” according to a web site self-description, “to implement activities including education, disease prevention (through vaccination of domestic dogs), [and]

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*“Mitzi was  
hunted by  
hawks & eagles.  
Now she perches  
in our office!”*



November 2002

Dear Partner,

One day, while I was filling a feeding station in the woods, I saw a gray flash out of the corner of my eye. It didn't move like a squirrel.

I spun around toward the heavy brush, and I caught a quick glimpse of Mitzi's tail as she dashed into the thickness.

I couldn't believe it . . . a cat! Out here in the middle of nowhere . . . in the midst of the many dogs who visit our forest feeding stations . . . a little cat!

I set a trap and waited for hours, but she was gone . . . and I knew I'd never see her again.

As night fell, I feared for her life because coyotes prowled this area too . . . and owls stationed themselves in nearby trees so they could dive down on some unsuspecting rabbits.

When I returned the next day, there was no sign of Mitzi . . . though the food I put out for her under the bush was gone. But anyone could have eaten it.

And gliding just a few feet above the bushes was a beautiful large red-tailed hawk. I usually see them as dark shapes in the sky, but seeing this one's topside, as the sun lit up the red in him, was a gift. Three more circled above.

I put more cat food out under that bush, but in my heart I knew that Mitzi didn't have a chance.

A few days later, I watched an eagle take off from the ground where I saw Mitzi that first time. Weeks passed. Coyotes, owls, hawks . . . even eagles. Poor Mitzi must be long gone . . .

another silent victim of man's inhumanity . . . and "nature."

But then, one morning, a month after I first saw her, Mitzi broke cover and raced up to the food dish that I faithfully kept filled! My jaw dropped in amazement. I called to her so she wouldn't eat just yet. Mitzi ducked back into the bushes.

Then I ran to her food dish, scooped it up, and laid it in the trap. I couldn't believe Mitzi was still alive . . . against all odds.

And full of hope, I just stared at the loaded trap . . . thinking I might just get blessed with some good luck after all. Then a few minutes later a hungry Mitzi dashed into the trap to eat. And BANG, like music to my ears, that clanging metal door came down and my heart sang . . . we saved Mitzi from starvation and death!

It was when I ran up to her to put a towel over her cage, that I realized Mitzi was not feral. She didn't fight, or try to get out. She just looked at me with those big golden eyes. Someone had abandoned her.

Later, at our shelter, we found out that she's barely a year old, and that she's afraid of other cats because she's been alone all her short life. So we'll keep her apart from our other cats.

Sadly, Mitzi doesn't ask for love. If she gets it, she is grateful. All she wants is a safe harbor, a place to live without being hungry . . . or hunted . . . again.

Thanks to people like you, Mitzi has found this place . . . with over 1,500 other animals who were also let down by people and dumped in the wild.

Here, as long as you care about them and support them every month, these animals will be safe . . . and showered with love . . . for the rest of their lives.

For the animals,

**Le**

Leo Grillo, founder

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

# Attention: Rescuers and Shelters

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

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



Editorial

Sheltering is pointless until the need is reduced

“We live in a deeply depressed, impoverished, remote and backward corner of the far side of hell,” someone laments to us almost every day. “We have never had low-cost or free pet sterilization and vaccination, let alone a neuter/return program for feral cats and street dogs. People poison or shoot dogs and cats with impunity. The dogcatcher sells dog meat, dog leather, cat pelts, and live animals for use in laboratories. Millions of animals are in urgent need. Please help us fund a shelter to house 100 of them.”

Such pleas are heartrending, but under such circumstances, either operating or funding a shelter is pointless, mindless, and likely to only rearrange the misery in that particular part of hell’s overcrowded and starving half acre.

No humane society anywhere should even think about starting a shelter until and unless it receives a gift or bequest of the land and money needed to build and run the shelter without diverting resources from sterilization, vaccination, and public education.

Later, if sterilization, vaccination, and public education are successful, starting the right kinds of shelter at the right times might represent worthwhile expansions of the mission. But until the numbers of homeless dogs and cats are markedly reduced, and until the public shows increased sympathy and tolerance toward them, putting funds into shelter work makes less sense than using money as cat litter.

Fortunately, putting sterilization, vaccination, and public education first is the least costly way to get started. Public education can begin with as little as one volunteer sharing knowledge by word-of-mouth. Providing low-cost or free sterilization and vaccination requires paying veterinarians, which necessitates fundraising, but does not require building or buying a clinic, of either the fixed-site or mobile variety, until the funds become available.

Other than hiring vets, the most useful investment a sterilization and vaccination program can make will usually be in providing transportation to relay animals to and from the veterinarians, on behalf of elderly, disabled, and poor people who have no transportation of their own. If volunteers with vehicles are not available, vans can be rented as needed.

Street dog catching and feral cat trapping for sterilization and vaccination can likewise be done by volunteers, if necessary.

This work must come before sheltering, because whether or not petkeepers can afford sterilization and vaccination, or are responsible enough to do it, it still needs to be done. Ignoring that need is like ignoring that a neighbor’s house is on fire just because you happen to know that he smokes in bed. Ideally the neighbor can be educated into more responsible behavior, but either way the fire must be extinguished.

If sterilization and vaccination is properly promoted, and humane education is successful, a community will never need conventional animal control shelters.

The most successful approach to preventing dog and cat overpopulation in impoverished and remote areas that **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has ever seen is the “No-kill, no-shelter” concept pioneered in Costa Rica by Alex Valverde, DVM, Gerardo Vicente, DVM, and Christine Crawford, founder of the McKee Project. We think enough of it that we recently sponsored Dr. Vicente to address the Asia for Animals conference in Hong Kong and then do a speaking tour of India.

Vicente, like Valverde, is a past president of the Costa Rican Veterinary Licensing Board. His background is in public health. From that background and perspective, Vicente emphasizes that without community support, nothing can be accomplished. The public must understand a successful anti-pet overpopulation project, and must feel inspired to cooperate with it. This excludes the blame-the-public attitudes and rhetoric that persist among too many animal rescuers, especially those who maintain shelters as a perceived bastion against a cruel and uncaring world that they seldom actually try to engage.

Vicente proudly points out that Costa Rica has no animal control shelters, has closed those it once had, and does not want or need any more.

As Vicente explains, shelters of any kind take a lot of money to build and run. Even the U.S., spending \$2 billion a year on animal sheltering, between public and nonprofit investment, does not yet have complete shelter coverage of every community.

Indeed, after more than 125 years of shelter-building, half of the rural counties in the U.S. still have no shelter, public or private—and shelter-building has meanwhile proved futile, because enough shelter space can never be built to contain every dog and cat without a home so long as dogs and cats breed freely or are intentionally bred.

Nor is it possible to lastingly reduce dog and cat numbers by killing the surplus. The U.S. amply demonstrated that fallacy during the 20th century, catching and killing more dogs and cats in shelters than the probable sum of all the dogs and cats who were eaten in the whole of Asia. Only in the past 12 years has U.S. shelter killing fallen below that appalling volume.

No matter how many dogs and cats are killed, the fertile remainder can always breed rapidly up to the carrying capacity of the habitat, somewhere between becoming a public nuisance and suffering actual starvation.

Poor areas, rural areas, and developing nations, Vicente emphasizes, cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the rich. Animal shelters will always become death camps and slaughterhouses, Vicente points out, if dog and cat reproduction is not controlled before the shelters are built.

If the population is controlled, which must always be the first priority, the relatively few animals who require special care could be housed as efficiently in all but the biggest cities by shelterless nonprofit humane societies, using foster homes or boarding facilities.

This is especially true of remote and rural areas, where the distance to be traveled to a centrally located shelter tends to become an incentive to dumping animals instead.

Rather than spending money to run a shelter in any community which lacks the concentrations of donors and adoptors to make sheltering economically viable, animal rescuers need to set up networks which enable the nearest rescuer to collect any animal who is being surrendered, or may be redeemed and rehomed with reasonable effort after pickup by government animal control, and then deliver the animal to the most appropriate foster home.

The coordinating office needs no more than a desk, a telephone, Internet service, the knowhow to ensure that participating foster homes furnish quality care, and the fundraising capacity to help the fostering volunteers cover their costs, including the costs of immediately sterilizing and vaccinating all incoming animals.

Adoptions can be arranged in at least four ways without any need to have a shelter:

- By using the adoption programs of pet supply superstores such as PETsMART, and Petco, wherever they exist.
- By arranging frequent adoption events at other heavily frequented public places.
- By using a web site with photos to help advertise the availability of the animals.
- By partnering with a high-volume adoption center in a big city which can place puppies, kittens, and otherwise easily adopted animals.

These days many U.S., Canadian, and western European big-city shelters have a shortage of highly adoptable animals, though still no scarcity of hard cases. Remote and rural animal rescuers, however, along with those in other parts of the world, are still receiving huge numbers of puppies, kittens, and small dogs. Transferring these animals to adoption centers, in exchange for sterilization funding, helps everyone, and enables the adoption centers to compete successfully for “market share” against pet shops and puppy mills that sell unsterilized, unvaccinated animals.

When and how to build a shelter

After successful sterilization, vaccination, and humane education programs are underway, expanding into sheltering should begin with establishing an adoption center. An adoption center is a shelter of sorts, but the most successful are more like fashionable boutiques than shelters in the conventional sense, displaying relatively small numbers of adoptable dogs and cats in a convenient location, where it is easy for them to attract notice, be happy, healthy, and comfortable, and—while awaiting adoption—get whatever training they may need to succeed in a home.

The adoption center should not be used for longterm care, nor for large numbers of animals, since offering too many animals tends to leave prospective adopters unable to choose. If animals cannot be placed quickly, they do not belong in an adoption center. The idea behind an adoption center is to help reduce the numbers of animals in custody, and help fill vacant niches in homes with sterilized, vaccinated animals. Animals who are not promptly adopted should be rotated off exhibit and back to foster care to de-stress.

A successful adoption program—or shelter program of any kind—cannot operate from dreary rows of parasite-infested stinking-out-loud steel-and-cement cages beside the town dump. Placing animals in good homes requires treating them as if they have value. Treat animals as if they have value, and people will want them—and the way a humane organization treats animals will be perceived, by default, as the community standard of pet care.

Bear in mind that dogs and cats do not go kennel-crazy from being in a shelter too long. Rather, they go kennel-crazy because mad scientists whose sole object was to drive dogs and cats insane probably could not devise an instrument to do it more effectively than the typical traditional shelter. The standard cement-floored, cement-and-chain-link walled, tin-roofed dog run is an atrocity, whose basic design came from the spare horse stalls in which hunting packs were kept during the Middle Ages.

Dogs need compatible companions, they need room to run, they need security from being stared at strange dogs, they need outdoor air and light, and many have a reflexive urge to dig, especially when stressed. Give a dog what a dog needs, and it is very easy to keep dogs happy and healthy. Deprive a dog of any of these things, and you will soon have sick and despairing dogs. Teach a community to deprive a dog of these things, and you will have a community full of maladjusted dogs being surrendered to shelters or dumped on the street.

Cats need to be able to climb—and they prefer quiet. There is no animal easier to care for than a cat. Even great apes in zoos often keep pet cats successfully—and so has at least one now deceased grizzly bear. Unfortunately, great apes and the occasional bear seem to have a better sense of what a cat needs than many shelter directors. Too often **ANIMAL PEOPLE** visits humane societies full of nervous, panic-stricken, and sneezing, runny-eyed cats, sometimes confined to sterile laboratory-style cells the size of a microwave oven, who have to listen to kennel-crazed dogs barking around the clock.

If the ancient Egyptians were right that human beings will face a cat on Judgement Day, many a shelter director may be passing a very hot eternity.

If dogs and cats are kept in a facility that looks like a jail, smells like a cesspool, and sounds like hell in full cry, dogs and cats for miles around will be treated like doomed souls on a chain-gang, because the condition of the shelter sends the message that the humane community considers this okay. Treat dogs and cats as honored visiting friends, conversely, and the community standards will rise to that standard.

Finally, after a community has effective outreach sterilization, vaccination, and humane education programs, and adoption facilities that place every animal who can be quickly placed, and after the resources become available to do more, it is worthwhile to start a care-for-life sanctuary as a backup to the rest of the system. This is for the relatively few animals who cannot be adopted, when all other components of no-kill animal control are up and running.

People give up pets for many reasons. Whether or not we think the reasons are “valid,” giving up pets is a fact of life which must be accommodated. Many are given up not because they are not loved, but because desperate people feel they have no choice: they have lost their job, lost a home, an animal has bitten or scratched a child, the spouse hates the animal, the landlord is threatening to evict them, or the pet-keeper has died.

If the people feel that a pet is going to either find a home or be well looked after at a sanctuary, they will bring the animal into the adoption-and-care network. The animal will not end up being abandoned in the misguided hope that the animal “will have a better chance” than if brought to a shelter that routinely kills “unadoptables.”

Animal control agencies that can respond immediately to nuisance animal complaints and act as a dog-and-cat lost-and-found are nice to have. So are full-service humane societies that can provide emergency veterinary care, do humane education, do animal rescue, and investigate cruelty complaints, all under one roof.

They are not, however, what it takes to end dog and cat overpopulation.

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# LETTERS

## Kitten in Beijing

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed reading your October cover feature, "Four shelters serve Beijing." The vignette at the end about your son holding a kitten on a Beijing street and attracting attention was very sweet. Wolf was using his act of holding that little life to send messages to those who came around him. Wasn't that the most beautiful scene on the streets of Beijing?

—Peter Li  
Houston, Texas  
<LiPj@uhd.edu>

## Should horses go barefoot?

I was delighted to find your website. I am the wife of an equine podiatrist from the Institute of Barefoot Equine Podiatry plus I had horses for 20 or more years who were in horseshoes. How can we get the message out that a hoof cannot work properly if it is put into a vice?

Please visit <www.thenaturalequine.com> for information about the barefoot movement.

—Stephanie Madaia  
105 Fostertown Road  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
<horselover5552000@yahoo.com>

We asked Staci Layne Wilson for a second opinion. A cofounder of the International Generic Horse Association/HorseAid, Wilson is author of The Horse's Choice: Natural, Low-key

and Easy Training You Can Do Yourself, *currently out of print after selling more than 250,000 copies, among many other books and articles about horses.*

Wrote Wilson: "I have always been for keeping horses barefoot. Exceptions are if a horse is ridden constantly over rough ground (endurance horses, for example); if weight is added to a gaited horse's feet to enhance the gait (I think the exaggerated shoeing of Tennessee Walkers is cruelty); and if the horse has really soft or brittle hooves, and medically needs the protection.

"Generally speaking," she added, "pleasure horses and weekend show horses do not need shoes at all. Horses' hooves should be trimmed moderately and left barefoot—that's what I think."

—Wolf Clifton

## "Make it so."

Know that I stand in awe of the work you have been doing with **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. I truly believe we must learn to live in harmony in the community of life that encompasses all life forms. The project I am now trying to put together has that as its theme and purpose. The information you have provided over the years has truly inspired me. You and others like you have brought awareness and positive change to the way humans treat animals. Please accept my gratitude for your efforts and my wishes you keep up the great work. You are a gift from God.

—Marty Hornstein  
Studio City, California

Marty Hornstein, an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** reader since 1993, was executive producer of Star Trek: Nemesis (2002), co-producer and executive producer of Along Came a Spider (2001), co-producer and production manager of Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country (1991), producer of The Perfect Weapon (1991), and production manager of Back to the Beach (1987).

# FUNDRAISING AND DONOR SELF-DEFENCE

## Help from Thessaloniki

I have only now heard of the serious problems you have endured in connection with the legal actions filed against you by fundraiser Bruce Eberle. I hope it is not too late for me to offer my small and humble contribution toward your expenses. My thoughts and best wishes come to you for more and more strength and success in all your efforts. You are already aware that I hold you in the highest esteem and confidence.

—John Laden  
Thessaloniki, Greece

## What can donors do?

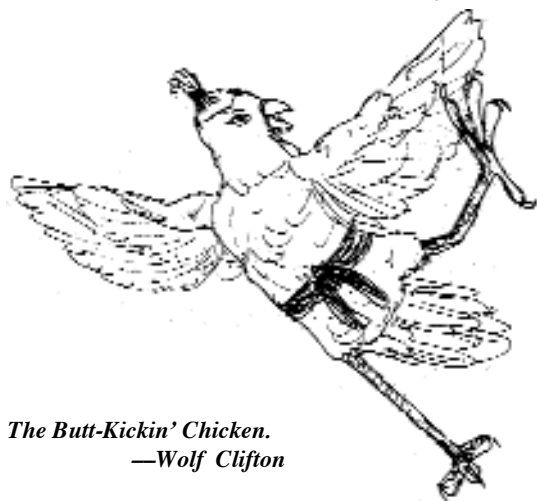
Is there anything the average donor to animal charities can do to stop the activities of Bruce Eberle? I donate to as many organizations dedicated to equines and canines as possible—not huge amounts, but regularly. Through Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue I became known to him, and he began to bombard me with appeals from other societies, almost always with stamped envelopes, not even bothering to change the type fonts he uses, and even seeking support for tigers, lions, and other predators who eat horses!

I addressed a letter to him, pointing this out, but received no reply. Then I read your exposes, and wrote to Jill Starr, the head of Lifesavers, marking the envelope "personal." Again I received no reply.

In no way related to this problem, but only to inform you of some wonderful activity, I am enclosing two recent newsletters from Greek Animal Rescue. So many societies are doing great work out of England—the Brooke Fund for Animals, the Society for Protecting Animals Abroad, the new Caring for the Animals Trust, and Greek Animal Rescue is one of the best.

My husband, who died last year, always maintained that money used in Third World countries went much further to stop animal suffering than in the U.S.—and certainly people like Vesna Jones would never cause you such grief as Eberle.

—Elisabeth Arvin  
Ojai, California



The Butt-Kickin' Chicken.  
—Wolf Clifton

## The Editor replies:

My personal belief is that donors should not even bother to open appeals from charities of which they have no prior knowledge, no matter who the fundraiser is, and no matter how much the envelope is made to resemble an overnight letter, a telegram, or personal correspondence.

The mere fact that you are hearing from a charity you know nothing about suggests that you are being solicited by a professional fundraiser, using a rented list. These are "prospect" mailings, typically costing far more to send out than they net in returns.

The primary goal of such mailings is to add your name to a list of respondents to be "developed" through further mailings. "Development" is the fundraising industry euphemism for the process many of us believe would be more accurately described as "milking." Often the idea is to massage the donor's emotions as much as possible, as often as possible, to extract as much money as possible as fast as possible before "donor fatigue" kills the cash cow.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** believes that healthy donor/charity relationships are based upon knowledge, contact, and service. If donors restrict themselves to giving only to charities about which they have either personal knowledge or third-party verification of program activity (such as through news coverage, in **ANIMAL PEOPLE** or elsewhere), and then only to charities that are promptly responsive to requests for information or help with problems, there will be no incentive for direct mail fundraisers and the charities they represent to do seemingly endless prospecting, often spending more of their receipts on further mailings than goes into program service.

The typical argument of high-volume direct mailers, including Eberle, is that this modus operandi is necessary for new charities, and those in unpopular causes, such as animal protection, which annually collects only about 1% of the U.S. charitable dollar.

Yet the fastest-growing animal protection charities in recent years have been those that have emphasized publicizing their work through direct contact and program service distinctly separated from direct mailing, which they have also done—for example, the Best Friends Animal Society and Alley Cat Allies, whose revenues have each increased more than sixfold since 1996.

Incidentally, donors can do far more for animals by focusing their contributions on the handful of charities they know best than by scattershotting money every which way. A donation of up to \$25 to a charity that does high-volume direct mail will often go entirely into further mailings soliciting more money from the same person. Thus, if a donor gives \$25 to 20 different charities that ask for money ten or twelve times a year, the net benefit to animals may be no more than if the total of \$500 had just been trashed with the empty envelopes.

Conversely, if the whole \$500 went to just one charity that solicits funds only the usual two to four times a year, \$490 of it might be spent to fulfill the charitable mission.

## UKRAINIAN ANIMALS GET NEWSPAPER

We are glad to inform that our Centre is starting a monthly newspaper on animal rights called *Time to Protect Animals*. This will be the first such publication in the Ukraine and the former Soviet Union. The project will be realized with financial support from the World Society for the Protection of Animals. The pilot edition of 5,000 copies will be distributed during the first week of November 2003. The famous Ukrainian newspaper *Vremja* (Time), which publishes 80,000 copies three times a week, is asking their readers who would like to receive a free copy, and those who ask will get our newspaper.

The first edition includes an article about WSPA and its current campaigns, coverage of the international "Design Against Fur" competition sponsored by the Fur Free Alliance and the October 14 awards ceremony in Paris, and items on stray animals and hunting. We intend to hold competitions for the best poem, song,

story, picture, project to improve lives of wild, domestic, stray animals, scenario for a cartoon, film, or video, etc.

We have already honored a poet from Dnepropetrovsk for her wonderful poem about a former champion horse who ran away from a slaughterhouse. The poem has become a song and a well-known singer has recorded it for us. Now the song will be heard on local radio stations.

If you have any interesting material you would like us to publish or if you know about any competition, action, campaign we could join in, please inform us.

