

BLM mustangs at Pyramid Lake, Nevada. (Kim Bartlett)

# <u>Pickens bids to save wild</u>

Management seemed poised to kill 2,000 healthy mustangs, due to lack of adoptive homes, Madeleine Pickens "arrived on a white horse," as Washington Post staff writer Lyndsey Layton put it.

Pickens on November 17, 2008 turned a public hearing in Reno from a perfunctory condemnation ritual to a celebration.

"Pickens, wife of billionaire T.

RENO—Just as the Bureau of Land Boone Pickens, made known her intentions to adopt not just the doomed wild horses but most or all of the 30,000 horses and burros kept in federal holding pens," reported Layton. "Lifelong animal lovers, the Pickenses just a few years ago led the fight to close the last horse slaughterhouse in the United States."

Posted Pickens afterward to her personal web site, "Wild horses on federal land (continued on page 8)

# "Doggie in the window" singer hopes to sing the

WASHINGTON D.C.-

"At the time," in 1952, "Doggie in the Window' seemed like a sweet and harmless message," recalls singer Patti Page. Selling more than a million copies in five months, the song became Page's fourth recording to top the charts in five years—and became the unofficial anthem of the pet industry.

Opening with the question "How much is that doggie in the window? I do hope that doggie is for sale," the song helped to popularize the concept of purchasing commercially bred puppies from pet stores, at a time when the overwhelming majority of pet dogs in the U.S. were mongrels and about 30% of the U.S. dog population were street dogs, as in much of the developing world today.

Page recorded "Doggie in the



(Kim Bartlett)

Window" for a children's album, early in the "Baby Boom" that doubled the U.S. human population and brought a trebling of the pet population within a generation of the end of World War II. By the time the "Baby Boom" children began raising families and acquiring pets of their own, the U.S. street dog population had been eradicated by the combination of improved sanitation, more vehicular traffic, and more aggressive animal control. Nearly half the dogs in the U.S. were now purebreds, and U.S. animal shelters were killing seven times as many dogs as in 1952.

Page, now 81, had no intention of helping to build the puppy mill industry, a happenstance that she has now regretted in public statements and endorsements of animal shelters for more than half of her life. In 1952 Page had never heard of puppy mills. The term "puppy mill" appears to have first been used in a mainstream U.S. newspaper in December 1953. The older term "doggy mill" had in half a century never crossed from humane society newsletters into common mainstream use.

In support of the Humane Society of the U.S. anti-puppy mill campaign, Page recently recorded a new version of "Doggie in the Window" called "Do you (continued on page 16)



# **Pending White House dog adoption** upstages Obama cabinet picks

WASHINGTON D.C.--Google searches on December 7, 2008 turned up 703,000 web pages discussing U.S. Presidentelect Barack Obama's campaign pledge to adopt a dog for his daughters, compared with



The New Yorker magazine depicted Presidentelect Obama interviewing dogs as if they were candidates for cabinet positions.

533,000 discussing his cabinet picks.

Obama himself addressed selecting the future White House dog first, in his initial post-election press conference.

"With respect to the dog," Obama said, "this is a major issue. I think it has generated more interest on our Web site than just about anything. We have two criteria to be reconciled. One is that Malia," the elder Obama daughter, age 10, "is allergic, so it has to be hypoallergenic. There are a number of breeds that are hypoallergenic. On the other hand, our preference would be to get a shelter dog, but obviously a lot of shelter dogs are mutts like me. So whether we're going to be able to balance those two things I think is a pressing issue on the Obama household."

"I have never seen this many blog notes about shelter dogs, certainly not in political blogs," Petfinder.com cofounder Betsy Saul told MSNBC commentator Helen A.S. Popkin. Petfinder, as Popkin pointed out, hosts adoption web pages for 12,187 animal rescue groups, displaying more than 300,000 adoptable pets at any given time.

"If we have dogs good enough for the president, then our dogs are good enough for you," American SPCA vice president Steve Zawistowski told Popkin, while trying (continued on page 6)

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Scene at Pigs Peace sanctuary in Washington state. (Kristen Stilt)

# **California Proposition Two** passage rattles agribiz cages

LENEXA, Kansas--California Proposition Two, overwhelmingly approved by voters on November 4, requires only that "calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens, and pregnant pigs be confined only in ways that allow these animals to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely," by 2015.

"The new law is simple and hardly earth-shaking," observed Grist columnist Tom Philpott in a post-election wrap-up. "Yet industrial-farming interests are squawking like hens about to lay a huge egg. That the industry finds such a commonsense requirement intolerable reveals just how dependent it is on imposing cramped conditions. The backlash against Proposition Two also betrays a very encouraging fear that California's code will go nationwide.'

Chuck Jolley of the Cattle Network acknowledged as much on November 19, 2008. Animal agriculture trade organizations, said Jolley, "should conduct unannounced member audits and be ready to immediately dismiss any company caught violating the

strict standards. And publicize the expulsion."

"Let me quote a most disturbing story from Meatingplace.com," Jolley elaborated. "People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released a video showing workers at an Aviagen turkey-breeding operation abusing live birds. PETA sent an individual to work undercover at several Aviagen operations in West Virginia between September and November of this year, according to the video that was posted on the organization's web site. The video depicts Aviagen employees breaking turkeys' necks and stomping on their heads while they are still alive. PETA also alleges that a supervisor saw workers kill 450 turkeys with two-by-fours."

Jolley denounced similar abuse videotaped by PETA at MowMar Farms in Bayard, Minnesota, exposed in mid-September 2008.

Greene County, Minnesota sheriff Tom Heater on October 22, 2008 served arrest warrants against six of 18 MowMar employees whom PETA accused of "hitting (continued on page 10)





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## Editorial feature

# How hard times affect animal rescue

The October 2008 ANIMAL PEOPLE editorial, "The humane community can handle hard times," focused on the institutional side of coping with the global economic crisis. How animals themselves are affected also warrants discussion.

'Foreclosure pets" and "abandoned horses" have been the topics of at least one major daily newspaper feature apiece per week, by actual count, since late 2007.

There is not much of a "foreclosure pets" crisis in affluent suburbs where the few foreclosures tend to be on townhouses in developments that did not allow pets to begin with. Across town though, handling animals surrendered by distraught people who have abruptly become homeless is an increasingly urgent issue. Typically, a young family of insecure income reached for the house-yard-dog dream by taking out a sub-prime mortgage. Then someone lost a job, often just because the economy skidded.

Many and perhaps most shelter surrenders of "foreclosure pets" could be prevented through "bridge fostering." Bridge fostering volunteers temporarily house animals for people who need time to recover from a crisis.

This is hardly a new idea. Mary Tealby founded the Temporary Home for Lost & Starving Dogs near the Holloway Debtors Prison in London in 1860 to care for the animals of the inmates. Relocated six years after her death, Tealby's Temporary Home became the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, one of the wealthiest and largest animal charities in the world—but the idea that started it remains neglected.

In the U.S., the notion has prevailed that people who for any reason surrender their animals are inherently "irresponsible," and should not get the animals back, even if the alternative is that the animals are killed due to lack of adoptive homes. Bridge fostering only appears to have gained acceptance in U.S. within the past 20 years, to care for the pets of victims of domestic violence and military personnel who are deployed abroad, and has rarely been extended further. Yet bridge fostering is an appropriate approach to assisting families who after losing a home are temporarily obliged to share housing with relatives, rent smaller accommodations in buildings that do not allow pets, and/or must relocate long distances on short notice.

Some people who have lost homes to foreclosure have been "irresponsible," but most have just had bad luck. Helping them to keep their animals is often what will be best for them and the animals—and fostering animals is a way to involve more volunteers in humane work. Many donors who cannot give as much money now as in the past can afford to feed another pet or two. Senior citizens who are reluctant to acquire a pet who may outlive them often find fostering more appropriate to their situation.

Donor studies show time and again that people who volunteer for a charity or have been helped by a charity are most likely to become significant donors later, or to leave a bequest, even if they have never donated money in life. This helps to make bridge fostering a win/win approach for everyone, the animals most of all.

The purported "abandoned horses" crisis is unequivocally bogus. Yes, some people are abandoning horses, as always. Yes, proponents of reinstituting legal horse slaughter for human consumption in the U.S. are banging the drums long and loud about every horse abandonment case as an alleged result of the 2007 closure of the last three U.S. horse slaughterhouses. Yes, some horse rescuers are taking advantage of the publicity to appeal for funds in the name of addressing this alleged crisis. And yes, horse sanctuaries, like every other type of shelter and sanctuary, are perennially full, trying to cope with greater need than anyone has the means to fully address.

But no, real numbers do not support any claim that horse abandonment has increased. ANIMAL PEOPLE has tracked horse impoundments due to neglect and abuse for decades. The trend has been steadily downward. In 2005, for example, when the horse slaughterhouses were open all year, 1,890 horses were impounded in U.S. neglect cases. The 2008 total, at Thanksgiving, was 1,343, including 100 removed from "rescuers" who took in more horses than they could feed. The latter is actually a low figure, as in past years some individual "rescuers" have neglected that many and more.

Hard data showing the full effect of the present global cash flow crunch on shelters will not become available until 2010, after all current fiscal years end and the numbers are

#### SEARCHABLE ARCHIVES: www.animalpeoplenews.org

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News for People Who Care About Animals

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The editor prefers to receive queries in advance of article submissions; unsolicited manuscripts will be considered for use, but will not be returned unless accompanied by released, but the aftermath of 2001 shows what might happen.

When collapsing high-tech stock prices preceded the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, one visible outcome was that foundations gave less to dog and cat sterilization. Humane societies restricted eligibility for participation in discount sterilization programs, or suspended them altogether. Within two fiscal years, U.S. shelter killing of dogs and cats rose from 4.2 million to 4.9 million, erasing five years' worth of progress.

Since then, the U.S. humane community has ramped up sterilization outreach, and has pushed the dog and cat toll in shelters back down to 4.2 million—but holding that level, and making further improvement, requires keeping low-cost and free sterilization programs

## More surrenders & neglect cases

Of the approximately eight million dogs and cats coming to U.S. shelters in 2008, as many as half will have been surrendered by their caretakers, either as surplus births, for behavioral reasons, or for economic reasons. Inability to find appropriate rental housing may fall into at least the latter two and sometimes all three of these categories.

More than two million animals brought to U.S. shelters in 2008 will have been feral cats, most of whom could have been accommodated by more effective neuter/return programs, managed to minimize conflict with neighbors and other users of multi-purpose public space. More than one million will have been dogs found running at large.

Publicity and public sympathy raised by cruelty and neglect cases tends to be the major fundraising magnet for humane work, but fewer than 20,000 dogs and cats per year arrive at U.S. shelters as result of criminal cruelty and neglect. Going into the 2008 holiday season, just over 300 dogs and 150 cats have been rescued this year as victims of reported criminal violence, exclusive of dogfighting. Among the 300-plus abused dogs, nearly 20% were pit bull terriers, who make up about 5% of the U.S. dog population.

As of Thanksgiving 2008, 854 alleged fighting pit bull terriers had been impounded during the year, very close to the totals for seven of the past 10 years, which have ranged from 791 to 916. Contrary to common belief, dogfighting arrests and fighting dog impoundments have not increased since the Michael Vick dogfighting case broke in April 2007. However, strengthened state and federal anti-dogfighting legislation inspired by the Vick case may be helping to bring more convictions with meaningful penalties.

The numbers of dogs and cats impounded in neglect cases rose faster in the first 11 months of 2008 than in any year since 1982.

At Thanksgiving 2008, 3,911 dogs, including at least 758 pit bulls (19%), had been impounded from hoarders, along with 3,787 cats—but this was about the same as in other recent years.

3,323 dogs and cats were impounded from failed animal rescue charities in the first 11 months of 2007, and 3,410 in the first 11 months of 2008.

But seizures of dogs from breeders exploded from 2,798 in the first 11 months of 2007 to 7,834 in the first 11 months of 2008—with cases involving more than 4,000 dogs seized in past years still before the courts, and many of those dogs still in mandatory shelter custody pending the conclusion of their cases, unavailable for adoption.

Stronger legislation in several states and increased public concern drummed up by humane societies were probably involved in the 2008 surge in seizures, yet it is difficult to argue that stronger legislation and increased concern had an effect against puppy mills without having a comparable effect against dogfighting.

# Puppy mills & backyard breeders

Taking a closer look at prosecutions of breeders suggests that the deteriorating U.S. economy has hit the most marginal operators hardest. Many of the breeders running into trouble have been breeding for years, but few if any have consistently reinvested profits in improved dog housing, food, and care. Neglecting the health and socialization of their dogs has cut into their ability to compete with other breeders, and with the expanding adoption outreach of the humane community.

Backyard breeders tend to be part-timers, who try to pose as breed fanciers, in order to claim the highest possible price for a dog, yet survive by underselling pet stores who get puppies from high-volume commercial breeders. Backyard breeders gain a competitive edge by not investing a fraction as much in facilities and advertising, and often by avoiding paying sales tax. High-volume commercial breeders cut costs by raising dogs much as factory farms raise pigs and chickens, hiring minimum wage workers to provide minimal care. Backyard breeders typically have no paid help. Either modus operandi easily slips into neglect.

The major market for yard-bred dogs may now be much the same as it was for subprime mortgages, among people just struggling into the middle income brackets. We are unaware of any recent studies that have investigated who buys yard-bred dogs, but there is market research suggesting that recent increases in adoption market share have come mostly among middle and upper income families, and that the higher adoption fees charged in recent years tend to discourage lower income people from seeking a shelter pet.

There is also considerable belief among the humane community that the major source of pit bull proliferation is speculative backyard breeding among lower income people who sell dogs chiefly by word of mouth.

Pit bulls already made up close to 25% of the U.S. shelter dog population and close to half of the dogs killed in shelters before the economy went bad, according to three ANI-MAL PEOPLE surveys of shelters nationwide done during the past five years. Now shelters that formerly made every effort to save pit bulls are concluding that they no longer can. Even if there were no behavioral issues and no insurance issues involved in adopting out pit bulls, rehoming so many dogs of any one breed would be difficult.

Already hugely over-represented in neglect and abuse cases, and the only breed used much in dogfighting, more than a million pit bulls are likely to be killed in U.S. shelters in 2008. up from about 900,000 in 2007.

Pit bull sterilization programs may be subsidized and promoted more vigorously, or may be mandated by legislation, or both, but one way or another there must be far fewer pit bulls born to have any realistic hope of reducing the toll.

Though real estate and investment values have crashed, animal charity donors still want to help. A cash flow squeeze does not change what people want to do, only what they are able to do. A donor whose ability to help favored causes in hard times is restricted will often give more later, in times of plenty.

This may be of small use and comfort for animal charity directors here and now, trying to balance decreased revenue with increased need, but taking the long view can help in deciding how to prioritize, in order to survive until donations pick up.

If historical patterns prevail, humane societies are likely to continue to receive about 1% of total charitable contributions in 2009, both in the U.S. and globally. The sum given to charity will be less this winter, and thin times may continue through the spring, perhaps even into the summer, but as the economy turns around, donations may be stronger than ever next

This is not a time to gamble against hope. Yet it is a time to invest hope in a happier future, when people will be back at work and in secure homes, where animals are safe and well-fed, and there is something left after paying the bills to send to animal charities.



## "garbage dogs" in Turkey Collaborating to save

online animal news periodical, I think ANIMAL PEOPLE should inform its tens of thousands of international readers about how collaboration can bring about major changes around the globe without people even leaving

I recently received an e-mail about a Turkish dog with paralyzed legs who according to a Facebook posting was allegedly crushed in a garbage truck. Although I am Armenian, I was born and spent the first 10 years of my life in Turkey. I contacted a Turkish group to whom our organization has sent medicine, supplies and money. They had already been in touch with the mayor of the Turkish city of Van, where the incident occurred. The garbage men did not crush the dog in the garbage truck. They merely used the truck to transport the dog to the town's garbage dump, where they left him, thinking he could at least find food there.

Then a Facebook video posting came to light which showed the men picking up the dog, putting him on the back of the garbage truck, and pulling away without operating the crusher. This video was not available at the time the story first was posted. Unfortunately there have been previous cases in which Turkish garbage trucks have crushed dogs, reported by the Turkish paper Hurriyet, which is very animal friendly.

The mayor of Van, Burhan Yenigun, ordered the Van sanitation department to go find the dog. They did, and they found another injured dog as well. The local governor, Ozdemir Cakacak, began an investigation into this case.

The dogs were taken to veterinarian Eda Yavuz. The first dog was named Karam

As "the" international print and at first, but later was renamed Jonah. Unfortunately, he died on December 1, 2008 from consequences of the spinal cord injury that had caused his paralysis.

> I was meanwhile contacted by another Turkish group who is even more involved with these dogs. This group asked to remain anonymous, but told me that this incident received major media coverage all over Turkey. Dozens of Turkish people offered to adopt Jonah. Soon Turkish animal organizations started fighting each other over the future of Jonah. The people of Van demanded that Jonah remain in Van because they too care

> Some Turkish animal advocacy groups reported that they recruited many new members, never previously involved with animal causes, because of the concern of Turkish people about Jonah.

> The second dog has had multiple surgeries. The vet at the university hospital in Van is reportedly willing to adopt the second dog. Some of the equipment needed for the second dog's surgery were not available in Van, but the Turkish and international outrage caused the municipality of Van to transport the necessary equipment from Ankara the very next day. This equipment had long been sought by the hospital, but had previously been refused. The hospital will now have the capabilities to treat other dogs in the future.

> The following would be very helpful to sustain a positive spiral from the suffering of these two dogs.

> 1) Call Turkish embassies and consulates all over the world, whose contact information is available at <www.allaboutturkey.com/turkconslate.htm>, and send a thank-you to Van mayor Yenigun. Even a few

people care how his community treats dogs, and that this influences the worldwide reputation of Turks.

2) Form a partnership with Turkish rescue groups so they can call upon the international community, if in the future Turkish communities violate federal laws against killing stray Turkish dogs. This has happened many times when local governments thought no one was watching. There are many good Turkish rescue groups who feel isolated in a nation where not all speech is free. We can assist our Turkish colleagues and their animals in a way that they cannot do for themselves.

It is said that as Turkey goes, so goes the Islamic world. Therefore, Turkey is a key venue to effect changes in the treatment of animals throughout the Islamic world.

Turkey has a very strong animal protection movement. It is already a leader in the Muslim world as regards animal welfare, and is among the few nations which have nationally banned killing homeless dogs.

Turkish history has been marred by the pogroms against Armenians in 1895 and 1915, and by two incidents of dumping thousands of dogs on offshore islands to starve.

The first dog-dumping occurred at some point prior to 1869, when Mark Twain described it in The Innocents Abroad, along with "the howl of horror" from the human population of Istabul that stopped the practice. The second occurred in 1910, when thousands of dogs were dumped on Oxia Island, who all starved and killed each other. It is said that people on the neighboring island of Kinali, where I grew up, could hear the dogs tearing each other apart.

This act so disturbed the modern

international calls will impress upon him that Turkish republic that newspaper columnists have attributed difficult economic times in Turkey to the curse of Turks having done it.

> I believe that lingering memories of the Oxia abandonment are among the main reasons why Turkey banned killing homeless dogs. The Oxia action may also be seen as a prelude to the Armenian genocide, or forced exile of Armenians, as mainstream Turkish historians prefer to characterize it (when they mention it at all).

> As soon as my organization became able to help Turkish animal groups, in the early 1990s, we began, many years before starting to help animal groups in Armenia.

> Unfortunately, Turkish federal authorities often permit local authorities to blatantly violate federal laws, including the 2004 law which mandates the use of neuter/return to control homeless dog populations.

> Many Turkish municipalities are now contracting with "pest" extermination companies to kill dogs. Instead of following the U.S. model of partnerships between government agencies and privately funded humane societies, these Turkish cities have totally shut out the animal groups, and have squandered the head start they received in the years just preceding passage of the 2004 law, when British philanthropist Robert Smith poured over a million dollars into creating no-kill shelters and a free spay neuter program under municipal contracts.



—Garo Alexanian Companion Animal Network P.O. Box 656712 Fresh Meadows, NY 11365 Phone: 718-544-PETS

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

# ETTERS

#### Scams

Concerning "Scams target adoptors & humane societies," in the October 2008 edition of ANIMAL PEOPLE, the Soi Dog Foundation was recently scammed out of over \$1,400 through one of the schemes you mentioned, "in which a scammer pretends to be a veterinarian who is going back to university, relocating, or retiring, and offers to donate veterinary equipment to a humane society that will cover the transportation."

We were introduced to the scammer by a bona fide British charity, Wetnose Animal Aid, who have donated to the Soi Dog Foundation in the past, and were elaborately duped themselves. Wetnose told me that they had been offered a truck from a donor in Thailand who ran a clinic there, but was returning to Britain. The inference, I understood, was that the donor was personally known to Wetnose.

If I would arrange the shipping, Wetnose would give the vehicle to us. There was also an ultrasound machine available.

