



The Haile Selassie Zoo in Ethiopia is overdue for upgrade. See page 6. (Einat Danieli)

## Thai coup may hit wildlife traffic

**BANGKOK**—The September 20, 2006 Thai military coup postponed for six days the already long delayed return of 41 smuggled orangutans from Thailand to Indonesia. Still, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand founder Edwin Wiek told members of the Asian Animal Protection Network, “We believe that under the new rule the conservation of wildlife will improve.”

The repatriation flight, originally

set for September 23, was rescheduled for September 29.

Another seven orangutans are suffering from hepatitis, the *Jakarta Post* reported on September 16. Indonesia has refused to accept them, at least until after they recover.

“The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation and Wildlife Friends, who were to facilitate the repatriation for the

(continued on page 19)

## Anti-chaining activist is busted for saving a dog

**ALTOONA, Pa.**—Tammy Sneath Grimes, founder of the national anti-chaining organization Dogs Deserve Better, was released from police custody in East Freedom, Pennsylvania, at 2 a.m. on September 12, 2006, about 12 hours after she removed a seriously debilitated chained dog she called Doogie from the yard of East Freedom residents Steve and Lori Arnold.

“I’m out,” on unsecured \$50,000 bail, Grimes e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, for whom she is a part-time assistant web site developer. Charged with theft, receiving stolen property, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass, Grimes remained convinced she had done the right thing.

“I will not take this lying down,” Grimes pledged.

The criminal trespass and criminal mischief counts were dismissed at a September 21 preliminary hearing, as about 75 Grimes supporters demonstrated outside. Grimes is to stand trial on the charges of theft and receiving stolen property on November 27.

The Arnolds call the elderly German



Tammy Grimes & Doogie. (Dogs Deserve Better)

shepherd/Labrador mix Jake. They claim he is 19 years old, an extraordinary age for either breed. The Arnolds told news media that the dog was in the condition he was in because he is arthritic and they had hesitated to have him euthanized. They said they had given him aspirin for pain relief.

The first veterinarian to examine the dog after Grimes took him, Nour Hassane of the Veterinary Hospital of Altoona, “didn’t hesitate when asked, based on his experience and to a reasonable degree of veterinary certainty, if Jake was neglected or abused,” wrote

(continued on page 15)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

*News For People Who Care About Animals*

**October 2006**  
**Volume XVI, #8**



Above: Goats grab a bite in flooded Orissa.  
Below: Street cow swims through Surat.  
(Photos by Sherry Grant & PfA/Mumbai.)

## Could carbon monoxide gas chambers make a comeback?

Are the surging numbers of dangerous dogs entering animal shelters retarding progress toward abolishing gas chambers?

Warren Cox began to wonder in May 2004 when he arrived for a stint as interim executive director at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter in Dayton, Ohio, and found a carbon monoxide chamber that only a few days before was still in sporadic use.

Having managed more than two dozen shelters since 1952, Cox knew he was looking at an anachronism. The Dayton chamber had supposedly been decommissioned years earlier. The *Dayton Daily News* published exposés of gassing in nearby Fayette County and Darke County in 1995 and 1997 without apparent awareness that animals were still gassed right there in Dayton.

Continued gassing at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter came to light as result of a September 2003 complaint to county officials by veterinarian Sue Rancurello and shelter volunteer Jodi Gretchen, and was discontinued after a shelter evaluation by American Humane affirmed the obsolescence of gassing.

“Two top administrators at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter were removed,” the *Dayton Daily News* reported, in part for “using carbon monoxide instead of lethal injection to euthanize more than the recommended number of animals.”

Cox had the carbon monoxide chamber removed. But Cox also took note of who used it, and why. Throughout the first half of Cox’s long career in shelter work, carbon

monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and decompression chambers were used to kill animals in high volume. The Dayton gas chamber was used to kill specific animals whom some of the staff considered too dangerous to handle. Cox mentioned to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** his concern that the influx of bigger, more dangerous dogs might bring gassing back—not because it is safer than sodium pentobarbital injection, but because it is perceived as safer by poorly trained personnel. American Humane had specifically noted poor training at the Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

“Ohio is definitely the last bastion of the carbon monoxide box. When I think carbon monoxide, I think Ohio,” shelter management consultant and euthanasia trainer Doug Fakkema told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**

But Cox was not the first to mention to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** a suspicion that gassing might be returning to common use, if not public acceptance, and the shelter personnel who have mentioned it, though mostly from the Midwest and South, have hardly all been from Ohio.

Concern that gassing may regain acceptance tends to take note of rapidly rising insurance costs at shelters that receive large numbers of potentially dangerous dogs, leading to economic pressure to use “no contact” handling methods, such as prevail in Japan.

Recent shelter surveys have found that pit bull terriers alone make up 20-25% of the dogs entering U.S. shelters, and 40-50% of the dogs who are killed: 10 times more pit bull

(continued on page 6)



[SEE “HARSH MONSOONS TEST RESCUERS,” PAGE 11.]

## Walking horse industry quick-steps after failed USDA soring inspections

**NASHVILLE**—Between allegedly “sored” horses and sore losers, walking horse competition burst into national view as never before in late August 2006. But the attention was almost all embarrassing to breeders and exhibitors in a business whose excesses, a generation ago, prompted passage of the federal Horse Protection Act a year before the passage of the Animal Welfare Act.

The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration championship competition in Shelbyville was cancelled on August 26 after USDA inspectors disqualified seven of the 10 finalists for alleged soring violations of the Horse Protection Act. For the first time in the 67-year history of the event, it named no grand champion.

The National Celebration reportedly brings as much as \$38.5 million a year into Shelbyville.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) on September 7 asked USDA undersecretary Bruce Knight to “clarify” the USDA definition of soring to enable inspectors to enforce the Horse Protection Act

“in a more consistent manner.”

Soring, explained Pat Raia of *The Horse*, “is a practice whereby horses are subjected to deliberate skin lacerations around their hooves or the application of caustic chemicals such as diesel fuel, kerosene, or lighter fluid to irritate their forelegs, thereby achieving higher stepping animation,” exaggerating the “big lick” gait for which walking horses are known.

“Horses can also be sored by having nails driven into the ‘frog’ on the bottoms of their hooves,” added *Nashville Tennessean* staff writer Brad Schrade, “or by being made to wear overly heavy horseshoes that can pull the hoof off the leg. In an effort to make the pain stop, the horses step high in a reaction to the soring agents, federal officials say.”

In practical terms, the Frist recommendation would mean that the looser interpretations of the less experienced inspectors who supervise local and regional walking horse shows would prevail over the judgement of the experts who govern the top events.

(continued on page 9)

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Editorial

# Voting to help animals

On midterm election day, November 2, 2006, depending on the will of the U.S. electorate, both the House of Representatives and the Senate may shift from Republican to Democratic control. President George W. Bush, a Republican, will remain in the White House until 2008, but history suggests that if either the House or the Senate goes to the Democrats—or both—the outcome for the next two years will probably be much better for animals than if either party controlled all three elected branches of the federal government.

That possibility alone should be sufficient incentive to get pro-animal voters out to the polls in the many closely contested districts, even where neither candidate has a record on animal issues that especially inspires either support or opposition. Pro-animal voters will obviously want to support strongly pro-animal candidates of either party, and oppose those with anti-animal records, as indicated by the legislative scorecards published by such organizations as Humane USA PAC and the Humane Society Legislative Fund, but this year there is a further consideration. Almost all of the major pro-animal federal legislation, including the Animal Welfare Act, Endangered Species Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act, was originally passed and has been most positively amended by divided Congresses. Precedent thus indicates that this year the outcome of every seriously contested House and Senate race matters to people who care about animals.

So-called “Congressional gridlock,” when neither party has clear dominance, is good for animals because neither major U.S. political party is closely aligned with pro-animal positions. Neither party ever has been: animal issues have rarely been election issues. Political support for animal advocacy has always cut diagonally across the U.S. political spectrum, and still does.

The same could be said for support of the animal use industries—but with a difference. Historically, when politically dominant, both parties have strongly supported animal agriculture, hunting, trapping, fishing, the fur trade, and animal experimentation. Both could be expected to do so now. The difference is that the animal use industries tend to use campaign contributions to buy friends among whichever party is dominant. If neither party is dominant, they have to spend twice as much money to buy the same influence—and then both parties are watching to expose politicians whose votes are blatantly for sale.

Politicians with strong pro-animal beliefs are much less likely to take their positions with campaign funds in mind, in part because the animal use industries have far more money than pro-animal Political Action Committees. While pro-animal PACS have increasingly often demonstrated some ability to help swing close races, especially at the state and local level, the U.S. political scene is still far from including pro-animal PACs capable of matching the national funding clout of the major animal use lobbies. Demographic patterns indicate that this could change soon, and building strong pro-animal PACS now is accordingly an essential part of laying the political foundation for longterm future success, but achieving near-term political success for animals requires tactical astuteness as well as muscle-flexing.

Both the Republicans and Democrats presently include many strong elected voices for animals, in Congress and at other levels of government, whose opportunity for advancing legislation tends to be best when neither party is able to push through a strictly partisan agenda. When one party or the other has unquestioned political dominance, working on bipartisan measures tends to take a low priority, and is even seen as suspect by the ideologues of the dominant party. Conversely, in a “gridlock” situation, the most effective politicians are those who can work with their political opponents. Pro-animal legislation tends to be among the projects used to build bipartisan coalitions in divided legislatures, advancing most successfully when the animal use industries are most stretched, and most at risk of alienating key politicians if they give too much to members of either party.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE**, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is not allowed to endorse specific candidates or political parties, or promote specific legislation, but there are now many pro-animal organizations established and structured specifically to do political analysis and make recommendations. Among the best-known are the League of Humane Voters, in New York City; PAW-PAC in California; HEAL-PAC in Michigan; and Humane Heart in Louisiana. Some states have several such organizations—and they do not always agree. Humane USA PAC also has state affiliates that make candidate recommendations. Most of these organizations post their endorsements on a web site. An informed pro-animal voter will find out who they support, and why, before going to the polls.

An informed and effective pro-animal voter will also be aware that people who care about animals need not vote as a block to develop clout. Rather, people who care about animals will develop clout if they reliably turn out in force on election day, year after year, to vote as their consciences and understanding of the issues suggests—and make candidates aware of the issues that move them, both before and after each election.

**SEARCHABLE ARCHIVES: [www.animalpeoplenews.org](http://www.animalpeoplenews.org)**  
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## ANIMAL PEOPLE

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Who a person votes for is less important than explaining to the candidate why he/she got the vote. If animal advocates vote for someone but the someone isn't aware of having the support, the vote has much less influence.

Informing losing candidates why they lost votes is also worthwhile, especially before elections so that they have a chance to amend their positions, but also afterward. The actual candidate may never run for office again—or may come back with a different platform. The person most likely to be influenced, however, is the campaign manager. Campaign managers often are hired professionals, who represent many candidates over the years, and often they learn their jobs by representing losing candidates. Influencing a young campaign manager who made a good showing on the losing side may at times be more valuable, eventually, than influencing a winning candidate whose term is brief.

Be aware that officeholders belonging to minority political parties tend to be less besieged by favor-seekers and are therefore often more accessible than members of the majority party, and may gain influence later as their parties rise. Establishing positive relations with an officeholder of relatively little clout now may become a ticket to great influence within a few years, especially if your encouragement helps the officeholder to advance to higher office.

Animal advocates need to be especially aware and involved at the state and local levels, as National Institute for Animal Advocacy founder Julie Lewin emphasizes at every opportunity, because the structure of government in the U.S.—and in most nations—delegates almost all authority over animal control, regulation of animal care, and enforcement of humane laws to state and local governments. Even in nations such as India, with relatively strong federal legislation governing animal issues, enforcement is largely left to local implementation, with considerable leeway for how laws are interpreted and applied. In the U.S., with 50 different state laws and more than 20,000 different local animal care-and-control ordinances, animal advocates must develop a strong local voice in order to influence the most basic humane issues.

Developing a strong local voice is self-amplifying. Local elections are the minor leagues for political advancement, where rising politicians typically get their start, and local issues tend to be echoed from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Thus if one community is especially successful in responding to an animal-related issue, others will tend to follow, and politicians rising from that community will tend to raise the profile of the solutions they found. Further, they will recognize in animal issues an opportunity to demonstrate effective leadership.

The careers of longtime California state assembly member Loni Hancock and Congressional Representative Ronald Dellums afford cases in point. More than 35 years ago the Editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** covered their election to the Berkeley City Council. Neither was elected on a pro-animal platform; neither was known as an animal advocate. Both were deeply frustrated in pursuing their first political goals, but in 1972 they enjoyed a rare success in abolishing the use of decompression to kill animals at the Berkeley city shelter. Decompression was then the most common means of animal control killing. By 1985 it was no longer done anywhere in the U.S.—and Hancock and Dellums, throughout the remainder of their 30-odd-year political careers, avidly promoted pro-animal legislation and public hearings on animal issues.

## Independent thinking

People who care about animals and vote tend to be moved by a wide spectrum of issues, unlike gun owners, for instance, who are notorious single-issue voters. Thinking about a variety of issues and voting based on a complex analysis of multiple factors is worthwhile, especially in a closely contested election, because this is practically the definition of a “swing” voter, whom either candidate can attract. Usually candidates assess far in advance which way most of the single-issue voters will go, and try to keep them happy while reaching out to as many swing voters as possible. Thus, while single-issue voters weigh heavily in the decisions of entrenched incumbents, swing voters may possess greater leverage in tight races—if they use it. This, again, requires informing candidates and campaign managers of one's thoughts, including of dissenting perspectives on nominally “pro-animal” positions.

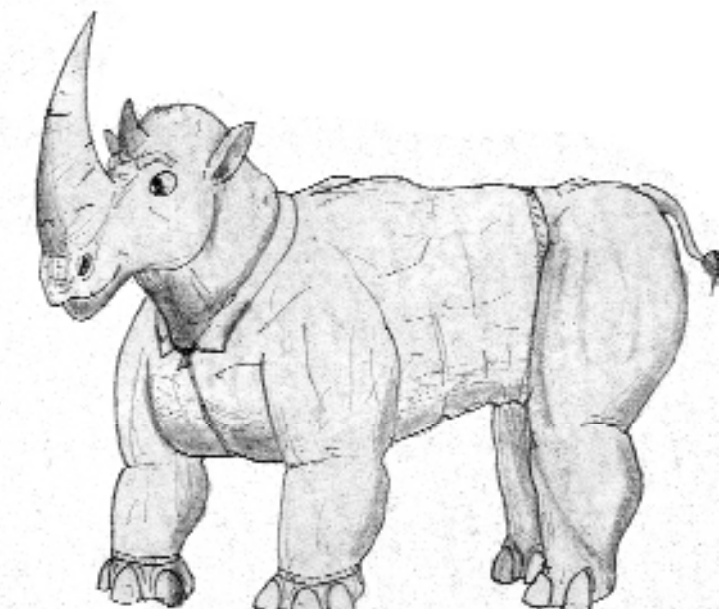
Thinking independently—and visibly—about “pro-animal” positions and endorsements is worthwhile, not least because animal advocacy group perspectives can at times be self-defeating.

A recent example may have been the passage of a California bill to criminalize leaving pets unattended in vehicles in weather that puts the animals' health at risk. Specific exemptions for “horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, or other agricultural animals” may have resulted in a net loss for animals, as Animal Switchboard president Virginia Handley unsuccessfully pointed out, in her capacity as the senior humane lobbyist in California.

Across the U.S., attempts to ban or overturn breed-specific dog laws are supported by many humane organizations, but—as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorially pointed out in January/February 2004 and December 2005—may be completely against the best interest of dogs, especially pit bull terriers, the breed most often targeted. Pit bulls now make up more than a fourth of all dogs in U.S. shelters and have a 90%-plus euthanasia rate, because they more than any other dog are bred and sold as disposable commodities. Stopping the killing, and the dogfighting industry that thrives on cheap, abundant pit bulls, requires cutting off the supply of the only breed type ever widely used in dogfighting. Laws that restrict or prohibit commerce in pit bulls need not result in the deaths of any dogs who are already born, or cause anyone to give up a pet; such laws merely take the money out of breeding more of them.

Initiatives seeking to increase tax funding of wildlife agencies also require a second look. Such initiatives tend to be pro-animal only if the net effect is to transfer influence over wildlife policy away from hunters and other “blood sports” enthusiasts.

Candidate by candidate, bill by bill, voting effectively to help animals requires making judgement calls. Pro-animal people may come down on either side of a decision, depending on their personal assessments—but either way, they have more clout if candidates and news media know that the animal issues were involved and decisive in bringing a voter to the polls.



—Wolf  
Clifton





—Wolf Clifton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Humane thrift shop in Thailand

ReTails Pretty New Store is the very first animal welfare charity shop in Bangkok. It took about six weeks from deciding to try a commercial venture to raise funds to the actual opening. After lots of stops and starts and disappointments, we now have a posh shop in a smart location near Sukhumvit. Downstairs is designer and smarter second hand goods, and upstairs is a real bargain loft, which the Thais seem to love.

Our display shelves are old planks from a demolished Thai house, painted and supported on terracotta and plastic flower pots. We picked up bricks, stones and rough wood to display jewellery. Wicker baskets hold most of our displays.

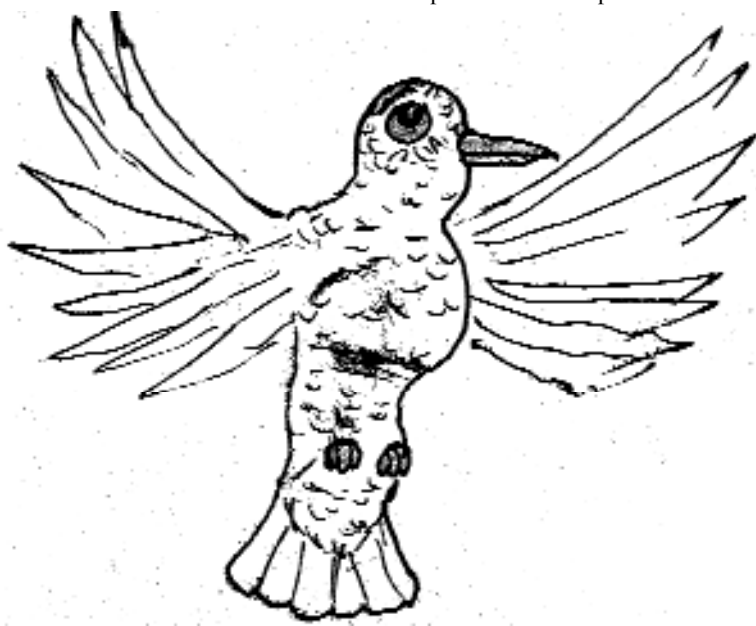
The idea is to raise the money that we need each month to run our spay center, but we have no idea yet whether this is achievable.

We have partnered with Crown Relocations, an international removal company, to run a consignment service for large furniture items: 60% retained by the seller, 40% to Soi Dog Rescue, and Crown will pick up and store the items until sold. We'll put a photo of the furniture in the shop. We are hoping to fill the niche for expats who arrive and leave, with nowhere to buy or sell their unwanted large items. Currently everyone has to resort to ads in supermarkets or club notice boards. We hope large furniture consignments will provide the bulk of our income, but Thais frequent the shop, often to buy cheap items to resell in the markets. Foreign goods seem to be much prized.

We will also sell coffee and homemade cakes donated by volunteers.

I'm having sleepless nights, wondering whether we can pull this off, the problems being a fairly high rent and only volunteers to run the shop, stock it, and beg for merchandise. On opening day we took in twice our daily cost of running the spay center; today less than a third. I suppose these ups and downs will continue.

—Sherry Conisbee  
President & cofounder  
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<www.soidogrescue.org>



## Thoughts about working animal retirement

I often wonder why there have been no amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in India since its inception way back in 1960, to find a way of getting some sort of a pension for retired working animals.

I do not think any horse cart puller or dairy farm owner, or for that matter anyone who has abandoned his working animal who became unfit for use, has been booked under this act, or is serving a jail sentence.

The recent willingness of the West Bengal Police department to pursue a pension arrangement for their horses with the Compassionate Crusaders of Kolkata comes as a great achievement in the history of animal welfare in India for retired animals.

Either we should do away with using animals for human interests, or we should pay them a pension, as we do for humans after retirement.



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### Editor's note:

The idea that dairy cattle, draft animals, and others who serve humans should enjoy a comfortable retirement was incorporated into Jain, Buddhist, and Hindu teachings as long as 2,300 years ago. This led to the often abused custom of temples keeping animals, the practice of animal abandonment at temples, and the institution of gaushalas and pinjarapoles, originally to look after retired cattle but often operated by corrupt management as commercial dairies and sources of leather.

Among the oldest animal care projects of U.S. and European humane societies has been looking after

retired police horses and war horses. Prominent early representatives of that custom include the Ryers Infirmary for Dumb Animals (1888) in Pennsylvania and the London-based Brooke Hospital for Animals (1934), founded by Dorothy Brooke to look after retired cavalry horses in overseas outposts of the British empire.

More recently, public pressure has obliged the U.S. government to fund the retirement of hundreds of chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates who were formerly used by NASA and projects of the National Institutes of Health.

That animals who have served humans deserve a decent retirement has also long been expressed in principle by zoos, the horse and dog racing industries, and military dog units, though reality remains that most zoo animals remain on exhibit until they die, only the most successful racing animals are "retired" to breed (and often eventually are sold to slaughter or sold to laboratories anyway), and many ex-military dogs are killed on "retirement," nominally because they might be dangerous, but cost-cutting is clearly also a consideration.

The weakness in animal retirement schemes is that none of them to date are funded by a pay-in system similar to the human pension plans of most developed nations, in which money is set aside as earned in dedicated funds.

As most developed nations already license at least some working animals, either governmentally or through private registries, and as tracking systems already govern the distribution of zoo animals, there is no inherent logistic obstacle to adding pay-in systems for animal retirement to the existing procedures—except that animal users would not like having to pay the small tax on animal services that would be needed to fund the animals' retirement.

## Sanctuarians cross no-man's-land to save asses

I hope that you will let me update your readers on the work of the British charity Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land, dedicated to caring for working and abandoned donkeys in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Safe Haven was founded in 2000 by former British Airways flight attendant and Jerusalem SPCA volunteer Lucy Fensom, who saw first-hand the cruelty and neglect inflicted on many of the thousands of donkeys still used as beasts of burden in the region.