—Igor Parfenov, President  
Center for the Ethical  
Treatment of Animals,  
Leo Tolstoy Chapter  
Stepnaya str. 23  
Malaya Danilovka  
Kharkovskaya Oblast 62341  
Ukraine  
Phone: 380-576-358321  
Fax: 380-576-331-825  
<cry@3s.kharkov.ua>



## Turning veggie

I am sending this statement on "Turning vegetarian" by Dr. Tom Heller of Seattle, who is my nephew-in-law, with his permission:

"A few weeks before Turkey Day I find myself turning vegetarian, or at least becoming a staunch non-eater of corporate agribusiness's meat products.

"For years I have known the health benefits of a vegetarian diet—less heart disease, less cancer, less obesity, better health in later life, and longer life. I have been less aware of the cruelty to animals that is pervasive in agribusiness.

"My intuitive sense is that there must be harmful health consequences to consumers of mistreated, hormonally enhanced, anti-biotic-sanitized animals.

"Further, having recognized the inhumane treatment of animals as they are converted to food, I would feel a sense of complicity were I to buy or eat these products. Were I to simply rationalize that cruelty happens and there is not much we can do about it, so just eat the meat, I would rob myself of my own moral compass. What other forms of cruelty and injustice could I be persuaded to accept?

This holiday season, let us not mistake giving thanks for smugness and complacency."

—Elizabeth Kantanen  
Chicago, Illinois

## Calcutta dogs

The September 2003 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** quoted Bangkok city governor Samak Sundaravej as saying about street dogs and homeless people, "Our city is not Calcutta. We must not allow such an eyesore." Friends of Dogs is proud that street dogs are found in Calcutta still. Several local charities sterilize street dogs and immunize them against rabies. We began more than 20 years ago. Almost all of our members have street dogs as pets. We are proud of our city, with dogs and all the homeless!

—Mrs. Sona Murshed  
General Secretary  
Friends of Dogs  
1-A, Rainey Park Lane  
Calcutta 700 019

The most active Calcutta charity helping street dogs is People for Animals/Calcutta, in partnership with the Compassionate Crusaders Trust, c/o 6/1, Wood St., Kolkata WB 700016, India; <debasischak@vsnl.net>.

His mother was  
killed.  
His family  
destroyed.  
Then came the  
long terrible  
journey trapped  
alone in a dark  
box... and he was  
only a few weeks  
old.

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*Excluding animals  
reduces religion to  
rote and ritual*

For the past two years I have made attempts to connect with my religious heritage. I have attended prayer services, spoken to religious leaders, and taken courses. It has come as a shock for me to find that with each of these contacts, support for cruelty to animals—either through intent or indifference—was evident. Whether it involved a glut of fur coats in a house of prayer, a dinner of slaughtered animals, a plea by a religious leader to give to the poor so that they may have “a chicken dinner for the holidays,” or total indifference to the suffering of animals, I was always left with the same experience of living in a world of different values regarding animals than those of the religious establishment.

Why have most religious institutions not advocated the ethics of animal rights? Compassion, kindness, respect for others, and respect for the earth are among the most important themes in religious texts and among the ideas most often spoken of in places of worship, religious broadcasts, and religious schools. The faithful are encouraged to make these values part of their everyday lives in their relationships with people. The failure to apply these same standards of behavior in relationships with animals is a glaring incongruity and undermines the relevance and validity of the religious institution.

A religious leader who hosts a barbecue, advertises businesses that sell meat, and wears fur to prayer services is telling others that kindness has no value, that God’s creations of animals and the environment have no value, and that people should engage in behavior without reflecting on its meaning or consequences. Stripped of compassion and reflection, all that is left is rote and ritual.

—Irene Muschel  
New York, New  
York<Benirv@hotmail.com>

**ANIMAL PEOPLE  
Holiday Nut Roast**

Mix together:

**2 pounds of firm tofu, mashed well**  
**2 cups of coarsely chopped walnuts**  
(sunflower seeds, pecans,  
or other nuts may be substituted)

Then thoroughly blend in:

**1/4 cup of soy sauce**  
**2 teaspoons of thyme leaves**  
**1 teaspoon of basil leaves**  
**2 tablespoons of dried parsley**  
(or 1/2 cup of fresh parsley)  
**1 finely chopped onion**  
**1 cup of breadcrumbs**  
**1 teaspoon of minced garlic**  
(seasonings may be altered to suit  
preference; for example, a teaspoon  
of sage may be added,  
or you may add more garlic)

Finally, add:

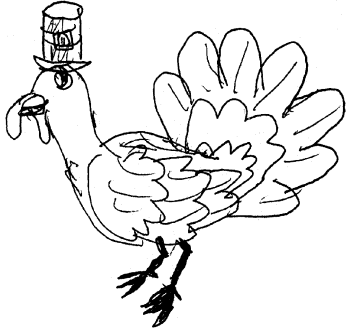
**1 cup of dried bread crumbs**  
**1/2 cup of whole wheat flour**

Mix all ingredients well. Turn into oiled pan(s) and form into an inch-thick loaf. Rub the top of the loaf with a very thin coating of olive or other vegetable oil. Cover the pan(s) with foil, and bake for one hour at 350 degrees. Take the foil off and cook about 10 minutes longer, until the top of the loaf is browned. The loaf tastes best when crispy.

Serve with applesauce, apple butter, or cranberry sauce.

**Good with vegetarian gravy  
and cornbread dressing.**

(You can adapt any traditional recipe by simply substituting vegetable broth or water for the customary meat broth.)



**Dog-eating and my culture** *by Bing A. Dawang*

Just before World Animal Day, which coincides with the feast of St. Francis d’Assisi, the patron saint of animals, a local newspaper defended the dog meat trade in the Philippines, in particular in Baguio City and the Cordilleras, by claiming that dog eating is a part of the Igorot indigenous culture.

As a full-blooded Igorot, I take offense.

The newspaper quoted Isikias Isican, said to be curator of the St. Louis University museum, as saying that there is a clear cultural basis for butchering dogs because they were “butchered by Igorot tribes before going to war, or to cure certain afflictions.”

Isican generalized that dog-eating is a part of Igorot tradition by recalling that in 1904 a few Igorot men and women were displayed at the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition (“world’s fair”) in St. Louis, Missouri. Described as as heathen pagans, they butchered a dog as part of the show.

In the same article Hanzen Binay, formerly defense counsel for several dog meat traders and now a Benguet prosecutor, questioned the wisdom of the Philippine Animal Welfare Act. Objecting that the law was supported by British animal advocates, Binay asked rhetorically why Britain does not respect the Igorot culture.

As an Igorot, I vehemently do not accept dog eating as my culture. I was not raised to eat dogs. Dog meat is not a part of my diet, nor has it ever been. I find it insulting that Igorots are branded as dog-eaters, not only in the Philippines but abroad. It is a shame, and because Igorots are Filipinos, dog-eating is a Philippine national shame.

It is true that in ancient times some Igorot tribes butchered their dogs before going to war. It was the belief of the then pagan Igorot that the spirits of the sacrificed dogs would guard them in battle.

At times of tragedy, the family dog might also have been sacrificed to appease the spirits, and to assign the soul of the dog to guard the spirits of the living family members.

Dog sacrifice always connoted bad luck, tragedy, or death. When a family butchered a dog, who had to be the family dog, not just any dog bought from nowhere, the family was not feasting but either mourning, in extreme pain, or involved in some other activity connected with death.

Dogs were not butchered as drinkers’ fare, nor as a daily or regular part of the Igorot diet. Igorot families much preferred to avoid the circumstances which might lead them to sacrifice their dog.

Dog sacrifice for religious purposes is allowed under the Philippine Animal Welfare Act. But the act also requires that dog sacrifices must be recorded and reported. Five years after the law was passed, the Bureau of Animal Industry has yet to receive any such reports from the Igorot elders.

Igorot culture has greatly changed since 1904. Headhunting, for example, was also part of the Igorot culture and way of life a hundred years ago. We now recognize and reject that practice as murder.

This is adaptation. This is cultural evolution. We discard bad customs and traditions, and adopt good ones from other cultures—and as an Igorot, a Filipino, a law-abiding citizen, and a lover of dogs, if I see

anyone butchering and selling dogs for meat, I will not hesitate to bring criminal charges.

Incidentally, anyone who believes that the Philippine Animal Welfare Act was passed chiefly through the lobbying of British citizens, or Americans, or members of any nationality other than Filipino is misinformed.

Foreigners helped, but most of the work was done by Filipinos, represented by Philippine groups, including the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, reorganized in 1986 by Nita Hontiveros-Lichauco, and the Philippine SPCA, formed on December 13, 1904 (the year of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition), now headed by Edgardo Aldaba.

We have in common, besides our cause, one hero: the dog Dagul, an *askal*, whose kind are commonly captured and butchered. Dagul, however, was adopted by Wilmar Castillo and family. Dagul rewarded their compassion in May 2003 when he alerted Wilmar Castillo to an avalanche of mud just in time to save the young man’s life.

Honored with the Lewyt Award for Compassionate and Heroic Animals, as described in the September 2003 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Dagul and Wilmar Castillo demonstrated the relationship that we believe should exist among humans and dogs. Kindness toward dogs and other creatures is fundamental to my culture.

[Bing A. Dawang is editor of The Junction regional newspaper and is a founding officer of Linis Gobyerno, Inc., G/F PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes Campo Sioco, Baguio City, The Philippines; telephone 6374-448-0645; fax 6374-620-0641; <www.linisgoby-erno.org>.]

HFA pig ad

# Bill to ban exotic cat traffic clears Senate *(from page one)*

including laboratories, circuses and individual entertainers.

The Shambala Bill initially exempted only accredited zoos and sanctuaries.

“Negotiations on the bill fell apart,” Kennedy wrote, “when extreme animal rights activists disingenuously pigeon-holed the bill in the wake of the [October 3] Roy Horn incident,” in which one of the partners in the Las Vegas casino act Siegfried & Roy suffered a near-fatal mauling.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act will now go to the full House with the endorsements of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, as well as HSUS, the Fund for Animals, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition, assembled by California veterinarian Kim Haddad.

If passed by the House, the Captive Wildlife Safety Act will go to a joint House/Senate committee for reconciliation of differences in the House and Senate versions, and must then be ratified in reconciled form by both the House and Senate before going to President George Bush to be signed or vetoed.

As Governor of Texas, Bush in 1999 vetoed legislation to restrict private ownership of dangerous and exotic wildlife, at request of the canned hunting industry, and was rewarded when Safari Club International made him “Governor of the Year.”

## Siegfried & Roy

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act would not have prevented the attack on Roy Horn, since Siegfried & Roy hold federal permits to entertain with big cats, but the attack was the most dramatic of a series of incidents influencing Congress to give the bill a fast track toward possible passage.

Horn, performing with Siegfried Fischenbacher since they met on a cruise ship in 1959, was midway through a solo show with a seven-year-old white tiger named Montecore when the tiger refused to lie down on command. As an attention-getting gesture, Horn rapped Montecore on the nose with his microphone. Montecore swiped at Horn’s arm. Horn stumbled. Montecore seized Horn by the neck, crushing his windpipe, and dragged Horn off stage as Horn tried to beat him away with the microphone.

Horn, who turned 59 on the day of the attack, suffered a stroke while receiving emergency treatment, and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Headliners at the Mirage hotel and casino since 1990, Siegfried & Roy performed for 400,000 people a year, generating \$44 million in revenue. Forced to suspend the Siegfried & Roy shows indefinitely, the Mirage laid off 267 workers, but continued to house the Siegfried & Roy animals at the Secret Garden menagerie—including Montecore, after he cleared quarantine.

Just three days later a Bengal tiger mauled Sarah Roy, 20, an employee at the Keepers of the Wild sanctuary in Dolan Springs, Arizona. Sarah Roy, who had six years of big cat handling experience, was hospitalized for five days. She was reportedly the

fourth person to be injured at Keepers of the Wild in 15 years. Most seriously hurt was veteran trainer Charlie Stagnaro, 65, who suffered extensive injuries to his feet and legs when attacked by an 8-year-old tiger named Bonnie in October 1996.

Founded in Las Vegas by former entertainer Jonathan Kraft, Keepers of the Wild moved to Arizona in 2001.

Insurance costs for exotic animal acts, zoos, and sanctuaries have soared in recent years, as many insurers have quit covering animal care facilities entirely.

Mike Schneider of Associated Press in July 2003 reported that during the past three years workers’ compensation costs have increased 73% at the Miami Seaquarium, and have jumped 350% in just one year at Gatorland and Sarasota Jungle Gardens.

The traditional winter home of traveling circuses, Florida is less friendly toward exotic animal keepers at the regulatory level, as well.

On September 29, for example, the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland upheld an April 2003 ruling by Circuit Judge Margaret O. Steinbeck that Charlotte County had correctly applied zoning laws in refusing to issue permits for cage building to the Lions, Tigers & Bears Inc. sanctuary, founded by Lynn Wittmeier. Charlotte County is reportedly now in position to seek an injunction ordering Lions, Tigers & Bears Inc. to close.

Two days later, Eugene Calabrese, owner of the closed JungleLand Zoo in Kissimmee, withdrew an application to house retired circus animals, after it appeared unlikely to be approved.

Already, says the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida facilities house 1,282 tigers and 1,198 pumas.

## Sanctuaries struggle

Few states have comparable record-keeping, but many states lately are deciding that whatever number of big cats they have is too many.

Founded by Martine Colette in 1973, Wildlife Waystation of Angeles National Forest, California, is among the oldest, largest, and most influential sanctuaries housing large numbers of rescued exotic cats, but has encountered repeated regulatory trouble in recent years.

The Waystation management was restructured in 2002 to help facilitate getting into compliance, but the problems have continued. *Los Angeles Times* staff writer Richard Fausset reported in mid-October that the Waystation now “could be fined thousands of dollars for [allegedly] violating the terms of a cease-and-desist order that was part of a settlement it reached last year with the USDA, according to a federal complaint” filed in September. The Waystation denies being in violation.

Until recently most big cats needing sanctuary care came from private keepers. Since the late 1990s, however, the majority appear to come from other sanctuaries, some reputedly badly mismanaged for years, others collapsing under the stress and economic weight of trying to take in ever

growing numbers of animals.

John Weinhardt, 60, and Marla Smith, 47, are scheduled for trial on November 24 on 17 counts of felony cruelty and other related charges resulting from the April 2003 discovery of 88 dead tigers at Weinhardt’s Tiger Rescue sanctuary in San Bernardino County, California, and at the home he shared with Smith in Riverside County. Thirty-nine tigers were found alive. Weinhardt and Smith are suspected of having used the sanctuary as cover for illegally breeding and selling tiger cubs.

Lorenza Pearson, 55, of Copley Township, Ohio, in August asked the 9th District Court of Appeals to reverse a lower court order to close his L&L Exotic Animal Farm due to persistent uncorrected pollution problems. Pearson started his facility in 1979. In 1983 a Bengal tiger killed his two-year-old son. In 1998 another animal mauled his two-year-old grandson. Pearson has reportedly reduced his collection to about 30 animals, from a high of about 60.

Many other sanctuaries, not yet breaking up, are struggling.

The Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, housing about 120 exotic cats, raised enough money in July 2003 to avoid being sold at auction in satisfaction of unpaid property taxes, 1998-2001, but as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press was still struggling to pay the next installment.

Sierra Endangered Cat Haven founder Dale Anderson, of Dunlap, California, told Mary Lou Aguirre of the *Fresno Bee* in late October that he was potentially facing foreclosure for the third time in six years, and would have to raise \$28,000 by November 1 to stay open. Anderson announced on November 3 that donors had helped him meet the deadline.

## Kill surplus?

Claiming the support of “20 leading animal protection organizations,” including HSUS, PETA, and The Association of Sanctuaries, the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition on July 23 recommended



*(Kim Bartlett)*

that the Weinhart tigers and other exotic cats seized in connection with investigations of neglect should be killed. The CWAPC pointed out the risk involved in sending the big cats to other facilities which might themselves become overburdened by the soaring numbers of such animals needing homes.

The American Sanctuary Association responded that allowing government agencies to simply kill homeless exotic dangerous animals would permit the exotic pet breeding industry to continue business as usual, while diverting and delaying the pressure for legislation to stop the breeding.

The CWAPC position echoed the views of HSUS and PETA on population control killing of dogs and cats, and was apparently not fully shared by all of the CWAPC members, as one member, the Fund for Animals, funded the care and sanctuary placement of the surviving Weinhart tigers, while another, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, has underwritten many rescues and

*(continued on page 7)*

# Spay USA

*Church Times*, the 140-year-old newspaper of the Church of England, concluded a July 4 editorial endorsing the current Parliamentary attempt to abolish fox hunting by noting that, “However humane it attempts to be, the meat industry causes more animals to suffer than do a few roving bands of horsemen and women. An increasing number of people would argue that since meat-eating is no longer a necessity, slaughtering animals for food comes under the same heading of causing unnecessary suffering.”

Jackie Bullette  
(Nov/Dec/Jan-Feb)

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**ANIMAL PEOPLE  
360-579-2505**

# Bill to ban big cat traffic clears Senate, has key House support *(from page 6)*

expansions of facilities by Wild Animal Orphanage, of San Antonio, Texas.

Most recently, IFAW covered much of the expense of relocating to Wild Animal Orphanage 24 tigers from the Tigers Only Preservation Society in Jackson, New Jersey. Founded by former entertainer Joan Byron-Marasek in 1975, the Tigers Only Preservation Society was closed by court order and the tigers were evacuated on November 10. The evacuation followed a protracted legal battle that began in January 1999 when a tiger was found wandering nearby.

Whether the tiger belonged to the sanctuary or was abandoned by someone else is still disputed. At the time, there were no other known cases of anyone dumping exotic cats near sanctuaries in the same manner that dogs and domestic cats are often abandoned near humane societies, but since then there have been several suspected dumping incidents in other parts of the country.

## Rockies & hard place

Byron-Marasek’s last ploy to try to retain the tigers was to suggest on November 6 to New Jersey 101.5 radio show host Jim Gearhart that they could be sent not to Wild Animal Orphanage, where she will probably not have visiting privileges, but rather to Big Cats of Serenity Springs, near Calhan, Colorado. Byron-Marasek would then move to Colorado to set up her own new sanctuary, she suggested, according to *Asbury Park Press* reporter Joseph Sapia.

Apart from the destination of the tigers having been judicially mandated, there were two obvious problems with that scenario. The first was that Big Cats of Serenity Springs, founded in 1993 by Nick and Karen Sculac, is itself a troubled sanctuary.

Kenny Ryder, 35, the only fulltime paid employee at Big Cats of Serenity Springs, was mauled on June 30 by two Bengal tigers, named Duke and Merlin. Nick Sculac beat the tigers off Ryder, reportedly breaking two shovels in the effort.

Duke and Merlin were later killed. That left the Sculacs with 73 exotic cats. By September they reportedly had 85, with nine

more said to be coming, despite ongoing financial trouble.

The other problem for any would-be sanctuarian looking at Colorado is that the Colorado Wildlife Commission on September 10 restated and reinforced a 1993 regulation which prohibits the operation of nonprofit exotic animal sanctuaries. AZA-accredited nonprofit zoos are exempted, as are for-profit roadside zoos, breeding facilities, game ranches, and private keeping of exotic species.

“This will result in the eventual elimination of all nonprofit wildlife parks in Colorado,” fumed W.O.L.F. sanctuary cofounder Frank Wendland, of La Porte. “Even though the existing nonprofits have been grandfathered, they will not be allowed to change their location or open satellite operations. As development encroaches on the existing facilities and they are forced out, they will either cease to exist or have to move.”

Wendland pointed out that the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center, founded in 1980 by Pat Craig, has already moved three times.

But Craig got a break of sorts from the wildlife commission when it agreed to allow him to apply for a variance from a requirement that dangerous animals must be kept behind 10-foot fences. Craig has three miles of 8-foot fencing topped with five strands of electric wire. On February 19, 2003, after nine years of accepting animals confiscated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Craig was ordered to replace all of the fencing within 90 days.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission moved against nonprofit facilities because increasing numbers of people are managing to keep exotic and dangerous animals by obtaining nonprofit status and soliciting donations. The commissioners noted a recent influx of exotics from Texas, after new state regulations inhibited keeping of dangerous wildlife.

The Colorado Wildlife Commission action may force Prairie Wind Animal Refuge founder Michael Jurich out of the state, indicated Deborah Frazier of the *Rocky Mountain News*. “Jurich has 16 tigers, four African lions, and more than 40 bobcats, bears,

wolves, and other species,” Frazier wrote. “Until 2000, when a volunteer lost her arm, Jurich supported the venture with tours and photographer and artist fees. But in 2000 he lost his exhibitors license. Then the meatpacking plant he relied on for cat food more than doubled the price. He quit taking in new lions and tigers. Now Jurich is fighting a \$15,000 fine from federal inspectors for exhibiting exotic cats without a license. He hopes to get a new license and rescue big cats from states that are closing refuges,” Frazier explained.

## High-profile rescues

The average cost of keeping a rescued tiger, estimates Wild Animal Orphanage founder Carol Asvestas, is \$5,400 per year.