When I told Wetnose that of course we would be happy to have the vehicle, then they wrote back to say that the van had now been given away, but the ultrasound machine might still

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report and other links I have followed

be available, and the donor would contact me directly. The donor claimed to have the ultrasound and a portable autoclave in the Philippines, providing all specifications for the equipment, which could be sent to us if we covered the shipping costs. We later found exposés of this scheme online at <www.jamesmaurer.com/veterinary-tools.asp> and <www.projecthoneypot.org/ip\_58.64.60.38>.

Clearly from the honeypot

up on, this scammer is targeting animal charities in different ways, and under different names

-John Dalley Soi Dog Foundation, c/o 57/61 Laguna Golf Villas Moo 4, Srisoonthorn Road, Choengthale, Phuket 83110, Thailand <dalleyj@loxinfo.co.th> <www.soidogfoundation.org>

#### Editor's note:

John Dalley has investiga tive background, and probably would not have been clipped if the scam offer had not been forwarded by a legiti mate animal charity that he trusted. Wetnose Animal Aid director Andrea Gamby-Boulger furnished a copy of the original e-mail that fooled her, from a "Lucy Leigh," just one of many names of alleged veterinarians that have been used with this scheme. "I looked at her web site and read up about her and asked her why was she

giving up her van," wrote Gamby-Boulger. "No way in a million years did I think this was a scam! I do get scams that come in and normally you can check them out and deal with them. This is obviously a very clever one. We first offered the van to a couple in the U.K. who rescue dogs in Greece. They only turned it down because the engine was too big and would be to expensive to fuel, but they didn't suspect a scam either. I still can't believe it!"

# Thanks for Sarah Palin coverage

I just want to extend my thanks and sincere appreciation for telling people of the cruel behavior of Alaska governor Sarah Palin toward our wildlife. Other than your paper, and an e-mail I received from Defenders of Wildlife, animal groups were silent about her barbaric treatment of animals. Despite my contacting my local papers —the New York Daily News, New York Post, and New York Times-and New

#### Editor's note:

ANIMAL PEOPLE quot ed denunciations of Sarah Palin's cruelty toward wolves and other animals from Alaska Conservation Solutions, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Friends of Animals, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Humane Society of the U.S.--but searches of News-Library.com and other online news archives indicate that while most U.S. newspapers mentioned Palin's hunting,

York Senators Charles Schumer and Hilary Clinton—not one word appeared. Bill Maher was the only one who made mention of her slaughter of wolves. I knew animal issues and the environment were not a top priority, but I had no idea of the complete disregard with which they were held by those who should have spoken. -Marietta Scaltrito



Staten Island, N.Y.

fur-wearing, and promotion of wolfculling, fewer than two dozen published any description of this activity as "cruel." No major New York newspa per did. Blogs by New York Times reporters, otherwise unflattering to Palin, were followed by reader postings alleging that Palin is cruel to ani mals on October 11 and November 17, 2008— the latter two weeks after Palin lost her bid to be U.S. vice president.

Animal Save Movement Pakistan celebrated International Anti-Fur Day, known in the west as Fur Free Friday, on November 28, 2008 with a fruitful gathering attracting participation from many school children, social workers, teachers, lawyers and political workers.

All participants took an oath to protect the welfare of animals and birds and to continue peaceful compaingns against cruelty to animals and birds. Animal Save Movement Pakistan

members took an oath also that we will not use leather and fur.

Animal Save Movement Pakistan continue to strive for a day when no animal and bird will live in fear or pain.

—Khalid Mahmood Qurashi



<thetension@hotmail.com>

#### ANIMAL PEOPLE Holiday Nut Roast

#### Mix together:

2 pounds of firm tofu, mashed well 2 cups of coarsely chopped walnuts

(Other nuts may be substituted, such as sunflower seeds or pecans.)

#### Thoroughly blend in:

1/4 cup of soy sauce 2 teaspoons thyme leaves 1 teaspoon basil leaves 2 tablespoons of dried parsley or 1/2 cup of chopped fresh parsley 1 finely chopped onion 1 teaspoon minced garlic (Seasonings may be altered to suit preferences.

For example, a teaspoon of sage may be added, or you may add more garlic)

#### Finally, add:

1 cup of dried breadcrumbs



1/2 cup of whole wheat flour

Mix all ingredients

well. Turn into oiled pan(s) and form into a 1-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 Fahrenheit. Take the foil off the pan and cook about 10 minutes longer, until the top of the loaf is browned. The loaf tastes best when crispy.

Serve with cranberry sauce, applesauce, or apple butter. 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).

# Vegan cornbread

Mix dry ingredients:

1 cup white flour 3 Tablespoons sugar 3 teaspoons baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt 1 cup corn meal

#### Mix wet ingredients:

1 cup of soy milk 1/4 cup vegetable oil

Stir the two mixtures together until fully moistened. Turn batter into oiled square or round cake pan. Bake 20-25

# Response to "Is non-surgical sterilization the best use of \$75 million?"

#### If we were able to save \$25 per procedure...

Thanks for your three articles on the Found Animals Foundation's Michelson Prize and grants announcement. You did a terrific job on your coverage, and as usual shared an interesting range of perspectives on worldwide possibilities and backstory about the topic. Thanks for pulling so many sources of information together into this article and giving it the focus you did.

One of your headlines asked, *Is non-surgical sterilization the best use of \$75 million*? I appreciate you taking this head on, as I think many may wonder about it. When we studied that question, we concluded that if we were able to save even \$25 per sterilization procedure provided by non-profits or at low cost, we would save approximately \$53 million a year in the U.S. alone, or become able to provide a far greater reach of services. Clearly the potential impact of this investment worldwide could be enormous.

We want to alert animal welfare groups around the globe that there is something they can do right now to advance this work: they can sign on as organizational partners. This will help us demonstrate the market for products that safely and effectively provide sterilization or long-term contraception for dogs and cats. This is critical for pharmaceutical companies and scientists to whom a onetime prize isn't enough, or not available for their product that works long term but not permanently. The Blue Cross of India has come aboard as an organizational partner, as have more than 50 others. We are trying to grow our number of partners to 100 by the end of the year. All that is required is a letter of support, logo, and contact person to share news through. Details are on our web site.

Thanks again for your global reach with this story. Hopefully the word will spread to those who can make a difference. We've already had several scientists reach out wanting more information and background. We'll include your stories on our website to help provide that.

—Joyce Briggs
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## A few details

Overall, the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** coverage of the Found Animals Foundation's Michelson Prize and grants announcement in your October 2008 edition was well done, but I would like to correct a few details.

First, the real message behind the Michelson Prize is that we need to attract fresh thinking and new approaches to the field of cat and dog contraception, since for more than 30 years researchers have fully examined and tested the 'old' approaches, with very limited success. The lack of funding for reproduction control contributes to the dearth of fresh ideas and new research.

Second, the article stated that "Immunocontraception attempts to trick a

female animal's body into rejecting the male animal's sperm and destroying it just as the immune system destroys viruses and bacteria." This is how the anti-sperm immunocontraception works, but over the years there have been many approaches to immunocontraception, using anti-hormone vaccines, anti-receptor vaccines and many others. The most common and widely used immunocontraception is porcine zona pellucida vaccine (PZP). This works by injecting the protein coating of the animal's egg (the zona pellucida), which serves to create an immune response to the eggs and effectively contracepts the animal. This approach has been shown to work in some species, but not in dogs or cats.

You mentioned that "A second immunocontraceptive approach, using antigonadotropin-releasing hormones, has been researched here and there for at least 18 years, but several major pharmaceutical manufacturers have abandoned work on anti-GnRH methods." In fact, anti-GnRH immunocontraception has been researched for more than 30 years. There is a canine anti-GnRH product on the market manufactured by Pfizer, although marketed for different use.

There is a non-surgical contraceptive on the market. Suprelorin is a deslorelin implant, approved for use in male dogs in Australia and New Zealand, marketed in Australia since December 2004, and in New Zealand since September 2005. It was recently launched in Europe and is now available there. Deslorelin is a GnRH agonist which, administered continually at low doses, suppresses the release of reproductive hormones from the pituitary. This results in safe reversible contraception. There are six-month

and twelve-month implants available.

Finally, you wrote that "advances in surgical sterilization technique have enabled the most skilled dog and cat sterilization specialists to castrate male animals in as little as four minutes, and spay females in as little as six minutes. At that rate of speed, the difference in veterinary time expended between surgery and injection is slight, and surgery has advantages in altering the behavior and improving the longevity of animals that injectible methods so far have not conveyed."

While sterilization surgery may take only a few minutes, administering the anesthesia, preparing the surgical site, and monitoring recovery from anesthesia adds to the time needed to complete the operation. Therefore, there is still a huge need for a truly non-invasive contraception. I would also like to note that GnRH agonists such as Suprelorin also does alter behavior and has the same positive effects on longevity as surgical castration. In human medicine GnRH agonists are referred to as "medical castration."

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to comment on your excellent article and also for highlighting this important area of concern for animal welfare.

—Linda Rhodes, VMD, PhD
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# Organization matters more than the method

Thank you so much for your October 2008 article "Is non-surgical sterilization the best use for \$75 million?"

I too wonder about the efficacy of applying that much funding to wait for the development of a non-surgical sterilant, while well-run surgical programs can accomplish so much for relatively little. Even \$5 million per year for five years, targeted properly, could have enormous impact.

For example, \$120,000 will open a clinic based on the Humane Allliance model. At least seven clinics could be opened per million dollars invested, with transportation arrangements to enable each clinic to serve a rural population of at least 250,000 people, or an urban population of millions. Just \$5 million could probably extend low-cost sterilization service to many of the most critically underserved parts of the U.S.

There is definitely a need for funding research and development for use in the developing world, but holding that size of reward seems less than effective. If pursuit of the reward was the primary reason why someone was developing a non-surgical sterilant, half the money would probably be thrilling to that person, or team, and the rest could go to surgical programs that are currently very underfunded.

The main point that you made that I make is that effective organization is much more important than the sterilization method. I see a lot of emphasis on the type of surgical facility a program uses, yet without grassroots buy-in there is no outcome for the animals, no matter how beautiful the unit or clinic.



#### **Editor's note:**

Ruth Steinberger literally wrote the book on community organizing to promote dog and cat sterilization. It may be downloaded, at no charge, from—

<a href="http://sheltereducation.org/education/Rural">http://sheltereducation.org/education/Rural</a> %20S-N%20programs%20start-up-07.doc>

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May the New Year bring peace and happiness to all sentient beings.

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#### Pending Obama dog adoption upstages cabinet picks (from page 1)

to dispel the myth that any particular breeds are "hypoallergenic." Which dogs anyone is allergic to depends upon individual sensitivities, and which dogs shed the most hair and dander is governed more by climate, health, and diet than by breed.

Breeders anxious for the Obama family to pick a purebred aggressively lobbied in favor of almost every kind of dog except a shelter mutt. More than 20,000 people urged the Obamas to either adopt or buy a pit bull terrier, but some pit bull rescuers suggested that this might stimulate pit bull breeding, adding to the surplus already glutting shelters.

Interest in the Obama family's dog selection was global. In Peru, for example, said Associated Press, the Friends of the Peruvian Hairless Dog Association offered the Obama family a pup named Machu Picchu.

But the dog question was upstaged in Kenya when the Kenyan government began promoting an "Obama circuit" to attract tourists to Kogelo, the western Kenya town where Obama's father lived. Touting "traditional" fights between bulls as the climax of "Obama circuit" tourism, promoter Hillary Wendo of Target Africa obtained eight bulls and announced that the first bullfights would be held on December 13, 2008 at Moi International Sports Centre in Kasarani, a suburb of Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

Africa Network for Animal Welfare founder Josphat Ngonyo pointed out that the bullfights would violate at least three provisions of the Kenyan Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Ngonyo at the ANIMAL PEO-PLE deadline had applied for a court injunction that would prohibit the bullfights.

#### Ag, Interior still open

The most important Obama cabinet pick relative to animal welfare will be his choice as Secretary of Agriculture. As well as presiding over U.S. policy toward farm animals, the Secretary of Agriculture supervises the administration of the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, the branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that enforces the federal Animal Welfare Act. As ANI-MAL PEOPLE went to press, Obama had yet to nominate a Secretary of Agriculture, but former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack, the leading choice of animal advocates among rumored nominees, on November 23 told the Des Moines Register that he had withdrawn from candidacy. "In an e-mail," reported the Register, "Vilsack said he had never been contacted by aides to President-elect Obama about that position or any other."

Said Vilsack, "I would have to speculate that I was in fact in the running and further speculate as to why I was no longer. I do not think it prudent or appropriate to speculate about either."

Obama also had yet to name a Secretary of the Interior, who will be responsible for administering U.S. public lands policy, including the Bureau of Land Management wild horse program, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, responsible for enforcing the federal Endangered Species Act. Among the first problems the new Secretary of the Interior will have to address—apart from the wild horse issue (see page 1) will be last-minute changes made by the George W. Bush regime to the ESA enforcement procedure.

California attorney general and former governor Jerry Brown on November 10, 2008 reinforced the appeals of conservation groups for the Obama administration to rescind the rules changes. This can only be done by Congressional action or through a rule-making process requiring months of hearings. Brown, a Democrat who twice pursued the U.S. Presidential nomination and prominently backed Obama, warned that the changes could put "entire species and ecosystems at risk for complete destruction."

Explained Joaquin Sapien of ProPublica, "One revision Brown is concerned about would remove a requirement that scientists at the Fish & Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service must evaluate how federally approved mining, logging and power plant projects might impact endangered species before the projects can begin."

"This rule change will remove thousands of projects from scientific review," warned Center for Biological Diversity biodiversity program director Noah Greenwald.

Continued Sapiens, "The Bush administration also wants to insert language into the law that would keep the effect of greenhouse gases on threatened wildlife from being factored into the Endangered Species Act. Environmentalists have used that concept as a leveraging tool to try to force the administration to act on global warming."

Among Obama's first cabinet picks was former U.S. deputy attorney general Eric Holder, named to become Attorney General. Briefly acting attorney general during the first days of the George W. Bush presidency, Holder was in July 2007 hired to represent the National Football League in disciplining former Atlanta Falcons quarterback and now convicted dogfighter Michael Vick. Already barred from the Falcons' training camp, Vick was later indefinitely suspended. He may seek reinstatement after finishing a three-year federal prison term on July 20, 2009. Surry County Circuit Court Judge Samuel Campbell on November 26, 2008 handed Vick a three-year suspended sentence on related Virginia state charges. Vick pleaded guilty to one count of dogfighting, but not guilty to cruelty to animals. The cruelty charge was then dropped.

Obama named New Mexico governor Bill Richardson to become Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce has authority over several international treaties involving animals, including some of the enforcement provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Widely considered the most influential U.S. politician of Hispanic ancestry, Richardson in March 2007 signed into law a cockfighting ban, pushed for 18 years by state senator Mary Jane Garcia. Both Richardson and Garcia rejected cockfighters' claim that cockfighting is an integral part of Latino heritage. But Richardson had pledged while running for governor in 2002 that he would not ban cockfighting.

In January 2006 Richardson became a target of SHARK video truck protests for offering incentives worth \$750,000 to try to lure the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association headquarters from Colorado to New Mexico; pledging \$12 million in state funding for a top-level rodeo arena; and pledging \$3 million more to help renovate local rodeo arenas. After Richardson signed the cockfighting ban, he boasted in July 2007 of shooting an oryx at media magnate Ted Turner's New Mexico ranch.

Richardson was also "a prominent steer roping supporter with arena banners and a full page advertisement of himself in the rodeo program" at the 2007 National Finals Steer Roping event in Hobbs, New Mexico during the first weekend of November, reported SHARK founder Steve Hindi.

#### Use groups lose clout

Animal use industries expect major political realignment with Obama in the White House and a Democratic-controlled Senate and House of Representatives.

Wrote P. Scott Shearer for National

#### Ex-NIMH head Goodwin is back in the news

Frederick K. Goodwin, host of "The Infinite Mind" program on National Public Radio since 1998, "earned at least \$1.3 million from 2000 to 2007 giving marketing lectures for drugmakers, income not mentioned on the program," reported Gardiner Harris of The New York Times on November 21, 2008, citing findings by Senator Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa).

"In a program broadcast on September 20, 2005," Harris wrote, Goodwin "warned that children with bipolar disorder who were left untreated could suffer brain damage, a controversial view. 'But as we'll be hearing today,' Dr. Goodwin told his audience, "modern treatments-mood stabilizers in particular-have been proven both safe and effective in bipolar children.' That same day, GlaxoSmithKline paid Goodwin \$2,500 to give a promotional lecture for its mood stabilizer drug Lamictal. GlaxoSmithKline paid him more than \$329,000 that year for promoting Lamictal, records given to Congressional investigators show."

As director of the National Institutes of Mental Health during the Ronald Reagan and George H. Bush presidencies, and earlier as director of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, & Mental Health Administration, Goodwin was a frequent flamboyant critic of animal advocacy. He was transferred from the NIMH to another position within the Department of Health & Human Services after a February 1992 speech in which he reportedly likened U.S. inner cities to jungles and inner city youth to violent and hypersexual monkeys.

Hog Farmer North American Preview. "California voters approved by over 60% the referendum [Proposition Two] that would ban modern confinement housing for egg-laying hens, pregnant sows and veal calves by 2015. This vote will have a major influence on animal welfare issues in the 111th Congress."

Agreed Troy Marshall of Beef, "Agriculture spent a lot of money, and 30 of the state's largest newspapers came out in opposition to Proposition Two. Yet it passed overwhelmingly. Whether it be on trade, taxes, the environment, animal welfare, industry regulation, bio-fuels or simply rural America's political clout, the winds are not blowing in our favor." Obama has said little about farm animal welfare, but favors stricter regulation of air and water pollution produced by feedlots, called CAFO, short for "confined animal feeding operations," by the industry.

Hunters are also worried. Pointed out Humane Society Legislative Fund president Mike Markarian, "The National Rifle Association not only failed to elect John McCain and Sarah Palin to the White House, but also failed to defend many of its leading advocates in Congress. In the 39 Congressional races where the NRA and Humane Society Legislative Fund endorsed opposing candidates, HSLF won 76% of the time."

An early outcome of that balance tilt was that on November 20, 2008, Henry A. Waxman of California ousted John D. Dingell of Michigan as chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, 137-122. Dingell had been the ranking Democrat on the committee since 1980. The committee hears most items of environmental legislation before they pass to the full House.

Mourned the U.S. Sportsmens Alliance, "Representive Dingell has been a tireless champion of sportsmen issues for decades, while Representive Waxman has a long history of supporting the causes of extremist animal rights and anti-firearm groups. Among Waxman's anti-hunting votes are: against allowing hunting, fishing, and trapping in the East Mojave Scenic Area; against the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1996 that enshrined hunting, fishing, and trapping as a priority use of wildlife refuges; and for banning the importation of polar bear trophies."

But hunter support helped incumbent Georgia Senator Saxby Chambliss, a Republican, to win a runoff that denied the Democrats a 60-vote filibuster-proof Senate majority. "Chambliss is an important ally for sportsmen, animal owners, and animal agriculture," exulted Sportsmen & Animal Owners Voting Alliance director Susan Wolf. "As [then] chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Chambliss ended" a bill that would have extended the Animal Welfare Act to protect all dogs bred for sale. "Chambliss has also been an astute opponent of horse slaughter bans," Wolf added.

Among the recipients of presidential pardons granted by George W. Bush before leaving office were Milton Kirk Cordes of Rapid City, South Dakota, and Leslie Owen Collier of Charleston, Missouri.

"Cordes," recalled Markarian, "was convicted of violating the Lacey Act in 1998, for his part in a private big-game hunting operation which illegally obtained mule deer licenses for out-of-state trophy hunters."

Collier in 1995 pleaded guilty to poisoning three federally protected bald eagles, a red-tailed hawk, a great horned owl, an opossum, a raccoon, and seven coyotes, while trying to encourage the recovery of a huntable wild turkey population on his farm.

Seen by many Republicans as potentially their next presidential candidate, losing vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in her capacity as governor of Alaska on November 21. 2008 usurped a ceremonial role usually reserved to presidents by "pardoning" a turkey at the Triple D Farm & Hatchery outside Wasilla, Alaska—her home town. Video by Marc Lester of the Anchorage Daily News showed Palin reading a proclamation proclaiming herself a "friend to all creatures great and small," elbowing the farmer standing beside her as if to share a joke.

After the "pardon," the Lester video showed, Palin held a press conference while turkey slaughtering went on in the background.

"She does have this very special relationship with animals," commented Ana Marie Cox of Time on the MSNBC program Countdown, hosted by Keith Olbermann. "It involves blood usually.'

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# Ivory auctions net much less than African nations expected

Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa between October 31 and November 7, 2008 collected \$15.4 million from the sale of 108 tons of stockpiled elephant tusks to Chinese and Japanese traders, in the first ivory sales approved by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species since 1999.

But the sellers were reportedly disappointed in their take.

The average price paid for ivory was \$152 U.S. per kilogram, less than a fifth the price that some conservationists have claimed is paid for poached ivory.

"If ever there was a demonstration that crime doesn't pay, this is it," CITES representative John Sellar told Agence France-Press. "The poachers and the dealers in Africa have taken people in Asia for mugs, and they appear to have gotten away with it for several years. If next week you're a dealer in illegal ivory," Sellars said, "and you try to get 4, 5, 6, 7, 800 dollars a kilo for ivory, you'll be laughed out of the room."