Today, at the Safe Haven sanctuary near the Israeli town of Netanya, 100 donkeys live free from pain and overwork, and have the chance to form herds and roam freely on the 4-acre site.

Safe Haven's work does not stop at the sanctuary gates. Aware that the donkeys living there are just a tiny percentage of those desperately needing help, Lucy has initiated free veterinary clinics in the Palestinian Territories. Each week Lucy and her team make the sometimes risky border crossing with Safe Haven's well-

equipped mobile clinic to visit a different village and provide veterinary care, farriery and tooth rasping for the animals, and of course advice and support for the owners. Sometimes more than 100 donkeys, mules and horses are waiting for the team when they arrive.

Please visit our web site to find out more about Safe Haven. We now have a U.S. auxiliary, American Friends of Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land.

—Wendy Ahl



Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land

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Springfield Farm  
Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill  
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<www.safehaven4donkeys.org>

## Farm pigs add to waiting list of pigs needing sanctuaries

I have just read your September 2006 review of *The Good Pig* by Sy Montgomery. It was an excellent book review and prompted me to get the book. I, too had a very special farm pig friend named Big Earl, whom I recently lost.

However, the glut of miniature pigs of all breeds has not abated. My wife and I operated Mini-Pigs, Inc., a 17-acre pig sanctuary in Virginia, for a dozen years. We have recently merged our sanctuary with Shepherd's Green Sanctuary in Cookeville, Tennessee. We are now establishing a 100-acre preserve in Jamestown, Tennessee to handle the huge numbers of abused, abandoned and neglected miniature pigs and rescued farm pigs we are inundated with. The Preserve will partner with Shepherd's Green

to provide a natural environment for around 400 healthy and active rescued pigs, while the sanctuary cares for the older, infirm, or otherwise compromised pigs who would not do well in the preserve environment.

This is an attempt on our part to try to deal with the huge numbers of pigs needing rescue and lifetime care in a better, less expensive and less labor intensive manner.

You mentioned that the Ironwood Pig Sanctuary still houses "dozens of aging pigs." In fact, last time I checked with my friends at Ironwood, they were housing around 400 or more rescued pigs...most of whom are not aged.

The vast majority of pig sanctuaries I deal with on a daily basis are full or overcrowded and are still turning away dozens of pigs

each month due to a lack of space and/or funds.

To add to our difficulties, we are finding an increased number of rescued farm pigs needing sanctuary space. As the public becomes more attuned to the plight of the factory farmed pigs, many more are being rescued by animal rights groups and private citizens. So now, in addition to rescuing and caring for the thousands of "dumped" miniature pigs, we are asked to take in a steadily increasing number of full-sized farm pigs, while our resources, thanks to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, are much more severely stretched.

—Richard and Laura Hoyle



The Pig Preserve  
Jamestown, Tennessee  
<rhoyle@TWLakes.net>

## Live animal transport legislation

Thanks for an extremely informative September 2006 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, including the thoughtful article on the exemption in the California Animal Transport Bill, which deliberately excludes livestock from much-needed protection.

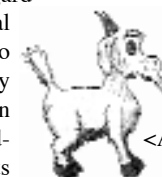
As Virginia Handley wisely pointed out, our current animal cruelty laws allow prosecution of those who leave pets in hot cars as a felony. This bill reduced the offense to a misdemeanor. This is shortsighted "feel good" legislation that sadly moved California backward by ignoring statistics and consequences.

Also, thanks for presenting the comments of Karen Davis of United Poultry Concerns regarding mailing baby chicks. Postal employees estimate that up to 70% of mailed day-old poultry does not reach the destination alive and/or healthy. One mid-western hatchery alone boasts

on its website that it mails over four million of these helpless creatures annually, and the Postal Service allows up to 72 hours without food and water for delivery.

Your article did not mention that the Humane Society of the U.S. launched a major campaign this year against this horrific practice. HSUS animal cruelty campaign director Ann Chynoweth has gained some major media coverage nationwide to enlist public support to defeat Senate Bill 2395, which would force airlines to carry birds at temperatures between zero and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Information about the campaign is on the HSUS website.

—Phyllis M. Daugherty, Director  
Animal Issues Movement  
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Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Phone: 213/413-6428  
Fax: 213/413-SPAY  
<ANIMALISSU@aol.com>



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## BULLFIGHTING

### Anti-bullfighting cities

ANIMAL, in cooperation with the League Against Cruel Sports, has launched the first campaign ever in Portugal to establish Anti-Bullfighting Cities.

Spain already has 32 cities which have declared themselves to be Anti-Bullfighting Cities. France has at least one. Portugal does not yet have any.

ANIMAL is now targeting 10 cities in the Algarve region (Portimão, Lagos, Lagoa, Aljezur, Silves, Albufeira, Loulé, Olhão, Tavira and Faro) and one city near Lisbon (Sintra) with this campaign. The point of the campaign is to get tourists who visit the Algarve to write to the presidents of the target municipalities, urging them to commit to not allowing bullfights and to openly condemning these cruel spectacles. Tourists are asked to state that they are boycotting bullfighting cities, and that they would like to visit anti-bullfighting cities instead.

Our effort is coordinated with the League Against Cruel Sports' campaign to teach tourists to use their economic influence.

In Portugal, seeking local bans is much more realistic than seeking a nationwide ban for now, although the entire campaign will obviously make it easier for a national ban to eventually occur.

—Miguel Moutinho

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### First Fruits Festival

Since 1992, every year in December, at the First Fruits Festival near Nongoma in Zululand, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, a large black bull is released into the Royal Kraal of King Goodwill Zwelithini. Thirty young Zulu warriors kill the bull with their bare hands in order to "prove their manhood."

A running battle takes place. Sand is repeatedly thrown in the bull's eyes. Eventually he becomes tired and is pulled to the ground. Sand is stuffed down his throat. His tongue is pulled out, his eyes are gouged out, his tail is broken, his penis is tied in a knot, his testicles are ripped off, he is kicked and jumped upon, and his neck is broken.

Killing the bull takes about 45 minutes. It is a display of extreme cruelty and brutality, and is against the Animal Protection Act of 1962, which states that it is an offense in South Africa to treat any animal in a manner which causes unnecessary suffering.

Yet in this instance the Animal Protection Act is powerless, because we have a constitution that protects people's cultural and traditional rights, even if cruelty to animals is involved.

This "cultural" cruelty treats "manhood" as an act only achieved by committing violence against animals. It encourages a culture and custom of violence among men. It is out of place in a nation that is fighting an epidemic of violence in all forms, e.g. four South African women a day are killed by their lovers. Kwazulu-Natal has the highest number of murders in South Africa every year.

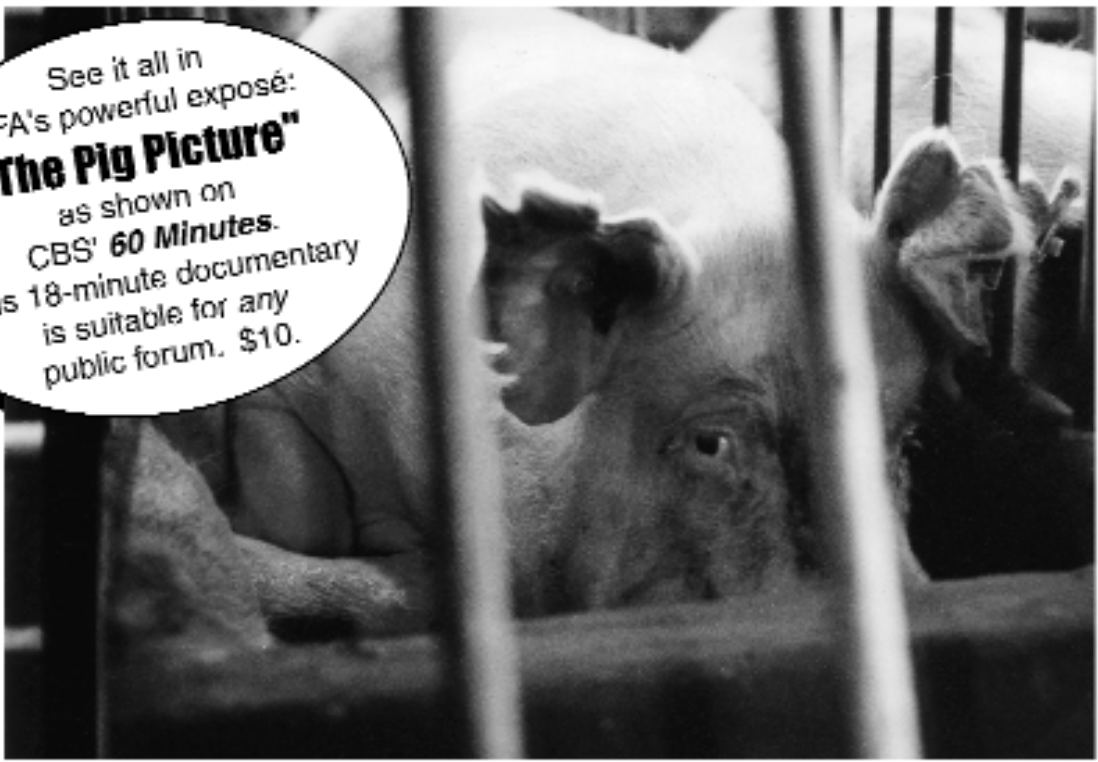
"Someone who is cruel and violent to animals will also be so to people," says Professor Sean Kaliski, head of forensic psychiatry at Valkenberg Hospital in Cape Town.

#### Editor's note:

Unfortunately, the Zulu bullfighting practices are not unique. Similar torture is routinely inflicted on bulls and sometimes other animals around the world, including India, where more than 90% of the population professes to share a belief that cattle are sacred, and where bullfighting has been illegal since 1960. ANIMAL PEOPLE in May 2006 reported on the often frustrated efforts of the Blue Cross of India and the Visakha SPCA to try to get local police to enforce the law.

Zulu bullfighting and Indian bullfighting, called Jallikattu, differ mainly in that the Indian bullfights are held in public places, and all comers may participate. Also, the bulls sometimes "win," briefly. In January 2006, reported The Hindu, "Two persons were gored to death and 84 others injured in the Jallikattu organized in connection with a temple festival at Pallavarayanpatti in Theni district." In July, The Hindu noted the death of "a mentally unsound man" who tormented a bull in Bangalore.

## "The Other White Meat"



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#### A Cruel Hoax

Recent outbreaks of food poisoning have shown just how dangerous it is to believe meat industry assurances. And the risks go well beyond exposure to *E. Coli* and *Salmonella* bacteria. Cardiologists and other physicians know that pork is a red meat. But to evade consumer concerns about high fat and cholesterol, the pork industry would have us believe that pork is a "white" meat. The pork industry even claims that its use of drugs and chemicals is safe. In other words, they'd like us to believe that a sow's ear is a silk purse.

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Member of the National Parliament Gareth Morgan has several times over the past two years attempted to arrange a meeting between King Goodwill Zwelithini and the National Council of SPCAs, without success.

This ritual should be replaced by sports and games, that do not use animals.

Living bulls are torn apart at other public events, and sometimes on "unofficial" occasions, but the main event each year is at the First Fruits Festival.



—Andries Pretorius  
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South Africa

leg when they fall. After the coleo, many of the bulls, bruised and worn out, are hauled to the slaughterhouse."

Both farra do bois and coleo evolved out of similar events held at Spanish village festivals, in which bulls and bull calves are chased, tortured, and usually killed by mobs—as at a much-protested festival in Algemesi, Valencia, Spain, on September 25-27, 2006. The annual bull-running event in Pamplona, in which the bulls chase the humans to the bull ring at which the bulls will be dispatched by professional toreadors, may have originated as a way for the men of Pamplona to show themselves to be braver than residents of other cities by giving the bulls a somewhat better chance to harm their tormentors.

As in India, most U.S. states have laws against such activities. Most states prohibit Spanish-style bullfighting, in which the bulls are killed in the ring. Some also prohibit or restrict horse-tripping, a staple of so-called Mexican-style rodeo. However, as SHARK founder Steve Hindi and colleagues have documented time and again, the bulls and calves used in U.S.-style rodeo quite commonly suffer tail-twisting, electroshock, kicking, punching, body-slammings, and jerking down with ropes, all with virtual impunity. Though most of these offenses are prohibited not only by law but also by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rules, the rules are rarely enforced, even when SHARK captures the violations on videotape.

Though the rituals of rodeo and most forms of bullfighting differ, the major differ-

ence to the animal is that instead of being killed on the spot, brutalized rodeo animals are hauled to slaughter afterward—as in Portuguese-style "bloodless" bullfighting.

In Spain, the nation most widely associated with bullfighting, "Marketing surveys show the number of Spaniards who say they have no interest in bullfighting has risen to more than 70%, from about 40% in 1970," Tom Hundley of the Chicago Tribune recently reported. "Among young people, the lack of interest is even more pronounced." Television coverage and attendance are in freefall, while the average age of Spanish attendees has risen to 40-plus.

The U.S. rodeo audience appears to be similarly collapsing, with declining crowds and television viewer share. But both bullfighting and rodeo promoters are mounting a vigorous defense of themselves in the name of preserving national cultures, including in Japan, where bulls are made to fight each other, rather than fighting human foes. The Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, on September 19, 2006 headlined "Bullfight marks slow return to normalcy for Niigata community" above an article describing how "Bullfighting returned to a community in Niigata Prefecture, for the first time since a massive earthquake struck the area in October 2004." Representatives of nine villages participated in a bullfighting tournament, before 3,500 spectators, which Yomiuri Shimbun noted as "about three times more than usual."

The Japanese government calls the local form of bullfighting "an intangible cultural folk asset," apparently putting it in the same category as whaling and the Taiji dolphin slaughter, as relics to be preserved regardless of the indifference or even opposition of most of the public.

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

# Could dangerous dog surge bring back carbon monoxide chambers? (from page 1)

admissions and killing than 10-20 years ago, depending on the survey location.

Rottweilers, German shepherds, and chows are also among the six breeds most often entering shelters. Pit bulls have accounted for roughly half of all the dog attack deaths and maimings in the U.S. and Canada since 1982, Rottweilers for about 25%, and German shepherds and chows are a distant fourth and sixth, according to the attack log kept since 1982 by the editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. (Wolf hybrids are third; Akitas are fifth.)

Other studies indicate that German shepherds are first among large breeds in bite frequency.

## Fear of dogs & drug crimes

All of these breeds tend to enter shelters because they have bitten someone—or, in the case of pit bulls, because they have been seized from suspected dogfighters.

Add to the dogs of known high actuarial risk (insurance payouts divided by attacks) the increasingly often seen crosses of pit bulls with mastiffs and other very large dogs: Presa Canarios, Fila Brasieros, Dogo Argentinos.

Add to that the frequency of dangerous dogs being kept by drug-savvy dangerous people, who sometimes feed their dogs home-brewed methadone or other chemicals to stimulate them to fight. There is shelter floor-level suspicion that some of the tough customers who come to look at impounded pit bulls and meanwhile “case” the shelters for possible burglary are increasingly likely to perceive shelters as a source of both dogs and drugs of potential street value.

Sodium pentobarbital, the lethal injectible recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association, Humane Society of the U.S., American SPCA, and National Animal Control Association, is a federally controlled barbiturate. Animal sedatives and ketamine, commonly used in sterilization surgery, also have street value.

With shelter break-ins to steal dogs and drugs having approximately tripled in 10 years, shelter staff are often working scared, especially on night shifts in bad neighborhoods and remote locations. Without strong leadership to demonstrate otherwise, many may imagine that the best way to protect themselves is to kill potential fighting dogs immediately, and avoid having drugs on the premises.

“Animal control agency reluctance to use sodium pentobarbital, from my discussions with them, stems from not wanting staff to be handling the animals,” Humane Society of the U.S. director of companion animal issues John Snyder told

**ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “They are concerned about the potential for injuries and the stress on staff—but hundreds of humane societies use sodium pentobarbital and do not have those problems,” at least “not solely related to euthanasia. I used a carbon monoxide chamber for 14 years,” Snyder continued. “I know how they work. Putting vicious animals in the chamber can be quite dangerous, if they are put in the chamber humanely and correctly isolated, or if they are pushed in on the end of a control pole and the door slammed shut. Placing the animal in a segregated cage within the chamber is not without risk.

“If you are handling a dangerous dog or feral cat,” Snyder recommends, “simply give the animal a sedative before sodium pentobarbital, to minimize stress on the animal and injury to the employee. With dangerous dogs, a breath-powered blowgun can deliver the syringe with sedative. You simply wait for that to kick in, and then give the animal the lethal sodium pentobarbital injection, removing the potential for injury to the employee.

“A jab syringe pole or piece of PVC pipe with plastic syringe dart powered by breath does not require a chemical capture course,” Snyder added. “Any competent veterinarian can usually teach all that is needed to do euthanasia sedation.

“Regarding diversion of controlled substances,” Snyder continued, “this will happen from time to time. This has happened at veterinary offices forever, and at a much higher incidence than at animal shelters. Drug and criminal background checks have become more common in government agencies, to screen out potentially risky employees. Cases [of diversion of drugs] are few and far between, considering turnover and other issues” involved in animal control work, including a longtime high rate of alcohol and recreational drug abuse among staff who become demoralized by killing animals.

“This is the same rationale that veterinary associations in many states use to keep shelters from obtaining sodium pentobarbital,” Snyder said, “and from getting direct purchase legislation passed,” allowing shelters to buy sodium pentobarbital without going through a veterinarian.

“There is no mystery about maintaining shelter security of controlled substances,” Snyder maintained. “When shelters store controlled substances according to state and federal regulations, then they’re not going to be easily accessible to thieves. Xylazine (Rompun) added to ketamine denatures the ketamine. It is no longer abusable or usable as a date rape drug. Shelters should not keep un-denatured bottles of ketamine on the premises.

“Animal control work in major cities is more danger-



ous now for sure,” Snyder acknowledged, “but I believe you will find that in the majority of major cities both animal control and humane societies already use sodium pentobarbital. Street level reality here in Washington D.C. is that the Washington Humane Society has the animal control contract and uses sodium pentobarbital, handling large numbers of bully breeds in one of the most dangerous cities in the U.S., in my opinion, to do animal control.

“In my opinion,” Snyder finished, “shelter directors who play the security card as the principal reason for using carbon monoxide are just throwing out a convenient excuse for not doing the right thing.”

Affirmed Fakkema, “Using euthanasia by injection on dangerous dogs, mandated in many states with high populations of dangerous dogs, is a training and equipment issue. This comes up in many of the classes I teach. With the right training, equipment, and pre-euthanasia anesthetics, any dog can be safely euthanized by injection. It is entirely specious to suggest that a chamber is needed for dangerous dogs. This is a belief espoused by the poorly trained or by those who have never used or seen euthanasia by injection.

“In order to put a dangerous dog in a chamber,” Fakkema contended, “he or she must first be put on a rabies pole. I can euthanize a dangerous dog in his/her kennel by feeding sodium pentobarbital—no handling necessary. Or, once on the pole, I can put the dog behind a restraint gate and administer ketamine/xylazine compound intra-muscularly to anesthetize the dog for completely safe euthanasia by injection.

(continued on page 7)

## Help at last for the Addis Ababa zoo

**ADDIS ABABA**—That little was done for more than 30 years to improve the Haile Selassie Zoo in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, might be no surprise, in view of the usually dilapidated state of African zoos—but the zoo holds a well-documented population of the rarest of all lion subspecies, believed to be the oldest captive lion colony in existence.

The black-maned Atlas lion, Barbary lion, or Lion of Judah, hauled to Imperial Rome by the thousands for use and slaughter in Colosseum spectacles, was extirpated from Libya by 1700, from Egypt by 1800, from Tunisia in 1891, from Algeria in 1912, and from Morocco in 1921. This was a year after the lion was deleted from the *World Encyclopedia of Animals* as already extinct.

Unknown to science, those in the Ethiopian palace menagerie lived on. After Selassie was overthrown in 1974, the menagerie was opened to the public, but is rarely visited by non-Ethiopians. Some lions were sold from time to time. A few descendants, hybridized with common lions, reached the U.S. and Europe through circuses.

The 11 Atlas lions then remaining in Addis Ababa were recognized in 1976 by South African veterinarian Hym Ebedes.

“Over the past 35 years I have seen hundreds of wild lions,” Ebedes told media, “but I have never seen anything so majestic and magnificent. The sight of a black-maned lion pacing around his cage had an indescribable spine-chilling effect on me.”

Despite the attention that the redis-

covered Lions of Judah received at the time, there was no apparent follow-through on their behalf, Israeli consular employee Einat Danieli found in August 2006, making her first zoo visit just six weeks before she was transferred from Addis Ababa to Toronto.

“The zoo is very small and now includes only four Atlas lions,” Danieli told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “There are three cages of primates: three Chellada baboons and three Colubus monkeys. The animals are fed and their cages are cleaned from time to time, but the lions are in a very small area with one cave to hide in and no stimulation. The area was made even smaller by the collapse of another cave that killed a lioness and one of her cubs. The primate cages are concrete and netting, without shelter from rain or sun. Their food is scattered on the floor, without any stimulation available. The female baboon is sick, and we are afraid she won’t last the rainy season.”

Danieli unsuccessfully sought help for the Addis Ababa Zoo animals from zoo organizations and wildlife protection societies in the U.S. and Europe. Meanwhile, Danieli reported on September 20, “We managed to collect funding from our friends to fix the primates’ cages and equip them with proper shelters and climbing facilities, branches, and feeding toys,” from which extricating food is a mental challenge.

Danieli also wants to improve the lion habitat “by giving training to the zoo staff and by connecting the zoo with an organization that could give them proper funding and guidance about how to preserve these lions in the best conditions possible.”

In addition, Danieli hopes to rescue “a common lion who was captured young and has been held ever since” by a local exhibitor “in a small cage, restrained by chains, in the southern region of Ethiopia near the Somali border.” Suffering from an ingrown collar, the lion “can only walk 2 steps because of the chains and is hardly fed,” Danieli told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, sending photos “The wildlife department is willing to allow the lion to leave Ethiopia, but will only take him if there is a place that will agree to adopt him.”

