



African lion cubs: vanished from 80% of their former habitat in just 35 years. (Kim Bartlett)

## Looking the wrong way for causes of bushmeat poaching and predator loss

**NAIROBI**—Often exposed involvement of Asian financiers in rhino horn and elephant ivory poaching fueled a ubiquitous belief among frustrated animal defenders attending the early September 2010 African Animal Welfare Action conference in Nairobi, Kenya that Asian workers in Africa are also implicated in out-of-control bushmeat poaching and catastrophic crashes of predator populations.

African Animal Welfare Action conference attendees guesstimated that Chinese

workers alone were involved in from 20% to 80% of all the bushmeat poaching in Africa.

Nairobi-based wildlife photographer Karl Amman, who has for more than 20 years documented the bushmeat trade, more conservatively suggested that Chinese involvement might be much less than 5%, centering on reptiles and pangolins.

But scant documentation supports the belief that Chinese workers are verifiably  
(continued on page 10)

## Deslorelin takes the lead in quest for non-surgical birth control

**NAIROBI**—Veterinary contraceptive researcher Henk J. Bertschinger wowed the Africa Animal Welfare Action conference in Nairobi on September 8, 2010 with two presentations hinting that the anti-GnRH agonist approach to animal birth control may be applicable in cats and dogs.

Bertschinger, of the University of Pretoria in South Africa, recapped and updated a 2007 paper he and colleagues published in the journal *Wildlife Research*, describing “the treatment and contraception of 23 captive and 40 free-ranging lionesses and four captive tigers in South Africa,” using a range of different sized deslorelin implants. Deslorelin is a hormone analog, modeled on the natural hormone LHRH (luteinizing-hormone releasing hormone) that turns reproductive processes on and off in the brains of both male and female animals.

“All combinations of deslorelin showed the length of contraception to be around 30 months with one treatment lasting 40 months in one captive lioness,” Bertschinger and four co-authors wrote.

“No side effects occurred,” they



Dog climbing stairs at the Blue Cross of India, in Chennai. (Kim Bartlett)

reported, “although several of the lionesses were treated repeatedly for up to eight years. Deslor-elin (Suprelorin formulation) is a safe and effective means of controlling reproduction in captive or free-ranging populations of lions,” the team concluded. “Where contraception is to be maintained,” Bertschinger et al wrote, “the implementation of implants at 24-month intervals is recommended.”

Bertschinger also described the results of contraceptive studies he has done with African elephants since 2000 at the Makalali Game Reserve in South Africa, funded by the Humane Society of the U.S. and Humane Society International. HSUS/HSI also sponsored Bertschinger’s participation in the Africa Animal Welfare Action conference

The most noteworthy aspect of Bertschinger’s work with deslorelin was longterm contraceptive success in free-ranging female felines. This had been believed to be possible, based on laboratory studies and earlier studies with captive animals. However, the deslorelin formulation that Bertschinger used, Suprelorin, made by the Australian firm Peptech Animal Health, is in contraceptive use best known as a product for male animals. Peptech literature mentions use of Suprelorin for fertility control of  
(continued on page 7)

# ANIMAL PEOPLE

*News For People Who Care About Animals*

**September 2010**  
**Volume 19, #7**



## American Humane Association approves decompressing chickens

**DENVER**—Former Pew Charitable Trusts deputy director of philanthropic services Robin Ganzert took office on August 31, 2010 as new chief executive officer of the American Humane Association with a statement distancing the AHA from “extreme ideas purported by those who argue that...people have no right to raise animals for food.”

Ganzert in her next sentence mentioned “the inhumane farming practices that contributed to the massive egg recall” due to salmonella contamination of eggs produced primarily by farms owned by Austin “Jack” DeCoster, whose abusive methods on some of those same farms were exposed only weeks earlier by the vegan advocacy group Mercy for Animals.

Then the AHA, in its first farm animal policy action under Ganzert, on September 7, 2010 endorsed what it termed “a new method of controlled-atmosphere stunning for poultry called Low Atmospheric Pressure System, or LAPS, as a humane practice,” based on unpublished research presented to the AHA Farm Animal Welfare Scientific Advisory Committee in July 2010 by Yvonne Vizzier Thaxton, Ph.D. of Mississippi State University.

Developed by the poultry harvester company TechnoCatch LLC and OK Foods Inc., the LAPS method of “controlled atmosphere” stunning is not the approach usually meant by the term, and certainly not the “controlled atmosphere” approach advocated by

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals since 2004 as a more humane method of poultry slaughter than conventional shackling and decapitation.

“Controlled atmosphere” poultry killing usually refers to gassing the birds with nitrogen, argon, or carbon dioxide.

Explained the AHA media release, “LAPS is used to thin the air, reducing available oxygen (similar to high-altitude conditions). Unlike other controlled-atmosphere stunning systems, it is not necessary to add any gaseous substances—the atmosphere is controlled by reducing the volume of oxygen. The research is to be published in the *Journal of Applied Poultry Research* this winter. The USDA has said in a letter that it does not object to the system and OK Foods, Inc. will begin its use.”

The language of the AHA release recalled the March 1950 *National Humane Review* article “Is the Decompression Chamber an Improvement Over Other Methods of Euthanasia?” by Richard L. Bonner, then general manager of the Los Angeles Department of  
(continued on page 15)



Once poached out of Lake Nakuru National Park in Kenya, black rhinos were reintroduced in 1984. Nakuru rhinos are now used to restore rhinos to other parks. (Kim Bartlett)

## Alleged rhino poaching gang served trophy hunters as well as Asian medicinal demand

**JOHANNESBURG**—Startling photos of the September 22, 2010 arraignment of 11 alleged members of an international rhino poaching syndicate reached the world despite the officially unexplained efforts of police to keep photographers out.

News photographers Werner Beukes of the South African Press Agency, Herman Verwey of *Beeld*, and Lewellyn Carstens of the South African Broadcasting Corporation were detained for 45 minutes and one of them was roughed up by police, according to the South African National Editors’ Forum. No motive for the police action was offered.

The photos showed, standing in the Limpopo dock, not poor villagers, hundreds of whom died when shoot-to-kill orders were issued across much of Africa to protect rhinos and elephants in the late 1980s, but rather several affluent and well-connected land-owning white Afrikaners.

Among them were Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris operator Dawie Groenewald, his wife Sariette Groenewald, profes-

sional hunter Tielman Erasmus, veterinarian Karel Toet, his wife Marisa Toet, veterinarian Manie du Plessis, and five alleged co-conspirators. Suspected of killing rhinos to sell the horns to Chinese and Vietnamese brokers, the Groenewalds in particular were known to have business relationships with Safari Club International and influential members of the Robert Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe, which has aggressively courted Chinese investment.

All 11 suspects were released on bail by Musina magistrate Errol Luiters. They were scheduled to reappear in court on April 11, 2011 to face charges of assault, fraud, corruption, malicious damage to property, illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, and contravening the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, according to RhinoConservation.org.

Joseph Okori, African rhino program chief for the World Wildlife Fund, worried to News24 of Johannesburg that the defendants would leave South Africa to evade prosecution. “If you have professionals  
(continued on page 13)

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# Advancing the Fight for Farm Animals

**The Humane Society of the United States** fights for all animals, including those used in agribusiness. Our primary focus is fighting the worst cruelties in industrial agriculture, including veal crates, gestation crates, battery cages, and tail docking. Because of concerted, strategic campaigning, these practices are now under scrutiny like never before, and the industry is now on the defense. Here are a few highlights of our record of achievement:

- Seven states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Michigan, and Oregon) have passed laws prohibiting various forms of extreme confinement of farm animals in small cages.
- Major food companies are beginning to shun purchasing eggs from producers who use battery cages.
- Major retailers like Wolfgang Puck have stopped selling foie gras, and other major food service entities, like Compass Group, now offer vegan options on their menus.
- Our undercover investigation exposing the torment of downed dairy cows in California led to the nation's largest meat recall ever, a new federal policy prohibiting adult downer cows from being slaughtered for human consumption, and criminal convictions of the slaughter plant manager and a staffer.
- Our undercover investigation of a dairy calf slaughter plant in Vermont led to the closure of the facility as well as pending felony and misdemeanor criminal charges.
- Our undercover investigations of several of the nation's largest egg producers have caused numerous major retailers to end or greatly reduce their use of battery cage eggs.

**Join us in making effective change  
for farm animals. And hear what  
our opponents have to say about us:**

“HSUS is clearly the nine-million-pound gorilla.  
... They are good at building the agenda,  
good at framing issues; they know how to talk  
about issues, which is why they are effective.”

—Wes Jamison, animal agribusiness  
spokesperson, in *Meatingplace* magazine

There's a reason the United Egg Producers asserts that The HSUS is **"the most feared of the activists and is trying to bring all groups together to create additional power. ... This organization will be the largest and biggest problem facing the industry."**

Because our opponents know we can win ballot initiative fights, they've begun to sit down with us and to agree, for the first time, to reforms. In Ohio, we were able to reach a landmark agreement with Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Farm Bureau to turn one of the worst states for animals into one that's now poised for progress. The parties committed to achieve the following reforms:

- A ban on veal crates by 2017.
- A ban on new gestation crates after Dec. 31, 2010, with a total ban established within 15 years.
- A moratorium on permits for new battery cage confinement facilities for laying hens. This has immediately prevented the construction of a previously scheduled 6-million battery hen complex.
- A ban on strangulation of farm animals and mandatory humane euthanasia methods for sick or injured animals.
- A ban on the transport of downer cows for slaughter.
- Enactment of legislation establishing felony-level penalties for cockfighters.
- Enactment of legislation cracking down on puppy mills.
- Enactment of a ban on the acquisition of dangerous exotic animals as pets, such as primates, bears, lions, tigers, large constricting and venomous snakes, crocodiles, and alligators.

Ohio is one of the largest agribusiness states in the nation and has long been a haven for cockfighters, puppy millers, and exotic wildlife dealers. With one sweeping package of reforms, we will improve the lives of millions of animals.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

# “Zero grazing” vs. the Five Freedoms

Few animal advocates doubt these days that the use and misuse of more than 47 billion farmed animals worldwide is the most urgent and critical issue before us. Whether one favors ushering humanity toward vegetarianism or veganism, or only more nuanced efforts to reduce and mitigate animal suffering in husbandry and slaughter, animal agriculture involves many times more animals and more misery than all other human activities combined.

Indeed, from a third to half of all the birds in the world are factory-farmed chickens. Farmed mammals far outnumber all companion animals and probably all wildlife larger than a dog. Even the highest estimates of the numbers of animals used in laboratories per year appear to be lower than the volume of animals slaughtered for human consumption on most days of the week.

Farm animal welfare has also become a priority for consumers, voters, governments, and even agribusiness itself. Probably the most significant achievement of animal advocacy, recently or ever, is that animal product marketers now feel compelled to use terms such as “cage free” and “free range” in their advertising and on product labels, and that most major U.S. supermarkets now stock vegetarian and vegan products, from block tofu to whole heat-and-serve meatless meals.

Competing animal welfare certifications appear in almost every supermarket refrigerator or egg case, along misleading labels offered by companies who are unwilling to change their methods, yet recognize the importance to the public of at least appearing to be humane.

Some agribusiness front groups continue to resist almost every effort to improve farm animal well-being, even in areas such as disease control, where better welfare means bigger profits. Yet few agribusiness executives today, even those trying to obstruct or evade legislation to help farm animals, do not at least pay lip service to the ideal of better farm animal welfare.

Widespread concern about the care of farmed animals is of relatively recent origin. Despite a short-lived flurry after Ruth Harrison published *Animal Machines* in 1964, farmed animal welfare was almost absent from mainstream humane literature for most of the 20th century. Peter Singer to some extent directed attention to the treatment of farmed animals in *Animal Liberation*, the 1976 book credited with sparking the animal rights movement, but the first animal rights organizations that focused entirely on farmed animals—the Coaliton for Nonviolent Food, Farm Animal Reform Movement, Humane Farming Association, Farm Sanctuary, and United Poultry Concerns—all struggled for nearly two decades in the shadows of organizations focused on vivisection, animal use in entertainment, and other campaigns that do not tend to go so far inside the average person’s comfort zone as discussions of diet.

Arguably the most influential person in humane work worldwide in the mid-20th century was Eric Hansen, who at various times headed the Humane Society of Missouri, the American Humane Association, and the Massachusetts SPCA, which were then three of the five largest humane societies worldwide. Hansen saw farm animal welfare as a priority, unlike most of his contemporaries, but from an inverse perspective. Hansen believed, before the rise of factory farming, that the attention to animal welfare offered on the best small family farms of his era could become a model for responsible pet care, and for improving the care of animals in zoos and laboratories.

Hansen had some reason to think so. Despite the certainty of slaughter at an early age, most farmed animals in the mid-20th century got a great deal more fresh air, sunshine, and outdoor exercise than laboratory and zoo animals. Even in the U.S., many dogs and most cats still foraged and hunted on their own for most of their food, were not allowed indoors, and never received veterinary care.

Hansen at the MSPCA dismantled the financially struggling Bands of Mercy, begun by MSPCA founder George Angell to promote humane education, and the Jack London Clubs, begun by Angell’s successor Francis Rowley as proto-animal rights groups, which mobilized teens to seek abolition of abuses including dogfighting and animal use in circuses. In place of sponsoring national youth organizations directed by the MSPCA through the subsidiary American Humane Education Society, Hansen forged alliances with the 4-H Clubs and Future Farmers of America. A model farm at the then-MSPCA headquarters taught what was then considered best practice animal husbandry, including the slaughter methods later institu-

tionalized nationally by the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958.

Hansen was aware of the many routine cruelties commonly practiced on small traditional farms, but believed that the influence of humane societies aligned with farmers could introduce gentler methods. By the end of Hansen’s MSPCA tenure, however, small traditional farms were already fast disappearing, and whatever possibilities might have evolved as result of Hansen’s alliances with 4-H and the FFA were lost.

A Hansen initiative of more enduring success was the 1959 formation of the International Society for the Protection of Animals. Initially an MSPCA subsidiary, ISPA was in 1981 merged with the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, which had been founded in 1953 as a project of the Royal SPCA of Great Britain, and became the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

The World Federation was formed to help rebuild humane societies in western Europe after World War II. Later it sponsored national humane societies in developing nations which had been spun off from the British empire.

By the time WSPA came into being, both founding partner organizations had already often worked in the same places as the livestock gift charities now known as Heifer International, based in the U.S., and Send A Cow, an allied charity based in Britain.