To keep donated funds and paying visitors coming, sanctuarians often find that they need to participate as often as possible in high-profile rescues. Thus sanctuaries may compete to take on longterm obligations in hope of getting an infusion of short-term help.

Joe Schreibvogel, founder of the G.W. Exotic Animal Park in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, began fundraising on purported behalf of the Weinhardt tigers in August 2003, before ever getting a commitment from the California Department of Fish and Game that he was going to receive any of the tigers, reported *Daily Ardmoreite* staff writer Steve Biehn on November 5.

The 39 surviving tigers are actually to be moved from the Fund for Animals’ rehabilitation center in Ramona, California, to the Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary in San Andreas, the *Riverside Press-Enterprise* reported on October 23.

American Sanctuary Association director Vernon Weir hinted in an October 15 letter to the *New York Post* that competing for high profile animals is also how a lion cub ended up at Noah’s Lost Ark in Ohio due to a stunt undertaken by *Post* reporter Al Guart.

“Several days before this lion cub was purchased [from a breeder via the Internet], Guart contacted the ASA and discussed his plan to purchase an exotic cat to demonstrate how easily someone can buy one of these animals,” Weir wrote. “However,

Guart first wanted our assurance that after he made the purchase, the cub would have a permanent home in a quality sanctuary. ASA put Guart in touch with Tippi Hedren,” the current ASA president.

Her Shambala sanctuary agreed to “accept the cub as soon as Guart was able to arrange transportation,” Weir continued. Hedren apparently intended to use the acquisition to promote the Captive Wild Animal Protection Act.

However, Weir added. “When we learned that the cub purchased by Guart was only eight days old, it became obvious that he was too young and fragile to transport. ASA suggested to Guart that perhaps Noah’s Lost Ark would be willing to provide temporary care. With animal sanctuaries always operating at capacity, we had no reason to believe that Noah’s Lost Ark would decide that they wanted to keep this cub themselves,” as happened, just a few days after Noah’s Lost Ark enjoyed a publicity bonanza from taking in a tiger named Ming who had attacked his owner, Antoine Yates, in a Harlem apartment.

The Guart transaction, American SPCA senior vice president and science advisor Stephen Zawistowski told the *New York Daily News*, was “The equivalent of setting up a meeting with an 11-year-old girl at the mall to show how easy it is to pick up children.”

In July 2003 the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance cited Noah’s Lost Ark for failing to meet four of the 16 Wise Giving Alliance accountability standards and failing to supply information adequate to determine if six other standards were met.

The Antoine Yates case illustrated other problematic aspects of the proliferation of exotic cats as pets. Ming turned out to have killed another of Yates’ exotic pets, a lion club, soon after his purchase from BEARCAT Hollow, an exhibition facility in Racine, Minnesota. BEARCAT Hollow owner Ken Kraft, his wife Nancy L. Kraft, and Florida animal trainer Robert E. Baudy were indicted on federal charges on October 1 for allegedly engaging in wildlife transactions which were prohibited by the Lacey Act, originally passed in 1926, updated in 1981.

ASPCA

Roadkills of cats fall 90%—are feral cats on their way out? (from page one)

and income strata. The Salt Lake County data, projected to the total current U.S. population of 281 million, would indicate a current national roadkill toll of 577,000 cats—a drop of only about a third since 1980.

The drop is still significant, considering the increase in the U.S. pet cat population from circa 38 million to 73 million during the same years. The 32% decline in roadkilled cats points toward a steep reduction in the numbers of outdoor cats, including both free-roaming pets and ferals.

But there is still better news for workers against pet overpopulation and outdoor cat proliferation—because there would have been much worse news circa 1992, if anyone had then assembled the roadkill data.

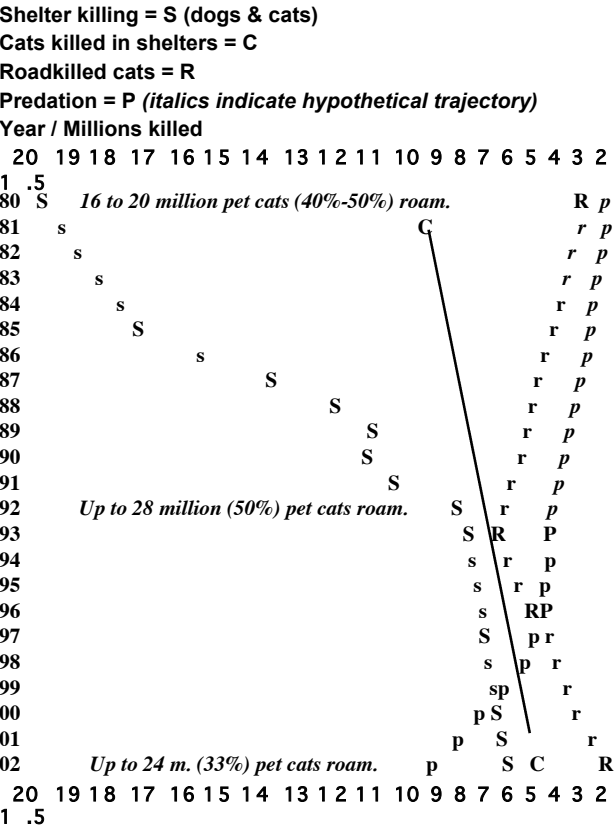
Data gathered by ANIMAL PEOPLE from sources including surveys of cat rescuers in 1992 and 1996, the annual Dr. Splatt roadkill counts directed since 1992 by Brewster Bartlett of Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire, and the monthly tabulations of roadkilled cats kept since 1993 by Mentor, Ohio municipal transportation department employee Cathy Strah, indicate that in the early 1990s the number of roadkilled cats nearly equaled the numbers killed in shelters, at about 5.4 million per year.

The neuter/return technique of controlling feral cat numbers was introduced to the U.S. in a big way during the early 1990s, chiefly through the 1991 formation of the national advocacy organization Alley Cat Allies and a heavily publicized experimental neuter/return project undertaken by ANIMAL PEOPLE in northern Fairfield County, Connecticut.

By 1996 the indicators that had pointed toward a U.S. roadkill toll of 5.4 million cats per year were suggesting that it had fallen back to about 2.4 million, even though roadkills had become almost three times as significant a source of mortality among feral cats. Shelter killing had dropped in importance by half, along with other human-caused mortality including poisoning, shooting, and captures by fur trappers.

As neuter/return continued to gain popularity, the roadkill toll on cats continued to fall at a comparable rate. In Mentor, for example, the number of roadkilled cats relative to residents fell by more than 50% from 1993-1996 to 2000-2002.

What that means is best illustrated with a graph:



The capital letters in the graph represent the years for which ANIMAL PEOPLE has actual survey data. The lower case letters provide the implied trajectory of the data during the remaining years. The italicized lower case letters represent a hypothetical projection of predation on outdoor cats, in absence of any data previous to 1992.

The shelter killing tolls plotted on the graph are taken from surveys done by the American Humane Association until 1992, and from data collected and analyzed by ANIMAL PEOPLE for subsequent years.

About two-thirds of the animals killed in shelters circa 1980 were dogs. By 1990 about half were cats. Today up to two-thirds are cats; more in some regions.

The effect of subtracting dogs from the shelter killing toll, as indicated by the “C” axis, is to move the lines of descent in recent shelter killing and roadkills into near parallel.

The three major factors in the apparent steep decline in roadkills of cats since 1992 appear to be that fewer pet cats roam; feral cat fecundity has collapsed to substantially less than the replacement level; and predation on outdoor cats by native wildlife has approximately tripled since 1996.

Roaming continues

As of 1980, James E. Childs discovered in a study published by *Anthrozoos* (Volume III, #4), approximately 42% of Baltimore cat-keepers permitted their cats to go out. The cats who went out spent up to 45% of their time outside, meaning that pet cats who went outdoors may have had no more than 45% as great a likelihood as feral cats of being roadkilled, picked up by animal control, or killed by wild predators.

As many as half of all catkeepers still allow their cats to roam, Carol Fiore of the Wichita State University Department of Biological Sciences found in a 1999 survey of Wichita catkeepers.

However, catkeepers whose cats do not roam now have from two to three times as many cats, a trend that in hindsight can be seen developing in Childs’ data even though he did not directly remark on it. This reflects the much higher mortality among outdoor cats, which appears to be from two to three times greater than among cats who are kept indoors.

ANIMAL PEOPLE affirmed the higher mortality among outdoor cats in a 1992 survey of about 170 feral cat rescuers, who supplied data pertaining to the deaths of 2,638 cats in all. Half were killed in shelters; 10%, or 20% of those not killed in shelters, were roadkilled. Predation by coyotes, foxes, fishers, badgers, hawks, owls, eagles, and alligators was noted, but appeared to claim no more than 4% of the cats.

In 1996 a follow-up survey of about 60 feral cat rescuers produced data pertaining to the deaths of 361 outdoor cats. About 25% were killed in shelters, only half as many as four years earlier, but 28% were roadkilled and 9% were killed by predators.

If roadkill mortality among outdoor cats in 1980 was about 10% of total mortality, as in 1992, total outdoor cat mortality was about 8.4 million. Shelter killing probably accounted for half, also as in 1992, with surrenders of unwanted litters from pet cats accounting for most of the remainder of the eight million-plus cats who were killed in shelters.

If feral cats survived an average of one year, while pet cats who were allowed outside lasted an average of three years, as indicated in Childs’ 1978-1980 data, the U.S. population of true ferals as opposed to roaming pets and strays might have been as low as three million—but it was about to explode.

Among the pet cats allowed outdoors, as few as 26% were sterilized according to one northern California study, although another northern California study done at about the same time found that 58% of pet cats were sterilized overall. Childs found two years later that 62% of the pet cats in Baltimore were sterilized.

Even the most conservative projection indicates that at least 10 million cats—and perhaps twice as many—were at large and breeding in 1980.

The gradual removal of free-roaming dogs from U.S. cities and suburbs during the 1960s and 1970s had meanwhile opened habitat and food sources to feral cats at a possible biomass replacement ratio of about three cats able to survive in place of each dog.

By 1992 the U.S. pet cat population was already two-thirds larger than in 1973 and about one third larger than in 1980. Possibly half were still roaming at large; perhaps half of those were breeding.

Fecundity drops

If 10% of the free-roaming cats were roadkilled, as the 1992 ANIMAL PEOPLE survey indicated, the 1992 national toll included about 2.8 million pet cats and 2.6 million feral cats, for a total of 5.4 million.

This neatly coincides with the 1992 ANIMAL PEOPLE projection that up to 40% of the total U.S. cat population at that time were feral, including approximately 26 million adult feral cats, rising to 40 million during the spring/summer “kitten season.”

This is probably when the U.S. feral and outdoor pet cat populations both peaked, even as sterilization of pet cats rose and shelter surrenders of home-born litters plummeted.

At some point circa 1992 pet sterilization efforts reached the 70% target that prevents population growth.

By 1994 surveys in many parts of the U.S. began to confirm that about two-thirds of pet dogs and 80% of pet cats were sterilized. The researchers included Karen Johnson of the National Pet Alliance, Carter Luke of the Massachusetts SPCA, and Andrew Rowan,

KARE

then heading the Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, now chief of staff for the Humane Society of the U.S.

The U.S. dog population since circa 1990 has been reproducing at approximately the rate of replacement and no longer seems to have any influence on cat numbers.

The U.S. pet cat population has reproduced at less than 70% of replacement, while absorbing up to 28 million formerly feral cats, primarily from litters collected by neuter/return practitioners as kittens.

Despite the enormous overall increase in the numbers of pet cats, the free-roaming pet cat population today appears to be down somewhat, perhaps mainly because of attrition among older cat-keepers, who are more inclined to think of cats as outdoor pets.

Predation triples

The decline in roadkills has apparently been so steep that since 1996 it has no longer been possible to presume, as the 1992 survey data indicated, that roadkills represent 10% of free-roaming cat mortality at population turnover rates of 100% among ferals and 33% among roaming pets.

If that was still true, there would now be only five million free-roaming cats left in the U.S., counting ferals, even though as many as 24 million pet cats are still allowed to roam.

What actually seems to be happening is that while the feral cat population is falling like a rock, predation has overtaken both roadkills and shelter killing as a cause of free-roaming cat mortality.

Estimating predation is awkward because of a paucity of data to work from, but ANIMAL PEOPLE found two ways to do it.

First, there were the reports of predation produced by the 1992 and 1996 cat rescuer surveys.

Second, ANIMAL PEOPLE in 1996 began tracking “predator panics” resulting from the discovery of cat remains, typically misattributed at first to human sadists. From 1996 through 2000, the numbers of such panics around the U.S. ranged from a high of 19 in 1997 to a low of seven in 1999, averaging 11 with a median of 10.

Then the number of “predator panics” tripled in 2001, remaining at the same level in 2002 and 2003.

The combination of data suggests that wildlife predation on outdoor cats was constant but relatively infrequent compared to roadkills until the numbers of cats fell to the point that enough prey was left unclaimed to sustain larger predators capable of killing a cat as well as mice, rats, and rabbits.

The balance apparently tipped in 2001.

Perhaps not coincidentally, 2001 also appears to have been the first year in decades that the U.S. whitetailed deer population and roadkills of deer began to dip significantly, after 40 years of rapid increase. Instead of scavenging as many deer as previously, suburban coyotes in particular were forced to more vigorously hunt small prey, including cats.

The U.S. feral cat population may have been reduced to as few as five million. Now free-roaming pet cats are at proportionally greater risk from wild predators—and are more likely to be missed by grieving keepers.

Those who have lost pet cats to wild predators often respond by clamoring for the deaths of the predators, as in Rutland, Vermont, where state wildlife officials in October 2003 trapped and killed a pair of rare fisher cats (cat-like relatives of ermine) for having killed house cats in back yards.

The recent rates of progress against pet overpopulation in the U.S. and of reclamation of urban and suburban habitat by native wildlife have been so rapid that it is possible to anticipate a future, not far away, when animal advocates will have to turn much of the effort now put into sterilizing feral cats toward teaching the public how to live peaceably with native wildlife.

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- ♥ Indoor cats **LIVE LONGER**. The average lifespan for indoor cats is 12-15 years. Cats permitted to go outside have an average lifespan of 7-9 years.
- ♥ Outdoor cats face **DANGERS**. These include injury, disease, poison, torture, fights and disappearance.

Need tips on keeping cats indoors?

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# Study confirms: corruption kills wildlife

**NAIROBI**—Corruption kills wildlife, confirms data published in the November 6, 2003 edition of the British scientific journal *Nature*.

The findings were based on a comparison of elephant and rhino populations with the national "Corruption Perception Indexes" produced by the watchdog group Transparency International during the years 1987-1994.

The findings support the arguments of Youth for Conservation, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, and the Nairobi office of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, in their continuing effort to maintain the 1977 Kenyan national ban on sport hunting.

Yet study authors Robert J. Smith, R.D.J. Muir, M.J. Walpole, Andrew Balmford and Nigel Leader-Williams paradoxically concluded with an implied endorsement of "sustainable use," such as hunting, to fund conservation. This was probably because the study made no effort to trace the relationship between legal hunting and corruption.

Wildlife policy changes proposed in both the U.S. and Kenya—backed by much of the same money—threaten to replace the principle of protecting rare species with the notion that even endangered wildlife should "pay for itself" by being hunted or captured for sale.

The public comment period on a proposal by the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush proposal to relax U.S. standards on the imports of endangered and threatened species expired on October 18.

"Most of the world's biodiversity occurs within developing countries that require donor support to build their conservation capacity," Smith *et al* wrote. "Unfortunately,

some of these countries experience high levels of political corruption, which may limit the success of conservation by reducing effective funding levels and distorting priorities."

Transparency International assigns a "Corruption Perception Index" on a scale from 1-10, with the lowest scores being worst. Currently 102 nations have been rated, with about 70% falling below 5.0. The U.S. scores 7.7 and Britain scores 8.7.

Among the lowest-scoring nations from 1987 through 1994, also suffering catastrophic losses of wildlife, were Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan—but all of these were afflicted by warfare.

Among nations at peace, Zambia had a CPI of 2.7 with elephant losses of 44.3% and rhino losses of 79.3%. Tanzania had a CPI of 3.2, elephant losses of 45.8%, and rhino losses of 52%. Zimbabwe had a CPI of 3.7, elephant losses of 42.5%, and rhino losses of 78.5%.

All three nations heavily promoted trophy hunting during the years surveyed, and still do, while their corruption problems have worsened. Zambia now scores 2.6, Tanzania 2.7, and Zimbabwe 2.7.

"These results stress the need for conservationists to develop and implement policies that reduce the effects of political corruption," Smith *et al* agreed, but then wrote, "In this regard, we question the universal applicability of an influential approach to conservation that seeks to ban international trade in endangered species."

Smith *et al* echoed the longstanding "sustainable use" claim that legal traffic in

wildlife products can prevent the growth of an unsustainable illegal traffic in poached animal parts, somewhat as legal alcohol sales drove bootleggers out of business after the U.S. experiment with prohibition of alcoholic beverages ended in 1933.

However, alcoholic beverages are inexpensively produced in abundance.

By contrast, it is not possible to raise animals in captivity for less than the cost of poaching wild specimens, and not easy to protect wildlife from poaching if any market exists for their parts. The partial recovery of whales and African elephants since the imposition of the 1984 global moratorium on whaling and the 1989 moratorium on international ivory sales illustrate that only total suppression of a market for wildlife products can prevent poaching—and only then to the extent that governments refrain from allowing exceptions.

Every rumor of relaxation of the ivory trade ban, for example, has been followed by explosions of elephant poaching, as traffickers anticipate selling illegally gotten ivory under cover of the legal trade.

## Kenyans respond

"The idea that reversing the longstanding policy against trafficking in endangered species will somehow provide an incentive for poor countries to conserve species deserves to be rejected," wrote Steve Itela of the Kenya group Youth for Conservation, in a letter of opposition to the Bush administration proposal for trade in endangered species.

"Kenya has inadequate capacity to enforce the existing protection," Itela continued. "This new policy," paralleled by hunt-



Waterbucks, Kenya. (Kim Bartlett)

ing industry efforts to repeal the ban on hunting, "will almost surely lead to increased poaching and be an incentive not for conservation but for the black market worldwide.

"Killing or capturing even a few endangered animals is hardly the best way to protect endangered species or their habitat," Itela wrote, "and this draft policy is nothing more than an effort to cater to individuals and businesses who profit from animal exploitation at the expense of genuine conservation."

Youth for Conservation cofounder Josphat Ngonyo also wrote in opposition to the Bush administration proposal, and circulated a shorter version to *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other U.S. news media as an op-ed column submission, which as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press had not been published.

"The Bush administration claims that the profits generated from legal trade in endangered species would allow poor nations to pay for the conservation of the remaining animals and their habitats," Ngonyo began, "but what do Africa's local communities say?"

Stated a May 2002 report by the Masai

(continued on page 10)

## Events

**Nov. 21: ACES Shelter Planning & Capital Campaigns** seminar, Orlando, Florida. Info: <nick@animal-care.com>.

**Nov. 22: ACES Chemical Capture Certification** course, Orlando, Fla. Info: <nick@animal-care.com>.

**Nov. 23: Thanksgiving banquet for the animals.** Info: Touched By An Animal, Inc. Chicago, IL 773-728-6336.

**Nov. 29: Compassion In World Farming celebrity fundraiser,** London. Info: <Carl@ciwf.co.uk>.

**Dec. 10: International Animal Rights Day.** Info: <info@uncaged.co.uk>.

**Feb. 23-25: Office International des Epizooties** Conference on Animal Welfare, Paris. Info: <http://animal-welfare.oie.int/>.

**Feb. 22- March 7: 7-day and 14-day Spanish immersion courses** for veterinary and animal welfare workers at the Yucatan Animal Rescue Fndtn. in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Info: <www.yarf.net/slp.htm>

**February 27: Deadline for Fund for Animals**

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# Corruption kills wildlife (from page 9)

Environmental Resource Coalition (MERC) on the hunting operations of Ortello Business Company in Tanzania: ‘The voices of the Loliondo Masai echo those of other indigenous communities across the country, whose complaints about mistreatment and overexploitation of their natural resource by profit-driven hunting companies have continued to go unheeded. Like the Loliondo Masai, Tarangire, Oloonkiito, and Mkomanzi Masai say the Government-sanctioned, unregulated hunting operations have detrimentally affected their basic rights, environment and wildlife.’

The report added, “Not only have these voices gone unheeded, they sometimes have been suppressed in the interest of local and foreign commercial interests.”

“In Kenya,” Ngonyo continued, “cropping (licensed killing of ranched wildlife) was began in 1991. A review of this program in 2001 not only revealed malpractice, abuse, and mismanagement, but also documented local communities expressing concern about the continued killing of wildlife.

“Both the MERC report and the cropping evaluation revealed corrupt dealings,” Ngonyo pointed out. “For example, a German trophy hunter told MERC, when asked if he knew the consequences of hunting inside a park, replied ‘There are none because most of the time we let the money do the talking. Before too long, you find the park rangers becoming the guides, both inside and outside the park. They also stop paying attention to the species and quota restrictions.”