Despite her move to Canada, Danieli pledged to follow through on her initiatives for the captive wildlife of Ethiopia. She welcomes help c/o <einatdanieli@hotmail.com>.

## Accra zoo to be rebuilt

**ACCRA, Ghana**—The Accra Zoo, serving about 120,000 visitors per year, is to be relocated and rebuilt over the next five years, Ghanaian minister of lands, forestry, and mines Dominic Fobih announced on August 1, 2006. The animals are to be moved to the Kumasi Zoo, about 200 miles inland, by the end of September 2006 to make room for a new presidential complex. The new zoo is to be built with the help of the London Zoological Society, Fobih said. Founded as first Ghanaian president Kwame Nkrumah’s private menagerie in the early 1960s, the Accra Zoo opened to the public after his overthrow in 1966.



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# Could dangerous dog surge bring back gassing? (from page 6)

"In my experience euthanizing animals, only about 10% of dogs need to be anesthetized prior to euthanasia," Fakkema added. "It is not necessary to anesthetize all animals prior to euthanasia."

Among the selling points for sodium pentobarbital is that using it avoids the risk of accidental gassing, an occasional occurrence at shelters with the walk-in "lethal rooms" that were part of standard shelter architecture as recently as 20 years ago.

The most recent human fatality due to accidental gassing at an animal shelter was Vernon W. Dove Jr., 39, who inadvertently entered the "lethal room" at the Humane Education Society of Chattanooga on March 28, 2000. The Humane Education Society of Chattanooga was fined \$22,800 for related code violations by the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

As recently as May 2006, the North Carolina Department of Labor told WXII News in Lexington that it was investigating a potential human safety hazard from gassing at the Davidson County Animal Shelter.

"The labor department said a worker complained about having to hold his breath after turning on the gas to kill animals," reported WXII. "The Davidson County sheriff's office said there was a gas leak, but Sheriff David Grice didn't comment further."

"Staff injury is again a training issue," Fakkema emphasized. "Staff are injured when the organization fails to provide proper training, equipment, and pre-euthanasia drugs. Good training and safety always go hand in hand."

## Last stand for gas

If a shelter still has a gas chamber, Cox believes, it will be used.

"That's why we got rid of it in Dayton," Cox explained. "Perhaps the equipment could have been recycled for something else, but if it exists on the premises, the temptation will always be there to try to solve a problem by whatever somebody thinks might be the easy way."

Political momentum wherever

gassing has become a public issue favors sodium pentobarbital injection—as it has for more than 20 years.

Almost the only public defender of gassing in recent years has been Sheriff Eddie Cathey, of Union County, North Carolina.

Union County purchased a carbon monoxide chamber in August 2006, after heated public debate. The purchase followed similar controversies after Union County animal control allegedly killed a lost pet cat in February 2005, and was sued in September 2005 over the pneumonia death of a pet dog who was impounded for biting.

Wrote Cathey to carbon monoxide critics, "This is obviously a very emotional topic in which there are strong arguments on both sides. The obvious best solution is to decrease the unwanted birth of animals through an aggressive spay/neuter program, which is an integral part of our new shelter. But for right now, we simply have too many unwanted animals in the county and are forced to euthanize many dogs and cats. Since I am not a veterinarian and therefore, definitely not an expert on animal euthanasia, I read the 2000 *Report of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia*," which conditionally approved of the use of carbon monoxide if for some reason sodium pentobarbital injection could not be done.

"This is all about the installation of a chamber," Cathey continued. "What do you want me to do with dangerous dogs, animals with rabies, and animals with [other] diseases? The shelter needs to have the option of the chamber," Cathey insisted. "Officers do not need to be needlessly exposed. We use both the chamber and shots. We try to apply common sense," Cathey said.

But Detroit Animal Control, among the shelters handling the most dangerous dogs in the U.S., quit gassing animals in 2002. San Antonio quit in October 2005. Quitting earlier in 2005 were East Providence, Rhode Island; Isle of Wight, Virginia; and Johnston County, North Carolina. The Long Island Humane & Dog Protective Association, on Long Island, quit gassing animals in January

2006. It may have been the last non-government shelter in the greater New York City metropolitan region to use gas.

"I don't think there is a resurgence [of carbon monoxide use], not nationally anyway, and that's my beat," said Fakkema.

"In my experience traveling all over the U.S.," Fakkema added, "I'd say that well over half or better of animal care and control shelters are using euthanasia by injection. There are at least 14 states which mandate euthanasia by injection. A few others prohibit the likely alternative, carbon monoxide, thus effectively mandating euthanasia by injection. In terms of the actual number of animals killed in U.S. shelters, I guess that close to 70% or better are put to death using injection. Most of the facilities still using carbon monoxide are small rural dog pounds," as in North Carolina, Fakkema believes.

"On the West Coast," Fakkema told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "animals are killed probably almost entirely by injection. This is by law in California and Oregon. The Northeast has the least amount of euthanasia of anywhere in the U.S., with little if any use of methods other than injection. The Mid-Atlantic states mostly do euthanasia by injection, I think. In the South and Southeast, there is a higher percentage of carbon monoxide use, I'd guess, except in Florida, Arkansas, and Georgia, which mandate euthanasia by injection. In the Midwest, Ohio and Indiana have a higher percentage of carbon monoxide use. Many small rural pounds still have a cinder block gas chamber outside behind the shelter. In the West, since the major gas chamber manufacturer is in Salt Lake City, probably more facilities use carbon monoxide. Larger cities are more likely to use euthanasia by injection than small cities."

Fakkema's view is affirmed by many of the electronic alerts distributed by breed rescuers and adoption transporters, who often headline their appeals on behalf of particular pound animals with a mention that the pound in question uses gas. Most such messages pertain to animals taken out of rural Southern or Midwestern shelters, especially in

North Carolina, and Louisiana, and Georgia, where the mandate for sodium pentobarbital allowed shelters to continue using carbon monoxide chambers if they had them in 1990.

## Public perception

"A major factor in the trend toward euthanasia by injection is public involvement," said Fakkema. "From the pickets carrying signs outside the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society back in the 1970s to the horrendous press given to San Antonio earlier this year, the public is clearly making a difference."

Public attention toward methods of shelter killing tends to focus on the perception that sodium pentobarbital injection is quicker and causes less suffering to the animal than any other method.

There is also a perception that sodium pentobarbital effects death more certainly.

*Miracle Dog* (2005) by Stray Rescue founder Randy Grim sparked renewed anti-gassing activism throughout the U.S. by telling the story of a dog whom Grim named Quentin, after the well-known gas chamber at San Quentin Prison in California. The dog survived the St. Louis Animal Regulation gas chamber in August 2003.

In July 2006 a similar story emerged from Liberty County, Georgia, in July 2006, where a dog now named Amazing Grace survived half an hour in a gas chamber.

Gassing had already been a hot issue in Georgia since 1998, when Augusta animal control director Jim Larmer took early retirement after a television exposé caused mayor Larry Sconyers to order an end to gassing.

But sodium pentobarbital injections can also be problematic. At least half a dozen cases of animals not dying or not dying promptly after sodium pentobarbital injection occurred in early 2000, including some animals who were injected by experts during training sessions. These cases, never conclusively explained, appeared to involve a bad batch of the solution. Isolated cases have been traced to corrupt shelter workers "cutting" the solution with other substances, in order to

(continued on page 8)

# HOW TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN NEIGHBORHOOD CATS TNR HANDBOOK & VIDEO KIT



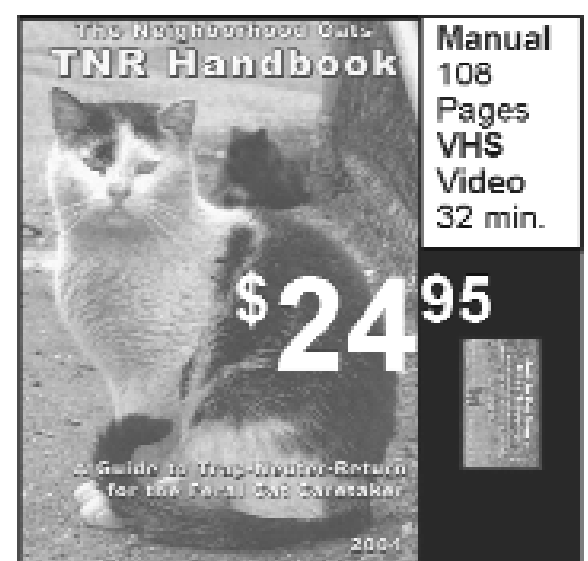
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## How gassing came & went

Gassing pound animals with carbon monoxide gained acceptance across the U.S. after the American SPCA took over the New York City animal control contract in 1895 and introduced carbide gassing in lieu of drowning mass-caged strays in the Hudson River.

Carbon monoxide gassing prevailed over many attempts to introduce other killing methods partly because it was inexpensive and easily done, but perhaps mostly because it was perceived as painless.

The most successful challenge to carbon monoxide came from the introduction of decompression chambers to kill animals, after World War II, when the San Francisco SPCA developed a side business in purchasing and adapting to shelter use Navy surplus decompression chambers originally used to help divers who developed “the bends.”

The SF/SPCA in 1954 and 1955, respectively, formed the Northern California SPCA and the Western Humane Education Society to help promote decompression. The SF/SPCA and the subsidiaries argued that decompression produced a quicker, cleaner death than gas, but shelter workers and the public became skeptical.

Across San Francisco Bay, the city of Berkeley abolished decompression in 1972. The SF/SPCA itself abandoned decompression in 1976, when newly appointed executive director Richard Avanzino (now president of Maddie’s Fund) scrapped the decompression chamber on his second day. Portland, Oregon, banned decompression in 1977, other cities followed, and by 1985 decompression was no longer used to kill animals anywhere in the U.S.

Some shelters merely converted decompression chambers into gas chambers, a relatively simple retrofit, but the arguments against decompression had caused the humane community to rethink the whole idea of killing animals in any sort of chamber.

A landmark study of attitudes and occupational stress among slaughterhouse workers published in 1988 by Colorado State University psychologist and livestock management expert Temple Grandin had an impact. Grandin found that slaughterhouse personnel responded to killing in three distinctly different ways: some detached themselves, some became sadistic, and some ritualized killing, convincing themselves that what they did was

for the greater good.

While shelter workers typically resented being compared to employees of slaughterhouses, follow-up studies determined that they responded in the same ways, just in different proportions, with ritualizing predominant among those who killed animals by lethal injection, and distancing more common among those who used gas.

As to whether any killing method has ever been easier on shelter workers as measured by either psychological studies or job turnover rates, “There is not much evidence either way that I have seen,” Humane Society of the U.S. companion animal issues director John Snyder told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “However, I have heard a number of shelter workers say even though it may be a little more work, they feel that sodium pentobarbital is more humane for the animal, and they feel better using sodium pentobarbital to end the animal’s life.”

“Electrocution, hypoxic gasses such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and argon, and decompression became the predominant methods of animal shelter killing by 1970,” recalls shelter consultant and euthanasia instructor Doug Fakkema. “All of the distance killing methods were an attempt to improve the method of death as well as remove the operator from the actual killing.

“This is an absurd notion to be sure,” Fakkema told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “as anyone who has pushed the button on a chamber full of animals knows full well that killing is going on. A similar movement in human executions has been taking place since the 19th century, with the invention of the guillotine to replace hanging or clubbing, then electrocution, gassing, and finally lethal injection,” by a series of methods that are still evolving and often challenged in court.

“In animal shelters,” Fakkema continued, “carbon monoxide by gasoline engine was replaced by decompression,” as the purported best method, if not the method most widely used. “Then decompression was replaced by nitrogen gassing, then [back to] carbon monoxide using compressed, bottled gas,” which has the advantages of being relatively quietly administered and not burning animals’ nasal passages and lungs, as exhaust fumes do if not properly cooled before introduction into the lethal chamber.

## Will gassing come back? (from page 7)

steal some to distill the barbituate content.

Between the Quentin and Amazing Grace cases, a feral cat later named Tom Brooklyn in July 2004 survived sodium pentobarbital injection and being placed in a freezer at Brooklyn Animal Control in Brooklyn, Ohio. The attention given to that case may have further retarded the introduction of sodium pentobarbital injection in Ohio.

The most common problem associated with sodium pentobarbital, however, is that workers who have never learned how to properly administer an injection may resort to the so-called “heart jab,” in which the animal is painfully speared with the needle.

Heart-jabbing was banned by law in Illinois in 2001; in California was banned in January 2002 by the legal opinions of attorney general Bill Lockyer and deputy attorney gen-

eral Gregory L. Gonot, issued at request of California senate president pro tempore John Burton; and was banned in New Mexico in December 2003 by a legal opinion issued by state attorney general Patricia Madrid, at urging of activist Marcy Britton.

“I think the best check and balance is to allow only compassionate animal care and control workers to euthanize,” opines Fakkema. “When killing is done by poorly trained, unmotivated workers, or workers without compassion, then any method can and will be inhumane. I see this over and over. The chamber is removed and the same untrained worker who was shoving the animals into the chamber is given a syringe and told to go forth and do good work. The animal advocate walks away thinking all is now in harmony at the animal shelter.” —*Merritt Clifton*

## Comparing costs of carbon monoxide v.s. sodium pentobarbital

After claims that gassing is safer for employees, the most persistent argument for killing animals by carbon monoxide instead of sodium pentobarbital is that carbon monoxide is less expensive—if only because most of the gas chambers now in use were installed and paid for decades ago.

“Switching to lethal injection would mean investing in drugs and training staff,” reported *Raleigh News & Observer* staff writer Marti Maguire in February 2006. “That could strap counties that now spend as little as \$20 per animal. The Orange County shelter spends \$150 per animal,” using lethal injection, Maguire wrote.

Also in February 2006, American SPCA Northeast Region shelter outreach manager Sandra Monterose told Alicyn Leigh of the *Long Island Press* that carbon monoxide, as used in Freeport, was less expensive than “injection of sodium pentobarbital with the use of pre-euthanasia anesthetics by a trained professional.”

Friends of the Columbus County Animal Shelter volunteer veterinarian John Stih, of Whiteville, North Carolina, told

Deuce Niven of the *Fayetteville Observer* in May 2006 that gassing is more cost-effective than injection, at \$10-\$12 per injection.

Columbus County animal control director Rossie Hayes told Niven that the shelter pays about \$130 per month for bottled carbon monoxide.

Doug Fakkema does not buy the claims. “As an 18-plus year shelter director, including serving as shelter supervisor at Multnomah County Animal Control in Portland,” among the larger shelters in the U.S., “and as a 17-year animal care and control consultant,” Fakkema told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “I am familiar with costing out programs. I can say without any hesitation that the estimate of \$150 per dog to euthanize by injection is ridiculous.

“Fatal Plus [the top brand of sodium pentobarbital] costs \$0.18 per milliliter. A syringe and needle costs \$0.13, PreMix (ketamine/xylazine) \$0.40 per milliliter. With doses calculated, the cost for euthanizing an 80-pound methadrine-fed pit bull would be \$1.92 for 4.8 milliliters of PreMix, \$0.13 for the syringe and needle, and \$1.44 for eight



(Karen Mediuscus)

Many different approaches to lethal injection were tried before sodium pentobarbital became the standard killing drug. Magnesium sulphate gained brief acceptance, and is still commonly used in India and eastern Europe, but was rejected in the U.S. because it visibly causes animals to suffer. A paralytic injectible drug called T-61 was commonly used to kill mink on fur farms, and crossed over into shelter use, but also caused evident suffering, and was federally banned in 1986.

Sodium pentobarbital caught on slowly because it is a federally regulated barbituate. “Euthanasia by [sodium pentobarbital] injection became legally difficult,” Fakkema remembers, “when Congress passed the 1970 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention & Control Act, which permitted only mid-level practitioners such as physicians and veterinarians to have access to sodium pentobarbital. In 1972 the Commonwealth of Virginia passed the first of the direct registration laws to permit animal shelters to directly purchase sodium pentobarbital, now a C-II controlled substance. The Drug Enforcement Agency now allows between 27 and 31 states to purchase and administer sodium pentobarbital without using a veterinarian’s DEA license. The number varies depending on how one defines direct registration.

“The trend is toward euthanasia by injection,” Fakkema believes, calling ‘euthanasia by injection’ “the preferred terminology, as ‘lethal injection’ evokes human execution and does not involve the same drugs we use.”

But critics of high-volume shelter killing, including Nathan Winograd of No Kill Solutions, argue that the term “euthanasia” itself is inappropriately used to describe killing healthy animals, and that people should take it as seriously as executing human convicts.

## Injectible female chemosterilant goes to field trials

**PORTLAND, Oregon**—Among the last actions of the Doris Day Animal League before it was absorbed on August 31, 2006 by the Humane Society of the U.S. (*page 17*) was funding a grant issued on July 26 by the Alliance for Contraception for Cats and Dogs to help underwrite tests of a chemosterilant for female animals called ChemSpay, now underway on the Navajo Nation.

Headquartered in Windowrock, Arizona, near the junction of Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah, the Navajo Nation presently has the highest rate of animal control killing of any incorporated entity in the U.S., at 135 dogs and cats killed per 1,000

milliliters of Fatal Plus, for a total of \$3.49.

“To suggest that training increases the cost by \$146-plus per animal is absurd,” Fakkema said. “Dare I say the person drawing those numbers must be drawing them out of a hat? If a shelter does euthanasia by injection on a thousand dogs per year, then according to that figure, it must spend \$150,000 for euthanasia. You could hire two full-time vets for that money and equip a mighty fancy euthanasia room! And you wouldn’t have to spend any training money.

“Yes, it costs money to train staff to perform euthanasia by injection,” Fakkema acknowledged. “But this is a one-time cost which is spread out over the number of animals euthanized. The amount of wages paid doesn’t make a whole lot of difference. My cost model shows that wage differences impact the cost per animal only a little.

“The shelter here in Charleston,” Fakkema concluded, “euthanized by injection 10,000 animals in 2002, at a cost of \$15,300. The cost would have been \$1.5 million dollars according to the \$150 per animal estimate. That’s almost their entire budget.”

## SHAC leaders sentenced in Britain & New Jersey

**LONDON, TRENTON**—Five alleged instigators of property damage and threats directed at facilities, business partners, and employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences in mid-September 2006 drew prison terms ranging from three to six years.

Northampton Crown Court Judge Ian Alexander on September 20 sentenced molecular biologist Joseph Harris, 26, to three years as the first person convicted under a new British law against economic sabotage.

“Harris, of Bursledon, Hampshire, broke into premises in Nottingham, Bicester and Northampton,” summarized Nicola Woolcock of the London *Times*, “where he slashed tires, flooded offices, and poured glue into locks. He caused more than £25,000 in damage.” Harris apparently began the attacks in a futile bid to keep a girlfriend who left him, the court was told, because of animal experiments he did in connection with pancreatic cancer research.

In Trenton, New Jersey, former Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty USA president Kevin Kjonas, 28, drew six years; former SHAC campaign coordinator Lauren Gazzola, 25, drew 52 months; former SHAC web site manager Jacob Conroy, 30, drew 48 months; former SHAC west coast coordinator Joshua Harper and former SHAC New York coordinator Andrew Stepanian each drew 36 months; and former SHAC researcher Darius Fullmer received a year and a day. All were also ordered to help pay \$1 million in restitution to the people and companies they were convicted in March 2006 of harassing.

Kjonas and SHAC spokesperson Andrea Lindsay told reporters that the sentences would be appealed. Lindsay added that the restitution would not be paid because SHAC as an organization is defunct and has no assets.

Operating animal testing labs in both Britain and the U.S., Huntingdon has been a sporadic focus of antivivisection protest since 1972, and virtually besieged since the July 1997 television airing of an undercover video made at the British facilities, which led to the firing and convictions for cruelty of two technicians who were shown allegedly punching a beagle.



Street dog n Costa Rica. (Kim Bartlett)

humans per year, nearly 10 times the U.S. average of 14.5.

“An estimated 160,000 free-roaming dogs reproduce uncontrollably, attack and kill livestock, and contribute to 6,000 human bite reports each year,” said Alliance president Joyce Briggs. “Packs of 20 to 30 dogs are still a common sight throughout the reservation,” Briggs added. “Working with the humane societies on the reservation, SenesTech,” the ChemSpay developer, “is injecting adopted female dogs with the sterilant and then following up to monitor whether or not the dogs are becoming sterile as a result,” Briggs said.

ChemSpay is a byproduct of research on human menopause.

“Ovaries contain a finite number of follicles that do not generally regenerate once they are depleted,” Briggs explained. “By accelerating the depletion of follicles, called ovarian atresia, with an injection, an animal can soon be made sterile without the need for surgery.”

“We hope to develop a non-surgical, non-invasive product that could develop into an alternative to the surgical spaying of female animals,” affirmed SenesTech president Loretta P. Mayer.

“Studies in cats are underway as well,” said Briggs.

Further particulars of the ChemSpay trials are expected to be released at the Third International Symposium of the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs, to be held November 9-12 in Alexandria, Virginia. Details are available from <info@acc-d.org>, or at <www.acc-d.org/>.



## Walking horse industry quick-steps after failed soring inspections *(from page 1)*

Frist's office subsequently refused to release a copy of his specific regulatory proposals to news media, but Schrade and *Tennessean* colleague Sarah B. Gilliam obtained a copy anyway.

The Frist request, co-signed by Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Georgia), "would decriminalize certain behavior that is currently illegal, thereby protecting owners and trainers and not horses," Friends of Sound Horses executive director Keith Danes told Schrade.

The Frist proposals were endorsed by attorney Tom Blankenship, who represented the National Horse Protection Society in a posting to the *Walking Horse Report* web site. Blankenship earlier argued for relaxing the soring rule as representative of the Walking Horse Trainers Association.

Summarized Schrade and Gilliam, "The [proposed] new language, in part, more narrowly defines soring as evidence of injury or irritation, with current 'pain, swelling, redness, heat or loss of function.'"

In effect, it limits the definition of soring to current inflammation, without regard to past suffering inflicted on a horse. "It completely eliminates the existing regulation referred to as the scar rule," Horse Protection Commission administrative director Donna Benefield told Schrade and Gilliam.

Both Danes and Benefield are themselves veteran walking horse inspectors.

### USDA stands firm

"Where compliance fails, the USDA will enforce the Horse Protection Act," responded USDA deputy administrator of animal care Chester Gipson, DVM, at a September 11 "listening session" in Chattanooga.