Zimbabwe sold just under four tons of ivory for \$450,000. "We expected more than this," a Zimbabwean official who was not named told Agence France-Presse. "This is the problem when you just have two buyers who behave like a cartel," the official said.

The unexpectedly low take was a political blow to the Robert Mugabe government. The opposition Zim Daily reported that "Mugabe's government—cash strapped and hungry for foreign exchange to pay for imports—was planning to have the Chinese government pay for the ivory with guns Mugabe's people ordered just before this year's Zimbabwean presidential run-off," wrote Samuel Maina of Wildlife Direct.

"Facing an imminent end to his three-decade grip on power, Mugabe decided to buy guns to wage war against the opposition, should he lose the elections," Maina summarized. "The best place to buy the guns was from China, since they are not participating in the arms embargo of Zimbabwe by western nations."

The *Zim Daily* web site soon disappeared, as often occurs to news media critical of Mugabe, but Maina offered further detail.

"In the run-up to the ivory auction," Maina wrote, "substantial quantities of high caliber weapons disappeared from the armory of Zimbabwe's department of parks and wildlife near State House, Harare," according to Zim Daily. "During the same period, 200 elephants were reported to have been killed in the Zambezi Valley bordering Zambia. The Zimbabwe government blamed this on animal rights groups which 'want to thwart Mugabe's bid to have CITES relax its trade rules."

Recalled Maina, "In July 2000 a German wildlife conservation organization, EcoTerra," with an office in Nairobi, Kenya, "revealed that Mugabe had sold eight tons of ivory to China in exchange for firearms."

Zimbabwean officials appeared to be seeking pretexts to shoot elephants since 2006, when the Mugabe regime reinvigorated efforts to seek CITES permission to sell "culled" ivory. Reports reached ANIMAL PEOPLE that elephants were even shot to feed ranched crocodiles—and in at least one instance, because an elephant with a friendly reputation was provoked until he became briefly violent.

"2008 is now drawing to a close and one cannot help but bitterly remember the tragic shooting of Tusker, also known as Dustbin, after the 2007 New Year's Party in Charara, Kariba," e-mailed Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues. "He was teased and tormented mercilessly by drunken youths and when he retaliated by turning a couple of cars over, he signed his own death warrant. We found out later that fruit had been thrown under the cars 'to see what the elephant would do." Tusker was shot, despite good behavior afterward, on January 6, 2008—almost a week after the incident.

Rodrigues tried unsuccessfully to stop further New Year's Eve partying at Charara. "There are still some elephants in the Charara area," Rodrigues warned. "These elephants are not as good-natured as Tusker was. Several elephants have been shot in the area this year and those remaining are skittish. We can guarantee that if they are subjected to hairs being pulled out of their tails, fireworks and beer cans being thrown at them, cigarettes being stubbed out on them, headlights being flashed in their eyes, and cars being rammed into their legs as Tusker was, they will do more than just turn over a few cars."

Ten days after the last of the legal ivory auctions, the United Nations-sponsored international police agency Interpol coordinated Operation Baba, a one-day sweep targeting more than 50 local ivory markets, airports, border crossings, and suspected smuggling points in Congo-Brazzaville, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia, involving "more than 300 law enforcement officers from police, customs, wildlife and national intelligence agencies," an Interpol press release said.

Directed at ivory trafficking, "The crackdown also seized cheetah, leopard, serval cat and python skins, as well as hippo teeth," reported Agence France-Presse.

"The operation was called Operation Baba," e-mailed Bill Clark, formerly African programs coordinator for Friends of Animals, "to honor the memory of Gilbert Baba, a Ghanian wildlife ranger who was killed by traffickers about 10 years ago. He was one of my students, and learned how to fly the first ultralight" donated by FoA in 1992 to help in anti-poaching work.

"The traffickers learned he was after them and somehow put poison into his food. Gilbert walked about 15 kilometres after having been poisoned, and got back to base in Mole National Park, but died some hours afterward. I keep a photo of him above my desk," Clark said.

Despite the low bids on ivory at the auctions and the success of Operation Baba, the poached ivory traffic remained vigorous. Two mid-November raids by Cameroonian rangers netted a combined total of 1,576 contraband wildlife items, including at least 30 "elephant pieces," reported Robert Tumasang, Bertoua correspondent for the Buea *Post*. The traffickers escaped, and the contraband "was

then auctioned to buyers in Bertoua by the Provincial Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife," Tumasang wrote.

Elephant poaching and ivory trafficking also surged in India during the two years preceding the CITES-approved sale. *The Hindu* in October and November 2008 published reports of ivory seizures and investigations of elephants found dead without their tusks in Utterkhand and Karnataka states. Kairali TV news broadcast an exposé of a racket in which a retired forestry officer and his son allegedly kill captive elephants to collect the insurance on them, and sell the tucks.

One major ivory trafficking case broke in the U.S. A Houston federal magistrate on December 5, 2008 ordered alleged ivory trafficker Mamadi Doumbouya, 39, to be kept in custody and moved to Brooklyn, New York, to stand trial, reported Mary Flood of the *Houston Chronicle*. Doumbouya and five alleged co-conspirators, arrested in other states, are accused of bringing elephant tusks from the Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Uganda into the U.S., disguised by clay coatings as sculptures and musical instruments.

Doumbouya's brother Drissa Diane reportedly told an undercover agent, "Our business is like a Mafia business. You know my daddy used to be a dealer, so I learned a lot and I know a lot of people." Drissa Diane was also arrested.

Born in Ivory Coast, Mamadi Doumbouya is a legal resident of the U.S., and had a citizenship application pending. He was fined in 2003 for his part in importing 22 ivory carvings, and was questioned in 2006 about importing wildlfe contraband including a baboon skull, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service special agent Philip Alegranti testified.

Ivory trafficking within the U.S. may become more difficult in 2009, as eBay Inc. announced in late October that effective on January 1, 2009 it will prohibit the sale via eBay of all ivory items except for objects such as pianos made before 1900, in which the ivory keys are believed to be incidental to the value of the item as a whole.

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# Pickens bids to save BLM wild

are living symbols of the history of the American West and must be protected. My view is for a wild horse sanctuary that will be a tourist destination where Americans and tourists from around the world can observe this great part of American history."

Elaborated Pickens to Guy Adams of *The Independent*, "We will take all the excess horses, and put them somewhere where families can see them and live among them, and camp out in teepees and have bonfires and look up at the stars and get to know this incredible aspect of our heritage."

"The response has been simply overwhelming," Pickens updated in her next web posting. "Be assured I am moving forward as quickly as possible."

"Pickens, the child of British father and Lebanese mother who grew up in the Middle East and went to school in England and France, said she always had a love for the West and wild horses," elaborated Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle. "She said she has proposed purchasing around a million acres to be a refuge for the horses now in holding facilities, and that the BLM has agreed to give her the horses once she has the land. BLM spokesperson Tom Gorey said the agency welcomes the offer."

BLM deputy director Henri Bisson told Layton that the BLM will seek \$20 million from Congress to hold the horses now in captivity for another year while Pickens develops her project.

"As backup to Pickens' offer," wrote Layton, "two animal rescue organizations have expressed a similar interest in adoption."

"WildEarth Guardians wants to take Pickens' plan further by proposing a solution the group believes would resolve public land grazing conflicts that have resulted in the horses needing a home," reported Susan Montoya Bryan of Associated Press on November 29, 2008. "WildEarth Guardians is advocating legislation that would allow ranchers to relinquish grazing permits in exchange for compensation. The idea is that livestock would be removed from the allotment, leaving a refuge for wild horses and other native animals and plants," Bryan explained.

Bryan was unable to obtain comment from Madeleine Pickens. New Mexico Cattle Growers Association executive director Caren Cowan opposed the idea.

But *The New York Times* on November 19, 2008 editorially backed both Pickens and WildEarth Guardians.

"Pickens plans to sterilize the horses on her land and says she will take any additional horses the federal government wants to cull from the wild herd," The New York Times editors noted. "Sterilization is the best solution for long-term wild horse management. The federal Bureau of Land Management is finally coming to understand that and is now working with the Humane Society of the U.S. on very promising contraception studies in two herds. The bureau also needs to consider buying back some of its range permits from cattle ranchers. We suspect that in this economic climate, some ranchers would be glad to part with them. The bureau then could leave wild norses on the range.

Summarized Layton, "About 33,000 horses still roam wild on federal lands in 10 western states. About half are in Nevada. The BLM believes the range can accommodate only about 27,000 horses. Each year government-hired cowboys round up 7,000 to 13,000 horses and take them to holding pens. The roundups became more aggressive under the Bush administration. As of June, BLM was holding 30,088 horses, more than triple the 9,807 held in 2001." The cost of keeping the horses also tripled, to \$21 million in 2007.

The November 17 Reno hearing about killing wild horses came one week after the Government Accountability Office, a Congressional watchdog agency, projected that the BLM would spend \$27 million on keeping wild horses captive in 2009.

"BLM cannot afford to care for all the animals off the range, while at the same time manage wild horse and burro populations on the range," the GAO concluded. The GAO noted that Bisson had in June 2008 suggested killing or selling horses to cut costs.

Under an amendment to the 1971 Wild and Free Ranging Horse and Burro Protection Act slipped through Congress as a last-minute rider to the November 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act, the Bureau of Land Management is now mandated to sell "without limitation" any "excess" horse or

burro who is more than 10 years of age, or who has been offered for adoption three times without a taker.

"Other options could be explored, the report said, including relocating infertile herds to areas outside original boundaries set by the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act, or giving tax breaks to large land owners willing to care for large numbers of animals," summarized Associated Press writer Sandra Chereb.

"This is a situation where we have to have a conversation about what the law requires," Bisson told Layton. "We're hearing from members of Congress that they don't think euthanasia is an appropriate solution, but the law says, 'You shall.' If people don't like what the law says, they need to address it. We hope we will find homes for all of these animals before the year is out, and Congress will decide what it wants to do about the law."

# Meanwhile at the BLM

Bisson added that the BLM will round up about 5,000 more horses in 2009.

"The word 'euthanasia' suggests that the BLM will be putting these horses out of their misery. But they are not in misery in the first place. It's the most cynical thing I've ever heard," responded Deanne Stillman, author of *Mustang: The Saga of the Wild Horse*, to Adams of *The Independent*.

"In Nevada alone, added Jerry Reynoldson of the Wild Horse Adoption Association, "the BLM controls 47 million acres," or 47 times more land than Pickens hopes to buy.

According to data gathered by Nevada wild horse ecologist Craig C. Downer, presented to an October 12, 2008 "Wild Horse Summit" organized by the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros, the BLM has reduced the amount of its land accessible to wild horses by 18% since 1971. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has excluded wild horses from 53% of its holdings in former horse habitat—mostly in the name of conservation. Yet more than 95% of the land used by wild horses in 1971 is still used for grazing livestock, in much greater numbers.

"While forage and water rarely seem to be an issue for the established livestock and big game interests," Downer charged, "these same resources are almost always portrayed as being too little for the relatively tiny members of our nation's remaining wild horses and burros. My overall analysis reveals an effective displacement of the wild equids from at least 75%, or three fourths, of the public lands—both BLM and USFWS—to which they are legally entitled...Our supposed public servants have already eliminated the wild horses and burros from the grazing allotments of 36% of the public lands ranchers in spite of the legal right of the horses and burros to live there."

Downer calculated that livestock consume nearly 14 million Animal Unit Months' worth of forage per year on BLM and USFWS land, while wild horses consume barely 400,000 AUMs.

"Given the length of time equids have evolved here, it would be blind not to recognize the great importance of the equid element in the North American ecosystem," Downer continued. "Yet government personnel persist in maintaining that the wild equids do not warrant native wildlife designation. I suggest they visit one of our national monuments, by the name of Hagerman Horse Fossil in Idaho, and carefully consider the abundant evidence from paleontological science that establishes the horse family, genus, and even modern-day species, Equus caballus, as among the most truly native in North America, of longest evolutionary duration here. The horse as returned native species and the burro as a species with substantial evolutionary roots in North America are proven facts...but rarely if ever acknowledged by BLM and USFS officials charged with their protection."

## Slaughter lobby

In the background, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association in mid-2008 joined lobbyists for the horse slaughter industry to try to prevent the passage of federal legislation that would criminalize selling or transporting horses to be slaughtered for human consumption.

"Although the House and Senate have both passed legislation by wide margins intended to stop the slaughter of horses for human consumption, and state legislatures have banned horse slaughter and shuttered the remaining U.S.-based plants, American horses are still being exported to Canada and Mexico to be butchered," explained Humane Society Legislative Fund director Mike Markarian in July 2008.

Markarian predicted that "The horse slaughter industry will try to make the tired argument that there are too many unwanted horses and nowhere for them to go. There is a network of horse sanctuaries and rescuers who stand ready to help."

Markarian rebutted. "We have heard time and time again from these dedicated folks who try to rescue horses or purchase them at auctions, only to be outbid by the 'killer buyers."

Markarian posted affirmations from 18 horse rescuers in 10 states.

The strengthened anti-horse slaughter legislation that the Humane Society Legislative Fund wants did not reach the floor of either the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives in 2008, but it did clear the House Judiciary Committee in September. It may stand an excellent chance of passage by the next Congress.

About 79,000 U.S. horses were sold to slaughter in Canada and Mexico in 2008, more than before horse slaughter stopped in the U.S., but probably fewer than at the peak of the slaughter export traffic more than 20 years ago, when as many as 61,000 U.S. horses were slaughtered in Quebec alone.

Proponents of horse slaughter may believe that adding the 30,000 captive wild horses to the 79,000 who purportedly have nowhere else to go will reinforce the impression they hope to create that slaughter is necessary, to cope with the surplus. That argument gained spin on November 12, 2008 when Blackfeet Buffalo Horse Coalition founder Robert Bedard, 57, was charged with aggravated animal cruelty in connection with the alleged starvation deaths of at least 13 wild horses last winter on the 640-acre Seven Eagles Ranch, west of Browning, Montana.

Bedard founded the Blackfeet



(Kim Bartlett)

Buffalo Horse Coalition in 1994, with six fillies and two stallions whom he believed to be of direct descent from some of the Spanish horses who escaped to become the ancestors of most North American mustangs.

"The state Department of Livestock and the Glacier Sheriff's Office began investigating the Blackfeet Buffalo Horse Coalition last spring," reported *Great Falls Tribune* staff writer Kim Skornogoski, "when concerned neighbors and animal activists notified them that many of the 120 to 130 horses on the ranch were starving or dead."

Bedard, also known as Bob Black Bull, is not an enrolled member of any Native American tribe, but was not charged earlier, Glacier County prosecutor Larry Epstein told Susan Gallagher of Associated Press, because he was believed to have been subject to tribal rather than local jurisdiction. Now living with his mother in Cumberland, Rhode Island, Bedard told Gallagher that horse care on the ranch slipped after he was nearly killed a year ago in an all-terrain vehicle accident.

Epstein ordered that all of the surviving horses were to be removed from the ranch by December 5, 2008.

"Only 76 horses remained when volunteers led by the Montana Horse Sanctuary arrived to begin rounding up the animals and readying them to be taken to new homes across Montana and as far away as Canada and Kentucky," wrote Skornogoski.

Finished Gallagher, "Had the volunteers not arranged relocation of the horses,



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# Shelters respond to economic crisis

The Best Friends Animal Society in November 2008 laid off 30 personnel, retaining 420. "Our revenues are up about 5% this year compared to last, but in recent years we have averaged near 20% annual growth," chief executive officer Paul Berry told ANIMAL PEOPLE. "Donors are giving less frequently, because they are worried about the uncertain economy. We wanted to act now, in advance of any urgency," Berry added, "so that we could afford our folks a proper severance and get them out in the job market now, before the worst of it hits." The largest previous layoff by any major U.S. humane society of which ANIMAL PEOPLE has record came when the **Massachusetts SPCA**. with 600 staff, laid off 20 and eliminated 32 vacant positions in 2003. The MSPCA had survived the Great Depression without laying off anyone, but had earlier all but folded the Bands of Mercy and Jack London Clubs to cope with the debt incurred in building Angell Memorial Hospital, opened in 1915. At peak in 1912 as many as 265,000

Bands of Mercy involved schoolchildren in educational activities, while the Jack London Clubs mobilized 750,000 teenaged animal advocates.

The Florida East Coast Humane Society, formerly the St. Augustine Humane Society, sent six dogs and 15 cats to the Jacksonville Humane Society on October 31, 2008, and closed "after more than 65 years in operation," reported Charlie Patton of the Florida Times-Union. Executive director Cindy Bishop hoped a fundraising drive might enable it to reopen in six to eight months.

**Dog & Kitty City**, a 30-year-old no-kill shelter in Dallas, Texas, in November 2008 briefly stopped accepting animals due to lack of funds, reporting a 25% drop in adoptions and a 75% fall in donations since a year earlier, but an article about the crisis by Dan X. McGraw of the *Dallas Morning News* brought "more than \$15,000 and hundreds of pounds of food to the no-kill shelter," shelter director Sandra Mustafa told McGraw several days later.

# **Companion animal welfare notes**

The 950-store PETCO chain on November 17, 2008 announced that it is "phasing out rabbit sales in favor of adoptions." Said PETCO spokesperson Lisa Epstein, "PETCO already has strong relationships with about 70 rabbit adoption groups, including the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society, the Oregon Humane Society, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the San Diego House Rabbit Society and the Escondido Humane Society. PETCO is also communicating with the national House Rabbit Society to build additional relationships with local chapters and affiliates."

The BBC, televising the Crufts dog exhibition since 1966, "is considering ending its coverage of the Kennel Club's showpiece event," reported Stephen Moss of *The Guardian* on December 5. In August 2008, Moss explained, "BBC1 broadcast Jemima Harrison's disturbing

film Pedigree Dogs Exposed, which argued that highly selective breeding was damaging the health of many pedigree dogs and undermining their genetic diversity. The Royal SPCA, the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, and Dogs Trust responded by pulling out of Crufts." Sponsor Pedigree also withdrew, citing commercial concerns. The Kennel Club announced in October 2008 that it is redrafting the show standards for 209 breeds to eliminate rules that favor dogs with extreme and unnatural characteristics which might impair their health. Founded in 1873, the Kennel Club has held the Crufts show since 1891.

The American SPCA has added former Louisiana SPCA chief executive Laura Maloney as senior vice president for anti-cruelty initiatives and has promoted attorney Stacy Wolf, with the ASPCA since 1998, to vice president and chief legal counsel for humane law enforcement.

## Events

<u>Dec. 20:</u> Adopt, Don't Shop! day of protest against puppy mills. Info: <Caroline@idausa.org>.
2009

<u>January 20-21:</u> Conference on Global Trade & Animal Welfare, Brussels Info: <www.animalwelfareandtrade.com>.

January 31: Livestock Transport Conference, Calgary. Info: 403-932-

January 31: World Day for the Abolition of Meat. Info: <www.nomore-

meat.org>.
April 19-21: Texas
Unites! The Lone Star
Conf., combining conferences of Texas Animal
Shelter Coaltiion & Texas
Fed. of Humane Societies,
Austin. Info: 817-7905837; <angelpawsconsult @ a o l . c o m >;
<www.texasunites.org>.
May 2-3: Natl. No-Kill
Conference, Washington
D.C. Info: <www.nokill-conference.org>.

May 16: Bark In The Park, St. Louis. Info: Humane Soc. of Mo., 3 1 4 - 6 4 7 - 8 8 0 0; <a href="https://www.hsmo.org">www.hsmo.org</a>. June 13: National Pigeon Day. Info:

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- University of Florida: \$1.7 million for the first 3 years

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To read more about Maddie's' Shelter Medicine Programs, go to:

http://www.maddiesfund.org/projects/vetschool\_proj.html

Maddie's Fund, The Pet Rescue Foundation, (www.maddiesfund.org) is funded by People Soft and Workday Founder, Dave Duffield, and his wife, Cheryl, to help create a no-kill nation. Maddie's Fund® is named after the family's beloved Miniature Schnauzer.



The Pet Rescue Foundation

sows with metal rods, slamming piglets on a concrete floor, and bragging about jamming rods into the anuses of sows," summarized Amy Lorentzen of Associated Press.

Now headed by former USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service chief Ron DeHaven, the American Veterinary Medical Association responded to the MowMar case after it was exposed by declaring that "The practices documented in the video are not only disturbing, intolerable and inhumane, but may also be in violation of state laws." The AVMA urged "an immediate and thorough investigation."

But Jolley argued for language stronger than that. After the turkey abuse case broke, "Aviagen representatives told the *New York Times* that they 'promised to pursue further investigations that could eventually lead to the employees in the video being fired," Jolley recited. "Their promise is unacceptable. The weak-kneed phrase 'could eventually' should have been replaced with 'will absolutely.' As in the case of the Hallmark scandal," a cruelty case at a California slaughterhouse exposed in 2007 by the Humane Society of the U.S., "the next step should be criminal charges filed against those employees as well as their immediate superiors.