Kenya, with a current CPI of 1.9, has the combination of corruption and abundant wildlife to become extremely vulnerable if sport hunting is permitted.

## Zimbabwe

Naked corruption and the collapse of wildlife law enforcement in Zimbabwe accelerated after the August 2003 disclosure that President Robert Mugabe is building a retirement mansion worth \$9 million U.S.

Bambo Kadzombe, chair of the Zimbabwe Wildlife Advisory Council, told Gustav Thiel of the KwaZulu-Natal *Mercury* that, “3,000 animals have been poached so far on commercial game farms and conservancies, mainly at Save Valley, Mahenye, Bubiya, Bubiye Valley, and Chiredzi River.”

Since 2000 the game farms and conservancies have been seized, one after the next, by mobs of rampaging “war veterans”

claiming property in fulfillment, they assert, of promises made by Mugabe during the Zimbabwean war of independence more than 20 years ago. Most of the “war veterans” appear to be too young to have actually fought.

The poaching soon got worse. Zimbabwean Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodriegues alerted Thiel that Matabeleland governor Obert Mpofu, among Mugabe’s closest allies, “has just simply taken the Hwange Wildlife Estate,” the 35,000-acre home of about 500 elephants who have been protected since 1991 as Mugabe’s so-called presidential herd.

“The land will now become a free-for-all for poachers,” Rodriegues predicted, anticipating that Mpofu might next annex land from the adjoining Hwange National Park.

The poachers had official competition. Purportedly responding to hoof-and-mouth disease outbreaks that caused the loss of European markets for Zimbabwean beef, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management declared an urgent need to exterminate all buffalo on private land. Impala and kudu were also identified as potential carriers of hoof-and-mouth.

“There were 4,000 or 5,000 buffalo as of three months ago, when we got run off,” former Hwange Wildlife Estate co-owner H.A. de Vries, 69, told *New York Times* correspondent Michael Wines in late October. “Impala—thousands and thousands. Kudu, thousands. Elephants, 500 or 600. There was lion research going on there, and wild dog research. I’d be surprised if there are 20% of the animals left,” de Vries added.

The Lion and Cheetah Park, featured in films including *Mountains of the Moon*, *King Solomon’s Mines*, and *A Far Off Place*, fell in early September to a militia headed by retired Zimbabwean Colonel K. Makavanga. Police took the park back two weeks later, but mobs of “war veterans” remained in the vicinity, apparently waiting for the police to leave.

Charged the opposition Democratic Alliance party in a statement to News-24 of Johannesburg, “The invasion of game reserves by war veterans has permitted some professional South African hunters to poach animals who otherwise would be protected.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** about then received an undated fax from Commercial Farmers Union, Matabeleland Branch chief executive Ben Zietsman describing the arrest of “a party of 12 South African hunters



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belonging to a Christian organization” for allegedly illegally killing a black rhino and two elephants on conservancies and game ranches which had either been taken over by the “war veterans” or were scheduled for redistribution by the official government land reform program.

“There is a new scam being worked along Zimbabwe’s southern border,” Kelly McParland of *The National Post* confirmed in October. “South African hunters are buying licenses that allow them to strip the area of its remaining game. A South African newspaper reported that one hunter bragged of bringing back 400 zebra skins from a single trip.”

Amid the bloodbath Meryl Harrison of the Zimbabwe National SPCA found herself investigating the starvation of whole herds of dairy cattle, marooned by hoof-and-mouth disease quarantines and left unfed by absentee landlords for as long as three years.

Wildcare Africa director Karen Trendler, of Pretoria, South Africa, offered to rescue a baby elephant who had wandered near Lake Kariba since June with a snare on his leg, but was refused a permit. Instead—a month later—Zimbabwean officials shot the elephant as being beyond help.

The Zimbabwean state newspaper, the *Harare Herald*, sought to counter criticism of animal suffering under the Mugabe regime on October 22 with an account of the rescue of two wandering pangolins by Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association chair Patrick Nyaruwata and one of his employees, Handsome Muripa.

## Bush model

Nominally a socialist, Mugabe wooed economic support from the Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush administrations by turning “conservation” in Zimbabwe over almost entirely to the now destroyed private conservancies.

The owners put into practice the “sustainable use” rhetoric of the World Wildlife Fund, while catering to the well-heeled and influential membership of Safari Club

International—which named George W. Bush “Governor of the Year” in 1999 for his support of Texas canned hunts.

The Competitive Enterprise Institute, influential in shaping U.S. policy since the Reagan administration, made the captive wildlife propagation success of the Zimbabwean conservancies a central exhibit in urging the U.S. to emulate the Zimbabwean national conservation strategy.

As a model for aid to conservation abroad, CEI touted CAMPFIRE, the USAid-subsidized Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources. Generating about \$2.5 million a year in program revenue, chiefly through promoting trophy hunts in Zimbabwe, CAMPFIRE from 1997 through fiscal 2000 funneled as much as \$28.5 million to Mugabe regime insiders.

But neither the conservancies nor CAMPFIRE passed enough wealth down to the community level to stop the land invasions. Neither did they stop corruption even when purportedly functioning at peak. A World Wildlife Fund survey acknowledged that elephant ivory poaching doubled in the Zambese River region during 1999. Other investigators found hints that nearly five times as many elephants may have been poached as Zimbabwean officials acknowledged.

Wrote Michael DeAlessi, director of the CEI subsidiary Center for Private Conservation, shortly before the Zimbabwean land invasions started, “Photo safaris and other non-consumptive activities can be quite lucrative, but take a great deal of time and investment to set up. Guests expect comfortable accommodations, quality meals and a range of activities. This means a fair number of staff. Hunters are often happy with Spartan amenities, and one or two game scouts,” meaning “low overhead and high return.”

Instead of creating jobs and broadly sharing wealth, which would have given many Zimbabweans a vested interest in protecting wildlife and habitat, the conservancies and CAMPFIRE further entrenched the disenfranchisement and bitterness lingering from apartheid—and stoked the feeling of the hungry and uneducated poor that their misery resulted from rich people raising and shooting

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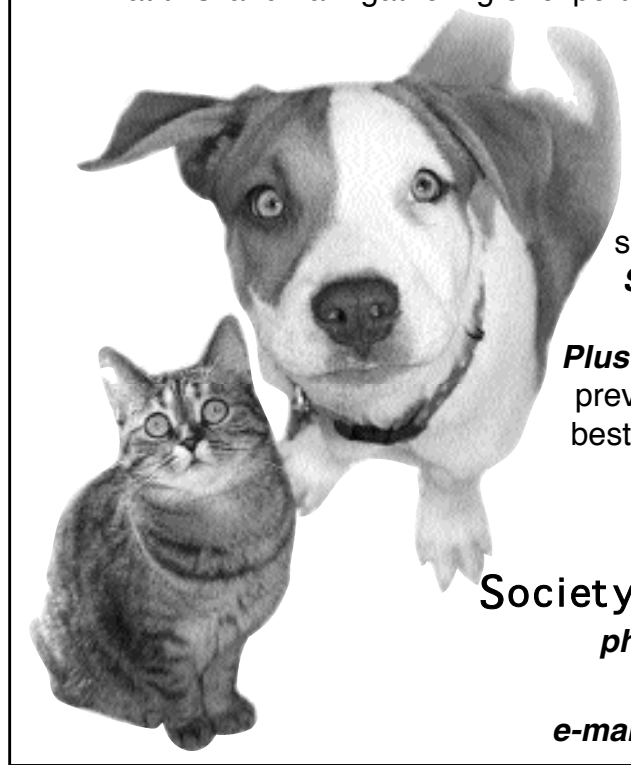
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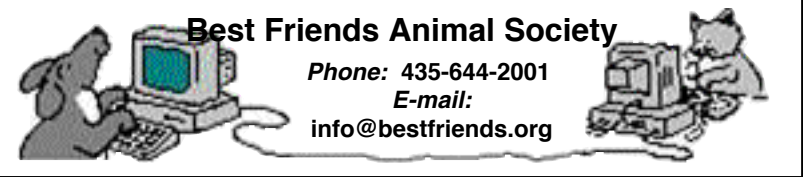
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Merritt Clifton, editor of Animal People, will answer your questions about media relations for your shelter; everything from managing a crisis to proactively reaching out to the public through the media.
- 11/10 - 11/14 Could you start a “Friends of the Shelter” group?**  
Julie Bank of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control and Rich DuCharme of First Coast No More Homeless Pets will answer your questions about why and how you could launch a program to support the shelters in your community.
- 11/17 - 11/21 Internet adoptions. How can they work for you?**  
Kim Saunders of Petfinder.com and Kate Schnepel of No More Homeless Pets in Utah will answer your questions and offer advice on how you can use the internet to find good new homes for animals.
- 12/1 - 12/5 Birds, rabbits, and ferrets. Oh my!**  
Karalee Curry, of the House Rabbit Society, Alicia Drakiotes of Ferret Wise, Eileen McCarthy of the Avian Welfare Coalition and Denise Kelly of Best Friends, will offer advice on how you can help homeless rabbits, ferrets, and birds.

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## Cat-eaters may get, spread SARS

**GUANGZHOU**—Laboratory studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome directed by virologist Albert D.M.E. Osterhaus of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, published in the October 30 edition of the British journal *Nature*, demonstrate that cats and ferrets could potentially carry the disease from filthy live markets to humans.

Osterhaus said his experimental goal was simply to find out if either cats or ferrets could be used as a laboratory model for SARS. His findings imply, however, that cats raised for human consumption may become a SARS vector—especially if the cats are caged at live markets near whatever as yet unidentified wildlife species is the primary SARS vector.

It is business as usual again in the notorious live markets of Guangzhou, China, capital of Guangdong province and also the reputed global capital of eating dogs, cats, and wildlife.

On October 20, a year after SARS emerged from the live markets, eventually killing at least 916 people worldwide, Guangzhou authorized local restaurants to resume serving palm civets, six of whom were found to be carrying SARS last May. SARS antibodies were also found in a ferret badger and a tanuki.

Chinese national vice minister of health Huang Jiafu pledged on a visit to Hong Kong that, "If civets are confirmed to be the source of SARS, we will definitely ban exports," not reassuring in view that there is little open demand for civets in Hong Kong, while Hong Kong residents with a taste for wildlife typically visit Guangdong to indulge.

Any disease they might acquire in China could quickly spread, whether or not any of the infected animals came to Hong Kong.

CNN senior Asia correspondent Mike Chinoy returned to the Guangzhou live markets in November to tape a SARS retrospective.

Guided by Animals Asia Foundation president

Jill Robinson and publicist Annie Mather, Chinoy and his crew "were clearly shaken by the high volume of cruelty inflicted upon both wild and domestic animals—frankly the worst that Annie and I have seen in nearly 20 years, and worse than pre-SARS," Robinson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

SARS has not recurred in Guangdong—yet—but other zoonoses associated with the live markets have erupted. On November 2, for example, the Haifeng County Disease Control Center in the Guangdong city of Gongping issued an alert about an outbreak of hepatitis-A that has been tentatively traced to drinking a beverage containing frogs' eggs.

"Rabies killed 312 people in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in the south from January to September 2003, a 152.9% rise over the total number of rabies cases in 2002," the Regional Department of

Health said in November.

Guangxi Diseases Prevention and Control Center deputy chief Yang Jinye asserted that, "The increase in pet ownership in Guangxi was the major cause of the rapid rise in rabies." There are about 6.2 million dogs in Guangxi, Yang Jinye said, of whom fewer than 20% have been immunized against rabies.

Not acknowledged was that the vast majority of the dogs in the region are not pets at all, but rather are raised for meat. Dogs raised for meat are customarily not vaccinated. Chinese officials have argued that vaccinating dogs raised for meat is unnecessary, because unlike most pet dogs, they are kept penned, unable to wander.

Dogs from many different small breeders are typically bunched for sale and transport, however, and if even one dog has rabies, among a pen of dozens, the disease can swiftly be transmitted to all of them.



### Beijing Public Security Bureau opens shelter to public

**BEIJING**—The Beijing Public Security Bureau has opened the city animal control shelter to the public and has begun adopting out dogs for the first time, Association for Small Animal Protection founder Betty Zhao e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on November 6, 2003.

The PSB has also begun accepting volunteer help. Zhao recently mobilized 18 volunteers [above] to groom dogs for adoption display. As dogs are still relatively scarce in Beijing, Zhao anticipated that all of the groomed dogs would soon find homes.

Most dogs picked up in recent months are believed to have been pets who

were dumped at large during the SARS panic, often by terrified neighbors rather than by the animals' caretakers.

Until now, there was little way for Beijing residents to reclaim lost dogs. Most dogs found at large were simply killed.

The PSB policy changes coincide with moving into a new building.

"The cages are decorated with cartoons [to welcome human visitors], with a bowl for water and a bowl for food inside each cage," Zhao said. "It is easy for the staff to do clean-up. But the dogs still have to stay in a cage. We have recommended that they should establish a place for the dogs to run."

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For more information about Maddie's® Pet Rescue Project in Alachua County, Florida, go to [www.maddiesfund.org/projects/alachua.html](http://www.maddiesfund.org/projects/alachua.html).



The Pet Rescue

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

### More events

**Humane Essay Contest**, for students in grades 2-12. Info: 240-675-6396 or [nphelps@fund.org](mailto:nphelps@fund.org).

(continued on page 11)  
**March 7-9: Animal Care Conf. 2004**, Anaheim. Co-hosts: Calif. Animal Control Directors' Assn., Calif. Vet. Med. Assn., State Humane Assn. of Calif. Info: 949-366-1056; [www.Animal-CareConference.org](http://www.Animal-CareConference.org).

**March 10-13: Animal Care Expo**, Dallas. Info: [Expo@hsus.org](mailto:Expo@hsus.org).

**April 2-4: Intl. Animal Law Conf.**, San Diego. Info: [www.international-animal-welfare.com](http://www.international-animal-welfare.com).

**May 20-22: Caribbean Animal Welfare Conference**, St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Info: 340-719-4190 or [aostberg@pega-](mailto:aostberg@pega-)

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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.*

## Conservation group experts urged dog shooting (from page 1)

hybridisation prevention (through domestic dog sterilization). The EWCP receives its core financial support from the Born Free Foundation, with additional funding from Frankfurt Zoological Society and Wildlife Conservation Society."

British actors Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna started the Born Free Foundation in 1984, with their son Will Travers, who now heads it, 20 years after making the film *Born Free* in Kenya to tell the stories of renowned lion conservationists George and Joy Adamson.

"The Born Free Foundation campaigns for the protection and conservation of animals in their natural habitat and against the keeping of animals in zoos and circuses and as exotic pets," declares the top paragraph of the Born Free Foundation web site. "Born Free, inspired by the true story of Elsa the lioness, believes that individuals matter. Born Free stands for compassion and a commitment to encourage a more caring world."

Yet the report co-authored by Tefera recommended "to tie dogs at all time(s) at their homesteads so that roaming of dogs in and around the wolf ranges must be halted immediately," a cruel exercise and pointless besides, if the dogs had in fact been vaccinated and sterilized, and urged "destruction of feral dogs found roaming around the wolf ranges and around human settlements."

This was not a departure from past practice. Shiferaw in *The Dogs of Bale* described shooting homeless dogs "to remove the threat to the wolves from hybridization, rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and canine adenovirus."

But Legesse produced *The Dogs of Bale*, with help from EWCP educator and Homeless Animals Protection Society cofounder Zegeye Kibret, because they and others who live and work at the park had become aware, partly through the EWCP vaccination and sterilization project, that killing dogs was accomplishing little, and that better methods were available.

Gayssa Camp manager Worko Abda had helped shoot dogs, but told Awel Adem, a future HAPS member, that "Bullets and chasing are not good longterm solutions."

Park lodge manager Abdela Hussien



*The suspected first rabid wolf. (Hana Kifle)*

recalled "how once Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme coordinator Dr. Claudio Sillero was vexed by a dog and shot her from long range," an incident Sillero denies. "The bullet made her lame," Hussein said. "During the past two years she brought more dogs, and always escaped from any shooting."

Her luck ran out on November 6, 2003, Legesse e-mailed, when she and four other dogs "were shot together near the park headquarters."

## EWCP denial

"Contrary to what has been suggested in recent e-mails," Sillero asserted that day, "the EWCP and Born Free have no involvement whatsoever with any current or planned destruction of domestic dogs in Bale."

But there was the name of EWCP veterinarian Zelealem Tefera on the October 20 recommendation that the dogs be killed.

There was also Sillero's own history of antipathy toward the dogs, though the chapter on "Disease, Domestic Dogs and The Ethiopian Wolf" in the *Ethiopian Wolf Action Plan* he authored for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature seemed to disappear from the downloadable online edition as word of the dog-shooting began to circulate.

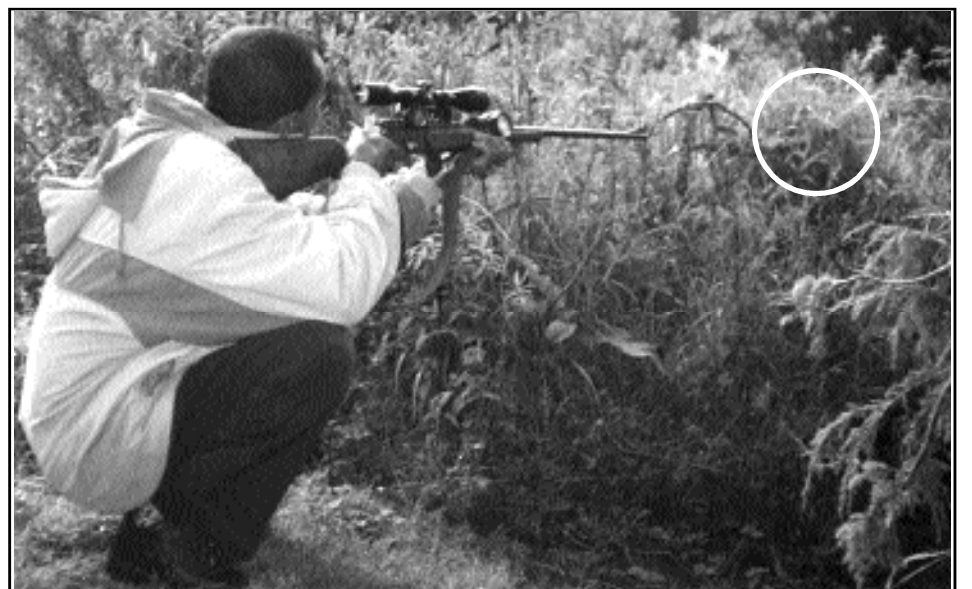
At another web site, <www.wild-cru.org>, Sillero blamed the Bale-area dogs for "an outbreak of canine distemper," which vaccination could have prevented.

"Another threat that may arise from wolves sharing their range with domestic dogs is hybridization," Sillero continued. "Genetic testing of Ethiopian wolves in the Bale Mountains has proved that breeding between the endangered wolves and domestic dogs has occurred. A study by Dada Gottelli at the London Institute of Zoology showed that male domestic dogs have bred with female Ethiopian wolves, producing hybrid offspring."

"We first suspected that hybridization was occurring in 1989, when 8% of all wolves we observed in one study area showed atypical coat colours and some had kinky tails," Sillero wrote, apparently before the publication of genetic research in May 2002 which suggested that there is no genetic difference between dogs and wolves greater than the differences among domestic breed types.

This, in effect, hints that the goal of wolf conservationists in seeking genetic purity has more in common with the goals of show breeders than with ensuring the continuity of evolution, which favors genetic diversity.

Nor was Sillero the only EWCP director on record as wanting to shoot the dogs of Bale. Stuart Williams, his successor as supervisor of EWCP projects at Bale, on April 2, 2002 wrote to HAPS that, "The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP), of which I am Co-ordinator, is prepared to carry out all the vaccinations of dogs that have yet to be vaccinated," in keeping with past commitment. "However," Williams continued, "there are occasions when, for one reason or another, the dogs cannot be caught to be vaccinated. I ask explicitly for your support to shoot these dogs. It simply is not tolerable that there are any unvaccinated dogs in this area."



*Enlarged, this photo taken and transmitted by Efreem Legesse on November 10, 2003 may show as many as five dogs running away through the brush. The closest dog is centered in the white circle. Legesse said his camera startled the shooter, who missed.*

HAPS pointed out to Williams that shooting at even one dog would scare all of the dogs into the bush, closer to the wolves, and would make catching them for vaccination and sterilization even more difficult.

When Williams seemed disinclined to listen, HAPS on April 20, 2002 faxed his letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** sent Williams detailed information about successful programs that vaccinate and sterilize street dogs under similar circumstances, and forwarded Williams' letter to numerous experts on wolves, rabies, and humane animal control, seeking their input.

Williams on June 24, 2002 complained that "the political implications" of making his proposal to shoot dogs known "could potentially threaten our efforts to fund continual improvements to our vaccination and disease prevention campaigns."

From April 20, 2002 until October 20, 2003, however, there was no more talk of dog-shooting—at least not in writing.