"We're truly at the crossroads," Gipson continued, "and the industry needs to make some determinations, some decisions about which way they are going. We are not going backward. So from our standpoint, we're going forward. You," Gipson told the assembled trainers and owners, "have to decide which direction you're going."

Listening session participants disputed whether the Horse Protection Act had truly succeeded in eliminating "90%" of the abuses seen 30 years ago, as trainer Mack Motes contended, displaying old photos of abused horses, or whether trainers had simply become better at concealing the evidence, as 35-year horse enthusiast Lucille Davis argued.

"There is an obvious problem when horses pass inspection on the scar rule one night, then fail inspections two nights later," Motes claimed. "There were three times more disagreements between the National Horse Show Commission inspectors and the USDA inspectors at the 2006 Celebration, compared to 2005."

But alleged abuses observed at the 2005 Celebration produced the 2006 crack-down. "At the 2005 Celebration," explained Schrade, "the USDA used a device that tests horses for prohibitive substances, such as numbing agents and irritants, that may suggest soring. More than half of 92 samples (54.3%) tested positive. The same device used at the 2005 Kentucky Celebration found 100% of the 25 horses sampled" had been treated with "one or more prohibited substances."

"Weeks before the 2006 Celebration," Schrade continued, USDA chief horse protection regulator Todd Behre "told an owner he was 'stunned at the condition of horses' that industry-hired regulators had allowed in Walking Horse competitions throughout Middle Tennessee the previous weekend, according to an e-mail exchange between the two.

"Exhibitors and trainers were at times bolting from shows when regulators showed up," Schrade continued. "The USDA inspection teams last year started attending more than one show event in a weekend, a practice that continued this year, Behre said. That means it is less predictable where federal regulators will be."

"Hearing trainers say 'we don't know what to do about the scar rule' has

grown a little old," Behre said in an e-mail posted to *The Walking Horse Report* web page.

"Friction over interpretations of USDA scarring rules have plagued walking horse events all season," summarized Pat Raia of *The Horse*, "but came to a head at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, when USDA inspectors issued 225 notices of violation and disqualifications."

The Horse Protection Act banned soring in 1970, but since the walking horse industry itself trains and pays the "designated qualified professionals" who inspect for soring, humane observers have often doubted the vigor of enforcement.

That changed abruptly on August 25, 2006. Then, wrote Raia, "Event organizers temporarily halted competition and postponed preliminary classes, at the request of trainers who complained that 'inspections were getting out of hand,' according to Celebration public and media relations director Chip Walters."

Elaborated Schrade, "USDA inspectors disqualified six out of approximately 10 horses they inspected, spurring near bedlam that eventually led event organizers to cancel that night's performance, as well as the next morning's. The dispute turned so intense that the Tennessee Highway Patrol called in state and local reinforcements to create a wall of law officers to keep an angry crowd of walking horse enthusiasts separated from the regulators, before the federal staffers could leave. The flap erupted further when the Grand Championship contest was cancelled."

Celebration CEO Ron Thomas told reporters at the time that said they understood that the trainers and owners of the three championship round horses who passed inspections had refused to compete without the others.

Rebutted Allen McAbee, whose horse passed, "We were not contacted or asked by anybody if we wanted to show. We don't know who shut the show down. We weren't given an option; they didn't ask me."

Thomas told Schrade that the show officials could not talk directly to the owners and trainers of the three qualified horses because, "You can't get through an angry mob of 150 people."

A Celebration news release said that Tennessee Highway Patrol officers "were confident they could protect the safety of the people working in the inspection area, but did not have the manpower to assure the health and safety of the 26,000 spectators, exhibitors and horses," Schrade summarized.

About 3,400 horses took part in the National Celebration.

Officers with the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, the Shelbyville Police Department, and the Celebration's own security guards joined about 30 highway patrol officers in trying to secure the scene, Department of Safety spokesperson Julie Oakes told the *Tennessean*.

"The crowd was a consideration, but not the reason for the shutdown," Oakes said.

"How can the highway patrol stop a horse show? We didn't start it and we can't stop it," added Tennessee Highway Patrol Lieutenant Johnny Hunter, to Sarah B. Gilliam of the *Tennessean*. "Everybody's just passing the buck."

### Money talks

Amid the heavily publicized furor, the Kentucky Walking Horse Association cancelled the Kentucky Walking Horse Celebration that was to have been held in Liberty, Kentucky, September 21-23.

"It's not a protest," Kentucky Walking Horse Association president Earl Rogers Jr. told Raia. "It's that we felt we couldn't make any money. Many of the competitors could not come because they were either suspended or banned from shows."

The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association told Associated Press writer Kristin M. Hall on September 21, 2006 that it will hold a new national championship in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on November 24-25.

Offering \$150,000 in prize money, divided among 50 different classes, with \$15,000 for the grand champion, "The Murfreesboro contest will be open to horse owner Mike Walden, who has been banned from the Celebration for two years after accusations that he offered \$10,000 to trainers of competing horses if they dropped out of the championship earlier this month," reported Schrade.

"Walden's horse, Private Charter, was a favorite to win the grand championship at the National Celebration," continued

Schrade, "but was among the horses in the title round that were disqualified by federal inspectors looking for signs of possible soring. Whether Walden and Private Charter will compete [in Murfreesboro] is unclear."

Walden's version of the incident was that he was "led to believe" that the owners of the horses who passed inspection "did not want to show as a sign of unity. The guys were riding for the money, and I said owners should get together and pay for the reimbursement for what the winnings would be, and unite and not show. It was not my intention that I was paying them not to show," he told Gilliam and Schrade.

The owners and trainers of the horses who passed all told the *Tennessean* that they had intended to compete, until the show was cancelled.

The Walden case was "not the first time that allegations of money and influence threatened the Celebration's image," Schrade and Gilliam recalled. "Allegations arose in connection with the 1997 Celebration that a horse trainer tried to bribe a judge. The trainer was later fined \$25,000 and the judge \$20,000 in a 1999 settlement that contained no admission or denial of the charges."

### Rabies, too

Capping the Shelbyville fiasco, the Tennessee Department of Health on September 10 warned about 4,200 National Celebration attendees from 34 states that an exhibited horse from Missouri had turned out to be rabid. Apparently bitten by a rabid bat while still in Missouri, the three-year-old gelding fell ill on August 23, the first day of the National Celebration, and was euthanized after rabies was diagnosed on August 28.

"I keep preaching to rabies-vaccinate horses and cows," Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine professor Tam Garland commented to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "Maybe some day people will not think I am crazy for doing it. I hand-feed my cows, the big pets, and I always vaccinate them."

"Many people hand feed their horses a treat or handful of feed. That alone," which exposes the person to potentially infected sali-

va, "should make us vaccinate every horse. Having our hands in an animal's mouth can expose us to the rabies virus earlier than the animal may demonstrate clinical signs. The cheapest insurance for protecting oneself and the animals they love is vaccination."

### Drugging allegation

Soring horses to produce high-stepping is a practice unique to walking horse trainers, but abusive practices also afflict other branches of horse exhibition. Also in early September, for example, the British Show Jumping Association asked the Jersey Police to investigate an allegation that Kim Baudains, 36, fed a sedative to rivals' ponies in an attempt to help her 11-year-old son Josh win the under-16 Young Showjumper of the Year final against Timmy Clark, 13.

"The event was cancelled over safety concerns after a tablet suspected of being the veterinary sedative acetylpromazine was found on the ground. Some owners complained that their ponies were drowsy," reported Richard Savill of the *Daily Telegraph*. "The worst affected pony, Flying Sunbeam, which was not the subject of the complaint, was reportedly unsteady on its feet."

Flying Sunbeam is Clark's pony, Savill wrote.

According to Savill, "Josh Baudains has been riding since he was two and won his first championship at five. He has won two trophies on the junior novice British circuit in the past 12 months. Mrs. Baudains rode her first point-to-point winner at the age of 16."

Lucy Bannerman of the London *Times* reported that Kim Baudains was "confined to bed," according to her mother, "receiving medication as a result of stress from the allegations."

"As long as there is competition, there will be cruelty," equine care and transport expert Sharon Cregier commented to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Working from Prince Edward Island, Canada, Cregier consults about horse protection issues throughout the world. "Kudos," Cregier extended, "to the inspectors who saw those horses out of the championships."

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## "Lawrence of the hyenas" talks Lord's Resistance Army into sparing rhinos

"Lawrence Anthony, founder of the South African environmental group The Earth Organisation, has persuaded the Lord's Resistance Army to join with scientists to protect the northern white rhino, of which only four are thought to remain in the wild," London *Guardian* environment correspondent David Adam reported on September 13, 2006.

"As part of an ongoing peace process," Adam continued, "the rebels have pledged not to harm the animals and to tell wildlife experts if they see one."

The LRA in 2005 invaded Garamba national park, "a sprawling and densely forested reserve close to the Ugandan border in the far northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo," Adam explained. "The LRA is notorious for use of child soldiers and has been accused of atrocities including rapes, mutilations and the mass murder of civilians. Conservation seemed far from its priorities,

particularly after members shot dead 12 game rangers and eight Guatemalan UN soldiers sent to the region to keep order."

However, Anthony told Adam, "We heard that the political wing of the LRA and the Ugandan government were having peace talks in Sudan. We got word that some of the LRA leaders had come out of the Garamba jungle to join the talks and decided to try to talk to them. The LRA chair for the talks, Martin Ojul, was pointed out to me. During a break in the talks, I simply walked up to him, introduced myself, and explained the reason for my visit. His initial response was distrust, covert hostility and no interest," but the next day Anthony was invited to talk to the rebels about the rhinos in their own encampment.

Ignoring warnings that he might be held for ransom, Adam wrote, Anthony learned from the rebels that the rhino is the

totem of the largest tribe in the region.

"I was surprised that despite the LRA's fearsome reputation some of the delegates were well-educated, articulate and friendly," Anthony said. "When I explained there were only four rhinos left in the wild they were genuinely shocked. They thought there were still hundreds of them. They said they did not eat rhino and did not use the horn for medicinal purposes. They said they all grew up in the bush and had strong cultural ties to all wildlife."

Concluded Adam, "When the LRA officials signed a ceasefire with the DRC government, it included pledges to protect the endangered rhino and to allow the park rangers to resume their work unmolested."

Anthony, legendary among African wildlife researchers as "Lawrence of the hyenas," became known to the world when in April 2003 he made his way to Baghdad from

Kuwait, soon after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, to begin rescue efforts at the Baghdad Zoo.

The LRA cooperation with Anthony followed the surrender of "at least 1,181 poachers in the six districts surrounding Murchison Falls National Park to the Uganda Wildlife Authority in the last one and a half years," including 600 who surrendered to senior park game warden Stonewall Kato on September 1, reported Carolyn Ayugi and Columbus Ono of the *Kampala Monitor*.

In Rwanda, meanwhile, "Barely two months after announcing the extinction of rhinos in Rwanda, a black rhino has been seen in Akagera National Park," reported Robert Mukombozi of the *Kigali New Times*.

The Rwandan government immediately allocated \$600,000 toward reintroducing additional rhinos, to be imported from Kenya and South Africa for phased releases each spring until 2015.

## Events

**Oct. 6-8: The Strength of Many** conference, Los Angeles. Info: Animals & Soc. Inst., <[www.animalsandsociety.org](http://www.animalsandsociety.org)>.

**Oct. 8: Win for Animals** parties for Humane Soc. Leg. Fund. Info:

<[humanesociety@fund.org](mailto:humanesociety@fund.org)>; <[www.fund.org](http://www.fund.org)>.

**Oct. 8-11: Intl. Feline Retrovirus Research Symposium**, Wash. D.C. Info:

<[ifrrs8.ncifrrf.gov](mailto:ifrrs8.ncifrrf.gov)>.

**Oct. 9-13: Animal art retreat**, Best Friends, Kanab, Utah. Info: 435-644-2001, x166; <[doreen@bestfriends.org](mailto:doreen@bestfriends.org)>.

**Oct. 13-15: Animal Law Conf.**, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, Oregon. Info: 503-768-6795; <[jsaldf@lclark.edu](mailto:jsaldf@lclark.edu)>; <[www.lclark.edu/org/saldf/conference.html](http://www.lclark.edu/org/saldf/conference.html)>.

**Oct. 14: Ruffin' It**, co-presentation by Angel Halls & United Against Puppy Mills, Lancaster, Pa. Info: 703-424-7238; <[angelhallsdogs@yahoo.com](mailto:angelhallsdogs@yahoo.com)>; <[www.angelhalls.org](http://www.angelhalls.org)>.

**Oct. 14: Dogtoberfest** dog walk for First Coast No More Homeless Pets, Jacksonville, Fla. Info: 904-674-7387; <[kellymadden@bellsouth.net](mailto:kellymadden@bellsouth.net)>.

**Oct. 14:** Phuket Animal Welfare Society fundraiser, Phuket, Thailand. Info: 081-597-9416; 66-81-597-9416; <[athena@phuket-animal-welfare-com](mailto:athena@phuket-animal-welfare-com)>.

**October 14-15: How to Start, Operate & Develop Farmed Animal Sanctuaries**, Animal Acres, Acton, Calif. Info: 661-269-5404; <[www.animalacres.org](http://www.animalacres.org)>.

**Oct. 16-18: Intl. Congress on Concepts in**

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## Marine mammal exhibitors join protest against Japanese coastal dolphin killing

More than 60 organizations demonstrated outside Japanese embassies and consulates in 32 cities against “traditional” coastal whaling on September 20, 2006, the second annual Japan Dolphin Day declared and coordinated by Ric O’Barry of One Voice. Most notoriously practiced at Taiji, the coastal whaling method consists of driving dolphins into shallow bays from which they cannot escape and then hacking them to death en masse, after some are selected for live capture and sale to swim-with-dolphins attractions and exhibition parks.

The so-called “drive fisheries” have been protested for more than 30 years by marine mammal advocates including Sakei Hemmi of the Elsa Nature Conservancy/Japan, film maker Hardin Jones, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson, and Steve Sipman, who invented the name “Animal Liberation Front” in connection with releasing two dolphins from a Hawaiian laboratory in 1976. The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums and the American Zoo & Aquarium Association finally issued statements of objection to the “drive fisheries” in March 2004, as did the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums in June 2006.

“The Japanese dolphin drive hunts are an abominable violation of any standard of animal welfare,” said New York Aquarium marine mammal research director Diana Reiss in a September 21, 2006 media statement, announcing “a new campaign to end the drive hunts.” A supporting statement came from Emory University neuroscientist Lori Marino.

Responded O’Barry, after thanking activist groups for their support, “I am very happy that the captivity industry is getting involved. If the industry started policing itself, that would be helpful. It could change the economics of the dolphin drive. A dead dolphin is worth \$600; a live show dolphin is worth \$ 100,000.

“These corporations make hundreds of millions of dollars displaying wildlife, including dolphins,” O’Barry fumed. “The Wildlife Conservation Society,” which operates the New York Aquarium and the four major New York City zoos, “has enough money and clout to stop the dolphin slaughter, and the related dolphin captures, any time they want to,” O’Barry contended in a series of e-mails to ANIMAL PEOPLE.

## Harsh monsoons test rescuers

**VISAKHAPATNAM**—At least 49 people were reported dead in Bangladesh and 46 in India on September 22, 2006, following the ninth cyclone to hit the western coast of the Bay of Bengal in as many weeks. The animal toll was not immediately available.

“We are hoping to get some help to add to our efforts,” e-mailed Visakha SPCA president Pradeep Kumar Nath. “Help is needed urgently for feed.”

The Visakha SPCA continued assisting animals elsewhere along the stricken Bengal coast while rebuilding its own facilities, destroyed by a cyclone and landslides on August 3, just 11 months after a typhoon destroyed the previous facilities in September 2005.

“We send our deepest gratitude from the animals and villagers for the flood relief help we have received from the World Society for the Protection of Animals and individual donors,” Nath said before the ninth cyclone hit. “So far we have been able to help more than 27,000 animals with over 66 ton of food, vaccinations, wound treatment and deworming.”

The rising Vamsadhara River isolated some villages for as long as 10 days, Nath reported, “with broken roads, bridges, and in some areas a mile of chest-high water. The villagers have to walk up to nine kilometers to receive help.”

The Visakha SPCA had two mobile veterinary teams working in the Vamsadhara and Srikakulam regions. An unpleasant discovery amid

the difficult conditions was an outbreak of blue tongue, a cattle disease best known in Africa, previously believed to have been eradicated almost everywhere else but also now occurring in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Germany. Rescuers and residents were also menaced by the previously rare debilitating mosquito-borne disease Chikungunya fever.

Trying to reach 15 marooned villages on a damaged road, “Our lorry fell into the river between Vizianagaram and Srikakulam,” Nath said. “The staff of four miraculously escaped while the lorry was precariously perched on one side. We summoned a crane to lift it out of the river. All were safe, although shaken, and continued their vaccination work. Then our men, including the vet, went through the standing waters walking over 3 miles to reach one village. Despite the difficulties, they completed their mission.”

A similar report came from Mahesh Agarwal, general secretary of Bharatiya Prani Mitra Sangh, who worked in nearby Andhra Pradesh.

“Nearly 160 villages lost dry grass and animal fodder,” Mahesh Agarwal wrote. “Officially 100 animals were declared dead, with 800 missing, but unofficially the figure runs into the thousands. Nearly one month after the disaster the dead bodies of animals were still seen in the river and thousands of animals were temporarily sheltered on hillocks and bridges. After 25 days of flooding we were the first to enter a few villages to distribute

(continued on page 12)

### More events (from page 10)

**Animal Welfare**, Rio de Janeiro. Info: <wspabr-zl@-iis.com.br>; <www.wspabr.org>.

**Oct. 25-27: International Companion Animal Welfare Conference**, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Info: 44-020-7837-0006; <tina.barker@dogstrust.org.uk>; <www.icawc.org.uk>.

**Oct. 26-27: Animal Welfare Conference 2006**, Michigan Partnership for Animal Welfare, Acme, Michigan. Info: Monica Celizic, 248-799-7487; <mcelizic@michiganhumane.org>; <www.michiganhumane.org>.

**Oct. 27-29: World Go Vegan Days**. Info: <www.WorldGoVeganDays.com>.

**Oct. 28: Walk/Run for animals & Expo**, Atlanta. Info: 770-455-7077; <info@atlantawalk4animals.com>; <www.atlantawalk4animals.com>.

**Oct. 28: Beyond Dracula** drama fund-raiser for Romania Animal Rescue, San Francisco. Info: <romaniadogs@sbcglobal.net>; <www.romaniaanimalrescue.com>.

**Oct. 30-Nov. 2: Intl. Colloquium on Working Equines in Ethiopia**, Addis Ababa. Info: The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 0NU; 44-1395-578222; <colloquium2006@thedonkeysanctuary.com>; <www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk>.

**Nov. 2: Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing symposium**, Baltimore. Info:

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

# Maddie’s® STARTER GRANTS

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[http://www.maddiesfund.org/grant/starter\\_grants.html](http://www.maddiesfund.org/grant/starter_grants.html).



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

Maddie’s Fund, 2223 Santa Clara Ave, Suite B, Alameda, CA 94501  
510-337-8989, [info@maddiesfund.org](mailto:info@maddiesfund.org), [www.maddiesfund.org](http://www.maddiesfund.org)



## Harsh monsoons test rescuers *(from page 1)*

fodder and medical aid to the animals."

Violent stampedes broke out several times as fodder was passed out, Mahesh Agarwal recounted.

Assessments from farther inland came from Humane Society International representative Sherry Grant and Rahul Sehgal, founder of Animal Help in Emergencies And Disasters. AHEAD is the first Indian organization to specialize in animal disaster relief.

Grant earlier founded the Bali Street Dog Project in Indonesia, while Sehgal founded Animal Help Ahmedabad.

"All of the fodder land in [the afflicted part of] Orissa is gone. Most mud shelters for cattle are destroyed. Standing crops are gone, which impacts the fodder supply post harvest for late 2006 and early 2007," Grant and Sehgal wrote. "Animals have been birthing, and the lack of grazing and fodder availability affects milk production, hence compromises the health of the offspring," as well as impacting the human food supply."

A government report estimated that 235,000 cattle, more than 9,000 buffalo, 53,000 "small animals," and 66,000 "others" were affected.

"Animals washed downstream are claimed by the villages they washed up into. This is creating problems as these animals are not branded," Grant and Sehgal observed.

They saw "no other international charities on the scene. India has turned away humanitarian charities guilty of coming in, taking pictures, and then leaving," Grant and Sehgal said. "Only two local animal charities with minimal resources are responding with fodder. The government delivered fodder to some areas we visited, but others have received none. Government vets have not been to inspect the health of the animals in any of the affected areas, according to all of the villages we assessed."

"We are not talking of the coastal areas," Grant and Sehgal emphasized, "which are regularly hit by floods and cyclones; we are talking about the inland areas which usually get normal monsoon rains that they depend on and manage as the water source

for their crops and cattle. These are very poor rural villages self-sustained by dairy and wool production, and rice fields. This is not a region that produces handicrafts. These villages do not use cars, and few motorbikes were seen, but lots of bicycles and bullock carts. Many buildings have never had telephone lines or electricity. Those who had this infrastructure no longer have it, as it has been ruined. This is a difficult area to use cell phones in, as there is generally no signal.

"Fodder originally distributed on the highway was taken by refugees and used to make roofs on temporary shelters for themselves," Grant and Sehgal continued. "People For Animals is providing some villages with bags of husk fodder that is mixed with water and vegetable cuttings, such as peels and tops. We assessed the fodder distribution to animals who had not had food in the four days since the last PFA visit. The animals ate the food in a matter of minutes. They were very hungry. Cows were neck-deep in water looking for fodder and eating water hyacinth and anything else green.

"The animals are not showing signs of sickness associated with flooding and being wet for such a long time," Grant and Sehgal wrote, contrasting the situation with Rajasthan, on the opposite side of India, normally a desert but hit hard by flooding in August 2006.



*Struggling to evacuate cattle from flooded Orissa village. (Sherry Grant)*

"Rajasthan still needs herds treated," Grant told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "They are very sick whereas in Orissa the animals are fit but have no place to graze."