Heifer International and Send A Cow were begun to rebuild animal agriculture in western Europe after World War II. They too expanded into the developing world after western Europe recovered. The Heifer International and Save A Cow founders, like Hansen, believed in the small traditional farms of the mid-20th century U.S. and rural Britain as role models. As in the U.S. and rural Britain, however, that model proved unsustainable. Where Heifer and Send A Cow have succeeded in introducing or reintroducing animal husbandry, as in western Europe, increased animal production has helped to reduce prices and stoke demand for animal products, until the cycle ends with small farms being swallowed up by factory farms which are capable of producing many times more animals, at less cost in human labor.

Elsewhere, in nations where the full cycle has not yet occurred, stimulating animal husbandry has often merely depleted soil and water. The July/August 2010 **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial, for instance, detailed how the effects of doubling livestock production in only 10 years destroyed topsoil and water holding capacity across much of Pakistan, contributing to catastrophic floods.

## Animal welfare guidelines

Even where encouraging animal husbandry has not yet brought either factory farming or eco-disaster, gift livestock recipients who sell the offspring of successful breeding programs to friends and neighbors (who may not have recived Heifer or Send A Cow training) have often produced neighborhood animal welfare catastrophes, a tendency **ANIMAL PEOPLE** examined in May 2003 and January/February 2007.

Under criticism, Heifer International eventually adopted a set of “Animal Well-Being Guidelines,” introduced as part of all Heifer-sponsored projects. The seven focal points include:

- *Giving preference to purchasing animals who are already acclimatized to the area.*
- *Providing full training to farmers before they receive any livestock.*
- *Using appropriate shelter and separate pens for animals of different species.*
- *Teaching zero grazing techniques, which enhances animal health and ensures that adequate food and water are provided.*
- *Emphasizing nutrition, including providing clean water at least twice a day,*
- *Encouraging indigenous breeds.*
- *Providing project participants with all initial vaccinations.*

Most of these guidelines are only the basics of animal care in any captive context, but Heifer International defines “zero grazing” as “keeping livestock in an enclosed, shaded area and carrying fodder and water to them, instead of letting them wander in the open where they are more likely to catch diseases or damage the environment.”

Simply translated, “zero grazing” is raising animals in close confinement—the basis of factory farming. Though Heifer International works at the village and family level, and does not undertake corporate-scale developments, the “zero grazing” approach is in effect cultural preparation for accepting factory farming when corporate investors take over the markets that Heifer helps to create.

Of course Heifer International resists recognizing the “zero grazing” policy as a precursor to factory farming. Instead, Heifer International touts it as part of “agroecology,” defined as “the sustainable use and management of natural resources, accomplished by using social, cultural, economic, political and ecological methods that work together to achieve sustainable agriculture production.” Heifer International emphasizes that animals kept in “zero grazing” systems are not overgrazing pastures and eroding hillsides with their hooves—but cultivating the same erosion-vulnerable land to produce high-yield fodder crops has the same net effect, or worse.

Further, instead of grazing animals distributing dung fertilizer wherever they wander, to replenish the topsoil, confined animals leave dung where it is easily collected and sold, or burned for fuel. The net effect—unless the farmers buy chemical fertilizer to rebuild the nitrogen and other nutrient content of their topsoil, and grow and plow under “green manure” crops such as winter wheat—can be more loss of productive land.

Send A Cow adopted the same animal care guidelines as Heifer International, plus the Five Freedoms:

- *Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.*
- *Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.*
- *Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.*
- *Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.*
- *Freedom to express normal behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of animals’ own kind.*

Heifer International does not promote the Five Freedoms, which were first articulated in 1967 by the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, formed by the British government in response to *Animal Machines*. This committee in 1979 became the present Farm Animal Welfare Council.

Though not codified into international law as such, the Five Freedoms are the foundation concept behind the Council of Europe’s Convention for the Protection of Animals During International Transport (1968), Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes (1976), and Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter (1979). Portions of these conventions have now been enacted in binding form by the European Union.

A succession of individuals and organizations have since 1924 sought the adoption by first the League of Nations and later by other bodies a document which has in many amended forms, been variously called An Animals’ Bill of Rights, A Declaration of Animal Rights, an International Animals Charter, and A Charter of Rights for Animals. WSPA in June 2000 introduced the current version as the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, hoping that it might eventually win adoption into international law by the United Nations.

(continued on page 4)

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## Editorial feature: "Zero grazing" vs. the Five Freedoms (from page 3)

Earlier versions had addressed various abuses of farmed animals, but the June 2000 Universal Declaration was the first to pay explicit attention to factory farming, albeit in just one sentence: "Animals raised under the control of humans or taken into captivity by humans should be afforded the provisions of the basic Five Freedoms."

This one passage in the WSPA version of the Universal Declaration is to date the apparent whole of WSPA policy pertaining to the use of animals for food. Yet WSPA—like the rest of the animal advocacy cause—has become increasingly active on behalf of farmed animals. WSPA representatives have prominently lobbied for the European Union farmed animal welfare requirements, and for legislation that would improve the lives and ease the deaths of farmed animals in many other venues.

WSPA is scarcely unique in lacking a comprehensive policy delineating what it institutionally believes about farmed animals or the use of animals for food, and what it seeks to do on behalf of these animals. Few animal welfare organizations have comprehensive farmed animal policies.

Partly this may be a matter of oversight: until farmed animal welfare became a focal issue, such policy statements were seldom needed. Animal advocacy organizations may also wish to avoid possibly alienating meat-eating donors, and to avoid becoming marginalized by animal use industry attacks on a vegetarian or vegan policy as "extremist."

Yet global public opinion may be racing ahead of animal advocacy strategists. Vegetarianism is now relatively well understood in much of the world. The concept of veganism is recognized in Europe and North America.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** has editorialized since our very first edition in 1992 that pro-animal organizations should be forthrightly vegetarian in their food presentations at public events, and should as a matter of policy favor an end to animal slaughter.

We recognize, however, that even today many pro-animal organizations may remain reluctant—for cultural, strategic, and economic reasons—to define themselves as advocating for vegetarianism. We further understand that for organizations which set standards for animal husbandry—such as Compassion In World Farming, the Royal SPCA of Great Britain, Humane Farm Animal Care, the American Humane Association, and the Animal Welfare Institute—adopting a pro-vegetarian policy could be self-defeating. As a matter of strategy, organizations seeking to improve the well-being of farmed animals here and now are more-or-less obligated to operate as trusted allies of animal producers, whose certifications help producers using methods less onerous for animals to take market share from the rest.

Even as the longterm goal of animal advocacy should be to end the exploitation of farmed animals, reducing the sum

of misery resulting from animal husbandry also requires encouraging short-term efforts such as fulfillment of the Five Freedoms.

With that concession acknowledged, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** believes that even if an animal welfare organization promotes measures such as the expansion of cage-free egg farms to replace egg production from battery cage farms, promoting the expansion of animal agriculture itself is self-defeating. Moreover, promoting animal agriculture is not what animal advocacy donors support, nor is it what the public expects.

Incoming American Humane Association president Robin Ganzert, for example, went far beyond necessity in declaring in her first public statement that under her tenure, the AHA would not be "accepting extreme ideas purported by those who argue that...people have no right to raise animals for food." The directors of other organizations that accredit "humane" production methods have not felt a need to denounce animal advocates who believe animals should not be eaten—and agribusiness itself has for the most part accepted vegetarians and vegans as a market sector worth courting.

The global rise of concern about farmed animal welfare has been produced by animal advocates presenting a clear ethical challenge to agribusiness, to which much of the otherwise uninvolved public has responded in a positive way, motivated by personal discomfort about food choices. The effective message has been simply, "This treatment of animals is unacceptable."

The legislation scaring agribusiness into accepting animal welfare reforms has defined what animals must be able to do—such as stand, turn around, and stretch—while leaving the development of techniques that meet the test of public acceptability mostly up to those who use animals.

The success of this approach is illustrated, ironically, by the debate spotlighted in the July/August 2010 edition of **ANIMAL PEOPLE** between the Humane Farming Association and the Humane Society of the U.S. over the concessions made by agribusiness representatives to avoid having an initiative similar to one passed in 2008 by California voters on the November 2010 Ohio state ballot. Not so very long ago leading animal advocacy strategists questioned whether political mobilization on behalf of farmed animals could even be done. Now the strategic question is whether the mobilizers are driving the best possible bargain against an industry which clearly wants to minimize public exposure.

### WSPA & Heifer International

Concern about farmed animal welfare has evolved parallel to increasing recognition of the ecological consequences of intensive animal husbandry, including soil erosion, water pollution, and global warming. Much of the public is now at least vaguely aware of ecological arguments against further expansion of animal agriculture. Thus the time is now for

animal advocacy organizations to press the case, especially in the wake of major news events such as nationwide outbreaks of salmonella poisoning and natural disasters which have been made hugely worse by inappropriate animal husbandry.

And thus two recent WSPA media releases have stirred considerable discussion, consternation, and feelings of betrayal among some animal advocates.

Neither release appeared to represent an intentional WSPA policy statement. Neither was even seen by WSPA director general Mike Baker prior to distribution. Reflecting a shift away from top-down management under Baker, who became director general in mid-2009, both press releases were authored and distributed by U.S. interim executive director Silia Smith, who has long headed the WSPA Canadian office. Neither media release attracted much media notice. Both, however, were soon widely forwarded by animal advocates.

The first media release, issued on August 23, 2010, was distributed by PRNewswire-USNewswire, and was archived at NewsLibrary, but was apparently not picked up by any mainstream periodicals.

Began the release, "Joining more than 2.2 million people and organizations worldwide, Heifer International today signed on to support the WSPA 'Animals Matter to Me' campaign—a movement to encourage changes in policies and legislation to improve animal welfare worldwide."

What exactly that meant was not clearly explained. Clarified WSPA U.S. communications manager Laura C. Flannery almost a week later, "This means that Heifer signed the following declaration (there was no funding or pledge for funding involved): *A universal declaration for animal welfare (UDAW) is crucial to achieving international recognition that animal welfare is important, not only to animals, but also to the people who care for them. By promoting better living standards for animals, we are in fact improving the lives of people. If endorsed by the United Nations, UDAW would become a set of non-binding principles that would encourage nations to put in place or, where they already exist, improve animal welfare laws and standards.*"

In other words, Heifer International merely endorsed a statement which has already been endorsed by numerous other organizations. Few of the others, if any, rated a WSPA media release. Acknowledged Flannery, "We worked directly with Heifer's communications department to develop and approve this press release." Thus Heifer International saw the release in advance, though Baker did not see it at all, he said, until **ANIMAL PEOPLE** showed it to him two weeks later.

Heifer International did not issue their own press release. Instead, the WSPA release incorporated Heifer International talking points:

*"The health and well-being of animals are vital to our organization's mission to help people obtain sustainable* (continued on page 5)

## LETTERS

### Saving African habitat

In September 2005 the Kenyan minister for tourism and wildlife declared that Amboseli National Park would become a National Reserve. Management of the park would be removed from the Kenya Wildlife Service and placed with the Olkejiado County Council. The new Kenyan constitution effectively keeps Amboseli under the national government. The High Court accepted our submission and will issue a court order quashing the notice that purported to change Amboseli National Park to Amboseli National Reserve.

Fighting the case cost us \$13,350. We have paid \$6,650, leaving a balance to be paid of \$6,700.

—Steve Itela, President  
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#### Editor's note:

*Youth for Conservation and the Africa Network for Animal Welfare are now leading opposition to a Tanzanian plan to build a road across Serengeti National Park, just south of the Kenya border. The Kenyan portion of the Serengeti ecosystem lies within Masai Mara National Park. Twenty-seven leading scientists warned in the September 2010 edition of Nature that the road, meant to expedite mineral exploitation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, could cut the Serengeti wildlife population by up to 90%. The road also would appear to serve a region in which government-issued hunting leases expired in December 2009, and may be more lucrative with improved access. Unfortunately, while YfC has been depleted by the five-year struggle to save Amboseli National Park from risk of encroachment and development, ANAW incurred a deficit of \$20,426 from hosting the recent African Animal Welfare Action conference in Nairobi. Both YfC and ANAW are seeking grant funding to help them get into position to fight the Tanzanian road proposal.*

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

### Ban Compound 1080

U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio of Oregon and John Campbell of California recently introduced H.R. 5643, the Compound 1080 & Sodium Cyanide Elimination Act. This federal bill would ban two of the most deadly poisons used to kill coyotes and other wildlife on America's ranch lands.

Sodium fluoroacetate, also known as Compound 1080, is used in livestock collars, placed around the necks of sheep and goats to kill predators. Sodium cyanide M-44 "coyote getters" are ground-based poison ejector devices used primarily by USDA Wildlife Services that are baited to attract and kill predators such as coyotes. However, they are non-selective. They kill non-target wild animals and family pets, and have seriously injured people. The FBI has listed Compound 1080 as a "highly toxic pesticide judged most likely to be used by terrorists or for malicious intent."

Because of the animal cruelty and environmental danger associated with these poisons both were banned by ballot initiatives in California and Washington. Let's carry this momentum forward and ban these deadly poisons nationwide. Please urge your Congressional representatives to co-sponsor and support H.R. 5643.

—Camilla Fox

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### Please Help Me Heal My name is Samson.

My name is Samson and I'm 6 weeks old. Just recently, the Animal League rescued me and placed me in their Help Me Heal Program.

I have suffered severe trauma to both my back legs. I couldn't walk at all and the pain was intense. Luckily my right leg was able to be repaired, but the injury to my left leg was too severe, and it had to be removed. An amputation on a kitten as little as me is very delicate. It's a serious surgery that requires extensive healing.

This operation will change my entire life. I will have to re-learn many things; how to properly distribute my weight and how to balance again. Speed and agility will take some time and practice, and I'll have to keep my weight down to prevent additional stress to my limbs.

Fortunately, the Animal League's Help Me Heal Program is ensuring that I get exactly what I need to be well. Not only will I receive medical care, I'll also get the emotional and psychological therapy I need to be happy and healthy. Once I'm ready and back on my paws, they will find a home just right for me, where I'll be safe and loved.

Because of your love and generosity, countless animals just like me will receive the care we wouldn't get elsewhere. Without your generosity, sick or injured animals like me probably wouldn't survive.

To help continue the care for Samson and help other animals in our Help Me Heal Program, visit [www.AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal](http://www.AnimalLeague.org/help-me-heal)

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



[www.AnimalLeague.org](http://www.AnimalLeague.org)

## Editorial feature: “Zero grazing” vs. the Five Freedoms (from page 4)

food and income sources,” said Terry Wollen, Interim Vice President of Advocacy for Heifer International. “For nearly 65 years, humane animal handling and protection has been one of our cornerstone principles and a vital part of our management and training programs. Today, we proudly affirm to that ideal by supporting WSPA’s ‘Animals Matter to Me’ movement.”