## Rabies hits

Four local rabies cases detected during July 2002 did not affect the wolves. The first hint of the present rabies outbreak came in August 2003, when Hana Kifle, while escorting park visitors more than 20 miles from known wolf habitat, photographed a sick female wolf with an apparent head wound resembling a bite.

"The first possible case was a thin and weak wolf sighted by park staff in August 2003 some 35 kilometres from areas in which the wolves live," confirmed an October 31 EWCP press release.

"This sighting was thought to be a dispersing female, such as those that are periodically sighted some distance from established packs. The wolf disappeared before it could be examined by EWCP staff," the release continued.

Kifle knew the wolf was not just "a dispersing female."

Fearing that any confirmed rabies case among the wolves could trigger a dog massacre, as well as perhaps destroying much of the wolf population, Kifle, Legesse, and Zegeye Kibret in September at the All-Africa Humane Education Summit in Cape Town asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to help get someone to take Kifle's report and photograph seriously.

"The first suspicion that this was disease arose," the EWCP press release continued, "when four wolf deaths were reported on October 9, 2003. Samples taken from the dead wolves were sent for diagnosis to the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (formerly the Pasteur Institute) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA. While the Pasteur Institute currently lacks the materials to test for rabies,

the CDC confirmed the presence of rabies in all wolf samples sent to them."

Frustrated by the delay, Legesse as HAPS president on October 17 appealed via the Humane Society International electronic bulletin board <hsi-animalia> for technical help in identifying the disease.

"What makes me write is the failure of the identification process," Legesse explained. "The postmortem analysis was not successful because of the lack of chemicals in the laboratory of our country...It is very sad to have such kinds of shortage when this [type of analysis] can be done in a mobile clinic in other countries. Whether the result of the analysis is rabies, canine distemper, or any other disease, we feel we have to save the Ethiopian wolf from extinction. We have to try our best to avoid those who are already ill and vaccinate those who are not."

That brought HAPS a rebuke from Sillero and a refusal from <hsi-animalia> to post additional e-mails from Legesse about his "campaign."

"It is my understanding that the best possible people are already available to deal with the emergency and that the necessary funds have been pledged by our sponsors to deal with this situation in the immediate future," Sillero wrote to Legesse, disregarding—as also did former Bale Rabies Control Project coordinator Dr. Karen Laurenson in a message to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**—that HAPS had not asked for funding. Laurenson, however, asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for funding.

"I was not aware that your organization was involved with wildlife conservation," Sillero continued to Legesse, "and I am certain that you have no participation in any activities concerning Ethiopian wolves."

In fact, HAPS cofounder Zegeye Kibret has been the EWCP educator for as long as it has had a local education program, as Sillero knew, having hired him. Kifle and Legesse, through their work at Bale National Park, are also actively if indirectly involved in protecting the wolves.

"I could not help to notice," Sillero went on, "that your message makes no reference to the EWCP presence in Bale, nor of their central role in discovering the disease outbreak, active pursuit of a diagnosis, and efforts to contain it...While I commend your interest in assisting with this emergency I would like to suggest that you get in touch with the EWCP and the relevant Ethiopian authorities."

Later the EWCP asserted in their press release that, "all leading authorities in the area have worked to trace the transmission route and spread of the disease," said "to have entered the Bale Mountains from lower areas to the north, carried in by one or more immigrant domestic dogs." The release also mentioned efforts "to inoculate remaining unvaccinated domestic dogs."

HAPS had not been able to reach the senior EWCP staff in weeks. E-mailing to Laurenson, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on October

(continued on page 13)

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## Conservation group experts urged dog shooting (from page

17 received an automated reply advising that "Karen Laurenson is on holiday until 12th October but may check mail intermittently."

Awel Adem learned later on October 17, Hana Kifle e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "that Laurenson and Stuart Williams are trying to get medicine into the country from wherever they are," outside Ethiopia.

"We are upset that the EWCP are not informing the people [what is happening] through the media," Kifle continued, adding "Four wolves have been found eaten by carnivores; I think this will make the problem more serious. Once it gets into the ecosystem it will be very difficult to control."

Recalled the EWCP press release, "A disease epidemic in 1991-92, coupled with some killing by humans, resulted in the deaths of three-quarters of wolves in the Web valley and two-thirds of the known Bale population.

"The EWCP has been vaccinating domestic dogs within wolf range in the Bale Mountains since 1996," the release continued, "in an attempt to reduce the risk of rabies, distemper and other canine diseases. Despite occasional reluctance among local communities to allow their dogs to be vaccinated, over 80% coverage of dogs has been achieved," about 10% more than the usual threshold needed to prevent the spread of an epidemic.

"In addition to the vaccination efforts," the EWCP said, "education and dog sterilization has led to a decrease in the dogs.

"Between 2001-2003," the release finally asserted, "the EWCP also carried out a detailed research project on domestic dog ecology revealing that there are no feral dogs in the Bale Mountains; all dogs are owned."

But if that was true, whose were the dogs whom Williams wanted to shoot?

Legesse in *The dogs of Bale* quoted seven different sources who described the presence of local feral dogs, and sent with his manuscript submission to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** several dozen photographs showing some of the dogs, plus a tablecloth-sized hand-drawn map illustrating their approximate numbers and pack locations.

"The EWCP is currently reviewing the options available to attempt to contain the disease," concluded the October 31 release. "Ultimately, the decision of whether or not an intervention to contain the spread of rabies in this critical population of Ethiopian wolves takes place lies in the hands of the Ethiopian authorities."

"We are reacting to these outbreaks as determinedly as possible," Williams wrote in a web statement. "Indeed, they have given us the opportunity to enforce some of the outstanding issues surrounding the vaccination campaign and the lack of compliance among the local people. We have been in discussion with the local authorities, who support our suggestions that having unvaccinated dogs in critical areas such as this is unacceptable. They fully support our proposal, if it came to that, that dogs would be killed by euthanasia if the dog could not be caught despite all efforts. We will be following this up in the next few days."

Williams did not explain how a dog could be "killed by euthanasia" if the dog could not be caught.

The 2000 *American Veterinary Medical Association Report on Euthanasia* recognizes death by gunshot as "euthanasia" only if "the projectile enters the brain, causing instant loss of consciousness...A gunshot to the heart or neck does not immediately render animals unconscious, and thus is not considered to meet the definition of euthanasia."

"What makes us very sad and sick is that they are shooting dogs in front of our branch office, where we started our humane education program and got support from the local community, especially children," wrote Legesse and Hana Kifle together on November 6, 2003. "This is done purposely to push our heads down and make lose hope. They are upset that we informed the world," Legesse and Kifle alleged.

### The smoking gun

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett by return e-mail asked Legesse and Kifle to photograph the shooting. Later on November 6, Legesse e-mailed that appearing with a camera had interrupted the shooting.

Bale National Park warden Fekadu Gardew told HAPS member Awel Adem that no dogs would be killed at Dinsho, one of the largest towns near the park.

But Legesse and Kifle found and transmitted to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** both in translation and in the original Ethiopian format another written report from Gardew to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organization headquarters, confirming that the strategy recommended on October 20 was being pursued.

The report tallied the deaths of 26 wolves from seven packs since September 27, and concluded by explaining that an eight-member dog-killing team had been dispatched to the two primary wolf habitats.

Legesse and Kifle on Sunday, November 9 journeyed to the town of Goba "to get transportation for Hana to go to Addis Ababa so that she can brief the government officials," Legesse explained that evening. "While we were away from the park headquarters, the EWCO team, convinced by Dr. Zelealem's report [that dogs should be shot] sent three well-equipped scouts to assist the park team in destroying dogs."

Awel Adem pursued them with his camera. "Due to this," Legesse said, "Awel was sent to Addis Ababa by the park warden to keep him out of the area. I am also kept busy in the office to make sure I cannot follow any shooter with my camera."

But the busywork was not enough to enable the dog-killing to proceed in secrecy. "Once I tried my best to take a photo by hiding myself in the bush, and lit the flash of my camera at the same time the gunman tried to pull the trigger, and finally the dog escaped. Attached is the scanned photo of the shooter," Legesse finished in his November 10 update.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** promptly shared that photo and others with concerned persons including Alison Hood of the Born Free Foundation. Hood on November 10 was still distributing—above her own name—Sillero's November 6 assertion that "The EWCP and Born Free have no involvement whatsoever with any current or planned destruction of domestic dogs in Bale."

After advising **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that "We are consulting our lawyers," Hood e-mailed a very different statement on November

12, demanding that it be published in full:

### BORN FREE FOUNDATION STATEMENT

1) BFF makes no bones about the fact that Dr. Zelealem Tefera signed the report entitled Field Report on the Current Mortality of Ethiopian Wolves in the Bale Mountains National Park. The other signatories were Government officials. This document presents a suite of short-term measures necessary to contain the spread of the disease (rabies) to the wolves and other wild and domestic stocks. They include, but are not restricted to, the destruction of feral dogs.

2) Dr Zelealem signed this report and its recommendations in a personal and professional capacity. His decision to do so draws on his substantial knowledge and experience. He has the full support of the BFF.

3) It is self-evident that unvaccinated feral dogs roaming inside Bale Mountains National Park that have or which may be exposed to rabies must be destroyed in the most humane way possible. In this situation, shooting is the most humane and safest option. It would be irresponsible to adopt any other policy. This position is endorsed by BFF's Head of Conservation, Dr. Claudio Sillero.

4) Born Free and the EWCP believe that the targeted, limited destruction of feral dogs exposed to rabies and likely to come into contact with Ethiopian wolves, can only be endorsed as a last resort.

5) Plainly if there was any other option at this time, the EWCP would exercise it. The project has gone to extraordinary lengths to reduce, in a non-lethal way, the number of dogs in the park and also to reduce the threat of disease and to address the problem of hybridisation in a non-lethal way.

6) These non-lethal alternatives continue to be employed in the hope that the need for lethal government intervention can be further reduced and possibly eliminated in the future.

7) Currently any killing of dogs in Bale that has taken or may take place is carried out by the government, not the EWCP.

8) Dr. Sillero did not shoot and wound a dog

as reported. In 1989 (six years before the inception of the EWCP), at the request of the government, Dr. Sillero shot 12 dogs which had been exposed to rabies. No dog was left unaccounted for.

9) There is no 'massacre' of dogs being carried out in Bale—either by the government, the EWCP or the BFF.

Born Free believes that the current action being taken by the EWCP is consistent with our animal welfare and conservation agenda. In a crisis situation, as currently exists, we have no options other than to support the Government's policy to shoot such feral dogs under the strict terms already set out above. Any other course of action would be grossly irresponsible and could lead to more suffering and more deaths, including a real risk for the people of Bale Mountains.

### Perspective

Shooting animals of any species on mere suspicion of possible exposure to rabies is **not** recommended by the current (2000) edition of the *National Animal Control Association Training Guide*, nor was it recommended by the 1989 first edition, nor does it appear to have been recommended within the past 15 years—if ever—by the *Compendium of Rabies Control*, updated annually by the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians, nor is it recommended by *Animal Control Management: A Guide for Local Governments*, published by the International City/County Management Association.

Shooting animals on mere suspicion of possible exposure to rabies is also **not** recommended by the Animal Welfare Board of India, whose handbook *Questions & Answers on Rabies*, authored by Maneka Gandhi, was written for use in economically, educationally, and technologically disadvantaged locations.

Expanded, updated, and revised for multinational use by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** publisher Kim Bartlett, with the help of internationally experienced rabies and animal population control expert Ray Butcher, VMD, of Britain, *Questions & Answers on Rabies* may be downloaded from the **ANIMAL PEOPLE**

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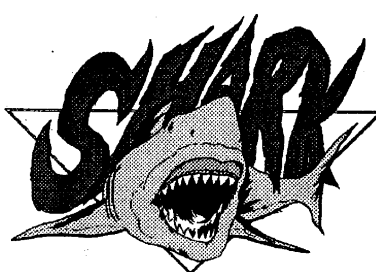
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Paul Siegel

Badger culls spread bovine tuberculosis

LONDON--Ben Bradshaw, Parliamentary under secretary for the British Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on November 4 halted five years of reactively killing badgers near bovine tuberculosis outbreaks because culls at 20 locations produced a consistent 27% rise in the number of bovine TB cases compared to the numbers detected at outbreak sites where badgers are not culled.

The \$40 million trial cost the lives of 8,000 badgers. Known to become infected by bovine TB, badgers are blamed by farmers for spreading it, but the data shows that they spread it less if they are not hunted.

Two parallel tests continue. One, the control experiment, involves taking no action against badgers. The other is "proactive culling," in which the badger population is eradicated as completely as possible before bovine TB appears.

Beginning in 1998, each test method was applied uniformly within a 38-square-mile area. The experiment was not due to end until 2006, but trial steering group leader John Bourne told news media that the results from reactive culling were so bad that continuing to do it was no longer appropriate.

"I think [the data] shows very clearly that badgers are involved in the transmission of TB," Bourne said. "What it goes on to show is that localised culling will not control TB in cows, but will be likely to make it worse. This data should indicate very clearly that that is counter-productive," Bourne continued to Michael McCarthy, environment editor of *The Independent*.

Bourne attributed the findings to "perturbation" of the badger population, as young badgers go farther to mate when their habitat contains abnormally few potential partners.

Wrote McCarthy, "The study throws into doubt whether culling badgers can ever be a realistic policy option in the fight against bovine TB, which is slowly increasing in Britain's cattle herds. Many farmers have been strongly in favour of culling, but animal welfare groups have been opposed."

Said National Federation of Badger Groups chief executive Elaine King, "These extraordinary results confirm the warnings that I and other scientists have been giving for years. Farmers who have illegally killed badgers have actually made their situation worse."

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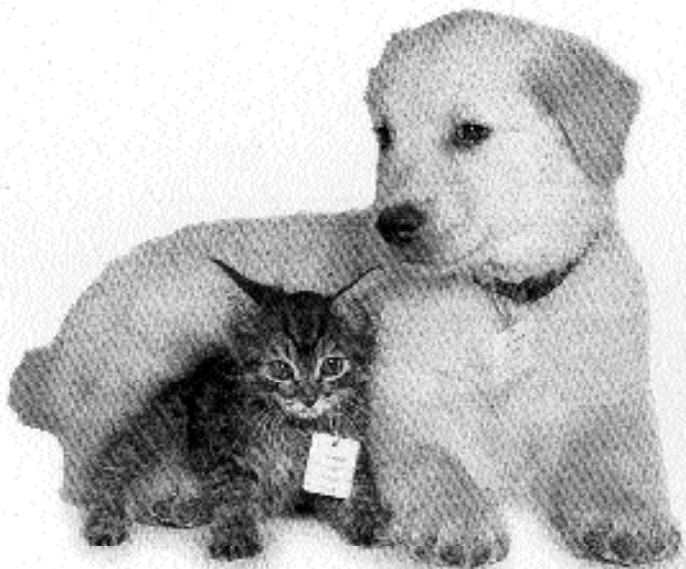
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## Flood, fires, deadly hailstorm hit animal refuges around the Pacific rim

Three weeks of fires threatening shelters, sanctuaries, and sensitive wildlife habitat around the Pacific Rim were followed on the night of November 2 by flash flooding that all but obliterated Bukit Lawang, Indonesia.

"Bukit Lawang is the site of the original Sumatran orangutan rehabilitation centre, established in the early 1970s by PanEco Foundation president Regina Frey and her colleague Monica Borner," the Sumatran Orangutan Society e-mailed to International Primate Protection League founder Shirley McGreal. "The village had developed into a thriving resort."

"The Bohorok river began to rise slowly," SOS described, based on survivor accounts, but "around 10.00 p.m. came a deluge bearing hundreds of fallen trees. The town was located directly in the path of the surge as it hit a bend and thrust over the Bohorok banks at full force. Together, the water and timber pummeled the village for about three hours."

Wrote Suzanne Plunkett of Associated Press, "The death toll hit 112 on November 6 as authorities promised to punish illegal loggers held responsible for the disaster. At least 135 other people are reported missing and feared dead."

Among the dead were five ecotourists: two from Germany, two from Austria, one from Singapore.

Two orangutans were found dead, but five orangutans kept in cages by the Pongo Resort survived the flood and were released the next day to seek food. Wild orangutans nearby apparently scrambled to high ground before the logs hit.

"Government officials admit that illegal felling in Gunnar Leuser Park may have blocked a waterway high in the mountains, causing the huge flash flood when the logs collapsed," Associated Press reported.

### California fires

Southern California on the night of November 2 slept uneasily, with firefighters' hoses still cooling the embers of wind-driven blazes that killed at least 20 people and countless animals between the Mexican border and the Simi Valley, north of Los Angeles. The fires, the largest of which were called the Cedar Fire and the Old Fire, seared an area larger than Rhode Island.

Among the first human victims whose name was released was equestrian instructor Nancy Morphew, 51, of Valley Center.

Surviving similar fires in 1991 and 1996, "The Morphews hadn't wasted time," reported *Los Angeles Times* staff writers Mike Anton and Anna Gorman. "After Nancy Morphew woke to smoke just before 2 a.m. on October 26 and saw the glowing sky, Steve Morphew, 53, her husband of 31 years, said he headed to the hoses out back, she to get the horse trailer out front. The couple had 10 Arabians on their 11-acre property. She was moving a horse trailer into position when," possibly blinded by smoke, "she accidentally drove her truck into a ravine. As she tried to climb out, the fire overtook her, Steve Morphew said.

"Their daughter Micaela, 24, walked a pregnant horse of theirs four miles to safety," Anton and Gorman continued. Micaela Morphew "said her mother's last words to her concerned that horse: She threw Micaela a halter and told her to get the horse out."

The other nine horses saved themselves.

Morphew was among 13 people killed by the 272,00-acre Cedar Fire.

"Southern California was already besieged by flames when the San Diego County Sheriff's helicopter went to search for a lost hunter who allegedly lit a beacon fire," wrote Associated Press reporter Justin Pritchard of the start of the blaze. Pilot Dave Weldon found and retrieved the hunter, and at about 5:45 p.m. radioed for a water drop to extinguish the fire, which still was within an area measuring about 50 yards

square. Another helicopter flew within five miles with a 120-gallon water bucket before being recalled because of a safety rule forbidding firefighting flights within half an hour of sunset.

At about the same time Morphew awakened to the approaching Cedar Fire, San Bernardino county sheriff's deputies woke Wildhaven Ranch wildlife rehabilitation center cofounders Diane Drogatto Williams and Roger Williams, warning them about the oncoming Old Fire.

Their evacuation, with two bears, two raccoons, a coyote, and 15 raptors, took seven hours. The large mammals were taken to the Windhaven Kennel in Hesperia. The raptors went to the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center. Soon afterward the fire razed the Williams' home and most of the other buildings on the 35-acre Wildhaven site, a former amusement park near Lake Arrowhead that opened in 1955 as Santa's Village. Later called Fantasy Forest, it closed in 1998.

The Wildhaven web site expressed hope of reopening, using the remaining buildings, and of rebuilding.

Fire threatened the California Wolf Center in Julian from October 25 until October 28, founder Patrick Valentino e-mailed. Site manager James McCoy and retired firefighter Bill Hurd led a seven-member volunteer team in a successful defense of all the major structures and all the wolves, but a food storage shed was lost, among about \$37,000 worth of total damage.

Four wolves were killed when the California Wolf Center was partially overrun by a brushfire in June 2002, an experience that probably contributed to saving more than 30 wolves from a much larger 2003 conflagration.

"Kermit, a red-shouldered macaw, and Tango, an arctic fox, were among the Simi Valley fire casualties," wrote *Ventura County Star* reporter Staci Haight. Both apparently died from stress and heat exhaustion after exotic animal training and management students temporarily evacuated about a third of the 150 animals from America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College. The students were given only 20 minutes to grab animals and go, and had just six vans to take them in. America's Teaching Zoo escaped, however, with only light damage from smoke and falling ashes.

The San Bernardino County shelter in Devore received "62 dogs, 47 cats, 8 horses, a cow, a goat, and some pigs and birds due to the fire," wrote Bonnie Stewart of the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*. "Flames reached the shelter's fence line, but firefighters fought them with a backfire."

The San Bernardino city shelter took in more than 300 animals, Stewart continued.

SPCA/Los Angeles animal rescue team captain David Havard told Danica Kirka of Associated Press that he had handled 250 horses, a donkey, a pig, and 50 to 100 dogs, cats, chickens, and ducks in just three days.

Arriving to help were disaster relief teams coordinated by Terri Crisp of Noah's Wish and Randy Covey and Lisa Swanson of the Oregon Humane Society. Noah's Wish looked after more than 500 animals at the Victorville fairground, Crisp faxed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, while the Oregon Humane Society team recovered 180 animals in five days of searching the San Bernardino hills.

San Bernardino County supervising animal control officer Daryl Brawley anticipated that the influx of displaced pets would be followed by arrivals of injured or disoriented wildlife picked up by private citizens, and warned that wildlife rescue attempts could be dangerous.

Several endangered or threatened species may have been annihilated or left with habitat too badly damaged to sustain them, including the mountain yellow-legged frog, torrent salamanders, and at least two kinds of butterfly.