Grant and Sehgal recommended that experts should "Evaluate potential disease or illnesses that may affect the animals in the near future and provide preventative care," and "Research for future understanding why these

animals are not showing typical signs of stress and illness from flood situations."

Ironically, Grant and Sehgal noted, "Villagers claim sick animals and want vaccines. But this is not part of the emergency, and they don't normally vaccinate."

Grant and Sehgal also recommended, "Community capacity-building to manage dry fodder stores for future floods."

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### More events *(from page 11)*

410-223-1614; <newton@jhsph.edu>.

**Nov. 9-12: Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs 3rd Intl. Symposium**, Alexandria, Va. Info: <info@acc-d.org>; <www.acc-d.org/>.

**November 9-12: Art of the Animal**, Golf Coast, Australia. Info: 61-3735-7338; <jjones@grif-futg.edu.au>.

**Nov. 11: Awareness Day**, Asociacion des Animales de Sosua, Sosúa, Puerto Plata, Dominican Rep. Info: <www.aasosua.com>.

**Nov. 18: Trail ride benefit for Meadow Haven Horse Rescue**, Bandera, Texas.

### TRIBUTES

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# Lebanon war animal victims still need help

**BEIRUT, HAIFA**—More than a month after Hezbollah militia members quit rocketing northern Israel and Israel quit bombing southern Lebanon to try to stop them, animal rescuers continued efforts begun under fire to help the many nonhuman victims.

Best Friends Animal Society rapid response manager Richard Crook, a Chilean veterinarian, and a vet tech flew to Lebanon on September 7, 2006 with 175 pounds of kitten food, along with veterinary supplies, en route to help arrange the evacuation of about 300 dogs and cats to the U.S.

Calling the evacuation “Paws for Peace,” Best Friends reportedly raised \$182,000 of the estimated \$300,000 cost of that project and other rescue work in Lebanon and Israel before Crook’s departure.

“Maggie from Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (cofounder Marguerite Shaarawai), called us with an emergency,” e-mailed Best Friends president Michael Mountain. “No kitten food. And nothing available from other countries in the region. We tried Turkey, Cyprus, Greece. Nothing! And while there are tons, literally, just across the border in Israel, it’s impossible to bring it in from there. We’re aiming to set up a supply from western Europe, but that will take time. And the kittens can’t wait.”

The continuing disruption on the Israeli side was less, but only in mid-September did many of the front-line rescuers find time to tell their stories.

“Our former shelter manager, Sharon Lewinger, and his two friends Moti Sherman and Liat Gettagno, heard about the plight of abandoned animals in the northern communities, where many families fled the continuous rocket attacks,” Rehovot SPCA international relations coordinator V. Santar told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “The three of them collected funds to buy plenty of food for the animals, and traveled north to distribute the food. They took the city map of Kiryat Shmone, the town most continuously bombed and shelled, divided every street among themselves, and left food for the stray dogs, and visited every shelter for the same purpose. When they learned that the children in the air raid shelter also lacked food, they

traveled south to the safer places and bought basic food to give to the hungry ones. They also visited invalids and old people. One was a blind old man with three dogs and a parrot. They left him a week’s supply to last until their next visit. They visited Kiryat Shmone twice, always under heavy shelling, bombs falling around them.

“The Rehovot SPCA rescue van, donated by the Royal SPCA International, was on heavy duty,” Santar added, bringing two lots of seven dogs each on 10-hour round trips to the north and back after the fighting ended.

“Unfortunately,” Santar said, “most of the dogs arrived without a tag or microchip, so we do not know who their people are.” Santar noted that one dog was reunited with his person on August 28.

“It was an honor to serve the people of the north by helping to find temporary solutions for their dogs, cats, and other pets,” recounted Let The Animals Live cofounder Eli Altman. “Some 600 people asked us to find temporary domiciles for pets who sadly could not join them in central and southern Israel. Some 1,500 good people called us or emailed, offering their services,” fostering the displaced animals.

“Many people volunteered to help drive dogs and cats from the north southward,” Altman continued. “In some cases people drove to the bombed north just to save a small rabbit or a blind cat.”

Among the rescues that Altman recalled most vividly was one that “occurred in the first week of the war. A man in the army reserve told us about parents and three children, who tied their dog to a post, got up on a train and went south. The dog managed to free himself from the rope and ran after the train as fast as he could. The man ran after the dog for a few kilometers, until he managed to catch it. The dog is now in good hands. I am worried about the children of the family. I think about how they might have cried on the train, about the trauma their parents forced on them, about the ugly example these parents gave to their children, and about how these children will never know what happened to their beloved dog.”

Altman reported one frustrating incident when,



Eli Altman of Let The Animals Live.

“Seeking ways to ease the difficult situation in the city of Tiberias, Let The Animals Live staff member Anat Refua contacted city veterinarian Amnon Or and proposed to help finding homes for 24 abandoned dogs at the pound, who were likely to be put down.”

Or refused the offer, causing Let The Animals Live to seek his removal from office.

## War hurts wildlife

Scarce wildlife habitat in both Lebanon and Israel took a big hit from the July and August 2006 fighting.

“Huge swaths of forests and fields across northern Israel were scorched by Hezbollah rocket strikes,” reported Associated Press writer Aron Heller. “Charred branches stick out of the ground like grave markers at the Mount Naftali Forest overlooking Kiryat Shemona. In all, rocket fire destroyed 16,500 acres of forests and grazing fields, said

Jewish National Fund forest supervisor Michael Weinberger, the top administrator of Israel’s forests. About a million trees were destroyed.

“The Mount Naftali Forest,” planted by Israeli settlers in 1948, “was hit by rockets earlier,” Heller continued. “Afternoon gusts carried the flames, wiping out 750 acres and trapping gazelles, jackals, rabbits and snakes.”

Less than an hour’s drive north in peacetime, Lebanese environment minister Yacoub Sarraf could only helplessly watch fuel oil from the bombed Jiyeh power station spread along the coast. The station was hit by Israeli jets on July 13 and 15.

“We cannot get equipment, companies, labour or know-how to handle the problem,” Sarraf told BBC science and nature reporter Mark Kinver on August 8. “Intervention can help most within the first 48 to 72 hours after a spill. We are already 20 days too late.”

The oil-exporting consortium OPEC committed \$200,000 to clean-up efforts in early August, but the spill continued spreading, unchecked, into September, coating sea turtle nesting habitat and accumulating to a depth of four inches on the sea bed, according to divers who did a late-August inspection. Poisoned fish reportedly washed ashore along the length of Lebanon.



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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.*

## Case against Primarily Primates tossed out, but president Wally Swett resigns under fire

**SAN ANTONIO**—Bexar County Civil District Court Judge Andy Mireles on September 8, 2006 ruled that former Ohio State University chimp caretakers Klaree Boose and Stephany Harris, along with California veterinarian Mel Richardson, lacked standing to pursue a PETA-backed lawsuit against the Primarily Primates sanctuary.

Named as co-plaintiffs and also denied standing were seven surviving chimpanzees and two capuchin monkeys from the research colony formerly kept by OSU psychology professor Sally Boysen. OSU retired the colony to Primarily Primates in February 2006, with an endowment of \$324,000 for their quarters and upkeep, over the objections of Boysen and PETA.

Judge Mireles also dismissed the recommendation of attorney Charles Jackson III, whom Mireles earlier appointed to oversee the care of the OSU animals, that the chimpanzees should be transferred to Chimp Haven, of Shreveport, Louisiana. PETA attorney Leana Stormont told Elizabeth White of Associated Press that PETA had offered pay \$20,000 toward the cost of the relocation and aftercare.

One adult male chimp died on arrival at Primarily Primates and another died two months later, both from pre-

existing heart ailments. One of the monkeys escaped and has not been recaptured.

"We will be filing an appeal; this is far from over," PETA-hired attorney Mickey Gayler told Mike Lafferty of the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Mireles ruled five days after Primarily Primates interim executive director Stephen Tello told Mireles that the Primarily Primates seven-member board of trustees had unanimously rejected a proposed out-of-court settlement that would have sent the OSU chimps to Chimp Haven, while leaving the monkeys at Primarily Primates.

Wally Swett, president and executive director of Primarily Primates since 1978, when he relocated a much smaller sanctuary from Massachusetts to San Antonio, "is still on the board, but has resigned as president and executive director," American Sanctuary Association executive director Vernon Weir told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "He will be given a president emeritus contract, which will enumerate his future duties in an advisory capacity—animal histories, health care and behavior issues, socialization issues, fundraising assistance, and the like. That's still being worked out," Weir said.

"Because the PETA complaints seem to focus on Wally's behavior, it was his decision to step down, in the best interest of the sanctuary," Weir continued. "Stephen Tello," Swett's assistant for more than 10 years, "has returned and is working there every day, full time. We have Stephen, and other candidates, who are applying for the permanent job."

Weir, who has often acted as a spokesperson for Primarily Primates, said the choice of a permanent successor "will be decided at the October 6 board meeting."

As well as Tello, the Primarily Primates board includes Lou Griffin, the founding director of the nearby South Texas Primate Observatory, which after 20 years of independent operation became the Animal Protection Institute Primate Sanctuary in January 2000. Conflicting with then-API executive director Alan Berger, Griffin was fired in March 2002. Berger left API in April 2003.

Friends of Animals and Primarily Primates have discussed a merger, Weir and FoA president Priscilla Feral acknowledged. "Serious discussion will take place on October 6," Weir said. "Both sides have questions that need to be answered."

## Rocky Mountain Wildlife sanctuary struggles on—for now

**KEENESBURG, Colorado**—The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center "has received donations and pledges that will help to keep it operating for now," the sanctuary management announced in a September 2, 2006 web posting, but closed to public visits "for an undetermined period of time," the web page said, "so that the board of directors will have time to evaluate the entire situation."

"The animals are in no danger," the posting added. "It is the desire of the board that the animals remain at their current location...If no solution to keeping the sanctuary operating is found, the board will proceed with closure and the placement of as many animals as possible."

Rocky Mountain Wildlife founder Pat Craig and director of public affairs Toni Scalera announced on August 15, 2006 that the 140-acre facility would close in two weeks due to lack of funding. Of the 150 resident animals, including 75 tigers and 30 bears, Craig said, "As long as I can afford to feed them, I'll

try to find homes for them."

"Craig was almost \$200,000 in debt and faced the same crisis in December 2005," wrote Dan England of the *Greeley Tribune*. "Donations gave him enough breathing room to organize a plan to stay open. But that plan was contingent on at least one \$250,000 gift promised to him. Craig recently found out that the gift wasn't going to come through."

The Rocky Mountain Wildlife shutdown, announced three days after the sudden death of Big Cats of Serenity Springs cofounder Karen Seulac, 47, threw into uncertainty the fate of about 250 animals altogether. A third Colorado sanctuary, Prairie Wind, was reportedly already relocating animals due to financial trouble. The American Sanctuary Association and Association of Sanctuaries have often placed animals from failing sanctuaries, but never before on such a large scale.

Craig started Rocky Mountain Wildlife in 1980. The sanctuary moved three times as it grew.

## N.J. Consumer Affairs prosecutes another coin-can fundraiser

**HACKENSACK, N.J.**—Exiting New Jersey Office of Consumer Affairs director Kimberly Ricketts on August 2, 2006, her last day with the agency, appealed for public help to locate and impound an estimated 1,400 to 1,500 coin collection canisters believed to have been placed by an entity calling itself Lovers of Animals.

The Office of Consumer Affairs has filed suit, reported *Newark Star-Ledger* staff writer Brian T. Murray, alleging improper accounting for about \$7,500 raised and spent in 2005.

The case followed the state shutdown of coin can fundraiser Patrick Jemas in June 2006. Jemas did business as the National Animal Welfare Foundation.

"Lovers of Animals was incorporated when Russell Frontera, 49, of Beachwood was furloughed from state prison in late 2004 after serving two years

of a seven-year sentence for loan sharking," wrote Murray. "His name appears on documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service and the state that year, when he also opened a post office box for the charity."

"Frontera was banned from charity work for five years under a consent agreement with the state in 1993," Murray added. "The state had sued his AIDS Research Foundation in Toms River, accusing him and his wife of soliciting funds to help people with AIDS, but spending only a tiny fraction on supposed beneficiaries. A court found him in violation of the 1993 order a year later, when Frontera and his wife began operating a pet rescue operation involving 150 canisters placed in businesses around Toms River."

Frontera told Murray that his name was wrongly put on the Lovers of Animals paperwork by an accountant hired by his sister, Lovers of Animals president Josephine Thornton.

## HSUS absorbs Doris Day Animal League

**WASHINGTON D.C.**—The Humane Society of the U.S. on August 31, 2006 announced that it has absorbed the Doris Day Animal League by merger, affirming nearly three months of speculation.

Founded in 1987 by actress Doris Day's son Terry Melcher, who died of cancer in November 2004, DDAL in 20 years never spent less than half of its revenues on fundraising and administration, cumulatively spent more than two-thirds of all the money it ever raised on direct mail, and in the most recent fiscal year reported on IRS Form 990 operated at a loss of more than \$400,000, with revenues of just over \$2.5 million, raised from approximately 180,000 donors.

HSUS claims 9.5 million donors, with a 2006 budget of \$103 million and 2005 revenues of \$145 million.

But Sportsmen's & Animal Owners Voting Alliance head Bob Kane took the HSUS acquisition of DDAL seriously as a threat. "This latest HSUS merger not only makes it the 1,000-pound gorilla in the field of U.S. animal rights lobbying. It gains some very experienced DDAL professionals," Kane told SAOVA members on September 2.

HSUS publicist Rachel Querry credited DDAL with helping to win "passage of bills to end the sale of videos that depict animal cruelty such as fetish animal 'crush' videos, and to require the use of alternatives to animal tests."

DDAL "has strongly backed efforts," Querry said, "to end the slaughter of horses for human consumption, and to pass state laws to regulate the sale of puppies, require counseling for animal abusers, and add bittering agents to anti-freeze to protect children and animals."

DDAL executive director Holly Hazard and HSUS president Wayne Pacelle have often worked together on projects, beginning in the 1980s.

"Hazard will become chief innovation officer at The HSUS, where she will focus on new initiatives for HSUS' Wild Neighbors and Pets for Life programs and develop new business ventures," Querry continued. "DDAL legislative director Sara Amundson will become executive director of the Humane Society Legislative Fund," whose president, Mike Markarian, was president of the Fund for Animals before the Fund merged into HSUS in January 2005.



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## Anti-chaining activist busted

Mark Lebenfingher of the *Altoona Mirror*.

"Oh, yes. Yes. Definitely yes," Hussane told Lebenfingher. "It was like somebody doesn't care about this dog or was very busy and didn't keep up with the dog. You can see the skin, but you can't feel the muscles. He couldn't stand on his four feet. I tried to help him stand on his back legs, but he would fall back down," said Hassane.

"It was really bad," Hassane affirmed to Pete Bosak of the *State College Centre Daily Times*. "He was in very bad condition. He was miserable, likely suffering."

Kim Eicher of East Freedom, a neighbor of the Arnolds, called Grimes repeatedly about the dog on the morning of September 11, "crying because Doogie hadn't gotten up since Saturday," Grimes said. "She had been calling the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society since Saturday to no avail. We told her we aren't law officers, and she needed to call the humane officer. Then we got another call about the same dog, from another person who passes him every day."

Unknown to Eicher and Grimes, the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society had assigned an officer to the case, but he had not yet made contact with either of them. Having no awareness that anyone else was responding, Grimes drove to the scene and "took photos and video of Doogie," she e-mailed to the 150-member Dogs Deserve Better network.

"We initially thought he was dead," Grimes wrote, "as he was not moving and his back was to us. We found out that the Arnolds were not home to talk to about him, so I made the decision that he could not lie there on the cold wet ground for one moment longer, and I would accept all consequences of my decision."

Hassane "documented his generally neglected condition, low weight, sores, and missing fur, and took X-rays of his back and hips," Grimes said. Hassane "determined that he has very bad back spurs that are causing him a lot of pain, and are most likely responsible for his inability to walk. He also saw an undetermined mass near his hip on the X-ray." Hassane "gave him a shot for pain plus some B

vitamins for energy, so that perhaps he could have even one good day or a few good hours," Grimes continued. "He wrote a letter stating the dog's condition in case we needed it."

"Shortly after we got Doogie to my home, situated, bathed, and fed and watered," Grimes added, "an officer called from the Freedom Township Police Department. He wanted me to return Doogie, which I refused to do," leading to Grimes' subsequent arrest.

The case drew a variety of responses from humane organizations. In Defense of Animals and grassroots groups as far away as the Animal Rights Action Network in Limerick, Ireland, posted web pages and distributed e-mails in Grimes' support. The online network Care2 circulated an international petition on her behalf.

Organizations with law enforcement powers and courtroom experience with warrant requirements were markedly more cautious.

### Best Friends

The Best Friends Animal Society, of Kanab, Utah, sought to negotiate a settlement of the case acceptable to both Grimes and the Arnolds, without success as of September 26.

"If it would help resolve this matter, Best Friends offers to care for this dog. This includes free veterinary treatment, a place to live at our sanctuary, and if it is in the best interests of the dog, a permanent foster that is unrelated to the case," Best Friends general counsel Russ Mead wrote to Blair County District Attorney Richard Consiglio and Magisterial District Judge Craig Ormsby.

Consiglio did not return Lebenfingher's call seeking comment, Lebenfingher wrote, and a member of Ormsby's office staff said Ormsby did not read the letter before the September 21 hearing.

Grimes has not disclosed the present whereabouts of the dog.

"In a posting on its Web site, Best Friends said Grimes plans to file a private criminal complaint against the Arnolds," Lebenfingher added. "Grimes referred the



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question to her Altoona attorneys, Thomas M. Dickey and Lesley Childers.

"Our position is that Tammy Grimes has standing to file charges," Dickey told Lebenfingher. "We think this animal was not only abandoned, but may have been tortured, which would make any charges a misdemeanor of the first degree."

Grimes, according to Dickey, did "nothing wrong at all," and was "justified in committing one offense to prevent a greater wrong."

As the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure require district attorney approval for filing private criminal complaints, Dickey said he would consult Consiglio about whether he would authorize filing cruelty charges. "My client is not really interested in filing charges," Dickey added. "Her main goal is the protection of the dog."

### Pennsylvania SPCA

"Unfortunately," commented Erik Hendrick, the soon-to-retire 27-year executive director of the Pennsylvania SPCA, "Tammy's actions tainted the evidence. The dog cannot be held [as evidence] because he was removed illegally," Hendrick opined.

"If Tammy had merely videotaped the dog on the property and turned that tape over to the agent from the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society, the agent would have been able to use that as a basis for a search warrant," which could have been used to make a legal seizure, Hendrick explained.

"While what she did was the proper thing to do from the dog's point of view," Hendrick told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, "we all have to play by the rules of society. Vigil-

antes may be popular heroes, but if everyone decided what was right and wrong based on their individual feelings society would be chaotic. So, the police have done what they must do under the circumstances: file charges.

"My advice to Tammy," Hendrick added, as a veteran of fighting cases in which the Pennsylvania SPCA itself has been accused of improperly seizing animals, "is to give back the dog immediately, since it is inevitable that she will be ordered to do so by the presiding judge. Not doing so will only make her look like she is thumbing her nose, something that infuriates any judge. Returning the dog, as distasteful as that may be to Tammy, will probably get her off with a lecture from the judge and a probationary period of one year, after which the record will be expunged if she doesn't violate the probation."

"I told Tammy that while she is suffering from her personal legal problems now, this story will bring attention to the issue of people neglecting to care for their dogs, whether it be withholding veterinary care, shelter, or food and water," Hendrick said. "In the long run, the dog will be better off for Tammy's involvement, and Tammy and her organization will be strengthened."

Grimes' video of the dog drew 13,000 hits in the first two days after she posted it to the Dogs Deserve Better web site. The case was later featured on the TV news program *Inside Edition*. The case also appeared to boost Grimes' support as one of the 10 finalists for the 2006 Animal Planet Hero of the Year Award. The winner is to be selected by visits to the Animal Planet web site. Other finalists included Elephant Sanctuary founder

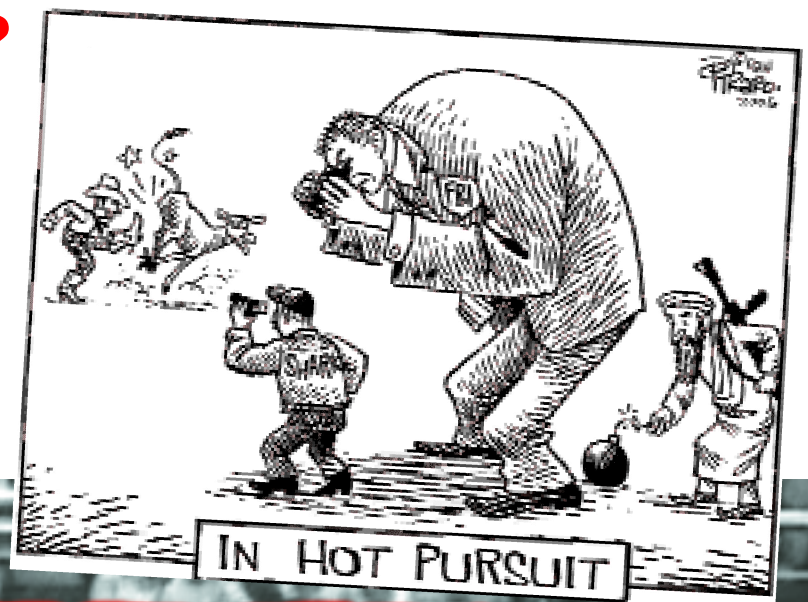
(continued on page 16)

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## India reaffirms support of Animal Birth Control program

**NEW DELHI, ISTANBUL, BUCHAREST, BELGRADE**—The historic progress of compassionate teachings about animals from east to west appeared evident yet again in September 2006 rabies and street dog population control developments.

India in September 2006 reaffirmed neuter/return and vaccination as the official national anti-rabies strategy.

Turkey was embarrassed by exposés of inadequate supervision of a similar policy, brought into effect by law in June 2005.

Several Romanian local governments, including in the capital city of Bucharest, appeared to be either ignoring or trying to roll back animal control holding requirements, to expedite killing.

In Belgrade, the Serbian capital, municipal agencies allegedly actively discouraged nonprofit animal welfare efforts, while escalating killing dogs and cats.