Heifer, which recently ranked as one of the top 10 most trusted nonprofits in America, joins more than 266,000 people and 40 organizations in the U.S.—including the American SPCA, the Humane Society of the United States, and International Fund for Animal Welfare to name a few—that have expressed their support for WSPA’s campaign.

“We are thrilled that Heifer has joined us in furthering the animal welfare movement,” said Silia Smith. “We’re confident that the organization’s prestige and support will help us reach our goals of changing existing policies and legislation, as well as inspiring positive attitudes toward animals in every corner of the world.”

Added an afterward, “Heifer’s mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmental sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income.”

Even the most committed vegan abolitionist may concede that Heifer International is larger and wealthier than any animal advocacy charity, and widely recognized and respected, regardless of whether it deserves to be. The Heifer International endorsement may help to advance the Universal Declaration, which if adopted by the United Nations as a covenant similar to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species may hugely benefit all animals.

Accordingly, a press release announcing the endorsement may have been warranted.

Endorsing the Heifer International program, however, stepped well beyond necessity—and, since Heifer International did nothing similar to boost WSPA, went well beyond the normal bounds of quid-pro-quo politics.

Asked **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “Does WSPA perceive a conflict of interest in partnering with an organization whose

mandate is expanding animal agriculture?”

Replied Flannery, reciting Heifer publicity in evident ignorance or disregard of the actual record, “Heifer’s mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. As part of its animal management and training program, Heifer teaches several strictly-followed animal well-being guidelines. Heifer’s consideration of animal well-being is certainly in line with WSPA’s ‘Animals Matter to Me’ campaign and the UDAW statement.”

Technically one might be able to reconcile the Heifer International requirement that animals be watered twice a day, minimal though that is, with the Five Freedoms requirement of “ready access of fresh water.”

Technically one might argue that there are examples of “zero grazing” husbandry that satisfy the Five Freedoms by “ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering,” and allowing “Freedom to express normal behavior.”

But despite the possibility of parsing the rhetoric to discover exceptions, reality is that Heifer International has from inception existed to expand and encourage animal agriculture. Reality is that “zero grazing” means confinement. Reality is that the Five Freedoms were drafted in the first place in response to the growth of confinement husbandry.

Even in absence of a detailed WSPA policy on animal agriculture, the longstanding WSPA promotion of the Five Freedoms would appear to preclude accepting the Heifer International animal well-being guidelines as adequate.

### Livestock & disaster

Had Smith and Flannery not so fulsomely praised Heifer International on August 23, their August 27, 2010 press release about the WSPA role in Pakistan flood relief might have passed without particular notice. Most of it paralleled releases about previous disasters in which WSPA partnered with local organizations, veterinary universities, and government agencies to feed stranded and starving livestock.

While animal advocates are certainly willing to donate funds to aid suffering animals of any kind in a disaster situation, leadership of animal charities soliciting donations

should feel obliged to consider if these funds *should be used* to support and sustain animal agriculture. Often the net effect of aid to farm animals is merely to keep animals alive and moving for a little while longer so that farmers can sell them to slaughter instead of suffering a total financial loss by having the animals die under conditions in which their meat cannot be butchered and sold. Nonetheless, the animals caught in disaster are suffering sentient beings, and—if the circumstances are properly managed—providing them some relief can help animal advocacy to develop recognition and support.

The trick is to help the animals without encouraging repetition and expansion of the practices that put them in crisis.

The August 27 WSPA press release flunked that test.

“WSPA’s 30-year history treating animals in disasters has shown that animals are crucial to the recovery of the region,” wrote Smith, apparently unaware that for 5,000 years the people of the Indus River region have kept fewer animals and eaten less meat than almost anyone else in the world. “Agriculture, including livestock, is the livelihood mainstay of nearly 90% of the flood-affected community in Pakistan’s rural areas,” Smith continued. “These animals are so important to the people of Pakistan. Your gift will not only help the animals, it will help their whole community recover too.”

In other words, according to Smith, the WSPA intervention in Pakistan was undertaken chiefly to rebuild animal agriculture, which was largely responsible for causing the disaster. By contrast, the Karachi-based news magazine *South Asia* recognized the harmful effect of the recent doubling of the regional livestock population by reprinting most of the July/August **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editorial about it, including the conclusion that “The present calamity offers a chance to promote a permanent downsizing of animal agriculture.”

“Pakistani livestock experts agree that there are too many animals, though they are more concerned with low productivity than high populations,” affirmed *Christian Science Monitor* staff writer Ben Arnoldy.

“We as professionals involved in the livestock sector have always advocated decreasing the number of livestock and

(continued on page 6)

## Rabies in Bali

Today, September 21, 2010, the Governor of Bali and all regional directors signed a memorandum of understanding with the Bali Animal Welfare Association, including an agreement to stop culling dogs, and BAWA signed a separate agreement with the World Society for the Protection of Animals. This is the first step in eradicating rabies from Bali. The Governor made a nice speech, thanking both BAWA and WSPA for their help since the rabies outbreak started in mid-2008. He encouraged local Balinese officials to support us and work together with us.

Of course now we have a lot of hard work in front of us. With vaccines funded by WSPA we need to vaccinate 350,000 dogs against rabies, approximately 75% of all the dogs in Bali, within the next six months.

Thank you for your support. We could never have made it this far without you.

—Janice Girardi, founder  
Bali Animal Welfare Association  
Jalan Monkey Forest 100X  
Ubud, Bali



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### Editor’s note:

Bali, an island, became afflicted with canine rabies in mid-2008, when a rabid dog arrived from Flores, a distant island with a history of dog-eating and resistance to vaccination. Rabies reached Flores in 1997 and became endemic despite intensive culling. Starting on the Ungasan peninsula, the Bali outbreak could easily have been isolated and eradicated. However, five months elapsed before the outbreak was recognized. Bali officials then killed dogs as their primary control strategy; did not vaccinate enough dogs on the neck of the peninsula to keep the outbreak confined; kept BAWA and private citizens from vaccinating dogs until a year after the outbreak started; used unreliable indigenous vaccines of only short-term potency; killed vaccinated dogs; and disregarded the advice of international experts who visited at their own expense, including Henry Wilde, editor of the journal *Asian Biomedicine*. By mid-2010, 44,000 people had received post-exposure vaccination after suffering bites from suspected rabid dogs. The number of human rabies deaths had doubled each six months since the first death occurred, and was approaching 100. Bali officials at last became amenable to signing the memorandums of understanding with BAWA and WSPA after Wilde published in *Asian Biomedicine* “How not to fight a rabies epidemic: a history in Bali,” by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton, summarizing **ANIMAL PEOPLE** coverage, plus updates, and adding an annotated list of human deaths.

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## Editorial feature: “Zero grazing” vs. the Five Freedoms *(from page 5)*

increasing the productivity,” agreed Lahore University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences faculty member Muhammad Abdullah.

### WSPA’s strategic plan

WSPA director general Baker, a vegan, is personally familiar with the Indus River region from his previous service as chief executive officer of the Brooke Hospital for Animals. Acknowledging unfamiliarity with Heifer International policies and history, Baker personally assured **ANIMAL PEOPLE** that, “We certainly do not want to encourage any expansion of animal agriculture,” either in Pakistan or anywhere else.

**ANIMAL PEOPLE** president Kim Bartlett asked Baker if he would remove the August 23 and August 27, 2010 media releases from the WSPA website, to avoid conveying an erroneous perception of the WSPA mission. Baker said he would have to look into them first. At press time both releases remain posted, without subsequent clarification or amendment.

To **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton, Baker pledged to investigate before WSPA does anything further in partnership with Heifer.

Meanwhile, Baker delivered the most comprehensive WSPA statement to date on issues and strategies pertaining to animal agriculture on September 7, 2010 at the Africa Animal Welfare Action conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

“The case showing good economic models for livestock that are also positive for animal welfare is not as advanced as it is in areas such as disaster management and working animals,” Baker began. “This is something that WSPA is now committed to changing. And there are concrete examples of where good animal welfare can make a difference to the economics of farming. For example, more humane handling by farmers, transporters and slaughtermen has been shown in studies to reduce bruising by 15%. Bruising costs the farming industry millions of dollars in lost meat and improved humane handling can save them millions. This has been shown in work in both the US and Uruguay. The benefits of humane slaughter can be great too, and not just for the animal. This is something that we have worked with industry and government on in both China and Brazil.

“WSPA believes though,” Baker continued, “that we need to make the case for humane production above all. This is something we have been discussing with HSUS, CIWF, RSPCA and Eurogroup, among others and will be taking forward, with a view to producing models that demonstrate that animal welfare-friendly farming is also people friendly.

“The positive models will vary from region to region and animal to animal,” Baker projected. “In fact they are more likely to be positive principles with added concrete examples. They may not yet be properly demonstrated and fully articulated, but one thing is clear: the alternative is the industrialization of the farming industry.”

### Poultry program

Baker cited as an example the Rural Backyard Poultry Development program, introduced by the Indian Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in 2009 as an attempt to help local egg producers keep their remaining 30% of the Indian national egg market share, after losing 70% to industrial poultry conglomerates. The program is intended to help about 270,000 backyard egg producers over the next five years with a variety of technical and promotional assistance.

“This is an infinitely better and more sustainable model than the battery hen route,” Baker said, after giving a rather glowing and garbled description of it, apparently based chiefly on promotional literature from a company involved in supplying breeding stock and pharmaceuticals to the program. This same company is also a major supplier to Indian industrial egg producers.

The Rural Backyard Poultry Development program is designed according to Gandhian economic principles, though Mohandas Gandhi only promoted vegetarian forms of agriculture and cottage industry. It has been lampooned by Indian media as the “Rural Backward Poultry Development program,” who have noted the failure of many past rural development programs based on the Gandhian model, and appears to be widely seen as a boondoggle meant to attract rural political support for the present government, while having little chance of success.

The goal of the program is to boost the size of existing backyard flocks to the range of “20 to 50 birds per [participating] family,” which will be difficult to do in the cramped confines of Indian village housing without resorting to close caging. Even if backyard flocks can be increased to that extent, the effort is likely to increase the neighborhood conflicts already resulting from poultry noises, odors, traffic injuries to free-roaming birds, egg thefts and bird-snatchings by dogs, and the tendency of flocks to lure predators including snakes, jackals, and leopards into villages.

Most likely, “success” would necessitate moving “backyard” flocks beyond the present village limits, into more-or-less conventional poultry farms undertaken on a smaller scale. The end fate of the birds would be essentially the same as for any poultry, except that they might be killed and sold closer to home.

### Consumption & development

Baker’s larger point was that it is in agriculture, especially in the developing world, “more than anywhere [else] that our interests overlap with development, and where we must reach out and work to help both animals and people. This will be a major priority for WSPA,” Baker pledged. “We’re going to ramp up our efforts from next year.”

This raises complex ethical issues.

If a particular approach to animal agriculture, such as

the Rural Backyard Poultry Development program, really can reduce animal suffering, in successful competition against factory farming, this is a preferable choice, *but only within the limited sphere of recognizing that human consumption of animal products worldwide is not likely to end or even substantially diminish at any time soon.*

Animal advocacy has helped to achieve reductions of consumption in the developed world of some animal products produced by particularly cruel methods, such as veal. Younger and better educated Americans and Europeans are consuming much less meat, fewer eggs, and less milk than their elders.

Documenting the influence of exposure of animal welfare issues on animal product consumption in the U.S. since 1982, livestock economists Glynn Tonsor of Kansas State University and Nicole Olynk of Purdue University reported on September 16, 2010 that “pork and poultry demand increases over the last decade would have been 2.65 percent and 5.01 percent higher, respectively,” if not for the increasing volume of exposes of abuses in factory farming.

However, animal product consumption in the developing world is continuing to rise at a greater rate than gains against consumption are made in the U.S. and Europe.

Exposure of abuses associated with factory farming has rapidly increased in India and China too, and has helped to build animal advocacy in opposition to animal product consumption, as well as against specific harmful practices. However, most analysts within both the livestock industry and animal advocacy believe that animal product consumption in both India and China is likely to continue to rise for several years, at least, before the influence of activism and ecological limiting factors such as stress on topsoil and water catches up to the factors pushing demand.

The trends in India and China probably presage those of the rest of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, where animal product consumption is also fast rising, with animal advocacy on farmed animal issues having barely begun and the ecological limiting factors usually somewhat less evident.

Nonetheless, despite recognizing the need to eliminate animal suffering as much as possible in the expanding animal industries of the developing world, as well as in U.S. and European agribusiness, eliminating human consumption of animal products is the longterm goal of animal rights advocates. This is the only way to completely end animal suffering in food production, and to raise the moral status of animals across the spectrum of issues.

The bedrock issue for animal advocates in promoting agricultural reform is to avoid co-option of guiding principles—whether “animal welfare” in nature or “animal rights”—and be wary of alliances with animal use industries or industry front groups that may cause them to lose gains on behalf of animals that are already favored by the public and within political reach.

## New Mexico governor creates wild horse refuge & proposes chimp sanctuary

**ALBUQUERQUE**—New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson on September 17, 2010 announced a plan to use \$2.9 million in federal economic stimulus money to multiply the size of Cerrillos Hills State Park, 20 miles south of Santa Fe, more than tenfold by adding the former Ortiz Mountain Ranch to it, turning it into the largest wild horse sanctuary in the world.

Then, just ahead of a September 21 media conference called to discuss the wild horse sanctuary, Richardson toured the Alamogordo Primate Facility on Holloman Air Force Base near Albuquerque and recommended that it should become a non-invasive behavioral research lab.

“Richardson said his first choice would be to see Alamogordo become a sanctuary. But he suggested the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University could jointly operate the facility for behavioral research on chimpanzees,” reported Associated Press writer Tim Korte.

Richardson acknowledged that the National Institutes of Health has other ideas. Richardson initially discussed the possibility of creating a chimp sanctuary with NIH officials on August 18, 2010.

The current NIH plan is to transfer the 186 chimps currently in Alamogordo to the Southwest National Primate Research Center in San Antonio, Texas by the end of 2011, when a 10-year management contract with Charles River Laboratories expires. In San Antonio the chimps will join a colony now including 172 other chimps and about 3,000 other non-human primates. Sixteen Alamogordo chimps have already made the move.

The Alamogordo Colony are the survivors of a 288-chimp research colony begun by the U.S. Air Force more than 50 years ago. Long managed by the now defunct Coulston Foundation, the colony was eventually given to Coulston. Coulston surrendered the chimps to the NIH in 2000 in settlement of federal Animal Welfare Act violations.

