



Black rhino babies Tatenda, 2, at left; Shanu, 4, at right. (Johnny Rodrigues)

## Rhino babies bring hope to

**WEDZA, Zimbabwe**—Two bottle-fed orphaned Zimbabwean black rhino babies may live happily ever after, if the uneasy power-sharing pact between president Robert Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai brings stability and economic recovery to the nation.

Signed on September 15, 2008, the agreement was jeopardized as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** went to press by Mugabe's determination

to retain control over key cabinet posts. Members of Mugabe's ZANU-PF party still roam the countryside, poaching wildlife, intimidating political opponents, looting aid convoys and invading farms, claiming privilege as "war veterans" whether or not they had anything to do with the revolution that brought Zimbabwe into being and brought Mugabe to power in 1980.

(continued on page 18)

## Big U.S. election wins for farm animals, greyhounds & pro-animal candidates

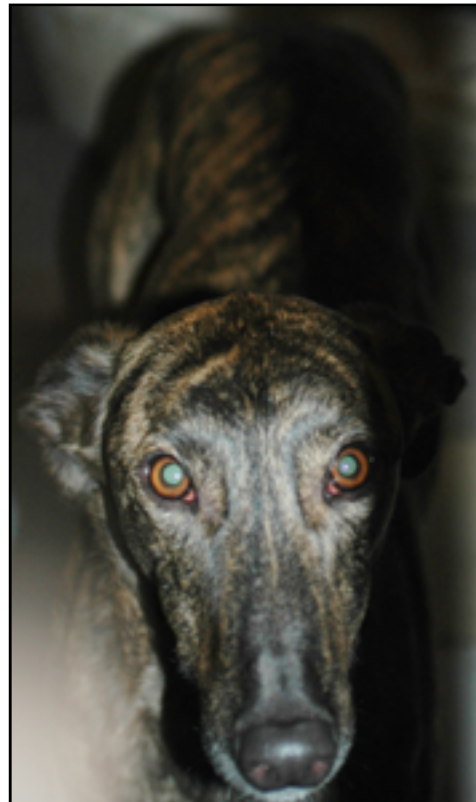
**SACRAMENTO, BOSTON, WASHINGTON D.C.**—Animals won big on November 4, 2008 on all political fronts.

California voters approved giving battery-caged chickens room to spread their wings, and banned veal crates and sow gestation stalls.

Massachusetts voters banned greyhound racing—making Massachusetts the first state to ban greyhound racing while still hosting active greyhound tracks.

Arizona voters crushed a proposition "which would have made it nearly impossible to pass any future ballot initiative dealing with animal protection," exulted Humane Society Legislative Fund president Mike Markarian.

At 12:47 a.m. on November 5, with ballots in many close races still being



Racing greyhound. (Kim Bartlett)

counted, 248 candidates endorsed by the Humane Society Legislative Fund had won seats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Only 10 had lost.

Democrats Barack Obama and Joseph Biden, the first presidential and vice presidential candidates endorsed by the Humane Society Legislative Fund, had won at least 349 electoral votes and 52% of the popular vote, sweeping into office supported by strong Democratic majorities in both the Senate and House.

For the first time in 20 years the White House will be occupied by a non-hunter. For the first time since Richard Nixon resigned in 1974, the president will take office with a positive record on pro-animal legislation.

California Proposition 2 won 63% support with 95% of precincts reporting, as of dawn on November 5.

"No state in the U.S. and no agribusiness titan anywhere in the U.S. can overlook this mandate: people do not want (continued on page 17)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

News For People Who Care About Animals

October 2008  
Volume XVIII, #8

## RSPCA & Dogs Trust convince the Kennel Club to revise breed norms

**LONDON**—The Kennel Club, the world's first and oldest purebred dog registry, is redrafting the show standards for 209 breeds to eliminate rules that favor dogs with extreme and unnatural characteristics which might impair their health.

The Kennel Club, founded in 1873 and regarded in the show dog world as the most prestigious guardian of pedigrees, quietly disclosed the revisions of rules barely six

weeks after complaining to the Office of Communication, the British television regulatory agency, that it was unfairly treated by the producers of the British Broadcasting Corporation exposé "Pedigree Dogs Exposed," aired in August 2008.

"Among the dogs featured in the documentary were boxers with epilepsy, pugs with breathing problems, and bulldogs who were unable to mate or give birth unassisted," reported Associated Press writer Jill Lawless. "After the show was broadcast," Lawless added, "the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Dogs Trust withdrew their support for Crufts," the annual Kennel Club show, begun in 1891.

The only dog show of comparable status, worldwide, is the Westminster Dog Show, held in New York City by the Westminster Kennel Club, affiliated with the American Kennel Club.

"Dog shows using current breed standards as the main judging criteria actively encourage both the intentional breeding of deformed and disabled dogs and (continued on page 18)



Terrier at Clare Animal Welfare. (Kim Bartlett)



Mother & kittens at the Egyptian Society of Animal Friends shelter. (Kim Bartlett)

## \$75 million offered to further non-surgical sterilization

**CHICAGO**—For \$75 million, can someone invent a vaccine against canine and feline pregnancy? Or a chemosterilant that will be widely accepted by the humane and veterinary communities?

If an effective immunocontraceptive or chemosterilant for dogs and cats existed, would it be used where most needed?

Might the money be more productively used in extending high volume, low cost, best practice dog and cat sterilization surgery to all parts of the world—and in keeping existing low-cost sterilization programs operating, at a time of plummeting donations?

The headline item at the mid-October 2008 Spay USA national conference was the \$75 million incentive package offered by Found Animal Foundation founder Gary K. Michelson, M.D., to encourage the development of nonsurgical dog and cat contraception.

Representatives of the Found Animal Foundation at an October 16 pre-Spay USA conference reception announced that Michelson is offering a prize of \$25 million to the inventor of a successful single-injection sterilization method for dogs and cats. The claimant may be either an individual or an organization. Of more immediate help to researchers who have promising ideas but lack

financial backing, Michelson is also offering up to \$50 million in grant funding for nonsurgical sterilization research.

"Researchers have been on the verge of discovering pet contraceptives and non-surgical sterilants for years," said Found Animals director of communications Michael Gilman, "but a lack of funding has kept these ideas stalled in the early stages of research. New scientific breakthroughs in other health care fields may offer promise when applied to this goal."

Michelson, 59, has put comparable money into promoting medical breakthroughs on behalf of human beings. A practicing orthopedic surgeon for more than 25 years, Michelson eventually turned to surgical invention, chiefly associated with treating back pain. According to the Found Animal Foundation web site, Michelson "has over 900 issued or pending patents worldwide related to instruments, operative procedures, and medical devices. In 2005 Michelson assigned ownership of much of his spine-related intellectual property to Medtronic for a price in excess of \$1 billion, catapulting him onto the Forbes 400 where he has since remained."

Medtronic announced in April 2005 (continued on page 8)

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES



Editorial feature

# The humane community can handle hard times

Writing only for SPCA Los Angeles, SPCA/L.A. president Madeline Bernstein might have spoken for the whole humane community worldwide in an early October 2008 appeal expressing deep concern “with the state of our economy, food costs, gas prices, Wall Street woes and its negative trickledown effect.

“SPCA/L.A. is struggling to feed and tend to the ever-increasing number of homeless animals in our care,” Bernstein said, “many a direct result of foreclosures and financial hardship. Worse, fewer adoptions are occurring for the same reasons. This puts us in the untenable position of having to bear higher costs while donations, corporate funding and even the bestowal of in-kind gifts is shrinking. Natural disasters and an expensive presidential election have also put a claim on limited resources. The bottom line is that there is less discretionary and disposable income for charities...less funds to give and more difficult choices to make.”

SPCA/L.A., with an annual budget of \$6 million and estimated assets of \$16 million, according to IRS Form 990, is among the most affluent 1% of all humane societies.

Yet as American SPCA executive vice president for national programs Steve Zawistowski recently remarked, being among the most affluent 1% of all humane societies requires only being about as big as an average car dealership.

Humane work has rarely claimed more than 1% of all the money donated to U.S. charities. This 1% is shared among more than 6,000 organizations, including more than 3,000 that operate shelters or sanctuaries. Even at the best of times, the available resources have often seemed slim compared to the urgent needs of animals in distress.

Recently even the relative handful of humane societies that have accumulated significant reserves—like SPCA/L.A.—have seen their assets vanish like the Cheshire cat.

SPCA/L.A., for example, had \$14 million in cash and investments two years ago, but more than 80% appears to have been potentially at risk. The risks appeared slight relative to the rates of return, at the time, and SPCA/L.A. was only following standard financial advice in pursuing the investment strategy that it did. Unfortunately, instead of having assets to fall back on when fundraising falls off and needs expand, most humane societies that followed standard advice in trying to prudently manage their assets are now finding themselves with many investments that can only be sold at a substantial loss. These humane societies remain better off than the 99% who have never managed to put anything aside, but hopes of having longterm security and fiscal liquidity have often proved illusory.

Humane societies that have paid off their physical facilities are well ahead of everyone else, yet may still be struggling to make payroll. Humane societies that were heavily in debt before the present financial crisis are wondering how to survive the winter, in hopes that spring will bring an economic turnaround.

With the best and brightest on Wall Street uncertain about when the turnaround will come, and how rapidly the money markets will recover, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** cannot predict how long hard times will last, how tight money will become, or what programs and organizations will not survive. Much will depend on the combination of determined and persuasive leadership, donors who continue to support humane work even with their own situations uncertain, and just plain luck.

We can state, however, from having monitored the financial filings of humane societies worldwide for 20 fiscal years now, that humane resources are now in jeopardy in large part for reasons very different from the unrestrained greed and reckless risk-taking that evidently afflicted Wall Street and other investment markets.

For decades the humane community has sought ways to reinvest inherited financial portfolios to obtain high returns while avoiding investment in animal use industries. This is no easy task in view of the size and scope of animal agriculture and the ubiquitousness of animal testing in almost all branches of manufacturing.

In the years preceding the high-tech stock crash of early 2001, pro-animal foundations, charities, and concerned individuals tended to become heavily invested in high tech. Many moved into this sector at a time of very fast growth, even before developing their own e-mail communications and web sites, because electronic high tech looked like the least potentially animal-abusive place to invest, and the growth potential of the e-commerce sector appeared to be unlimited.

When the inevitable shakeout came, the humane community was perhaps the hardest shaken part of the the nonprofit sector, and was already feeling economic whiplash long before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 brought a further jolt.

Following the 2001 experience, humane societies that acquired something to invest tended to recall Scarlett O’Hara’s conclusion in *Gone With The Wind* that only real estate endures. By mid-decade **ANIMAL PEOPLE** was noticing in IRS Form 990 filings a tendency for humane societies to diversify their portfolios by mixing stocks with buildings, land, and investments in mortgages. This was precisely what mainstream financial advisors were telling individuals to do with their personal assets.

Despite declining real estate values, the investments in buildings and land will probably pay off in the long run. Humane societies usually prefer to avoid the risks and stresses of becoming landlords, with good reason, but those that have managed to rent out inherited property until market conditions warrant selling have historically tended to do well.

Humane societies’ mortgage investments, unfortunately, collapsed with the rest of the mortgage industry. Now we are seeing some national charities losing assets faster than gamblers in a card game, even though they had no intention of gambling at all. We are seeing some charities holding worthless paper now when they believed they had secure reserves. We are seeing foundations that generously supported animal charities having to cut back abruptly, because suddenly there is far less than the predicted return on investments—or none at all.

We are seeing some former individual high donors to humane work losing the ability to donate. Some retirees who have lived for years on their investments and have generously supported animal charities are suddenly looking for employment, with obsolete skills and at ages when their chances of finding steady jobs with decent benefits are slim.

Every charity feels the pinch, but animal charities are among the most hurt.

So what do we do about it?

First of all, don’t panic.

## Chin up!

Because humane work consists primarily of helping distressed and frightened animals, often with limited resources, most people in the field are used to working in crisis mode. The present international economic crisis has increased the difficulty of fundraising for animal work, but approximately half of all the animal charities in the world are less than 20 years old, and most of those are still led by people who remember starting with nothing.

Difficult as obtaining the funds needed to keep going may be, it is not more difficult than raising the funds to do something that has never been done before, in a place where nothing like the project has ever existed, and few people understand much of anything about it.

Fundraiser Paul Seigel of Direct Mail Systems offered some worthwhile and to some extent comforting advice in the June 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Raising money during crises is an area that I have had a particular interest in since college,” Seigel wrote. “While recessions have a definite impact, historically charitable giving, overall, has not declined. Different sectors of donors and potential donors react differently,” Seigel explained, “and different types of charities are affected differently. Nothing dampens giving to religious causes. Planned gifts are largely unaffected, because decisions to make such gifts are usually made long before a crisis occurs. Foundation support has actually quite dramatically increased during poor economic times,” Seigel observed.

Though foundations are not yet giving more during the present crisis, foundations with conservatively managed portfolios tend to cut back their giving during the first phase of a crisis, then give more when their managers believe they see better times ahead.

“Corporate giving tends to even out,” Seigel said, “because giving is tied to profitability, but is usually not cut back.”

Corporate giving in times of economic crisis does tend to shift away from giving money, toward giving unsold merchandise and allowing charities to use vacant property. This can be particularly beneficial to humane societies if they happen to need new vehicles, with dealers throughout the U.S. struggling to move late model vans and light trucks, or need office or storage space. By way of precedent, the 2001 economic downturn had a catastrophic short-term effect on cash contributions to dog and cat sterilization programs, but helped several programs to significantly improve their locations and mobility, enabling them to markedly pick up the pace of their work during the next several years.

“Small donors do hold back,” Seigel wrote, “but can be effectively persuaded with the argument that ‘The animals need our help just as much, perhaps even more, in difficult times.’ New small donors are more difficult to acquire but this does not mean one should not continue prospecting to counterbalance file attrition—it simply means that one should be more vigilant about costs, by mailing reduced quantities, testing less, or simplifying packages.”

Donors at every level can also be attracted in hard times by going back to basics and re-emphasizing personal contact. Charities in good times tend to drift away from activities involving direct personal contact because it is easier to send out mailings than to organize public events, and easier to hire staff than train volunteers. Yet studies of donor behavior show time and again that the most enduring donors and those most likely to leave bequests to charities are those who have become personally involved in the charities’ work at some point, if only briefly. Typically donors who attend events and contribute labor will continue to give money for years after their personal participation declines. Often, if they suffer financial misfortune, such as losing a job, they welcome the opportunity to resume personal involvement—if they are asked.

“The main reason people don’t give,” Seigel concluded, “is because they aren’t asked to give.”

Asking for donations by direct mail or e-mail is relatively easy, and appears to bring satisfactory rates of return, once a list of responsive donors is developed; but the list development process is notoriously inefficient.

It is worthwhile to notice that the fastest-growing animal charity of the past 15 years has been the Best Friends Animal Society, whose mailings and e-mailings build on a fundraising approach which has always emphasized donor acquisition through tabling, participating in community events, and visiting the Best Friends sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.

Best Friends now has a highly productive mailing list of hundreds of thousands of names because not so very long ago, having no money to invest in fundraising, the founders set out to personally make friends on behalf of their animals. It is no accident that now almost everyone involved in pro-animal work of any kind knows someone at Best Friends.

Nor was what worked for Best Friends ever any kind of secret. Salvation Army street corner bands, Scouting groups selling cookies, Greenpeace door-to-door solicitations, Mormon missionaries, and countless representatives of other charitable causes demonstrate the advantages and importance of person-to-person contact.

Foreign humane societies that have come to depend on donations from the U.S. may be at a disadvantage, but the present situation may encourage some overseas charities to develop donor opportunities closer to home.

Local animal charities may gain a chance to become much more successful in fundraising competition with national and international groups, because they can organize dog-walks, dog-dips, adoption days, and other participatory events more effectively than outsiders. People who cannot just quickly write a check may be attracted to participatory events, including young families looking for low-budget outings, who will become the donor and volunteer bases of the future.

(continued on page 4)

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## ANIMAL PEOPLE

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# The humane community can handle hard times *(from page 3)*

Regardless of where a charity is located and how it operates, this is a time to make extra effort to express appreciation of donors, even when their levels of contribution have fallen off. Many donors are giving less simply because they have less to give, and will be happy to resume helping their favorite charities more generously when their circumstances allow. The more appreciated they feel in hard times, the more they are likely to give when they again have the means.

Worth a mention here is the often controversial practice of charities sending small gifts to donors. Many donors feel that their contributions are wasted when money is spent to buy and mail merchandise; but merchandise that serves a purpose in helping to publicize the services provided by the charity, and helps to remind donors to give, can more than pay for itself. In hard times, especially, businesses may be willing to donate small items suitable for use as donor gifts.

Explaining to recipients that these items were donated will be worthwhile, and can be an opportunity to present a "wish list" of other in-kind items that the charity can use.

Announcing budget cuts can also be a fundraising opportunity. Animal charities may have to cut back or eliminate some programs that have been attractive to donors but cannot be sustained. Donors who may be having to readjust their own budgets will understand the problem, will appreciate honest explanations, and will help—if they can—to enable their favorite charities to avoid further cuts.

The charity making cuts must emphasize the effort it is making to avoid reducing the most essential services it provides, just when animals and the community most need help.

Among the hardest questions to answer is whether now is a good time for charities to take on new projects, especially those involving capital acquisition such as land and buildings. Since donors tend to respond most enthusiastically to new projects, there is a theory that hard times are when charities should announce new projects—but prudence suggests that most animal charities will do best to limit new projects to extensions of existing projects and services, and to avoid doing things that look as if they might lead to getting over-extended.

With property values low, this may be a good time for U.S. animal charities to buy land and buildings, if they

already have the resources to make substantial down payments and secure mortgages at low interest rates.

Less well endowed organizations almost certainly will not be able to borrow as readily as in the past, if at all. This raises the risk that small animal charities may become more inclined than ever to lease or rent premises in inappropriate locations. Many making this mistake lose their investment in site improvements when obliged to relocate or quit operating. Some lose their donors, volunteers, and good reputations as well when they fail to maintain effective programs and good animal care in ill-chosen quarters.

Traditionally, animal charities begin with a rescue focus, and tend to try to make the jump from home-based fostering to operating a shelter or sanctuary as quickly as possible, to accommodate more animals in need.

Unfortunately, animal charities that try to establish shelters or sanctuaries before raising or inheriting the resources to build or buy in just the right place, on secure terms, have an astronomical rate of failure, with frequently catastrophic consequences. **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has often pointed out in recent years that failing shelters and sanctuaries annually burden the rest of the animal protection community with the equivalent of Hurricane Katrina in terms of animals needing care and placement—and that was before the economy took a downturn.

Now more than ever, the urge to help must be tempered by good sense. An effective fostering network can help far more animals than a badly located shelter that fails to attract visitors, volunteers, and funding; and setting a compassionate example at the neighborhood level is infinitely more helpful than making the evening news as the latest "crazy cat lady" or "dog man" found in squalor.

## Henry Bergh's example

The humane community must remember and learn from the mistakes made in past economic downturns that it is always a mistake to sacrifice ideals for institution-building.

Among the most notorious errors, the Massachusetts SPCA became overextended in building Angell Memorial Hospital just before the U.S. entered into World War I. To avoid losing the marble hospital, the MSPCA cut back the

Bands of Mercy and Jack London Clubs, whose 1914 tent meeting in Kansas City—a few blocks from the childhood home of Walt Disney—attracted 10,000 teachers and ministers to learn about humane education, and 15,000 school children to hear the lessons.

Though there is no record of Disney attending, he emphasized the themes of the tent meeting throughout his life. We can only wonder how many talented young people might have been comparably inspired, had the MSPCA opted to promote ideas—as founder George Angell emphasized—over building a monument to Angell's memory, against Angell's own advice.

Even more catastrophically, the U.S. humane community responded to the economic stresses of the Great Depression and the recessions that followed World War II and the Korean War by turning, in waves, to taking community animal control contracts. These contracts obliged the humane societies to kill homeless dogs and cats *en masse*, by gassing and decompression—and often required them to sell animals to be used in biomedical research.

The moral impetus of the mainstream humane movement atrophied, defensive insularity and secrecy replaced effective outreach, and the animal cause did not regain momentum until bitter internal splits produced the animal rights movement and the no-kill sheltering movement.

Henry Bergh founded the American SPCA, the first U.S. humane society of note, in the midst of the economic chaos that followed the U.S. Civil War. Many of the other most enduring U.S. humane societies, including the MSPCA and SPCA/L.A., were organized within the next decade, amid continuing economic uncertainty. They remain with us because they responded to urgent needs, and persuaded donors that they were worthy of support, even when banks were failing.

Bergh, a tall man to begin with, always wore a top hat, even when top hats passed from vogue. He explained that this was so that everyone could see where he stood, so as to stand with him. Then he would take off the top hat and pass it. It always came back with enough donated money inside to keep the ASPCA alive, when the whole humane movement was still barely more than a dream.

# Please help ANIMAL PEOPLE to keep the humane cause

What if the U.S. humane community had not made the catastrophic mistakes that it did in response to the Great Depression and the recessions that followed each of the major mid-20th century wars?

What if a strong independent voice had helped humane leadership to cope with financial crunches with a combination of practical help and reminders of the importance of remaining focused on mission?

What if humane work had continued to emphasize outreach, advocacy, prosecuting cruelty, and education, at a time when humane education was forthrightly presented as moral education, when state wildlife agencies were not yet dependent upon funding from the sale of hunting licenses, and when Americans consumed less than half as much meat per capita as today?

We cannot know what might have happened, but we can certainly contemplate the possibilities.

There was a monthly periodical in that era, *The National Humane Review*, published by the American Humane Association, which did much during those hard times to assist and encourage humane work, especially abroad.