"Rabies is prevalent throughout India except on the islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar, but has a low public health priority," the Indian Ministry of Environment & Forests acknowledged in a September 20, 2006 statement of support for the Animal Birth Control strategy that has been national policy since December 1997. "Though exact statistical data is not available, it is estimated that in India approximately 20,000 people die of rabies every year," which also "causes a large number of deaths in domestic and wild animals."

"Moreover," the Ministry of Environment & Forests continued, "there is a huge expenditure incurred on post-exposure vaccination. Therefore, there is an urgent need eradicate this dreaded disease, as has been achieved by Malaysia and Singapore."

"The main vector of rabies in India is the dog. The twin strategies to control and

eradicate rabies in India will be to achieve at least 80% prophylactic immunization of dog population and to push forward the existing ABC/Anti-Rabies program for stray and community dogs.

"More than 70,000 stray or community dogs are [already] being sterilized every year and given anti-rabies vaccine," the Ministry of Environment & Forests summarized. "These dogs are returned to their original habitat after sterilization. This program," carried out by local charities with Animal Welfare Board of India support, "has significantly reduced the incidence of rabies in Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kalimpong, and Kolkata."

The Ministry of Environment & Forests admitted the difficulty of achieving "mass immunization of stray or community dogs who are not accessible for injectable rabies vaccination," but explained that "the problem can now be addressed," referring somewhat obscurely to the introduction of oral rabies vaccines for street dogs.

"The entire success of this project," the Ministry of Environment & Forests concluded, trying to rally cooperation, "rests on local municipal bodies, rural administrations, and state government veterinary services," which in some parts of India have been slow to encourage the ABC approach.

Killing street dogs, the Ministry emphasized, "is inhumane and does not go well with our cultural ethos of love and compassion for animals."

Elaborated Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna, who first demonstrated the ABC approach in 1964, "There is an oral rabies vaccine for street dogs, claimed to be most effective, now available from Virbac of France. With 26% import duty, it sells in India for 120 rupees (\$2.75 U.S.) per

dose. Intervet is on the verge of releasing an oral rabies vaccine for street dogs, and competition may bring the cost down."

The Virbac vaccine, Krishna said, "can be stored at four degrees Centigrade indefinitely and used at temperatures up to 40 degrees Centigrade and can even be kept at 40 degrees Centigrade for several days. It is supposed to be quite palatable, though it smells terrible. Even if a dog receives up to 10 times the normal dose, it is supposed to be okay."

"It is a live vaccine," Krishna noted, "so it must be given to the animals by someone who will be responsible for picking up uneaten baits before moving on."

"Dogs who eat the oral vaccine can be vaccinated by the injectable even immediately thereafter, so if an orally vaccinated dog is later spayed and vaccinated conventionally, there would be no adverse reaction."

### Turkey

In Turkey, explained Linda Taal of the Dutch organization Stichting ActieZwerfhonden, which works closely with several Turkish organizations, "The June 2004 law stipulating that neuter and release is the only permitted method of solving the stray dog issue took effect in July 2005."

"For part of Istanbul the work was contracted out to a pesticide company. The situation is abominable," Taal continued. "People from the Homeless Animals & Environmental Protection Society (EHDKD) and Society for the Protection of Animals (SHKD) on September 15, 2006 photographed the evidence at the Sariyer Kocatas shelter," an Istanbul municipal facility now operated by a private contractor.

Taal and others soon distributed the shocking photo portfolio worldwide.

"This year, Istanbul Metropolitan

Municipality opened a tender for neutering and releasing 5,500 stray dogs," retired economist and longtime Sariyer Kocatas shelter volunteer Dr. Bilge Okay of EHDKD explained to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "No animal protection organization could enter the tender," because of a requirement that entrants should already have completed a project with the municipality worth at least \$267,000.

"The contract was given to the lowest bidder, Biosav A.S., which is an insecticide producing firm," and subcontracted a firm called Anadolu Ilac Gida Ltd. Sti. to do the work.

"SHKD and EHDKD, as two organizations experienced in neuter/release, offered our help free of charge," Okay said. "We offered to train their vets in endoscopic neutering techniques, at which our vets are experienced. We gave them two vets, whose salaries are paid by the animal organisation FHDD (Friends of Fethiye Animals) to do operations and to train their vets. These two vets worked for the project for two months. We recommended to them another vet who was experienced in neutering. They fired him after a short time because he objected to how things were handled. We offered our experienced team to train their dog catchers. They didn't accept our offers."

"The dogs are carried in vans without ventilation," Okay alleged. "Dogs who are picked up in the morning arrive dead. Sick dogs are taken to operation without any medical treatment. And we have had many calls from animal lovers saying that they are releasing dogs in places where the dogs don't belong. We talked to AIG several times, telling them about our concerns," Okay said, before taking the complaints public.

"Our aim in publishing our pic-

(continued on page 17)

## Anti-chaining activist is busted for saving a dog (from page 16)

Carol Buckley and Pet-Abuse.com founder Alison Gianotto, who has posted online the details of several thousand cruelty cases gleaned from more than 20 years' worth of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** paper files as well as online sources. Animal Planet will present \$10,000 to the winner.

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### "Theft" v.s. rescue

Warrantless seizures by humane organizations became a hot issue in Pennsylvania in 1993, after a joint raid on dairy farmer John Tabaj, of Dunbar, by six uniformed humane officers, four of them armed, who represented the Fayette County SPCA and Tri-County Humane Protection. Allegedly investigating the purported theft of a dog and cruelty to a heifer reported by Tabaj's former son-in-law during a messy divorce case, the humane organizations charged Tabaj with five counts of cruelty, but the charges were later dropped. The incident caused the Pennsylvania legislature to mandate in December 1994 that humane officers must be appointed by a judge. A Fayette

County jury in January 1992 ordered a \$96,000 penalty against the Fayette County SPCA, upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in November 2003, and ordered Tri-County Humane Protection, now defunct, to pay Tabaj \$105,000.

The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** log of verified pet theft cases shows that during the past 10 years thefts by individuals acting in the name of rescue have ranked a distant third in frequency behind thefts in connection with dogfighting and thefts for other abusive purposes.

Approximately 225 such cases have come before the courts, rarely resulting in acquittals but often bringing minimal penalties if the rescuers showed that the animals urgently needed care.

Many more theft-in-the-

name-of-rescue cases are pending, mostly as result of adoptions after Hurricane Katrina by people who refused to return the animals they took in to those whose pets the animals formerly were.

### Brochure case

"At least one other member of Grimes' group, Dogs Deserve Better, has been charged criminally for trying to help a chained dog," the Best Friends Network web site noted. "Kathleen Slagle, a Dogs Deserve Better representative who authored the anti-chaining bill, HB 1911, now pending before the Pennsylvania state assembly judiciary committee, sent a couple of anti-chaining brochures to Charles and Dawn Soliday," of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, who alleged-

edly keep their beagle chained.

"Slagle has been charged with harassment for these actions," the Best Friends Network stated, adding that "the dog warden in Clearfield County has said she will support the Solidays. The dog warden encouraged filing the charge."

Continued the Best Friends Network web site, "In response to these abuses, Best Friends Animal Society has proposed a citizen's good Samaritan law. Under such a law, citizens would be able to enter the property of another for the limited purpose of taking an animal to a veterinarian, if needed, or otherwise providing emergency care for an animal. Of course, efforts must first be made, as they were in Grimes' case, to notify the owners and animal control."

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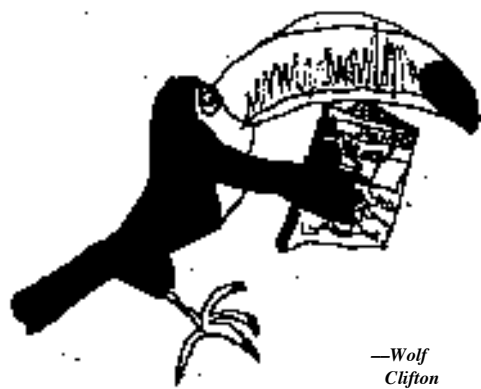
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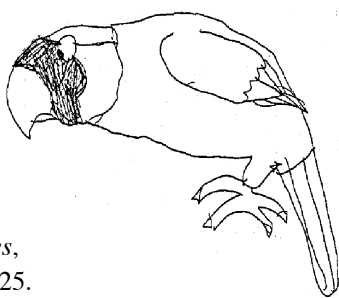
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## India reaffirms support of ABC. Some still don't get it. (from page 16)

tures,” Okay emphasized, “is not to destroy neuter/release. On the contrary, we want the neuter/release project to be applied properly and humanely, and to be successful. We have struggled for many years for neuter/release to be accepted as the only rational and humane way to solve the stray dog problem. Now that the implementation has begun, it is our only wish for it to be successful, because we are aware that the alternative will be poisoning, as for hundreds of years.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** on September 17 asked Biosav to explain the EHKD and SHKD photos, but received no response.

There have been other difficulties in introducing the Turkish ABC program.

“The regulations state that every municipality in Turkey is now responsible for their own neutering program, and they have to build temporary shelters and operating clinics. They also have to engage a veterinarian to carry out the neutering operations,” explained Friends of Fethiye Animals founder Perihan Agnelli, who led the effort to make neuter/return the Turkish national policy.

“Some municipalities are employing young, newly qualified vets to do this work, but they do not have experience in performing spaying and castration,” continued Agnelli. “This has resulted in municipalities asking us for help in training their new vets. Some of the vets come to our centre in Fethiye, where we accommodate them.

“Whilst many municipalities are setting up their own programs, which they will manage with their own personnel, some of the larger cities like Istanbul, Ankara, and Sivas have hired private organizationa,” Agnelli acknowledged. “I haven’t heard anything negative from either Ankara or Sivas, but I have heard that the company that won the bid in Istanbul is making a mess of things.”

British clothier Robert Smith, who has sponsored several sheltering and neuter/return pilot projects in Istanbul, “offered to undertake catching, neutering, and releasing dogs on their behalf,” Agnelli added. “The company agreed, but the municipality refused the help.”

### Romania

Smith, also involved for about seven years in Romania, on September 15 unveiled “a proposal and budget for a neuter/return project in the whole province of Bihor, Romania, which we intend to implement over the next three years,” he said.

But Smith pre-empted his own Internet discussion of the project after becoming aware of a Romanian Senate proposal which, as translated by Romanian animal advocates, would limit the holding time for impounded dogs to just five days.

As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press, Smith and others were still trying to establish whether that was the legislative intent, or whether the intent was to set a minimum holding time of five days, as required by the U.S. Laboratory Animal Welfare Act in 1966 and reiterated in the Animal Welfare Act of 1971. Originally applied only to animals who were sold to labs, the five-day standard became the default minimum for all impounded animals in most states.

Sara Turetta of the Associazione Save the Dogs and Fundatia Daisy Hope founder Aura Maratas meanwhile reported aggressive municipal dog collection and killing in downtown Bucharest.

“The action was run by night with the support of the police,” Turetta e-mailed.

“The ‘cleaning’ of the area,” in the neighborhood where a loose pit bull terrier killed a Japanese visitor in February 2006, “was done,” Turetta alleged, “in order to give a western look to the capital during the meeting of the International Francophone Organization,” held on September 28-29.

The most recent and apparently the most limited of many Bucharest dog-purges during the past 10 years occurred while Turetta was providing emergency help to the impounded dogs of Calarasi, which she described as “a very poor town 60 kilometres from Cernavoda, on the frontier with Bulgaria.”

In 2003 Turetta “visited the kennel run by the Sufletel association,” she recalled, “which was starting activity concurrent with the town killing stray dogs. Save the Dogs has a video clip, shot in 2003, showing the violence of the dog catchers. Many dogs were choked to death on the street with metal nooses,” Turetta alleged. “The dogs who survived capture were killed by an injection of air or toxic agents in the peritoneum. After protest by local animal lovers, they shifted to shooting, which they are still doing. According to the local press and Sufletel, dogs are still brutally caught, brought to the edge of town, and shot by huntsmen.

“When we visited the kennel in 2003, we gave one single piece of advice to the chair of Sufletel: stop!” Turetta recalled. “They did not have the economic resources nor the medical knowledge to ensure decent living conditions to the dogs hosted there.

“Back in 2003 and today still we cannot manage a second facility, and at that time we could not give them any economic aid. Calarasi was one of many emergency situations in Romania, and we had to step backward despite our willingness to help.

“Unfortunately, the association did not follow our advice,” Turetta said. “This year, Sufletel asked us for the help of our mobile clinic. On August 8 we went to Calarasi to arrange for neutering the 230 dogs at the kennel. About 150-170 of them were severely ill. Almost all the dogs were bald from mange. Many were close to death.

“Near the kennel,” Turetta continued, “there were four or five tons of bones, the basic food for the dogs, mixed with corpses, left to rot under the sun because the authorities cannot and do not want to organize a waste collection service.”

Turetta published photographs of the scene on Save The Dogs web site.

Starting on August 9, Turetta said, “Four vets from Unisvet, three volunteers from Save the Dogs, and a worker from the Cernavoda kennel spent three 10-hour days at the Calarasi kennel. Unfortunately, some dogs were in such poor health that they had to be euthanized. The rest received worming and flea treatment. About 100 dogs were treated for mange. About 40 male dogs were neutered.” Construction was started on new perimeter barriers and kennels.

“The bones and corpses were removed by a bulldozer and disposed of,” Turetta added. “Unfortunately, despite a picture of our team published on the first page of a local newspaper, dog catchers were working the next day in the city center,” capturing more dogs to be killed and increasing the inclination of local animal lovers to take strays to the overcrowded shelter.

Turetta in September led a follow-up visit to Calarasi, with a mobile clinic donated by the Dutchpuppy Foundation and additional support raised from Italy, the Netherlands,



*The Kutahya shelter in Turkey, above, “was built for 200 dogs. Whilst it is a municipal shelter, responsibility for running it was given to a local animal welfare society 16 years ago,” wrote Perihan Agnelli. “The members have refused to allow any vet to euthanize sick animals, and will not allow healthy animals to be released. Presently more than 800 dogs and 200 cats live there in cramped and diseased conditions.” Similar substandard “no kill shelters” exist around the world at the periphery of cities where animal control consists chiefly of catch-and-kill or poisoning. Replacing high-volume killing with neuter/return helps to eliminate the pretext for operating shelters as concentration camps, by reducing fear that animals will be killed if not incarcerated. “The Mayor of Kutahya told me he is building a new shelter and clinic away from this one,” said Agnelli, whose organization, Fethiye Friends of Animals, recently trained veterinarian Yalcin Budak to head the new facility.*

Sweden and the U.S.

This time they sterilized 50 dogs, focusing on pregnant females; treated 150 dogs for mange; introduced microchipping; followed up on making physical improvements to the shelter; and began making staff changes to bring in more caring and dedicated people.

“We will keep you updated,” Turetta pledged.

### Serbia

The Serbian situation reached international notice through appeals for international political support e-mailed during the last weeks of September by Slavica Mazak Beslic of EPAR (Friends of Animals Society), who operates a shelter in Subotica.

“Local authorities sent a building inspector, who commanded us to destroy all of our dog houses and destroy our dog shelter with 450 dogs,” Beslic said, lamenting that even before the demolition order came, “We need more boxes for 43 dominant dogs who are still on chains because they cannot be together with other dogs.

“When we as a nonprofit nongovernmental organisation asked for help from the republic and local authorities, and offered collaboration, they refused,” Beslic said.

Part of Beslic’s complaint concerned her contention that the government should pay the cost of vaccinating the shelter dogs against rabies. The inspection and demolition order appeared to follow a dispute over vaccination.

Beslic illustrated her arguments—and the need for improvement in Serbian animal control practices—with photos of about 30 dead dogs in plastic bags at a garbage dump. The photos, Beslic said, were taken on September 20, 2006, in the town of Smederevo. The dogs were impounded without food or water, according to Beslic, and then poisoned or clubbed.

“We try to explain to the authorities of Serbia that a more useful, economical, and more humane approach, including sterilization and adoption, is the best solution for stray dog control, but nothing changes,” Beslic alleged. “They now do mass killing and sterilization together, and we can see that last week some dogs were sterilized and after this the same dogs were killed.”

Investigating Beslic’s allegations,

Belgrade activist and journalist Jelena told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that, “Belgrade owns one killing pound, in the OVCA district, and sponsors several private killing pounds around Serbia,” some of which appeared to be implicated. The OVCA pound practices apparently represent the norms.

Taking statements from six witnesses to OVCA pound procedures, Zaric concluded that it “does not work to law, does not possess appropriate management, and the workers do not possess the skills needed to work with animals.

“Captured animals are kept without water, food, and proper medical care,” Zaric summarized from the witnesses’ statements. “Sterilization is performed on animals who are in very bad health, and are held further without proper post-operative care.

“Killing methods,” that Zaric was told about, “include injecting various toxic detergents, injecting the concentrated insecticide Nuvan, various kind of oral poisoning, suffocation by plastic bags or ropes, hanging, clubbing, smashing animals’ heads with heavy doors, smashing restrained animals on the floor, and injections of T-61,” a paralytic lethal agent used mainly to kill mink on fur farms, used by some U.S. animal control agencies until banned in 1986.

“The OVCA facility is closed to the public,” Zaric added. “The procedure for dog adoption is very hard, and it takes more than 5 hours to obtain needed documents to get inside. Even with the needed papers, no one with our investigation could get inside the area where the dogs are held. It is very hard to get inside the killing area. All of our witnesses were citizens who under pressure from workers gave money or gifts before entering the area where dogs were held in cages.

“By statements from all sides involved, every year, from October through April, Belgrade kills more than 6,000 dogs,” Zaric said, “but there are no precise statistics.

“Sterilization plans have failed many times,” Zaric continued. “Pet sterilization is not popular in Serbia. We do all we can, without the help of city officials.

“Caretakers spend their money to sterilize street animals,” Zaric reported, “and then the dog catchers kill them.”

—Merritt Clifton



## Gunfire no aprodisiac for African elephants

Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues and Presidential Elephant Conservation Project elephant fertility researcher Sharon Pincott contend that the stress associated with gunfire has actually suppressed elephant fecundity—a finding which, if verified, would contradict other studies showing that wildlife populations tend to increase their fecundity under hunting pressure.

Both coyotes and deer, for example, notoriously raise more young successfully when hunting has thinned their populations, making more food available to the survivors.

But different mechanisms are at work.

While coyotes are hunted year-round, intensive hunting pressure on coyotes tends to be limited to the spring birthing season for cattle and sheep, and the fall deer hunting season, when deer hunters often shoot coyotes as well.

Deer hunting occurs almost entirely within a rifle season typically lasting only 10 to 14 days. Far fewer hunters participate in the bow hunting and other “special” seasons that precede and follow the rifle season, when gunfire is most frequent.

Intensive shooting in the Zimbabwean elephant study area continued for several years.

Pincott, an Australian, has studied the Presidential Elephants “for more than five years,” Rodrigues e-mailed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. The Presidential Elephants are “a clan of more than 400 free-roaming elephants, individually known

in more than 20 family groups, so named when President Robert Mugabe decreed them ‘protected’ in 1990, to be a symbol, it was then said, of Zimbabwe’s commitment to responsible wildlife management.

“These habituated elephants can be found on the unfenced Hwange Estate,” Rodrigues said, “bordering Hwange National Park.

“The home range of the Presidential Elephants was underhandedly taken over by hunters, a situation now thankfully rectified,” Pincott told Rodrigues. “The elephants did, however, endure more than two years of unethical hunting.”

Said Rodrigues, “Elephant conception rates during this period were negatively affected, with elephants coming into estrus up to four times before they eventually conceived.”

Elaborated Pincott, “Female elephants only come into estrus once every three months. Some elephants took another six and even nine months to conceive after the first time I witnessed them in estrus. Some elephants whom I witnessed in estrus and being mated during late 2003 have only recently had their babies, some 31 months later. They endured four sessions with the bulls before becoming pregnant. This differs markedly from elephants whom I witnessed in estrus during 2001 and 2002, before gunfire increased substantially, who had their babies the usual 22 months later.

“Occasionally, at that time, elephants were sighted back in estrus three months after an unsuccessful estrus, but this was not the norm. Certainly there are no previous records of the fertile elephants in this population taking up to nine months to conceive.”

Added Rodrigues, “Data collection continues now that the gunfire is better under control, to confirm that conception rates have improved.

“Elephant numbers in Zimbabwe have often been cited as having a negative impact on the numbers of smaller species,” Rodrigues noted, “which are said to be declining, despite scientific studies in neighboring Botswana confirming that the numbers of smaller species there continue to increase, despite their even larger elephant population.

Concluded Rodrigues, “Gunfire continues, legally, inside of Zimbabwe’s National Parks. Although supposedly limited, this ‘ration hunting’ gunfire has at times been reported to be out of control. Some conservationists are now asking, ‘Is gunfire negatively impacting conception of all wildlife?’”

“It is difficult for me to believe that only elephants would be negatively affected,” said Pincott.

The Pincott findings come amid continued debate in South Africa over what to do about alleged elephant overpopulation in Kruger National Park. Some park officials would like to cull the elephants, as was done from 1967 to 1994, and seek Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species permission to sell the elephants’ tusk ivory.

Southern Africa Association for the Advancement of Science president Ian Raper recommends dart-administered non-hormonal contraception. “There are 5,326 female elephants in Kruger,” Raper estimated for Agence France-Presse in 2005, “and it would cost only 1.4 million rand, \$208,303 or 178,459 euros annually, to administer the contraceptive, which would work for two years.”

“When people talk about threats to bio-diversity,” Raper added, “it would be well to remember that old bull elephants topple trees, not the females and calves who would be

## Kangaroo contraceptives

**CANBERRA**—The Australian Capital Territory government and Newcastle University on August 23, 2006 announced plans to jointly develop a species-specific oral contraceptive for eastern grey kangaroos.

The contraceptive should be ready for field trials in two to five years, senior Environment ACT ecologist Don Fletcher told news media.

“In the coming weeks a research population will be set up in the empty former kangaroo display area at Tidbinbilla,” said municipal services John Hargreaves, referring to the scene of “rocket science” of a very different sort. The Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, on the fringe of Namadgi National Park, is best known for housing the radio telescopes operated by the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, part of NASA’s Deep Space Network.