Eighty-two chimps remain at another former Coulston facility 15 miles away that was sold to Save the Chimps in 2002. Save the Chimps acquired from Coulston 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys, who are being

moved to the Save the Chimps sanctuary in Florida as facilities for them are completed.

Saving America’s Mustangs founder Madeleine Pickens attended Richardson’s September 21 media conference about the Ortiz Mountain Ranch wild horse sanctuary. Not immediately clear, however, was whether Ortiz Mountain Ranch would become the site of a super-sized sanctuary that Pickens has pursued developing since November 17, 2008, when she proposed it counter to a BLM proposal to kill surplus horses.

“The BLM has officially agreed to support going forward with the development of the wild horse eco-sanctuary,” Pickens announced on September 17, 2010. “We are thankful for the opportunity to start our pilot program with 1,000 horses. We aim to get all 36,000-plus horses in holding soon after,” Pickens said. The BLM currently has wild horses in long-term holding facilities in Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, and Iowa.

“The state will pay \$1.8 million for most of the Ortiz Mountain Ranch site, currently owned by The Nature Conservancy. Another \$1.1 million will be used to buy 640 acres and a 5,000-square-foot-plus ranch house from the heirs of Edmund and Virginia Ball,” wrote Staci Matlock of *The New Mexican*. “Alicia Nation of the New Mexico Wild Horse and Burro Association said she researched and wrote a proposal for a wild horse sanctuary [on the Ortiz Mountain Ranch] and gave it to Richardson in January,” reported Matlock.

Richardson’s gubernatorial tenure is to expire this year. His wild horse sanctuary plan was criticized by both candidates to succeed him, Democrat Diane Denish, who has been lieutenant governor throughout Richardson’s two terms as governor, and Republican Susana Martinez.

The sanctuary plan “must clear a final hurdle—approval from the State Board of Finance,” reported Barry Massey of Associated Press. “However,” assessed Massey, “Richardson should be able to push the deal through because he serves as the board’s president and appoints a majority of its members.”

New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department secretary Jim

Noel told media that how much of the Ortiz Mountain Ranch will actually be set aside for wild horses has yet to be decided, and that developing a master plan for the project will take 12 to 16 months. “Also unanswered is how many wild horses will be kept at the property,” wrote Massey. “Other questions include where the horses will come from, the yearly cost to operate the preserve and how the state will control the herd’s growth. Richardson suggested the state will operate a wild horse adoption center,” Massey said.

Bureau of Land Management spokesperson Hans Stuart told Massey that the state had informally discussed obtaining a breeding population of horses for the sanctuary. This would require having the BLM prepare an environmental impact statement, provide an opportunity for public comment, and set a limit on how many horses the sanctuary could keep. The BLM estimates that 38,000 remain on the range in 10 western states. Only about 500, in three bands, are on federal lands in New Mexico. The BLM contends that is twice too many.

Richardson, whose political future is unclear, has had a mixed record on animal issues. Elected governor in 2002 after reportedly pledging that he would not ban cockfighting, Richardson in January 2006 unsuccessfully offered incentives worth \$750,000 to try to lure the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association headquarters from Colorado to New Mexico; pledged \$12 million in state funding for a top-level rodeo arena; and pledged an additional \$3 million in renovation funding for local rodeo arenas.

In March 2007 Richardson signed a bill to ban cockfighting, but boasted in July 2007 of shooting an oryx on media magnate Ted Turner’s Armendaris Ranch in New Mexico, and heavily advertised his political aspirations at the 2007 National Rodeo Finals.

After an unsuccessful run for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, and withdrawing from consideration for appointment as Secretary of Commerce in President Barack Obama’s cabinet, Richardson in April 2009 signed a bill to ban gassing dogs and cats.

## Fur trade thwarts anti-fur legislation

**BRUSSELS, TEL AVIV, SACRAMENTO**—Fur trade lawyers and lobbyists three times in less than 40 days kept anti-fur legislation from taking effect.

The European Union ban on imports of seal products, mostly pelts, officially took effect on August 20, 2010, more than a year after final passage in July 2009, but the European Court of Justice on August 19 stayed enforcement against the plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the ban, brought by the Canadian Seal Marketing Group, the Fur Institute of Canada, NuTan Furs, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Greenland, and GC Reiber Skinn AS of Norway, as well as individual hunters and trappers. Among them, the plaintiffs include most of the sealing industry. The General Court gave them until September 7 to file arguments against the ban. A verdict is due before the start of the 2011 Atlantic Canada sealing season.

The Canadian government has also

appealed to the World Trade Organization, arguing that the ban violates global trade law.

The Knesset, the Israeli parliament, was on September 2, 2010 expected to vote in favor of a fur trade ban, which includes a limited exemption for traditional religious garments, but on September 1 minister of religious services Yakov Margi, at reported request of the International Fur Trade Federation, successfully moved that the bill be sent back to the Legislative Committee of Ministers for further review.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on September 27, 2010 vetoed AB 1656, a bill which would close—at least within California—a loophole in federal law that exempts fur garments priced at \$150 or less from being accurately labeled as to being fur and as to what animal the fur comes from.

Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin have already adopted similar legislation.

## Deslorelin takes the lead in the quest for non-surgical birth control (from page 1)

female animals only as a possible future application.

But Peptech markets deslorelin under the brand name Ovuplant for a very different use in females: to induce ovulation in mares prior to artificial insemination, and to stabilize high-risk pregnancies in livestock. Deslorelin is approved in the U.S. for use for these purposes, and is being tested in the U.S. as a possible treatment for human breast cancer.

### Suprelorin used in males

"Suprelorin is implanted under the skin between the shoulders to reduce a male dog's testosterone levels to zero and cease reproductive function for six months," explains the Peptech web site. "Inserted with an implanter similar to those used for microchipping, Suprelorin slowly releases deslorelin, a hormone similar to those used to treat human prostate cancer," says Peptech. "The low, continuous dose of deslorelin prevents the production of sex hormones. The biocompatible implant disappears over time. Trials show Suprelorin is [also] effective in controlling populations of elephants, lions, cheetahs, monkeys, dolphins, seals, koalas and kangaroos."

Suprelorin has been "approved and available for use in male dogs in Australia, in six-month and 12-month doses, since December 2004, and in New Zealand, in 6-month doses only, since September 2005," advises the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs. Suprelorin "received European Union regulatory approval in March 2007, and is now available in several E.U. countries, with plans to expand to more," says the ACC&D product summary.

The British National Office of Animal Health in Britain allows the use of Suprelorin "for the induction of temporary infertility in healthy, entire, sexually mature male dogs. Infertility is achieved from six weeks up to at least six months after initial treatment," the NOAH data sheet on Suprelorin advises. "Treated dogs should therefore still be kept away from bitches in heat within the first six weeks after initial treatment."

"Because Suprelorin is not permanent (and does not take immediate effect), it is not an ideal product for population control," says the ACC&D web site. "However, we believe Suprelorin may have potential to fill a niche, such as when dogs must be held after rescue from natural disasters, or as evidence in court cases. Suprelorin may be able to be used in cats with longer efficacy than in dogs. ACC&D is working with Peptech to pursue this possibility, as we believe even a long-term contraceptive (three or more years) may be able to play a meaningful role in feral cat population management."

ANIMAL PEOPLE president Kim Bartlett disagrees with the ACC&D criteria that a product must prevent contraception for at least three years to play a meaningful role: "Since true street dogs—not 'community dogs'—in the developing world and feral cats have an average life-span of around three years, with possibly five breeding cycles for each female dog who survives that long and a greater number of cycles per cat, a birth control formula lasting even six months would have the potential to cut breeding by about 20% in dogs and a higher percentage in cats. This would be a huge reduction in the birth

rate by itself, and if the product were administered twice a year to all the animals in an area, which is admittedly more feasible with dogs than cats, the birth rate in the treatment area would plummet. If the formula lasted one year, the effect would be greater, and a product lasting two years would likely extend past the likely reproductive life of many homeless animals.

"Of course," Bartlett adds, "contracepted animals are likely to experience reduced mortality, because of diminished reproductive stress. This includes complications of pregnancy and delivery in females, combined with risks associated with defending a litter and providing nourishment, and for males contracepted with products that diminish testosterone production, there would be reduced roaming in search of females in estrus and less fighting with other males. There are a lot of variables and plenty of opportunities for improper or inadequate dosing," acknowledges Bartlett, "and we won't know how quickly a population decline might occur until there are field studies, but I think that a contraceptive lasting less than three years could still be very helpful in attempting to non-lethally control a homeless dog or cat population."

### The cost of Suprelorin

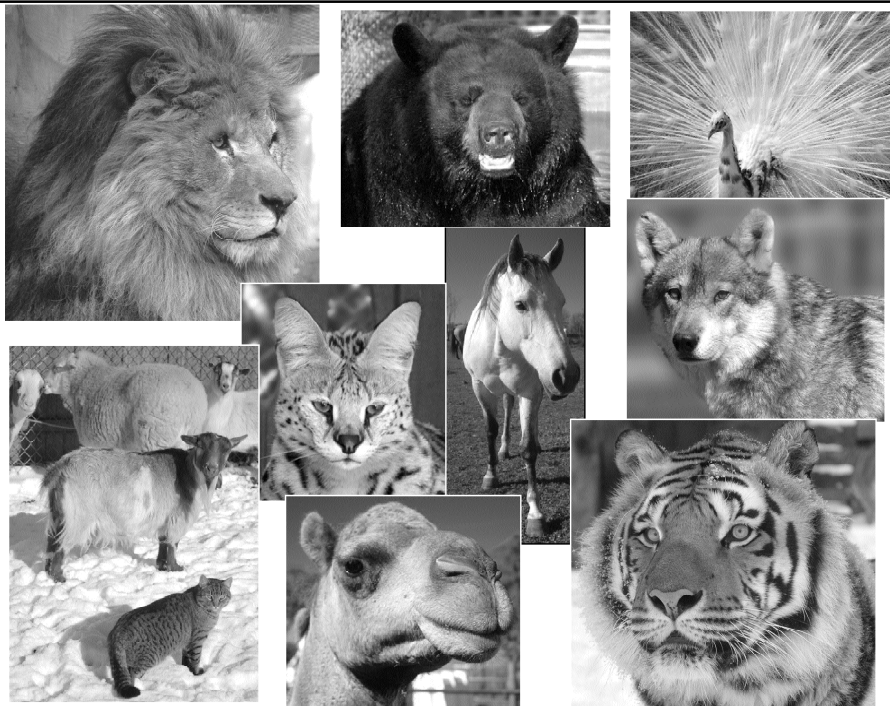
Peptech currently recommends that the retail cost of Suprelorin in Australia and New Zealand should be about \$60 per male implant in dogs, about \$20 less than the price when it was first introduced.

The price per implant in Britain runs around £50.

Suprelorin is also used off-label in Australia to control reproductive behavior in male parrots and show-grade exotic poultry. "Cost can range from \$80-\$120 and upward per implant, depending on your vet and which implant your bird needs," advises a posting on the BackyardPoultry web site. "The bird can also never be eaten after having the implant. Males can also lose their secondary sexual characteristics and become somewhat feminized in appearance."

Expense is one drawback to the widespread use of deslorelin implants in street dogs and feral cats. Another is that the implants—like rabies vaccines—must be kept cold until use, which can be difficult in the hot climates of the developing world. Yet the refrigeration issue is a challenge rather than an insurmountable obstacle, as illustrated by the success of street dog vaccination campaigns in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and parts of India, Thailand, and Indonesia.

There are also some human health and safety concerns associated with deslorelin-based drugs. The British National Office of Animal Health in Britain warns that, "Pregnant women should not administer the product. Another GnRH analogue has been shown to be foetotoxic in laboratory animals. Specific studies to evaluate the effect of deslorelin



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when administered during pregnancy have not been conducted. Although skin contact with the product is unlikely," the NOAH warning continues, "should this occur, wash the exposed area immediately, as GnRH analogues may be absorbed through the skin. When administering the product, take care to avoid accidental self-injection."

### Gonazon & GonaCon

A product similar to Suprelorin, Gonazon, introduced by Intervet/Schering-Plough, "received regulatory approval in November 2006 in the European Union," ACC&D notes. "Early studies of Gonazon use in cats show three years of contraception. Unfortunately, the product is not currently being manufactured, so further study on the potential use in cats is on hold."

Another similar product, GonaCon, was developed by the National Wildlife Research Center, under the umbrella of USDA Wildlife Services, along with a contraceptive for geese, ducks, and pigeons called OvoControl. (See page 8.)

Field-tested in 2004-2005, GonaCon was first used to control ground squirrel populations in Berkeley, California. It cut their birth rate by two thirds.

Next GonaCon was used to control the feral fallow deer population at Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, north of San Francisco, and in elk at Rocky Mountain National Park, near Denver. Based on findings from those tests, GonaCon was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in September 2008 for controlled use by state and federal agencies to contracept deer and elk.

The introduction of GonaCon has encountered political resistance from hunters. Seven states now prohibit any use of wildlife contraceptives, including Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and South Carolina. Pennsylvania requires that communities applying for GonaCon deployment must demonstrate that hunting has not resolved, or cannot resolve, their deer population problems.

GonaCon has not yet been used to contracept feral cats. However, "GonaCon has been shown, in preliminary research, to be effective in approximately 75% of female cats for two years," says ACC&D, adding "We look forward to receiving and reviewing additional data as work on this approach progresses."

### Veterinary resistance

Though just now emerging as a leading animal contraceptive method, contraceptive applications of the pharmaceutical family including deslorelin, Suprelorin, Gonazon, and GonaCon are not a new approach. Researchers have experimented with anti-GnRH compounds as a contraceptive for both animals and humans for more than 30 years.

Several anti-GnRH researchers reported positive findings from experiments involving female cats at the 2004 ACC&D conference in Aspen, Colorado, including Henry Baker, director of the Scott-Ritchey Research Center at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in Georgia, and Metamorphix Canada Inc. bioevaluation unit head Sarah Robbins. But anti-GnRH studies in the U.S. and Europe have so far not been followed up with either private or nonprofit investment in product development and approval for marketing. This is why USDA Wildlife Services funded the development and approval process for GonaCon.

Valerie A. Ferro of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, told the 2004 ACC&D conference that she had done anti-GnRH studies for 14 years with virtually no funding. For four years Ferro received some support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals, she acknowledged, but Novartis withdrew, she indicated, because their veterinary clients were worried that a successful anti-GnRH injection might cut into their surgical income.