Impressive humane societies were established in China, the Philippines, the Caribbean region, and in parts of Africa. Most of these bold starts were swept away by World War II. Their momentum was lost.

Unfortunately, because *The National Humane Review* was linked to the positions and policies of what was then the only U.S. national animal advocacy organization, it rarely hosted debate over contentious issues, and had no corrective influence when mainstream humane societies turned in the wrong direction.

Often *The National Humane Review* led in the wrong direction, as when it repeatedly denounced dog and cat sterilization as "vivisection," even though the AHA did not oppose animal use in experiments.

Eventually, in 1954, frustrated *National Humane Review* editor Fred Myer broke with the AHA to form the Humane Society of the United States.

Myer introduced an epoch of growth through division. The 240 U.S. humane societies then active became 700 by 1970, 3,500 by 1990, and more than 6,500 today.

Yet the humane community still had no independent voice, taking new ideas into every shelter, monitoring the accountability of the richest organizations, encouraging the smallest to become more successful, introducing the leaders in the various sub-sectors of animal advocacy and rescue to each other, and re-extending outreach worldwide.

There was still no periodical not beholden to any particular group or funder to stand up, like Henry Bergh in his top hat, and point beyond the closest horizons toward the consequences of wrong turns and the possibilities of going a different way. Many attempts were made to try to start such a periodical, but none survived and succeeded—until **ANIMAL PEOPLE** emerged in 1992.

Our very first editions challenged the old dogma of "Why we must euthanize" with the case for neuter/return, presenting the data from our own successful 320-cat test of the method. But even as **ANIMAL PEOPLE** urged the conventional humane community to move away from old excuses for high-volume killing, we also urged no-kill shelters to become more realistic and effective in demonstrating high-quality animal care and developing fundraising and volunteer programs adequate to do the work they took on.

We challenged animal rights advocates to more effectively connect with mainstream citizens, and encouraged mainstream animal care organizations to remember the moral imperative of advocating for animals.

We put the importance of preparing for disaster on page one of our first edition—and emphasized the value of disaster response as an opportunity to educate the public about

how humane workers respond to the equivalent of a major disaster every day, even at the best of times.

The need for **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has only increased with the recent global growth of the humane community. There are now close to 10,000 humane organizations on our mailing list, worldwide. We ask those that can afford to pay for a subscription to do so; but we try to avoid ever putting an animal rescuer in the position of having to choose between subscribing and saving an animal. With the help of our far-sighted and generous donors, who understand the importance of our role in keeping the humane cause informed and focused, we send complimentary subscriptions to every humane society everywhere, as often as we can afford to do so.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** is the first and widest-reaching defense the humane community has against repeating the mistakes of the past. But we lost nothing in the recent money market collapses because we had nothing in reserve to lose. Everything we have ever received has gone right back out in fulfilling our mission.

Lately we have not been able to mail all of the complimentary foreign subscriptions. A 35% increase in postage and printing costs hit us just before the economic downturn brought plummeting donations. As many readers as ever have donated, but have donated smaller amounts.

We understand why. We sympathize. But we plead for **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to be made a higher priority in the coming months. There are still animal charities that would build marble edifices instead of extending outreach, and those who compromise ethical principle to raise a few more dollars, like the humane society that was promoting a rodeo fundraiser a few weeks ago, until **ANIMAL PEOPLE** asked the people responsible if they wanted to read all about it right here.

Please help **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to help keep the cause on message. Our role is never more needed than when times are toughest.

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## LETTERS



### Animal welfare vs. conservation

I really enjoyed your September 2008 editorial feature "Animal welfare & conservation in conflict." It certainly raised some interesting discussion points in the welfare vs. conservation debate. As an animal welfarist and conservationist—is it possible to be both?!—I find myself conflicted over such topics. I think it's great to raise awareness of

these conflicts and—hopefully—work toward solutions.

—Heather Bacon, DVM  
Animals Asia Foundation

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## Dog crime cases

Thank you so much for your September 2008 article on California murder-by-dog defendant Marjorie Knoller being sent back to prison. I have been devastated by the acquittal of Floyd Boudreaux and his son. Your article gave me a reason to smile again.

—Rae Domingues  
Lafayette, Louisiana  
<raedomingues@aol.com>

### Editor's note:

District Judge Kristian Earles on October 16, 2008 acquitted pit bull terrier breeders Floyd J. Boudreaux, 74, and his son Guy Boudreaux, 44, of 48 counts of alleged dogfighting. Earles, with - out hearing the defence, ruled that the prosecution had not proved the case. Louisiana state police on March 11, 2005 seized 56 pit bulls

from the Boudreaux premises, along with alleged dogfighting videos and paraphernalia, a sawed-off shotgun, and 40 game - cocks. Then-Louisiana SPCA executive director Laura Maloney had a pet pit bull, and opposed breed-specific legislation in a column she wrote for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, but euthanized the Boudreaux pit bulls three days after they were impounded, deeming them dangerously aggressive. Maloney later in 2005 moved to Melbourne, Australia, after her husband Dan became director of the Melbourne Zoo. Attorney Jason Robineaux, representing Floyd and Guy Boudreaux, indicated to Jason Brown of the Baton Rouge Advocate that Maloney's decision to euthanize the dogs may become the subject of litigation.



# Remembering Marco *by Geeta Seshamani*

The September 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** included a photograph of a donkey named Marco, with a memorial for him from **ANIMAL PEOPLE** artist Wolf Clifton and president Kim Bartlett.

An editor's note on page six mentioned that after rescuing Marco while traveling in India in January 2007, Bartlett funded an equine care mobile unit to help the working donkeys and horses along the heavily traveled Agra/Delhi corridor, and added that the unit is operated by Friendicoes SECA, which already had an equine unit in Delhi.

There was much more to the story.

Marco stood quivering and frightened on the Delhi Agra freeway with speeding trucks whizzing past. He was limping, trying to get to safety. Kim and Wolf spotted him as they were driving to Delhi after a visit to the Wildlife SOS Agra Bear Sanctuary.

Kim was in tears when she saw Marco's plight. A few phone calls later, a Friendicoes SECA Animal Ambulance rescued Marco. Marco soon settled down in the Friendicoes SECA Gurgaon Sanctuary just outside Delhi.

Marco was patient and brave, despite the trauma he had been through. But most importantly Marco brought help to hundreds of his kind. Friendicoes had operated an equine mobile treatment unit to help working donkeys, ponies, and mules since 1984, but had not been able to expand operations beyond Delhi and its immediate environs. Inspired by Marco, Kim made this happen.

At our sanctuary Marco became the big brother in residence. He was a very large donkey. The other donkeys respected his age

and size. He had trouble reaching the fodder trough and water trough, because of his chronic limp, but no one jostled or nipped him.

When Marco first came to the Sanctuary he wore the resigned look that our rescued donkeys always have. His hind leg dragged where an old hoof injury or a badly set fracture had twisted it, and he was all bones, having never been fed well and having been abandoned when he became disabled.

After he was abandoned, life for Marco probably went from bad to worse. His only food appeared to have been nibbles of dry dusty grass by the roadside, and his fate seemed likely to be either getting hit by a truck or suffering a slower death from starvation, dehydration and sickness.

But the Lord of small things decreed otherwise—and Marco's rescue that night also saved the life of one of the boys who work on the sanctuary, who had been the victim of a hit and run accident and was lying on the road unconscious, beside his smashed motorcycle, when the van hauling Marco happened by.

At the Friendicoes SECA sanctuary a blind mare began standing as close to Marco as she could, and then feeding with him from the same trough. Marco didn't seem to object and stood there patiently while she nuzzled and groomed him. It was a source of quiet satisfaction to us to watch Marco steadily gain weight, have his wounds dressed, lying in the sun, and to watch him gaining in confidence as he strolled around our small field and had his occasional sand bath.

Marco chose to keep the orphaned donkey babies company, and was an odd sight towering over them, bending down to nibble

at their necks. Can male donkeys show such family behavior? my staff would ask, having only seen donkeys as beasts of burden.

Summer came to Friendicoes with blazing heat, but then the most unlikely rains began—and never stopped. The continuous downpour and huge quantities of water swamped the sanctuary. The donkey shed was damaged by high winds, and the donkeys were moved to the cow shed. The cows were moved to the dog rooms. The dogs were moved to the roofs.

During this trying time Marco developed a respiratory condition.

The sanctuary vet shifted Marco to his residence. We lit a fire to dry out the damp walls of the room and treated Marco with antibiotics. At times he rallied and seemed more comfortable. Other times Marco sat on the hay bed or stood in discomfort.

We called for veterinary advice from other shelters. Our equine vet visited almost daily to attend to Marco. He seemed to recover and looked better, so we brought the blind mare to be with him. When she joined him, Marco rose to greet her and playfully nudged her. We thought Marco was eating better.

Three days later Marco passed away at night without a struggle, quietly—like a dignified elderly angel. The mare stood over him. Her sorrow was shared by all as we led her back to the main stable and prepared Marco for his burial.

All our pets have *tulsi angans*, which are tombstones with basil planted inside them, basil being a holy plant. Marco was buried with prayers with his own *tulsi angan*.

The rains abated soon afterward and



Marco. (Friendicoes SECA)

the sanctuary returned to its normal dry state, but we felt the loss of Marco, as did the blind mare when the donkeys were next let out to walk and play.

We receive many animals and people often ask whether we really notice when we lose one.

Yes, yes indeed. Each for us is a person—good, sad, funny, or dignified and wise. Each makes a place in our hearts. Each has wisdom that comes from having suffered. Each death resounds in our sanctuary, leaving a gap that takes time to soothe and fill in.

[Geeta Seshamani founded Friendicoes SECA in 1979, and cofounded Wildlife SOS, with Kartick Satyanarayan, in 1997. Donations to Friendicoes in memory of Marco may be sent c/o ANIMAL PEOPLE.]

## Canada & fur

In reference to the strategy documents "Defense of the Fur Trade" and "Launching the Offensive," respectively commissioned and produced by the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs in 1985 and discussed in your July/August 2008 article "What does leadership transition mean for WSPA?", it should be noted that the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development asked for the assistance of other ministries, including Revenue Canada.

Shortly afterward, the four main Canadian anti-trapping and anti-fur groups were told by Revenue Canada that if they persisted in their criticism of the fur trade, they risked losing their charitable status. All of the groups but ours quickly acquiesced. We had our charitable status annulled.

U.S. groups cannot understand why Canadian groups never speak against fur. Friends in Britain cannot understand the Canadian silence about sealing.

We were hit hard financially, because now no foundation can legally donate to any group that cannot provide income tax receipts. The Better Business Bureau advises that donors should support only registered charities. Our supporters cannot claim contributions to us as charitable donations. We have difficulty receiving nonprofit advertising rates from the media because we no longer have a registered charity number.

However, the number of animals trapped in British Columbia has plummeted from 300,000 to 1980 to 34,000 in 2006. Trapping in Alberta has declined by more than 90%, and so has trapping in the Yukon and the Northwest territories.

Bunty and I, who founded the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals in 1952, known today as Fur-Bearer Defenders, are now 83, and have been happily married for 57 years.

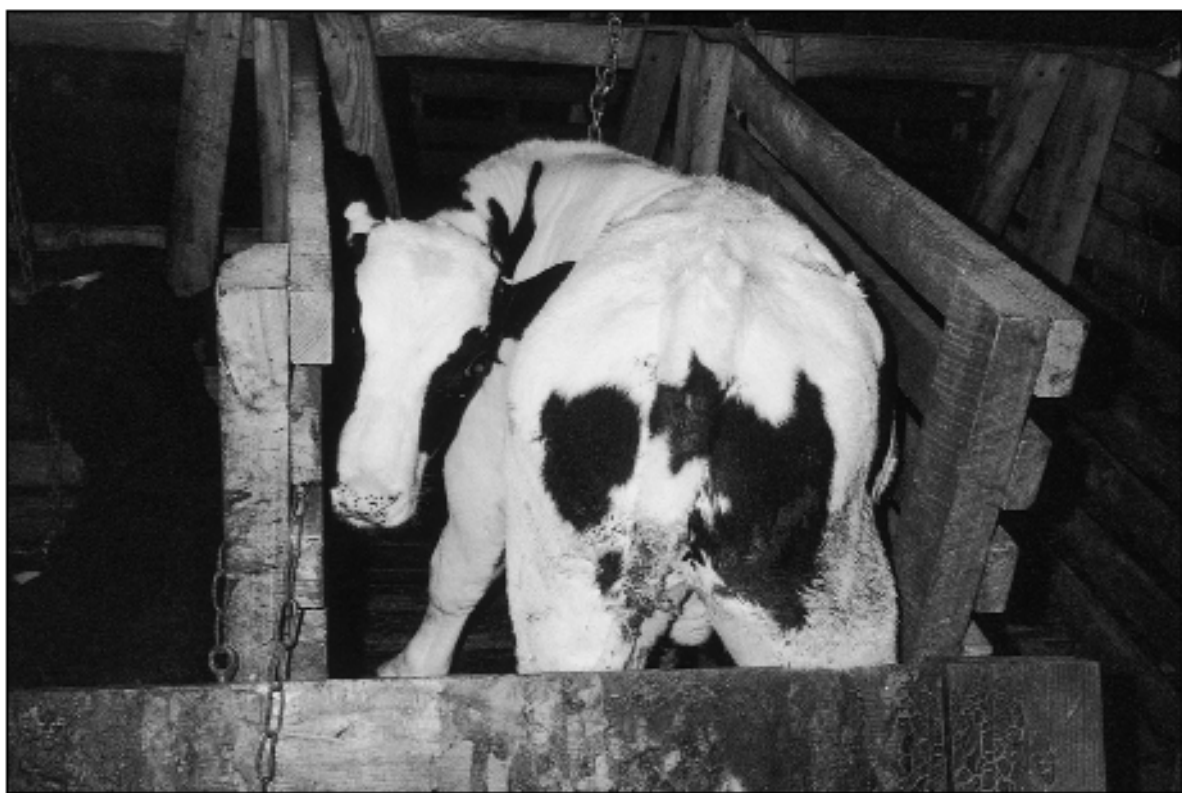
—George V. Clements  
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Phone: 604-435-1850  
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## Q: Why can't this veal calf walk?



## A: He has only two feet.

Actually, less than two feet. Twenty-two inches to be exact. His entire life is spent chained in a wooden crate measuring only 22 inches wide and 56 inches long. The crate is so small that the calf can't walk or even turn around.

Most people think animal abuse is illegal. It isn't. In veal factories, it's business as usual. "Milk-fed" veal is produced by making a calf anemic.

The calf is *not* fed mother's milk. He's fed an antibiotic-laced formula that leads to diarrhea. He must lie in his own excrement—choking on the ammonia gases. He's chained with hundreds of other baby calves suffering the same fate.

### Tainted Veal

According to the USDA, sulfamethazine (a known carcinogen), oxytetracycline, penicillin, neomycin, streptomycin, and gentamycin have all previously been found in veal.

Doesn't the USDA prevent tainted veal from being sold? Absolutely not. The USDA itself admits that most veal is never tested for toxic residue.

The industry claims that the drugs used in veal have been approved by the FDA. But don't buy it. The fact is: Illegal and unapproved drugs such as *clenbuterol* have been widely used in veal calves.

Veal factories maximize profits for agribusiness drug companies because they are a breeding ground for disease. To keep calves alive under such torturous conditions, they are given drugs which can be passed on to consumers.

It doesn't have to be this way. And with your help, it won't be. *Please join us.*

**YES!** I support HFA's National Veal Boycott.

Factory farms must be stopped from abusing animals, misusing drugs, and destroying the environment.

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## S/N in China

During the past 20 years, Animal Rescue Beijing and other Chinese animal welfare organizations have promoted companion animal sterilization in urban areas while neglecting the countryside. In fact 80% of the companion dogs in China live in the countryside. Most are unleashed and run freely in villages. They eat garbage, are not vaccinated, and mate and breed randomly.

These village dogs are the major part of those who are caught, sold, and slaughtered for meat.

To control the rural dog population, Animal Rescue Beijing recently launched the free dog sterilization campaign in China.

Our first trial village is Mengzu, Baishan Town, in the Changping District of Beijing, where the ARB shelter is located. After 24 puppies were abandoned in front of our shelter, we investigated dog-keeping in the village. We learned that the village is the third biggest one in Baishan Town, with 600 families and about 1,300 dogs.

Animal Rescue Beijing has gone to the village market every Wednesday since September 3, 2008 to promote dog sterilization. With the help of the village committee, the township government, Beijing Pet Dog Management Office of the Police Bureau, and the local police, many local farmers have agreed to have their dogs sterilized.

The program will continue until June 2009. The village is providing a room for the surgeries. The police bureau is helping to obtain some veterinarians and medicine. It is important to find veterinary support, especially from veterinarians who are experienced in doing minimally invasive surgery.

The estimated average operation cost is about \$18 U.S. per dog, including the anesthetic, antibiotics, and dressings. Other costs include acquiring the operation table, instruments, a shadowless lamp, an autoclave, and cages for post-operation recovery.

—Irene Zhang

Animal Rescue Beijing  
Room 4-4-101, Ta Yuan Xiao Qu  
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## S/N in Portugal

Three friends and I in 2005 decided to sterilize a colony of 40 cats in Porto, Portugal, with a borrowed trap and the help of a clinic that gave us low prices for this colony. We asked family and friends for donations and managed to neuter the whole colony.

But this was very little considering the thousands of animals here. There were a few shelters and organizations that did animal adoption, but none sterilized street animals.

We became a registered charity, now with 15 volunteers, eight cat traps, 25 cat boxes, two dog traps, a net and a catch-pole, working with 12 vet clinics nationwide. Our goal is to have neuter/return programs in all of Portugal. We have neutered more than 1,100 animals, and intend to do more and better.

We dream of having have a van to do mobile neuter/return, and of having qualified full-time staff. Currently we are all still volunteers, with jobs and family responsibilities.

In short, we would like to become a national organization, that can help many thousands of animals and have a real impact.

—Maria Pinto Teixeira

<mariapinto@animaisderua.org>

<www.animaisderua.org>



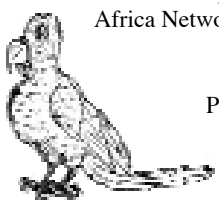
## African conference

Through partnership with InterNICHE, the Africa Network for Animal Welfare is planning an all-Africa seminar to introduce alternatives to the use of animals in education, to be held in Nairobi on September 23-25, 2009.

Meanwhile, we are immersed in doing spay/neuter and anti-rabies vaccination to replace use of strychnine in Kenya, collaborating with Worldwide Veterinary Services, the Maria Norbury Foundation, Humane Society International, Nairobi University, the Kenya Veterinary Association, and the Kenya Department of Veterinary Services.

—Jospat Ngunyo, Director

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## Making the case for drop-off cages

Re "Drop-off cage debate," in the September 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. I am a strong advocate of drop-off cages, or "night kennels," as I call them.

When I moved to Oakland, California in 1989 I saw stray dogs everywhere. The city animal shelter, then as now, is closed more often than it is open. Currently it is open 25% of the hours in a week. When I caught stray dogs I needed a place to take them. I couldn't bring them to my house, and I couldn't miss work waiting for the shelter to open at noon. The public is entitled to a safe place to put an animal 24 hours a day, because the need is 24/7. Many citizens were reunited with their missing dogs because I had a place to take them.

In 2002 I got a job working at a city animal shelter and witnessed first hand what came in the night kennel. Shelter staff might be annoyed to arrive in the morning and find a litter of sick kittens or an aggressive dog, especially when there is no accompanying note about the animal's history or even if it comes from our jurisdiction. However, whoever dropped the animal off did the right thing in bringing the animal to a shelter to be cared for or dealt with appropriately.

There are many reasons people will not bring an animal to a shelter during open hours. These reasons include being unable to pay a surrender fee, not wanting to be subject to the judgment of shelter staff, not wanting to

be identified as an undocumented alien, being unable to miss work, etc.

We also get animals in the night kennel who are suffering from illnesses and injuries, usually as a result of long-term neglect. I can guarantee you the owner is not going to walk into our shelter out of fear of prosecution. As irresponsible as the owner has been, they still finally did the right thing in bringing the animal to us.

Many of the reasons the public has in not bringing in animals "over the counter" may be unfounded, but they don't know that.

Night kennels help animals.

Closing night kennels hurts animals. That's the bottom line.

—Karen McNeil

Oakland, California



### Editor's note:

The term "night kennel" most often refers not to a drop-off cage, but to an indoor facility where dogs are housed after spending daylight hours in outdoor exercise yards.

The humane community has long recognized the benefits of allowing the public to leave animals in secure drop-off cages that are open when shelters are closed. Drop-off cages were a recommended part of shelter design for most of the 20th century. However, recognition has developed that monitoring drop-off cages adequately to protect the animals left in them from the elements, theft, and abuse is usually neither easier, nor less expensive, than simply keeping the shelter open longer in the evenings and on weekends.

## CORRECTION

The print edition of the September 2008 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** credited SPCA/Los Angeles for two photos taken by Mark Cirillo of SPCA/Los Angeles during the Hurricane Ike rescue operation on Galveston Island, Texas, but omitted SPCA/LA from the list of responding humane societies included in the accompanying coverage. This was corrected in the electronic edition.

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



—Sangeeta Goswami

People for Animals  
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## Dogfighting resurfaces in

**TEHRAN**—A fluffy white lap dog displayed at the Farzi web site Meydan Dog might hint that Iranian hostility toward dogs is lifting. But multiple muzzle views of fighting dogs send a different message.

"Meydan Dog belongs to someone who sells puppies and fighting dogs in Iran," Center for Animal Lovers founder Fatehmah Motamedi told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. "There were people in Iran who arranged dog fights in secret, but now they are advertising."

Living in exile since 2006, Motamedi in 2004 opened the only animal shelter in Iran. It continues under successors.