"The alternative," warned Jolley, "is to allow PETA and HSUS to continue publicizing animal abuse," and "will lead to the not-so-gradual spread of even more restrictive legislation from state-to-state."

Responded HSUS factory farm campaign coordinator Paul Shapiro, "In a clear and unequivocal voice, 63.3% of California voters sent the strongest message yet to animal agribusiness: The time for change has come. No doubt, some defenders of agribusiness' status quo will argue that producers should just dig in their heels and hope to do a better job of 'educating consumers' about standard industry practices, but the egg industry has just waged the most expensive 'educational campaign' in agribusiness history concerning battery cages, yet still lost in a landslide."

"What Proposition Two and experience over the past decade have shown," Shapiro assessed, "is that the more consumers learn about the ways in which many farm animals—especially caged laying hens—are treated, the more disturbed they become. With each campaign, with each release of video from whistle-blowing employees, with each split between future-looking farmers and those who cling to the status quo, consumers gain a real understanding of the routine suffering too many farm animals endure."

Proposition Two passed in the same week that a Florida ban on confining pregnant pigs in gestation crates took effect, six years after passage. The Florida bill, the prototype for the pig provisions of Proposition Two,

resulted in the two pig farms left in the state at the time going out of business, and in an ongoing effort led by the Florida Chamber of Commerce to dismantle the process by which the law was adopted.

Of growing concern to all sectors of the livestock industry, nationwide, is that increased public concern about farm animal welfare will undermine agribusiness resistance to stricter regulation of emissions and effluents. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that greenhouse gases emitted by livestock may be regulated as air pollution, and the Environmental Protection Agency has already proposed regulations for the livestock industry under the Clean Water Act. Factory farms currently release about 56 million pounds of phosphorous, 110 million pounds of nitrogen, and two billion pounds of sediment per year into U.S. waterways.

Contributing to agribusiness concern, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board on November 21, 2008 warned Armstrong Farms that the egg ranches it operates in San Diego County, keeping about 660,000 chickens at any given time, may be fined for allowing polluted runoff.

Owner Ryan Armstrong prominently opposed Proposition Two. After Armstrong asserted at a hearing on Proposition Two that he had "nothing to hide," HSUS obtained county inspection records that reportedly docu-

Domestic turkey. (Kim Bartlett)

ment the pollution and turned them over to the water quality control board.

The Proposition Two requirements parallel European Union legislation. The EU phase-out of battery caging for laying hens is to be completed by 2012, but 81% of the laying hens in Northern Ireland are reportedly still battery caged. Producers in other regions may be no quicker to replace their caging.

The next major area of farm animal welfare legislation may address how poultry are

killed. Poultry are exempted from the U.S. Humane Slaughter Act, and from the humane slaughter laws of most nations, but this may change with the introduction of controlled atmosphere killing, approved for use in Britain in 1995 and recommended by PETA to replace slaughter by hanging birds upside down and beheading them.

The Asda supermarket chain in Britain in November 2008 began requiring suppliers to use controlled atmosphere killing. "The suppliers will load chickens into crates, which will be passed through a multistage machine in which oxygen levels are reduced, leaving the birds to breathe only carbon dioxide until they are dead," explained Rachel Shields of The Independent.

This method uses one of the major greenhouse gases. Despite the PETA endorsement, "From a welfare point of view, it would be better if carbon dioxide wasn't used," Compassion in World Farming policy advisor Peter Stevenson told Shields. "Carbon dioxide causes the birds respiratory distress-hyperventilation and gasping," Stevenson explained. "The reason slaughterhouses want to use it is because the alternative-high levels of nitrogen or argon," which are also greenhouse gases, "can cause reflex wing flapping. The birds are unconscious, but they flap their wings. That can damage the carcasses."



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# Pennsylvania SPCA resumes animal control

PHILADELPHIA—Effective on January 1, 2009, the Pennsylvania SPCA will resume providing animal care and control services to Philadelphia, after a six-and-a-half year hiatus. But the new animal care and control contract will pay the Pennsylvania SPCA \$2.89 million, more than three times as much money as the \$790,000 contract that the charity relinquished in 2002.

"The Philadelphia Animal Care and Control Association has provided services since 2002," reported Dafney Tales of the *Philadelphia Daily News*. "An audit released in October by the City Controller's Office found numerous problems with PACCA, including insufficient software and phone systems, and failing to properly handle bite cases. PACCA chief executive Tara Derby admitted to failures, in a written statement, but said that many were corrected," and attributed other shortcomings to insufficient funding.

PACCA more than doubled the Philadelphia animal control adoption rate between 2004 and 2007, working under essentially the same financial terms that the Pennsylvania SPCA will inherit, but with just a fraction of the facilities and total resources of the 141-year-old SPCA, the third SPCA founded in the U.S.

The Pennsylvania SPCA even without the animal control contract has had an annual budget of more than \$6 million in recent years, with facilities worth \$8.5 million and about \$17.5 million in financial assets.

Since giving up the animal control contract, the Pennsylvania SPCA has focused

on doing high-volume, low-cost dog and cat sterilization and adopting out animals—essentially the same role that the San Francisco SPCA pursued after turning the San Francisco animal control contract over to the S.F. Department of Animal Care & Control in 1989, after a five-year phase-out.

San Francisco by April 1994 had the lowest rate of shelter killing of dogs and cats of any major city in the U.S., and has retained that status, guaranteeing a home to any healthy animal impounded in the city.

But the results in Philadelphia have been very different. In 1997 all shelters serving the city combined killed 28,289 dogs and cats, a rate of 19.7 per 1,000 human residents. In 2006, all shelters serving Philadelphia killed 28,774 dogs and cats, a rate of 19.9 per 1,000 human residents.

Former San Francisco SPCA law and advocacy director Nathan Winograd in a May 2008 blog alleged that the Philadelphia experiment was failing "because a true and complete champion for no kill no longer exists, as it did in San Francisco with the San Francisco SPCA under Richard Avanzino," who headed the SF/SPCA from 1976 through 1998, and now heads Maddie's Fund.

ed, was that "The mission of PACCA," like that of most animal control agencies, "was identified as protecting the health of people from injury and disease 'caused or transmitted by domestic or feral animals within the city's boundaries.' A list of seventeen duties was outlined to meet the mission. None of them

The first problem, Winograd assert-

speak to services such as adoption, spay/neuter, education, or helping responsible people retain their pets," which in San Francisco were and are provided primarily by the SF/SPCA.

"PACCA was to provide minimal services at the lowest possible cost," Winograd continued. "Animals were killed within minutes of arrival, kennels went uncleaned, animals were allowed to suffer and die. In the end, 88% of all animals [arriving] lost their lives. In 2005, I was hired to review the organization and make recommendations for change. In the first year of the effort," coinciding with Derby's arrival as execu-

tive director, "the change was dramatic. Shirkers were terminated. Adoption, rescue, volunteer, and foster care programs were implemented. The death rate declined to less than 40%. But the effort stalled. A pet adoption center, which should have opened within a few months, took over two years to finally open." Winograd blamed "hostility to reform from the health department that oversees PACCA, lack of support for the no kill initiative from the other community shelters, and an unfavorable location"

Winograd in his 2007 book Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation & the No Kill Revolution in America was also

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critical of Howard Nelson, the Pennsylvania SPCA chief executive since May 2007.

In his previous post as executive director of the Washington D.C. Humane Society, Nelson "introduced a 'Good Home Guarantee' program that was touted as a no-kill initiative," sumarized *Philadelphia Weekly* writer Tara Murtha of Winograd's *Redemption* statements. "The truth is that the Washington Humane Society managed to claim a no-kill philosophy while euthanizing 70% of the animals [it received] by employing a very narrow definition of 'adoptable.' For example, the definition of 'adoptable' excluded all pit bulls and pit-bull mixes, cats with ear mites, and

animals with a host of [other] minor conditions easily remedied with medicine.

"In Philadelphia," Murtha continued, "this would be problematic. On a recent visit to the PACCA shelter, about 95% of the dogs housed were pit bull mixes. Pit bulls commonly make up most of a shelter's canine population," Murtha explained, "because that's what's left after advocacy groups comb the intake and funnel specific breeds into placement networks."

But the nature of the intake also matters. Former Pennsylvania SPCA executive director Eric Hendricks, in announcing the December 2000 decision of the Pennsylvania SPCA to relinquish the city animal control contract, cited frustration with the reluctance of the city council to adopt a breed-specific ordinance to curtail backyard breeding of pit bulls, in a city where the rate of pit bull and pit mix intake is believed to be far higher than the national average of 25% of all dogs.

The Pennsylvania SPCA killed 3,500 pit bulls in 2000, 4,000 in 1999, and 3,200 in 1998, Hendricks said.

Adding a staff animal behavorist and introducing a program to rehabilitate suspected fighting dogs, PACCA killed just 1,222 pit bulls and pit mixes in 2006, of 4,716 received, Tara Derby told *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff writer Robert Moran in October 2007. However, the rate of pit bull intake had continued to rise, and PACCA was running out of ways to save them.

The Pennsylvania SPCA, continuing to investigate cruelty cases after giving up the animal control contract, impounded and killed 42 pit bulls in fighting cases in 2006, but had received 76 in the first 10 months of 2007.

"I can't tell you if he found the light," Winograd told Murtha, "but over the last couple of months Howard Nelson has made an active effort to reach out to me and to try to assure me that those historical policies [at the Washinton Humane Society] were just that—history. I told him that's great, but I'm not interested in promises."



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# A Refuge That Needs More Friends

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Recently, two primates arrived at the sanctuary: four from particled pet owners—Sally, a black and white capuchin, Harley, a vervet monkey, Logan, a long-tailed macaque, and Kecko, a ring-tailed Lemur—as well as Kanbu, an olive baboon who came from a research institution.

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## Bali animal welfare societies battle rabies outbreak

**DENPASAR, Bali**—Someone brought a rabid dog to Bali. Yachting, fishing, or trading goods, the culprit apparently came by boat, docking near Ungasan village, where about 170 families live on a peninsula forming the southernmost part of Bali.

The rabid dog arrived at about the same time that more than 200 animal advocates from nearly 30 nations met at Sanur Beach, just to the north, for the Asia for



BAWA founder Janice Girardi. (Kim Bartlett)

Animals 2008 conference. The last visiting delegates had just left when the first human victims were bitten in mid-September 2008.

The bite victims did not seek immediate post-exposure vaccination. Between November 14 and November 23, 2008, four victims died at hospitals in Denpasar and Badung: a 32-year-old, a 28-year-old, an 8-year-old, and another child whose age was not disclosed.

Containing the outbreak should have been easy. Fences, runways, and access roads surrounding the Ngurah Rai Airport inhibit dog movement between Ungasan and the heavily populated southeastern part of Bali, including Denpasar, the capital city.

The Yudisthira Swarga Foundation, Bali Street Dog Foundation, and Bali Animal Welfare Association have among them sterilized nearly 40,000 dogs in southeastern Bali during the past 10 years. If the Bali government had allowed the animal welfare societies to vaccinate the dogs against rabies at the same time they were sterilized, in accordance with international protocol, a barrier of already vaccinated dogs would have combined with the isolation of Ungasan to prevent any likelihood of the outbreak spreading.

A vaccination drive targeting all dogs on the Ungasan/Ululatu peninsula, combined with euthanizing any dogs showing signs of exposure, might then have extinguished the

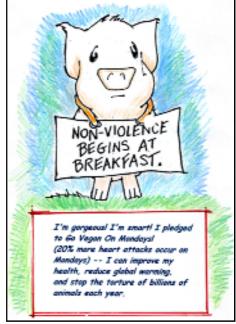
outbreak within a matter of days.

Instead, the 40,000 sterilized dogs were not vaccinated against rabies because Balinese officials mistakenly believed the vaccine might itself introduce the disease.

"Unfortunately, the Balinese government has been short-sighted in not permitting the distribution of the rabies vaccine across Bali, and by turning a blind eye to the illegal importation of animals into Bali," acknowledged BAWA acting operations manager Dani Stokeld in a post to the Asian Animal Protection Network. "Only one hospital in Bali maintained a minimal stock of the human post-exposure rabies vaccine, and the government has not allowed any rabies vaccine for pets to be imported to Bali."

"Bali has been free of rabies for decades; we haven't had any need for a vaccine in the island," BAWA spokesperson Tinneke Indrajaya told the *Jakarta Post.*" So the Bali animal advocates did not push hard against the ban on importing rabies vaccine.

There was little initial panic when rabies appeared, indicated *Jakarta Post* reporter Andra Wisnu. The Badung Health Agency obtained enough human post-exposure vaccine to treat another 76 Ungasan residents who had been bitten by dogs in the preceding two months. Yudisthira Swarga Foundation volunteers euthanized 11 dogs found in the vicinity of the biting incidents by lethal injec-



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tion, and sent their heads to be tested for rabies at a laboratory in West Java. Other agencies killed another six dogs, whose heads were also sent for testing.

Only one dog turned out to have been rabid. But Bali governor Made Mangku Pastika on November 29, 2008 "ordered the Balinese people to conduct a mass culling of stray dogs," reported Ni Komang Erviani of the *Jakarta Post*.

"Residents can just go ahead by tak-

ing the initiative to kill stray dogs. If the mass dog culling relied only on government officials, it would take too long," Pastika told a public forum.

"Pastika also demanded the strict supervision of the entrance of other animals into Bali, like monkeys and cats, which transmit diseases to human beings," Ni Komang Erviani added.

Word of Pastika's edicts appeared on the International Society for Infectious Diseases' Pro-Med online bulletin board five days later.

"This method of disease control does not work," objected Alliance for Rabies Control executive director Deborah K. Briggs. "For example, officials on Flores Island," like Bali a part of Indonesia, "tried to eliminate a canine rabies outbreak eight years ago by killing over 500,000 dogs, yet rabies is still present on that island. Similarly, when canine rabies spread to the region of Sulawesi in Indonesia approximately five years later, mass culling of dogs was again attempted without successfully eliminating rabies.

"On the other hand, mass vaccination of dogs against rabies does work," Briggs emphasized.

"There are many countrywide examples proving that when the World Health Organization recommendation of vaccinating 70% of the dog population against rabies is applied, the spread of rabies throughout the dog population is stopped. Excellent examples of successful programs exist in Latin America, where the Pan American Health Organization spearheaded mass canine vaccination programs throughout the continent, resulting in a dramatic reduction in the prevalence of both canine rabies and human rabies.

"Similar success has been reported in Africa," Briggs continued, "for example in Tanzania, where mass canine rabies vaccination cleared rabies

(continued on page 13)



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(continuea on page 13)



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## Bali animal welfare societies battle rabies outbreak

(from page 12)

from the community dog population surrounding the Serengeti region, protecting endangered wildlife within the park.

"The tools to prevent the existence and spread of rabies in dogs already exist and have been proven to work," Briggs finished. "They only need to be utilized."

Supporting testimony came from Henry Wilde, M.D., of the Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Medicine in Bangkok, Thailand, who visited Flores on behalf of WHO.

"Fisherman had imported three dogs, and with them, rabies," Wilde recalled. "Within one year, over 100 humans died on this island of about one million human population. A local decision was made to cull as many dogs as possible," contrary to Wilde's advice to vaccinate the dogs instead.

Wilde noted that the custom of dog-eating persists among the Christian population of Flores. Dog-eaters often believe that dogs who have been vaccinated against rabies cannot be eaten safely.

After his Flores visit, Wilde remembered, "I met with a health official in Bali who expressed great anxiety that some similar event might happen there. His fear was justified," Wilde concluded. "Culling alone does not work!"

At a November 30 strategy meeting chaired by Bali director general of disease control and environmental health Tjandra Yoga Aditama, "officials from animal husbandry agencies, the Bali Health Agency, police, tourism offices, community health centers, the state-run Sanglah Hospital, and

other related institutions," agreed to "cull stray dogs and vaccinate domesticated dogs in areas 10 kilometers from Ungasan and Kedonganan villages," reported Luh De Suriyani and Hyginus Hardoyo of the *Jakarta Post* Denpasar bureau.

Kedonganan is at the neck of the Ungasan/Ululatu peninsula.

"At least 20,000 doses of rabies vaccine for dogs have been sent from Jakarta," Luh De Suriyani and Hyginus Hardoyo added. "Dog owners are encouraged to fence their dogs so they are not infected by sick animals."

Luh De Suriyani quoted Yudisthira Swarga Foundation veterinarian Rina Dwiasih's recommendation against poisoning dogs.

"The government has commenced a rabies vaccine program for dogs, but only for dogs in the infected area," affirmed Stokeld. "Sadly, there are reports of the culling of healthy Bali street dogs, and poisoning has commenced on the beaches in the tourist area of Kuta," the first village north of the airport.

"BAWA is trying to form a coalition with other animal welfare organisations and the Bali Vet Association to lobby the government to act responsibly and to take a more pragmatic approach," Stokeld said. "We would like to see the government support a Bali-wide vaccination and de-sexing program for dogs and cats; public education about responsible pet ownership and zoonoses; and pass the animal welfare laws that have been sitting in the Indonesian legislature for years."

"We have been assisting the farm department to administer rabies vaccines in the Bukit area," BAWA founder Janice Girardi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, but as of December 5, she said, she had been unable to get a meeting with Pastika.

"At the moment we are trying to get enough human vaccines for all of our staff," Girardi added. "Of course we need to increase the amount of sterilization we do, especially north of the infected areas, to keep the dogs from straying. As if animal welfare wasn't hard enough in Bali, without laws, with rabies life just got even harder.

"There are many pet stores in that area," Girardi noted, "so we will try to inspect the pet shops and warn all the owners. I'd love to get the pet shops closed down. Often we see many dogs together in a small cage, out in the hot sun with no water. We can give the animals water, and try to educate the employees, but without animal welfare laws nothing will really change."



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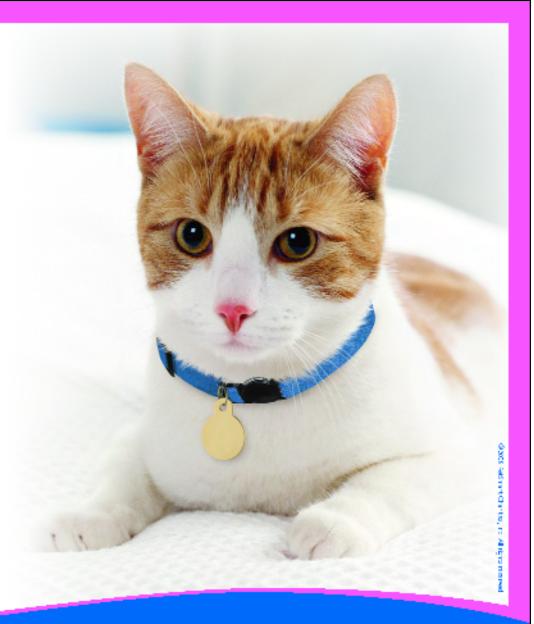


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# The Watchdog

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

# Reform begins at one of India's oldest

**KAKINADA**—The 102-year-old Kakinada SPCA, among the oldest western-style humane societies in India, has "had its working committee abolished by district collector and ex-officio president Gopalakrishna Dwivedi, owing to detection of irregularities in its functioning," *The Hindu* reported on December 3, 2008.

Founded with a gift of 98 acres by the Maharajah of Pithapuram, the Kakinada SPCA was expected to support itself by making use of the land, but only two acres remain.

Part of the role of a "district collector" in India is ensuring that nonprofit organizations fulfill their public trust. Any humane society calling itself a Society for the Protection of Animals is now required to include the local district collector as ex-officio president. The dissolution of the Kakinada SPCA working committee is among the first reported consequences of the newly mandated board structure.

District collector Dwivedi acted upon allegations forwarded by the Animal Welfare Board of India. "The charges framed against SPCA secretary S.S.R. Guru Prasad, treasurer K.G. Lunani, and other members of the core committee included negligence in taking care of animals, misusing funds, and using almost half" of the present Kakinada SPCA campus "for purposes other than animal welfare," *The Hindu* elaborated. "Guru Prasad had his own house constructed in a corner of the premises where animals were supposed to be sheltered, and embarked on building a commercial complex" on the site, *The Hindu* said.

In addition, The Hindu reported, "a python and a peacock were illegally kept in cages on the SPCA premises and were subsequently left out in the jungle days before the inquiry was instituted, instead of handing them over to wildlife officials. Criminal cases were booked against the accused persons."

Confirmed Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna, "Sadly, the report seems to be correct. Guru Prasad is a former member of the Animal Welfare Board of India, and he and his son have been accused of misusing the funds of the SPCA. The person who has really been responsible for bringing all this to light is Lisa Warden."

Wrote Warden to the Animal Welfare Board on October 30, 2008, "I arrived in Kakinada on October 2, 2008 to join my husband, who is in India on a three-year contract. As an animal lover, I was happy to see the SPCA sign on the main road. I looked forward to visiting the place and was hoping to register to help as a volunteer."

During the next month Warden documented severe neglect of animals on the premises, numerous animal deaths, a federally funded Animal Birth Control program that was not actually sterilizing dogs, and a water fountain for animals touted in Kakinada SPCA brochures that has no water in it.