"The initial [veterinary] response [to Suprelorin] has been good," Peptech general manager Paul Schober told Joyce Briggs of ACC&D in 2006, "although some vets were wary of the product as they mistakenly believed that we were trying to replace surgical castration," which is exactly what a street dog or feral cat application meant to last at least three years would be attempting to do, in trying to prevent fecundity for the life expectancy of the animal. "These vets were more receptive," Schober said, "when we explained that this product is mainly for those who will not castrate their animals, and once they realized that its use would likely involve multiple visits by clients over time to maintain the effect." —Merritt Clifton

### Street dogs, trains, & Indian elephants

DELHI—Longtime animal welfare concerns flared into public view in September 2010 in connection with two symbols of Indian national pride—Indian Railways and the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Animal advocates worried ever since India agreed to host the two-week Commonwealth Games in 2006 that the games would be preceded by an illegal but nonetheless officially encouraged dog massacre, to rid the streets of perceived "dog menace" before the arrival of thousands of foreign visitors. Under activist pressure, the city of Delhi increased the pace of dog sterilizations under the federally subsidized Animal Birth Control program, but was nonetheless embarrassed by dogs roaming the athletes' village at the start of the games. The animal charity Friendicoes SECA agreed to hold the dogs in temporary quarters for the duration of the games.

Environment and animal welfare minister Jairam Ramesh interrupted his attention to that matter on September 30 to inspect the site where on the night of September 22 a speeding freight train killed seven elephants in the Moraghat forest of West Bengal. More than 150 Indian elephants have been killed by trains since 1987, but the September 23 accident drew attention as never before to the appeals of activists to either re-route the tracks in elephant habitat or reduce train speed.

# Papaya product and calcium chloride emerge as rivals to zinc sterilants

**SAN FRANCISCO, PORTLAND—**Contrary to military chow line rumors circulating for at least seven centuries, saltpeter is just a meat preservative, with no actual effect in reducing the sex drive or effecting contraception when troops go on leave. Also contrary to ancient rumor, troops are not inoculated with saltpeter during their vaccinations at induction into military service.

Several zinc compounds have contraceptive effects similar to some of those misattributed to saltpeter if injected into the testicles of male animals, but often induce painful scrotal swelling, and have no more effect than saltpeter in reducing testosterone production.

The latest contenders in the market for male chemosterilants that will suppress testosterone and will not produce painful side effects are products based on papaya juice and road salt.

“There seems to be no end of things can can be injected into testicles to inhibit fertility,” Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs president Joyce Briggs told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. ACC&D administrates grants to fund demonstrations of EsterilSol, manufactured and distributed in Mexico by Ark Sciences. Based on zinc gluconate, EsterilSol is “the same compound” as Neutersol, according to ACC&D. Introduced in the U.S. in 2003, after a decade-plus of experimental use in Mexico, Neutersol generated a brief flurry of enthusiasm worldwide, but was not a commercial success anywhere. Neutersol produced testicular swelling that the Blue Cross of India judged unacceptable in a 2005 field test in Chennai, India, and is no longer made.

Talsur, the first zinc-based chemosterilant, developed by the Blue Cross of India, failed Chennai field tests in 1990-1991. Talsur was based on zinc arginine.

The newest zinc-based chemosterilant, Infertile, includes both zinc gluconate and zinc arginine. “Infertile was approved for use in Brazil in late 2008,” development funder Debbie Hirst told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**, “and is now marketed by a firm called Rhobifarma.”

“Studies show that the product pro-

vides permanent sterilization to 72% of dogs in one treatment,” summarizes the ACC&D evaluation of Infertile. “With further study, and possible refinement of formulation, Infertile has potential to aid in advancing sterilization programs in Brazil.”

Zinc injections do not reduce the recipient animals’ production of testosterone. Thus undesirable behavior such as aggression and territorial marking may not be reduced, or at least may not be reduced as much, as fast, as by surgical castration.

## The papaya fix

Infertile has a Brazilian competitor, StopSex, in development since 1999 by veterinary researchers Marcelo Vivaqua, Carmo Fausto Moreira da Silva, and Felipe Berbari Neto, which was initially introduced specifically to reduce testosterone release from the testicles of pigs. The active ingredient is papain, extracted from papaya pulp, in a milk-like solution of lactic acid and glucose.

StopSex “has the fibrosing effect,” explains the product literature. The lactic acid induces inflammation. The damaged tissue is replaced by fibrous tissue, while the papain, a substance best known as a meat tenderizer, “promotes the digestion of testicular tissue.”

Vivaqua, da Silva, and Neto introduced StopSex as a method of chemically castrating pigs before slaughter. This is required by Brazilian law, and by the laws of several other nations, to prevent “boar taint” from contaminating pork products. StopSex is advertised as significantly less painful than the conventional procedure of mechanically castrating pigs without the use of anesthetic.

The idea that StopSex could be adapted for use in contracepting dogs was raised by Brazilian veterinarian Silvio Leite during a September 2010 United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization consultation. Leite opined that unlike hormonal contraceptive methods, “This product would not be risky in case of dog meat consumption,” then added that he had no relationship with the StopSex developers and manufacturers. “Also, I personally do not endorse dog meat con-

sumption,” Leite said.

Commented Hirst, “We have studied the process of getting a chemical sterilant approved for use in pigs in Brazil. The economic and humanitarian justifications are compelling.” But Hirst concluded that Infertile could not serve the need.

“There is a product that results in the reduction of andrestenone,” the hormone causing boar taint, “called Vivax, produced by Pfizer,” Hirst said, “that is a hormone-based injection which needs to be given twice during the life of the pig, and then you don’t need to castrate. It took them years to get it approved at huge expense.”

## Road salt

Elaine Lissner, director of medical research programs for the San Francisco-based Parsemus Foundation, in June 2010 surveyed **ANIMAL PEOPLE** readers about perceptions of the importance of altering the behavior of male animals as a part of sterilization.

“What I’m hearing from the front lines,” Lissner summarized after the results were in, “is that if you don’t reduce roaming, packing, fighting, and associated dog bites, there’s not much point in sterilizing males. The survey response was clear. Most people thought they could get 30-40% more dog owners through the door with a non-behavior-changing injection like Neutersol, but for every-day shelter and street dog use, and for all cats (whether owned or feral), behavior change is key. Some of the groups using Neutersol are getting the complication rates down to 1% or 2%, but neuter/return is more acceptable to the public if the amount of mating, packing, and fighting goes down.”

Lissner has become intensely interested in the results from laboratory tests of calcium chloride as an injectible chemosterilant, done in Kolkata, India, circa 2000.

Calcium chloride is best known as the scale that often builds up inside tea kettles in areas with “hard” water, and as the form of salt spread on roads in winter to prevent ice from building up on the pavement.

Based on the test results, Lissner

believes the calcium chloride approach “reduces testosterone and has a lower complication rate” than zinc-based solutions. “Also,” Lissner adds, “10% calcium chloride solution is already widely available in human emergency rooms. Using the commercially available vials, one could sterilize a dog right now for under \$1.00, or 50 rupees, plus the cost of a needle. The researchers added a little anesthetic to the mix, which they think helps keep down swelling.

“Someone just needs to spend the money to take calcium chloride through the regulatory approvals testing process, which will cost four to five million dollars,” Lissner told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. “That amount would be saved every month that an injection substitutes for surgery in the future in the U.S. alone,” Lissner calculated, “so from a spay/neuter funder’s standpoint, investing in calcium chloride should be a very good investment in future savings, and being able to reach more dogs.

Because calcium chloride is a commonly occurring natural chemical, already in widespread pharmaceutical use, it does not have economic potential likely to attract for-profit investment.

“My focus,” Lissner said, “has been on making the bigger funders aware of the amount of published data and trying to get them interested in partnering with us on taking this through Federal Drug Administration approval studies. The Parsemus Foundation is too small to do it ourselves.”

“Our advisor historian Wolfgang Jochle notes that shepherds in Europe have used calcium chloride for livestock castrations for many decades,” commented Briggs. “And from discussion with Min Wang, lead scientist for Neutersol/EsterilSol, it sounds like one reason they chose zinc gluconate neutralized with arginine as a lead formula to commercialize was because it worked more quickly than calcium chloride.”

The difference in time taken to prevent sperm production, however, if it exists, would be slight compared to the total reproductive life of a male street dog.

# Animal advocates debate use of OvoControl to halt massacres of pigeons & geese

**NEW YORK CITY—**Controversy raged in New York City and suburbs throughout summer 2010—as in most summers—over bird control.

In 2010, however, the disputes expanded from whether or not birds should be killed to a division of opinion among animal advocates over the possible introduction of OvoControl, a new avian contraceptive made by Innolytics LLC, of California, as an alternative to killing.

New York City Council member James Oddo, of Staten Island, has pushed for the use of OvoControl against pigeons since 2007. New York City Council members Brad Lander, Stephen Levin, and Letitia James and New York state senator Eric Adams on August 11, 2010 joined representatives of In Defense of Animals at a City Hall rally calling for the use of OvoControl instead of lethal culling against nonmigratory Canada geese.

The Humane Society of the U.S., PETA, and People for Pigeons also favor Ovocontrol. The New York Bird Club and Friends of Animals are opposed, and are critical of any use of contraceptives to regulate wild animal populations.

Explained HSUS president Wayne Pacelle to members of GooseNet in May 2010, “OvoControl is a kibble bait that uses the compound nicarbazin to effectively reduce egg hatching rates. Long used in the commercial poultry industry, nicarbazin’s effects are not permanent. There is no evidence that it produces health or environmental consequences other than its prevention of egg development. It poses no threat to birds of prey or non-target bird species because it rapidly clears from the system. When properly administered, it is not consumed in large enough quantities to alter reproduction in non-target birds.

“OvoControl has been effective in reducing bird populations in communities throughout the United States,” Pacelle said, “including Los Angeles, Oakland, Phoenix, and Tucson. Until quite recently, it was only available for use by licensed pesticide applicators. In March, however, the Environmental Protection Agency provided a general-use approval for OvoControl for pigeons.” Approvals followed from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation in April 2010, and from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation in May 2010. New York was the last of the 50 states to ratify the federal registration.

Responded New York Bird Club founder Anna Dove, “As the pigeon population steadily decreases on its own, most likely due to extremely difficult conditions for survival, it may be likely that the rock pigeon will meet the same fate as the billions of passenger pigeons who once existed, but are now extinct due to the activities of mankind and to loss of habitat.”

The archives of *The New York Times* document that furious public denunciations and defenses of pigeons have accompanied sporadic exterminations of pigeons, both officially authorized and undertaken by vigilantes, for more than 150 years. In 2010, however, the perennial pigeon wars took second place to the killing of non-migratory Canada geese by

USDA Wildlife Services—especially after 400 geese from Prospect Park in Brooklyn were massacred on July 8, 2010.

Summarized Isolde Rafferty of *The New York Times*, “Officials plan to reduce the number of Canada geese in New York State by two-thirds, eventually trimming the population to 85,000 from 250,000, according to a report prepared by several city, state and federal agencies. The reduction is part of a larger plan that also calls for the near halving of the Canada goose population in 17 Atlantic states, to 650,000 from 1.1 million.”

USDA Wildlife Services began quietly capturing, killing, and burying the remains of geese found in New York City parks and other public property in 2009. The killing only became widely known after the massacre of the Prospect Park flock, who were fed by many park visitors.

Reported Rafferty, “The plan emerged from five months of meetings that followed the crash-landing of US Airways Flight 1549 in the Hudson River after geese flew into its engines and disabled them in January 2009. The plan was completed in summer 2009 but not made public.”

During the planning process, Rafferty wrote, “Officials learned that there had been 78 Canada goose strikes over 10 years at local airports and that those strikes caused more than \$2.2 million in aircraft damage. And they were reminded that 24 people were killed in 1995 when an Air Force surveillance plane struck Canada geese in Alaska.”

Both the Flight 1549 incident and the 1995 crash in Alaska involved high-flying migratory geese, not their low-flying and relatively seldom-flying non-migratory cousins.


Descended from wild geese who were hybridized with domestic geese in the first half of the 20th century to serve as live decoys for goose hunters, non-migratory Canada geese were confiscated from hunting clubs more than 70 years ago, after the use of live decoys was prohibited by federal law, and were bred for use in restocking depleted goose populations throughout North America.

The restocking continued in some states into the 1990s. The original idea was that the nonmigratory geese would be hunted, but they proliferated most in urban and suburban areas where they could not be hunted.

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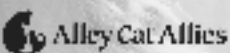
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### Net-cutting claimed by German activists fails to free dolphins from "The Cove"

**TAIJI, Japan**—Japanese authorities, coastal whalers, longtime opponent of coastal dolphin-killing and capture Ric O'Barry, and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society observers at the Taiji dolphin-killing cove Scott and Elora West all appeared surprised on September 28, 2010 by a web-posted announcement that "Divers from the European conservation organisation Black Fish last night swam out and cut the nets of six holding pens in Taiji, Japan, that were holding dolphins caught during a dolphin drive hunt a few days earlier.

"During this hunt," the Black Fish statement said, "a number of dolphins were

selected for the international dolphinarium trade and transferred to these holding pens," which belong to the Taiji Whale Museum, the broker for dolphins sold from Taiji.

"It was not me!" O'Barry e-mailed from Hurghada, Egypt, where he was working with a local organization called HEPCA. "I have an iron clad alibi," O'Barry added. "I was trying to get four Taiji dolphins out of a private villa. We have not done that yet, but we were successful in stopping the import of five others." The Hurghada dolphins are believed to have been acquired for a dolphinarium being built in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm al Sheikh.

The Wests and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society founder Paul Watson initially said they had not heard of Black Fish.

Countered blogger Michael d'Estries of [www.ecorazzi.com](http://www.ecorazzi.com), "All of the Blackfish co-founders—Arne Feuerhahn, Christine Bindal, and Wietse van der Werf—are recent Sea Shepherd crew members," whose names were mentioned in Sea Shepherd accounts of various 2008-2010 activities. "The crew of the Sea Shepherd on the ship MV Bob Barker posed for a photo in late August," d'Estries said, "holding up a banner supporting a Black Fish campaign."

Black Fish has mainly protested

against marine mammal captivity in Germany.

"Black Fish is a European group," Watson acknowledged a day later, "and did send divers to Taiji, and nets on the dolphin holding pens were cut. Scott West, our director of investigations is a trained law enforcement officer," Watson said. "He carefully analyzed the situation and the evidence, and confirmed that the nets were cut. He also confirmed that no dolphins were freed."

"We have confirmed that there are still live dolphins being held in the pens in Taiji Harbor," West posted on October 2, 2010. "We are unable to determine how many."