The Iranian government has discouraged dog-keeping since the 1980 institution of Islamic theocracy, at times fining or jailing people who walk dogs in public. Breeding dogs is discouraged by Hadiths 3:439, 3:440, and Hadith 3:482, which agree that "Allah's Apostle forbade taking the price of a dog."

Yet pet dogs remain common in Iran. Many Muslims believe Islam forbids keeping dogs indoors, but Mohammed specifically mentioned that dogs may be kept to guard homes, herd livestock, and hunt.

Mohammed forbade gambling and most blood sports, but dogfighting persists in

Central Asia through the pretense that it tests the mettle of sheep dogs. Nominally working dogs, not pit bull terriers, the combatants supposedly fight only until one dog yields.

Historically, dogs would drive sheep to market, then fight—but professional dogfighters and dogs bred and trained to fight long ago replaced true sheep dogs, just as trucks replaced herding sheep into cities.

The resurgence of dogfighting in Iran follows resurgences in Afghanistan and adjacent parts of the former Soviet Union. The Taliban repressed dogfighting in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2002, to discourage gambling, but it re-emerged after the 2002 U.S. invasion.

A *New York Times* photo of a Kabul dogfighting arena, published in December, 2007, showed just 367 spectators, 30 dog handlers, and 12 dogs at reputedly one of the largest dogfighting venues in the region.

But fear of the Taliban may remain the major factor keeping dogfighting in check. Kandahar governor Assadullah Khalid attributed to the Taliban a February 2008 bombing that killed at least 80 spectators at a dogfight and wounded 90 more. The Taliban can attack dogfights with reasonable certainty that the participants are not their supporters.

## ANIMAL PEOPLE seeks young artists

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** since 1996 has featured animal drawings by Wolf Clifton, produced as he moved from kindergarten through high school. Wolf will soon be going away to university, but we would like to continue the tradition of including small drawings in the open spaces in our "Letters" section and elsewhere, by opening the opportunity to draw for **ANIMAL PEOPLE** to children participating in humane education programs worldwide.

We would like to spotlight and recognize a different humane education program in each edition, with a mention of the participating teacher, school and/or humane society, and

### Report from Ghana

World Rabies Day 2008 was celebrated in Ghana on September 20. We vaccinated 40 dogs at the Accra puppy market and distributed about 1,000 leaflets.

—David Nyoagbe

Ghana SPCA  
P.O. Box AN 12051  
Accra-North  
Ghana, West Africa  
Phone: +233-244-254-186  
<nyoagbe@yahoo.com>



the names of the children whose drawings we include. We need from 12 to 24 original line drawings of animals, by either one or several artists, per edition. Small drawings done in black ballpoint pen reproduce best. Yes, we can use multiple drawings done on a single page.

Drawings may be submitted as jpegs, to <anmlpepl@whidbey.com>, via fax to 360-579-2575, or by regular mail to **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, POB 960, Clinton, WA 98236. (Please send photocopies, as originals cannot be returned.)

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## Saving Animals folds—but Humane Alliance model s/n pro-

**HOUSTON**—The surgical sterilization service provider Saving Animals Across Borders on October 17, 2008 declared bankruptcy. Saving Animals founder Sean Hawkins pioneered many of the methods now used by nonprofit sterilization providers worldwide. The Saving Animals “Fix Houston” project was to open five surgical sterilization clinics in Houston by mid-2009, but instead closed the only one that did open.

The Saving Animals assets are to be sold to reimburse creditors.

“Chapter 7, the type of bankruptcy protection sought by Saving Animals, doesn’t allow an entity to reorganize,” explained Bill Murphy of the *Houston Chronicle*. “In an e-mail to the Chronicle, Hawkins said, ‘Unfavorable financial conditions have forced Saving Animals Across Borders to cease operations...No further statement will be given.’”

Hawkins did not respond to an **ANIMAL PEOPLE** request for comment.

The initial “Fix Houston” goal was to make Houston a no-kill city by 2013. Hawkins more recently estimated that 2018 was a more realistic target. Either target would require Houston to make more rapid progress in reducing the present rate of 22.3 shelter animals killed per 1,000 residents than any city has sustained over 10 years.

PetSmart Charities, after funding many other Hawkins-directed projects over the past 15 years, in November 2007 granted \$965,000 to “Fix Houston,” to be allocated over five years. “We at PetSmart Charities are disappointed to learn that Saving Animals has filed for bankruptcy,” the foundation said in a prepared statement. “We remain committed to the pets and people of Houston. At this time, we cannot comment on any [other] organizations we might consider funding for spay and neuter services in the Houston area.”

Hawkins debuted in humane work as a volunteer cage-cleaner and dog-walker for Citizens for Animal Protection in Houston while still in junior high school. He cofounded the Houston Animal Rights Team circa 1983-1984. He founded the Spay/Neuter Assistance Program, as a project of the Fund for Animals

in 1993, took it independent in 2000, and built it into a \$3 million-a-year operation, sterilizing about 50,000 dogs and cats per year in six southwestern states and northern Mexico.

Ousted from SNAP in 2005, Hawkins formed Saving Animals. Within a year Saving Animals had offered mobile sterilization programs in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and four cities in Texas. In 2006 Saving Animals and the Animal Alliance of Galveston County opened a high-volume dog and cat sterilization clinic in LaMarque, Texas, and in June 2007 conducted a \$400,000 sterilization blitz in New Mexico, funded by an unprecedented state government allocation.

A financial dispute with the Animal Alliance of Galveston County appears to have been involved in the Saving Animals collapse.

“In its bankruptcy filing, Saving Animals said it owed medical suppliers, banks and others \$352,764,” wrote Murphy. “It said the Animal Alliance owed it \$251,000.”

Hawkins’ bankruptcy lawyer, Craig Cavalier, told Murphy that the debt was “A precipitating factor.”

But Animal Alliance board president Denise Warren “said the alliance doesn’t owe Saving Animals any money,” Murphy wrote. “The Animal Alliance board ousted Saving Animals on April 15, 2008 after Hawkins didn’t comply with repeated requests for information about the clinic’s finances and operations, Warren said.”

Earlier, Murphy reported that the Animal Alliance clinic, then struggling, “has returned to operating in the black since cutting ties with Saving Animals, said Warren.”

“The day after the board’s action,” Murphy added, “Hawkins came to the clinic and was ordered off the property, said La Marque police chief Richard Price. He didn’t comply, and police led him off in handcuffs, charging him with failing to leave a premises when asked, a misdemeanor.”

Continued Murphy, “Investigators from the state attorney general’s office have sought Animal Alliance records related to Saving Animals, Warren said. “Kim Hogstrom, an employee fired by Saving Animals,

said she was among those who filed complaints...She said she had questions about the organization’s handling of finances. Hogstrom said Hawkins fired her because he said she was using a Saving Animals computer for personal use. She said she was fired because she became suspicious about the organization’s finances. Tom Kelley, spokesman for the attorney general’s office, said it doesn’t reveal when it is conducting an investigation.”

SNAP, headed by James Weedon, DVM, after Hawkins’ departure, and by Stephen Brownlow since January 2008, while Weedon remains as director of operations, continues to sterilize about 50,000 dogs and cats per year in the Houston area.

“In recent interviews, current and former SNAP officials said Hawkins lost his post [with SNAP] in part because the nonprofit was foundering financially,” reported Murphy and Kim Morgan of the *Houston Chronicle*. “Stephen Plumb, chief financial officer during Hawkins’ final two years, said companies frequently threatened to cut off supplies to SNAP because accounts went unpaid for so long. Payroll for a staff of 50, he said, wasn’t met several times until Hawkins used his credit cards.”

“Sean would spend, spend, spend whether we had money in the bank or not,” Plumb told Murphy and Morgan. “We took on spending that we couldn’t pay for. We had to make the choice of either cutting back programs or going under.”

### Going national

Hawkins was the third U.S. dog and cat surgical sterilization service provider to try to expand a program to multiple states.

The first, Friends of Animals, opened the first low-cost dog and cat sterilization clinic in the U.S. at Neptune, New Jersey, in 1957, and about 20 years later opened a second clinic in Miami, Florida. By 1991 FoA refocused on facilitating surgeries done by a nationwide network of veterinarians, mostly in private practice, who participate in a coupon voucher program.

The second, the Animal Foundation

of Nevada, in 1989 opened a clinic in Las Vegas that popularized high-volume sterilization by doing more than 10,000 surgeries per year. The Animal Foundation later operated clinics in Los Angeles and Dallas, but found working at multiple sites unsustainable.

### Humane Alliance

The Humane Alliance of Western North Carolina has expanded across the U.S. even more rapidly than Hawkins attempted, following a different model.

Founded in Asheville by William McKelvy in 1994, the Humane Alliance sterilized 3,000 animals that year, extended services to 22 counties within North Carolina within the next 10 years, then went national.

The Humane Alliance approach is basically franchising, but the “franchise holders” are not affiliated with the original. Programs modeled on the Humane Alliance now work in 31 states.

“We train organizations, using the Humane Alliance Protocol, but they do not adopt our name,” executive director Quita Mazzina told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “The organizations we mentor actually open, own, and operate their own clinics,” she explained, though “It is not uncommon for us to train additional staff for the other clinics.”

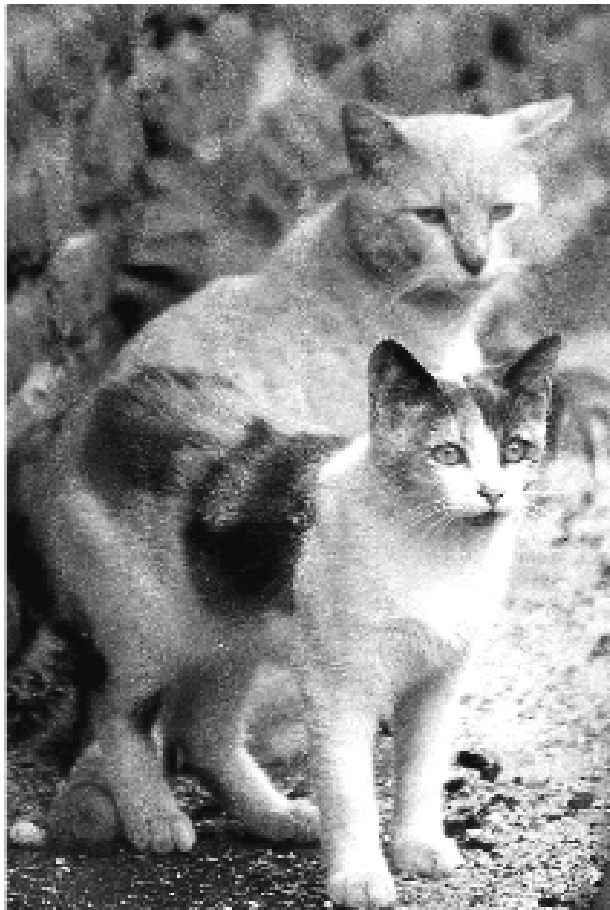
“I believe that all of the organizations who have trained implementing the Humane Alliance model, and Humane Alliance, see ourselves as stewards of a vision,” Mazzina said. “It has developed without direction into a national coalition. Organizations who train with us often reference themselves as Humane Alliance model clinics,” but that is “a by-product of our sense of connection and commitment to a plan.”

The Humane Alliance in June 2008 opened an expanded clinic and training center in Asheville. The \$3 million project was funded in part by pledges of \$1 million each from PetSmart Charities and the American SPCA.

[Contact the Humane Alliance c/o 25 Heritage Drive, Asheville, NC 28806; 828-252-8804; <humanealliancewnc@yahoo.com>; <www.humanealliance.org>.]

# HOW TO TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

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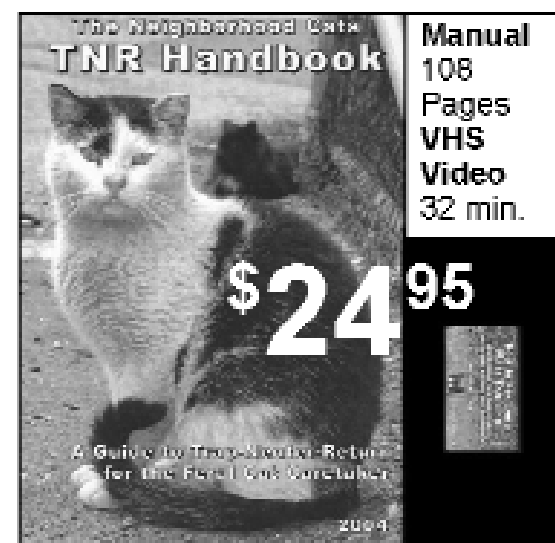
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# \$75 million offered to boost non-surgical sterilization research *(from page 1)*

that it would pay Michelson \$550 million to settle five years of litigation between Michelson and Medtronic, as directed in 2004 by a federal grand jury, and would pay Michelson \$800 million for the rights to “over 100 issued U.S. patents, over 110 pending U.S. applications and approximately 500 foreign counterparts.”

The Medtronic settlement was actually Michelson’s second big payday through litigation. “In 1995,” recounts his Forbes 400 profile, “he sued a subsidiary of U.S. Surgical (now Covidien) for infringing his patents on a fusion technology. The case won a large settlement that he is not allowed to talk about, although he confirms it was nine figures. His licensing revenue grew to \$40 million annually. In 2001, when his dispute with Medtronic began, Michelson had a net worth, he says, of \$300 million.”

The Michelson initiative “is without doubt the biggest thing to happen in our field,” said Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs executive director Joyce Briggs. “ACC&D has long seen the need for an infusion of funding to attract researchers. Dr. Michelson has risen to that challenge, and we are delighted to be working closely with the Found Animal Foundation on this initiative.”

“We’re completely agnostic regarding the approach,” said Found Animals Foundation executive director Aimee Gilbreath, who was hired in March 2008 from a background in business consulting and animal shelter volunteer work. “We’ll consider anything. We really believe if cutting-edge technologies are applied we can solve this.”

But the idea is actually to replace “cutting-edge” technologies, which involve invasive surgery and are as old in concept as castrating male animals—or human slaves—and sewing shut the vaginas of females, prac-

ticed in some parts of the world since early Biblical times.

The basic methods of sterilizing dogs and cats remain castration of males and ovariectomy of females, 75 years after the American Veterinary Medical Association first formally endorsed the procedures. The surgical techniques have been expedited and refined, enabling top sterilization surgeons to operate on more than twice as many animals per hour with hundreds of times less risk to the animals than when sterilization surgery became commonplace, in the 1970s.

Yet despite the improvements, sterilizing animals remains markedly more costly and complicated than vaccinating them. The prevailing belief in the animal advocacy, veterinary, and animal care and control communities has for decades been that sterilizing animals must become almost as easy and inexpensive as vaccination, in order for the procedures to become universal enough to prevent dog and cat overpopulation.

The need for a cheap, quick, safe and effective non-surgical sterilization method is believed to be especially acute in the developing world, where the veterinary shortage afflicting the U.S. since the early 1990s is much more intense, and pressure to reduce the numbers of street dogs and feral cats is omnipresent, especially in regions where rabies remains endemic.

## Hormones

The oldest approach to non-surgical dog and cat population control involves regulating hormone levels, as in human birth control, and has been researched without a breakthrough to finding a safe, practical, single-shot method for approximately 50 years.

Among the first researchers in the field was Wolfgang Jochle, originally from Germany, now a senior advisor to ACC&D. Jochle began his studies when street dogs were re-emerging as a problem in western Europe, then recovering from World War II. While colleagues developed birth control pills for humans, Jochle anticipated a future when dogs and cats would no longer be killed to control their numbers. Several times he thought he was close to finding the magic elixir that would make this possible. Eventually much of western Europe, including Germany, reduced dog and cat overpopulation to the point of becoming almost no-kill nations. But Jochle by then had emigrated to the U.S. His discoveries, while achieving limited use with pets in Europe, never proved practical for use with street dogs or feral cats, except in some closely supervised colonies, and never gained popularity in the U.S.

Several hormone-based contraceptive products have been marketed in the U.S. for use by prescription, primarily in show animals. One of them, Ovaban, reached the U.S. market in 1975, and is still sold, but has not become popular

because of the severity of the side effects frequently associated with it.

The Connecticut sterilization service provider Tait’s Every Animal Matters, headed by John Caltibiano, DVM, in mid-2008 began marketing a similar product for feral cats, called FeralStat. The two TEAM mobile units have performed conventional sterilization surgery on more than 117,000 cats since 1997, but noting that “it is difficult for those who are managing feral cat colonies or feeding homeless cats to trap each cat for sterilization before they reproduce,” Caltibiano “began prescribing this oral contraceptive to feral cat caretakers in Connecticut, Oregon, Texas, California, Florida, and Canada seven years ago,” according to the TEAM advertisements.

“By all accounts,” the ads claim, FeralStat “is safe, effective, convenient—it works. The active ingredient, a synthetic progestin, was patented and approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in the early 1950s. It is used extensively in human medicine, and has been prescribed by veterinarians for over 30 years for cats with skin, urinary tract, and behavioral disorders. It also has FDA approval for off-label use as a feline oral contraceptive to postpone estrus in cats.”

According to the ads, FeralStat can be mixed with food once per week and fed to all of the cats in a feral colony, without harmful effects on male cats, pregnant females, and kittens who share the meals.

“The recommended daily dosage for treating cancer in humans,” the FeralStat ads say, “will prevent 20,000 cats from coming into heat.”

But FeralStat is unlikely to share in the Michelson prize, because it does not actually sterilize the cats who ingest it, and is not a single-shot method.

The Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs is also skeptical of Caltibiano’s safety claims. “The active ingredient in FeralStat is megestrol acetate,” points out Joyce Briggs. “This is the same active ingredient which is in Ovaban. In numerous studies over three decades, this drug, like other progestins, has been found to pose serious health risks in cats, including diabetes melli-

tus, mammary swelling and tumors, uterine disease, pyometra, and skin disorders. Megestrol acetate is not now, nor has it ever been, approved by the FDA for use in cats,” Briggs asserts, though it is approved for contraceptive use in dogs.

“There do not appear to be any controlled studies of FeralStat that show that it is either safe or fully effective at the dose used,” Briggs continued in a July 24, 2008 media statement. “We have no information that FeralStat has gone through any formal review process. Because FeralStat is given as a food additive for outdoor cat colonies, there is no way to control the amount of the drug each cat ingests, or to prevent wildlife or owned pets from consuming the drug. While we continue our thorough review,” Briggs said, “ACC&D cannot recommend the use of FeralStat.”

## Chemosterilants

Chemosterilants use chemical substances to reduce fecundity. No effective chemosterilant for female animals has been developed. Several chemosterilants for male dogs and cats have been experimentally introduced. Most notably, a chemosterilant called Talsur failed in field trials in India in 1991. A similar product called Neutersol has long been used successfully in Mexico, a comparable product is used in Thailand, and another is reportedly close to introduction in Brazil, but Neutersol was rejected in India after a field trial initially appeared to be producing some of the same problems as Talsur. Limited use by nonprofit organizations in eastern Europe was thwarted by veterinary opposition.

Efforts to market Neuterol in the U.S. were not commercially successful.

“Neutersol was originally introduced in the U.S. in 2003, and was available until the patent holder and the original distributor severed ties in early 2005,” ACC&D executive director Joyce Briggs recounted in introducing Michelson’s incentive package. “A reintroduction plan was introduced in 2005,” Briggs added. “ACC&D worked in partnership with the new marketing company to develop plans for a shelter advisory board and

*(continued on page 9)*



ANAW vaccination clinic in Kenya.

## Michelson won case against U.S. Surgical

Animal advocates may enjoy the irony that some of the Michelson money came from U.S. Surgical via his successful 1995 lawsuit against the company.

U.S. Surgical founder Leon Hirsch, who retired and sold the company in 1998, was for more than a decade a frequent target of animal rights protests led primarily by Friends of Animals, for using dogs in sales demonstrations of surgical products. Hirsch in response founded the pro-animal research organization Americans for Medical Progress in 1992 and helped to fund it for six years.

That was after Hirsch in 1987-1989 hired the now defunct private security firm Perceptions International to spy on FoA and other critics of his activities. Among the Perceptions International operatives was Mary Lou Sapone, more recently known as Mary McFate, whose infiltration of at least three anti-gun violence organizations as an alleged paid “research consultant” for the National Rifle Association was disclosed in the August 2008 edition of *Mother Jones* magazine.

In 1988 Sapone befriended fringe activist Fran Trutt, loaned her the money to buy four pipe bombs, and introduced her to another Perceptions International employee, Marcus Mead, who in November 1988 drove Trutt to place one of the bombs in the U.S. Surgical parking lot. Arrested at the scene, Trutt served a year in custody.

U.S. Surgical publicized the arrest as discrediting animal rights activists—but

Sapone’s role was exposed within days.

Friends of Animals sued U.S. Surgical over Sapone’s activities. The case and related actions were in court for nearly 10 years, but never went to trial.

FoA, founded in 1957 to promote low-cost dog and cat sterilization surgery, is still a leading sterilization service provider, but has opposed research and development of non-surgical sterilization methods.

FoA opposition to animal experiments done to develop Neutersol influenced the Humane Society of the U.S. to withdraw temporarily from funding some of the work in 1991. The HSUS subsidiary Humane Society International later was involved in field-testing Neutersol in Mexico and Romania.

FoA president Priscilla Feral told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that FoA opposition to non-surgical sterilization is not categorical. Feral said that FoA might endorse a non-surgical sterilization method if it causes less trauma to the animals than surgery, and is otherwise safe, effective, and affordable.

Feral mentioned that her considerations in deciding whether to endorse a non-surgical sterilization method would include how the method is developed and whether animals are killed to produce it. A product using stem cells extracted from tissues removed during conventional sterilization surgery would be more acceptable to FoA, Feral explained, than a product using the remains of animals slaughtered for food.