Warden and her husband fed the animals and tried to encourage improvements in the operation. But push came to shove after Guru Prasad balked for three days before finally euthanizing a cow who was in severe pain from a broken ankle.

Detailing her findings about the Kakinada SPCA to the Animal Welfare Board on October 28, 2008, Warden noted that "The plaque commemorating the construction of the commercial center" built on about half of the remaining SPCA property "bears the names of the president of the SPCA, who is Kakinada's district collector, and the SPCA vice-president, who is the Revenue department divisional officer."

That brought swift attention to Warden's complaints. "Unfortunately," Warden told ANIMAL PEOPLE on December 3, "the drama is far from resolved and many animals continue to suffer at the Kakinada SPCA, even though the Collector has finally kicked out the bad guys. Guru Prasand and Gopal Surabathula, the father/son duo who were running the place, are very well connected. They are doing everything in their power to sabotage the attempt to clean up the SPCA by, for example, having the police confiscate hundreds of cattle and dump them on the site. In the past week," Warden said, "376 confiscated cattle and buffalo have been dumped at the the site by the police. Five of them have died and more are almost dead

from starvation, as the goondas left the coffers dry, and there were no resources with which to care for them. The Kakinada SPCA has never received animals in these numbers," Warden charged. "It is clearly an orchestrated attempt to make the clean-up efforts turn into a disaster."

But People for Animals founder and former federal minister for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi was skeptical of the claimed plot. "350 animals coming into the shelter at one time is certainly not new," Mrs. Gandhi told ANIMAL PEOPLE. "Kakinada is on the main smuggling area to Kerala and to Al Kabeer near Hyderabad. The police catch trucks regularly and send the animals to the SPCA. The only difference is that Guruprasad used to sell the animals immediately to butchers."

Current Revenue department divisional officer G.C. Kishore Kumar and Agriculture &

Animal Husbandry Department staff formed a committee to build a proper shelter for the animals on the premises, mostly cattle. "Meanwhile," *The Hindu* reported, "the ground is being prepared to initiate criminal proceedings against all those responsible for the pitiable plight of the cattle, most of whom were being smuggled to abattoirs."

"Leal people have been submitting complaints about the Kakinada SPCA to the authorities for quite a few years," Warden told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Unfortunately, the authorities, for whatever reason, chose to do nothing."

Among the complainants was Visakha SPCA founder Pradeep Kumar Nath, who received 11 dogs and a kitten from the Kakinada SPCA via Warden while her letter was en route to the Animal Welfare Board, and is now "trying to coordinate with the Animal Welfare Board" to reconstitute the Kakinada SPCA, Nath said.

"Ironically, the VSPCA owes its present status to information from Guru Prasad that an animal welfare conference would be held at Delhi in January 1997," Nath recalled. "It does sadden me greatly that Guru Prasad joined with his son Gopal in indulging alleged criminal activities in the name of animals. It is very disheartening to read the many types of ways that they were making money in the name of animals."

Nath developed suspicion about the integrity of the Kakinada SPCA after observing that a "structure of just a roof, sponsored by the Royal SPCA" appeared to cost much less than the value of the grant that paid for it."

Nath also heard rumors that the Kakinada SPCA was selling "rescued" cattle to slaughter, and that burglaries of the premises were inside jobs. But Nath was particularly perturbed when he learned that Guru Prasad had won a nationally recog-





Peacock and plaque led to reforming the Kakinada SPCA. (Lisa Warden)

nized humane award for achievements purportedly including founding the Visakha SPCA.

"I believe that the situation was my fault for not having had my antenna up," said Mrs. Gandhi. "Guru Prasad's Gopal Surabathula went around as the People for Animals head there. Just one day before Lisa Warden sent me her letter and photos, he wrote to me saying that he had signed a memorandum of understanding with the local administration to do the Animal Birth Control program, and that I should ask them to release the money to him immediately—which I would have done if Lisa had not happened along.

"The odd part," Mrs. Gandhi added, "is that now that I look at Guru Prasad's accounts, they were always rubbish. To a trained eye like mine, they should have stood out. But I simply did not see them for so many years, nor did anyone else. He didn't get caught fudging accounts. He got caught by the physical and photographic evidence provided by Lisa and the snake and peacock—for which I had him raided by the wildlife department."

Speaking at the Kakinada SPCA centenary celebration in January 2005, member of Parliament Mutha Gopalakrishna announced that the city would soon have a sixacre "street dog park." Perhaps he meant that street dogs would roam the business park now occupying much of the Maharajah of Pithapuram's legacy.

—Merritt Clifton



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## "Doggie in the window" singer hopes to sing swan song for puppy mills (from page 1)

see that doggie in the shelter?" It begins, "Do you see that doggie in the shelter, the one with the take me home eyes? If you give him your love and attention, he will be your best friend for life." The new version may not climb the pop charts, though it might if a current singing star picks it up, but Page and HSUS hope it will bookend an era—along with U.S. President-elect Barack Obama's pledge to adopt a shelter dog for his daughters.

#### Petland probe

Speaking from the HSUS head office in Washington D.C., Humane Society Legislative Fund president Mike Markarian on November 20, 2008 rolled out for media the findings of an eight-month investigation of the treatment of the doggies in the windows of the Petland chain, believed to be the largest chain still selling dogs from high-volume breeders.

Founded by Ohio entrepreneur Ed

Kunzelman in 1967, Petland now has 140 U.S. franchises, plus 63 more in Canada, Chile, France, Japan, and South Africa.

"More than 25 new domestic stores are scheduled to open within the next twelve months," asserts the Petland web site. But the Petland expansions of most concern to the humane community are abroad. Petland in May 2008 opened a store in Shanghai, China, where pet acquisition is booming, and announced that "franchise agreements have been finalized for the future openings of Petland stores in Mexico and Puerto Rico," both nations with abundant street dogs and desperately underfunded rescue groups.

HSUS investigators said that they visited 21 Petland stores plus 35 breeders and distributors who sell puppies to Petland, and reviewed USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service records on more than 100 breeders who are believed to be Petland sup-

pliers. USDA inspectors found that more than 60% of the breeders had committed serious infractions of the federal Animal Welfare Act, HSUS staff said.

"Assuring consumers that they only buy puppies from good breeders with the highest standards of care, some Petland stores even buy puppies from brokers and middlemen, and may not even know who the breeder is until after the puppy arrives in the store," Markarian charged.

"Petland should join leading retailers like PETCO and PetSmart," Markarian recommended, "who have socially responsible policies of not selling puppies in their stores and who instead work with humane societies and rescue groups to promote adoptions of homeless animals."

Many Petland franchises do work with humane societies and rescue groups to promote adoptions—more than 92%, president Frank Difatta and director of business improvement Brian Winslow told media in 2006. Petland claims to have found homes for more than 270,000 animals since 2001.

But Petland also sells dogs from breeders. Controversies involving animal care and the health of animals bought from Petland have erupted in at least 10 U.S. cities since 2005. The American Kennel Club in September 2006 reportedly reached an agreement with Petland to promote AKC registration within the Petland stores, but withdrew from the deal under pressure from members of AKC-affiliated breed rescue networks.

The 24 Petland franchises in Quebec in October 2008 co-sponsored a fundraising event for Anima-Quebec, the nonprofit agency created by the Quebec government in 2006 to supersede the Montreal SPCA and local humane societies in doing humane law enforcement. Part of the work of Anima-Quebec is supposed to be policing alleged puppy mills, but Quebec animal advocates have alleged ever since it formed that the presence of Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council Canada representative Louis McCann on the Anima-Quebec board ensures that it will defend the breeding industry.

"It's like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse when it comes to puppy mills," charges Rebecca Aldworth, Canadian representative for the Humane Society International subsidiary of HSUS.

McCann, a former inspector for the Montreal SPCA, has denied running inference for breeders, but reportedly testified recently in a private lawsuit against a major breeder than the defendant is not a "puppy mill."

But as Sidhartha Banerjee of Canadian Press pointed out, the definitions of "puppy mill" accepted by the industry and used by animal advocates are quite different.

"Certain people say that if there are 50 or 60 or 100 animals in cages, that's a puppy mill," Anima-Quebec executive director Veronique Langlois told Banerjee. "Or if the owner is making money, it's a puppy mill. But breeding is not illegal. But certainly there are criteria for keeping animals. We prefer to use the terms ethical or unethical breeding."

Responded Montreal SPCA acting director Alana Devine, "In my opinion anyone who is breeding a large number of dogs of all different breeds and profiting from it as their main source of income is not properly treating the animals. It is actually impossible to turn a profit from breeding dogs," Devine opined, "because if you're doing it properly, the cost of caring from them and caring for the puppies is so astronomical."

The Montreal SPCA retains law enforcement authority. In early October 2008, the Montreal SPCA raided two alleged puppy mills north of Montreal, impounding about 275 allegedly emaciated, parasite-ridden dogs.

#### **Self-policing**

The AKC and Anima-Quebec controversies involving Petland spotlight the long-standing conflict between the concepts of self-policing, favored by the pet industry, and external supervision and enforcement, favored by the humane community.

The argument for self-policing is that the pet industry itself has an interest in maintaining a good reputation by breeding and selling only healthy, temperamentally stable animals. Counter-arguments include that the price of even an expensive purebred animal is so low that individual consumers have little chance to hold breeders and dealers accountable through civil lawsuits, since the maximum damage award is usually the price paid for the animal. Class action lawsuits are difficult to bring against an industry with so many different suppliers and vendors.

Further, the procedures by which breeders and dealers cull unhealthy and unstable animals are often in themselves inhumane.

In addition, the traditional animal care standards of the pet industry have historically been so low that the accepted norms of the industry cannot be accepted as satisfactory from a humane perspective.

Finally, the goal of animal welfare advocacy is to prevent suffering from occur(continued on page 17)

# Alleged Mississippi puppy millers charged with felony

NEW ALBANY, Miss.—Attorney Tony Farese of Ashland, Mississippi, told Patsy R. Brumfield of the *Northeast Mississippi Journal* on November 10, 2008 that no plea bargain is imminent on behalf of alleged puppy millers and accessories to manslaughter Janet Lee Killough Barreto, 37, and Ramon Barreto, 31. But Farese, representing the Barretos, "did not deny he was offered a deal" by Union County assistant district attorney Kelly Luther, Brumfield said.

The Barretos on August 7, 2008 pleaded not guilty to six counts each of child endangerment, three counts each of felony child abuse, and one count each of manslaughter by culpable negligence.

Marainna Torres, Janet Barreto's 17-year-old biological daughter from a previous marriage, on July 2, 2008 pleaded guilty to killing her two-year-old adopted Guatemalan step-sister Enna on May 18, 2008 by hitting Enna and throwing her into a baby bed. Torres, who spent a month in a Memphis mental hospital after the killing, currently awaits sentencing, facing two to 20 years in prison. She is now "held in an undisclosed jail, believed to be in northeast Mississippi," Brumfield wrote.

"In the indictment, the Barretos are accused of three specific instances of child abuse," Brumfield reported earlier. "From September 14, 2000, through February 8, 2006, Adriana Killough, also known as

Adriana Santana Lemar, was caged in a closet for prolonged periods and forced to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in the cage. From November 1, 2007, until May 1, 2008, Luisa Fernanda Barreto was tied in a baby crib. From November 1, 2007, through May 1, 2008, Juan Fernando Barreto was tied in a baby crib."

Added Brumfield, "An official close to the investigation said Adriana, now 8 years old, was the first child then-Janet Killough adopted and later gave away because the child suffered from a brain disorder." The Barretos, who had one child together, later adopted six more Guatemalan children in addition to Enna.

They were not charged with animal offenses, but sheriff's deputies impounded "more than 180 dogs, 25 cats and several ducks" from their "mass puppy breeding operation," reported Emily Le Coz of the Northeast Mississippi Journal. Tupelo-Lee Humane Society director Debbie Hood told Le Coz that the Barretos apparently bred Yorkies, English bulldogs, Shitzus, and pugs, whom they sold at "various Northeast Mississippi flea markets."

In Defense of Animals, whose Project Hope sanctuary in Mississippi was involved in the animal rescue, cited the Barreto case in promoting the last Saturday before Christmas, December 20, 2008, as a national "Adopt, Don't Shop! Day," in protest against puppy mills.

#### Exposé leads to exit of Atlanta shelter director

ATLANTA—Fulton County Animal Control director Jere Alexander resigned on November 3, 2008 after an exposé of shelter conditions by Randy Travis of Fox 5 TV. She was succeeded on an interim basis by 30-year county shelter worker Herman Swann.

"Alexander worked for Barking Hound Village, the company that last March acquired the \$2.1 million contract to manage the shelter," reported Jeffry Scott of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"Barking Hound, an off-shoot of a successful dog day care chain," won the contract although the Southern Hope Humane Society, the contract holder since 2003, "was picked by a selection committee as being more qualified. Barking Hound, however, offered to run the shelter for \$300,000 a year less than Southern Hope was receiving," said Bill Torpy and Sandra Eckstein in a *Journal-Constitution* follow-up.

Travis and the Journal-Constitution quoted longtime shelter manager Myles Swain, whom Alexander fired in July 2008. Coworker Shelton Robinson alleged to the Georgia Department of Agriculture that Swain euthanized "as many American pit bull terriers as possible to prevent fighting in the kennels and make excessive room for daily intake," but Swain told Torpy and Eckstein that the allegation was added to his personnel file after he was fired "to make me look like a disgruntled employee."

Swain clashed with Alexander "almost immediately," he acknowledged in an open e-mail,

"because Jere would not allow us to euthanize pit bulls, and even placed them in cages with other dogs. In addition," Swain said, "the previous management normally kept the shelter population under 400 animals. Under Barking Hound we eventually kept between 450-525 animals. We went from having almost no dog fights to having serious dog fights every day."

Swain said Alexander prevented him from euthanizing pit bulls who killed smaller dogs they were housed with, including a sheltie and a rat terrier.

Vet tech Valencia Pullin told Torpy and Eckstein that one evening she saw Jere Alexander and her husband Rocky Alexander carrying 19 caged feral cats out of the shelter, saying they were going to a rescue group. "Swain said he confronted Alexander the next morning and she filled out a form saying the rescue organization was called Nine Lives," Torpy and Eckstein wrote. "Over four months, Nine Lives took 83 cats from the shelter. Groups that take animals from shelters must be licensed by the state Department of Agriculture, but officials found no such records. A department investigation found that Jere Alexander ran the rescue group. But it could not determine what happened to the cats. Charles Woody, listed on the form as a vet who neutered cats for Nine Lives, said that he never heard of the group."

Pullin also told Torpy and Eckstein that the Alexanders took home a pit bull named Beast who was held as evidence in a criminal dogfighting case, and later said they euthanized him due to pneumonia.

Veterinarian Danielle LaMarr "produced an e-mail from Alexander," Torpy and Eckstein wrote, "saying she had attended dogfights because she was writing a dissertation on an 'ethnographic study of dogfighting, pit bulls, and pit bull people."

Said Alexander in the email, "I have worked with dogfighters to learn about this practice and culture. Of course I don't condone dogfighting, and my research was very traumatic at times."

Torpy and Eckstein identified Jere Alexander as "a Notre Dame-educated lawyer," who "founded a web site, since taken down, that was 'dedicated to preserving and reimagining the American pit bull terrier through the creation of an online museum."

Torpy and Eckstein also found a web site, they said, where Rocky Alexander described himself as "'a professional canine behaviorist, trainer, handler, historian and conditioner' who grew up in an area where 'a professional dogfight was as normal as a baseball game.""

One of Jere Alexander's first hires at the shelter, Torpy and Eckstein noted, "was a vet tech named Sherri Shelf," president of the Georgia American Pit Bull Terrier Association, whose husband Tony on November 13, 2008 pleaded guilty in Illinois to a felony charge of transporting dogs for fighting and was sentenced to a year in prison, Cook County prosecutor Bob Schwarz told them.

#### SCHAUMBERG, Illinois—

The American Veterinary Medical Association "opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs," when done for cosmetic reasons, and asks breed fanciers "to remove mention of the procedures from their standards," the AVMA executive board resolved on November 14, 2008.

The new AVMA ear cropping and tail docking statement updates a position taken by the AVMA House of Delegates in 1999.

The 1999 statement "pointed out that cosmetic ear cropping and tail docking afford no benefits for animal patients, and advised vets that they should warn clients about related, inherent risks of anesthesia, blood loss, and infection," said the December 15, 2008 edition of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine.

The AVMA policy is now "consistent with those of the American Animal Hospital Association and the Canadian VMA," wrote JAVMA senior reporter R. Scott Nolen. But the British Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in November 1992, asked Parliament to

ban tail-docking. A new Animal Welfare Act including anti-tail docking language took effect in Britain in April 2007. Different versions apply in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The English version allows a vet to dock puppies' tails within five days of birth, if the person requesting the docking documents the "type" of the mother and states that the dog will be used for hunting or work. Wales requires definition of "breed" rather than type. Scotland bans docking outright.

The December 15, 2008 edition of JAVMA also announced that the AVMA executive board has endorsed in concept the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals and ancestral bodies have sought since 1952 to win United Nations approval of various versions of the Universal Declaration, which evolved out of drafts prepared in 1924 and 1926 for presentation to the League of Nations.

The 169-nation World Organization for Animal Health ratified the Universal Declaration in May 2007.

# The Longest Struggle:

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and online booksellers

## "Doggie in the window" singer hopes to sing swan song for puppy mills (from page 16)

ring, not just to detect and punish it after the fact. Imposing animal care standards from outside the industry is a means of raising the floor level of husbandry beyond what the pet industry itself has voluntarily done.

HSUS in targeting Petland spotlighted recent "puppy mill" cases in Oklahoma, where 24 breeders are Petland suppliers.

One case involved Robert and Darlene Lourance of Duncan, whose 500-dog facility was cited by USDA inspectors earlier in 2008 for having injured animals who had apparently not breen properly treated, improper record keeping, failing to provide adequate food and shelter, and failing to maintain sanitary conditions.

Another case was the November 2, 2008 seizure of 107 starving cocker spaniels and miniature poodles from the premises of Sue Davis, 52, and Randall Dick, 55, in Colcord. Nine dead dogs had been scavenged by some of the others, Delaware County sheriff's deputy Mark Berry told Sheila Stogsdill of the *Oklahoman*. The dogs were believed to have been last fed on October 25.

The nearest animal shelter, the Grove Humane Society, could not house all of the dogs, and neither could any other shelter in Oklahoma. Eventually 98 dogs were taken first to Salina, Kansas, and were then relayed to the Denver Dumb Friends League.

"Oklahoma ranks second in the nation with 625 breeders licensed by the USDA," explained Associated Press writer Sean Murphy. "That trails only Missouri, which has more than 1,600 federally licensed breeders. But that only includes breeders who sell animals to retailers or brokers. There is no federal or state oversight of breeders who sell

In Defense of Animals

directly to the public, and with the explosion of people purchasing animals over the Internet, those unregulated breeders are where many of the problems are."

"Puppy millers are moving to Oklahoma because of lax law enforcement," alleged HSUS spokesperson Stephanie Shain.

"The Internet has just ramped this problem up," HSUS Oklahoma representative Cynthia Armstrong told Murphy. "People can create a cute Web site with a puppy sitting on a gingham blanket, but there's no telling what kind of conditions those animals came from."

"This year, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and Virginia passed strong anti-puppy mill laws, and the Farm Bill passed by the U.S. Congress banned the import of young dogs from foreign puppy mills," Markarian mentioned, seeking support for an amendment to the federal Animal Welfare Act that would "require that dogs get 60 minutes of exercise per day rather than being confined in cages for their entire lives, and would also apply the Animal Welfare Act to puppy breeders who sell directly to the public or over the Internet."

#### Pennsylvania law

The Pennsylvania law, endorsed into law by Governor Ed Rendell on October 9, created a nine-member Canine Health Board. The board was mandated to "craft temporary guidelines for large kennels within 45 days" of appointment, explained *Philadelphia Inquirer* Harrisburg bureau reporter Amy Worden. As defined by the law, "large kennels" means about 650 breeders who sell dogs to pet stores or otherwise sell more than 60 dogs per year. Nearly 2,000 other licensed Pennsylvania kennel operators sell few enough

dogs to be unaffected.

"The board will provide detailed language to address extreme temperatures, poor ventilation, high ammonia levels, and bad lighting," summarized Worden. "Among the new requirements: larger cage sizes, the elimination of cage stacking, outdoor exercise, and semi-annual veterinary care. The board will consider appeals by breeders for exemptions to the exercise and flooring requirements. The law bans wire flooring," Worden explained, "but allows various forms of slatted or slanted flooring to allow drainage."

Breeders will have until October 2009 to bring their facilities into compliance.

Governor Rendell had pushed to reinforce the Pennsylvania laws regulating dog breeding since 2006. Rendell started about a year after Main Line Animal Rescue, of Chester Prings, Pennsylvania, began posting billboards alongside the Pennsylvania Turnpike, advising visitors that they were entering puppy mill country. Main Line Animal Rescue later extended the billboard campaign to Chicago, where one of the billboards inspired Oprah Winfrey to devote a show to the Pennsylvania puppy mill issue.