### Events

**October 9-10: PetSmart Charities PetWalk & Adoption Event**, Charlotte, North Carolina. Info: [http://pschar.convio.net/site/TR/Walk/PetWalkNorthCarolinaEvent?fr\\_id=1070&pg=entry](http://pschar.convio.net/site/TR/Walk/PetWalkNorthCarolinaEvent?fr_id=1070&pg=entry).

**October 14: Save Japan Dolphins Day**. Info: [www.SaveJapanDolphins.org](http://www.SaveJapanDolphins.org).

**Oct. 15-17: No More Homeless Pets**, Las Vegas. Info: <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?>.

**October 16: National Feral Cat Day**. Info: [www.alley-cat.org/NFCD](http://www.alley-cat.org/NFCD).

**Oct. 16-17: Australasian Primate Conf.**, Katoomba, NSW. Info: [primates4primates@gmail.com](mailto:primates4primates@gmail.com).

**Oct. 30: Veggie Pride Parade**, Santa Monica, Calif. Info: [info@animalacres.org](mailto:info@animalacres.org); [www.animalacres.org](http://www.animalacres.org).

**Oct. 30-Nov. 2: Intl. Vegetarian Union & South West Asia Vegetarian Congress**, Bangalore. Info: [indianvegansociety@rediffmail.com](mailto:indianvegansociety@rediffmail.com); [www.vegansociety.in](http://www.vegansociety.in).

**Nov. 9-11: Intl. Companion Animal Welfare Conference**, Prague, Czech Republic. Info: [www.icawc.org](http://www.icawc.org).

**Dec. 2-5: East & Central Africa Vegetarian Congress**, Nairobi, Kenya. Info: [liladharbharadia@yahoo.com](mailto:liladharbharadia@yahoo.com); [nigveganimal@yahoo.com](mailto:nigveganimal@yahoo.com); [www.ivuorg/africa/nairobi](http://www.ivuorg/africa/nairobi).

(continued on page 10)

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Today, the refuge cares for nearly 400 animals, including 60 chimpanzees, and members of 32 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, several primates arrived at the sanctuary: five from pet owners—Joey, a black and white capuchin, Baylor and Momo, Ring-tailed lemurs, Rowdy, a marmoset monkey, Buck, a chimpanzee—as well as Kumar and Puck, rhesus macaques, from a research institution.

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Bushmeat poaching and predator loss (from page 1)

involved in bushmeat poaching to any great extent relative to indigenous Africans.

The most often cited source for the claim that Chinese workers are involved is an early 2008 report published by the Amboseli Trust for Elephants which mentioned that "There are two Chinese road camps in the general area [of Amboseli National Park]. We are told by our informants that they are buying ivory and bushmeat."

Nothing further was included about bushmeat, but the alleged linkage of ivory and bushmeat trafficking has been amplified ever since by Kenyan media, amid increasing concern that Kenya buys 34 times more merchan-

dise from China than it officially sells there, an economically damaging and politically sensitive trade deficit.

Meanwhile the Kenya Wildlife Service apprehended 2,134 suspects for wildlife-related offenses in 2007. Among them, only alleged elephant ivory traffickers Shuo Ling and Tao Oil were identified as Chinese nationals.

A similar case surfaced in Uganda in 2006, where a young Chinese woman named Wang Xiuli was fined for trying to smuggle ivory in her luggage and trying to bribe a customs officer when caught.

Reports from around Africa often

mention examples of usually unnamed Chinese workers and visitors buying and smuggling both raw ivory and ivory trinkets—but not examples involving bushmeat.

Chinese workers who eat wildlife at home almost certainly indulge in Africa. Yet even though the numbers of Chinese immigrant workers have risen from negligible to highly visible in certain sectors of some African nations' economies during the past decade, they remain few compared to total human population and consumers of bushmeat.

Zimbabwe, which has most avidly courted Chinese investment, reportedly has about 10,000 resident Chinese at any given time, with pass-through of about 25,000 per year, among a human population of 12.5 million. Kenya may have the next most resident Chinese, officially about 3,000, with pass-through of about 10,000 per year, among a human population of about 38 million.

Average Zimbabwean consumption of bushmeat was about 2.1 kilos per person per year as of 1986, according to United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization data. Zimbabwean farmed meat production is steeply down since then, increasing poaching pressure on wildlife, but the wildlife population has been severely depleted, so net consumption is likely to be still in the same range.

Average Kenyan consumption of bushmeat was about 3.6 kilos per person per year as of 2004, according to data gathered by Youth for Conservation and the Kenya Wildlife Service.

At these rates of total consumption,



Leopard at Samburu National Park, Kenya. (Kim Bartlett)

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Chinese immigrant workers and visitors would have to eat about 10 times more bushmeat than anyone else to account for even .002% of the volume in either Kenya or Zimbabwe.

The rhino, elephant, and bushmeat poaching industries are not inherently related. Understanding their differences helps to illuminate why African nations have invested just a fraction of the resources expended to fight rhino and elephant poaching in trying to stop bushmeat poaching, even though the Wildlife Conservation Society reported in 2002 that continent-wide, bushmeat poaching was occurring at about six times the maximum sustainable rate.

Rhino horn and elephant ivory are obtained at often great expense on the part of poachers, who these days typically use heli-

(continued on page 11)

Our Readers Asked For Seconds... Now, Here It Is



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By Priscilla Feral

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(Orders will begin shipping March 2009)

Dogs in hot cars

At instigation of Animal Issues founder Phyllis Daugherty and state assembly member Anthony Portantino, the 2011 California Dept. of Motor Vehicles drivers' handbook is to include a warning about the dangers of leaving dogs unattended in vehicles—which can carry a fine of up to \$500 plus six months in jail if harm to the dog results. The handbook advisory follows a public education campaign by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

More events

2011

**January 29-31: India for Animals** conf., Chennai. Info: Fed. of Indian Animal Welfare Groups, c/o <fsowmya@indiananimals-federation.org>.

**Feb. 25-26: Sex, Gender & Species** conf., Wesleyan U., Middletown, Connecticut. Info: <lgruen@wesleyan.edu> or <kweil@wesleyan.edu>.

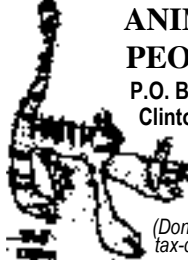
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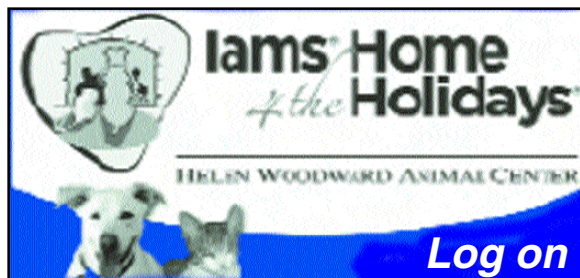
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## Causes of bushmeat poaching and predator loss

(from page 10)

copters to find and kill the animals, and bribe law enforcement to get away with the goods. Rhino horn and elephant ivory are mostly trafficked as non-perishable high-value export commodities, which may be hoarded as an investment for decades before use or resale. Though the rhino horn and elephant ivory industries involve many millions of dollars, the physical volume of material that poachers move per year would fit into a single railway car or oceanic cargo container.

The loss of each poached rhino and elephant is estimated to cost African nations thousands of dollars in tourism and/or trophy hunting revenue. Poaching and trafficking rhino horn and elephant ivory by contrast generate little revenue for anyone except poachers, traffickers, and officials on the take.

Studies of bushmeat poaching by the Wildlife Conservation Society and Wildlife Conservation Trust indicate that about 10% of the meat is eaten by poachers and their families; 90% is sold for consumption by others in

nearby urban areas. This makes bushmeat trafficking and preparation a sizeable source of income for millions of Africans, albeit full-time employment for relatively few of them.

The volume of bushmeat sold has been estimated by various studies as up to 30% of all the meat eaten in eastern Africa, 20% in western and central Africa, and 15% in southern Africa. Most bushmeat consumers appear to prefer it only when scarcity has increased the prices of fish and farmed meat, according to findings by University of California at Berkeley researcher Justin Brashares.

Exporting poached animals to southern China has devastated wildlife in much of Southeast Asia, but chiefly in regions that are within a few days' drive or sailing time of the markets. Small amounts of dried and smoked bushmeat are known to be bootlegged as a relatively expensive novelty food to illegal markets in the U.S., Europe, and possibly parts of Asia, but because bushmeat is highly perishable and hard to smuggle without detection,

the volume exported from Africa appears to be a negligible percentage of the whole.

Species poached for bushmeat include endangered bonobos, gorillas, chimpanzees, and gibbons, and common species popular with tourists, such as giraffes and zebras, but most are small to mid-sized herbivores such as gazelle, impala, dik dik, warthogs, rock hyrax, baboons, and monkeys, who are relatively easily caught with snares improvised from fence wire. Many of the victim species are widely viewed as crop pests and competitors for grazing land. But the loss of these animals may have a cumulative ecological impact as great as the loss of elephants, believed to be the most dynamic habitat-shaping species in most of Africa.

An Africa-wide study done for the United Nations Environmental Program by the London Zoological Society, published in July 2010 by the journal *Biological Conservation*, found that populations of large mammals in national parks, including many species com-

monly poached for bushmeat, had declined by an average of 59% between 1970 and 2005. The Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute earlier published similar data just from Kenya.

The most evident effect of the loss of large mammals is loss of prey for African lions—and loss of lions. The total African lion population fell from about 76,000 to as few as 23,000 over the 20 years covered by the London Zoo study. Lions vanished from about 80% of their former habitat.

Even in Tanzania, with reputedly the most lions of any nation, the wild lion population fell 50% between 1996 and 2008, University of Minnesota professor Craig Packer recently reported. Packer found that the current Tanzanian trophy hunting quotas for lions are about 25% too high to ensure population stability. Cheetahs have become even scarcer, with only 10,000 to 14,000 left in the wild. Normally smaller predators such as

(continued on page 12)

## E.U adopts new rules for lab animal care & use

**STRASBOURG**—The European Parliament on September 8, 2010 ratified an updated edition of the 25-year-old European Union rules for animal use in laboratories. Member nations have two years to establish compliance.

The new rules state that "When an alternative to animal testing can be found it must be used." Animal researchers are now required to keep written histories of each individual non-human primate, dog or cat used in experiments to document that their welfare needs are met.

Governments now are to inspect animal labs at least every third year, and to do unannounced spot checks to ensure compliance with the new animal care requirements.

The new rules discourage the use of monkeys and all but prohibit the use of chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, and orangutans. "The use of non-human primates should be permitted only in those biomedical areas essential for the benefit of human beings, for which no other alternative replacement methods are yet available," the new rules state.

"In theory, great apes can be used in such research, but in practice license applications face tough EU scrutiny," commented *Science News*.

"Sustained public pressure has already ensured that no great apes have been used in European Union research in eight years," observed the *Los Angeles Times*.

About 12 million animals per year are used in laboratories within the 27-nation EU, including about 12,000 non-human primates. About 80% of the animals are mice and rats, said *Science News*. "About half are used for drug development and testing, a third for biological studies, and the rest for cosmetic testing, toxicology and disease diagnosis," *Science News* added.

The EU banned animal use in cosmetics testing in 2009, except for use in some long-running studies which must end by 2013.



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**Causes of bushmeat poaching and predator loss** (from page 10)

cheetahs, leopards, servals, hyenas, wild dogs, and jackals would thrive in the absence of African lions, but bushmeat poaching cuts severely into their prey base too.

But pointing directly toward bushmeat poaching is politically sensitive, because so many people are involved. Senior Kenya Wildlife Service scientist Charles Muyoki instead attributes the loss of predators to prolonged drought and human encroachment on the national parks that are their last semi-wild refuges. Drought, besides reducing the amount of vegetation available to wild prey species, increases the inclination of pastoralists to move their herds into parks, to poison predators who might attack livestock, and to poach to supplement their diets.

The Kenya Wildlife Service chased 397,137 domestic animals—such as sheep, goats, and cattle—out of parks in 2007, the most recent year for which data is available, and arrested 536 herders for encroachment.


Predator poisoning by pastoralists using the agricultural insecticide carbofuran, sold as Furadan, exploded during 2005-2007. Wildlife biologist Laurence Frank told Bob Simon of *60 Minutes* that he knew of as many as 75 lion poisonings just within his study areas in Kenya. Worse occurred at Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. “Over 80% of the hyenas have been killed and all of the leopards along the Nyamusagani river have been poisoned. We have lost at least 11 lions in 15 months,” Makerere University veterinarian Ludwig Siefert told Gerald Tenywa and John Thawite of *New Vision* in Kampala.

Facing a proposed ban of carbofuran in the U.S., following the imposition of a similar ban in the European Union, the maker, the FMC Corporation of Philadelphia, in March 2009 suspended sales to Kenya and tried to buy back stocks already in the region, FMC vice president Milton Steele told Associated Press.

Pushed by the American Bird Conservancy, mostly on behalf of U.S. birds but in alliance with African conservationists, the U.S. ban took effect anyway in May 2009. But even if carbofuran is no longer made, or sold in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa, the lost predator populations may never recover.

—Merritt Clifton

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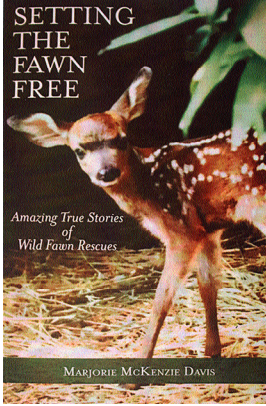
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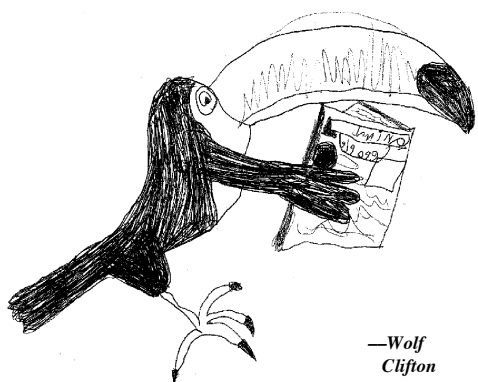
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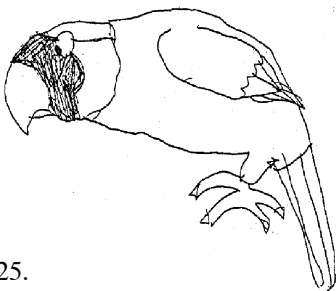
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## Alleged rhino poaching gang served trophy hunters (from page one)

involved who can transport rhino horn outside of the country in only a few days, you’re talking about access to helicopters and high-powered rifles,” Okori pointed out. “Despite bail conditions that include handing in their passports and identity documents, the chances remain high that this group has the connections and financial means that would allow them to escape,” Okori warned.