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## \$75 million offered to boost non-surgical sterilization research (from page 8)

programs to aid the reintroduction.”

However, Briggs said, “ACC&D recently learned that the reintroduction of Neutersol into the U.S. has been cancelled, with the termination of a contract between the company that was going to distribute the product and the patent holder. ACC&D will shift our focus to the use of this product internationally,” Briggs said, “where the largest potential for saving lives exists, and where, in developing nations, veterinary surgery is a scarce commodity.”

Briggs mentioned that the product called Neutersol in the U.S. is now sold in Mexico as Esterilcol.

### Immunocontraception

Immunocontraception attempts to trick a female animal's body into rejecting the male animal's sperm and destroying it just as the immune system destroys viruses and bacteria. Immunocontraceptives have been devel-

oped for many mammal species, and are now widely used to control reproduction of hooved animals. The first immunocontraceptive for horses, for example, was tested by ZooMontana director Jay Kirkpatrick in 1990, and has recently been used with some success among wild horses.

Leading researchers in July 2000 told a Spay USA conference in Waltham, Massachusetts that they expected to have one or more immunocontraceptives for dogs and cats ready for general use within just a few years, based on porcine zona pellucida, the same byproduct of pork production that worked in horses. By 2004, however, when the first ACC&D conference was held in Breckenridge, Colorado, the pZP researchers' optimism had waned. Cat and dog reproductive systems were not tricked by pZP.

A second immunocontraceptive approach, using anti-gonadotropin-releasing hormones, has been researched here and there

for at least 18 years, but several major pharmaceutical manufacturers have abandoned work on anti-GnRH methods.

That leaves several other possibilities. One idea, still completely untested, would be to use gene therapy to modify the fecundity of animals. The idea would be to introduce altered genes into the animals, which would take over control of their reproductive systems. Similar techniques are now experimentally used in fighting many severe human illnesses with a genetic component.

The gene therapy approach might be used in dogs and cats to restrict litter sizes or reduce the frequency of ovulation cycles, so as to reduce fecundity to the level needed to replace pets, or to maintain the population of street dogs and feral cats needed in a developing world situation to control rodents and prevent monkey invasions.

Whether this could be accomplished with a single-shot injectible product, or could

be done at all, is as yet not known because no one is known to have researched it. But cats and dogs are known to have relatively recently evolved greater fecundity in response to the pressures of living in proximity to humans, where more food is available but there is also risk of persecution much more intense than the risk of predation in the wild.

The fecundity of feral and domestic cats today is roughly four times greater than that of their closest wild relative, the African desert cat, and is about double the fecundity of pregnant cats who were mummified thousands of years ago by the ancient Egyptians. The fecundity of dogs is also believed to have markedly increased since domestication.

This means, in theory, that genetic selection for smaller and less frequent litters could be done by switching on recessive genes that were dominant among cat and dog ancestors just a blink ago in evolutionary time.

—by Merritt Clifton

## Events

**Nov. 13-14: 7th Intl. Bird Flu Summit**, Las Vegas.

Info: 202-536-5000; <sharon.villalon@new-fields.com>.

**Nov. 15: League of Humane Voters 7th Anniversary Gala**, New York City. Info: <www.humanenyc.org>.

**Nov. 19-21: South Carolina Animal Care & Control Association conference**, Myrtle Beach. Info: 336-703-2481; 336-703-2490; <jenninct@forsyth.cc>.

**Nov. 20-23: 2nd CETALife film festival**, Kiev. Info: <cetalife@mail.ru>.

**Dec. 7: Equine Protect-**



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*The Pet Rescue Foundation*





## Is non-surgical sterilization the best use for \$75 million?

**CHICAGO**—Anxiety tempered enthusiasm as 325 delegates to the Spay USA conference in Chicago on October 17, 2008 applauded the Found Animal Foundation pledge to invest \$75 million in the quest to develop a non-surgical method of sterilizing dogs and cats. Almost everyone had questions with no quick answers.

First and easiest were questions about who Found Animal Foundation founder Gary K. Michelson is, and whether his commitment is genuine. Michelson has until now been barely known to animal advocates even in the Los Angeles area, where he lives and where the Found Animal Foundation is based.

Found Animal Foundation executive director Aimee Gilbreath and Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs executive director Joyce Briggs and outreach director Karen Green repeatedly reassured Spay USA delegates that the \$75 million is real money.

Some Spay USA conference attendees wondered whether they could entice their veterinarians or friendly scientists in their communities to start projects that would qualify them to apply for some of the money. But, except for a few vets who had already experimented with non-surgical sterilization methods, most had little idea where to begin.

Many conference attendees asked if Found Animal Foundation money might also be available to help sustain struggling surgical

sterilization programs. Funding for low-cost and free dog and cat sterilization has diminished with the resources of donors hit by the collapses of the stock and mortgage markets. At the same time, sterilization programs from all over the U.S.—and around the world—report increased demand for their services.

Personnel at both the Pets Are Worth Saving and Anti-Cruelty Society sterilization clinics in Chicago mentioned to tour groups from the Spay USA conference that some of the increased demand comes from former generous donors who have fallen on hard times.

Several Spay USA attendees, after spending heavily on equipment and facilities to do high-volume, low-cost surgical sterilization, expressed concern that a move to non-surgical sterilization might leave them without a revenue stream to pay off their investment.

Some veterinary surgeons worried that they might be working to perfect and teach soon-to-be-obsolete skills.

But as Gilbreath told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, perfecting a non-surgical sterilization method that qualifies for the Michelson prize will not be accomplished overnight. Neither does Michelson expect a non-surgical method to replace sterilization surgery, Gilbreath explained, although a non-surgical method that achieved the same benefits in preventing aggressive behavior and protecting the health of pets would be welcome.

The main purpose of developing a non-surgical sterilization method, Gilbreath emphasized, is extending the reach of dog and cat sterilization methods to the people, places, and animals who are still not served.

Currently, 73% of the U.S. pet dog population and 86% of the pet cat population are sterilized, according to marketing research by the American Association of Pet Product Manufacturers. Most of the U.S. has not had street dogs in visible numbers in several decades. The feral cat population appears to have dropped by 75% or more within ten years of the introduction of neuter/return cat control to the U.S. in 1991-1992.

However, the rapid progress in reducing animal shelter admissions and killing of homeless animals achieved during the 1980s and 1990s has tapered off in the present decade. Drops of a million shelter deaths per year were accomplished then, mostly by persuading average pet keepers to sterilize their animals, and helping them to do it affordably and conveniently.

Now that the total volume of animals coming to shelters is less than half of the number who were killed in shelters 25 years ago, achieving further reductions requires reaching the hard cases: the poorest, most remote, and/or most ignorant of pet keepers, and in the case of cats, the ferals who are hardest to trap.

The Found Animal Foundation

hopes that a non-surgical sterilization method will ease and expedite handling the hard cases. In particular, the Found Animal Foundation hopes to prevent the estimated 50% of dog litters and 75% of cat litters that are not planned, about 80% of them born to mothers who are sterilized later.

The classic dilemma of too many dogs and cats being born to fill the niches in available homes has shifted in the U.S. to the point that almost all dogs entering shelters, and many cats, once had homes, but for various reasons lost them. The problem now centers on reducing dog and cat births to where dogs and cats are no longer easily available to pet keepers who fail to keep the animals from roaming, neglect them, or easily abandon them if they become inconvenient.

In developing nations the shape of the issue is considerably different, and the potential for using non-surgical sterilization appears to be far greater. In most of the developing world, fewer than half of all dogs and cats have ever had homes. Though many are fed, as "community pets," most do not have primary caretakers who can be persuaded to take them to a clinic—even a free clinic—for sterilization surgery. Animal control typically consists of poisoning dogs and cats rather than impounding them.

Surgical sterilization is already officially the animal control method of choice in much of the developing world, though often not actually done, and is mandated in India, Turkey, and Costa Rica.

On October 3, 2008 the Veterinary Department of Serbia became the most recent of dozens of national public health agencies to endorse dog and cat sterilization in concept, in place of impounding and killing homeless animals.

But as Serbian animal advocate Slavica Mazak Beslic pointed out after the announcement ceremony, the Serbian recommendation did not come with any funding and still does not have the force of law. Beslic told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that what she wants to see is a mandate that redirects funding from paying garbage collectors to catch and kill dogs and cats, to paying veterinarians to sterilize dogs and cats.

This should be coordinated, Beslic said, with a campaign now underway to eradicate rabies by distributing oral vaccine baits to wild foxes. Vaccinating dogs and cats, and sterilizing them to prevent births of unvaccinated offspring, would reinforce the fox vaccination effort.

For now, in Serbia as elsewhere, actually obtaining surgical sterilization service adequate to replace killing animals has proved much more difficult than winning endorsements from governments.

(continued on page 11)

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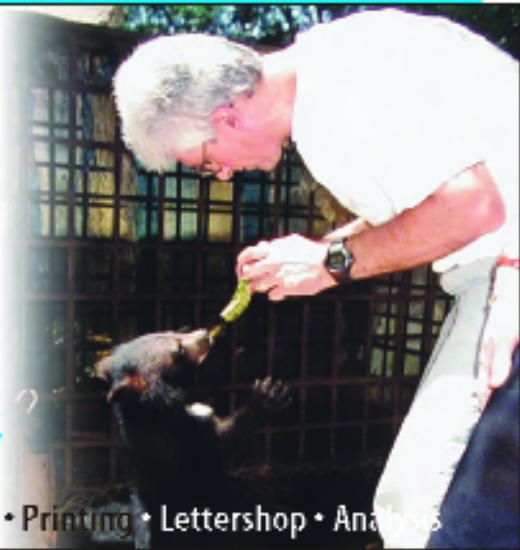
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## Is non-surgical sterilization the best use for \$75 million? (from page 9)

Even when governments put significant money into surgical sterilization, the funding tends to fall far short of the need.

The Blue Cross of India demonstrated surgical sterilization as a method of controlling the street dog population in Chennai in 1964, but the Animal Welfare Board of India did not recommend funding the Animal Birth Control program to the national government until December 1997. Eleven years later, after a decade of federal funding partially matched by municipal governments, the Indian ABC

program still reaches only some major Indian cities, with no presence in most rural districts.

Other bottlenecks in India include an acute lack of veterinarians trained to operate on dogs and cats. A lack of veterinary technicians often means that Indian veterinarians cannot make efficient use of their time.

But the most pervasive problem among Indian ABC programs may be that the vets and vet techs they have tend to use obsolete surgical methods. Trained to operate on cattle rather than small mammals, many make

large rather than minimal surgical incisions; use multiple sutures to close the unnecessarily large surgical wounds; fail to maintain strict surgical asepsis; rely on antibiotics rather than asepsis to prevent post-surgical infection, and hold animals for three to five days after surgery—sometimes longer—to ensure that sutures do not open and wounds do not become infected.

Long post-surgical holding times tend to overload shelter clinics. The central Tamil city of Salem in October 2008 tried to

solve that problem by housing about 40 sterilized dogs in the unused former communicable disease ward of a city hospital serving a low-income neighborhood called Ammapet. The hospital mainly provides obstetric service to the indigent.

"The dogs are kept in the most unhygienic environment, and the entire area is stinking," alleged *The Hindu*. "Their barking and howling all through the day and night have not only disturbed the patients but also the health staff of the hospital."

A source described by *The Hindu* as "a resident" added that the dogs were not fed regularly and properly, and were not treated for post-operative complications, even though this was why they were kept.

Trained by Bali Street Dog Project surgeons from Indonesia, Animal Help Ahmedabad founder Rahul Sehgal in 2005 introduced U.S.-style high volume, same-day-release dog sterilization to India. The Animal Help team sterilized 45,000 dogs in 2006, but ran into unforeseen problems.

The first was opposition to same-day release by much of the Indian humane community, including People for Animals founder and former federal minister for animal welfare Maneka Gandhi. Ms. Gandhi maintained from the beginning that same-day release could not be safely practiced in India.

A second problem came when delays in obtaining payment from the Ahmedabad city government obliged Sehgal to lay off veterinarians. Some who had not yet completed training in the Animal Help methods were hired to do ABC work in other cities, Sehgal told *ANIMAL PEOPLE*, and botched it. Their failures fueled the humane opposition.

Encountering continuing difficulty in getting paid in Ahmedabad, Sehgal in 2007 took his best vets to work in the suburbs of Bangalore and Hyderabad. While the Ahmedabad ABC program was interrupted, the unsterilized part of the dog population bred back up to the carrying capacity of the habitat, a city dog census found. Animal Help has continued to work in Bangalore.

Turkey mandated surgical sterilization instead of poisoning street dogs in 2004, but has never federally funded sterilization programs. Some city dog sterilization efforts have allegedly become conduits for routing public funds to supporters of the politicians in authority. Others have run afoul of officials who just want to get rid of the dogs, have no patience with methods that will take longer than a term of office to produce results, and resent the unfunded sterilization mandate.

(continued on page 12)



Photo: Jeff Hume, gibbonx.com

## A Refuge That Needs More Friends

Thirty years ago, the San Antonio-based sanctuary Primarily Primates changed the way humans relate to other primates. When the pioneering refuge opened, primates who'd been owned as pets, as unwilling actors, or testing specimens were no longer used goods that could disappear into nothingness.

Over the last 16 months, Primarily Primates has gone through a major transformation with renovations and expansions of animal habitats to update the infrastructure of the 78-acre sanctuary, and to assure comfortable, stimulating environments for the sanctuary's residents.

New construction is apparent everywhere thanks to contributors and Friends of Animals which provides funding for a full-time, on-site veterinarian, oversight and other crucial support.

Today, the refuge cares for 450 animals, including 63 chimpanzees, and members of 37 species of other primates: marmosets, spider monkeys, African bush babies, white-crowned mangabeys, Hanuman langurs, cotton-top tamarins, black and white colobus, squirrel monkeys, lemurs, and white-handed gibbons, to mention a few.

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

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## What is the best use for \$75 million? (from page 11)

In May 2008 more than 5,000 dead dogs were reportedly found in 20-odd mass graves in the Antalya suburbs of Kepez, Konyaalti, and Muratpasa. Hundreds of puppies had been buried alive. Many of the adult dogs had plastic ear tags confirming that they had been sterilized and vaccinated by veterinarians using the same methods as Friends of Fethiye Animals, whose success in reducing the Fethiye dog population through sterilization inspired the national mandate to sterilize

dogs instead of killing them.

Prominently exposed and denounced by news media, the killings shocked much of Turkey, not least because Antalya, just 200 kilometers from Fethiye, is among the most affluent cities in the nation, frequented by European tourists. Interior minister Besir Atalay convened a hearing into the dog massacres. No one was criminally charged.

Meanwhile, with the Antalya case still in the headlines, similar killings came to

light in Karabuk, about 200 kilometers north of Ankara, the Turkish capital, and in Kars, 100 kilometers west of the Armenian border.

Surgical sterilization has succeeded in almost eliminating animal control killing in Costa Rica, but Costa Rica likewise lacks a nationally funded sterilization program. Instead, sterilization surgery is made accessible nationwide through a variety of charities, whose work is endorsed but not funded by the Veterinary Licensing Board of Costa Rica.

The largest of these charities is the McKee Project, which has expanded to encourage similar programs throughout Central America and as far away as Argentina.

"I believe McKee has created a change that will be lasting," founder Christine Crawford told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, expressing particular optimism about progress in Guatemala. "The only veterinary school in Guatemala is now training vet students in the McKee surgery method," Crawford said. "Unlike in Costa Rica, where McKee met political opposition from time to time, Guatemala has thanked McKee for showing them practical humane solutions without having to commit big mistakes to get there."

Starting in 1998 with three veterinarians trained by Spay USA, funded initially by a bequest from California activist Mary Ann McKee and several grants from the North Shore Animal League, McKee has in turn



[ADVERTISEMENT]

trained "in the area of 500 vets," Crawford says, "in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama," as well as Costa Rica and Guatemala. McKee has also trained U.S. and Canadian veterinarians who visited Costa Rica to learn techniques suitable for use in remote locations.

But successful as the McKee Project is, getting the surgeons to the animals or bringing animals to the surgeons remains a bottleneck, in a region where mountains, rivers, and swamps tend to magnify the effects of bad roads and distance.

Using an injectible immunocontraceptive or chemosterilant to sterilize dogs and cats would require only a fraction of the equipment and facilities needed to do conventional sterilization surgery. Mobile clinics could fly from place to place.

Would-be developers have tried to perfect an injectible dog and cat sterilization method for more than 50 years. Though aware of the need for non-surgical sterilization in remote and low-income communities, where full-service vet clinics are few and far between, most of the researchers have hoped to pay off the development costs by finding a method suitable for commercial as well as nonprofit use.

As hormonal contraceptive pioneer Wolfgang Jochle pointed out to the 2004 ACCD conference in Breckenridge, Colorado, commercial considerations have complicated the development process.

One is that a commercially successful non-surgical sterilization method might sell best if it was reversible, unlike conventional neutering surgery, so that a breeder could use it to limit breeding, rather than altogether preventing it. Another is that a non-surgical sterilization product used in pets must be safe for many times the usual lifespan of street dogs and feral cats.

Nonsurgical dog and cat contraceptive methods have often appeared to be almost ready for the veterinary marketplace, and several methods have actually been briefly marketed, but unforeseen complications each time caused the products to be withdrawn.

The effect of withdrawing products from the commercial market in developed nations has often been to send the message to the developing world that the products are categorically unsafe and unsuitable. Continuing to investigate refinements of these products in developing world laboratories



Dogs await surgery at one of the McKee Project's jungle clinics.

## Feel Warm This Winter

**When you purchase items from American Humane, you support programs to rescue animals caught in disasters, increase pet adoptions, fund medical treatment for animal victims of abuse and more! Now doesn't that make you feel warm all over?**

**"Be Human Be Humane" Women's Sweatshirt**  
Spread a message of compassion with this stylish hoodie. Front pockets and drawstring hood: slate gray with green and pink imprint. 80% cotton, 20% polyester.  
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**"Junior Animal Rescuer" T-Shirt**  
This indigo blue t-shirt is perfect for the young person who loves animals, volunteers at the shelter or is just always bringing home strays. Yellow imprint. 100% preshrunk cotton.  
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**Kids' Hooded Towel**  
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Your baby will Be Good in this adorable spring green romper featuring 4 flares the Goldfish. Orange and blue imprint. Also available in lavender with Caper the Caiman Pig. 100% cotton.  
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**Animal Emergency Services T-shirt**  
American Humane's Red Star Animal Emergency Services Big Rig speeds to the rescue at the bottom of this soft, slightly fitted tee. Army green with red and light blue design. Design wraps around back. 100% cotton.  
**Item AES-SHIRT, Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, \$21.95**

**"Cat, Dog, Child" Sweatshirt**  
Keep a high profile in this noticeably fashionable army green graphic hoodie. The design on the back features the profiles of a cat, dog and child. Zip-up sweatshirt with drawstring hood and front pockets. Black, white and cream American Humane logo design on front left; larger graphic on back. 100% cotton.  
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(continued on page 13)



# The best use for \$75 million? *(from page 13)*

could be done for a fraction of the cost of doing further research in the U.S. and Europe, but except for the development of zinc-based chemosterilants similar to Neutersol in India, Brazil, and Thailand, little has been pursued.

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

One of the long-sought advantages anticipated from injectible sterilants was that animals could be sterilized at any age. Since 1993, however, when early-age surgical sterilization was endorsed by most leading veterinary organizations and

humane societies, early-age sterilization surgery has become the norm rather than the exception at U.S. clinics, and is beginning to catch on worldwide—but not without resistance.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** recently visited the Bali Street Dog Foundation and Bali Animal Welfare Association clinics in Indonesia.

Founded in 1998 by Balinese vet Listriani Wistawan and U.S. expatriate Sherry Grant, a longtime Bali resident, the Bali Street Dog Foundation originally operated under the umbrella of the Yudisthira Swarga Foundation, named in honor of a Hindu king who refused to enter heaven without a street dog who had been loyal to him.



Two views of BAWA team at work in Bali, Indonesia. (Kim Bartlett)



The foundation has taught high-volume, same-day-release dog and cat sterilization throughout southern Asia, including in Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh after the Indian Ocean tsunami.

BAWA, founded by American expatriate Janice Girardi, a 30-year resident of Bali, handles the eastern side of the most populated part of Bali. Working in temples and community halls, the BAWA mobile clinic sterilizes about 40 dogs per day. Members of the BAWA demonstrated safe dog-netting during the 2008 Asia for Animals conference.

Most of the BAWA veterinarians were trained by the Bali Street Dog Foundation—but BAWA does not do early-age sterilization surgery, even though Girardi acknowledges that the biggest obstacle they face in trying to reduce the local dog population is that



## Why is this greyhound smiling?

To find out, visit:  
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1.866.2GREY2K  
[grey2kusa.org](http://grey2kusa.org)



most of the dogs manage to have a litter before they can be caught and sterilized.

Veterinarians who practice early-age sterilization have almost unanimously emphasized to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for more than 15 years that young animals are easier to operate on because their reproductive organs are not yet injured, diseased, or misplaced, and that they recover from surgery more rapidly, with less risk of infection. Yet the BAWA veterinarians, including visiting veterinary advisors from Australia, insisted to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that early-age sterilization remained beyond their ability.

Back in the U.S., early-age sterilization practitioners who were told about the BAWA perspective just shrugged. Similar arguments used to be heard in the U.S., too.

Another long-anticipated advantage of using an injectible sterilant was avoiding complications of surgery, thereby enabling clinics to hold animals for shorter post-surgical observation and recovery intervals. The introduction of gas anesthesia, however, has almost eliminated complications of anesthesia after sterilization surgery. Even where gas anesthesia is not used, the advent of early-age sterilization has given surgeons daily practice at operating with minimal incisions, requiring much less suturing and presenting far less risk of becoming infected.