“It is hoped that eventually the kangaroos will be administered with the fertility control agent through their food,” Hargreaves said.

“Realistically, to deal with wild animals, it has to be oral,” Fletcher explained, noting special problems involved in distributing an oral contraceptive that will be exposed to ultraviolet radiation from intense sunlight and in coping with kangaroos’ strong stomach acids.

“The ACT government, which administers Canberra and is funding the research, is reluctant to use shooters to thin the kangaroo population because of the risk posed to humans in built-up areas and the cruelty objections raised by animal welfare groups,” said Associated Press.

Simone Gray of ACT Animal Liberation praised the initiative.

“Australia is the largest wildlife killer in the world. We’re killing more wildlife than anyone,” Gray said. “Fertility control is a sensible alternative for stopping the slaughter.”

The ACT/Newcastle University project contrasts with the effort of a scientific team in Victoria to develop a specific-specific poison to kill feral cats.

“We’re at the forefront of coming up with the first technique to control feral cats over broad areas,” researcher Michael Johnston told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in August 2005. “Currently we’re limited to using techniques such as shooting or trapping.”

the targets of culling.”

Relatively little has been done to research ways to control bull elephant reproductive behavior, but Walt Disney’s Wild Animal Kingdom and the San Diego Wild Animal Park in 2005 funded Colorado State University veterinary surgery professor Dean Henderickson to experimentally vasectomize several South African wild bull elephants in mid-2005.

“Except on smaller reserves,” Henderickson told *Denver Post* staff writer Katy Human, “the elephant herds are so big that going in and vasectomizing some will not make enough of a difference fast enough. We’re hoping that once the population has been brought down to a reasonable number, we can help them prevent having to cull again.”

Vasectomizing an elephant is no simple task, Henderickson added. “The approach into the abdomen is very difficult because it’s so hard to find landmarks. If you want to know what it’s like to find a rib in an elephant,” he said, “walk up to a textured wall and try to find a stud by looking.”

## Elephant birth control introduced in India

About a dozen female elephants among the 30 elephants used for patrol work by the West Bengal Forest Department are soon to receive birth control implants, senior department official P.T. Bhutiya told news media in mid-September 2006.

“Our department is suffering a budget cut, so we have been asked to only maintain those elephants who are useful, and introduce birth control amongst the whole population,” Bhutiya said. The forestry department herd formerly produced three or four offspring per year.

Of the estimated 400 elephants left in West Bengal, about 65-80 are captive work or exhibiton animals.

“Some who belong to the camps get impregnated when they go out to the forests to graze. The growing population has become a matter of concern for the authorities who find it difficult to provide the requisite fodder,” West Bengal chief conservator of forests Ujjal Bhattacharjee explained to Marcus Dam of *The Hindu* in March 2006, when the agency first applied to the federal environment ministry for permission to use the contraceptive implants.

“This is just a killing exercise,” objected Friends of Wetlands & Wildlife coordinator Mukuta Mukherjee. “If the government cannot feed the elephants, they should look for sponsors, but not do anything to cut down their population.”

“We should be encouraging births among the wild population,” countered Born Free Foundation consultant Ian Redmond to Kate Thomas of *The Independent*, “but elephants are complex social animals, and condemning newborn calves to a lifetime in captivity, in the absence of funds and a structured program that allows them to be reintroduced into the wild, would be questionable.”

## One-legged Sweet Nothing stays ahead of killer buyers

Sweet Nothing, right, kept by Cindy Wasney & Dick Jackson of Victoria, British Columbia, is an emissary for Premarin foals, Big Julie’s Rescue Ranch in Fort McLeod, Alberta, and horses who learn to live with prosthetic legs.

“I bought her at a feed lot auction,” Big Julie’s Rescue Ranch founder Roger Brinker told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “She was a \$200 horse,” going for little more than the minimum bid.

Conventional belief is that horses who suffer severe leg injuries must be euthanized, but some especially valuable stud horses have been saved with prosthetic limbs, typically costing \$6,000 to \$8,000.

After Sweet Nothing convinced Brinker’s veterinarian that she had the right personality to accept a prosthetic limb, Ron Handkamer of Colman Prosthetics in Calgary improvised one to fit her, Brinker said—and refused any payment.

Premarin, an estrogen supplement derived from pregnant mares’ urine, was the top-selling prescription drug worldwide as recently as 2001, with annual sales of \$732 million. Producing Premarin requires keeping mares pregnant, breeding a constant surplus of foals, many of whom are sold to slaughter.

Premarin sales have plummeted since the Women’s Health Initiative study funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health in July 2002 notified 16,000 participants who took Prempro, a drug combining Premarin with progestin, that the supplements are associated with increased risk from heart attacks, strokes, and blood clots forming in the lungs.

However, Wyeth-Ayerst, the Prempro and Premarin manufacturer, on September 15, 2006 won the first of about 4,500 pending lawsuits from former estrogen supplement uses.

“A federal jury ruled against Linda Reeves, 67,” reported Andrew DeMillo of Associated Press. “During the four-week trial, Reeves acknowledged not reading information supplied with the drug and said she left it up to her doctor to decide whether it was appro-



*Sweet Nothing. (Cindy Wasney)*

pritate to treat symptoms of menopause.

“Reeves, diagnosed in 2000 with a cancerous tumor in her right breast, initially took Premarin, a form of estrogen, and her doctor soon added progestin to her daily regimen. She switched to Prempro in 1996, which for the first time combined Premarin and progestin in one pill. After her cancer diagnosis, Reeves had a mastectomy and chemotherapy. She has been cancer-free since,” DeMillo summarized.

The verdict went the opposite way for former University of Vermont professor Eric Poehlman, 50, of Montreal, who between 1992 and 2002 produced several of the most influential studies promoting and defending the use of Premarin.. Poehlman on June 28, 2006 became the first academic researcher in the U.S. to receive prison time—a year and a day—for fabricating scientific data.

“In spring 2005 Poehlman pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements in a successful 1999 application to the National Institutes of Health for a \$542,000 grant. He also admitted faking results in numerous studies and proposals for a decade beginning in 1992,” reported Adam Silverman of the *Burlington* (Vermont) *Free Press*.

## No more polar bears at Singapore Zoo

**SINGAPORE**—Singapore Zoo director Fanny Lai told Reuters on September 7, 2006 that the zoo will no longer exhibit Arctic and Antarctic animals after the eventual death of Sheba, 29, the elder of the two polar bears on exhibit at the zoo.

Singapore is located just north of the equator.

Lai told Reuters that she has asked the Rostock Zoo in Germany, manager of the global captive polar bear survival plan, to find a more suitable home for Inuka, 16, who is to be moved after Sheba dies.

Lai denied that the decision was prompted by the September 6 release of the findings of a four-month undercover investigation by the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society.

“From September until December 2005,” said ACRES president Louis Ng, “both bears exhibited signs of severe heat stress. The bears were both seen panting for long periods (Inuka: 36.0% of the time; Sheba: 38.7% of the time). Both

bears engaged in abnormal stereotypic behaviour (Inuka: 64.5% of the active periods; Sheba: 56.8% of the active periods). Both polar bears displayed inactivity (Inuka: 42.5% of the time; Sheba: 64.6% of the time).

“The bears cannot simply ‘adapt’ to life in hot climates,” Ng argued. “Wherever they are in captivity, they will still possess physiological adaptations to life in the Arctic.”

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** spotlighted the bears’ plight in a July/August 2005 cover feature, based on a site visit, entitled “White tigers, green polar bears, & maintaining a world-class zoo.”

Both of the Singapore Zoo polar bears, a mother and son, are green from algae growing in their translucent hair shafts

Opened in June 1973, the Singapore Zoo and adjacent Night Safari were the hugely successful evident models for the Chiang Mai Zoo and the recently opened Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo in Thailand.

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## Thai military coup may hit wildlife traffic (from page one)

Indonesian government, were told that the Indonesian Navy plane that was to pick up the apes could not land in Thailand until further notice," Wiek said earlier.

The plane, a C-130 Hercules, was designed to fly tanks into trouble spots. The mission might therefore have been dangerously confused with military activity.

The orangutans were central to two of the many prominent corruption cases that Thai Army chief General Sonthi Boonyaratglin cited as his reasons for leading the bloodless coup that deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

### Safari World

The orangutans became a cause célèbre in November 2003, when Thai forestry officials impounded 115 orangutans altogether at the Safari World zoo in Bangkok. Investigating alleged cruelty in connection with kick boxing matches held between orangutans to amuse visitors, the forestry department found that many of the orangutans were kept in cramped and unhealthy conditions, and were not properly registered.

"Safari World claimed that the many young orangutans were produced by a successful breeding program, but DNA testing paid for by the Orangutan Foundation found in 2004 that at least 72 of the orangutans were illegally smuggled into Thailand," summarized Karmele Llano of the Dutch organization Stichting ProAnimalia International, in a September 2005 letter to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Llano, Wiek, and others formed a coalition called Send Them Back Home to try to return the orangutans to Indonesia. Many of the impounded orangutans meanwhile vanished, mostly before they were physically removed from Safari World in August 2004.

"At least 15 of them reportedly died, in strange circumstances, without adequate medical documentation," wrote Llano.

Twenty-two orangutans were somehow smuggled to Cambodia, where they were found performing kick-boxing exhibitions at a casino. Five were loaned to the Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo.

### Night Safari

"Night Safari has veterinarians and everything to take care of them, so we lent them temporarily," National Parks director Damrong Phidej told Associated Press.

Opened in late 2005, the \$30 million Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo was politely described by Associated Press as "a project initiated by Thaksin in his home town."

"The project was not brought before Parliament for deliberation and suspiciously favored a group of people with vested interests in hotels and tourism," summarized Chaiphan Praphasawat of the We Love Chiang Mai coalition, to *The Nation*, of Bangkok.

The We Love Chiang Mai coalition included local zoo opponents, environmentalists, and animal advocates who became concerned about the deaths of animals who were obtained and held in temporary quarters while the Night Safari was built. They soon found much more to worry about, including alleged-

ly obsolete and substandard habitat designs and questionable transactions arranged to obtain animals.

Wildlife Fund Thailand president Pisit Na Phatthalung noted in November 2005 that then-Natural Resources and Environment Ministry vice-minister Plodprasop Suraswadi was paid more than \$5,250 a month to double as chief executive officer of the Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo.

"We also found that most of the top executives were close to Plodprasop and they received ludicrous salaries," Pisit Na Phatthalung told *The Nation*.

Both Thaksin and Plodprasop were sued on June 7, 2006 by the We Love Chiang Mai Coalition, for allegedly improperly creating the Night Safari Zoo in a national park.

At request of the We Love Chiang Mai Coalition, the Thai National Human Rights Commission in July 2006 began investigating land deals made to add an elephant park to the Night Safari Zoo.

Plodprasop, who previously served as fisheries minister, lost that post and eventually lost the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry amid allegations of facilitating wildlife trafficking. His most notorious deal was authorizing the 2002 export of 100 tigers to a privately owned zoo or tiger farm, depending on definitions, in Hainan, China.

While Thaksin has often posed as an animal lover, including in public denunciations of wildlife trafficking, he defended Thai cockfighters against pressure to end cockfighting that has intensified since 2004 due to outbreaks of the avian influenza H5N1, which have killed more than 130 people worldwide. Many Thai cases have been linked to the transport, exhibition, and sale of gamecocks.

### Kenya deal

Plodprasop embarrassed the Thaksin government in November 2005 by disclosing his intent to open a restaurant at the Night Safari Zoo that would serve dog meat and the meat of lions, tigers, elephants, and giraffes. Plodprasop spoke only days after Thaksin and Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki signed the most notorious of the Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo animal acquisition agreements.

As the transaction was originally structured, Kenya was to send the Chiang Mai Night Safari Zoo as many as 300 animals of approximately 30 species, including lions, elephants, hippos, and rhinos.

The deal was scaled back under opposition led by Youth for Conservation and Africa Network for Animal Welfare founder Josphat Ngonyo to include only about 100 animals, chiefly zebras, giraffes, and gazelles—but opposition from Ngonyo and current YfC president Steve Itela continues.

Nairobi High Court Justice Joseph Nyamu on July 4, 2006 delayed until September 25 hearing arguments on the legality of exporting Kenyan animals to the Night Safari Zoo. Nyamu in December 2005 issued a temporary injunction blocking the exports, and has repeatedly extended it.

The coup "has effectively killed the proposal," reported Bogonko Bosire of

Agence France-Press.

"The deal is as good as dead," affirmed a source whom Bosire identified only as "a senior official in Kenya's tourism ministry. Ironically, it's a bit of a relief," the source said, "since the government has come under intense pressure to stop it."

Thaksin denied having personal economic interests in Kenya, but Kenyan Tourism and Wildlife Minister Morris Dzoro contradicted Thaksin's claims at a June 2006 press conference in Nairobi.

"Thaksin has asked us about putting up a hotel here in Kenya and we are considering his application just like any other investor," Dzoro said.

The Thai coup proceeded with the apparent endorsement of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Ceremonially reigning for 59 years, the 78-year-old king and his wife, Queen Sirikit, are outspoken animal advocates. In 2002 King Bhumibol published an 84-page biography of Khun Tongdaeng, a street dog he adopted in 1998, and in his birthday speech called for better treatment of street dogs and elephants.

At the king's request, the Thai national police added eight former street dogs to their elite airport security dog team.

A year later, at the queen's request, Prime Minister Thaksin denounced animal trafficking as immoral, "especially if the animals are to be killed for meat," and initiated crackdowns on both wildlife trafficking and the sale of dogs for human consumption. Dog-eating by ethnic Chinese immigrants who fled to Thailand from Vietnam during conflict between Vietnam and China in the 1970s has often become a flashpoint in cultural conflicts in the Thai northeast, Thaksin's political stronghold.

Wildlife trafficking arrests and seizures have continued. So has the commerce. The biggest recent bust came on July 18, 2006.

"After receiving a tip from the new Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network," the *Bangkok Post* reported, officials from three Thai government agencies "detained four dealers for questioning and confiscated over 250 purported shahtoosh shawls [made from the fur of poached Himalayan antelope called chiru], "which can cost as much as \$12,000 apiece."

### Wiek case

"When you read this," Edwin Wiek posted to the Asian Animal Protection Network, "you almost believe the Thai authorities are actually really doing something to stop the illegal wildlife trade. Please don't be fooled. The traders will not go to jail, they will not get a fine and they might even get their goods back," Wiek predicted. "There is no law that forbids keeping foreign wild animals or parts of wild animals. Traffickers can only get in trouble when they are caught red-handed smuggling the goods into the country. In this case they were not."

But Wiek got into trouble in early 2005 for keeping 11 macaques who were turned over to the Thai Animal Guardians



Orangutan. (Kim Bartlett)

Association by their former owners, and relocated to better housing at Wildlife Friends after the Thai forestry department declined to take them. Wiek was in August 2006 fined \$525 and given a suspended eight-month jail sentence for possessing the macaques without holding a permit to do so.

"Wiek, a Dutch national, who has spent the past five years setting up one of the country's top animal centers, is the first activist to receive such a sentence," reported Pennapa Hongthong and Jim Pollard of *The Nation*. "Wiek claimed the charges were pushed by a senior official who was upset by his efforts to force the government to return the smuggled orangutans found at Safari World to Indonesia."

"No one will want to provide shelter to unwanted wildlife through fear that one day they might be arrested and charged with the same offence as Wiek," said Animal Guardians Association chair Roger Lohanon.

Responded Thai wildlife department deputy director Schawan Tunhikorn, "I didn't abuse my power. I just did my job in protecting wildlife."

"To the animal welfare community, Edwin Wiek is someone who works to help Thai wild animals in distress," e-mailed Indian animal advocate and journalist Azam Siddiqui, mentioning Wiek's "contributions to the animals of India as well."

Elaborated Siddiqui, "Last year, on coming to know of a zoo exchange between the Thai zoological authorities and the Assam State Zoo here in India, Wiek warned me that the orangutans involved could be those who were smuggled into Thailand. Wiek brought a nine-member Thai TV crew to Assam in November 2005. He met with the Forest Minister of Assam and the zoo divisional forest officer in charge, and exchanged a few thoughts with the zoo vets about treating an injured tiger. Everyone was impressed with the trouble that he took to come all the way from Thailand to Assam."

"Edwin Wiek has the support of all animal welfare people, not only in Asia but around the world," added Blue Cross of India chief executive Chinny Krishna. "In much of Asia and in many other parts of the world, money speaks. Wiek is a soft target because he lacks the monetary power of Safari World."

The new government of Thailand, with King Bhumibol as titular head, is expected to erase many suspected unjust convictions of opponents of the Thaksin regime, leaving hope that Wiek's conviction might be set aside.

—Merritt Clifton

### Baboon rescuer fights for her life

CAPE TOWN—Baboon rescuer Jenni Trethowan, 45, was hospitalized in Contantia-berg under heavy sedation in early September, suffering from central nervous system damage including "violent spasms, balance problems while walking, and a slurring of speech," reported John Yeld of the *Cape Town Argus* on September 9.

"Trethowan is believed to have been affected by dieldrin," an insecticide banned more than 25 years ago, Yeld wrote, "after handling three young baboons from the Slangkop troop who all died after being poisoned with the same deadly substance—probably deliberately," in mid-August.

"Her husband Ian said she was hooked to an EEG machine, linked to a video camera, and was being constantly monitored," Yeld added.



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# Stealing Love: *Confessions of a Dognapper* by Mary A. Fischer

Harmony Books (231 Broad St., Nevada City, CA 95959), 2006. 288 pages, hardcover. \$23.00.

*Stealing Love: Confessions of a Dognapper* is the autobiography of investigative reporter Mary A. Fischer, a poignant story of a sad and lonely life. Rescuing abused dogs is both incidental to, and symbolic of, her own family history.

Fischer was the second daughter of a dysfunctional family. When she was four years old, her mother had a breakdown following the death of her own mother, and was committed to a mental institution by her father, a selfish, inconsiderate rake.

Fischer paints a harrowing picture of life in an American asylum when psychiatry was still relatively new: "No experimental therapy was seen as too bizarre." Shock therapy was the norm, "with electrode pads in a metal headband on her temples, a nurse flips a switch and 140 volts of electricity crackle through her temporal lobes like a thunderbolt of lightning."

Because her father could not handle the care of his two young daughters, he sent them to a Catholic convent boarding school. Fischer spent seven miserable years of alienated existence at this austere, loveless institution. Fischer emerged from this tragic background with a fiercely independent spirit,

contempt for authority, and deep compassion for underdogs, evident in both her reporting career and in dognapping to rescue dogs from abusive homes.

Her rescues/thefts have not been random. "I and many of the other rescuers I've met are not, well, rabid in how we fulfil our mission," Fischer contends, describing them as "solid people, a vet who will go un-named, a marketing and branding executive, an NBC publicist, and a former lawyer."

Vigilante dog rescuers are not welcomed by much of the animal welfare community. As **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton explains, "I began logging pet theft cases circa 1980. Theft for laboratory use was then the most common motive. Since the federal Pet Theft Act took effect in 1993, however, pet thefts in the name of rescue far outnumber pet thefts for lab use, and indeed all other categories of pet theft except thefts in connection with dogfighting. Many 'rescue' thefts are undertaken with little or no effort to pursue legal remedies, and are based on gross misunderstanding, as comes out in court cases, e.g. old dogs who are in late stages of cancer, but are enjoying their last days in the sunshine, who are snatched away by people

who believe they are being starved.

"Hundreds of animals were stolen after Hurricane Katrina in the name of rescue, some of whom had just been taken back to New Orleans by people returning to the city to try to rebuild their lives. Courts all over the U.S. are now handling cases of New Orleans refugees trying to reclaim pets who were taken by 'rescuers' who now refuse to return them.

"For more than 50 years animal advocates moved mountains to get strong federal penalties and supporting state laws in place to crack down on pet theft. Now the animal advocacy community is suddenly being asked to defend 'rescuers' who violate the anti-theft laws. If animal advocates get suckered into weakening the laws with—for example—provisions exempting interstate pet thieves who have non-profit status, thieves with motives other than rescue will be quick to exploit the loopholes. Quite a few dogfighters already pose as rescuers, and some lab suppliers have operated as medical charities."

Yet reading the individual accounts of why Fischer has rescued neglected dogs, we the reviewers can say that we quite agree with her actions and have, operating our own wildlife rehabilitation center, done similar.



**Chained German shepherd. (Tammy Grimes)**

Authorities are not always keen to intervene, and making a report would often provoke personal retaliation from the animal abuser.

Fischer saw animals suffering in dire situations where she could not practicably invoke authorities: "Dogs tethered to six-foot ropes and chains, their necks permanently scarred," and "malnourished dogs with exposed rib bones, others with cigarette burns, beer bottles broken over their heads, or their ears chewed away by mites or other insects."

Fischer did not simply assume starvation, which can be difficult to distinguish from other conditions in single-dog cases; she had this verified by a veterinarian, and only acted after months of observation

—Chris Mercer & Beverley Pervan  
<www.cannedlion.co.za>, SouthAfrica

## Freeing Keiko: *The Journey of a Killer Whale from Free Willy to the Wild* by Kenneth Brower

Penguin Group (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 2006. 288 pages, hardcover. \$26.00.

*Freeing Keiko* is a biography of the captive orca whale who rose to stardom as "Willy" in the Hollywood movie *Free Willy!* and sequels. Author Kenneth Brower, son of the late Earth Island Institute founder David Brower, had uniquely privileged access to effort to rehabilitate Keiko for release, from the 1993 beginning of Earth Island Institute negotiations to obtain Keiko from the Mexico City aquarium El Reino Aventura until the Humane Society of the U.S. took over the project shortly before Keiko finally broke from human feeding and supervision in September 2002 and swam to the coast of Norway to spend the last 15 months of his life.

Captured off Iceland in 1979, Keiko spent two years at Marineland of Niagara Falls, Ontario. Sold to El Reino Aventura in Mexico City, he remained there until 1996, when the Free Willy/Keiko Foundation formed by Earth Island Institute moved him to a newly built super-sized tank at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. More than 2.5 million visitors came to see him before he was airlifted to a sea pen in the Westmann Islands of Iceland in September 1998, to learn again how to be a wild whale.

Knowledgeable and painstaking, Brower summarizes as much as can be known from accessible documents about Keiko's capture and early years.