Also arraigned on September 22, 2010, in Nelspruit Magistrate’s Court for allegedly supplying weapons to Mozambican rhino poachers operating in Kruger National Park, was Petros Fernando Byrne. Various South African media disclosed court appearances elsewhere by three of Byrne’s alleged codefendants, who were caught within Kruger National Park. *Times Live* reported that one of them, Leonard Mashego was injured and hospitalized under police guard after a shoot-out with law enforcement.

Byrne “has also been linked to a smuggling syndicate operated in Mozambique by Chinese and Vietnamese nationals,” reported J.P. du Plessis of iAfrica.com in Cape Town. “Meanwhile, two men—one from China and one from Mozambique—are preparing to apply for bail in Limpopo, after they were caught in possession of a rhino horn.”

### More outfitters

Those two individuals were not named to media, but the National Prosecuting Authority also named as defendants in rhino poaching cases George Clayton Fletcher of Sandhurst Safaris and Gerhardus Bartlomeus Saaiman of Saaiman Hunting Safaris, along with two other Afrikaner codefendants. Arrested earlier in 2010, these four suspects were reportedly to go to trial in North Gauteng High Court on October 11, 2010. Fletcher was allegedly found in possession of \$135,000 in cash and 12 unlicensed firearms.

The string of September 2010 arrests

of alleged rhino poachers may have begun with the apprehension of four indigenous 19 and 20-year-olds—three men and a woman—from Mbejeka village in Elukwatini. The men were reportedly caught with jacklights and ammunition as they tried to enter the Songimvelo Game Reserve, near Barberton. They were said by police to have hidden rifles in a nearby cemetery.

Summarized RhinoConservation.org, “One of the three suspects,” Lucky Maseko, “is already wanted in KwaZulu-Natal for involvement in an organized crime syndicate that specializes in killing rhinos. The poachers are also believed to be responsible for the kidnapping and assault of another poaching syndicate member, whom they thought was a police informant. The man was severely beaten and dumped at the roadside near Badplaas. It is believed that the man’s assailants assumed he would die of his injuries before being found. Instead, he survived and provided the authorities with valuable rhino poaching intelligence.”

The willingness of South African authorities to pursue rhino poaching cases was meanwhile called into question when on September 6, 2010, the Lephalale Magistrate’s Court in Limpopo released on bail five alleged rhino poachers, all of indigenous ancestry, even as a Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency internal report alleged that two of the agency’s own top officials “are part of the syndicate... responsible for the poaching in our parks/reserves.”

Reported Sydney Masinga of the African Eye News Service, “Agency chief executive Charles Ndabeni implicated chief operating officer Edward Thwala and provident fund official Bheki Malaza. Ndabeni also claims that he and two other employees, project specialist Dries Pienaar and general manager of wildlife protection services Jan Muller, were targets of a planned robbery of the agency’s ivory and rhino-horn stockpile.”

Responded Thwala, “I have already informed the [agency] that I am taking legal action against them.”

More than 600 rhinos have been poached in South Africa since 2007, including at least 210 in 2010—more than in 2000-2007 combined. More than 70 alleged rhino poachers have been arrested in South Africa since the onslaught began, but so far the arrests have not slowed the pace of killing. A possible 211th rhino victim—a pregnant cow—was found dead on a farm bordering the Dawie Groenewald farm on September 27, 2010, but her horn had not been removed.

“Groenewald, a former police official, was suspended from the South African Professional Hunters Association four years ago,” reported Julian Rademeyer and Marietie Louw-Carstens of *Beeld*. Groenewald “was arrested in the U.S. in April this year in connection with a leopard trophy which was illegally hunted in South Africa and exported to the U.S.,” Rademeyer and Louw-Carstens continued. “He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$30,000. He spent eight days in prison, plus over two months under house arrest, and had to pay \$7,500 in damages to the American hunter.”

### Mugabe connection

Rademeyer and Louw-Carstens noted that “Groenewald’s Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris advertises hunting safaris in Botswana, Tanzania, South Africa, and even Zimbabwe,” though “the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority forbade them from entering the country in September 2004. Hunting experts in Zimbabwe allege that Out of Africa has strong links with politicians close to President Robert Mugabe,” Rademeyer and Louw-Carstens wrote.

Observed Joshua Hammer of *Newsweek* in a January 2006 exposé, “Debate swirls around Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris. Founded by four former South African policemen and based in both South Africa and Overland Park, Kansas,” Hammer explained, Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris “has done a brisk business taking American clientele to hunt on several ranches that, according to industry watchdogs in Zimbabwe, were seized by ZANU-PF activists.”

Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force founder Johnny Rodrigues told Hammer that Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris is the most “flagrant violator” of hunting laws in the country.

Noting that Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris would “set up its usual booth at the Safari Club International convention” the next week, Hammer concluded that finding the full truth of the company’s activities would “require a real hunting expedition.”

### Following the money

The money in rhino poaching appears to have soared at about the same time the U.S. recession reduced the numbers of American trophy hunters. A hint at the prices that may be paid for the horns of poached rhinos came from a September 2010 antique auction in Sydney, Australia. “A rhino horn sold for \$90,000 and a Javan rhino trophy head fetched a surprising \$108,000; a pair of bull elephant tusks sold for \$96,000,” reported the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

“A growing middle class in East Asian society can afford to buy rhino horn,” WWF spokesperson Okori told News24.

“There have been claims from Vietnamese politicians that they have been cured from cancer,” said Endangered Wildlife Trust chief executive Yolán Friedman to Jockeyln Newmarch of *Business Day* in Johannesburg. “It has nothing to do with

aphrodisiacs.”

“These people do not use rhino horn as an aphrodisiac,” agreed Tom Milliken, spokesperson for the WWF subsidiary TRAFFIC, displaying images of rhino horn and elephant ivory objects taken from a Vietnamese web site. “This is organised crime,” Milliken emphasized, “by Asian-run, African-based criminal syndicates.”

“Each wave of economic advancement in East Asia has resulted in a concerted attack on Africa’s wildlife,” observed Suzie Watts of the British-based group Co-Habitat.

Historically the major markets for poached elephant ivory have been in Asia, including China and Vietnam, but poached African rhino horn was believed to have been trafficked mainly to oil-rich nations of the Middle East for use in making ceremonial dagger handles. South African police realized that the trade had changed when two Vietnamese suspects were caught at the O.R. Tambo International Airport while trying to smuggle four rhino horns to Vietnam and China.

In March 2008 the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa alerted the South African government that Vietnamese ivory buyers posing as hunters were shooting white rhinos on high-priced legal hunting safaris and taking advantage of a loophole in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species which allows hunters to export rhino horn trophies to their home nations. PHASA worried that abuse of the loophole might lead to it being closed.

In November 2008 a Vietnamese diplomat was recalled from South Africa after a South African Broadcasting Corporation hidden camera videotaped her in the apparent act of buying poached rhino horn outside the Vietnamese embassy.

Andrew Malone of the London *Daily Mail* in August 2009 exposed further particulars of the traffic in rhino horn from southern Africa to Asia by posing as a rhino horn buyer. Malone identified the ringleader of a poaching gang called “The Crocodile Gang” as Emmerson Mnangagwa, founder of the Zimbabwe Central Intelligence Office and a rumored possible successor to Robert Mugabe as Zimbabwean president. Malone described a rhino being shot repeatedly during a 12-hour pursuit to fill an order from a Chinese buyer who had offered £3,2000 per kilogram for rhino horn—more than \$12,000 per pound.

The Malone exposé appeared shortly after a police roadblock reportedly caught a Chinese man carrying six bloody rhino horns. The Chinese man reportedly implicated Mnangagwa and Zimbabwe media and information minister Webster Shamu. Thereafter the police officer who discovered the ivory was said to have disappeared, along with his report, while the Chinese suspect was escorted to Harare International Airport and allowed to fly home—with the rhino horns.

Rhino poaching exploded in South Africa as rhino became scarcer and more closely guarded in Zimbabwe.

Rhino & Lion Park owner Ed Hern told Sky News in July 2010 that he had begun injecting cyanide into the horns of his rhinos, after losing two to poachers two months earlier. “If someone in China eats it and gets violently sick, they are not going to buy it again,” Hern told Tim Edwards of *The First Post*.

Warned Faan Coetzee of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, via Victoria John of the South African Press Agency, “If someone died, you could be arrested for murder.”

A bogus “news report” from a fictitious newspaper called the *Bangkok Star* claimed on August 18, 2010 that a death due to poisoned rhino horn had already occurred.

—Merritt Clifton

## Hyenas replace dogs in Addis Ababa

**ADDIS ABABA**—Predators, including hyenas, are in decline across Africa—but not in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. Like coyotes in North American cities, hyenas are becoming established in the suburbs, parallel to a steep drop in the numbers of free-roaming dogs.

Chiefly nocturnal, the Addis Ababa hyenas are seldom seen, but the staff of the Donkey Sanctuary clinic in the grain market district on the west side of the city see increasing numbers of hyena bites to the hindquarters of donkeys, along with the more familiar injuries resulting from overloading, traffic accidents, and improper care—and the rabies and anthrax cases that are also not uncommon in Ethiopia, where animals are rarely vaccinated against either disease.

Working in Ethiopia since 1986 and 2006, respectively, the Donkey Sanctuary and the Brooke Hospital for Animals veterinarians have always seen hyena bites at their outlying clinics. Ethiopian project directors Suzan Gordon, DVM and Bojia Endebu, DVM told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

Hyenas attack donkeys as they do sheep and goats, from below, but instead of running like sheep or goats, donkeys turn and kick—and survive, with rump wounds.

Reuters news coverage mentioned hyena bites among the Donkey Sanctuary caseload at Debre Zeit, 30 miles east of Addis Ababa, in 2007. Now they occur just a few miles from the Addis Ababa city center.

How many dogs Addis Ababa had at peak was literally anyone’s guess. The now inactive Homeless Animals Protection Society said 100,000. The Agriculture

Department said 200,000. The population is diminished now, partly due to poisoning campaigns, partly because the volume of donkey traffic in Addis Ababa is down by more than half in 10 years. Fewer donkeys mean less ground-level grain storage, less grain spilled by overloaded donkeys, fewer rats, less dung, more trucks, and a much less hospitable environment for street dogs.

At a normal ratio of bites to dogs, the 740 bites reported to the Ethiopian Health & Nutrition Research Institute in 2008-2009 by victims seeking post-exposure rabies treatment suggest as few as 11,100 dogs remain.

The Best Friends Animal Society, Humane Society International, and Amsale Gessesse Memorial Foundation (now called the International Fund for Africa) in 2009 cosponsored a demonstration street dog sterilization project in the Kirkos abattoir district. The veterinary staff had to be trained on the job, and logistic difficulties slowed the work as well, but the team nonetheless sterilized 800 dogs, two-thirds of the goal. The city government agreed to expand the project to three additional sites. On September 4, 2010 the effort was endorsed by Ethiopian President Girma Woldegiorgis.

Assessing the effect of the pilot project and the population of dogs yet to be sterilized, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** between September 1 and September 4, 2010 did night-and-day dog and cat counts covering 10 representative square miles of Addis Ababa on foot. The **ANIMAL PEOPLE** counts projected a current dog population of about 8,200, with about 2,050 cats chiefly occupying habitat with low dog density.

Record \$7 million verdict in pit bull fatality case & related legal updates

**HENDERSON, Texas**—A Rusk County District Court jury on September 17, 2010 held pit bull terrier owners Rick and Christi George of Leveritt’s Chapel responsible for a record \$7 million in damages for allowing their two dogs to escape and kill skateboarder Justin Clinton, 10, on June 15, 2009. “The jury heard evidence from 46 witnesses and viewed 125 exhibits which documented the vicious attack and conduct of these two animals,” attorney Cynthia Kent told **ANIMAL PEOPLE**.

“Although several defense witnesses testified that they had never seen the dogs act aggressively and one even referred to the dogs as ‘lovable little fluff balls,’ law enforcement officers and other witnesses testified to the dogs’ vicious and aggressive nature as compared to other breeds,” Kent added. Kent, representing the victim’s family, was previously a district judge in Tyler, Texas. Soon after the fatal attack Kent announced that she would pursue the passage of legislation to restrict or prohibit breeding or keeping pit bulls.

The case revealed that one of the dogs bit the victim previously, two weeks before the fatal attack, but the earlier bite was concealed from the boy’s mother, reported Tyler *Morning Telegraph* staff writer Betty Waters. The lawsuit argued that “the dogs had on numerous occasions been aggressive toward people while running loose in the neighborhood,” said Waters. Fencing that was allegedly inadequate to contain the dogs was partially at issue. In addition, Waters wrote, the lawsuit contended that the victim “did not understand the risks and dangers because of the numerous prior invitations of the defendants and their family to him and other children to come

Avocados & ivory

**NAIROBI**—Inspectors at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi thought there was something odd about a two-ton cargo of “avocados” that were to be flown to Malaysia on August 21, 2010.

Avocados, after all, are among the major exports of Sabah state, Malaysia.

Opening the boxes, the inspectors found 317 pieces of ivory and five rhino horns. Two suspects were arrested.

The seizure was the largest of many which together underscore that as Fred Mukinda and Benjami Muindi of *The Nation* charged a month earlier, “Kenya has become a safe route for cartels involved in the illegal ivory trade.”

For example, Mukinda and Muindi wrote, “2,000 kilograms of elephant tusks seized in Vietnam in May came from Selous National Park in Tanzania. However, the consignment was shipped through Mombasa,” the largest Kenyan seaport. “Another 48 tusks were seized on Nairobi’s Thika Road in a lorry, three weeks later,” Mukinda and Muindi continued. “A Korean and two Kenyans have been charged in connection with the offence.”

In late July 2010 the Vietnamese newspaper *Cong An Nhan Dan (People’s Police)* disclosed that customs officials in Hai Phong had in April intercepted a 200-kilo cargo of elephant tusks. That too came through Kenya, but the source also appeared to have been Tanzania. “Last week in Tanzania six businessmen were charged with smuggling 11 tons of elephant ivory to the Philippines and Vietnam over the previous six months,” reported Agence France-Presse.

Seizures of Tanzanian ivory continued in September 2010 with the impoundment of 384 elephant tusks in Hong Kong. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was also implicated, when a “huge consignment of elephant tusks destined to China via Nairobi were impounded at the Lubumbashi airport,” reported Zephania Ubwani of *The Citizen* in Dar es Salaam. “Several Chinese nationals were arrested,” Ubwani added.