Early high-volume sterilization clinics reported surgical complication rates of up to 4%. Same-day release of altered male animals was rare; same-day release of female animals was unheard of.

Today, same-day release of all animals is not only the norm but almost mandatory at many major U.S. clinics, with high surcharges for leaving an animal at a clinic overnight. Post-surgical complications have become so rare at clinics that practice small-incision surgery with strict asepsis that the Foundation Against Companion-animal Euthanasia, in Indianapolis, did 14,000 surgeries before losing an animal—an older cat who had respiratory trouble under anesthesia—and has now maintained a comparable record through more than 100,000 surgeries since mid-1998.

Emulating the FACE approach, with a former FACE vet as chief sterilization surgeon, the Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society did more than 13,000 sterilization surgeries in 2007 with only four post-surgical complications. The Anti-Cruelty Society has sterilized more than 75,000 animals under their adapted version of the FACE protocol since 1999. The Anti-Cruelty Society fee of \$50 for holding an animal overnight is as high or higher than the cost of surgery, in part because keeping animals at the clinic inhibits efficiency in doing the overnight cleaning and maintenance that enables it to work at high speed again the next day.

Both FACE, headquartered in a former heavy equipment garage, and the Anti-Cruelty Society, whose clinic was built in 1933, demonstrate that technique rather than fancy surroundings make the difference. What they do could be done anywhere, with comparable emphasis

(continued on page 15)



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## Victory for the Horses!

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

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

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



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

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

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**SHARK**  
SHOWING ANIMALS RESPECT & KINDNESS



## The best use for \$75 million? (from page 13)

on cleanliness and economy of motion.

Yet another advantage of injectible sterilization is that it could presumably be done efficiently in remote locations. But remote location surgery has also come a long way since the first Spay USA conference back in 1993 featured veterinarians Jeff Young and Peggy Larson explaining how they respectively converted an old school bus and an old van into mobile clinics.

Young, of Planned Pethood Plus in Denver, visited Native American reservations throughout the Rocky Mountains region, eventually deciding that using a vehicle to haul supplies to stock temporary clinics set up in community halls or tents was more efficient than trying to operate inside the vehicle.

Larson, in northern Vermont, found that having volunteers deliver animals to her fixed-site clinic made far better use of her time than trying to go to where the animals were.

Soon after the first Spay USA clinic, Philadelphia-area vet tech Liz Jones converted a mobile home into a mobile sterilization clinic. Jones learned that mobile homes are not built to take the stresses that a high-volume sterilization clinic must. Currently planning to start a dog and cat sterilization program in Tanzania, Jones is weighing the options among mobile and fixed-site approaches.

Sean Hawkins, who in 1993 was just beginning the

Houston-based Spay-Neuter Assistance Program under auspices of the Fund for Animals, invested nearly 10 times as much on his first mobile clinic as Young, Larson, and Jones had. Hawkins' then-controversial decision to put the clinic into a large heavy-duty truck turned out to be the right choice among the available options.

These days a mobile sterilization clinic can be ordered ready to go from at least half a dozen makers of veterinary and animal control vehicles. Discussion of mobile sterilization at the 2008 Spay USA conference consisted of a few brief resumes of issues to consider in deciding what kind of vehicle to order, chiefly from Gregory Castle of the Best Friends Animal Society's "No More Homeless Pets in Utah" campaign, as prelude to much talk by Castle and others about how to do the promotion and community organization that is necessary to make a mobile sterilization campaign succeed.

Personifying the transition from a focus on technical issues to recognition of the importance of community organizing might be Oklahoma Spay Network coordinator Ruth Steinberger, of Bristow, Oklahoma, who spoke three times at Spay USA 2008. Steinberger, neither a vet nor a vet tech, has only been involved in animal work for a little more than a decade. Her background is organizing for social justice.

Known first on Native American reservations for investigative exposés of miscarriages of justice, published in *Native Times* and *Lakota Journal*, Steinberger remains active on behalf of human rights—but animal work now takes most of her time.

Steinberger helps to facilitate more than 22,000 low-cost or free sterilization surgeries per year for dogs and cats in the less affluent parts of her own state, and assists similar programs in other western states. In appreciation of her work Steinberger received the 2006 Henry Bergh Award from the American SPCA.

What Steinberger does, and teaches, is the groundwork needed to make any public health campaign succeed, whether the subjects are animal or human. If the groundwork is done, Steinberger demonstrates, medical or veteri-



Ervin Yellow Robe brought his cats to one of Ruth Steinberger's clinics.

## Scams target adoptors &

**MONROE, Louisiana**—The Better Business Bureau of Northeast Louisiana on November 2, 2008 issued a warning against e-mail and classified ad scams offering puppies or "rescued" dogs for adoption, if the recipient will pay transportation costs in advance.

The would-be dog adoptor may also be asked to fill out an "adoption screening questionnaire" which requests information that can be used to access the victim's personal bank and credit card accounts.

Then, after the dog has supposedly been sent, the scammer may report some sort of complication in transport, such as the dog becoming ill or being detained by customs inspectors, which is said to require additional payments and more personal information from the would-be adoptor.

Many legitimate rescue organizations adopt out animals through comparable arrangements—including many overseas organizations that send dogs to the U.S. and Europe from parts of the developing world known for e-mail scammers.

Avoiding getting scammed requires independently verifying all claims of identity, including the prefixes of telephone numbers and IP numbers in e-mail headers.

Some scammers use bogus contact information for legitimate charities, operating from different nations that the charities they pretend to be.

The Better Business Bureau alert was issued, wrote Matthew Hamilton of the *Monroe News-Star*, after six Monroe residents complained about a classified ad for two Yorkshire terrier puppies, placed by a "Rev. Brown," who claimed to be a missionary in Africa. "We're due for more travel to some remote part of west africa," the purported missionary wrote, "and we cannot risk taking them along as we know it will have adverse effect on them, health wise."

Added Hamilton, "Swindlers can as easily run a scam buying puppies as in giving them away. A West Monroe police officer ran an ad in September to sell border collies. Via interpreter, she communicated with a deaf woman in Seattle who agreed to buy the puppies. The check for the puppies arrived from a bank in North Carolina, postmarked from California, with instructions to wire money to a third party in New York. The check was written for \$1,900 more than agreed."

The police officer "knew something wasn't right and canceled the sale," Hamilton wrote, "but the buyer asked her to cash the check anyway and wire a fraction of the money to New York," to refund the overpayment.

In this type of scam, "If you deposit that check, it will take a couple of weeks or a month to fully clear," explained Amy Lawson, president of the Monroe branch of the Better Business Bureau of Northeast Louisiana. "Meanwhile the scammer cashes the money order," sent as the refund, "and disappears from contact."

The victim loses the animals or merchandise sent in exchange for the overpayment, the supposed refund, and all the associated bank fees.

Lawson "considered the involvement of puppies in both scams a coincidence," Hamilton wrote, "but said swindlers do try to prey upon a potential victim's emotions—whether for animals, noble causes or the disabled."

The overpayment scam is sometimes structured to hoax humane societies into believing they have received an unexpected major bequest, as sometimes actually happens. In March 2006 such a scam clipped the Performing Animal Welfare Society, of Galt, California. PAWS deposited a forged cashier's check for \$95,000, and for five days used the money to pay off debts, before the check bounced. PAWS did not refund any money to the scammer, however, and promptly warned other humane organizations to beware of similar frauds.

The Louisiana alert was issued just as a similar scheme resurfaced, apparently originating in Thailand, in which a scammer pretends to be a veterinarian who is going back to university, relocating, or retiring, and offers to donate veterinary equipment to a humane society that will cover the transportation. Working the same way as the puppy adoption scam, but trying to collect larger sums, this scam is almost as old as any humane presence on the Internet.

Variations costing humane organizations thousands of dollars during the past two years involve bogus online vendors of veterinary supplies, promotional merchandise, and opportunities to boost web traffic. These schemes are often promoted by personalized e-mails sent directly to executive directors or shelter managers, sometimes on the pretext of having met the recipient at a recent conference.

The scammers' web sites look like those of legitimate companies, with apparently legitimate contact information, but the street addresses typically do not exist, the telephone numbers go to cell phones, and credit card payments go to processors located outside the U.S. and/or the European Union.

The web sites themselves may disappear soon after an order is placed and paid for—and sometimes turn out to have been posted without authorization at inactive web addresses belonging to deceased individuals or defunct businesses.

**The Longest Struggle:**  
**Animal Advocacy from Pythagoras to PETA**  
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nary time can be used most effectively. If the groundwork is not done adequately, a campaign will not succeed, regardless of what medical or veterinary techniques are used.

Steinberger worries that in times and places where funding is scarce, dog and cat sterilization programs will cut back on organizing and outreach, to focus on providing services while overlooking the necessity of getting people to bring animals to use them. The best way to make the most efficient possible use of veterinarians and technicians, Steinberger emphasized, is to make sure that the people and animals are lined up waiting when the vets and vet techs arrive.

Steinberger displayed slides of long lines of Native American reservation residents with their animals. Many had traveled for hours before dawn to reach her clinics, and would travel long into the night to get home.

—Merritt Clifton

## Addis Ababa inks

**ADDIS ABABA**—Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, home to three million people and as many as 750,000 dogs, on November 4, 2008 agreed to cooperate with the Amsale Gessesse Memorial Foundation, Best Friends Animal Society, and Humane Society International to control the dog population through sterilization instead of poisoning.

The project is to begin on March 1, 2009. The pact was reached after more than a year of negotiation involving half a dozen Ethiopian government agencies, Best Friends cofounder Gregory Castle and rapid response team manager Rich Crook, DVM, and Anteneh Roba, an Ethiopian-born Houston physician who founded the Amsale Gessesse Memorial Foundation to honor his deceased mother and enlist Best Friends' involvement.

"Addis Ababa will provide vets, vet techs, and city workers to catch the dogs, along with office equipment and some of the medical supplies," reported Sharon St. Joan for the Best Friends Network. "Best Friends will be responsible for operational integrity and budget oversight. HSI will train the veterinarians, the vet techs, and the dog catchers."

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** transmitted statistics and how-to information to Roba at his urgent request just before he and Crook met with the Addis Ababa officials on October 31 to negotiate the agreement that was finalized four days later.

"This helped me so much," Roba wrote. "I made a PowerPoint presentation that was extremely well received. They were not talking about if the program can be implemented, but when. They want us to start yesterday."

The discussion began after Addis Ababa officials in September 2007 proposed poisoning to control the dog population, meeting vigorous opposition from the Homeless Animals Protection Society and some local news media.

HAPS, whose founders' salaries **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has paid since 2004, demonstrated dog and cat sterilization for several years in Addis Ababa, but the HAPS clinic closed in September 2008 after HAPS' lease on the land expired. As of mid-October, HAPS president Efreem Legese said, he had not found a new location. The clinic equipment, he said, was stored with some of his relatives.

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to reach a vehicle donation representative of Charitable Auto Resources (CARS). The CARS representative will schedule a vehicle pickup that's convenient for you, and provide you with confirmation of your donation. If the gross proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle are \$500 or more and if you provide your Social Security number to the representative at the time of your donation, you will also receive an IRS tax form 1098C stating the sale price of the vehicle. This amount is what you actually claim on the itemized tax return.

(According to the tax law effective January 1, 2005, if the claimed value of the donated vehicle





# 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.

## Montreal SPCA sues SPCA International to try to get back web name

**MONTREAL**—Proceedings in a lawsuit filed by the Montreal SPCA to try to recover the use of the domain name <spca.com> from SPCA International have been delayed because the plaintiffs are having difficulty finding valid legal addresses at which to serve notice on some of the defendants, plaintiff's attorney Pierre Lessard told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on October 24, 2008.

Served as of the original scheduled court date in October were Pierre Barnoti, who was executive director of the Montreal SPCA from 1994 until July 2008 and is founder of SPCA International; SPCA International itself, incorporated in Delaware since 2006; Raouf Dallala of Montreal, who according to the lawsuit "acted as consultant for over 10 years" to the Montreal SPCA during Barnoti's tenure, and "was paid during that period fees of over \$500,000"; former

Montreal SPCA board members Howard Sholzberg and Michel Poulos; the Montreal firm Magi Graph Concept Inc.; the New York City firm Quadriga Art Inc., "currently acting as a fundraising intermediary for the benefit of SPCA International," according to the lawsuit; and the Virginia firm Network Solutions, identified as "registrar for the domain names <spca.com> and <spcamontreal.com>."

Not yet served, Lessard told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, was American Charities Group, with a listed but apparently invalid address at 6300 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 710, in Los Angeles. This address has also been listed as the "West Coast Office" of SPCA International. Like Quadriga, "American Charities Group is currently acting as a fundraising intermediary for the benefit of SPCA International," the Montreal SPCA lawsuit alleges.

"As owner of the domain names <spca.com> and <spcamontreal.com>," the Montreal SPCA lawsuit states, "the plaintiff is seeking from the court an interlocutory and permanent injunction requiring the defendants...to cease using the domain name <spca.com>, to remit all information regarding donations, revenues, and income received by the defendant SPCA International Inc. through the web site <www.spca.com>, and to register the plaintiff as the sole owner and registrant of both domain names."

Filed by Lessard, of the Montreal law firm Marchand, Melancon, Forget, the Montreal SPCA case closely parallels a supporting affidavit filed by Wendy Ann Adams. Adams, a Montreal SPCA board member, is also an associate professor and director of the Centre for Intellectual Property Policy at McGill University in Montreal.

"I am a special advisor to the board of directors of the Canadian SPCA," avers Adams, citing the original incorporated name of the Montreal SPCA. Founded in 1869, the Montreal SPCA is the oldest humane society in Canada. "I am personally aware of all the facts alleged hereinafter," Adams adds.

Lessard told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that many of the supporting exhibits attached to the lawsuit were taken from the computer that Barnoti used at the Montreal SPCA.

### History of SPCA.com

The Montreal SPCA registered the domain name <spca.com> with Network Solutions in October 1996, the lawsuit states.

The events leading to the lawsuit gained momentum in December 2004, according to the Montreal SPCA lawsuit, when "Luke Montgomery was hired by Barnoti on behalf of the plaintiff to prepare and present to the plaintiff a branding proposal for the web-site <spca.com>."

Montgomery rose to transient prominence as the gay rights and anti-AIDS activist "Luke Sissytag" in 1993-1994, disrupting a speech by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton in December 1993, three speeches by Health Secretary Donna Shalala in early 1994, and an Easter service attended by the Clinton family in April 1994.

Hired in February 1997 by Last Chance for Animals, Montgomery after some initial controversy has remained involved in animal advocacy, mostly quietly and behind the scenes. Montgomery resurfaced in February 2005 as a prominent source in an exposé of Montreal SPCA fundraising practices—and of SPCA International—aired by CTV, the largest nongovernmental television network in Canada.

"Barnoti realized the potential of using the domain name <spca.com> as a vehicle for fundraising in the U.S. and other countries," the Montreal SPCA lawsuit charges. "He then took the initiative to find partners to create the defendant SPCA International for fundraising purposes and to use <spca.com> as the web site address."

Barnoti in a July 2005 e-mail to a Quadriga executive asserted that "Presently and without any development or efforts,

<spca.com> is visited close to 30 million times a year. The untapped potential of this site could translate into a lot of donations directly made on the site or by direct mail..."

During the next year, says the Montreal SPCA lawsuit, "Barnoti informed only a few of the members of the [Montreal SPCA] board, namely the defendants...about 'our international project.'"

However, the Montreal SPCA lawsuit alleges the Montreal SPCA "financed over the years maintenance and development costs and expenses of the web site <spca.com> without being reimbursed," including "all the travel expenses of Barnoti to Europe and the U.S. to attend conventions and meetings, including a meeting in New York with Paul Irwin, a well known fundraiser, to discuss fundraising opportunities using the domain name and web site <spca.com>."

### Irwin & Gordon

As vice president of the Humane Society of the U.S. 1975-1996, and president 1996-2004, Paul Irwin became the highest-paid executive to that point in the history of animal welfare, collecting a peak of \$570,325 in 1998, including deferred compensation. Irwin even cofounded a private bank.

After Irwin was ushered into retirement from HSUS after the election of current HSUS president Wayne Pacelle in April 2004, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** heard from a variety of sources during the next few months that Irwin appeared to be working on a plan to create a rival to HSUS by merging smaller charities whose programs when combined could become magnets for donors. The rumors stopped after Irwin became president of the American Bible Society, a charity with at least five times the assets of HSUS.

At both HSUS and the American Bible Society, Irwin employed web developer Richard Gordon. "Convicted in 1980 of mail fraud, interstate transportation of a stolen check, and making a false statement to a bank," Gordon, 62, "served more than two years of a seven-year sentence in federal prison," reported *New York Times* technology writer Brad Stone in a May 18, 2008 exposé entitled "An E-Commerce Empire, From Porn to Puppies."

Gordon recovered his fortunes through a series of partnerships involving Japanese web commerce billionaire Wataru Takahashi. Takahashi founded Dial Talk International. "DTI is based on the Caribbean island of Curaçao and runs, from Los Angeles, a vast and profitable network of explicit web sites for the Japanese market," summarized Stone.

Gordon, Stone found, owns a credit card payment processing empire with "roots in the world of sexual entertainment," which "facilitates credit card transactions for DTI."

The American Bible Society severed relations with Gordon within days after The *New York Times* published Stone's exposé, and did not renew Irwin's contract, which expired on June 30, 2008.

Meanwhile, Barnoti acknowledged  
(continued on page 17)

## WSPA president loses bid for

**OTTAWA**—Canadian voters on October 14, 2008 re-elected the Conservative national government headed by prime minister Stephen Harper, an outspoken defender of the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt, but the voters of the Beauharnois-Salaberry district in Quebec for the third time rejected Conservative candidate Dominique Bellemare.

Bellemare, board president of the World Society for the Protection of Animals since June 2008, was previously defeated in the 1997 and 2004 Parliamentary elections. He received 20.2% of the vote, placing a distant second in a five-candidate race to Claude Debellefeuille of the Quebec nationalist Bloc Quebecois, who received 50.1%.

Bellemare made little if any public mention of his WSPA affiliation during the 2008 election campaign.

Neither did Harper as Conservative leader complete and return the WSPA questionnaire about candidates and parties' positions on animal issues that was returned by Liberal leader Stephane Dion, Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe, New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton, and Green Party leader Elizabeth May, a former Sea Shepherd Conservation Society board member. All four mentioned interest in strengthening the Canadian federal anti-cruelty legislation.

Duceppe and May expressed support in principle for the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, a proposed global covenant promoted by WSPA and predecessor organizations for 85 years. Seeking adoption of the present version of the Universal Declaration by the European Union is a longtime focal goal of WSPA.

Bellemare did mention his association with WSPA in a previous campaign biography—and also mentioned donating to the pro-hunting organization Ducks Unlimited.

Articles published in the June and July/August 2008 editions of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** pointed out that Bellemare in 16 years as a WSPA board member has rarely if ever taken visible public positions on animal issues, has never individually and explicitly denounced the seal hunt and wearing fur, and

was elected to the WSPA board after working for the Canadian Ministry for External Affairs, which then and now led Canadian governmental efforts to prevent the European Union from banning imports of seal pelts and trapped fur.

The Ministry for External Affairs while Bellemare worked there was headed by former Canadian prime minister Joe Clark, a strong defender of sealing, trapping, and hunting throughout his political career. Bellemare campaigned in 1983 for Clark, against Brian Mulroney, who defeated Clark to become leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, ancestral to the Conservative Party of today. Later elected prime minister, Mulroney suspended the seal hunt in 1984. The hunt resumed in 1995, a year after Mulroney left office.

Clark as minister for external affairs presided over production of a 1985 internal document entitled *Defence of the Fur Trade*, which in one paragraph asked expressly whether WSPA "can be influenced or mobilized to foster our interests."

Bellemare and Clark have both told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that Bellemare did not work on animal issues while working for the Ministry of External Affairs, but have not explained what he did work on.

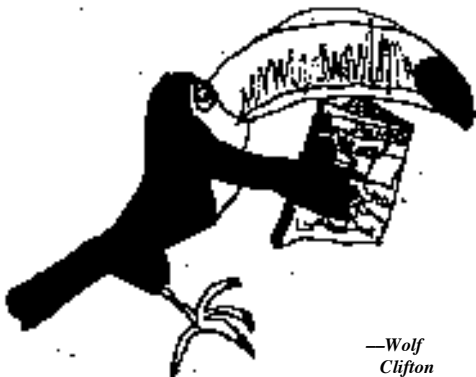
Eventually becoming national secretary of the Progressive-Conservative Party, Bellemare in 2003 helped to arrange the merger with the Reform Party that created the present Conservative Party.

The 2008 Canadian election campaign formally started on September 7, when Harper called the election in an unsuccessful attempt to win a Parliamentary majority.

The third Canadian national election in four years ended with the Conservatives holding 143 of the 308 seats in Parliament—more than previously, but not enough to avoid having to form a coalition government.

The Liberals, also traditionally strong defenders of the seal hunt, won 76 seats; the Bloc Quebecois won 50; the New Democratic Party won 37; independent candidates won two seats; and the Green Party won no seats, polling 6.8% of the vote nationwide.

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**Montreal SPCA sues SPCA International to reclaim web name** (from page 16)

to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 2007, Irwin had introduced him to Gordon. “Gordon is not representing SPCA International,” Barnoti told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, just five days after the date of a letter in which Gordon proposed to the president of a smaller charity that it should merge with SPCA International, “but has undertaken contractually the creation and maintenance of SPCA International’s website.”

Irwin may also have introduced Barnoti to Quadriga, another firm that HSUS worked with during Irwin’s tenure as HSUS president.