In Philadelphia to speak at the No More Homeless Pets conference sponsored by the Best Friends Animal Society,

Helen V. Woodward Animal Center executive director Mike Arms took an early shuttle to the airport on October 26 after learning that one of the fires was racing toward the Chula Vista shelter complex.

Intending to take the first flight home he could catch, to personally supervise the anticipated evacuation, Arms was still in Philadelphia, pacing and relying on cell telephone updates, more than eight hours later. Thick smoke had forced the cancellation of all flights to any nearby destination.

Evacuating the dogs, cats, and birds from the Woodward Center became complicated because the fires menaced so many of the other shelters that participate in the regional disaster relief plan. The animals were prepared for moving, Arms said, with nowhere to go, but luckily the wind shifted and the fire headed away before a full evacuation had to begin.

The Woodward Center horse stables were emptied earlier. The horses relocated temporarily to the Del Mar racetrack, Arms told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

The largest available horse facility that seemed to be safe, Del Mar housed more than 1,200 horses from fire zones on the night of October 27. Another 100 horses were bivouacked at Pierce College in the San Fernando Valley.

Wild Burro Rescue, 4,800 feet above sea level near Olancho, California, was well beyond the fire zone, but took a hit from one of the wind storms that drove the flames.

Recounted Seattle volunteer Cindy Taylor, "The wind picked up a \$15,000 aluminum four-horse trailer, crashing it upside down into a fence, then tossed it into the corral holding the rescued male burros. Luckily no burros were injured. The trailer rolled and landed right side up, on top of huge boulders. This was the only trailer available to transport burros from Death Valley," where WBR has collected burros since 1994 to keep them from being shot by the Park Service.

### Other disasters

Other fires jeopardized the survival of the last 200 wild horses in western Canada and the last 30 Far East Russian leopards.

Identified by biologist Wayne McCrory as probable descendants of a 16th century Spanish herd brought north from Mexico, the horses roam the Chilcotton Valley in the remote Brittany Triangle of British Columbia. Explorer Simon Fraser noted their presence in 1807.

The British Columbia government for more than 50 years, beginning in 1924, offered various incentives to entrepreneurs in hopes of exterminating wild horses, but the Brittany herd fell under the territorial protection of the Xeni Gwet'in aboriginal nation.

An August 2003 forest fire ignited the Chilco Lake peat bogs. The smouldering peat fire had by mid-October consumed almost a third of the horses' known range.

The fire threatening the leopards razed a protected habitat near Vladivostok after "people looking for scrap metal emptied containers filled with napalm and other toxic substances they found at a disused military base," World Wildlife Fund official Pavel Fomenko told Agence France-Presse.

A catastrophe of another kind hit the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on the Gold Coast of Australia on October 26. "Hailstones killed more than 100 birds and mammals, including a dozen kangaroos and wallabies," the Brisbane *Courier-Mail* reported. "More than 60 possums, lorikeets, and kookaburras are being treated for hail-related injuries."

The hail also "destroyed roofing, broke windows, and damaged cars," the *Courier-Mail* said.

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# Raptor rescue in Beijing & the

**BEIJING, China; KATHU, South Africa**—Eagles, like feral cats, are potentially fierce yet are sometimes tamed. More accurately, they may choose to tame themselves. Many are curious enough about humans to dwell as close to human habitation as they are allowed, and are appreciative enough of gentle care, especially when sick or injured, to permit judicious handling.

Though most eagles could quickly shred human flesh, even through protective gloves, they seldom do. Some seem to consciously decide to do no harm.

The Beijing Raptor Center has two highly gregarious resident golden eagles, closely related to the golden eagles of North America, and one resident steppe eagle. Too imprinted upon humans to be released, the eagles remain in custody while Scops owls and eagle owls, Amur and peregrine falcons, kestrels, and sometimes a buzzard come and go.

The Kalahari Raptor Centre has black eagles, snake eagles, and crested eagles. Some of them are also too imprinted to release.

The eagles of the Beijing and Kalahari raptor centers look as strikingly different as everything else about the two rehabilitation facilities. The premise of the Beijing Raptor Center is that humans and wildlife can and must co-exist. The premise of the Kalahari Raptor Centre is that wildlife does best in the absence of humans, to whatever extent that can be accomplished.

The Beijing Raptor Center occupies offices and flight cage space on the campus of the Beijing Normal University, an institution whose main job is teaching future teachers. This is also the main job of the Beijing Raptor Center. The center exists to help raptors survive within the almost entirely human-created Beijing environment, partly through healing the wounds of injured specimens, but mostly by teaching humans to appreciate and tolerate wildlife.

The Beijing Raptor Center staff commonly see two types of injuries: those inflicted intentionally by gunshots, traps, or hurled stones, and those suffered by accident when the birds collide with power lines, vehicles, or windows. The staff are encouraged that the cases of intentional wounding seem to be relatively few, and that even rural people with traditionally negative views of wild predators sometimes go to great effort to bring them injured birds they have found.

Nearly exterminated during the Mao years, wildlife in China is beginning to recover and spread from marginal habitat into renewed proximity to people, especially in the regions where wild animals are not reflexively killed as alleged crop pests or to be eaten. Modern Beijing is such a place. The official *People's Daily* now encourages positive attitudes toward wildlife, including with an August 28, 2003 full-page feature by staff reporter Wen Jiao about retiree Xu Yougong of Shanghai, reputedly a much less animal-friendly city, who found and successfully rehabilitated an injured egret.

In early September 2003 the *People's Daily* announced the reinstitution of a ban on hunting in Liaoning Province, adjacent to North Korea, which was previously enforced from 1987 to 1993. Effective on October 1, the ban protects all land mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.

The *People's Daily* also described the establishment of bird care facilities similar to the Beijing Raptor Center at the Yellow River Nature Reserve, the Yellow River Estuary Management Station, and the Dawenliu Management Station, all in Shandong province, between Beijing and Shanghai. The first is already operating, and the others are to open soon.

Only three years ago the Khadourie Farm nature center in the New Territories of Hong Kong was the only avian rehabilitation center in China.

## Habitat crunch

Yet even if attitudes are transformed, wildlife eating is stopped (as the Chinese government retreated from trying to do after the spring 2003 outbreak of Severe Accute Respiratory Syndrome was traced to wildlife consumption), and wildlife rehabilitation centers emerge to cover the whole of China, human development is expanding into many of the places where wildlife formerly found refuge, creating new conflicts.



On August 26, 2003, for example, two days before publishing the feature about the egret rescuer, the *People's Daily* announced that 20,000 of the estimated 70,000 wild donkeys living in the Quiangtang Nature Reserve would be culled, along with unstated numbers of blue sheep and wild yaks, to reduce conflicts with herders in the Shuanghu Special Zone, a part of Quiangtang, which is in turn a major portion of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

According to “local public security authorities,” the *People's Daily* reported, “wild yaks killed one person and injured 32 in the last 10 years while taking at least 450 domestic yaks away [to join wild herds] and killing 23 [chiefly in mating competition] during the last 10 years.”

Zhoima Yangzom, “an official in charge of wild animal protection with the forestry bureau of the autonomous region,” promised that no killing would be done without a “scientific feasibility review.”

A hint that Zhoima Yangzom was not enthusiastic about the proposed culling came in the next paragraph: “Some experts also proposed that herders and farmers be moved outside reserves to concede pastures to wild animals. They also believe the number of domestic livestock should be controlled in order to alleviate the demand for grasslands.”

The chief obstacle to that approach, the *People's Daily* explained, is that very little of the vast Quiangtang Nature Reserve would be any more suitable for the herders, who have nowhere else to go.

Earlier in 2003, a region of western China the size of Switzerland was reportedly ravaged by mice and gerbils, after market hunters and poachers extirpated snakes, small mammalian predators, and raptors. The regional government hoped to combat that problem by reintroducing eagles.

The China State Forestry Administration acknowledged on October 6, 2003, that more than 300 species of land-dwelling vertebrate animals and 410 plant species native to China should be considered either endangered or threatened, among them 156 species listed among the 640 species whose use in global commerce is restricted by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Since 1999 the Forestry Administration has returned more than 33 million acres of marginal farmland to woods, but habitat restoration alone will not be enough to save all the species in trouble.

The future of wildlife in China, if wildlife is to have a future, must be coexistence with more than 1.3 billion people, 10% of them within the Beijing area.

If wildlife cannot coexist with the people, especially in Beijing, bird species may decline from Siberia to India.

“Beijing is on the migration route of many endangered birds,” said International Bird Rescue Research Center spokesperson Karen Benzel in October 2001, when the formation of the Beijing Raptor Center was first announced. “As a major global transit point, Beijing is also where hundreds of wild birds fall prey to illegal capture, trade, and smuggling.”

The International Bird Rescue Research Center, of Fairfield, California, trained the first five Beijing Raptor Center staff, before the Beijing center formally opened in January 2002. Beijing Raptor Center founder and director Dr. Song Yie received his training earlier at the California Raptor Center in Berkeley.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare underwrote the Beijing Raptor Center start-up, giving it until 2008 to achieve self-sufficiency.

## Habitat restoration

The Kalahari Raptor Centre has had no such boost. Self-educated in wildlife care, former attorney and sheep rancher Chris Mercer and his partner Bev Pervan took charge of their first birds after the local veterinarian who founded the center, at least in name, retired to England.

Entirely with their own money, Mercer and Pervan bought the KRC land, put up the perimeter fencing, built two spacious cage complexes for raptors and two more for mammals, renovated a former warehouse into an attractive home and guest quarters, added an education center, and reintroduced springbok, wildebeest, hartebeest, and eland to the fenced habitat.

There are more people within 10 miles of the Beijing Raptor Center than within 300 miles of the Kalahari Raptor Centre. Few parts of South Africa are more remote.

The Kalahari Raptor Centre goal is to return wild animals and lightly scarred habitat as completely to nature as possible. A century of ranching and mining have superficially changed the land-

*Left: Chris Mercer and Bev Pervan of the Kalahari Raptor Center and ANIMAL PEOPLE editor Merritt Clifton in September 2003 moved four black eagles and three snake eagles from their old quarters to two new flight cages. Inset: snake eagle. (Kim Bartlett)*

## TRIBUTES

In honor of the Prophet Isaiah,  
St. Martin de Porres,  
and Albert Schweitzer.  
—Brien Comerford



*Golden eagle, Beijing Raptor Center. (Kim Bartlett)*

scape, exterminating large predators such as lions, wild dogs, leopards, and hyenas, and reducing most hooved species to a fenced existence on hunting ranches along the margins of water-filled pits and mountain-sized slag heaps.

Small hooved wildlife such as duiker are still easily seen, however, and careful observation can discover mid-sized predators such as bat-eared foxes, jackals, and caracals.

Within the KRC fencelines, taking six to seven hours to walk, with the mining communities of Kathu, Kiruman, and Hotazel invisible over the horizon, one can easily imagine that the southern Kalahari desert is still unsettled wilderness, but not altogether without people. Even inside the fence far enough that it too cannot be seen, burrowing ground squirrels, meerkats, and the occasional aardvark have in at least two places unearthed small stone circles which appear to be the remains of ancient campfires. The Bushmen, possibly the oldest surviving human culture, are believed to have occupied the Kalahari since before humans spread beyond Africa.

Bev Pervan either does or supervises most of the hands-on animal care and education of visitors. Chris Mercer focuses on lobbying and litigation directed at ending indiscriminate predator control and canned hunts.

Raptors are the best-recognized part of the KRC mission, but the name of the center has become somewhat a misnomer, since the most original and successful KRC campaigns have been on behalf of the midsized mammalian predators.

Mercer is best known for leading opposition to canned lion hunts and the apartheid-era Problem Animal Control Ordinance of 1957, which in effect declares open season on foxes, jackals, and caracals, and compels landowners to cooperate in exterminating them. Pervan ventured into litigation and lobbying far enough to have Cape foxes removed from the list of target species.

Both make extensive use of the Internet, even though their only access is through a slow and awkward satellite connection. The Beijing Raptor Center by contrast enjoys near state-of-the-art high-speed connections, but political activism at the KRC level would be problematic.

Their worlds could scarcely be more different, except for their determination to help animals. —M.C.

### Contacts:

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**Kalahari Raptor Centre**, P.O. Box 1386, Kathu, Northern Cape ZA 8446, South Africa; <krc@spg.co.za>;

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into species as different as the tree-dwelling vervets and the mostly ground-dwelling mountain gorillas.

From the bear/raccoon continuum came the versatile, highly social red pandas, raccoons, ringtails, and coatis. From the primate line came the baboons, of similar size, social habits, and diet.

From the bear line came the large brown bears, the smaller black bears, and the sun bears, smallest of all the non-raccoon bears, as the line pushed south, into habitat where retaining body heat became far less important than minimizing skin surface to avoid dehydrating.

From the primate line came gibbons and orangutans, who invaded Asia, and chimpanzees and protohumans, who pushed north.

For a time the bears had the advantage over primates in the northern hemisphere. Glaciers enabled bears to colonize as far south as the Atlas Mountains of north Africa. Primates were unable to extend their range into Europe north of Spain and beyond the Himalayas. Even if they could get past the mountains and the cold, they could not survive among bears, who monopolized the food sources and ate the primates too.

Climate change and the human development of weapons tipped the balance.

For more than two million years now bears have been in steady retreat. Only in the late 20th century did the backyard raccoons of North America become the first members of the bear/raccoon continuum to proliferate within human-dominated habitat—and then only because humans mostly quit trapping and shooting them, left food sources accessible, removed free-roaming dogs from suburban neighborhoods, and began vaccinating raccoons against rabies.

The likeness of bears to humans was easily recognized by the Asiatic people who fought them through the mountains of China and Siberia, through coastal Alaska, and into North America. Joaquin Miller recalled in *True Bear Stories* (1900) that the Native Americans he grew up among in Oregon and northern California believed themselves to be descended from the union of a red-haired woman and a bear.

Their kin still in China called bears “the people of the mountains.”

In Siberia, northern Russia, and as far into Europe as Romania and Poland “the people of the mountains” were indirect beneficiaries of Communism, because Communist dictators reserved bear hunting to themselves and their minions. Some, like Nicolai Ceaucescu of Romania, killed prodigious numbers of bears, but most shot a bear only occasionally with important guests.

Left mostly alone in regions unsuited to agriculture and relatively inaccessible, bears thrived until the fall of Communism in 1990-1991 brought western logging technology, trophy hunters, and openings for poachers to use military equipment stolen or bought on the black market to exploit the international market for bears’ body parts and byproducts.

In India and China, by contrast, bears were further victimized by Marxist ideology.

## Dancing bears

The victimization in India was actually nothing new. It just took a new twist.

For centuries—perhaps two or three thousand years—the Kalendar gypsies of India and Pakistan have captured and cruelly trained bear cubs. Fitted with nose rings similar to those worn by Kalendar women, who are also

known for dancing acts, the cubs learn to “dance” from the use of hot coals as their first “stage” while the ring is jerked by a chain.

Mostly Islamic from the earliest written record of their existence, the Kalendar and their dancing bears spread throughout Europe during the Middle Ages, and were among the earliest regular conduits of learning between East and West. They introduced the Asian style of chronology to Europe: hence the word “calendar.” They may have brought chess to Europe.

Persecuted from the Inquisition to the Nazi Holocaust and ghettoized even today in much of Europe, the Kalendar and their descendants and relatives mostly retreated into the portions of Europe which still have large Islamic populations—especially within the former Ottoman empire.

There, in Greece, Turkey, and the many former Ottoman states that were swallowed or dominated for most of the 20th century by the Soviet Union, the Kalendar and their dancing bears persisted, often as part of government-sponsored circuses, until the Communist governments themselves fell apart in 1990-1991 and threw the bear-trainers back on the streets.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals in 1993 began a campaign to retire dancing bears to sanctuaries that WSPA promised to build in Greece, Hungary, India, Pakistan, Turkey, and Thailand.

The first WSPA-built bear sanctuary opened in Turkey in 1995, and was handed over to the Turkish government in 2001. Others were completed and opened, but the process of building the sanctuaries and turning them over to local management typically turned out to take much longer than was initially anticipated, as construction costs often soared beyond estimates and substantial friction developed between WSPA and some of the local partners.

As the need for dancing bear sanctuaries expanded beyond the capacity planned by WSPA, other organizations became involved in building them, notably Vier Pfoten of Austria, which in partnership with the Brigitte Bardot Foundation and the Bulgarian government opened the Belitsa Dancing Bear Park at Rila, Bulgaria in November 2000.

## Wildlife SOS

The Wildlife SOS Agra Bear Rescue Centre, the last sanctuary built under the WSPA “Libearty” program, opened in December 2002 after more than five years of development. Completing the Agra facility and beginning to look after more than 50 bears who flooded in during the first six months of operation eventually required financial help from Care For The Wild, of Britain; Free The Bears, of Australia; One Voice, of France; and International Animal Rescue, based in Britain but also raising funds in the U.S.

Free The Bears, One Voice, International Animal Rescue, and WSPA have also made commitments toward the ongoing support of the Agra Bear Rescue Centre.

Wildlife SOS, managing the Agra facility, is a rescue and rehabilitation society formed in Delhi by Kartick Satyanarayan, now the fulltime sanctuary director, and Geeta Seshamani, director of the Friendicoes animal hospital and sanctuary in Delhi.

If the Indian Wildlife Act of 1973 had been strictly enforced 30 years ago, the last dancing bears in India should have been confiscated then, and should have died of old age by now. Sanctuary space built for them should have been available to other animals.



At the Agra Bear Rescue Center. (Wildlife SOS)

Unfortunately, the Wildlife Act was not enforced to confiscate dancing bears and other species illegally used in traveling performances until Maneka Gandhi, the Indian minister of state for animal welfare from 1998 until mid-2002, moved to enforce it by fighting and winning a series of court battles culminating in a favorable verdict from the Supreme Court of India on May Day, 2001.

May Day, coinciding with the international celebration of Communism, was an appropriate date because even though India has never been a Communist nation, Marxist politics had much to do with protecting the Kalendar—and other “scheduled caste” users of wild animals—from prompt enforcement of the Wildlife Act.

Every Indian government since independence from Britain was achieved in 1948 has struggled to contain the Marxist rebel faction known as the Naxalites. Armed and heavily influenced by Chinese Communist leader Mao Zedong, the Naxalites were in the 1970s and 1980s near the height of their strength, recruiting guerilla fighters among the rural “scheduled castes” by exploiting almost any kind of grievance.

Confiscating wildlife from traveling performers with widespread contacts and the ability to quickly muster an audience might have turned thousands of essentially apolitical poor people into dangerous foes, including the Kalendar, who as Muslims were already somewhat suspect to many Hindus. A succession of governments therefore disregarded the anti-captivity portions of the Wildlife Act.

Mrs. Gandhi won in court, but at cost of being reputedly now a Naxalite assassination target.

Wildlife SOS Agra Bear Rescue Centre cofounders Kartick Satyanarayan and Geeta Seshamani in late August met **ANIMAL PEOPLE** at the Chengdu airport, visiting the Chengdu sanctuaries en route to the Asia for Animals conference in Hong Kong.

## Panda profits

Panda bears and Asiatic black bears—like other “peoples” caught up in the forced transformation of the People’s Republic—were among the more direct victims and casualties of Communism.

“In 1958 Mao Zedong initiated the ‘Great Leap Forward’ with a plan to double steel production in only one year,” explained political scientist Peter Li in a September 2003 keynote address to the Asia for Animals conference. “Huge swaths of forest were cut to feed millions of backyard smelters. Among the enduring effects was the fragmentation of panda bear habitat into widely separated tracts within which the remaining bear populations may lack the genetic diversity to survive.”

The *People’s Daily* reported in 2001 that “China established its first giant panda protection zone in the 1950s and banned poaching of the creatures in 1957. China put the rare animals under first-class state protection in 1962.” The best-known panda reserve, at Wolong, was designated in 1963, the same year that the Beijing Zoo achieved the first birth of a giant panda in captivity.

Panda conservation was stimulated by the 1961 formation of the World Wildlife Fund, albeit perhaps mainly because everyone involved recognized a financial opportunity.

The WWF founders, trophy hunters all, had as their top priority preventing the closure of former British colonies to trophy hunting, as eventually occurred after India and Kenya won independence. The WWF central theme, then as now, was promoting the doctrine of “sustainable use,” meaning that hunting license fees should finance conservation.



Residents of the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center. (Kim Bartlett)

The strategy was copied from that of the U.S.-based National Wildlife Federation, formed in 1936, with the additional twist that WWF envisioned funding itself with public contributions from animal lovers of ordinary means.

Since animal lovers would be unlikely to donate to further the blood sports pursuits of the likes of WWF founding directors Prince Philip of England, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, and the whaler Aristotle Onassis, founding president Peter Scott chose the giant panda as the WWF emblem. The giant panda looked cute and cuddly, was easily depicted in black-and-white, could not be hunted because China was then closed to westerners, and WWF did not actually have to do much to save giant pandas from extinction because panda bear habitat was inaccessible.

Almost immediately, however, the People’s Republic positioned itself to seek panda conservation funding from the WWF as soon as politics permitted.

The effort began in earnest with the 1972 People’s Republic donation of two panda bears to the National Zoo in Washington D.C.—the first major transaction of any kind between the U.S. and the then-25-year-old Communist government.