"Made up of veterinarians appointed by Rendell, Republican and Democratic legislative leaders, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, and the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical School, the health board was proposed as a last-minute compromise to ensure passage [of the new law] in the Senate," wrote Worden.

Less than a week after Rendell signed the new law, Pennsylvania attorney general Tom Corbett asked the Commonwealth Court to fine dog breeders Joyce and

Raymond Stoltzfus of Lancaster County \$4.4 million, and permanently revoke their right to do business in Pennsylvania.

"The filing charges that the Stoltzfuses, who operate CC Pets L.L.C., failed to identify their business in 884 ads on Internet sites and in at least four newspapers, including The Inquirer, as required under a 2005 consent petition," summarized Worden. "CC Pets sold more than 2,000 puppies last year, putting it among the state's highest-volume dog sellers. In 2005, the Stoltzfuses were the subject of the largest-ever state consumer fraud settlement involving the sale of sick and defective dogs. The suit was filed on behalf of 171 people who bought sick dogs from the Stoltzfuses, then doing business as Puppy Love Kennel. The Stoltzfuses were fined \$75,000 in restitution and costs and were required to get health checks for the puppies they sold and to identify their kennel in all classified advertising."

The 2005 consent agreement settled charges that the Stoltzfuses violated a 2000 agreement that settled a case filed in 1997.

The new action against the Stoltzfuses came about two weeks after the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture revoked the license of Upper Milford Township breeder Derbe "Skip" Eckhart, who did business as Almost Heaven Kennels. Pennsylvania SPCA personnel "found more than 800 animals in squalid conditions" in an early October raid on Almost Heaven, Worden recounted.

Eckhart "has long been notorious in animal protection circles because of a 20-year history of cruelty charges and other offenses," wrote Daniel Patrick Sheehan of the *Allentown Morning Call*, yet Almost Heaven received

passing marks from six inspections by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement during 2007 and 2008.

After the Eckhart raid, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture transferred southeast regional dog warden supervisor Richard Martrich to the state Bureau of Weights & Measures. "Department spokesman Chris Ryder declined to comment on the reasons for the transfer, saying it was a personnel matter," wrote Worden.

"Martrich, who also declined to comment, was removed from active duty in July pending an investigation, after a July 17 raid on a Chester County kennel revealed widespread abuse and poor conditions," Worden added.

The Pennsylvania SPCA on that occasion impounded 103 dogs from Limestone Kennel in Cochranville. Owner John S. Blank, 54, voluntarily surrendered his kennel license.

"Under Martrich, Limestone Kennel received only clean inspections for the last three years," noted Worden.

Blank was put out of business after "he gave away several old dogs with health problems to people who turned out to be volunteers with Main Line Animal Rescue," recounted Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer Nancy Peterson. "Bill Smith, executive director of the organization, took them to the Pennsylvania SPCA. The Pennsylvania SPCA sent undercover agent Ashley Mutch to Blank's kennel. Blank sold her a sickly three-week-old puppy," who died at the Pennsylvania SPCA shelter.

"Agents raided the farm a week later," said Peterson.

Some breeders, seeing declining sales of high-priced dogs due to the U.S. economic recession, are turning their dogs over to rescue groups rather than invest in meeting the new Pennsylvania standards, wrote Erin Negley of the *Reading Eagle* on December 2, 2008. A breeder had just given 12 dogs who previously might have sold for \$500 and up to the Animal Rescue League, in Cumru Township.



# Animal Welfare in Islamic Law by Kristen Stilt

94 pages. Hard copy: <mona@esmaegypt.org> PDF: <stilt@northwestern.edu>

It would be difficult to review Animal Welfare in Islamic Law more thoroughly, or to praise it more strongly, than is already accomplished in the preface by Al Azhar University professor of Islamic law Abd Allah Mahbrook Al-Najjar. The professor is a member of the Council of Islamic Research at Al Azhar University, which is widely viewed as the most eminent institution of Islamic scholarship.

According to Abd Allah Mahbrook Al-Najjar, Animal Welfare in Islamic Law author Kristen Stilt "supported what she wrote that is related to the principles of Islamic law with sound legal rules from the Qur'an and the Prophetic Sunna. She was faithful in her treatment of these sources, interpreting them correctly...Nothing in the book deviates from the Islamic Sharia or contradicts its principles."

Opens Stilt, "In my studies of Islamic law, I have always been impressed by the extensive rules that require humans to treat animals kindly and with mercy. These rules are wide ranging, and include significant protections for work animals, requirements that slaughtering be done in the most absolutely merciful way possible, and commands to treat dogs and cats kindly in all situations...The rules of Islamic law on animal welfare, established in the seventh century, do more to protect animals than the laws of any country today.'

Unfortunately, the statements and examples cited by Mohammed himself on behalf of animals are not as well known or widely observed as he clearly meant them to be—especially in some of the societies that most pretend to observe sharia.

As Stilt explains, "Islam is based on overarching principles of kindness, mercy, compassion, justice, and doing good works. These principles are seen pervasively throughout the texts of the religion...For example, Aisha [youngest of Mohammed's wives] reported an admonition of the Prophet: 'Truly God is kind and loves kindness. He rewards kindness and does not reward violence.

Stilt examines Islamic laws addressing slaughter, euthanasia, and the treatment of work animals, the much misrepresented teachings of Mohammed in favor of dogs, and the highly favorable Islamic teachings and traditions concerning cats.

Stilt over-reaches in a chapter on animal welfare in Islamic history. "It was not Europeans who established the first animal welfare organizations and animal shelters, rather it was Muslims," she asserts. "In fact, the Prophet was the first to call for kindness and mercy to food and water and to treat them kindly."

Some of the Islamic cities had animal welfare organizations and shelters centuries before Europe, but the first animal welfare organizations and animal shelters in recorded history existed in India in the time of the Buddha and Mahavir, the last prophet of the Jains, 900 years before Mohammed's time. Both the Buddha and Mahavir taught kindness and mercy toward animals, apparently building on older traditions. The Hebrew prophet Moses also taught that animals should be given adequate food and water, and should receive merciful treatment, as did Isaiah.

Except in the sweep of her historical summary, however. Stilt tends toward understatement. More vehement interpretations of the sayings of Mohammed appear in the online postings of Islamic animal advocates, who for several years have been building an animal rights movement with an Arabic accent through the Internet. Young women in particular are inhibited in much of the Islamic world from organizing the rescue and protest activities that characterize animal advocacy in the west and much of Asia, but passionately discuss animal issues online, with the Hadiths of Mohammed as their chief philosophical foundation.



animals, and to call for humans to provide animals with Princess Alia Al Hussein of Jordan and Jackie & Ahmed al Sherbiny of the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends at an October 2008 conference on Islam & animal welfare. (Kim Bartlett)

who was among Mohammed's closest friends. In the conservative translation that Stilt favors, "A prostitute passed by a dog near the head of a well. The dog was panting and it seemed that he was going to die of thirst. The woman managed to give the dog water by filling up her shoe with water. Her sins were forgiven for doing that."

Another common version stipulates that the woman used her head covering to lower the shoe into the well to get the water—which strengthens the message that the act of kindness matters more than the transgressions against societal norms.

'This hadith is very powerful," writes Stilt. "Even a woman who had committed such a sin was forgiven for saving the life of a dog." A broader reading is that adultery and any sin lesser than adultery should be forgiven on behalf of anyone who shows even routine kindness toward animals.

Concludes Stilt, "Islam requires kindness and compassion toward all animals in all situations. I hope most fervently that these rules can truly become a part of daily life."

Published with the help of ANIMAL PEOPLE and Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, the text of Animal Welfare in A favorite of many is Hadith 3208, from Bukhari, Islamic Law appears in both English and Arabic.

# **Long Distance Transport & Welfare of Farm Animals**

Edited by Michael C. Appleby, Victoria Cussen, Leah Garcés, Lasley A. Lambert & Jacy Turner CABI Publishing (2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513), 2008. 450 pages, hardcover, \$150.

"Most people interested in animal welfare would agree that transporting livestock destined for slaughter across either an ocean or a continent is a practice that should be discontinued," writes Colorado State University animal science professor Temple Grandin in her foreword to Long Distance Transport & Welfare of Farm Animals.

"Shipping the chilled or frozen meat and processing the animals in the region of origin would improve welfare and reduce stress," Grandlin opines.

Long Distance Transport & Welfare of Farm Animals collects papers by 23 leading experts. About half are staff or consultants for animal welfare groups. The rest work in academic support of the livestock industry. Together they assess the status of animal welfare in animal transport by region.

Though each region presents a somewhat different context, the basic problems of overcrowding, rough handling, and ill effects from long rides without rest are essentially the same in all parts of the world.

Grandin points out that while most harm to livestock in transport originates with attempts to save money, the net outcome is that sick and injured animals cost the livestock industry as a whole much more than the sum of savings by corner-cutting individual farmers, brokers, transporters, and slaughterhousis economically inefficient, but persists largely because of insufficient investment in developing the alternatives.

Grandin mentions 19 specific points of conflict between short-term economic interest and the welfare of animals in transport, each of which might be remedied if the livestock marketing system could be modified to share the economic results of better animal welfare throughout the supply chain.

In much of the world, Grandin notes, "Transporting live animals usually requires less capital than building and operating a slaughter plant"--at least up front. When the cumulative cost of transport is taken into account, building an up-to-date slaughterhouse and refrigeration infrastucture to distribute and sell frozen meat would quickly pay for itself; but the economic structure of the industry favors tens of thousands of haulers moving millions of live animals, instead of pooled investment and shared returns.

The contributors to Long Distance Transport & Welfare of Farm Animals all favor improved legislation, but none seem to see legislation as more than a step toward systemic change which must be motivated by market forces and cultural pressure.

"The European Union has more comprehensive legislation for animal welfare during animal transport than anywhere else in the world. However, legislation must be adequately enforced," summarizes World Society for the Protection of Animals representative Victoria Cussen. Her essay details "A large degree of variability in enforcement" of the European legislation, even though Europe is a relatively small part of the world with high public awareness of animal welfare.

Donald Broom of the Cambridge University Animal Welfare Information Centre points out that what is "long" transport varies by species. "Because poultry held in crates or drawers cannot be effectively fed and watered during transport," Broom explains, "journeys [for birds] must be considerably shorter."

Broom is equally critical of how mammals are usually hauled to slaughter.

"When four-legged animals are standing on a surface subject to movement, such as a road vehicle," Broom points out, "they position their feet outside the normal area under the body in order to help them to balance. They also need to take steps out of this normal area if subjected to accelerations in a particular direction. Hence, they need more space than if standing still."

But livestock are seldom allowed even as much space in transport as they get in confinement husbandry.

Instead, haulers typically try to pack as many animals into a vehicle as can be aboard. The animals are kept upright by the pressure of the bodies of the other animals around them, or by nose and tail tying. Many are injured, and injure each other.

In Broom's view, "Stocking densities must be defined as floor area per animal of a specified live weight." Definitions based on floor area per animal "are not an acceptable way of defining floor space requirements," Broom believes, "since they take no account of variation in animal weight.'

Within Long Distance Transport & Welfare of Farm Animals, there is no disagreement with the recommendation of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe that animals should be slaughtered as near the point of production as possible [and no opposition to slaughtering animals in the first place], but several contributors are skeptical that long hauls can be abolished.

S.A. Rahman believes that religious and cultural requirements in parts of the Middle East will thwart attempts to replace imports of live sheep and cattle with a frozen carcass trade, "at least during the period of Hajj," the pilgrimage season, when about 25% of all livestock slaughter in the region occurs. However, Rahman points out, other livestock imports could be replaced by frozen carcass trade.

"If Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union ceased to supply the Middle

East with live animals, it would of course be essential to ensure that this market was not filled by imports from countries where regulation is weaker," Rahman writes.

Those countries might be China, or any of several livestock-exporting nations in South America and Africa.

African nations already supply livestock to the Middle East in high volume, but the commerce moves mostly overland, and is much less visible than the multi-story livestock vessels running back and forth from Australia and New Zealand.

"Limited power availability plays a part in the movement of animals," explains Karen Menczer in her coverage of Africa. "It is more efficient to transport the live animal rather than to transport meat when the potential exists for spoilage without cold storage."

African livestock are often still driven to slaughter on their own feet. In parts of East Africa, says Menczer, herds may be driven for 75 days to reach urban markets. As the "vegetation is thorny, and water points and pasture are scarce...carcasses of animals too weak to go on, suffering from lack of water, are frequently found on the savannah.

"Trekking is steadily decreasing due to increased urbanization, land use conflicts, and initiatives to encourage pastoralists to become sedentary," Menczer writes. deteriorating railway infrastructure. Transport by road is increasing. Transport by ship occurs mainly for export.

"In many countries in the region," Menczer adds, "bureaucracy and corruption prolong already long trips, and increase exposure to heat and sun and the amount of time spent without food, water, and rest. Overland trips can take seven days [along common routes] and can be even longer if the truck stops at more markets along the way, has a breakdown, or is stopped at borders for incorrect permits or for harassment. The multiplicity of control points, taxes and fees complicate trade routes...Rough terrain is also a problem. In some of these countries, roads are so rutted that it is impossible for animals to remain upright in the vehicle."

Laws meant to protect livestock in transport exist in South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, Menczer notes, but the laws are seldom enforced, chiefly because the enforcement agencies, where any exist, lack the resources to do much more than make token gestures.

"By far the greatest cultural influence on the perception and management of livestock is the extent of poverty within the country," says Menczer —but she takes issue with conventional belief about the relationship of poverty to animal welfare.

widely held," Menczer summarizes, "that countries which have high incidences of

poverty are unable to afford good care for animals. However, contradicting this is the attitude of small farmers, who are often the poorest among the population...The attitude goes beyond simply caring for the animal because of the price the animal will bring at market. There is true animal husbandry involved, which arguably takes time

and money that could be spent elsewhere." For example, Menczer says, "In East Africa, where there are both Christian and Moslem livestock producers, strong cultural beliefs and practices influence the management of livestock. These communities tend their animals with a lot of care and affection...This balance is disturbed when livestock traders who treat animals as commodities enter the equation...Throughout Africa," Menczer contends, "cattle producers have close ties to their livestock. Once an animal is sold to middlemen, the bond is broken."

The issues in South America appear to be comparable to those in Africa, according Tadich, except that South America is less politically fragmented. As in Africa, the nations most involved in international livestock export are also among the most affluent, and have some visible animal advocates-but not enough to have much influence.

In China, points out University of Houston professor Peter Li, the biggest problem throughout the livestock sector may be sheer inexperience. Globally, animal agriculture has rapidly expanded during the past 50 years, but in most nations the expansion has involved an already experienced livestock industry labor pool finding ways to raise, haul, and slaughter more animals.

By contrast, the explosive growth of the Chinese livestock industry has come in regions with little history of animal agriculture, and came initially by government directive, not by initiative on the part of producers. Nine of the 10 Chinese provinces now producing the most animals were not among the top 10 as recently as 25 years ago.

Li is optimistic that the Chinese government supports improved animal welfare as part and parcel of continuing to build the industry, in transport as well as in other aspects, but believes that economic considerations rather than actual concern for the animals are motivating official endorsement of -Merritt Clifton improvements.





#### **Witness to Extinction**



How We Failed to
Save the Yangtse
River Dolphin
by Samuel Turvey

Oxford University Press (198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 2008.

224 pages, paperback. \$29.95.

Samuel Turvey, born in Lohja, Finland, as a child enjoyed a rare sighting of the Lake Saimaa seal. Landlocked by receding glaciers about 9,500 years ago, the Saimaa seal has adapted to living in fresh water. At the time, researchers believed there were barely 100 left. The population rose to 280 in 2005, but has since dropped to 260.

"Getting entangled in fishing nets is the biggest single cause of death. If we get rid of that, the Saimaa seal could probably survive global warming," World Wildlife Fund representative Jari Luukkonen recently told Terhi Kinnunen of Agence France-Press.

Turvey grew up to earn a Ph.D. in Chinese paleontology, but inspired by his Saimaa seal encounter, felt impelled to try to discover the fate of the baiji, the Yangtse river dolphin, last known to exist when the last captive baiji died in 2002.

Turvey's title, *How We Failed to Save the Yangtse River Dolphin*, is a bit of a misnomer, since his involvement began after

the fact. Mentioned in ancient times, but apparently never as abundant as the now scarce Yangtse River porpoise, the baiji was probably already headed toward extinction when 17-year-old American duck hunter Charles Hoy shot the first scientifically described specimen in 1914.

Baiji were at times hunted for food and oil, especially during the so-called Great Leap Forward under Mao tse Tung, when as many as 30 million Chinese people starved to death, but mostly they appear to have been accidental victims of "rolling hook" fishing, fish netting, and boat traffic along the river which has long been among China's busiest thoroughfares.

Not more than 200 baiji were left by the time field studies started circa 1979. Inept attempts to catch baiji for captive breeding, lack of knowledge about the needs of baiji once captured, institutional rivalries, and the perception of international conservation organizations that the baiji was a lost cause all contributed to the failure of last-ditch efforts to resuscitate the species.

Turvey appears to be especially bitter about the lack of grant funding allocated to saving the baiji, seemingly oblivious to the need for someone to raise the funds to be granted. If major funders would not try, baiji enthusiasts might have taken their case directly to the public via direct mail and e-mail.

As Turvey notes, marine mammologist Stephen Leatherwood became involved toward the end of his life, and knew how to do what needed to be done, but died in January 1997. That probably doomed the whole cause.

Turvey's role was to organize and lead a two-boat survey of the entire length of the Yangtse and major tributaries in 2005 that found not a trace of a living baiji and no credible reports of recent sightings. A blurred and distant video of a purported sighting in a tributary turned up in 2006, but even if one or two baiji remain, chances are slim that they will be enough to rebuild the population.

Turvey recounts the loss of the baiji in hopes that lessons can be learned on behalf of other rare species, including the vaquita whale, found only in the Gulf of California.

The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation reported in October 2008 that only about 150 vaquitas remain in the wild, while as many as 40 are killed each year by fishing nets.

Other Asian river dolphins have declined to the scarcity that the baiji reached before anyone sounded an alarm.

The Wildlife Conservation Society and Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project told Shafiq Alam of Agence France-Presse in October 2008 that they have counted an unexpectedly large population of 5,832 Irrawaddy dolphins in the estuaries of coastal Bangladesh. But that is almost the only unequivocal recent good news about Irrawaddy dolphins in any of their five Southeast Asian habitats.

Fewer than 100 Mekong Irrwaddy dolphins remain in northern Cambodia, Sun Mao of the Cambodian Rural Development Team told Guy Delauney of BBC News in July 2008. "A ban on the use of gill nets has cut down the number of dolphins accidentally caught," Delauney reported. "Instead, CRDT

has helped locals to reduce their reliance on fishing by offering alternatives such as poultry farming."

Even from a perspective limited to species conservation, increased poultry farming in estuarial dolphin habitat would be alarming. Poultry excretia, rich in phosphorus, is implicated in declining water quality in U.S. inland waters from the Arkansas River to Chesapeake Bay. River dolphins would be affected if the U.S. had any.

Thirty years after Pakistan prohibited hunting the Indus river dolphin, which is blind and lacks a dorsal fin, this species had increased to 1,330, according to a spring 2006 survey. The Indus river dolphin appeared to be a short-term beneficiary of a 25% increase in glacial melt from the Himalayas, attributed to global warming. As the glaciers recede, this stimulus will decline.

The dolphin population of the Upper Ganga river in India has increased from 20 to 40 since 1993, World Wildlife Fund freshwater program coordinator Sandeep Behera told *The Hindu* in November 2008. Accomplishing this required building a sewage treatment plant, stopping fishing and mining along 165 kilometres of river, and persuading farmers to fertilize only with cow manure.

Supot Chandhrapornsil of the Thailand Department of Marine and Coastal Resources warned in May 2008 that only about 40 Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins remain in Khanom Bay at Nakhon Si Thammarat. Four of the pink dolphins were killed by entanglement in fishing nets during the first five months of 2008.

—Merritt Clifton

# The Fatwa of Sheikh Mohamed Sayed Tantawi on Slaughter &

ANIMAL PEOPLE noted in a June 2008 cover article on the resumption of live animal exports from Australia to Egypt that even if Egypt fails to enforce secular law governing animal transport and slaughter, Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the Chief Imam and Shaikh of al-Azhar, Egypt, had issued a fatwa, or religious opinion, meant to reinforce the observance of the intent of the *hallal* slaughter laws, meant to minimize animal suffering, that are central to Islamic practice.

The Egyptian Society of Animal Friends has now published the fatwa as a handbook, also including the "Five Freedoms" and Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.

The "Five Freedoms," first enumerated in 1967 by a British government-appointed panel, require that all captive animals be guaranteed freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; freedom to express normal behavior; and freedom from fear and distress. The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, evolving as a proposed item of international legislation for more than 80 years, in present form surrounds the "Five Freedoms" with points of cultural context.

The Tantawi fatwa points out that the tenets embodied in the "Five Freedoms" and Universal Declaration are already requirements of Islam, articulated by Mohammed.