“On April 24, 2006, Barnoti sent the final version of an agreement between SPCA International and Quadriga to the defendants Scholzberg and Poulos for comment,” says the Montreal SPCA lawsuit. “This agreement states that Barnoti is the sole owner of <spca.com> and licenses it to Quadriga to handle and coordinate all the fundraising and marketing activities for SPCA International and the web site <spca.com>. This agreement provides that Quadriga will support the financial start-up costs of SPCA International and be reimbursed from the proceeds of the funds generated by the web site <spca.com>.” This was a month before SPCA International was formally incorporated, with Barnoti, Sholzberg and Poulos as the officers.

“To date,” the Montreal SPCA lawsuit says, “the Plaintiff does not know how much SPCA International has received in donations and/or in revenues or income through the <spca.com> domain name.”

The Montreal SPCA has asked for damages of more than \$1.9 million.

Responded Barnoti to the Montreal SPCA, via attorney Julius H. Grey of Montreal, after receiving the Montreal SPCA’s demand letter on July 22, 2008, “Our client has valid legal explanations to justify or explain any and all events or decisions you claim caused significant damages, which are strongly denied...Be advised that he will not forward any amounts to your office,” and may “pursue a slander and damage action against SPCA and its current board of directors.”

Barnoti took an indefinite sick leave from the Montreal SPCA in March 2008, and defendants Poulos and

Scholzberg left the board after then recently resigned former board member Neil Halsey and three other Canadian SPCA members on March 19, 2008 called a special board meeting to address issues including Barnoti’s failure to produce an annual report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year in a timely manner.

Acting president Nancy Breitman told CTV that the Canadian SPCA was \$4 million in debt, and was in danger of bankruptcy.

Among other issues of concern during Barnoti’s tenure, CTV reported, “Confidential documents...showed that for a time, the Montreal SPCA intentionally killed dogs to fill an order for the veterinary school in St. Hyacinthe. The practice has since been discontinued. SPCA veterinarian Lech Leskie-wicz was fired a day after telling CTV news about a discrepancy between the SPCA’s actual euthanasia rates at the Laval shelter and the numbers it provided to the city of Laval. The Laval shelter has since closed and Laval police opened an investigation.”

**“Baghdad pups”**

With the Montreal SPCA case pending, SPCA International scored a global media and web traffic hit in October 2008 after a dog named Ratchet was not cleared for transportation from Iraq to the U.S. with six others who were flown stateside by “Operation Baghdad Pups,” one of the few visible SPCA International programs.

“More than 45,000 people have signed an online petition urging the Army to let the puppy come to the U.S.,” Associated Press writer Frederic J. Frommer reported, providing a web link to SPCA International, but omitting any mention of the many other issues associated with the organization.

“Operation Baghdad Pups” through the end of October 2008 had reportedly brought to the U.S. 64 animals who had been adopted by U.S. military personnel stationed in Iraq. Earlier promoted as “Baghdad Buddies,” “Operation Baghdad Pups” emulates the work of Military Mascots, of Massachusetts, a much older and lower-profile organization.

Military Mascots founder Bonnie Buckley worried to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** after “Baghdad Buddies” made a splashy

debut in 2007 that lack of caution in moving the Iraq animals could jeopardize her work.

In June 2008 one of 26 animals whom “Baghdad Buddies” imported from Iraq to the U.S. was found to be rabid.

“Operation Baghdad Pups” is directed by Terri Crisp, identified as “SPCA International’s Animal Resource and Rescue Consultant.” Disaster relief coordinator for United Animal Nations 1991-2001, Crisp formed her own organization, Noah’s Wish, after controversies surfaced about her work during Hurricane Floyd and following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Reportedly receiving \$8.4 million in donations after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Noah’s Wish came under investigation by the California Attorney General over how the funds were allocated. Terminated by the Noah’s Wish board in March 2007, Crisp founded an organization called Animal Resources later in 2007, and began working with SPCA International soon afterward.

In April 2008, observed Brad Stone, “Stickam, the live video social network operated by Mr. Takahashi’s DTI, sent out a press release proclaiming a new partnership: the social network had been selected, the release said, as the exclusive provider of live web video for ‘Operation Baghdad Pups’... Richard Gordon and Wataru Takahashi were still looking for new ways to work together.” —Merritt Clifton

**Big U.S. election wins for farm animals, greyhounds & pro-animal candidates**  
(from page 1)

farm animals to be treated with wanton cruelty,” declared Humane Society of the U.S. president Wayne Pacelle.

“The factory farm corporations that spent \$9 million to oppose Proposition 2 would have us all believe that urban

city slickers just don’t know what it’s really like on the farm. They tried to romanticize agriculture and use farmers as spokespersons, even though these are the very corporations that have polluted rural communities and pushed family farms out of business,” added Markarian. “The vote demonstrates that urban and rural citizens alike saw through it all. We didn’t just win wide margins in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. We also won solid majorities in rural counties such as Kern, Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino.”

“As California goes, so goes the nation,” predicted Farm Sanctuary president Gene Baur. “Veal crates, gestation crates and battery cage confinement have been banned throughout Europe, but remain common across most of the U.S. With the passage of Proposition 2, California becomes the fifth state to outlaw gestation crates, joining Florida, Arizona, Oregon and Colorado, and is the third to outlaw veal crates, joining Arizona and Colorado. California becomes the first state to ban battery cages for laying hens. Other states will follow,” Baur said.

Agreed the agribusiness trade publication *Feed-stuffs*, “Passage represents a huge victory for Farm Sanctuary and the Humane Society of the United States... It is largely expected that Farm Sanctuary and HSUS will employ momentum from their victory to carry the measure to other states that have ballot initiatives, and to state assemblies in those states that do not.”

Question 3, requiring an end to greyhound racing in Massachusetts by 2010, drew 57% voter support. Grey2K USA founders Christine Dorchak and Carey Theil succeeded in passing the greyhound racing ban in their third try. Losing their first attempt in 2000 by just 1% of the vote, they appeared likely to win in 2006, until the Supreme Judicial Court of Massa-

(continued on page 18)

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# Rhino babies bring hope for future of Zimbabwean

But the two young rhinos, though born with horns and armor, peacefully share a pasture at the Imire Safari Ranch, under around-the-clock armed guard.

Tatenda, 2, a male, and Shanu, 4, a female, survived a November 2007 attack by poachers who shot and dehorned three adult rhinos, one as she was about to give birth, after disarming and tying their guards.

The four poachers, “also alleged to have been involved in a number of armed robberies and arrested with several illegal firearms,” according to a World Wildlife Fund report, were arrested and reportedly admitted to having killed 18 rhinos in five regions of central Zimbabwe. They “were initially denied bail and it was reported that the four had received lengthy jail sentences,” WWF said. But in September 2008 WWF was “informed by authorities that the poachers were subsequently granted bail, were freed, and immediately absconded.”

Added WWF, “Although a few poachers from Zambia have been arrested and convicted after cross-border raids into National Parks in northern Zimbabwe, not a single Zimbabwean poacher has been convicted during the current wave of rhino poaching.”

Elaborated Lowveld Conservancies conservation manager Raoul du Toit. “Since January 2000,” when Mugabe encouraged the so-called war veterans to begin seizing property owned by Zimbabweans of European descent, “approximately 70 rhinos have been killed in the Lowveld Conservancies. About 20 rhinos were shot in the Lowveld in the first half of 2008, which points to how this problem is escalating. Prior to 2000,” du Toit said, “for a period of seven years there was no rhino poaching whatsoever.”

Including rhinos poached elsewhere, said Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chair Johnny Rodrigues, “27 rhinos have been slaughtered countrywide this year so far, and these are only the ones we know of. We received a report last month of a pregnant rhino that was shot at Chipangali by a ZANU-

PF official with a high powered rifle. The poacher allegedly removed the horn and left the carcass behind.”

In the first months after the “war veterans” began invading conservancies, rhino deaths “primarily involved rhinos getting caught in wire snares that were set out to catch wildlife for meat consumption,” said WWF. “Now the poaching has reached commercial levels,” WWF warned, “with poachers not only killing rhinos in snares but also shooting them for their horns, without taking the meat.”

Trying to investigate the rhino horn traffic, London *Sunday Times* Harare correspondent Jon Swain in July 2008 posed “as a middleman seeking to buy a rhino horn for an Arab sheikh.

“I was able in just a day of telephone calls in Harare to have a specimen delivered to my room for inspection,” Swain wrote.

But that horn proved to be evidence of official corruption, rather than recent poaching. “The horn had come from the rhino horn store of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, which holds thousands of horns, none of which is allowed to be sold,” Swain established. “The seller had tried to erase the store’s identifying stamp to disguise its origins, but I could still faintly make it out on one side.”

In any event, assessed Swain, “Rhino poaching is only one part of the destruction of Zimbabwe’s wildlife. The country had one of the largest elephant populations in the world. That too is plummeting, as thousands are snared by poachers or shot illegally. Happyton Bonyongwe, Zimbabwe’s spy chief, is one high-ranking official allegedly involved in the illegal game-hunting business,” Swain asserted. “Well-informed sources said he received £1,000 from a professional hunter for every elephant shot on a concession bordering a national park. Hundreds were shot.”

“The average monthly salary for a National Parks employee is 5000 Zimbabwean dollars per month,” explained Rodrigues. “At today’s exchange rate, this is

equivalent to less than one U.S. cent. In a desperate attempt to supplement their salaries, the National Parks Authority has offered to give each employee 10 kilograms of game meat per month in addition to their paltry \$5,000. It is expected that about 30,000 kilograms of meat per month will be harvested for this purpose. The survival of our wildlife is seriously threatened by the very people who are supposed to be protecting it.

“Photographic safari operators in Hwange are extremely concerned about the situation,” Rodrigues added. “Professional hunters have been seen in Hwange and Victoria Falls National Parks for the past few months, and reports have been made of shots being heard by tourists, hunting vehicles continually sighted at Nyamandlovu Platform and Makwa Pan in Hwange, and carcasses being seen next to tourist roads and water holes.

“It is alleged that Headman Sibanda, a Zimbabwean professional hunter whose name has been linked to illegal and unethical hunting, has been issued a quota to shoot 100 elephants in Victoria Falls National Park,” Rodrigues continued. “It has been reported from Kariba that National Parks have decided to kill 50 elephants, in and around Kariba, as part of ‘the cull.’”

## Government acted

The release of the Imire rhino massacre suspects and renewed elephant killing came just as Rodrigues had dared to hope that positive change might be imminent—if only because one crisis was averted.

“Many years ago, Imire was designated by National Parks and the government as a black rhino breeding area,” recalled Rodrigues in July 2008. “For this reason, it is one of the few places in Zimbabwe that still has wildlife. John and Judy Travers have devoted the best part of their lives to caring for these animals.”

On June 29, 2008, however, barely

six months after the rhinos were killed, “a group of war veterans went to Imire,” Rodrigues wrote, “and demanded that John Travers shoot three impala for them to eat. When John refused, they stated that they would burn the place down. They were extremely aggressive and John eventually had no option but to shoot the impala. The invaders left with the impala, saying that Imire was at the top of their list and they were going to take it. The next morning, John reported the incident to the police who responded by initiating investigations.

“On July 3,” Rodrigues continued, “a group of about 16 war veterans arrived at Imire and told the Travers to vacate the property. They were threatened with their lives if they didn’t comply. It was alleged that an army general was leading the thugs.”

Rodrigues sought intervention from the National Parks department in Harare.

“National Parks mobilized quickly, together with the police, the army, and the Central Intelligence Organization,” Rodrigues reported. “John Travers received phone calls from minister of environment and natural resources Francis Nhema, the minister of defence Sidney Sekeramai, and the governor of Mashonaland East, assuring him that Imire will be protected.”

At Imire, meanwhile, Tatenda, Shanu, and two other young rhinos were alive through the collaboration of the Travers family, Rodrigues, and an global network of animal advocates, linked by e-mail, who have donated milk powder, mineral cubes, and other necessities, and found ways of getting them to Imire despite looters’ roadblocks.

John and Judy Travers in October 2008 brought Tatenda and Shanu together for the first time, hoping that when they mature they will mate.

“It was decided that it would be safer to introduce them with a fence separating them,” wrote Johnny Rodrigues. “Shanu approached, and Tatenda was very surprised. He had never seen another rhino. He went up

## RSPCA & Dogs Trust coax Kennel

the inbreeding of closely related animals,” explained RSPCA chief veterinary officer Mark Evans to Matthew Weaver of *The Guardian*.

“There is compelling scientific evidence,” Evans added, “that the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of pedigree dogs is seriously compromised.”

Agreed Dogs Trust chief executive Clarissa Baldwin, to *Times* of London reporter Will Pavia, “It would be a shame if we didn’t have a voice [at Crufts], but we would expect to see some really robust responses from the Kennel Club about what they are going to do. They have a certified breeder program,” Baldwin acknowledged, but added that it “is full of pitfalls, the main one being that it is self-certificating. We need proper inspections,” Baldwin emphasized.

“We are horrified by the culling of dogs,” Baldwin added. “That has to stop.”

Baldwin cited “The culling of Rhodesian ridgebacks who don’t have the ridge, and Dalmatians whose spots are in the wrong place.”

The BBC has held exclusive rights to broadcast from Crufts since 1965. But after the BBC aired “Pedigree Dogs Exposed,” the Kennel Club hinted that reconsidering the Crufts broadcast contract might be ahead.

“It is inevitable that this program has put strains on the relationship between the Kennel Club and the BBC,” said an internal memo obtained by Weaver of the *Guardian*. “Legal constraints prevent us at this stage from going into details of how that will move forward,” the memo continued.

But either ending the broadcast contract or pursuing a lawsuit appeared unlikely in October 2008, perhaps because the Kennel Club belatedly recognized the value of the BBC coverage in promoting Crufts and pure-bred dogs. Instead of severing the relationship, the Kennel Club announced the appointment of panels to review breed standards.

“New rules, covering 209 breeds,” substantially more than are recognized by the American Kennel Club, “are to be in place by the end of the year and will be used to judge dogs competing in next year’s Crufts,” wrote *Times* of London consumer editor Valerie Elliott. “Breed judges are to be trained to choose only the healthiest dogs as prizewin-

ners and champions at the show and its qualifying heats.”

In addition, Elliott reported, the Kennel Club has asked rural affairs secretary Hilary Benn “to rush new regulations through Parliament to give it powers to take action against breeders who fail to make canine health a top priority. These would also ban breeders who failed to comply with club health standards from selling puppies.”

“Our new breed health plans will enable us to ensure that the health of every dog is a number one priority, and we are taking a tougher line with breed clubs by adjusting those breed standards that fail to promote good health,” Kennel Club secretary Caroline Kisko told Elliott.

“What is particularly important is that the judges have clear instructions now that only the healthiest dogs can be rewarded,” said British Veterinary Association president Nicky Paul.

“My first change would be to tackle inbreeding and let people know the family history of dogs before they are bought as pets,” responded *Dogs Today* editor Beverly Cuddy.

Wrote Elliott, “The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said that it would meet with the Kennel Club soon to discuss breeding standards. Incestuous inbreeding of dogs is to be tackled.”

The new Kennel Club rules have encountered resistance from some breeders of dogs with extreme characteristics, including basset hounds, bloodhounds, bulldogs, Clumber spaniels, German shepherds, mastiffs, and St. Bernards.

“The BBC revealed that a flat-faced Pekinese, winner of Best in Show in 2003, had undergone a soft palate resection surgery to enable the dog to breathe,” Elliott wrote. “The new rules on Pekingese, which come into force immediately, have put the club on a collision course with the 104-year-old Pekinese Club.”

Claimed Pekinese Club chair Barry Offiler, “This will prevent us showing dogs abroad, and will stop overseas competitors from entering Crufts.”

Assessed Elliott, “It may take three to five years before the new generation of Pekinese will show the pronounced muzzles that were common in the 19th century.”



This is how chickens were raised before battery caging. (Robert Harrison)

## Big wins for farm animals, greyhounds & pro-animal candidates (from page 17)

chusetts rejected as overbroad a proposed ballot initiative that besides banning greyhound racing would also have increased the sentences for dogfighting and harming police dogs.

Proposition 105 in Arizona was promoted by animal use industries to thwart the passage of initiatives such as Proposition 2 and Question 3, after Arizona voters banned veal crates and sow gestation crates by almost a two-to-one margin in 2006, and kept greyhound tracks from expanding into slot machine gaming in 2002.

“If Proposition 105 had passed,” said Markarian, “any new ballot initiative would have needed a majority of all the registered voters in the state, whether they choose to show up at the polls or not, rather than a majority of the people who vote. No candidate has to meet that standard, and it’s a nearly impossible standard to meet. Counting people who don’t vote as automatic ‘no’ votes would have been a *de facto* ban on ballot initiatives.”

Proposition 105 lost, 66% to 34%.

Agribusiness and the greyhound industry have already indicated that they will now seek to overturn the passage of

Proposition 2 and Question 3 on constitutional grounds, but efforts to thwart the strongly expressed views of voters in court have historically seldom succeeded. Both Proposition 2 and Question 3 were endorsed by about 20% more voters than the winning presidential ticket, indicating favor by voters across most of the political spectrum.

The presidential race ended with humane organizations reminding Obama of his campaign pledge to adopt a shelter dog for his daughters.

Losing vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, who built her image around her enthusiasm for moose hunting, four days before the election accepted what she believed was an invitation to hunt baby seals with French president Nicholas Sarkozy. In truth the call from “Sarkozy” was a prank played on her by Quebecois radio comedians Sebastien Trudel and Marc-Antoine Audette.

As Alaska governor, Palin has pursued the most aggressive predator control policy that Alaska has had since winning statehood in 1959, to make more moose and caribou available to human hunters.



## Studies refute pretexts for deer hunting

**COLUMBUS, Ohio; WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Two of the most common pretexts for deer hunting in late October 2008 took a hit from data published by researchers who had no intention of discouraging hunting.

At least 31 states rationalize efforts to promote deer hunting by claiming an urgent need to kill more deer, to prevent deer/car collisions and protect biodiversity, supposedly harmed by too many deer devouring plants.

The Highway Loss Data Institute and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reported that the number of people killed in deer/car crashes rose from 101 in 1993 to 150 in 2000 and 227 in 2007.

But the road safety researchers also confirmed—as earlier studies found—that insurance claims for deer/car collisions are three times higher in November than in January through September, and are also high in October and December.

The fall spike in deer/car collisions is often blamed on the rut, the season when bucks most aggressively pursue does. The road safety researchers cited that explanation. But in parts of the U.S. with harsh winters, the rut can begin as early as August. In regions with mild winters, deer may not rut consistently at all.

November, is the month when the most states allow deer to be hunted with rifles. Special seasons for bowhunters, users of primitive firearms, and the handicapped usually begin before the rifle season and end later. During hunting season, deer under fire tend to run beyond their home ranges, seeking safety, and then try to return to their home ranges at night.

An Ohio State University and National Park Service team investigating biodiversity in deer habitat expected to find that plentiful deer suppressed the abundance of other animals.

Instead, they found that “high numbers of deer may in fact be attracting a greater number of species,” summarized *Ohio State Research News*. “This may be because their waste creates a more nutrient-rich soil and as a result, areas with deer draw higher numbers of insects and other invertebrates. These insects then attract larger predators which thrive on insect lava such as salamanders, and the salamanders in turn attract even larger predators such as snakes.

“The study, which comes at a time when many states have begun to selectively control deer populations, challenges previous research that has suggested deer populations can negatively impact forest ecosystems,” *Ohio State Research News* said.

The complete findings appeared in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*.

Katherine Greenwald, an Ohio State University doctoral candidate in evolution, ecology, and biology, compared biodiversity at 12 pairs of matched fenced and unfenced habitats within Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The 51-square-mile park has an estimated deer population of 2,300 to 4,600, whom the National Park Service has repeatedly sought to cull. A plan to kill 470 deer was stopped by litigation in 1997. Cleveland Metroparks and Summit County hired sharpshooters to kill 2,365 deer in local parks within the Cuyahoga Valley in 2004-2006.



Whitetail buck. (Kim Bartlett)

## Bovine TB, badgers, dogs, cats &

**LONDON**—Unable to persuade the public and environment secretary Hilary Benn to cull badgers to control bovine tuberculosis in cattle, the British Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs is touting findings that bovine TB is also now occurring in cats and dogs, who may pass the disease on to humans.

Bovine TB was confirmed in forty-two British cats in 2005-2007, up from 15 in the preceding seven years, according to DEFRA data released in October 2008.

“Given that these cases were only identified through post mortems or clinical intervention, the data suggests far greater levels of transmission than we have previously seen,” said National Farmers’ Union animal health and welfare advisor Catherine McLaughlin.

“Until one knows with some certainty how these cats got infected, it is scary but not meaningful,” responded Martin Hugh Jones, livestock moderator for the ProMed electronic bulletin board maintained by the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

“How many of these 42 cats were farm cats?” Jones asked. “How many were suburban cats normally only getting pasteurized milk? Did they get bovine TB from cheese? Rodents? How many were enthusiastic hunters?”

“The Badger Trust dismissed the claims as ‘scaremongering,’” reported Caroline Davies of *The Observer*. “DEFRA attributed the rise to increased reporting since TB in cats became a notifiable disease 18 months ago. The DEFRA figures, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the *M. bovis* strain was also found in 21 pigs and farmed wild boar, 25 llamas, five alpacas, three ferrets, two sheep, two goats and one dog.”

The dog case, *London Times* countryside editor Valerie Elliot noted in September 2008, “was made public only after DEFRA confirmed that it had started an investigation into how the disease had crossed species.”

Both the dog and the veterinary nurse

who kept the dog developed bovine TB, Elliott wrote. “The woman’s identity was not disclosed,” said Elliott, “but it is believed that she was involved in testing cattle for bovine TB.”

Bovine TB is increasingly frequent among British beef and dairy herds.