Giant pandas and ping-pong players emerged as China’s most successful international ambassadors.

Within 20 years more than 100 giant pandas were sent to zoos around the world. Between the popularity of giant pandas with zoo-goers and the difficulty of inducing the bears to breed in captivity, the People’s Republic gradually discovered that it had the most lucrative monopoly in the history of animal exhibition, and moved to exploit it.

To ensure preservation of the giant panda supply, the last 14 fragments of giant panda habitat were declared protected reserves, later split into 27 “protection zones.”

To keep the price of pandas up, outright sales of pandas were halted in favor of “breeding loans,” which actually resulted in births only in Mexico City.

The World Wildlife Fund, by 1981 the richest animal charity in the world, was tapped for \$1 million to build a state-of-the-art panda breeding center at the Wolong Reserve, 90 miles northwest of Chengdu. By 1991 WWF had been persuaded to invest \$1.5 million more in building new homes for 5,200 farmers who were relocated out of the protected habitat, and in building a hydroelectric power station to keep the farmers from burning bamboo as fuel.

Despite the investment, the estimated panda population plummeted from about 2,000 circa 1980 to barely 1,000 a decade later, and has stayed in that vicinity. The cost of obtaining pandas for exhibition, even temporarily, soared from circa \$500,000 to more than \$3 million. Even at that price, the population of pandas in zoos is now 140.

The People’s Republic also hit upon a new moneymaker: instead of exporting giant pandas to the world, it could bring the world to the giant pandas. Wolong was too remote to become a major tourist destination. Therefore the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center was built on the outskirts of Chengdu, within an easy bus ride of the airport, and has been growing ever since.

Called “the Chengdu Zoo” by early western visitors, the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center won credibility by achieving the first successful artificial insemination of a giant panda in 1980, and the first successful giant panda embryo transplant several years later. The center was instrumental in achieving a record 19 captive births worldwide in 2003, of whom 16 survived infancy.

(continued on page 19)

Visitor accounts and photographs from the 1980s suggest the Chengdu facility was initially a complex of traditional cement bear pits and the boxy, determinedly ugly office buildings typical of Mao-era Chinese construction. By the 1990s it was described as one of the better Chinese zoos, amid a boom of zoo-building, but some giant pandas and red pandas were purportedly held for photo opportunities in barren cages near the main entrance concession stands.

Now housing 38 giant pandas, the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center today offers animal habitats that match the best western standards. Barren cages and cement pits are no longer evident, though the chance to cuddle a baby panda is offered for a steep price, as is fishing at a zoo pond. Similar concessions were once common at U.S. zoos, but largely disappeared more than 20 years ago.

Safety precautions are behind U.S. norms. At least one teenaged male visitor and one female staff member have been hurt by giant pandas in recent years after stumbling into their habitats—but the pandas do not seem to have treated the intruders more roughly than they treat each other in brief territorial squabbles. Humans are just more fragile.

The most dated aspect of the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center is a museum of badly preserved mounted specimens of Chinese wildlife.

Though the resident giant pandas are charismatic and quite at ease with visitors, the red pandas make an energetic effort to steal the show. Usually exhibited alone or in pairs in the U.S., and usually asleep during daylight hours, in Chengdu as many as 30 share one large habitat, within which they are as interactive as a room full of kittens.

In May 2003 the city of Chengdu announced plans to expand the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center into a 550-acre theme park. A model of the proposed development indicates that the animal population is expected to stay the same, but the giant pandas will gain enough habitat to live more as they would in the wild, and visitor facilities are to be improved, to attract more traffic and encourage longer stays.

## Bile farm bears

Asiatic black bears, or moon bears, also felt the habitat crunch as result of the Great Leap Forward, and had already been

heavily hunted for their gall bladders and other parts used in traditional Chinese medicine, but the worst was still ahead for them.

While pandas became the most popular icons of modern China, North Korea in the early 1980s developed the technique of factory-farming Asiatic black bears for bile, the substance produced by their gall bladders, which has medicinal qualities comparable to synthetic steroids and other anti-inflammatory drugs including aspirin.

Imprisoned within cages that hold them virtually immobile, with metal shunts permanently inserted into their abdomens, bile farm bears endure a torment resembling the worst aspects of the treatment of veal calves, sows in gestation crates, battery-caged laying hens, and the mares whose urine is collected to make Premarin.

Beyond that, the shunt insertion points typically become painfully infected.

Although the compounds that do the same things as bear bile are easily synthesized, and are much less expensive to produce, officials who erroneously anticipated a growing demand for bear bile began building production capacity as fast as they could. Bile farming was described as a means of protecting bears in the wild by undercutting the market for poached bear products—which did not happen, as bear poaching increased around the world, even as the number of bears on bile farms soared over 10,000, with plans announced to tap at least 39,000 bears.

That would have put nearly twice as many Asiatic black bears into bile extraction cages as remain in the wild.

## China Bear Rescue

Protest against bile farming began in the early 1990s, amplified first by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Recalled Paul J. Seigel, then IFAW director of animal welfare, now representing Direct Mail Systems Inc., “In 1986 we opened our Far East office in Hong Kong and our representative began going into China. We realized then that the bear was highly prized for culinary and medicinal value, but we did not discover that the animals were being farmed for their bile until 1990. We first learned this in South Korea, and through the Korea Animal Protection Society were able expose the practice and have it banned.”

The IFAW campaign against bile farming debuted in Britain in June 1993, followed by similar efforts from the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

Directing the IFAW campaign was Jill Robinson, an immigrant to Hong Kong from Nottingham, England.

Although tapping the bears for bile ended, more than 1,300 bears remain caged at former South Korean bile farms.

“They have apparently had catheters removed, but a ridiculous regulation implemented around two years ago allows farmers to kill bears over 22 years old and sell their gall bladders. With breeding still allowed on the farms, this exposes a huge loophole,” Robinson told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

In December 1994, IFAW, the Hong Kong group EarthCare, and the Chinese Wildlife Conservation Association announced a protocol “To reduce the production of bear farms by one third, close down the worst bear farms as soon as possible,” prevent caging additional bear cubs, “eliminate bear farming completely in the future,” and “conserve all bear species in China in their natural habitat.”



Red pandas at the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Center. (Kim Bartlett)

But the Chinese Wildlife Conservation Association, though a branch of the federal ministry of forestry, did not have the clout to stop bile farming outright, or even to slow the growth of it. Bile farming expanded during the mid-1990s and crossed into Vietnam.

Unknown to IFAW and other outside activist groups at the time, and therefore not inquired about in surveys of Chinese views of animal issues funded in 1998-1999 by IFAW and the Animals Asia Foundation, there was cautiously expressed but growing opposition to bile farming within China, too. Some of it may have evolved out of the positive image of bears created by the effort to conserve pandas.

The Chinese opposition emerged in an April 1998 *China Daily* essay entitled “Extracting gall from live bears is appallingly inhumane,” by recent bile farm visitor Yu Yunyao.” Peter Li, who came to the U.S. from China in 1993 to study and teach, translated the Yu Yunyao essay and sent it to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Since this industry is widely seen as part of the Chinese economic miracle,” says Li, “contributing to the glorification of Chinese culture, combatting it presents a comprehensive challenge.”

As with raising dogs for meat, both the consumption and the opposition occur mainly in affluent urban areas. The economic benefits are felt chiefly in remote rural areas, where dog meat and bear bile production are often still perceived at the village level as being among the more profitable branches of animal husbandry.

Reality is that both bile farming and raising dogs for meat appear to be glutted niche markets, neither growing nor attracting new investment, but their profitability may be declining less rapidly than that of older pig and poultry farms which cannot compete against the introduction of U.S.-style factory methods in more accessible places.

Leaving IFAW, Jill Robinson formed the Animals Asia Foundation in 1998 to carry on a variety of projects through Southeast Asia that she had begun with IFAW support. The most ambitious was starting the first sanctuary for ex-bile farm bears at an IFAW-built facility in Panyu, China, several hours up the Pearl River from Hong Kong.

Opened in 1995, on two acres leased from Hong Kong legislator David Chu Yu Lin, the Panyu sanctuary housed nine bears Robinson obtained from the defunct Hui Zhou hospital bile farm—the first she had ever seen.

Scots-born veterinarian Gail Cochrane, then working for IFAW, removed the bears’ shunts and invented methods of strengthening their atrophied arms and legs.

Profiled by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in January/February 2001, the Panyu sanctuary became the prototype for the far more ambi-

tious Chengu project.

Already, under contract with the China Wildlife Conservation Association, Robinson had agreed to take into sanctuary care as many as 500 bears from 200 small bile farms scheduled for closure by the Sichuan provincial government before 2005.

Leasing a former forestry department complex near Chengdu, Robinson hired fluently multi-lingual ex-California motorcycle salesman Boris Chiao to turn it into the biggest bear sanctuary ever built. Chiao had little background in animal work, but brought to the job the right combination of persuasive skills, technical know-how, and personal drive to get the site ready on short notice to receive the bears, who began coming in October 2000. Hong Kong SPCA architect Jill Cheshire did the design work. Gail Cochrane, now operating an active private practice in Hong Kong, began commuting to Chengdu to supervise the bears’ veerinary care.

By the December 2002 grand opening of the China Bear Rescue Center, the Animals Asia Foundation had already received 97 bears. The facilities include a bear quarantine hospital with upstairs volunteer quarters, indoor and outdoor bear housing, an outdoor acclimation habitat, visitor lodgings, and two enclosed bamboo forests.

Much more is yet to be built or renovated from the existing structures on the property, as soon as Robinson can raise the funds.

## Strategic debate

The sanctuary approach to the bile farm bear issue has been vocally rejected by WSPA, the same organization that instigated building sanctuaries for former dancing bears.

The number of dancing bears may exceed the present sanctuary capacity, but they can be counted in the low hundreds. Capturing and training more dancing bears is now illegal virtually everywhere. Thus it can be hoped that the last dancing bears can all be housed comfortably for the rest of their lives.

Even Robinson admits that the Animals Asia Foundation cannot save all of the bears who are now on bile farms. Her belief is that by saving some of them, and showing them to the public as much as possible, both in China and abroad, she can collapse demand for bile products, ensuring that no more bears are imprisoned.

A week before the China Bear Rescue Center grand opening, WSPA director of wildlife Victor Watkins hinted to London *Sunday Times* Beijing correspondent Lynne O’Donnell that the sanctuary might provide cover for expansion of bile farming and bear poaching, by leading the public to believe that bear bile production is contracting.

(continued on page 20)



Panda-hugs for sale. (Kim Bartlett)

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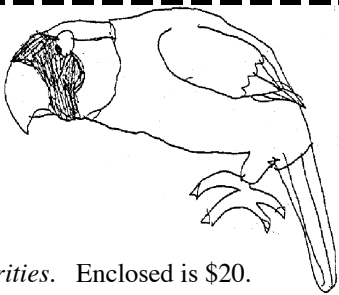


—Wolf Clifton

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# Rehabilitating Asian bears

(continued from page 19)

Pressed by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to support Watkins’ argument, WSPA press aide Amanda Jones shared an internal report about the November 2002 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species triennial meeting in Santiago, Chile.

“We had several meetings with Mr. Fan Zhiyong, of the Chinese CITES Management Authority (part of the State Forestry Administration), in order to discuss the bear farm and bear trade issues,” the WSPA report stated. “We had been directed to speak with Mr. Fan on these issues by a more senior member of the Chinese delegation, Dr. Meng Xianlin (also of the State Forestry Administration). On three separate occasions, Mr. Fan stated that there were now 9,000 bears on 167 farms...Fan is the Chinese official who produced the previous official report (of which we have a copy), which stated that there were 7,002 bears on 247 farms in

1998. He said that if some farms were allowed to trade internationally, then China could satisfy the whole market in Asia...This does represent our worst fears,” the WSPA report concluded.

Responded Robinson, “Dr. Fan’s statements are not new. He has consistently maintained over the years I have known him that it is China’s intention to apply for international trade in bear bile. To this date they have not made any formal application.

“Chen Run Shen is secretary general of the China Wildlife Conservation Association, a department on equal seniority with the Beijing CITES department and similarly part of the State Forestry Administration.

“Chen Run Shen specifically advised us during meetings in November and December 2002 in Beijing that Dr. Fan is not the head of his department and did not have the authority to convey his personal thoughts

on behalf of the Central Government. He emphasized many times that Dr. Fan was speaking from a personal perspective.

“Chen Run Shen advised that the China Wildlife Conservation Association was collating figures for the number of bears on farms and confirmed in the meantime that Sichuan Forestry figures showed that the numbers of farmed bears had been reduced in that province from a high of 2,700 bears to 2,300 today. This is the province where our China Bear Rescue campaign is based.”

These are still the most recent official statistics.

While the Animals Asia Foundation accepts ever more bears at the sanctuary, the current WSPA anti-bile farm campaign consists of a traveling puppet show, endorsed by celebrities, featuring a bear puppet created by the Henson Group of “Muppets” fame.

The China Bear Rescue Center is

attracting far more attention—including from Chinese media, as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** saw.

As the China Bear Rescue Center grows, Robinson hopes, it could draw tourists, who come to Chengdu to see the pandas, then hear about the bile farm bears and visit them too.

The People’s Republic economic and strategic planners may discover that much as saving pandas proved to be good business, exhibiting ex-bile farm bears in happy conditions may be worth more than the market value of the bile now extracted from them.

There are bears to be freed in nearly every city.

—Merritt Clifton

## CONTACTS:

**Animals Asia Foundation**, P.O. Box 374, General Post Office, Hong Kong; 852-2791-2225; fax 852-279-2320; <info@animalsasia.org>; <www.animalsasia.org>.

# MONSTER OF GOD:

*The man-eating predator in the jungles of history and the mind*

by David Quammen

W.W. Norton & Co. (500 5th Ave., New York, NY 10110), 2003.  
384 pages, hardcover. \$26.95.

Certain to be classified by most librarians as “natural history,” *Monster of God* has already been mistaken by many reviewers as a screed in defense of “sustainable use.”

*Monster of God* is actually a book mostly about faith, exploring the influence of the human evolutionary role as prey upon concepts of religion, and of the more recent human ascendance as a top predator on our ideas about conservation.

David Quammen is profoundly skeptical that humans and predators capable of eating us are capable of coexisting for longer than another 150 years. He presents a strong circumstantial case that the protohuman concept of God evolved as a psychological response to swift and seemingly random predator strikes. Sacrifice, Quammen suggests, began as appeasement of predators, and in some remote places continues as such.

Others have written extensively about the emergence of sacrifice as the ritual sustenance of a learned priestly class, coinciding with the rise of animal husbandry, and have discussed especially the role of religion in rationalizing slaughter. Without taking much note of this, Quammen explores the role of the earliest monarchs in recorded history as lion-slayers, pointing out that the dawn of civilization coincided with the emergence of humans as quasi-apex predators, able at last to do with weapons what natural predators do with tooth and claw.

Quammen goes on to trace the rise of Christianity on every continent parallel to the introduction of superior weapons, demonstrated between wars of subjugation against non-Christians in countless episodes of dragon-slaying and trophy-shooting. Christianity not only gave believers license to exterminate the predators whom pagans appeased, but also provided the means to do so.

Quammen seems no more concerned that predator-killing is not in the recorded theology of Jesus than most of the purported followers of Jesus have been concerned that he told

Peter to put away his sword and in effect sacrificed himself to the predation of both theocracy and secular government. To whatever extent an attitude toward predation may be read into the words and deeds of Jesus, his views appear most similar to those embodied in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, which tolerate the existence of predators but recognize an obligation to protect one’s flock and family.

Quammen explores that attitude among the Maldhari herders who co-exist, somewhat uneasily, with the Asiatic lions of the Gir forest in western India. Ancestrally and culturally related to the Sindhi of Pakistan, and more distantly to the Bishnoi of Rajasthan, the Maldhari mostly seem to accept that the price of their life in the forest is that lions will eat some of their cattle, and that if the lions find enough wild hooved animals to eat, they will eat neither cattle nor humans. This understanding is encouraged to some extent by recognition that if the Gir lions decline, the Indian government under foreign pressure may resume efforts to evict all of the Maldharis from the forest. Thousands were evicted, along with their cattle, prior to the rise of the present Hindu nationalist government.

Much of *Monster of God* ponders the paradox that the Gir forest lions, the saltwater crocodiles of eastern India and northern Australia, and the brown bears of Romania have all been saved (so far) chiefly by the interest of a few wealthy and well-connected people in perpetuating their existence not as predators but as prey. The Gir lions survived the 19th century only because they were so coveted as trophies that one particular sultan saved their habitat. Romanian brown bears survived the 20th century chiefly because the dictator Nicolai Ceaucescu



—Wolf Clifton

## Hunt Club Management Guide

by J. Wayne Fears

Stoeger Publ. (17603 Indian Head Hwy, Suite 200, Accokeek, MD 20607), 2003.  
144 pages, hardcover, \$24.95.

J. Wayne Fears, involved in leasing land for hunt clubs for more than 20 years, gives the impression that he lives to kill deer. Thomas Lee Boles, a vegetarian animal rights activist, has handreared orphaned deer and befriended deer both in captivity and in the wild.

Each outlines his perspectives on hunting at about equal length, allowing for the difference in page size between their books. Except that Fears writes to perpetuate hunting on property secured by covenant against the “antis,” while Boles writes against recreationally killing anything, they appear to be more in agreement than opposition.

Almost every page of *Hunt Club Management Guide* tersely details obnoxious attitudes and behavior among hunters that Fears has personally witnessed and detests. Without wasting adjectives, Fears makes plain that in his view, hunters themselves rather than “antis” are their own worst enemies, chiefly because of inconsiderate and unsportsmanlike conduct.

Fears says almost nothing about animal suffering and the morality of hunting, but at least implied is that he believes hunters should not kill animals whose remains they do not eat or otherwise use, should quickly track and dispatch wounded animals, and should properly look after their hunting dogs and horses. Outside of hunting season, he believes, hunters should try to maintain optimal wildlife habitat on the land they use.

If Fears was less deeply addicted to recreational killing, it is not hard to imagine that he might come around to very much the same views that Boles expresses, emphasizing

animal suffering and the immorality of killing for fun. Indeed, Fears’ writing may be as closely focused as it is because he does not wish to expose himself to deeper thought about what he is doing.

Boles is as emotive as Fears is restrained, but like Fears is familiar with the theories and philosophy of wildlife management, often citing pro-hunting publications to refute hunters’ arguments.

Boles thinks a lot about matters of faith, frequently finding organized religion deficient in failing to restrain human betrayals of animal trust. If Fears has any thoughts at all about religion, he keeps them to himself. It appears, however, that hunting *is* Fears’ religion, and that he too may view his message as a profession of strong belief. He differs from Boles in that he would evidently prefer to pass along the rituals of his faith without questioning their purpose.

It is not difficult to imagine each man reading the other’s book, Boles for clues about how to stop deer hunting and Fears because Boles is among the few people who know deer most intimately.

It is more difficult to imagine Boles ever taking up hunting or Fears deliberately giving it up; but it is not hard to suspect that Fears is close to the point many hunters reach, typically at age 50 or beyond, of becoming an “armed nature-walker,” who “hunts” avidly but goes for years without firing a shot at an animal. Most of what Fears seems to love about hunting has little to do with actually killing animals, and much of what he hates about “slob hunters” has to do with the wanton exercise of bloodlust.

—M.C.

## Deer Diary

by Thomas Lee Boles

Xlibris Corp. (<Orders@Xlibris.com>),  
2002. 286 pages, paperback, \$18.69.



# Hawk's Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone by Gary Ferguson

National Geographic Adventure Press (1145 17th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036), 2003. 240 pages, paperback. \$15.00.

*Hawk's Rest* is not about birds, but the joys and trials of living in wilderness. Here on nine million acres deep in Yellowstone National Park, granite turrets rise 2,000 feet into the air, giant boulders tumble into deep gorges, and ice forms endless lakes. Yellowstone Lake, covering 136 square miles, can switch in minutes from calm to waves thrashing five to six feet high. According to park historian Lee Whittlesy, no body of water in the park and perhaps in all of the U.S. is more dangerous. The water averages 45 degrees Fahrenheit, which gives swimmers about 20 minutes before they must get ashore.

The weather in Yellowstone varies from sweat-drenched summers in the Thorofare district to year-round squalls and blizzards in the Beartooth Mountains.

Since the reintroduction of wolves in 1995, Yellowstone has had all of the species known to have lived there within recorded history, making it the largest intact ecosystem in the temperate world.

This is what Gary Ferguson has wanted since he was a boy growing up in Indiana, flat and tight as a fitted sheet. He climbed oaks, maples, sycamores—anything for a view. When he saw a Montana vacation kit, with maps and photos of snowcapped mountains, he was eager to make the 3,000-mile round trip on his metallic purple “Stingray” bicycle. Nine years later Ferguson arrived in a 1964 Pontiac.

An initially quiet summer recording bear tracks, making notes about Delta wolf activity, and tracking elk for park biologists turned into a 140-mile trek into the Thorofare, the most remote area in the Lower 48, a place of bears and bugs and wild winds, “where all but the best outfitted will freeze or sweat or be blown batty.”