ESAF published the handbook on the eve of a two-day conference in Cairo on 'The Islamic Principles on Animal Transport and Slaughter," held just ahead of the annual conference of the World Organization for Animal Health. The latter organization, created by the United Nations, is better known by the French abbreviation OIE.

The ESAF conference and publication ceremonies included participation by three senior Islamic scholars from Al-Ahzar University, widely seen as the world's leading institution of Islamic learning; Nasser Farid Wasef, former mufti (chief scholar) for Egypt; the Jordanian minister of religious affairs, and Princess Alia Al Hussein of Jordan.

The OIE conference also emphasized the need to improve animal welfare in animal husbandry, transport, and slaughter, and asked the international donor community to help developing nations worldwide to

achieve high animal welfare standards.

As the delegates to the ESAF and OIE conferences crossed paths in Cairo, the Reuters news syndicate on October 21, 2008 distributed "Underground cattle trade thrives in Gaza tunnels," by Palestinian correspondent Nidal al-Mughrabi.

"When the calves were hauled out of the tunnel from Egypt," the article from Rafah, Gaza began, "they could hardly stand. After a terrifying 1,000-metre underground trip into the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, what the young cattle wanted most was a long drink of cool water. Underground livestock smuggling has increased dramatically ahead of Eid Al-Adha, the day of sacrifice [December 10, 2008] when Muslims slaughter animals and feed the poor to seek God's forgiveness."

Nidal al-Mughrabi interviewed tunnel operator Abu Luqaib, 23, "as his crew pulled a bawling calf up the deep shaft by a simple rope around its middle. The calves cost \$350 each plus \$250 for the transport, a total of \$600 per head," Nidal al-Mughrabi learned.

The traffic is dangerous for humans as well as animals. Just in 2008, more than 45 people have reportedly been killed in cave-

ins during smuggling operations.

But stressful as the tunnel journey is for calves headed toward sacrifice, it is short, and the calves are watered at the end of it. They may be among the best treated of all the animals who are transported each year for Eid Al-Adha sacrifice: about 700,000 killed at the conclusion of the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca, plus two to three million who will be killed either by or on behalf of the 1.3 billion Muslims who remain at home.

The ESAF handbook may help those animals, and many more—especially if Muslim consumers join animal advocates in pressuring everyone involved in livestock transport and slaughter to observe the *hallal* principles, if animals are to be transported and slaughtered at all.

—Merritt Clifton

## **Breaking the Chain:**

Teaching kindness & compassion to animals through art & creative writing
Edited by Bari Mears & Deb White.
Free download: <www.pacc911.org>

"A dog named Joey is tethered by a chain day after day, night after night in his owner's back yard. Harriet, a very clever cat, moves next door and takes an immediate interest in Joey's plight. How does the story end?"

Thus Maricopa County Animal Care & Control volunteer Debra J. White annually introduces more than 2,000 third graders to an exercise combining creative writing with humane education. Some add drawings to their work. Starting at two schools in 2004, White within a year reached 15 schools, and after five years coordinates a project that has begun attracting national notice.

Some of the best responses are anthologized in *Breaking the Chain*. Renae Lynk of Westport Elementary School in Surprise, Arizona won the first prize for "best essay" in 2008 with the only entry in which Joey the dog died on the chain. The other contestants imagined a variety of interventions ending happily. Chains were cut, police responded, nice people adopted Joey, and even Superman made an appearance.

No one envisoned the outcome of a similar situation. Back in 1976, in San Jose, California, a very clever cat named Catapuss moved next door to two chained dogs—a mongrel puppy in the adjoining front yard, and a junkyard Rottweiler just behind the back wall.

Catapuss often got the puppy unchained by tearing out a window screen to get outdoors and then teasing the pup until he made so much noise that his people took him inside. The Rottweiler was more of a challenge. Catapuss "liberated" him by pushing a piece of cracked glass out of a window, climbing the wall, and strutting disdainfully just out of reach of the dog's mad lunges. One day an especially frantic lunge snapped the Rottweiler's collar.



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Forgetting Catapuss, the Rottie raced out the junkyard gate, never looking back, not to be seen in that neighborhood again. As the Rottie made no further effort to get Catapuss, once free, and ran as if he had somewhere to go, the four of us who saw it happen dared to hope for a happy reunion with someone who missed him. —Merritt Clifton



# The Forgotten Horses

Photographs by Tony Stromberg New World Library (14 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA 94949), 2008. 192 pages, hardcover. \$45.00.

The Forgotten Horses is dedicated "To unwanted horses, both domestic and wild. To the unsung heroes at equine rescue organizations and sanctuaries all over the world who have taken it upon themselves to honor, defend, care for, and support unwanted horses and animals—it is their life, their livelihood, and their homecoming."

Not many equine rescuers make a livelihood at it, and what homecoming has to do with it is anyone's guess. *The Forgotten Horses* includes little more text: just a brief preface by actor Robert Redford and an introduction by photographer Tony Stromberg which takes passing note of why horses arrive at sanctuaries or with rescuers, and mentions the plight of wild horses who have been removed from the range to make way for

ranching and other resource exploitation. Mostly, though, the introduction is about himself and his feelings concerning his work.

The inside jacket blurb best defines *The Forgotten Horses*: "The horses in this book are abused, neglected, abandoned, rejected. They are lame, old, blind, or just unattractive..."

The Forgotten Horses is self-subject categorized as "horses/ spirituality." Therein lies the problem. Beautiful as Stromberg's horse photos are, they are unlikely to do much to help keep sanctuaries open and keep horses fed. Though Stromberg "traveled to sanctuaries across North America," only one is acknowledged by name. No contact information is provided, nor any information about the individual horses that might help a viewer to sponsor any of them. —M.C.

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#### 20 - ANIMAL PEOPLE, November/December 2008

## A Template for Change by Carolyn Menteith

Jointly published by Dogs Trust and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Free download from <www.tnrdogs.com>.

A Template for Change succinctly presents the case for introducing neuter/return to replace catch-and-kill dog control, and describes every aspect of how to do neuter/return, based mostly on the work of Robert Smith in Oradea, Romania

and Istanbul, Turkey.

As a free download, the price is right for anyone anywhere. Introduced at the October 2008 International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, *A Template for Change* is already in use worldwide—but this excellent handbook contains one serious flaw.

To estimate the dog population of a community, Menteith advises, "Have a good look yourself, but also talk to local vets, animal health or pest control officers or any animal welfare organizations that are working in the area, and then make an educated guess. Then go out and catch 10% of that number at a variety of sites... Mark them with non-toxic paint and release them...Go out to the same sites, at the same time of day, a week later and count the dogs you see (as many as possible but at least 75% of the total you caught originally). Make a note of how many you count and how many of those are marked.

"You can then calculate roughly how many street dogs there are...Total population = number marked times number counted, divided by the number of marked dogs found by the second count."

For example, Menteith elaborates, "You have estimated the population to be 2000. Catch and mark 200 (10%) at several sites. Then count 150 random animals at the same site. You find that you have marked 14. So the calculation is: total population equals 200 times [the product of] 150 divided by 14. Which means the total population is 2,142."

In that example, the total population would actually be 2,143. That is close enough for government work, and this estimating method is generally accurate, but it is also wildly impractical.

A person who takes a good look at a street dog population using an intelligently planned line transect can get similar findings in a fraction of the time.

Talking to "local vets, animal health or pest control officers or any animal welfare organizations that are working in the area" will in my experience usually produce a guesstimate that may be as much as 10 times too high, as in the projections of the Coalition for a Dog-Free Bangalore. To catch 10% of their projection, one would have to catch 100% of the street dogs in Bangalore.

Once any street dog is caught, the likelihood of catching the dog again is slim, so the census taker had better sterilize and vaccinate each dog immediately. This requires having the planned neuter/return program up and running—but if the program is operating, it is past the need to do a preliminary assessment.

Marking the dogs with non-toxic paint brings additional perils. Many dogs will lick the paint off immediately—and hide from the painter. People may think the painting is cruel, is marking dogs to be killed, or means the dogs are diseased.

Doing line transects requires walking across the community from outskirt to outskirt, by several different routes, counting dogs and then multiplying the total seen by the total area of the community.

In a January 2007 test in a suburb of Ahmedabad, India, I counted 67 dogs in a two-hour set of line transects. A two-day door-to-door count by the Animal Help Foundation later found 74, meaning that my line transects achieved 90% accuracy in about 10% of the time.

In a similar test in Subotica, Serbia, volunteers coordinated by Slavica Mazak Beslic recently found 1,489 street dogs on their first line transect, and 1,576 on their second. Thus the low count was 95% of the high count. Either figure would be about 11% of the officially estimated pet dog population in Subotica. Officially, Subotica has about one dog per 7.5 people, comparable to most of the rest of Europe—which means that the ratio of street dogs to pet dogs in Subotica is about twice the percentage of the U.S. dog population who enter shelters each year.

In short, if a quick, cheap, simple estimating method produces estimates that make sense for the habitat and are close enough to plan from, why do anything more time-consuming, expensive, and complicated? Save the effort and resources for getting the job done. And download this manual, because the rest of it will help you.

—Merritt Clifton

# Savage Humans & Stray Dogs

by Hiranmay Karlekar

Sage Publications (www.sagepublications.com), 2008. 275 pages, paperback.



Savage Humans & Stray Dogs author Hiranmay Karlekar has reported about socio-political affairs and animal welfare for leading Indian news media since 1963, writing in both English and Bengali. As a columnist for *The Pioneer*, a nationally circulated newspaper, Karlekar helped to curtail the dog pogroms that broke out in Bangalore and elsewhere in Karnataka state after two children were killed by dogs in early 2007. Karlekar is now a member of the Animal Welfare Board of India.

Savage Humans & Stray Dogs opens with an attempt to provide a definitive account of what actually happened in Bangalore. Karlekar may not have seen the extensive ANIMAL PEOPLE coverage, but cites many of the same sources, and appears to reach similar conclusions.

Both fatal maulings occurred in areas that were outside the jurisdictions of the Animal Birth Control programs serving Bangalore. Both occurred at sites where illegal butchering and disposal of meat scraps caused dogs to congregate. Both fatalities were used by political factions with a variety of motives, including affluent and educated people who see street dogs as an affront to progress; poor and illiterate people, who desperately fear rabies; ward bosses for whom dog-catching is a traditional source of jobs to award as patronage; and some Muslim leaders, since butchering in India is work traditionally done mainly by Muslims.

First the fatalities were blamed on the persons governing and administrating Bangalore. Those people sought to re-establish primacy by killing dogs. Then competition to kill dogs spread—but as it did, exposure of the mayhem brought a backlash. Killing dogs did not prove to be so popular with most of the public as the initial hue-and-cry had indicated it might be. The killing subsided, but the Animal Birth Control programs in Bangalore had been crippled by blame-throwing, remain underfunded, and have yet to recover lost momentum.

Official attitudes remain ambivalent. The knowhow exists to eradicate rabies and markedly reduce the dog populations of Bangalore and Karnataka, but the will to allocate the needed resources is lacking, amid all the other urgent needs of one of India's fastest-developing regions.

Karlekar uses the Bangalore crisis as entry into an exploration of human attitudes toward animals generally. He reviews the status of animals in Vedic literature, Indian tradition, and western culture and philosophy. Much of the latter two-thirds of *Savage Humans & Stray Dogs* con-

sists of summaries of others' conclusions. Readers who are already familiar with animal rights philosophy and scientific discoveries about animal intelligence and emotions will find little new here, but most of Karlekar's audience may not have previously encountered this material.

Karlekar's last chapter parallels the struggles for animal rights and human rights. Karlekar discusses Nazism and the abolition of slavery in the U.S., but makes little use of Indian examples.

Judeo-Christian and Islamic cultures, as Karlekar explains, have usually drawn a clear line between the moral status of humans and that of animals. Cultural relegation of some humans to the status of animals have tended to fail—after long struggles—against the reality that a person without rights fundamentally differs from other people only in not having rights.

Hindu cultural attitudes toward human and animal rights are considerably more complex. The caste system and the elevated status at least nominally accorded to some animals have created a matrix within which some animals may have had more rights and freedoms than most people for most of recorded history. The mere fact of personhood has not by itself conferred much status at all.

A further complication is that the Hindu belief in reincarnation includes the idea that all humans have had many animal existences, and may return to animal form.

Instead of trying to raise the status of oppressed Indians by differentiating humans from animals, many of the most prominent leaders of the Indian human rights struggle have sought to raise the status of animals and oppressed humans together—among them Mohandas Gandhi, Jawaharal Nehru, and Maneka Gandhi. Others, notably the Communist factions influential in parts of India, have taken the western approach, with much less success.

Meanwhile, economic development appears to be raising the status of the poorest Indians more than any brand of activism. Whether economic development means a net reduction in animal suffering remains to be seen, with Indian meat consumption rapidly rising on the one hand, while animal advocacy proliferates on the other. Perhaps western cultural influence will at last draw a hard line between the status of humans and the status of animals in India. But again, as Karlekar speculates, perhaps the backlash that stopped the dog pogrom in Bangalore hinted that most Indians don't feel the need to draw such a line, especially if they see the consequences. —Merritt Clifton.

# Directed by Tygve Allisten Diesen & Lucky McKee. Produced by Norman Dreyfuss & Tygve Allister Diesen. Starring Amanda Plummer, Brian Cox, Kim Dickens, Kyle Gallner, Noel Fisher,

*Red*, adapted by screenwriter Steph-en Susco from a 1995 novel of the same title by Jack Ketchum, begins with a crime of a sort that many readers of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** have encountered, and often will have personally investigated, prosecuted, or otherwise responded to as animal advocates.

Red has evoked varied responses from people who care about animals. Novelist Arthur Winfield Knight, a retired film critic, wrote to bring Red to the attention of ANIMAL PEOPLE after seeing it with his wife Kit, who is still an active film critic. ANIMAL PEOPLE president Kim Bartlett and artist Wolf Clifton watched Red at Knight's recommendation, and took different views of it.

#### **Arthur Winfield Knight:**

Avery Ludlow, 64, played by Brian Cox, lives alone after his mentally ill eldest son kills his wife and younger son, with only his 14-year-old dog Red for companionship. The dog, as a puppy, was Ludlow's 50th birthday present from his wife. While Ludlow is fishing one afternoon, Red lying by his side, three teenaged deer hunters attempt to extort money from Ludlow. When they fail, one of them blows Red's head to pieces with a shotgun. Another boy laughs.

Ludlow discovers the boys' identities and confronts the father of two of them, played by Tom Sizemore. Sizemore's character is affluent and uninterested in what Ludlow has to say. The two boys deny having had anything to do with Red's death.

The third boy's father is an out-of-work carpenter who is also uninterested in hearing Ludlow. His son, like the other two, denies having any involvement in the shooting.

Misfits Country (2008), the latest of Arthur Winfield Knight's historical novels, occurs on the set of *The Misfits*, the 1961 film that was the last screen appearance by both Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable, and brought public notice to the mass roundups for slaughter which threatened to exterminate wild horses in the U.S. west. Says Knight's publisher, Tres Picos Press, "Arthur Winfield Knight was in Dayton, Nevada when *The Misfits* was filmed, and he was in Virginia City when John Huston rode his camel to victory there," in a 1960 four-camel race which has become an annual event. Knight's other novels include *The Secret Life of Jesse James* and *Johnny D: The Story of John Dillinger*.

Ludlow tries to get the boys to admit that they did it, and to apologize. He interests a young investigative reporter for a local television station in his story. The reporter, played by Kim Dickens, interviews Ludlow where Red was killed, but Ludlow does not divulge the boys' names from fear of a libel suit. But they know who he is talking about.

Someone throws a rock wrapped with a piece of paper warning him to back off. Then someone burns down Ludlow's small store. Ludlow knows the boys are responsible, but cannot prove it.

At this point I expected Ludlow to go after the boys, much as Charles Bronson's character went after the people responsible for murdering his wife and raping his daughter in the first *Death Wish*, but *Red* doesn't play out that way. This is a thinking person's film. Without giving anything away, the ending is close to being tragic, so anyone looking for an easy resolution should probably skip *Red*.

Everything about *Red* seems real, and the acting is uniformly good. *The Hollywood Reporter* got it right when it said this film is "riveting," just as Mark Olsen of the *Los Angeles Times* did when he referred to this small, independent production as "an elegant thriller."

My wife Kit and I have a retired racing greyhound who has become an enormous part of our lives in the past five years. We tell people that Nikkie is the best dog in the world, and we're not kidding. Kit was walking Nikkie once when a spaniel came charging out of someone's yard, racing toward Nikkie. The spaniel did not seem friendly. The dog's person sat on his porch, watching as if this was an everyday event. Maybe it was. Kit, usually mild-tempered, yelled "Keep your dog under control," although she added a few expletives.

The man said, "I couldn't help it. My dog got out of my yard." Almost everyone has an excuse, which is at least partially what *Red* is about. It is so thoughtful a film that I almost didn't quote the *Los Angeles Times*, because this film is much more than a thriller.

I reviewed a film a week for more than a decade, and have seen a lot of films since then. Kit now reviews films for three newspapers in Nevada and one in California.

Our perspective is that *Red* is not only a genuine work of art, but is, quite simply, one of the best films either of us have seen in years.

#### Wolf Clifton:

Red is relevant to animal welfare, as it pertains to dogs. But the main character is both a hunter and fisher. Issues of note include Avery Ludlow's inconsistencies toward animals, and especially the influence that acculturation toward hunting has in developing the entire scenario, on both sides of the conflict

#### Kim Bartlett:

 $\ensuremath{\textit{Red}}$  is rather pro-hunting and pro-fishing, not an animal rights production at all.

If I had watched Red as simply a movie coming on HBO or something from Netflix, I would have thought that it was troubling from an animal rights perspective, but that it might cause some general viewers to think about hunting as a precursor to violence against people and pets.

However, the link is not made consciously in the film, and in no way is violence to non-pet animals presented from a critical or even questioning angle.

Protagonist Avery Ludlow is an honorable man, as people go, but the scene in which the dog is killed begins with him sitting with a fishing pole baited with a live worm on the book

Ludlow visits gun stores to try to track down the boys, and the gun store employees are uncritically portrayed. One gun store proprietor has a dog and tells how the dog saved his life by encouraging him to go on even though he had blown off his own foot while out trying to kill animals. This is also presented without irony.

We first meet the father of the boy who shot the dog in his study full of stuffed animals. This seems sinister, but not really different from the good guys at the gun stores who have heads on the walls.

Avery Ludlow's elder son murdered Ludlow's wife and younger son by burning them with kerosene, but no connection is made between that behavior and any hunting the boy probably was exposed to early in life. He is mentioned just as a sort of an inexplicable bad seed.

At the end the TV journalist brings Ludlow a puppy from a friend whose unspayed dog had a litter. That seems hardly worth mentioning, given everything else.

# The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes

& other surprising stories of zoo vets and their patients Edited by Lucy H. Spelman, DVM and Ted Y. Mashima, DVM Delacorte Press (c/o Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019) 2008. Hardcover, 310 pages. \$22.00.

## Trust Me: I'm not a veterinarian

...No Dog Before His Time! James D. Schwartz Next To Kin Foundation (5954 S. Monaco Way, Centennial, CO 80111), 2008. 324 pages, paperback. \$15.99.

The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes and Trust Me: I'm not a veterinarian could scarcely present more contrasting views of the veterinary profession.

Twenty-eight zoo vets in The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes recall their most memorable patients. Each appears to work in the tradition of All Creatures Great & Small author James Herriot, authentically fond of animals and quick to respond to any crisis involving any sort of animal, from sea dragons to gorillas and polar bears.

Zoo vets tend to be among the best of the best, especially at diagnostic work. A zoo vet must be able to treat hundreds of species for thousands of conditions specific to their kind. Some of these conditions transmit interspecies but present wildly varied symptoms in different species. Because the base of medical knowledge about most animal species kept in zoos is relatively narrow, zoo vets are at much greater risk of making mistakes than dog, cat, equine, and agricultural vets.

At the same time, zoo vets work under omnipresent public scrutiny. If a celebrated zoo animal falls ill or is injured, the case can become a local cause celebré. If the animal dies, the zoo vet will often be blamed.

Nowhere in The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes is there a list of the contributors, though a brief biography of each one appears at the end of his or her chapter. Most of their names would not be recognized outside the zoo field.

Co-editor Lucy Spelman may be the

Ray Fadden-Tehanetorens, 98,

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

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most famous, not for her many years as National Zoo chief veterinarian, but for her brief, catastrophic tenure as director of the zoo. That ended in mid-2004 after a National Academy of Sciences investigative panel criticized her management style and alleged deficiencies in the zoo's veterinary care.

A variety of experts have told ANI-MAL PEOPLE, however, that the biggest problem at the National Zoo, not just under Spelman but for generations, has been that it is operated by the Smithsonian Institution, which is oriented toward running museums, not housing live animals. Much of the zoo was built long before current ideas about keeping animals healthy in captivity began to develop.

Spelman's contribution, providing the title to the anthology, is about saving a rhino with a history of chronic foot problems caused by having spent most of his life on unnaturally hard surfaces. Eventually the rhino was sent to a more appropriate habitat.