“Last year there were 4,137 outbreaks, a record in modern times,” Elliott recounted, “and 28,175 cattle were slaughtered as a result. Farmers claim that badgers spread TB by urinating on the fields grazed by cattle. Conservationists, though, believe that the disease is spread between cattle themselves, and exploded only after 2001, when farmers restocked their herds after the foot-and-mouth crisis.”

Four million hooved animals were slaughtered during the British effort to control foot-and-mouth, even as DEFRA refused to allow farmers to vaccinate against it.

Continental European nations that used vaccination killed just a fraction as many animals, even though the foot-and-mouth vaccination protocol requires killing the vaccinated animals too, after the disease is eradicated from the host population, to prevent false positive results in food safety testing.

Dutch and Belgian veal farmers in July 2008 began refusing to accept British calves, after learning that 12 calves shipped to the Netherlands from Britain had tested positive for bovine TB in March 2008. The Netherlands eliminated bovine TB circa 2000.

Having no other market for newborn male calves, “British farmers say they are having to shoot around 3,000 animals each week,” reported BBC News rural affairs correspondent Jeremy Cooke.

The Dutch and Belgian boycott and the British shootings developed after the British cabinet, on the advice of Hilary Benn, accepted the arguments of the Independent Scientific Group on TB in Cattle, which opposes culling badgers, and rejected the recommendation of former chief science advisor David King that badger culling should proceed.



## Puddles on the Floor

by Lorena Estep

illustrated by

Tamara Ci Thayne

Crescent Renewal Resource  
(P.O. Box 23, Tipton, PA  
16684), 2008.

22 pages, paperback. \$15.95.  
(Also sold as CD, \$9.95.)

*Puddles on the Floor* is an exquisitely illustrated story for children about a beagle who is isolated outdoors on a chain after he is not properly house-trained. Artist Tamara Ci Thayne, known until mid-2008 as Tammy Grimes, founded the anti-chaining organization Dogs Deserve Better in 2001. Author Lorena Estep is her mother.

The book, a CD edition of the story, and several accessory items are sold with the dual purpose of educating children about dog care and raising funds and volunteer help for Dogs Deserve Better.

The story behind the story—which deserves to become an illustrated book itself—is why Thayne in the early 21st century had to revive a cause that was initiated by some of the founders of the U.S. humane movement in the mid-19th century, made some significant progress, and was recommended for intensified concern by the American Humane Association in 1937.

“It is about time that something was done about the torment of the dog chained in a yard with no more than three or four feet of freedom,” wrote an anonymous correspondent to the *National Humane Review*, published by the AHA, in October 1937. “Steps should be taken to remove what is without question one of the blackest spots on civilization.”

With Japan already invading China, and World War II close to erupting in Europe, the statement

might have been dismissed as hyperbole. But the editors of the *National Humane Review* recognized the rising threat of war and what war would bring. Eagerly encouraging humane work abroad, the *National Humane Review* naively hoped that the growth of humane societies in China and the passage of laws billed as humane legislation in Germany and Italy hinted that war could be avoided. They held this hope even as Japanese invaders overran the humane premises in Shanghai and Hong Kong, the German laws were used chiefly to kill animals kept by Jews, and the Italian legislation consolidated the Italian humane movement under Fascist authority.

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the U.S. into the war in December 1941, the *National Humane Review* apologized for misreading the Nazis and Fascists, but reiterated optimism that teaching children to treat animals kindly might eventually prevent war—and continued to teach against chaining.

The editors of the *National Humane Review* were keenly aware that how humans treat the animals closest to them, especially dogs, tends to set the limits for what they allow to be done to humans. This was a frequent theme in the speeches and writings of Massachusetts SPCA founder George Angell, especially, and was among the ideas that guided the formation of the AHA in 1877, with the dual missions of preventing cruelty to animals and children.

“Most people will agree with our correspondent,” the *National Humane Review* responded to the 1937 letter-writer. “The matter [of dog chaining] is again referred to in the hope that it may receive attention of local humane societies. Warnings are usually effective, but an occasional prosecution, with publicity, keeps the subject before the public.”

Those who believe that dogs have always been chained and that chaining dogs has always been considered socially acceptable may be surprised to learn that chaining could be prosecuted in 1937, occa-

sionally was prosecuted in some states, and that egregious offenders were sometimes jailed.

The norms of animal keeping did not yet include keeping pet dogs and cats at home at all times. Neither were chickens commonly kept in battery cages, or pigs raised in close confinement, though these practices had been introduced in the early 1920s. Crating veal calves had not yet started.

In many ways American treatment of animals has deteriorated since 1937. Legislative initiatives against battery caging, veal calf crating, and keeping sows in gestation stalls, the movement toward no-kill dog and cat sheltering, and even efforts to reduce hunter control of wildlife policy are all basically efforts to restore the norms of 1937, when animals were not yet routinely treated like manufactured products.

Chaining dogs was among the more obvious symptoms of the trend away from respecting animal nature that eventually incited the animal rights movement to try to reverse the trend. By the mid-1950s most U.S. humane societies relied on animal control contracts for their economic support, and began to recommend chaining in lieu of allowing dogs to run loose.

No longer was prolonged chaining prosecuted, nor could it be prosecuted, after humane societies began endorsing it, until laws were passed defining it as beyond the norms of acceptable confinement.

Opponents of chaining, such as the late Virginia Gillas and the late Ann Cottrell Free sometimes slipped a few words into humane periodicals. National Institute for Animal Advocacy founder Julie Lewin in 1986 began a 17-year effort to pass the Connecticut anti-chaining law, adopted in 2003. Animal Advocates Society of British Columbia founder Judy Stone in the mid-1990s began winning anti-chaining ordinances.

But Gillas, Free, Lewin, and Stone worked mostly in isolation. Some major humane organizations opposed Lewin. Stone is still fighting the British Columbia SPCA

in court, nearly eight years after she denounced the BC/SPCA for allegedly ignoring cases of cruel chaining, and was sued for libel.

Less than a decade later many major animal advocacy groups denounce chaining on their web sites, distribute anti-chaining literature, and endorse anti-chaining bills.

Tamara Ci Thayne, a single mother of two in rural Pennsylvania who began with a budget of nothing and still works with very little, reawakened awareness of chaining with imaginative tactics, tireless effort, and optimism that this is a cause that can be won.

Through her Valentine’s Day door hanger campaigns, chaining herself to dog houses in public places each Fourth of July weekend, and her much publicized prosecution for rescuing a chained dog without a seizure warrant in 2006, Thayne has time and again reached beyond the animal advocacy community to ordinary people who care about dogs.

With dogs in about 40% of all American households, the highest rate of dog-keeping in the world, that’s a lot of people. Only about one dog-keeper in 12 keeps a dog chained as a primary means of con-

finement, leaving more than 90% as potential allies.

Thayne has also emphasized that chaining, far from protecting people from dangerous dogs, is frequently a factor in deadly dog attacks. Chained dogs are often more territorial, under-socialized, and easily stimulated by passers-by—and small children often are entangled in the chains of the dogs who kill or maim them.

Among the Dogs Deserve Better projects is Mothers Against Dog Chaining, mobilizing the mothers of children who have been killed or injured by chained dogs.

*Puddles on the Floor* probably will not advance the anti-chaining cause much: the buyers will mostly be among the persuaded, and—we hope—chaining dogs may be history by the time the readers grow up to keep dogs of their own.

Thayne’s own story could inspire generations of young people to get involved and make things happen, especially when the chief obstacle is institutional indifference.

—Merritt Clifton

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**The Daily Coyote** *by Shreve Stockton*  
Simon & Schuster, 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020), 2008. 279 pages, paperback. \$23.00.



**The Parrot Who Thought She Was A Dog** *by Nancy Ellis-Bell*  
Harmony Books (c/o Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2008. 245 pages, hardcover. \$23.00.



**Of Parrots & People** *by Mira Tweti*  
Penguin Group USA (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 2008. 300 pages, paperback. \$25.95.

Behind *The Daily Coyote*, *The Parrot Who Thought She Was A Dog*, and an entire genre of similar books which since 1960 have reshaped public opinion about wildlife stands the ghost of George Adamson—and the influence of Pat O'Neill, a Kenyan who later inherited the Broadlands equine stud farm near Cape Town, South Africa, and converted it into the Kalu Animal Trust.

In 1954, in her early twenties, O'Neill raised and returned to the wild an orphaned lion cub named Tana. George Adamson, then a game warden in the Northern Frontier District of Kenya, was among the initially skeptical observers.

Another keen observer was George Adamson's Austrian-born wife Joy. Already in her third marriage, Joy Adamson was known even then for the ferocious temper that led to her murder in 1980. Her killer, a juvenile employee, testified that he was afraid she would kill him for driving her car without permission, and alleged that she had shot at other employees.

George Adamson was not afraid of her, nor was he afraid of much. He died in 1989, in successful defense of a female colleague, racing his Land Rover at a gang of poachers who had him far outnumbered and outgunned.

One day in 1956 George Adamson shot a lioness at close range as she charged him and another man. He then discovered the lioness' three cubs. He took the cubs home to Joy. Acquaintances suggested that was the bravest thing he ever did.

Instead of shooting George, Joy emulated O'Neill, raised all three cubs successfully, and wrote the 1960 international best-seller *Born Free* about returning one of them, Elsa, to the wild.

Many dozens and perhaps hundreds of books have followed the *Born Free* template, including Joy Adamson's own sequels.

In *The Wilderness Family* (2001), Kruger National Park ranger's wife Kobie Kruger recounted her attempt to reprise the O'Neill and Adamson lion cub rescues. She discovered that modern Africa no longer includes safe places to release rehabilitated lions—but it barely did 50 years earlier.

Lions are little tolerated in Africa these days, outside of securely fenced and guarded national parks and game farms.

Lions' iconic status might be compared to that of the North American timber wolf, appreciated at a safe distance as a tourist attraction, but hated by ranchers in gross disproportion to their actual role in dispatching sick, injured, and ill-attended livestock.

Coyotes, who scavenge far more than they kill, are even more intensely detested than wolves in much of the rural U.S.—especially in Wyoming. Notorious for antipathy toward the 1995 Yellowstone wolf

reintroduction, Wyoming also has probably the most aggressive coyote-killing program anywhere.

Shreve Stockton in *The Daily Coyote* begins her version of the Elsa story by moving to rural Wyoming and becoming romantically involved with a government coyote killer.

Years earlier, as single father of two girls, ages 10 and 12, Mike the coyote killer allowed the girls to explore the rugged countryside on four-wheelers while he built a house. The elder girl flipped her four-wheeler and killed herself, leaving Mike to cope with grief and guilt between rounds of trapping coyotes, gassing them in their dens, and strafing them from aircraft.

Though Mike professes to dislike the job, he tells Stockton that if he did not kill "problem" coyotes, ranchers and sport hunters would kill even more of them. And then he brings Stockton an orphaned coyote pup.

Through taking photos of the pup and e-mailing them to friends, Stockton discovers she can supplement her slim income by selling subscriptions to an online publication called *The Daily Coyote*. As it becomes an Internet hit, she lands the book contract that produces the book of the same title.

When the pup becomes unruly at about age one, while Stockton is writing the book, she castrates him by "banding." This consists of using a tight plastic band to constrict the blood flow to the testicles until they die on the animal's body and drop off. Though often used on livestock, banding has never been considered humane practice, and has never been recommended for use with canines.

Throughout *The Daily Coyote* Stockton repeats the usual clichés of city folks who move to the countryside about how she is learning oh, so very much that city people don't know about living outdoors with nature and the elements.

Yet, as a rural dweller for most of my life, often with coyotes as closer neighbors than humans, and having done most of the same routine farm chores for far longer, my impression is that Stockton is a much better writer than observer.

For example, Stockton details and documents that her rural Wyoming neighbors are often ignorant, indifferent, and gratuitously violent toward animals, nature, and each other, but opts to assimilate by mostly overlooking the mayhem, rather than exacerbate cultural conflict. Except in a short-lived stint as a substitute school teacher, soon after her arrival, she "goes native."

Stockton castrates her coyote only after determining that he has become so habituated to humans as to preclude returning him to the wild. This was probably inevitable. But even after castrating him, she has behavioral issues with him, only partially resolved by her embrace of advice from "The Dog Whisperer,"

Cesar Millan. Her cat Eli, however, keeps the coyote in line.

While Stockton gradually learns that sexual issues are far from the only causes of dangerous behavior by canines, she and the alleged coyote expert Mike appear to overlook or ignore Eli's "secrets"—which are really no secrets at all.

First, Eli is never afraid of the coyote. Second, both the coyote and Eli are hardwired by evolution to recognize that a cat, as a pure predator, is boss. A coyote, as a scavenger, avoids conflict with a cat. Coyotes in suburban habitats routinely kill cats from ambush, but run from frontal confrontations with cats, as do most dogs—even those who chase any cat who runs.

To the coyote pup, Eli might as well be a puma, though a puma who will sometimes play with him.

This is not a relationship that Stockton or any human can fully replicate, but Millan's understanding of how humans can maintain dominance over dogs without resorting to abusive treatment could have been derived from watching how cats do it.

*The Parrot Who Thought She Was A Dog* is a suburban variant of the *Born Free* story, featuring a rescued bird rather than a mammal. Author Nancy Ellis-Bell, knowing she cannot return an exotic parrot to the wild in North America, far from any semblance of the parrot's wild habitat, instead allows the parrot to fly freely outdoors by day, hoping she will return home at night.

Such arrangements are not uncommon, but the birds seldom live long. Even parrots large enough to fend off cats and crows tend to become easy pickings for birds of prey. Ellis-Bell's parrot fares no better than most.

Joy Adamson, Stockton, Ellis-Bell, and others writing in this genre walk a dangerous line between educating readers about wild animals and inspiring others to acquire them as exotic pets—especially in the alluring and seemingly all-excusing name of rescue.

The first demonstration of the potential perils of success in the *Born Free* genre came when keeping big cats as pets exploded in popularity after *Born Free* became a 1966 film hit, declining only after the passage of federal legislation in 2003 that discouraged transporting exotic cats across state lines.

Gaird Wallig in *A Red-Tailed Hawk Named Bucket* (1980) may have walked the line most successfully. A one-time big cat keeper who was inspired by *Born Free*, she applied the lessons learned from past mistakes in successfully rehabilitating and releasing the injured hawk, not far from Ellis-Bell's home in the San Francisco Bay area.

Stockton and Ellis-Bell warn that coyotes and large parrots are not ideal pets for everyone—but both seem to enjoy the animals so much that their warnings may be ignored.

Mira Tweti in *Of Parrots & People* opens with a preface about her deceased rain-bow lorikeet Mango that might have become the beginning of another *Born Free* genre story, but Mango died young, at home.

After just three pages about him, Tweti races on into a twelve-part exploration of parrot abandonment, feral parrots, parrot breeding, parrot poaching and smuggling, and efforts to protect parrots in the wild, developed from her work as an investigative reporter and documentary film maker.

Subtitled "The Sometimes Funny, Always Fascinating, and Often Catastrophic Collision of Two Intelligent Species," *Of Parrots & People* is largely a plea against keeping captive parrots. Several chapters expose how legislation intended to protect parrots has backfired in key respects.

For example, the 1973 law that prohibited importing wild-caught birds for the pet trade encouraged the rise of "birdy-milling," as exploitative as "puppy-milling," with even less regulatory supervision. Chapter six opens by reciting the failures of regulation to rectify conditions at Martha Scudder's Parrot Depot in Roy, Washington.

Complaints about this facility and the condition of birds raised there have reached **ANIMAL PEOPLE** for more than a decade. The Humane Society of Tacoma & Pierce County has repeatedly pursued litigation and sought improvements to both local ordinances and state laws to deal with Scudder's facility, and others like it, to no avail. Parrots raised for the pet trade still have no more protection than poultry raised for the pot—which means effectively none.

Later Tweti points out that the usual fate of parrots seized from smugglers coming across the Mexican border is to be quarantined indefinitely in Plexiglas cages, then be auctioned to buyers who include some of the same dealers who buy from smugglers.

In her concluding chapters Tweti explores the Mexican side of the parrot traffic.

"An estimated 65,000 -78,500 wild parrots and macaws are captured illegally each year," Defenders of Wildlife and the Mexican organization Teyeliz A.C. estimated in 2007, "More than 75% of the birds die before ever reaching a purchaser."

The Mexican parrot traffic is reputedly controlled by drug gangs whose conflicts in the past two years have killed more than 6,000 people. Amid the mayhem, police—as Tweti laments—tend to be on the take from drug lords or preoccupied with staying alive.

But Mexican president Felipe Calderon Hinojosa on October 14, 2008 endorsed into a law a bill to ban the export and capture of all 22 species of Mexican wild parrots. The bill cleared the Mexican Senate in April 2008, 66-0 with one abstention.

—Merritt Clifton

## Indian states act—finally—on behalf of captive elephants

**MYSORE, THRISSUR**— Acting on complaints filed by the Bangalore-based Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre and by Compassion Unlimited Plus Action, also of Bangalore, Mysore Division deputy conservator of forests Shashwati Mishra on October 28, 2008 seized three elephants from a Great Bombay Circus encampment in Mysore, due to alleged neglect of foot ailments.

"Forestry department officials said they had decided to shift the elephants on the basis of a report submitted by veterinarians of the Mysore zoo, who had inquired into the matter," *The Hindu* said. The elephants were transported to Bannerghatta National Park for treatment.

The elephants were taken into custody 12 days after Kerala principal chief conservator of forests T.M. Manoharan seized a three-year-old elephant named Kannan from the Mavelikara Evoor Sri Krishna temple in Mavelikkara.

"The plight of Kannan came to light last week when two youngsters captured on their mobile phone cameras scenes of mahouts brutally torturing the elephant," reported *The Hindu*. "The visuals were passed on to TV channels and forests minister Binoy Viswom issued instructions for an enquiry."

Elephant Lovers' Association secretary V.K. Venkitachalam told *The Hindu* that this was the first time the Kerala government had seized a temple elephant. The Kerala Forest & Wildlife Department in May 2008 announced that it would begin strictly enforcing regulations governing the use of elephants in parades and public ceremonies, after a series of incidents in which temple elephants ran amok, injuring

bystanders. However, the department failed to intervene on behalf of a six-year-old elephant who died at the Thiruvambadi temple on June 17, 2008. The Elephant Lovers Association alleged that this elephant was tortured by mahouts in the name of training much as Kannan was.

The elephant seizures followed a September 2008 report by another Bangalore charity, the Asian Nature & Conservation Foundation, that more than 15% of the captive elephants in India are suffering from mostly untreated tuberculosis. Veterinarian Jacob Cheeran examined phlegm samples swabbed from the trunks of 387 captive elephants in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, finding that 59 samples tested positive.

"In these states, there are approximately 1,000 captive elephants in all," Cheeran told the *Times of India*. "The largest percentage of TB-affected elephants were in temples," Cheeran continued. "Of the 63 temple elephants we studied, 16 were suffering from TB. Of the 160 privately owned elephants, 24 had TB. Of the 164 owned by the forest departments of the various states, 19 had TB."

Arnon Shimshony, zoonotic diseases moderator for International Society for Infectious Diseases' ProMED online bulletin board, pointed out that elephants may harbor and transmit either bovine TB or the human form of the disease. A previous researcher, Susan Mikota, reported to ProMED in July 2007 that while captive elephants in the U.S. typically contract the human form, those in Asia appear to be most often infected by sharing pastures with diseased cattle.



Aware of the frequent abuse of temple elephants, the late **Bonny Shah** found irony in the effort of a Las Vegas casino to dress up its elephant habitat as a mock temple.



# Elephants & Ethics: Toward a Morality of Coexistence

Edited by  
Christen Wemmer &  
Catherine A. Christen

Johns Hopkins University Press (2715 N.  
Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218),  
2008. 483 pages, hardcover, \$75.00.

“We have been defining our relationships with the elephants for as long as we have been people,” opens John Seidensticker in his preface to *Elephants & Ethics: Toward a Morality of Coexistence*. “When discussing the ethics of human/elephant relationships,” he adds, “we should keep in mind a historical reality: In any confrontation, elephants almost always lose.”

Seidensticker in the next several paragraphs traces the 3,000-year retreat of wild elephants from Beijing to the Myanmar border. As rice cultivation enabled the rise of civilization in China, the conversion of former low-land forests to paddies steadily reduced elephant habitat.

Elephants within the human epoch have thrived only at the edges of the human range, but humans now dominate every habitat where wild elephants live.

About a third of all Asian elephants now live in captivity, causing Seidensticker to suggest that the Asian elephant species may be “sliding into domesticity like camels,” if not to extinction, because “we are nearing the end game for elephants living and working in zoos and circuses...in the hospice stage,” characterized by the recent movement of elephants into sanctuaries, where all efforts to breed them are abandoned, while former elephant exhibition venues are closed and dismantled.

African elephants are believed to be more difficult to keep in captivity than their Asian kin, and are therefore fewer, with so very few captive males that some experts question whether African elephants could be maintained at all from zoo and circus stock.

Though African elephants remain abundant in protected habitat in parts of their native range, most African wildlife agencies are struggling to keep diminished national elephant herds, even as many of the citizens of their nations work just as hard to keep the few remaining wild elephants from consuming crops, destroying homes, and trampling any humans who get in the way.

Even an elephant who is just happily being an elephant can be as menacing as an enraged hippopotamus or a hungry tiger, lion, crocodile, or polar bear. The threat is compounded by the herd behavior of elephants, and the testosterone-fueled rages of bull elephants in musth. Few species are more difficult to live with; yet the intelligence of elephants has for millennia inspired many humans to try to find ways to accommodate elephants, instead of just killing them off.

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—Wolf Clifton

Putting elephants to work may have been initially just a pragmatic alternative to killing them, but even the earliest Indian and Chinese texts on elephant keeping mingled practical and ethical advice.