In exchange for living in Hawk's Nest, a U.S. forest service cabin, Ferguson and his friend LaVoy Tolbert, education director of a wilderness therapy school for at-risk teens, mend fences, greet camp visitors, and watch for poachers and outfitters illegally salting sites to lure elk within shooting range, in effect setting up canned hunts without fences.

Ten thousand elk now roam Yellowstone and the northern Teton wilderness. The elk attract grizzlies, wolves, coyotes, and an occasional mountain lion, who are in turn followed by scavenging eagles, foxes, badgers, and beetles.

Elk poaching, however, has always afflicted Yellowstone. From 1875 to 1877, for example, 7,000 elk

were poached for their hides. This so enraged naturalists and legal hunters that the Lacey Act became the first significant conservation law in U.S. history.

But the elk were still in trouble. The arrival of settlers in Wyoming brought towns, ranches, and fences that separated elk herds from the pastures they depended upon. Five thousand hunters converged to massacre elk who were trapped by the first big snowstorm in November 1896, depressing the population for decades.

After the elk rebounded somewhat, thousands starved in severe winters at Jackson Hole. The town of Jackson eventually donated funding for hay, leading to the creation of the nearby National Elk Refuge, where elk continue to be fed each winter. But artificial feeding left the elk unnaturally concentrated and vulnerable to disease.

As far back as 1911, officials proposed cull hunts, which finally began about 20 years later. Estimating the winter carrying capacity at 5,000, park staff killed elk each fall, but the herd still grew, peaking at about 10,000—the present population—in 1961. Finally, shooting 5,000 elk during the winter of 1961-1962, the Yellowstone staff got the herd down to the presumed carrying capacity and kept it there until 1967. Used to killing elk who wandered out of the park, irate hunters now couldn't find any. Acting on the hunters' behalf, Senator Gale McGee of Wyoming used his influence to halt the winter culls.

Hunters and outfitters were happy for the next 30 years, but because they tended to shoot mostly bucks, skewing the population toward females, the elk herd doubled to 20,000 by the time wolves were reintroduced to restore balance.

Much of *Hawk's Rest* focuses on the efforts of Yellowstone back country ranger Bob Jackson to restrain elk poaching, from 1969 until his forced retirement this winter at age 55. Most of the poachers Jackson has nabbed over the years have been licensed hunters and outfitters whom he has caught using illegal tactics such as salting to lure elk.

A former hunter and trapper himself, now a bison rancher, Jackson ran afoul of Republican politics with a 1998 memo suggesting that grizzly bears were not recovering from endangered species status in part because the gut piles left by elk hunters were luring the bears into frequent deadly conflict with armed humans. Outfitters long annoyed by Jackson's enforcement of the anti-salting provisions of the Wilderness

Act united with foes of grizzly bear restoration to pressure the National Park Service to fire him. They at last succeeded in 2001. Jackson returned—for two seasons—with the help of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

*Hawk's Rest* was published while the outcome of the Jackson case was still unknown, and Ferguson does not actually encounter Jackson during the last third of the time the book covers. At that point Ferguson is somewhat skeptical of Jackson. The conduct of elk hunters and outfitters themselves, however, eventually persuades Ferguson that Jackson's views of them are well-founded.

“I'm constantly amazed at the degree to which outfitters are wrapped in a victim mentality,” Ferguson writes. “Emerging from this profession, at least in the Thorofare, is mean-spirited paranoia, a constant griping about wolves and city people and anti-hunting groups destroying a way of life. In short, it has become one of the most self-indulgent whine-fests ever to unfurl in the land of the Great Divide.”

For example, one outfitter tells Ferguson that “Without the gut piles hunters leave in the fall, grizzly bears would be in real trouble.”

Ferguson touches off an explosion by observing aloud that “With carcasses and gut piles being so important to grizzlies, we should take our hats off to the wolves, since their kills leave thousands of pounds of meat across the ecosystem—not just in hunting season, but throughout the year.”



—Suzanne Morrow  
[A longtime resident of the Yellowstone region, Suzanne Morrow is author of many books for children on scientific subjects. Morrow now lives in coastal Oregon.]

Yellowstone elk.  
—Kim Bartlett

# SEAL WARS: 25 YEARS ON THE FRONT LINES WITH THE HARP SEAL by Paul Watson

Firefly Books (U.S.) Inc. (P.O. Box 1338, Ellicot Station, Buffalo, NY 14205), 2003. 248 pages, paperback. \$16.95.

About the only good news for harp seals off eastern Canada this year is that Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson, Brigitte Bardot, and others of their old defenders are still on the job.

Watson's first crusades on behalf of animals, as he recounts in *Seal Wars*, was against sport fishing, during his New Brunswick boyhood. Soon afterward his mother enrolled him in The Kindness Club, founded by the late Aida Flemming, still active under Jane Tarn. Not long after that, Watson befriended a beaver family, then avenged them after they were trapped for fur, by becoming an avid trapper.

Watson became aware of sealing, and was appalled by it, in 1960—at almost the same time then-New Brunswick SPCA cruelty inspector Brian Davies became aware of it. But the Watson family moved to Toronto, and Paul Watson, after high school, went to sea. While Davies founded the New Brunswick SPCA Save The Seals Fund, which eventually went independent and grew into the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Watson helped to found Greenpeace, and won renown for derring-do against Russian whalers.

Watson finally found the opportunity to defend seals in 1975.

Bardot, meanwhile, became aware of the cruelty of the Atlantic Canadian harp seal hunt in 1955, from a film documentary by Harry Lillie. By the time Watson brought her to the ice in 1977, she had been wanting to stop the hunt for more than half her life. Derided as a foreign meddler by Canadian public officials and news media, she knew more about the hunt than most of them did.

When the Canadian government suspended the offshore part of the hunt for 10 years in 1984, Watson and Bardot were not fooled. They knew the land-based portion of the hunt continued, using the same methods, and recognized that suspending the more controversial offshore hunt would allow Canada to lull the world into complacency. Neither one ever shut up about the hunt. Watson in particular also warned that when the collapsed Atlantic Canada cod stock failed to recover from decades of overfishing, seals would be blamed, despite a dearth of evidence that harp seals even eat much cod.

Their dire prophecies were realized when the offshore hunt resumed in 1996, with quotas that have now soared to their highest levels in more than a century.

In January 2003 the Canadian

Fisheries Resource Conservation Council recommended that seals be extirpated entirely from the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Claiming that the seal population has quadrupled since 1970, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans in February 2003 authorized the massacre of 975,000 harp seals and grey seals through 2005.

The World Wildlife Fund, while opposing a seal “cull,” in March 2003 endorsed the idea of a “sustainable harvest” at the quota level.

On March 28-29, IFAW videographers again documented instances of seals being skinned alive—as has been documented on film and video since 1949, and was reported by observers in written accounts for almost as long as seal hunts have been conducted. IFAW now claims to have recorded more than 600 live skinings since 1998. Canadian authorities have prosecuted only 71 cases, winning 47 convictions.

Ottawa meanwhile eased the permit requirements for fishers who wish to kill “nuisance” seals, helped the tribally governed Nunavut region to double sales of seal pelts since 2001, and added the Newfoundland and Labrador cod populations to the Canadian endangered species list—which means nothing, in effect, because Canada has no law mandating that anything be done to conserve endangered species beyond listing them.

Brigitte Bardot denounced the World Wildlife Fund position and Paul Watson recommended a boycott of the 2010 Winter Olympics, to be held in Vancouver and

Whistler, British Columbia, but the U.S. war in Iraq completely upstaged media attention to the 2003 Atlantic Canadian seal hunt.

Finally, however, the Humane Society of the U.S. led a coalition of eight organizations in protesting against the seal hunt in a series of full-page *New York Times* ads. Co-signers were the Animal Protection Institute, the Bellerive Foundation, the Born Free Foundation, IFAW, the Fund for Animals, Respect for Animals, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals. The ads began appearing in mid-June, just as the 2003 hunt was ending—but better late than never.

*Seal Wars*, as Watson's longtime fellow campaigner Al “Jet” Johnson told **ANMAL PEOPLE**, is a well-told story, but probably won't help much in the short run to revive opposition to Canadian sealing because too few people will read it.

*Seal Wars* will, on the other hand, much better inform the people who take the time to read it, and includes a thorough backgrounding on the evolution of Atlantic Canadian sealing: 50 years before the outside world became aware of it, the hunt had already been scientifically recognized as ecologically destructive, and was already denounced for cruelty even by some sealers.

Some of Watson's versions of events will be challenged, and some already have been. The events of which **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has direct knowledge are narrated almost exactly as Watson originally described them while they were still underway. The sole exception is the omission of any mention of

Watson's then-wife Lisa DiStefano from the opening chapter, concerning the 1995 assault on Watson, actor Martin Sheen, and other Sea Shepherd volunteers by sealers who stormed the hotel where they were staying in the Magdalen Islands, off Quebec. That omission appears to result from a messy divorce.

In another passage Watson alleges that a verbal altercation on live radio with then-Greenpeace publicist Peter Dykstra “was a mistake...because he ended up working in the environment department at CNN, where he would use his influence...to prevent Sea Shepherd stories from being aired.”

Dykstra denied the whole account. Jet Johnson affirmed, however, that he was present with Watson during the incident.

Through archival searches **ANIMAL PEOPLE** found that CNN during the past five years broadcast only four items mentioning the Sea Shepherds, all in 1998. By comparison, Associated Press carried 23 items mentioning the Sea Shepherds since 1995. Reuters and UPI each carried 10. National Public Radio broadcast five, while the CBC and CBS each broadcast none.

Conclusion: no evidence suggests that Dykstra is slighting the Sea Shepherds.

The tangled relationships among sealers, anti-sealers, and mass media are critically important to the future of sealing—a point Watson himself makes over and over. Lately the government-funded publicists for sealing have managed to spin things mostly their own way. Now opponents of sealing must reverse the sealers' momentum. —M.C.



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MEMORIALS

In memory of the cat Haji Baba.  
—*Judith A. Youngman*

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

ANIMAL OBITUARIES

**Kin**, 36, the last wild crested ibis to hatch in Japan, on October 10 hurled herself headfirst into a door at the Sado Crested Ibis Preservation Center, 190 miles northwest of Tokyo, and died of a brain hemorrhage. Removed from the wild in 1968 for captive breeding, Kin never produced offspring, and had been the last wild-hatched crested ibis in Japan since her mate Midori died in 1995. Hunted to the verge of extinction, crested ibises won legal protection in 1934. In 1999 the Sado Center received a pair of crested ibises as a gift from former Chinese president Jiang Zemin. The Chinese crested ibises have now fledged 21 offspring, some of whom are to be reintroduced to the wild in 2007.

**Tammy**, 53, one of three elephants deemed surplus by the Milwaukee County Zoo and housed under allegedly abusive conditions by the Hawthorne Corporation until a 1994 transfer to the Performing Animal Welfare Society, died in September at the PAWS sanctuary in Galt, California.

**Casey A.**, 52, believed to be the oldest captive-born bull elephant in North America, died on September 23 at the Kansas City Zoo. Casey A. and Lady A., who died in 1971, were donated to the zoo in 1955 by the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team, whose emblem was a white elephant, when the team relocated to Kansas City. They were retired as occasional mascots after the late Charles O. Finley bought the team and changed the team emblem and mascot to a Missouri mule, named after himself. The mule moved to Oakland with the team after the 1967 season.

**Fanny/Tara**, 60, died on September 6 at the Fund for Animals' Black Beauty Ranch sanctuary near Tyler, Texas. Of uncertain origin, she performed with the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus during the 1950s, then was star attraction at the Slater Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. Sent to the Black Beauty Ranch, she was renamed Tara after a "Free Fanny!" campaign led by Defenders of Animals closed the zoo in 1993.

**Reveille VI**, 10, the American colie who served as Texas A&M University football mascot 1993-2001, and was an invited guest at the inaugural ball for President George W. Bush, was euthanized on October 18 due to multiple debilitating ailments. Dognapped in 1993 by persons still unknown, Reveille VI was found near Austin several days later.

**Royal Lord, Beautiful Norse, Storm Again, Bonzer, and Old Fashioned**, five of the most distinguished race horses in India, were among 10 who died from colic on October 24-25 at the Bangalore Turf Club after apparently eating a batch of Rhodes grass with excessively high nitrate content. At least 14 other horses fell ill. The episode caused numerous trainers to withdraw their entries from the October 26 Mysore Derby.

**Doetab**, 50, a wild but friendly bull elephant long popular with visitors to the Huab lodge near Grootberg, Namibia, was reportedly shot in October by a trophy hunter.

OBITUARIES

**Margaret "Mardy" Murie**, 101, died on October 19 at her ranch in Moose, Wyoming. Born in Seattle, raised in Fairbanks, she was the first woman to earn a degree from the University of Alaska, where she met her late husband, biologist Olaus Murie. Considered instrumental in securing the creation of Grand Teton National Park in 1929, in 1959 they persuaded U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to designate the 8-million-acre forerunner to the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which was renamed and expanded in 1980. They were also credited with the leading role in winning the 1964 passage of the Wilderness Act.

**Ben Metcalfe**, 83, died of a heart attack on October 14 at home in British Columbia. Born in Winnipeg, Metcalfe at age 16 joined the Royal Air Force. Sent to India to help defend British rule, Metcalfe and his pilot were influenced by Mohandas Gandhi to drop their bombs on bare fields instead of on village targets. He fought in earnest, however, against the Nazis in North Africa. Chiefly a journalist after the war, Metcalfe in 1969 led the Don't Make A Wave Committee in protest against proposed nuclear testing in the Aleutians, which threatened several bird sanctuaries, and briefly chaired the group after it reorganized in 1970 as Greenpeace.

Along with almost every article from back editions, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** web site offers translations of key items into French and Spanish... the Lewyt Award-winning heroic and compassionate animal stories... veterinary info links... handbooks for downloading... fundraising how-to... our guide to estate planning... short biographies and photos of the people behind **ANIMAL PEOPLE** ... and more items added monthly!

**www.animalpeoplenews.org**

**Virginia Gillas**, 82, died on October 5 in Hermitage, Missouri, after an 8-year battle with lung cancer. Born in Orange, New Jersey, raised in Kansas City, Gillas was daughter of Catherine Basett Cornwell, R.N., longtime president of the Dade County Branch of the Florida League for Humane Progress. Gillas herself began helping animals at about age 12, she told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 1995, recalling that she first saw animal hoarding about five years later, when she met a girl her own age who had accumulated an impossible number of cats. Gillas showed sufficient talent at ballet that in 1940 her mother relocated to San Francisco to enable her to perform professionally. Gillas danced primarily in the Spanish classical style until the early 1950s, appearing in London and Paris as well as throughout the U.S., also developing skill as a watercolorist. A stenographer after her dancing career, Gillas may have been among the first employees of the Humane Society of the U.S., formed in 1954, then worked for the National Audubon Society in New York City, where in 1959 she founded International Defenders of Animals. Relocating to Hialeah, Florida, in 1961, after a brief marriage and divorce, Gillas merged her group into the Florida League for Humane Progress and rented a dog breeding kennel and grooming facility that she converted into an animal shelter. A vegetarian representative at the first HSUS national conference in 1963, Gillas a year later separated International Defenders of Animals from the Florida League for Humane Progress and by 1970 had expanded International Defenders to include 11 volunteer-staffed branch offices. Her essays against bullfighting, vivisection, pet overpopulation, and coonhunting appeared in the *National Humanitarian* and *Voice of the Voiceless* magazines, the leading humane news media of the era. International Defenders declined, however, when after the 1983 death of Gillas' mother she accepted a position at a dog shelter operat-

ed by Maryland Antivivisection Society president William A. Snyder, who died in 1990. "I lived for four months, from February 1984 to May 1984 when I made my escape, in utter fear and misery," Gillas wrote to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in almost identical words in 1996, 1998, and 2002. "There was no plumbing, no water," and the other resident staff "hated my whole being. Twice faulty wiring caused bad fires in the quarters where my animals were and close to my room." Penniless, Gillas fled to Morgan Hill, California, directing International Defenders from a San Martin post office box as a one-person project until 1991 while housecleaning for a living. After conflicts with other local animal rescuers, and with the Humane Society of the Santa Clara Valley over their policy of killing fighting cocks seized in police raids, Gillas bought a small house in Hermitage, Missouri, and in 1995 formed the Humane Society of Hickory County with Tom and Pat Nielson. Gillas left the group in 1996, believing that the Nielsons were incapable of running it properly and feeling too weak from the onset of her terminal cancer to adequately assist. Evicted from the rented humane society premises in April 1997, the Nielsons allegedly left four dogs behind. Gillas continued to do what she could for animals until her death, chiefly as a prolific letter-writer, mostly to Hermitage residents who kept their dogs chained outdoors. Her last message to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, days before she died, lamented that five years of writing and the offer of \$500 had not been enough to persuade one neighbor to build a fence instead of chaining a dog named Frankie. "As a teenager, Virginia dreamed of becoming rich and having many material possessions," wrote longtime acquaintance Anne Muller of Wildlife Watch, "but she quickly grew out of that as she put animals first. She never looked back nor regretted the many times when she had to pawn valuables to buy food for all the unwanted, abandoned animals in distress."



Virginia Gillas and friends

**Vasilina Alpaun**, 25, the last resident of Ushakovskoye village on Vrangal Island off the northern Chukotka peninsula of Siberia, was on October 15 killed on her doorstep by a polar bear. Ushakovskoye was evacuated in 1997, when Vrangal was made a polar bear reserve, but Alpaun decided she preferred the company of polar bears to that of people and returned to her former home. Reserve workers heard her scream when the bear attacked, but arrived too late to save her.

**O. Jeune Gibson**, 69, of Spanaway, Washington, died during heart surgery on October 26 in nearby Tacoma. Among the first subscribers to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, Gibson started a private cat shelter after retiring from teaching and counseling at Pierce Community College in 1996, and in 1998 founded the local cat rescue group Purrrsons United for the Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Relocation of Animals (PURRR).

**Bryan Richards**, 39, of Peabody, Massachusetts, reportedly drowned on October 18 after saving his 8-month-old Labrador retriever from a whirlpool beneath the Franconia Falls near Lincoln, New Hampshire. His wife saw him go under, but a

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# Special Needs Dog Is Something Special

## Paloma Saves A Life and Wins North Shore Animal League America's Lewyt Award

No one really knows why certain pets come into our lives. Is it an outcome that is predestined? Is it a special bond that comes about when a companion animal spots a potential guardian? As far as Dona and Bill Buck are concerned, Paloma came into their lives for a most explicit reason. Read Best Friend's Barbara Williamson's story submitted as the nomination for this month's Lewyt Award:

When Dona and Bill Buck adopted Paloma in June of 2002, they knew they were getting a great dog. What they didn't know was that they were getting a real live superhero, too. Paloma came to Best Friends in December 2001 because her person had medical

problems, which made it impossible to keep this loveable golden lab mix. Paloma had environmental and food allergies, which made her a special needs adoption.

Dona said, "I fell in love with Paloma. Her sweet face and biography about loving cats sold me. Her special needs don't worry me."

Paloma immediately befriended Dona and Bill's mischievous cat. In fact, the two became inseparable.

One day in February 2003, Paloma started barking incessantly in the laundry room. She just would not stop. The Bucks raced in to see what the matter was. Why was their sweet dog barking vehemently at the clothes dryer? She'd seen it running before. Why wouldn't she stop? It turned out that her cat friend, Gabby, was stuck in there and taking a spin. Gabby is a tailless calico who was also a rescue.

"In all the years we have had house cats," says Dona, "nothing



Dona and Paloma

like that has ever happened. I hate to think of the outcome had Paloma not let us know!"

It's no cats in the laundry room now, and that inquisitive kitty is certainly lucky to have Paloma as a best friend. "This is just one of the many wonderful reasons she came into our lives," says Dona.

North Shore Animal League America's Lewyt Award for November 2003 has been presented to Paloma to honor her exceptional heroism as he saved the life of her feline friend Gabby. As a symbol of the award, the League is sending Dona and Bill Buck a certificate describing Paloma's heroism. The Bucks will



Paloma and her friend Gabby

In a world plagued with human injustice and violence, North Shore Animal League America takes great pride in rewarding heroic and compassionate pets and the shelters that keep them safe. There are many dogs and cats that are loving, caring, and compassionate. If you

have a pet that has shown unbelievable courage or amazing tenderness to another animal or person, nominate your furry friend for a future Lewyt Award. Let the world know the exceptional dedication and affection pets have for those they love as well as for those who

### Nomination Form

Please complete this form, attach written description, photo and documentation and send to: Merritt Clifton @ *Animal People* • P.O.

The following pet has demonstrated extraordinary heroism or compassion. I would like to nominate him/her for North Shore Animal League America's Lewyt Award. Attached is a description of the pet's remarkable deed as well as a publishable photograph and documentation.

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—*M.C.*



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—*Merritt Clifton*

The Captive Wild Animal Protection Act would build on the Lacey Act framework.



four-day search failed to find his remains.

The importance of sterilizing pet cats and not letting them roam outdoors unsupervised will almost certainly remain central to the humane education curriculum. —*Merritt Clifton*