A variety of individuals and organizations on either side of the marine mammal captivity debate and of varied credibility besieged El Reino Aventura with offers for Keiko after the success of the first *Free Willy!* film. Brower keeps the focus of that part of the story on the successful Earth Island Institute bid, backed by HSUS. He acknowledges some of the others, but largely steers clear of the many plots, counterplots, and overt scams that complicated the negotiations.

More than half of *Freeing Keiko* concerns the move to Iceland and aftermath, including much original observation

of the later years of the project, when few reporters other than Brower ventured to the scene.

By far the most credit for Keiko's release must go to the eccentric cell phone billionaire Craig McCaw, who put \$20 million into the project. Brower also has especially warm words for Earth Island Institute executive director David Phillips and negotiator Katherine Hanly, who was instrumental in arranging for Keiko to go to Iceland.

Brower's description of the Earth Island Institute success into turning public hostility toward Keiko into enthusiasm for his arrival is poignant in view of the subsequent revival of the Icelandic whaling industry and the September 2006 announcement of the Icelandic government that it will resume exporting whale meat.

Renewed Icelandic political support for whaling, despite the growth of the Icelandic whale-watching industry, may reflect the disappointment Brower notes that Keiko's presence did not bring much lasting economic benefit to the impoverished Westmanns, if any.

Brower sums up, "Keiko's saga had been a tale of enormous absurdity. He was a whale who lived in a \$ 7.5 million palace, attended by dozens of retainers, masseurs, lawyers, public relations people, security guards and personal physicians.... As a model for repatriation of captive whales, he was hopeless. We do not have enough whale loving billionaires....And yet as a symbol and icon he was potent....But the climax of Keiko's saga would come when he swam out of his own story. Just beyond the range of movie cameras, and television, and journalists and editorial writers and billionaires, and environmentalists, he would swim clear of absurdity. He would escape the magical thinking of his channelers, the over-protectiveness of his trainers and the righteous indignation of his advocates in the animal rights movement. He would course



**Keiko at the Oregon Coast Aquarium in 1997. (Kim Bartlett)**

onward into bracing cold subpolar waters where everything is true. He would swim into anonymity."

The ending was, as most of us know, not quite so poetically satisfying.

As a biography of an orca, this book is superb. As a study of the sociology of animal rescue, it is incomparable.

—Chris Mercer & Merritt Clifton

## Writing Green: *Advocacy & Investigative Reporting About the Environment in the Early 21st Century* by Debra Schwartz, Ph.D.

Apprentice House (www.apprenticehouse.com), 2006. 179 pages, paperback. \$18.95.

In absence of animal issues specialists on the staffs of most news media, environmental beat reporters produce about half of all mainstream news coverage pertaining to animals, with the rest

scattered among beats including farm-and-business, general assignment, local news, lifestyles, and even sports. Conversely, about half of all environmental beat reporting involves animal issues, albeit mostly pertaining to wildlife habitat and endangered species.

Exactly half of *Writing Green* examines how Ocean Awareness Project founder David Helvarg, Tom Meersman of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, and Paul Rogers of the *San Jose Mercury News* pro-

duced award-winning exposes of oceanic oil drilling, the impacts of invasive species in the Great Lakes, and federal grazing subsidies, including extermination of predators by USDA Wildlife Services.

Helvarg, Meersman, and Rogers are all longtime **ANIMAL PEOPLE** readers and occasional sources, as are several other *Writing Green* contributors. Humane concerns were not among the topics of their award-winning work, but I am aware through direct acquaintance

that most of the *Writing Green* contributors take humane concerns into consideration, among many other values and pressures, when they write about animals. They often do not reach the same conclusions that animal advocates would. Yet understanding how they evaluate their material could be quite valuable to animal advocates who are seriously trying to be more influential to the world beyond the already persuaded.

Helvarg, for example, is author of *The War Against The Greens* (1994), is especially astute about detecting corporate and governmental spin. Rogers is known for his skepticism of advocacy group spin. Meersman likes to see hard

statistics—and will check the math.

*Writing Green* author/editor Debra Schwartz produced *Writing Green* as a journalism textbook. Apprentice House published it as a learning exercise for book publishing students. Teaching animal advocates how to make their case to mainstream news media was not an expected purpose of *Writing Green*, and if explored directly and in depth could be subject of another book. But until such a book is written, *Writing Green* is a good starting point.

—Merritt Clifton

(Another good starting point is the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** tip sheet "Media relations for humane societies," free via e-mail.)

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# Black Market: *Inside the Endangered Species Trade in Asia* by Ben Davies

EarthAware Editions (17 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903), 2005. 173 pages, paperback. \$29.95.

A pictorial account of the trade in Asian endangered species, Ben Davies’ book *Black Market* is shocking, sickening and depressing, yet also challenging, inspiring, well-researched, authentic, and thought-provoking.

More than a harrowing litany of ghastly animal abuse, *Black Market* offers some hope for the future by examining possible responses, including the work done by dedicated conservationists and animal advocates.

Not only the number of bears saved by Jill Robinson’s Animals Asia Foundation, for example, measures the value of her work. Of greater importance is the impact of her efforts in eroding the culture of killing and consuming wildlife, including by helping to empower local people who care about animals to undertake projects of their own.

Eight years after opening the first sanctuary for bears rescued from bile farms in China, now providing humane education to thousands of young people each year, the Animals Asia Foundation in mid-September 2006 signed an agreement with the Forest Protection Department of Vietnam to build a similar bile farm bear rescue center in Tam Dao National Park, outside Hanoi, to open in January 2007.

The rescue center will be able to handle only 200 of

the 4,000 bears now kept on Vietnamese bile farms, Robinson acknowledged to Hanoi-based freeland journalist Matt Steinglass, but she counts on publicity about her work helping to bring about a faster end to a practice which has in fact been illegal in Vietnam since 1992.

Davies quotes James Compton of the World Wildlife Fund trade monitoring arm TRAFFIC, who describes newly affluent China as “a giant vacuum cleaner emptying the whole region of wildlife resources” to satisfy bizarre cravings for wild meat and body parts.

But acquisitive greed knows no national boundaries. Davies cites Superintendent Andy Fisher, head of the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit at Scotland Yard, about the extent of the tiger bone trade in London. He also mentions that “By the early 1990s Taiwan had become the world’s centre for rhino-horn smuggling. It had a stockpile estimated to total nine tons—equivalent to 3,700 dead rhinos—with a street value of \$50 million. And the horns were openly on sale.”

Despite the heroic efforts of Jill Robinson, Suwanna Gauntlett of WildAid, and others, whose compassion shines like flakes of gold, it is hard to avoid being overwhelmed by the scale of the cruel destruction. —Chris Mercer

# Coyotes and Javelinas by Lauray Yule

Look West Series (Rio Nuevo Publishers, 451 N. Bonita Ave., Tucson, AZ 85745), 2004. 64 pages, hardcover, illustrated. \$12.95.

Not reviewing these now time-tested and still in print titles promptly on publication two years ago was a goof occasioned by whatever cat knocked the unopened envelope containing them down into the false bottom of a filing cabinet.

Written for a classroom audience, *Coyotes* and *Javelinas* present a positive view of two of the most resourceful and unjustly maligned animals in the west. Former Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum staffer Lauray Yule came to know and appreciate coyotes and javelinas from first-hand observation and experience. While *Coyotes* and *Javelinas* are not first-hand narratives, neither are they mere simplified natural history texts. In addition to biological information, Yule describes the cultural roles of her animal subjects.

Few observers of javelinas are aware, as Yule points out, that they are not closely related to the Old World pigs they resemble, and that their likenesses exemplify convergent evolution. Conversely, coyotes are the New World variant of the Old World jackal, whom they closely resemble, but Yule misses that relationship.

Yule might also be faulted for omitting discussion of the federally funded purges of coyotes conducted for the past 75 years—but if she delved deeply into that, rancher influence might keep *Coyotes* out of school libraries. —Merritt Clifton

# The Ocean At Home: *An Illustrated History of the Aquarium*

by Bernd Brunner

Princeton Architectural Press (37 E. 7th Ave., New York, NY 10003), 2005. 144 pages, hardcover. \$24.95.

Originally published in German, printed in China, newly reissued in English, *The Ocean At Home* is a surprisingly fascinating in-depth study of a seemingly esoteric topic whose evolution in the 19th and early 20th centuries paralleled the rise of the humane movement, anti-vivisectionism, and human awareness of ecology.

Even before Charles Darwin produced *On The Origin of Species*, the 19th century brought an explosion of interest in nature study, especially among the fast-growing middle classes of Europe after the Industrial Revolution removed large numbers of people from routine daily immersion in raising plants and animals.

Author Bernd Brunner does not delve deeply into the greater cultural context of home aquarium development, but is aware of it, and explores the sociology of human interest in aquariums to the extent that his sources permit.

Along the way, Brunner explains how the advent of home aquariums changed perceptions of the ocean, as aquarium builders became increasingly aware of the need to keep a balance at all times among plant and animal species, in order to keep any of them alive. —Merritt Clifton

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# First Light:

# Animal Voices in Concert

by Ardeth DeVries

Publishing Works (c/o Revolution Booksellers, 60 Winter St., Exeter, NH 03833), October 2006 186 pages, paperback. \$15.00.

*First Light* is a collection of short stories about dogs and an African elephant named Sonny, who was orphaned by herd-culling in Zimbabwe circa 1980, was sold to a zoo in New Mexico, was eventually deemed incorrigible, and was sent to the Popcorn Park Zoo, a rescue facility run by the Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey, in 1989. He died in early 2001.

The stories are told largely through the mouths of the animals themselves, including Zippy, a little terrier who rescues birds and finds time to teach inter-species communication, and Angus, a blind shelter dog whose caring guardian was able to give him the gift of sight. Angus lives with author Ardeth DeVries and joins DeVries at benefits for animal charities near their home in Coupeville, Wasington.

There is adventure, pain, laughter, and tears on every page. But there is substance to this book. It is not a mere litany of animal rescues. The animals display marked understanding and wisdom. Portraying the dogs as enlightened highlights the sad truth that most of their human friends are not.

Soft and sentimental, unashamedly anthropomorphic, there is almost a Disney character about the stories, in that although the adventures are inspired by actual events, much of the book consists of conversations with and between animals. The tales are imbued with an atmosphere of respect for animals that makes them ideal bedtime reading for children to whom one wishes to impart an ethic of compassion.

DeVries’s stories reveal a deep knowledge of animal behavior and care. At one point, she describes giving CPR to a small bird that had been stunned. Breathing into a small bird’s beak after it has flown into a window is something we ourselves have to do from time to time—and it works. Similarly, DeVries relates how she sang to one shelter dog in order to reassure her. This too is a device that we have used with success in rehabbing wild animals. Hearing a human voice going on and on seems to have a calming effect on even wild animals, and there are many jackals and caracals now roaming the Kalahari who are well versed in the poetry of Longfellow.

This is a charming little book, which could well be used in humane education.

The title refers to a spiritual awakening that a practitioner of Zen might call satori, namely a realization that all beings are connected and that all are part of a greater whole. DeVries believes that if we are sensitive enough, contact and communication with animals can help us to find this form of enlightenment. Although the message is deeply spiritual, the stories themselves are simple, well-written, and delightful.

All proceeds earned by Ardeth DeVries from sales of *First Light* will be donated to animal welfare organizations, including the Whidbey Animal Improvement Foundation, Associated Humane Societies, and Broken Arrow, a foundation DeVries operates to help the pets of impoverished humans in the Puget Sound region.

—Chris Mercer  
<www.cannedlion.co.za>  
South Africa

# Cousin John: *The Story of a Boy & a Small Smart Pig* by Walter Paine

Bunker Hill Publishing (285 River Road, Piermont, NH 03779), 2006. 95 pages, paperback. \$17.95.

Raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, Walter Paine found the outdoors and nature an endless source of interest. He was far happier roaming the open acres he called “my magic kingdom,” because of the many fascinating creatures he found there, than he was playing with school friends. He had difficulty relating to other boys his age because he was far more interested in picking up bugs and inspecting anything that crawled or flew than in playing conventional games.

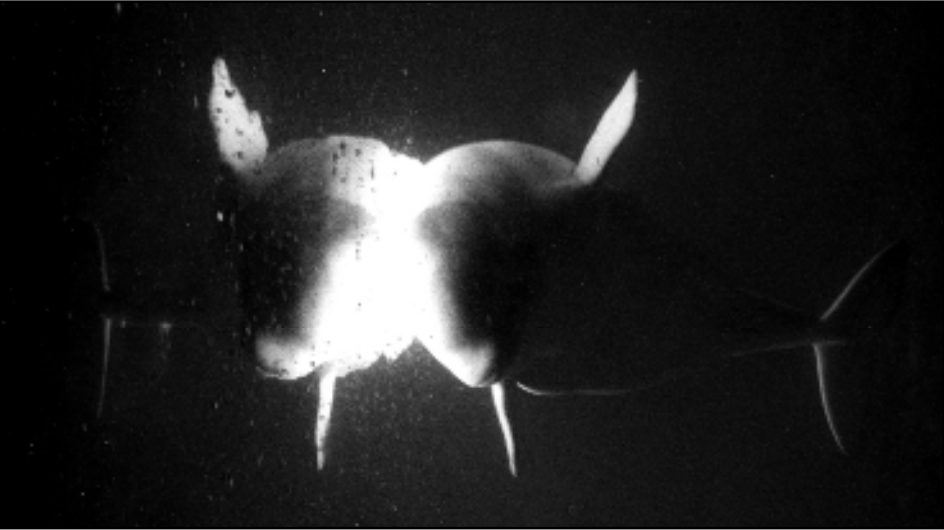
Paine did once try hunting, shooting a squirrel out of a tree with a BB gun. “As it lay twitching pathetically at my feet, I felt a sudden surge of shame and sorrow for taking an innocent creature’s life,” he writes.

On his tenth birthday Paine’s parents gave him a runt piglet, who became the center of his life. Paine named his little pink pig Cousin John. Walter spent every moment he could with his new friend, teaching him to walk on a harness, taking him to visit neighbors and even winning a “special mention” ribbon at a local fair, where he entertained the public by walking Cousin John around the pony ring. No one had ever seen a pig walk on a harness before.

Paine feels that caring for Cousin John gave him an invaluable lesson in responsibility. He hopes that his young readers of this story will each have the same opportunity to care for a special creature, and experience the trust and companionship that he did.

—Beverley Pervan  
<www.cannedlion.co.za>  
South Africa





Turner, 12, a beluga whale who had lived at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington, since 1998, on loan from Sea World, died on September 7, possibly from a chronic kidney condition that predated his arrival in Tacoma. (Kim Bartlett)

## ANIMAL OBITUARIES

**Norman**, 15, the pet pig for whom the White Pig Bed & Breakfast vegan retreat in Schuyler, Virginia, was named, died on September 18, 2006.

**Sher Khan**, 22, the oldest hybrid African/Asiatic lion in India, died on September 24 at the Tata Steel Zoological Park in Jamshedpur. The Central Zoo Authority in December 2004 ordered that all of the 300 hybrid lions in Indian zoos should be sterilized, to keep the captive Asiatic lion population genetically distinct. The Chatbir Zoo in Punjab had bred nearly 100 hybrid lions.

**Murphy**, 4, the North Carolina Zoo groundhog “weather forecaster,” brought to the zoo wildlife rehabilitation center in May 2002, died on September 17, 2006.

**Rupert**, a 15-to-18-year-old Australian black swan “known for chasing life-guards and boaters” at Newport Beach, California, “whose love affair with a younger mate captivated the beach community,” according to Associated Press writer Christina Almeida, was killed on September 13, 2006 when hit by an Orange County Harbor Patrol boat that was rushing to recover floating human remains. His mate Pearl was killed by an oil slick in 2002.

**Juliet**, a carriage horse at Central Park in New York City since 1989, collapsed and died on September 15, 2006. Anti-carriage horse industry demonstrators memorialized her on September 21.

**Enshala**, 14, a Sumatran tiger, escaped from her quarters at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida, at closing time on August 22, 2006. Zoo president Lex Salisbury shot her after a tranquilizer dart failed to drop her, putting zoo vet David Murphy in potential jeopardy. Enshala had begun climbing a seven-foot wall, approaching a public area, when Salisbury fired.

**Bonnie**, a sacred white buffalo who lived at the Love Animal House in Thailand, fell into an old well on August 25, 2006, and died from a broken neck. Her remains were reportedly stolen, butchered, and eaten that night in a nearby village.

**Lucy**, 46, a elephant captured in Africa, sold to the Milwaukee County Zoo in 1962, was euthanized on September 1.

## MEMORIALS

In loving memory of my lab,  
Cindy Lou Finger.  
—Dorothy Finger

In memory of Charlotte, whose tail never  
stopped wagging. She is much missed.  
—Annie Van Nes

In memory of Karen Sculac,  
who died too soon and will be greatly missed  
by family, friends, and the animals.  
—Helen Kett

In memory of Karen Sculac,  
who devoted her life to the  
Big Cats of Serenity Springs.  
—Marcia Davis

In memory of Molly, my 11-year-old cat,  
offspring of a feral mother.  
—Judy Meincke

In memory of Samuel Joseph Pussycat,  
a pound cat who for 10 years was beloved  
pet of Robert L. & Dorothy Harrison.

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Lizzie (5/8/84), Boy Cat (12/26/85),  
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Purr Box, Jr. (5/1/04), Mylady (8/1/06),  
Blackie (9/9/96), and Honey Boy (11/1/05).



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## OBITUARIES

**Steve Irwin**, 44, was killed when stabbed in the heart by a stingray on September 4, 2006, while videotaping a series called “Ocean’s Deadliest” at Batt Reef, north of Cairns. Irwin starred in the *Crococile Hunter* television series, aired in Australia since 1992, later carried globally by the Discovery Channel. An outspoken opponent of recreational hunting, Irwin led a successful campaign against a government proposal to open trophy hunting for saltwater crocodiles in the Australian Northern Territory. Irwin’s parents, Bob and Lyn Irwin, founded the Australia Zoo, north of Brisbane, in 1970. “In 1991, Irwin took over the zoo when his parents retired, and began building a reputation as a showman during daily crocodile feeding shows. He met and married Terri Raines, of Eugene, Oregon, who came to the park as a tourist,” in 1992, recalled Brian Cassey of Associated Press. “They invited a television crew to join them on their camping honeymoon on Australia’s far northern tip. The resulting show became the first episode of *The Crocodile Hunter*. Raines and Irwin founded a pro-animal charity together, Wildlife Warriors Worldwide, in 2002, but “Irwin’s image was dented in 2004,” Cassey added “when he held his month-old son Bob in one arm while feeding large crocodiles inside a zoo pen. He argued there was no danger. Later that year, he was accused of getting too close to penguins and humpback whales in Antarctica while making a documentary. An official investigation recommended that no action be taken against him.” Irwin died only weeks before the scheduled groundbreaking on a wildlife rehabilitation center he intended to be the biggest in the world, named in honor of his mother, who was killed in a car crash in 2000.

**Margaret Sacre**, 83, died in Hoboken, New Jersey, on September 2, 2006. Born in England, where she was not allowed to have pets as a child, Sacre emigrated to first Canada and then the U.S. after World War II military service. “When she moved to New York in the late 1950s she became aware of the stray animal problem and began her rescue work,” recalled her friend Sheila Dines. “In 1979 she moved back to England with 28 cats,” a dog she had rescued, and “a horse she had saved from slaughter,” but she returned to the U.S. only five years later with a cat she had rescued in Britain.

**Boyd Nathaniel Lyon**, 37, a University of Central Florida graduate student, was pulled underwater and drowned near Melbourne Beach on August 10, 2006, while trying to tag a sea turtle. A lifelong turtle enthusiast, Lyon was also noted as a soccer player for Keystone State in Pennsylvania and for the San Diego State University Aztecs. He later coached for the Rancho Santa Fe Attack Soccer Club, ran summer soccer camps, and played guitar for several California bands. The Ocean Foundation started a fund to support sea turtle student research projects in his memory.

**Don Deichman**, 57, died on August 29, 2006, from a heart attack suffered while driving in rural Maryland. Deichman, an unsuccessful Democratic Congressional candidate in 2002, was among the eight co-authors of the *Humane Consumer & Producer Guide*, published in 1993 by the Humane Society of the U.S., billed as “the first national listing of farmers and ranchers identified for their humane treatment of animals and sustainable farming practices.”

**William Russell**, 81, died on July 27, 2006. As a research fellow at Oxford University, Russell was recruited in 1954 to develop humane experimental methods for the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. UFAW hired his research assistant, Rex Burch, several weeks later. Russell and Burch in their 1959 book *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique* set forth the “Three Rs” concepts of replacing the use of sentient animals whenever possible, reducing the numbers used to the minimum necessary to achieve the scientific goal, and refining methods to minimize harm to animal welfare.

**L.E.L. “Bets” Rasmussen**, 67, died September 17 in Seattle from the bone marrow disorder myelodysplastic syndrome. “A research professor with the OGI School of Science and Engineering at Oregon Health & Science University,” recalled Richard L. Hill of *The Oregonian*, “Rasmussen gained international attention when she reported in the journal *Nature* her discovery of the sex pheromone that female elephants secrete in their urine to let bulls know they’re ready to mate.” This “led to other discoveries about elephant communication. She found that bull elephants communicate with each other by using two fragrances in secretions from the temporal glands on their heads during their yearly musth, a period of heightened sexual activity and aggression. She determined that older bulls use a foul-smelling substance that deters younger males, while young bulls emit a sweet, honey-scented secretion to avoid conflict with the older guys. Another study discovered how female elephants can detect chemical cues in the urine of other females to determine the phase of their reproductive cycle. Rasmussen also studied whales, dolphins and manatees to determine from their breaths whether they were unhealthy and what might be ailing them.”

**Anna Marie McDonald**, 24, an employee of the San Martin Animal shelter, was killed in her home in Santa Clara, California, on September 8, 2006 by her former housemate James Patrick Krauth, 25. Krauth fled the scene when police arrived. He was shot by police after allegedly trying to run over an officer the next day in Calaveras County.

**Margaret Ann “Peg” Hazlett Taggart**, 101, died on August 24, 2006, in Indianapolis. Taggart in 1972 cofounded the Home for Friendless Animals in Noblesville, Indiana, now located in Waynesboro, serving as board member and executive director.



—Wolf Clifton

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