Though elephants are abused in capture and habituation to human command, they are more easily and safely coaxed than goaded. A well-treated elephant will often work as a partner with a mahout who is attentive to the elephant's needs, and will grieve if the mahout dies or leaves the elephant.

The practice of elephant keeping has accordingly evolved as a sort of bad cop / good cop juxtaposition, in which a young elephant is initially subjected to deliberate mistreatment, including beatings and deprivation of food, but is supposed to be well-treated ever afterward, unless willfully disobedient.

Perhaps the most essential part of the training process is teaching the elephant that life with humans requires living within a framework of rules, which includes some rules that are beneficial to the elephant.

Humans probably first contemplated ethical behavior toward animals in evolving our relationship with dogs, but working with elephants required working with animals of extraordinary memory, as well as physical strength. While dogs may be infinitely forgiving, elephants can hold a grudge throughout a lifespan as long as human lives.

Controlling elephants is in large part a matter of convincing them that they are fairly treated by their handlers, even when punished. Though physically dominating an elephant is possible through use of restraints, and is where much abuse occurs, it is not practical to simultaneously restrain the elephant and get the elephant to work.

The 22 essays comprising *Elephants & Ethics: Toward a Morality of Coexistence* evolved out of papers presented at a 2003 symposium hosted by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums entitled “Never Forgetting: Elephants and Ethics.”

Several contributors, including Lori Alward, Jane Garrison, and David Hancocks, opposed keeping elephants in captive situations, at least as they have so far existed.

Other contributors, especially those who discuss elephants in the wild, are acutely aware that “the wild” now consists of increasingly limited habitats, surrounded by human development. There are only a handful of places, worldwide, to extend and enlarge “wild” elephant range. Because elephant range is finite, limiting the elephant population to what the range can sustain is essential.

The issue is not whether the wild elephant population will be controlled, but how. Methods include culling for ivory and hides, trophy hunting, poaching, outraged neighbors of elephant habitat shooting and poisoning rogue elephants, and applications of birth control techniques which show promise in some situations but are yet to be perfected and broadly accepted.

Along the way, some questions need to be answered that none of the *Elephants & Ethics* contributors even seem to have asked.

For example, elephant depredation tends to be as destructive as it is because elephants are not only very large animals, but also tend to live in either matriarchal herds of a

dozen or more, sometimes guarded by dominant bulls, or in smaller but thoroughly unruly bachelor herds, rarely including mature males.

Has such gender imbalance and distribution always been the norm among elephants, or is it the result of centuries of ivory hunting, poaching, and culling?

If gender balance was established, would fecundity slow?

Would female elephants remain in large matriarchal herds, with dominant bulls thwarting the mating ambitions of younger bulls, or would elephant family life shift into paired relationships or small herds, as among deer and some elephants in remote places where there is more gender balance?

Would young male elephants be less rowdy if they had female companionship?

To what extent are “elephant problems” actually relationship problems created by human exploitation?

Could species-appropriate “social work” ease conflicts where fences, rifles, ropes, and the ankus have failed?

If elephants can survive only in quasi-captivity, in limited numbers, in African and Asian national parks, can they be educated and acculturated to accept the equivalent, for their species, of urban living?

Asian elephants, after all, have learned to live in human urban situations for many centuries. Though their adaptation is imperfect, and they often get into trouble in cities, the remarkable aspect may be that they manage to live at all in crowded streets amid unfamiliar humans and speeding cars.

If they can do that, can they learn to teach themselves what they need to know to live in relative freedom? —Merritt Clifton

# OBITUARIES

**Roger Troen**, 77, died on April 23, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. “Even among fervent animal-rights activists, Roger Troen stood out. He’d be the one costumed as a demented butcher with fake blood and cleaver, performing guerrilla theater during an anti-fur protest, or as Colonel Sanders outside KFC protesting factory farming, or chalking the ground outside the Oregon Health Science University primate center,” recalled Amy Martinez Starke of the *Portland Oregonian*. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Mormon convert, and elementary school teacher 1959-1969, Troen left teaching and the Mormon church to become active in gay rights advocacy circa 1970. He took up animal advocacy soon afterward, helping to lead the campaign that in 1977 made Portland the third city in the U.S. to quit killing shelter animals by decompression. Only Berkeley (1972) and San Francisco (1976) quit sooner. The cause gathered momentum, and by the end of 1985 decompression was abandoned throughout the nation. After making unsuccessful runs for political office in 1982 and 1984, Troen in 1986 became involved as a convicted accessory-after-the-fact in a break-in at the University of Oregon psychology laboratory in Eugene that was among the first high-profile actions attributed to the “Animal Liberation Front.” Between 125 and 300 monkeys, rabbits, hamsters, cats, and rats were taken from the lab by burglars who did \$58,000 in damage to the facilities, according to conflicting accounts of it. Troen claimed that his only part in it was trying to transport

some of the animals to places where they would be safe. The prosecution contended he was the getaway driver. Troen was arrested after taking several rabbits for veterinary treatment. The veterinarian traced their tattoos and called the police. Convicted in 1988, Troen served three months under house arrest, performed community service, and paid a fine of \$35,000. Several others were charged in connection with the raid in 1990, but the charges were dropped a year later to protect the identity of a federal informant. Troen went on to form an organization called Rat Allies, with about 150 members, was among the 60 people who attended the first No Kill Conference in 1995, was active in several groups that encouraged faith-based concern for animals, and was an avid of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** who often sent activist news from the Portland area.

**Ratilal “Rati” or “Ray” Shah**, 72, died of heart failure on October 20, 2008 in Dallas, several days before his anticipated departure to inspect humane projects he sponsored in India and to spend the Dussera and Diwali holidays in Mumbai. Born in Anjar, Kutch region, Gujarat state, Shah came to the U.S. in 1966, earning a masters degree in electronic engineering from Stevens Technical University in New Jersey. Among the first Jains to seek an education in the U.S., at a time when practicing the strictly vegetarian Jain lifestyle in the U.S. was extremely difficult, he encouraged many others to follow. He met and married the former Bonny

Karstadt in 1968, while she was a student at Rutgers University. Bonny Shah died of leukemia in July 2004. Unable to find work as a teacher after Rati took a job in Dallas, Bonny started a business called Maharani, importing hand-crafted dog collars and other gift items from India, “but instead of selling the collars, she used them to bring rescued dogs home,” Rati Shah told **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in 2001. He joined Maharani in 1975, three years after the birth of their son Noah. Finding a niche supplying animal-theme items to zoo gift shops and other stores, the Shahs put much of their profit into building a school in India that was among the first to teach computer skills as part of the curriculum, a human birth control clinic that performs 200 sterilizations per year, and a general-purpose clinic serving 30 villages that treats 18,000 patients per year without charge. At the Shahs’ home in Bartonville, Texas they established a personal sanctuary for rescued animals, including donkeys, pigs, and other farmed species, founded Ahimsa of Texas to support dog and cat sterilization, and in India founded the Dharma Donkey Sanctuary. “With the help of the Blue Cross of Hyderabad and the Brooke Hospital for Animals,” Rati Shah said in 2004, “we treat 2,500 donkeys there at donkey camps held every six months.” All of these projects are expected to continue, under direction of Noah Shah and Rati’s brother and sister-in-law, Ramesh and Usha Shah. Bonny and Rati Shah also sponsored humane education and feral cat rescue work by Kat Chaplin, the



**Bonny & Rati Shah in the Galapagos.** Dallas-based “Neuterness of the Night.” Chaplin introduced the Shahs to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** in January 1998. During the next six years Bonny Shah contributed profiles of the Bishnoi people of the Rajasthan desert, whose Jain-like faith emphasizes kindness toward animals; the Donkey Sanctuary, in England; and the Wildlife SOS and Friendicoes sanctuaries in India. She also contributed photos, including a portfolio from the Galapagos Islands, and helped with investigations in India, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Rati Shah was a frequent donor in her memory.

**Dierdre Maher**, 65, died at her home in Deerfield Beach, Florida, the Gulf Daily News of Bahrain reported on October 16, 2008. A nurse and health educator at Bahrain School since 1977, Maher was a longtime volunteer for the Bahrain SPCA, founded by Khalil and Betty Rajab in 1979. (More obituaries are on page 22.)



OBITUARIES

**Norma McMillen**, president of People for Animal Rights in Kansas City from 1988 to 1998, died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis on October 4, 2008 at her home in Gilbert, Arizona. An accomplished equestrian who became active in animal advocacy circa 1983, McMillen initially agreed to lead PAR for six months on an interim basis. “She held annual vigils for homeless animals, led fur protests, shut down puppy mills, rescued animals, and lobbied for local and state legislation,” remembered *Kansas City Star* staff writer Kim Kozlowski when McMillen “retired” to Florida, before relocating to Arizona, where she remained active in animal causes to the end of her life. “She provided a strong local voice to national groups on issues such as cosmetic and medical testing, carriage horses, downed cows, use of bovine growth hormone, hunting, pet theft, circuses, and dog and cock fighting,” recalled Susan Richards of Kansas City. Perhaps her most memorable campaign targeted the substandard dolphin exhibit at the Oceans of Fun amusement park, owned by oil and silver tycoon Lamar Hunt, who also owned the Kansas City Chiefs football team. Oceans of Fun closed the dolphin exhibit at the end of 1996.

**Robert Emery**, 54, was killed on the night of September 27, 2008 when he was struck by a motorcycle while trying to rescue three dogs who were trapped against the concrete median barrier on the East Freeway in Houston. A resident of Big Pine Key, Florida, Emery was in Houston with a crew hired to clear debris left by Hurricane Ike. A search for next of kin by Kellee Nagata of Clear Lake and Cheryl Lang of No Paws Left Behind in Houston found Alaina Emery, 25, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who had not seen her father in 20 years, but had been trying to locate him. “Contributions collected by Lang’s organization to memorialize Emery will go toward a \$2,000 annual scholarship at the Veterinary Paramedic program at Houston Community College Northwest in Katy,” reported the *Houston Chronicle*.

**Candace Chapas**, 55, was killed along with her dog on the night of October 10, 2008 when she escaped from her burning rented home in Sarasota, Florida, but returned inside to get the dog. Her husband Walter Chapas suffered minor injuries. The fire was believed to have been started by candles that they were using for light after their electricity was cut off.

ANIMAL OBITUARIES

**Scarlett**, a calico cat believed to be about 15, was euthanized on October 11, 2008 due to incurably painful conditions of age. Initially a Brooklyn alley cat, Scarlett lived with her kittens in a Brooklyn warehouse until March 29, 1996 when the warehouse caught fire. Firefighter David Giannelli of Ladder Company 175, involved in several other animal rescues of note during his long career, saw Scarlett dash five times into the blaze despite increasingly severe burns to rescue each of her four-week-old kittens. Giannelli took Scarlett and her kittens to the North Shore Animal League in Port Washington. There Scarlett was named in honor of Rhett Butler’s line to Scarlett O’Hara in the film *Gone With The Wind*: “A cat’s a better mother than you are.” One kitten died from a virus about a month after the fire, but Scarlett and the others were adopted out after three months of treatment and socialization. Karen Wellen of Brooklyn kept Scarlett for the rest of Scarlett’s life. In her prime Scarlett was a regal 19 pounds, with only severely scarred ears hinting at her traumatic past.

**Meghana**, 18, a tiger kept at the Bannerghatta Biological Park near Bangalore, India, was killed on October 12, 2008 in an apparently unprovoked attack by her son Brandis, 10, as they were being walked.

**Dennis**, a manatee who swam to Cape Cod but burned most of his body fat *en route*, was captured on October 11, 2008 and trucked to the Sea World rescue center in Orlando, Florida, but died soon after arrival.

**Dottie**, 26, an African elephant kept at Zoo Atlanta, died on October 27, 2008 after a two-week illness contracted in the third trimester of her third pregnancy.

**There is no better way to remember animals or animal people than with an ANIMAL PEOPLE memorial. Send donations (any amount), with address for acknowledgement, if desired, to**  
**P.O. Box 960**  
**Clinton, WA 98236-0960**

**Mumba**, 48, the second oldest male lowland gorilla in captivity, died on October 21, 2008 at the Granby Zoo in Quebec. Born in Cameroon, Mumba came to Quebec at about 15 months old in 1961. His family were believed to have been killed by poachers. Raised at first in a Granby home, he was transferred to the zoo 15 months later. The zoo repeatedly introduced Mumba to intended mates, but he never tried to mate with any of them. One of them, Zira, came from Cameroon in 1983 as a baby, in a deal that International Primate Protection League founder Shirley McGreal argued was in violation of the intent of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, even though the zoo had a CITES permit. Zira meanwhile contracted avian influenza from the exotic birds with whom she was housed. McGreal asked Quebec newspaper columnist Bernard Epps to expose her plight. Epps, who died in July 2007, passed the assignment to then-*Sherbrooke Record* farm and business reporter Merritt Clifton, now editor of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, and wrote supporting commentary while Clifton produced a series of exposés that culminated in a complete change of the zoo management and the transfer of Zira to the Toronto Zoo, where she was restored to health and raised with other young gorillas.

**Baina**, 3, a baby gorilla born at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, died on October 10, 2008 when struck without warning by her father, Samson, 13. She fell more than seven feet and hit her head. A similar death occurred at the zoo in 1970 when a female gorilla dropped her baby from the top of the cage.

**Kipenzi**, 8, an eastern black rhino from the Kansas City Zoo, on October 6, 2008 died at the Phoenix Zoo, where she was taken for emergency treatment after falling ill *en route* to the Oregon Zoo in Portland.

**Rufus**, 36, a white rhino who had resided at the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk since 1974, was fatally gored on October 26, 2008 by **Alfred**, 40, a white rhino who arrived in 1996. The two rhinos were normally kept apart, but a door between their quarters was reportedly left unsecured.



—Wolf Clifton

**Amy Garrett**, 47, a National Park Service Ranger who won the 2003 Freeman Tilden Award for innovation in conservation education, was killed on October 6th, 2008 near Fort Smith, Arkansas, when her vehicle hydroplaned into a guard rail and rebounded in front of a truck. Garrett had worked at Death Valley, Yellowstone, Homestead National Monument of America, and Central High National Historic site. She had recently transferred to Fort Smith. The Freeman Tilden Award is presented by the National Park Service and National Parks Conservation Society in memory of Freeman Tilden, 1883-1980, who reported about the National Park system for various media from circa 1918 to the end of his life.

**Les Schobert**, 61, died of lung cancer on October 14, 2008 at his home in La Quinta, California. The son of a zoo veterinarian, Schobert started his zoo career at Busch Gardens in Florida. Appointed curator of mammals in 1971 at the former Busch Gardens park in Houston, he introduced less violent elephant training methods. After the park closed, Schobert in 1978 became general curator of mammals at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheville. There Schobert in 1980 built a three-acre exhibit for the five resident elephants that was then the largest elephant enclosure in the U.S. He also rebuilt the chimpanzee facilities to encourage more natural behavior, and accepted a chimp named Ham from the National Zoo in Washington D.C. Ham in 1961 was the first hominid launched into space, four months before Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the earth. Kept alone for 17 years at the National Zoo, Ham was integrated into the North Carolina Zoo chimp colony. He died in 1983. Schobert was the Los Angeles Zoo animal collection curator from 1992 to 1996. “He made drastic changes in the elephant barn and took the elephants off their nightly chains,”

recalled In Defense of Animals. Schobert also tried to close the Los Angeles Zoo penguin exhibit, where 44 penguins had died in 10 years. “Les was active in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, where he sat on the ethics board, was vice chair of the Wildlife Conservation Management Committee, and headed the Chimpanzee and Great Ape Taxon Advisory Group,” IDA added. In the last five years of his life, as an IDA consultant, Schobert helped to lead campaigns on behalf of captive elephants throughout the U.S., including the effort that in 2007 led to the Los Angeles Zoo retiring an elephant named Ruby to the Performing Animal Welfare Society sanctuary in northern California. Most recently Schobert helped to stop a Dallas Zoo plan to transfer a 32-year-old African elephant named Jenny from a solitary quarter-acre habitat to the drive-through Africam Safari Park near Puebla, Mexico. Africam is AZA-accredited, but in Mexico the elephant would have been beyond reach of the U.S. Animal Welfare Act.

**Samantha J. Schleh**, 19, of Palm Coast, Florida, was killed on October 23, 2008 by a car driven by Charles T. Crowe, 50. Her friend Michael H. Griffin, 23, suffered minor injuries. Schleh and Griffin were trying to rescue Griffin’s dog from State Road A1A, after another car hit the dog. Visibility was poor; Crowe was not charged.

**Peter Getz**, 32, a handler at Safari’s Interactive Animal Sanctuary near Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, was on October 29, 2008 killed by a lion/tiger hybrid named Rocky after entering the liger’s cage at feeding time. Safari’s has been criticized for a web site showing founder Lori Ensign bottle-feeding tigers and walking them on leashes. Getz was killed six weeks after non-fatal attacks on personnel occurred at the Branson Zoo in Stone County, Missouri, and the now closed Wesa-A-Geh-Ya exotic animal park in Warren County, Missouri.

MEMORIALS



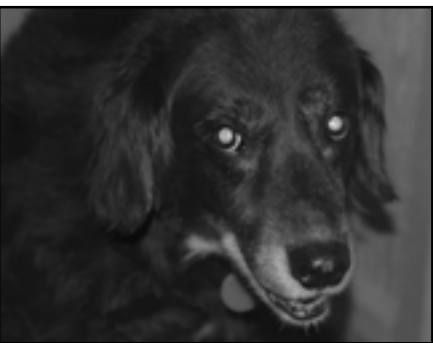
Lola-Bean Nardone  
3/17/08 - 10/16/08

Lola hailed from a litter born in foster care to a pregnant racing greyhound abandoned in California. In her too short time with us we fell madly in love with her animated and joyful spirit, and will always remember the sense of humor, affection and awareness she maintained even throughout her decline. We were cheated out of a chance to grow old together, Bean—we will miss you.  
—R&M&O&R Nardone

In memory of Shawnee and Kyra.  
—Alexandra Bechter

In memory of Mickey, much-loved & missed cat companion to Linda Pieć.  
—Geri Renmhack

In memory of Mickey, rescued 17+ years ago, the very beloved cat of my dear friend Linda Pieć. He was one lucky black cat.  
—Barbara Hardin



In memory of Francesca, 1992-2008. Dumped on a dirt road along the New York/Vermont border, after birthing puppies whose fate was unknown, Francesca was rescued by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett on April 17, 1994. She was a cheerful presence in the **ANIMAL PEOPLE** office for more than 14 years.

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

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## MY NAME IS CORKY AND I WAS FOUND IN A DUMPSTER...

### North Shore Animal League America's Help Me Heal Program Cares for Pets in Need

Every day, North Shore Animal League America cares for unfortunate animals who are victims of abuse and neglect or who suffer from chronic illness through a life-saving program called Help Me Heal. The animals in the Help Me Heal Program face treatments ranging from minor to serious and some must spend many weeks recovering.

Recently, a 3-month-old puppy became a member of the Help Me Heal Program. Corky was found trembling and whimpering in a dumpster that was filled with harmful construction debris. Somebody considered him garbage and threw him away.

When a kind man heard Corky crying under the trash and saw that he was wounded, he immediately took him to the Animal League, who enrolled Corky in their Help Me Heal Program. Corky suffered from a dislocated leg bone, eye irritation and was in desperate need of nurturing.

Corky spent several weeks in the Animal League's care where he was nurtured and loved. When he was healthy, he was immediately adopted into a loving home.

The Help Me Heal Program helps animals receive the medical care they need to live a happy, healthy, normal life. The Help Me Heal animals rely on kindhearted supporters to assist with their medical issues, and to ensure that their futures are filled with love and happiness.

You can help. To learn more about Corky and the Help Me Heal Program, please visit:

**[AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal](http://AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal)**



Please sign my pledge and  
help end animal cruelty  
at [www.AnimalLeague.org](http://www.AnimalLeague.org)



**N**orth Shore Animal League America is extremely saddened by Scarlett's passing. Scarlett was not only a dedicated mother, fearless heroine, and beloved pet, but she was also an inspiration to all.

Scarlett's five kittens were not the only lives she saved in her lifetime. Scarlett's celebrity saved countless animals at the Animal League and all over the world - shedding light on the intelligent, intuitive and loving natures of cats. Her face regally graces the pages of the Animal League's life-saving Sponsor Program, as she represents all the special-needs felines who need our care.



## Dear Friends,

I am heartbroken. On Saturday, October 11, 2008 we had to say goodbye to our beautiful, brave Scarlett. Her endless health battles had become too overwhelming for her. As most of you know, she was diagnosed with Lymphoma in June 2007. She did remarkably well with her medications. But there were other illnesses that made each day more of a struggle. Her heart murmur, thyroid, dental issues, and kidneys all contributed. It was the renal failure, however, that eventually took its toll. Scarlett's decline was rapid. We knew there was no going back.

Scarlett had been hospitalized last week. When we took her home on Friday, she couldn't stand. It wasn't fair to let her suffer after all she'd been through. So we brought her back to the hospital where she went peacefully in my arms while my mother sang to her. Her Doctors were wonderfully caring and compassionate.

Although she had not been eating very much in her last week, either in the hospital or at home, she ate like the old, 19-pound Scarlett Friday morning! That's a memory we'll cherish.

## Scarlett



1994 - 2008

Thank you all for all your good thoughts and wishes throughout this ordeal. Scarlett was a very special cat, and she will be missed by all the lives she touched.

Karen

To read the complete story and find out about other animals in our Sponsor Program, visit The Scarlett Room at:  
<http://www.animalleague.org/blogs/scarlett/>

Please sign my pledge and help end animal cruelty at [www.AnimalLeague.org](http://www.AnimalLeague.org)

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to Shanu and the rhinos kissed each other through the fence. It was love at first sight.”