The next best-known contributor to The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes is probably Jeff Boehm of the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Early in his career Boehm had the misfortune to be among the attending vets, at two different institutions, when animals who were already a focus of activist attention died under sedation. Despite the bashing Boehm got from elsewhere, he was willing to discuss both cases with ANIMAL PEOPLE. The

problem in each case was that the total number of animals of the species involved who had ever been sedated was fewer than the number of dogs or cats a typical vet might see in a week, and the appropriate dose-to-weight ratios turned out to be far lower than had been inferred from previous experience.

Boehm's chapter of The Rhino With Glue-On Shoes recounts how the Shedd saved a beluga whale baby who was orphaned by the unexpected death of his mother.

Not all of the stories in *The Rhino* With Glue-On Shoes end happily. Some of the vets are still wondering, years later, what they might have done to save animals who died mysteriously. But there are many happy endings when vets discover unexpected solutions to baffling problems. A reader favorite will probably be former Wildlife Waystation vet Becky Yates' account of saving a bear cub whose bones failed to harden. Yates was out of ideas and hope, but Waystation founder Martine Colette insisted that such a happy animal would recover properly with the right diet and care. The cub eventually proved her right.

James D. Schwartz, a personal financial planner, wrote Trust Me: I'm not a veterinarian just before the U.S. economy collapsed, eroding public faith in fiduciaries.

Surveys continue to show that veterinarians are among the most trusted practitioners of any profession. Schwartz contends that much of the trust that the public invests in vets is misplaced. Among his targets are misrepresentation of cremation services, vets who insist that animals be vaccinated annually against rabies even though vaccinating only every third year is adequate, overpricing vaccination, gaps in disaster response planning, and the deficiencies of vet health insurance. Schwartz himself has tried to sell an approach to vet health insurance that he believes would better serve pets and their people.

Schwartz appears to be fingering average small animal clinicians, with typical practices. Many readers will have had experiences similar to some of those Schwartz describes. But probably most will have met professionals in other fields whose performance is unsatisfactory, who get away with mediocrity in part because the demand for their services exceeds the numbers who are trained to step in as replacements.

The present global veterinary shortage is not expected to ease soon. The best vets today are better than ever, through the combination of improved training, improved diagnostic equipment, and more effective medications, but any vet with a license can find work.

Meanwhile, Schwartz' critique suffers from having apparently been written as web pages. The choppy writing style, suited to a small screen, does not translate into a fluent narrative in book format. —Merritt Clifton



hunting. In the early 1970s, when most major U.S. humane societies were reluctant to confront hunting, Lefebvre began collecting promises from leading humane organizations that they would at least work to abolish chase pens and "canned hunts," in which the hunted animals have no chance to escape. Twenty years later, as a charter subscriber to ANI-MAL PEOPLE, Lefebvre wrote that the promises had not been kept. Some progress has been made since then. Chase pens and canned hunts have been banned or restricted in several states. The federal Lacey Act, governing interstate transport of wildlife, is now more strictly enforced, after the growth of recognition that transporting raccoons, foxes and covotes to be killed in chase pens has spread several rabies outbreaks, and that hauling deer and elk from game ranches to canned hunts has spread chronic wasting syndrome to wild populations. Disengaging from public activism, Lefebvre meanwhile rescued several coyotes from chase pens, returning most to the wild. One she named Cheyenne proved to have been so habituated to human care that he became her longtime household companion, even learning to use a flush toilet.

(More obituaries are on page 22.)

#### **OBITUARIES**

died on November 14, 2008 at the Iakhihsotha nursing home in Akwesasne, the Mohawk nation located on either side of the U.S. and Canadian border near Massena, New York, and St. Regis, Ontario. Born in a farmhouse five miles east of Onchiota, New York, Fadden met his wife Christine Chubb, who survives him, while teaching elementary school at the Tuscarora Reservation, near Niagara Falls. He also met and began helping Clinton Rickard, founder of the Indian Defense League of America. Moving to the St. Regis Mohawk School in Hogansburg, New York, Fadden taught science to generations of young Mohawks by emphasizing outdoor nature study. Not harming or disturbing animals was central to his teaching. "He loved animals and passed that tradition on to my sons, myself, and many, many others. He also was a strong advocate for First Nations People, and we continue to carry on his work at the museum he created," e-mailed his son, artist and longtime ANIMAL PEOPLE reader John Fadden-Kahiones. At 90, recalled songwriter Roy Hurd, Fadden admitted, "I'm slowing down. I'm only feeding the birds at 200 places in the woods instead of 300." Recalled Plattsburgh Press Republican staff writer Robin Caudell, "In the early 1940s, Fadden created the Akwesasne Mohawk Counselor Organization, designed to educate Mohawk children about Native history, woodcraft, and Mohawk tradition, and to develop a positive self-image." As appropriate educational materials were not available, Fadden published 27 relevant pamphlets and 40 charts himself, many of them still in print in editions produced by other publishers. Fadden founded the Six Nations Indian Museum near Onchiota in 1954. Fadden taught seventh grade science at Saranac Central School from 1957 to 1967,

operating the museum each summer, then retired to focus on teaching museum visitors. Wrote Doug George-Kanentiio, "Without Tehanetorens there would not have been a White Roots of Peace, an Akwesasne Notes, CKON Radio, Indian Time, Freedom School, or Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs. There would be no land claims. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne would still be the St. Regis Band Council. Akwesasne as a place of power would not be. We would still be calling ourselves the St. Regis Indians. The new scholarship which is finally seeing us as we were, and are, would not have taken root. He inspired students from everywhere." But a fiercely expressed central part of his message was less amplified. "Folks out there always heard his message about First Nations people," affirmed John Fadden, "but didn't really hear the animal part. He undeniably was an advocate for animals, trees, waters, sky, clouds, rocks—all of it. Animals and birds were his first love since he was a kid. He learned that traditionally among most Native Nations there was a respect for nature, i.e., birds, plants, four-leggeds, etc., and that's what directed him toward that history and culture." Fadden taught that harming animals in any way for fun or profit is profane. Mohawk participation in commercial fur trapping was the sin that destroyed the Six Nations, along with their wildlife family, Fadden believed. A lifelong opponent of hunting and trapping, who for decades fed bears at remote locations to keep them from being shot for seeking food in proximity to humans, Fadden emphasized that it is today moral opposition to sport and commercial hunting, trapping, whaling, and sealing -often rationalized by association with traditional Native American practice—that most honors Native American religious belief. Ray Fadden in a 1989 discussion over his wood-

Right: Ray Fadden about 50 years ago with his pet porcupine Needles. "Dad had the knack of picking up Needles," recalls son John Fadden. "One evening when the light wasn't good, he picked up a wild porcu pine by mistake. He wondered why he put up such a fuss. He even put him in his huge chicken wire-covered teepee cage. Later, the real Needles roamed home, and Dad realized his mistake. Needless to say he let the other one free, and he hurried away as fast as he could, which wasn't too fast, as you know. When he was young, Dad had an un-descent ed skunk too," John Fadden added. skunk lived in his camp/shack in back of the house, he told me." stove urged ANIMAL PEOPLE editor

Merritt Clifton to found a newspaper for people who care about animals in the spirit of Akwesasne Notes, the First Nations newspaper that both Ray and John Fadden helped to found, describing ANIMAL PEOPLE in concept three years before it existed

Mona Lefebvre, 93, died on August 1, 2008 in Topeka, Kansas. Born in Egypt, of French parents, she came to the U.S. via marriage. Living first in Pennsylvania, she was appalled by U.S.-style sport



Mona Lefebvre & Cheyenne in 1994.

#### ANIMAL OBITUARIES

Peetie, the last cat known to survive from the neuter/return feral cat population control project that the founders of ANIMAL PEOPLE undertook in 1991-1992 in northern Fairfield County, Connecticut, was euthanized due to incurable kidney failure on November 16, 2008. "Peetie was born in inner Bridgeport, to a cat belonging to a nun who was principal of St. Teresa's School," recalled ANIMAL PEOPLE president Kim Bartlett. "By the time I picked up Peetie in the spring of 1992, his mother had another litter of kittens. The school was closing, and the cats who lived there, except for Peetie's moth-



Peetie. (Kim Bartlett)

er, could not be safely returned there. A few very tough tomcats from the neighborhood were released after sterilization, including one called Pete, who was obviously Peetie's father, as Peetie looked just like him. We took in all of the school cats except for the very tough guys, who were strong, healthy, and totally wild. Peetie was only half-tame. The nun could pick him up by the scruff, but I was never able to handle him at all until just the past few years when he began to get sick. Even when he was young and fit, however, he preferred to sleep on my bed." The ANIMAL **PEOPLE** neuter/return project was among the first in the U.S. to be closely documented and extensively publicized.

Mr. Buck, a 8-to-10-point tame deer who lived at the Bear Creek Pioneers Park's wildlife sanctuary near Houston, was decapitated in his pen on November 24, 2008 by a midnight intruder. Brandon Eugene Gregory, 23, was arrested for the killing on December 5. "Along with the tools used in the slaying, Sergeant Johnny Longoria of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Special Investigations Unit said authorities also recovered the bodies of two additional improperly tagged deer on the apartment patio that had been taken from an adjoining county," wrote Peggy O'Hare and Anita Hassan of the Houston Chronicle. Gregory reportedly told the investigating officers that he intended to take Mr. Buck's entire carcass, but Mr. Buck gored him so severely that he was unable to drag away the carcass.

## **OBITUARIES**

Ron Davis, 52, died on November 6, 2008, in East Lansing, Michigan, from pancreatic cancer. President of the American Medical Association from July 2007 to July 2008, "Ron was always a strong advocate of preventive medicine and compassionate medical practice," recalled Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine founder Neal Barnard, M.D., who had interviewed Davis as a guest on PCRM's Doctor's Forum. Director of the Office on Smoking and Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 1987 to 1991, Davis from 1991 to 1998 served as founding editor of the journal Tobacco Control. His AMA obituary recalled that among his scientific papers were several exposing "the link between passive smoking and cancer in pets." Davis during his tenure as AMA president joined then-American Veterinary Medical Association president Roger Mahr to develop and introduced the One Health Resolution, calling on veterinarians and physicians to collaborate in disease research and health initiatives. "Ron not only advocated One Health principles within AMA, but he personally represented AMA on the AVMA One Health Initiative Task Force and contributed materially to the development of the Task Force recommendations," recalled colleagues Laura H. Kahn, M.D., Bruce Kaplan, DVM, and Thomas P. Monath, M.D. in a joint statement.

Robert J. Crossman, 29, of Syracuse, New York, was electrocuted in front of his nine-year-old daughter on November 3, 2008 while holding a ladder to help another man rescue a cat from a tree. The climber was uninjured. The cat descended on her own.

Herminio Rodriguez Palma, 26, a keeper at Bioparque Estrella, northwest of Mexico City, was fatally mauled on November 10, 2008 when a tiger escaped from an unlocked cage. The tiger was located and killed the next morning.

Robert H. Foote, 86, died on October 27, 2008 of lung failure, in Ithaca, New York. Raised on a dairy farm, Foote joined the Cornell University animal science faculty in 1950. At Cornell he worked closely with Samuel Leonard, Sydney Arthur Asdell, and Glenn Wade Salisbury, who all preceded him in death, in reproductive research which included developing human and animal birth control methods; advancing the use of artificial insemination, superovulation, in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer; and cloning. Among the first researchers to study DNA, Foote "also conducted the early research that led to the understanding that all female mammals are born with a finite number of eggs that are depleted over a lifetime by degeneration and ovulation," remembered Newsday. Notorious vivisectors to some, who pioneered some of the techniques that have made factory farming possible on the present scale, Leonard, Asdell, Salisbury, and Foote also contributed to developing some of the most widely used alternatives to using animals in research, and in finding non-surgical methods of sterilizing animals.

Nordin Montong, 32, of Sarawak, Malaysia, employed since June 2008 as a cage cleaner at the Singapore Zoo, on November 13, 2008 jumped into the white tiger exhibit, pulled a bucket over his head, and was fatally mauled by two tigers. Montong reportedly displayed abnormal behavior before the incident, complained of insomnia, and told other workers that they would not be seeing him again.

There is no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), with address for acknowledgement, if desired, to

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Daisy (at right), the former street dog who inspired Aura Maratas of Bucharest, Romania, to start the Daisy Hope Foundation shelter, "died without reason on August 6, 2008 in my hands," Maratas wrote to ANI-MAL PEOPLE. "She is one of my protecting angels, along with all of my other dogs who have passed on," Maratas said, "reminding us that we must keep hope."

Titus, 25, the last golden-crowned sifaka lemur in captivity, died on December 2, 2008 at the Duke Lemur Center in Durham, North Carolina. "He died after Lemur Center veterinary staff removed a tumor from his liver that was one-tenth of his 9-pound size," reported Raleigh News & Observer staff writer Leah Friedman. "The shock of the surgery was too much for his elderly body, said Bevan Clark, the primate technician who had cared for Titus for the past two years." Born in the wild in Madagascar, Titus was captured and brought to the Duke Lemur Center in 1993. He was intended to become the founding male of a breeding colony meant to preserve the highly endangered species, but did not produce offspring with his first intended mate, Messilina, and the center never found a suitable mate for him. "In Madagascar," wrote Friedman, "sifakas live in a forest about the size of Durham County. They don't live anywhere else in the world. At one time, the sifakas' habitat was much larger, and the Madagascar government was on the verge of protecting it. But gold was discovered on the land, and the protection plan was abandoned."

Alaina Templeton, 6, a potbellied pig kept by Michelle Schmitz of Winona, Minnesota, was found dead at her home on November 18, 2008. "Alaina made it into newspapers across the world and even received snarky commentary on Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update when a case of animal cruelty was brought against her former caretaker," wrote Kevin Behr of the Winona Daily News, "for letting her balloon to nearly triple her normal weight. Schmitz left her pet in the care of Mary Josephine Beesecker in February 2007 as she underwent incapacitating surgery. After several months, Schmitz said, she was forced to remove Alaina from Beesecker's farm because Beesecker refused to return her phone calls. Schmitz discovered her pet had gained about 100 pounds, and her elastic collar was imbedded in her neck, requiring more than four hours of surgery to remove." Beesecker, of Houston, Minnesota, is to be tried by jury in January 2009.



Daisy, of Daisy Hope.

Bobby, 25, a silverback gorilla recalled by Andy McSmith of *The Independent* as "the star attraction of the London Zoo," was found dead in his cage on December 5, 2008. In the wild, noted McSmith, silverback gorillas live for 35 years or more. "In captivity," he wrote, "their average life expectancy is 50 years. Zoo staff were not able to say why Bobby died. One probability is that he died of cardiomyopathy, a degenerative heart condition to which adult male western lowland gorillas are particularly prone."

Grizzly, 4-year-old Rottweiler pet of Tony and Natalie Lazenby, of Anchorage, Alaska, "and loved by others in the neighborhood," according to Debra McKinney of the Anchorage Daily News, died from a crushed throat on November 26, 2009 when he poked his head into a Conibear 220 trap that a neighbor allegedly left on his porch with a bucket of meat. "It took four people to get the trap off the dead dog's head," McKinney wrote. ANIMAL PEOPLE in March 2008 published obituaries for four other dogs who were killed in similar incidents. Conibear and leghold traps, almost impossible to open by prying against their jaws, can be opened relatively easily by simultaneously depressing the levers, tabs, or "ears" on either side of their jaws.

Gus, certified in June 2008 as the World's Ugliest Dog at the Sonoma-Marin Fair, was euthanized on November 10, 2008 due to cancer. A hairless Chinese crested dog, Gus spent his early years caged in a dark garage, and lost his left eye in a fight with a cat. He later lost his left leg to cancer. His rescuer and guardian of the past eight years, Jeanenne Teed of Gulfport, Florida, spent his winnings as Ugliest Dog-and considerably more-on his chemotherapy. The annual Ugliest Dog contest rose to national prominence through the charisma of another hairless Chinese crested dog, Sam, a three-time winner 2003-2005, kept by Suzie Lockheed of Santa Barbara, California. Sam died at age 15 in November 2005.

#### **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Peetie. We are sorry this past year has been such a painful one for **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. We understand what these losses of animals mean. There is not a day that we do not miss our cats Bubbie and Tinker. We still look for them before we realize they are not lying on our bed.

—Lindy & Marvin Sobel

In memory of Francesca.
Your loyalty and enduring spirit
will serve as an inspiration for us all.

—Lindy, Marvin & Melinda Sobel

In memory of Patricia Harvey's beloved black velvet cat, Mickey.

—Marcia Pearson

In memory of Roger Smith Troen, a mild maverick and cherished friend.

He is greatly missed.

—Marcia Pearson

For my beloved parents. There is never a day that I do not love and miss you.

—Lindy Sobel



In memory of Levi, 14, beloved dog of Tracy Schwiger.

To Daisy, who inspired Aura (Maratas) Olaru to begin the Daisy Hope Foundation.

In memory of Jett, a former lab cat. When the lab was closed & the technicians were laid off, one tech took all the cats home & devoted her life thereafter to animal rescue.

In memory of Purr Box (12/3/87), Prometheus (3/21/81), Friendl (10/30/87), Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85), Miss Penrose (11/18/98), Duke (11/1/98), Purr Box, Jr. (5/1/04), Mylady (8/1/06), Muffin (1/2/08), Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).

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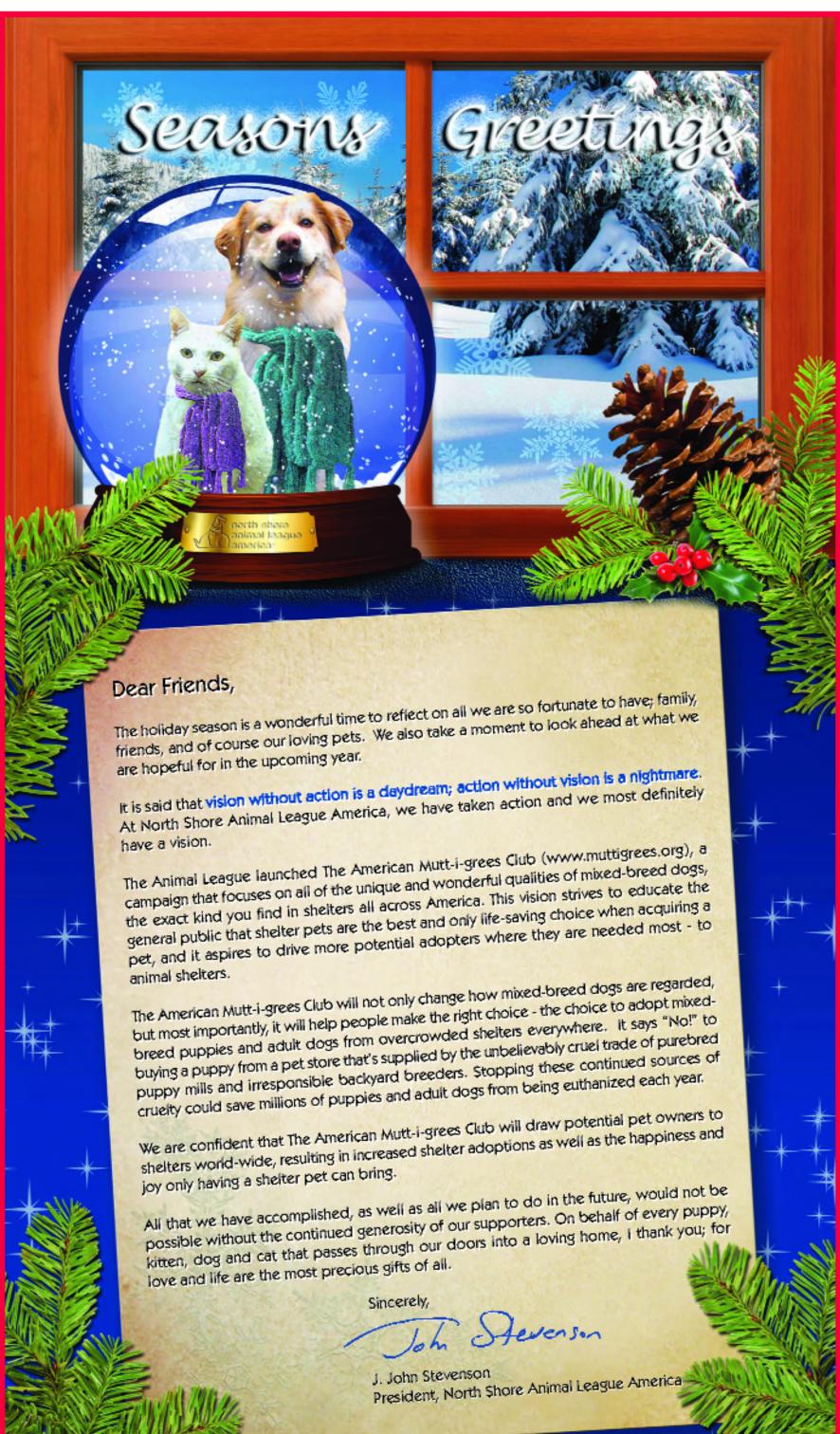
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4

Epstein said, they likely would have gone to slaughter," but slaughtering them either in Mexico or Canada would have required a haul of more than 1,000 miles.

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