“It was hoped that a 2007 agreement by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species would squeeze out illegal ivory trading by allowing four African countries to sell stockpiles gathered over many years from dead animals,” assessed Jody Clarke of the Johannesburg *Mail & Guardian*. “Instead, it reopened a window for smuggling into China, where ivory is a sought-after commodity for use in everything from medicines to ornaments.”

Instead of lowering the price of ivory on the world market, the availability of legal ivory drove demand and prices up fourfold, according to Kenya Wildlife Service head of conservation Patrick Omondi—or tenfold, according to Michael Casey, William Foreman, and Jason Straziuso of Associated Press, who in early 2010 followed the illegal traffic from Tsavo East National Park in Kenya to Bangkok, Thailand, and Putian, China.

“Although the influx of Chinese workers in Africa is also blamed for rising poaching, this is unlikely to be contributing significantly to the problem,” opined Wildlife Direct founder and two-time Kenya Wildlife Service chief Richard Leakey. “The Chinese workers are lowly paid,” Leakey pointed out, “and thus they don’t have the large amounts of money required to buy ivory from poachers. Far more important, there is quite a busy ivory market in China triggered by the one-off auction of ivory [authorized by CITES in 2007] held in 2008. Twenty years ago ivory was not very affordable in China. Only a few rich people could buy it. Today, China’s per capita income has been growing by about 8% per year. There are now tens of millions of Chinese people who can buy ivory. This is where the problem is.”

“We’ve more than doubled air patrols and put more staff on the ground,” Omondi of the Kenya Wildlife Service told Clarke of the *Mail & Guardian*. “We have sniffer dogs at airports and want to spread them to the port in Mombasa and are co-operating more than ever with international organisations such as Interpol,” Omondi continued. “But until the problem in Asia is tackled, international cartels that employ local people to poach will continue operating across Africa.”

over to their premises and visit their children and play with their family pets, including the two dogs who attacked him.”

The verdict is expected to be appealed. The jury award, the largest known in a dog attack fatality case, came five months after a Rottweiler attack case in Chester County, Pennsylvania ended with an out-of-court settlement for \$1.9 million, the largest known award in a nonfatal disfigurement case and a case in which the largest part of the payout was to be made by a second party—in that case, the maker of the dog’s tie-out cable. Second parties in several pending cases include animal shelters and individual rescuers who have adopted out dogs who subsequently injured or killed people.

Of 2,976 dogs involved in fatal or disfiguring dog attacks in the U.S. and Canada logged between September 1982 and the end of September 2010 by **ANIMAL PEOPLE** editor Merritt Clifton, 1,745 (59%) were pit bulls and close pit mixes, who make up 4.1% of the dog population, according to a June 2010 search of 3.2 million classified ads for dogs offered or sale or adoption. Pit bulls and close pit mixes had accounted for 181 of 379 fatalities; Rottweilers had accounted for 73.

Legal trends involving dangerous dogs continue to take paradoxical directions.

In San Francisco, the California First District Court of Appeal on August 20, 2010 upheld the 15-years-to-life sentence given to former Presa Canario keeper Marjorie Knoller, whose two dogs in January 2001 killed Diane Whipple, 33, at the door to her apartment. Knoller was initially convicted by jury of second degree murder. Her husband and law partner Robert Noel was convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

Superior Court Judge James Warren reduced Knoller’s conviction to involuntary manslaughter. “But after Knoller served her four-year manslaughter sentence and was paroled, the state Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that Warren used the wrong legal standard. The court said a fatal dog mauling is murder if the owner knew the animal posed a risk to human life and exposed others to the danger,” explained *San Francisco Chronicle* staff writer Bob Egelko. “Applying that test, Judge Charlotte Woolard reinstated Knoller’s murder con-

NACA & Philippines move against gassing

**KANSAS CITY, MANILA**—Gassing homeless animals moved closer toward abolition worldwide on September 15, 2010 when the U.S. National Animal Control Association withdrew approval of gassing, three weeks after Philippine Department of Agriculture secretary Proceso Alcala

deleted gassing with automotive exhaust fumes from the Philippine Revised Rules & Regulations on the Euthanasia of Animals. Alcala referred the proposed administrative rule that would have authorized gassing with exhaust back to the departmental committee on animal welfare for reconsideration. Philippine animal control agencies are still allowed to kill animals with bottled carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide.

The amended NACA policy on killing methods now states, “NACA considers lethal injection of sodium pentobarbital, administered by competent, trained personnel, to be the only method of choice utilized for humane euthanasia of animal shelter dogs and cats. NACA acknowledges that there are agencies legally restricted in their ability to obtain sodium pentobarbital. In such cases the alternative must be to seek out local veterinarians to provide euthanasia services utilizing sodium pentobarbital. NACA condemns the use of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, nitrous oxide, argon, or anesthetic gases as well as physical methods such as electrocution, gunshot, and blunt force trauma for animal shelter euthanasia of dogs and cats.”

The NACA policy does not mention killing animals by decompression. Formed in 1978, NACA in early

years hosted keen internal debate about decompression, but formally disapproved of it several years before 1985, when it was last used by an animal control agency within the U.S.

Concludes the NACA policy, “NACA very strongly urges agencies that are unable to legally obtain sodium pentobarbital, to work diligently towards passing legislation which would allow direct purchase of euthanasia drugs by licensed shelters, and require training and certification of staff.”

The Philippine deletion of approval of gassing with automotive exhaust fumes followed a year-long campaign by the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, in opposition to 12 of the 14 members of the agricultural ministry committee on animal welfare, including all of the members representing veterinarians and government agencies. The committee voted to approve gassing with automotive exhaust fumes in June 2010. PAWS and the Philippine SPCA were the only opponents on the committee. The opponents received support, however, from Batangas Province governor Vilma Santos-Recto and provincial veterinarian Marvin L. Rocafort, and the mayors and city veterinarians serving the cities of Bacoar Cavite, Mandaluyong, Makati, Marikina, and Quezon.

Greenpeacers sentenced

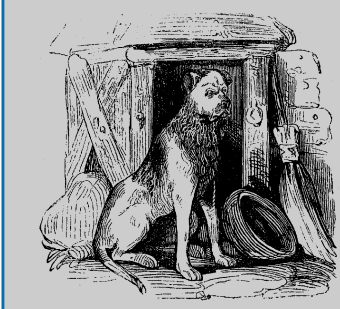
**TOKYO**—Greenpeace Japan anti-whaling campaigners Junichi Sato, 33, and Toru Suzuki, 43, were on September 6, 2010 convicted of stealing more than 20 kilograms of whale meat from a warehouse in April 2008, and were sentenced to a year in jail each, suspended for three years. Sato and Suzuki contended that they took the whale meat as evidence that members of the crew of the whaling ship *Nissan Maru* were illegally selling meat from whales who had been killed in the name of scientific research. The case, the award-winning film *The Cove*, and the July 2010 deportation of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society activist Pete Betheune, whose boat the *Ady Gil* was sunk by a Japanese whaler in January 2010, have greatly raised Japanese awareness of the nation’s involvement in whaling.

ANIMAL PEOPLE thanks you for your generous support

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# The Watchdog

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

## American Humane Association approves decompressing chickens (from page 1)

Animal Regulation, through which the AHA endorsed decompression as a method of killing homeless dogs and cats.

"This new method is based on the decompression process and employs a chamber in which the air pressure is lower than normal," wrote Bonner. "In the two years that we have been working with it, we've referred to it progressively as the altitude chamber, decompression chamber, and low pressure chamber. The air pressure is lowered, or decreased, which has the same effect on those entering it as ascending into a high altitude without an oxygen mask...This lowers the amount of oxygen carried in the blood...If oxygen is not administered and the air pressures are low enough, human or animal will in a short time cease to breathe and the heart will stop a few minutes later."

Bonner acknowledged that "slow rates of decompression resulted in some apprehension and motion by both dogs and cats," while "Rapid decompression to [the equivalent of] 55,000 feet in three seconds showed both cats and dogs to be motionless in three to five seconds with a blank look, then pass into a convulsive state lasting some ten seconds, with little or no motion after 20 seconds."

Explained Bonner, "Death caused by lower air pressures differs from an asphyxial type of death," caused by lack of oxygen, "in that asphyxia results in an accumulation of carbon dioxide in the tissues of the body, causing violent respiratory effort and struggling, whereas a decreased atmospheric pressure results in anoxia and does not give rise to an increased carbon dioxide content in the tissues; hence there are no untoward effects."

Bonner's arguments were accepted and promoted by the AHA for more than 20 years. In 1972, however, the city of Berkeley, California banned decompression as inhumane. San Francisco and Portland, Oregon followed in 1976 and 1977, respectively. Other cities followed. By the end of 1985 decompression was no longer used to kill shelter animals anywhere in the U.S., was outlawed for use on dogs and cats in 24 states, and was outlawed for use on any animals in 12 states. Decompression has subsequently been prohibited in most nations that ever used it.

### AVMA disapproves

"Decompression is unacceptable for euthanasia," according to the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines on Euthanasia, "because of numerous disadvantages. (1) Many chambers are designed to produce decompression at a rate 15 to 60 times faster than that recommended as optimum for animals, resulting in pain and distress attribut-

able to expanding gases trapped in body cavities. (2) Immature animals are tolerant of hypoxia, and longer periods of decompression are required before respiration ceases. (3) Accidental recompression, with recovery of injured animals, can occur. (4) Bleeding, vomiting, convulsions, urination, and defecation, which are aesthetically unpleasant, may develop in unconscious animals."

### PETA disapproves

PETA research association Kellie Heckman, Ph.D. critiqued the LAPS approach in February 2009, calling it LAPK, for "Low Atmospheric Pressure Killing." Wrote Heckman, "To date, the only published report on the use of LAPK for poultry that discusses animal welfare is 'Identifying Process Variables for a Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning-Killing System' by J.L. Purswell, J.P. Thaxton (not the same Thaxton quoted by the AHA), and S.L. Branton, published in the *Journal of Applied Poultry Research* in 2007."

"Purswell and colleagues present concerns with the use of controlled atmosphere stunning, including the issue of achieving a uniform concentration of gases," Heckman summarized. "This has not been cited as a welfare concern when using a controlled atmosphere that kills, rather than merely stunning birds. In fact, controlled atmosphere killing [with gases] has been used successfully in Europe since 1995 without compromising the welfare of poultry or the health and safety of workers. It is supported by a wide range of scientific experts and animal welfare organizations, e.g., Temple Grandin, Ian Duncan, Mohan Raj. PETA, the Humane Society of the U.S., Compassion In World Farming, and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, and by a plethora of published, peer-reviewed reports. Not a single published study supports the authors' concerns."

Continued Heckman, "A change in pressure may have immediate consequences to multiple physiological systems in birds. John Brackenbury, Ph.D., an expert in bird physiology, suggests that the [avian] ear is sensitive to changes in pressure and that damage to the middle ear during LAPK is likely. In addition," Heckman mentioned, "Dr. Ole Næsbye Larsen, Ph.D., an expert in bird physiology at high altitudes, stated that a rapid decrease in pressure would likely result in the bird's eardrum bulging, leading to rupture."

"Since the publication of the Purswell report in 2007," Heckman noted, an additional report on LAPK was published in 2008 in *Poultry Science*," edited by Yvonne Vizzier-Thaxton, the AHA Farm Animal Welfare Scientific Advisory Committee mem-

ber. This report, Heckman wrote, "provides the first introduction of commercial plans for using LAPK, and its sole interest is the quality of broiler breast meat from animals stunned by a low-pressure method relative to electrical immobilization/stunning. The report cites the use of a commercial prototype of a low-pressure harvest system developed by Techno-catch LLC, of Kosciusko, Mississippi."

Concluded Heckman, "PETA cannot condone the use of LAPK for poultry in any setting."

### CIWF, WSPA oppose

"The way animals are killed is a crucial welfare issue," said Philip Lymbery, chief executive of Compassion In World Farming. "No new method of slaughter should be employed until it has been proved to be humane. In the case of low atmospheric pressure stunning for poultry, we would want to see clear scientific evidence to show that it is non-aversive to the birds involved. It has to date been a view that this method is not humane and that therefore some very clear scientific evidence would be needed before it could be regarded as humane."

Said World Society for the Protection of Animals chief executive Mike Baker, after obtaining comment on the AHA announcement from senior staff, "The WSPA position is that if animals are slaughtered for food, this should be done humanely and all animals should be stunned effectively before slaughter. There is, as yet, no clear evidence that the LAPS for stunning poultry is humane. Therefore WSPA cannot support this method of stunning poultry."

### UPC critique

Commented United Poultry Concerns founder Karen Davis, "I was not aware that a LAPS method of stunning birds was so far advanced as to have possible commercial use in U.S. slaughter operations. It sounds similar to putting animals in a vacuum chamber. If decompression was banned in the U.S. for use on dogs and cats, given that birds, including chickens, have been scientifically characterized as having in all important respects the same neurophysiology as mammals, it is reasonable to conclude that the suffering endured by dogs and cats in being subjected to decompression would be similarly experienced by chickens and turkeys, quails and other birds. Chickens and other birds, like dogs and cats, would experience excruciating pain, panic and other forms of intense suffering. It's conceivable," Davis said, "that birds, or certain birds, could suffer even more than mammals, and take longer to die."

As an example of possible differences in species response, Davis mentioned that while chickens "frequently revive from apparent unconsciousness following exposure to carbon dioxide," ducks are even harder to kill by that method, apparently due to adaptations for swimming long distances underwater.

### Other views

"I have looked over various descriptions of LAPS and do not believe it is similar to the decompression method of killing widely banned in the U.S.," opined Rick Bogle of the Alliance for Animals, who has been pursuing litigation against laboratory use of decompression. "LAPS appears to be a system of oxygen deprivation," Bogle said. "The banned system isn't a ban on decompression, which in and of itself isn't generally harmful; the rate of decompression is the key factor."

"When used to kill," said Bogle, "the decompression is rapid and results in gaseous bubbles forming throughout the body. In the case of LAPS, the effect appears to be stunning, something that, according to humans who have experienced rapid decompression, and from descriptions of animals being rapidly decompressed, isn't common."

Countered Humane Farm Animal Care founder Adele Douglass, who before starting HFAC founded the AHA animal product certification program, "The LAPS method has never been tested commercially. It is the decompression chamber for poultry."

"We'll be interested to see the Thaxton study when it is published," said Humane Farming Association founder Brad Miller, "but at this point it's too soon to make an informed comment."

Agreed Humane Society of the U.S. factory farming campaign senior director Paul Shapiro, "Until the research is published, it will be difficult to have a conclusive opinion on it. Some science shows that rapid decompression is very painful. I have heard that slow decompression may be painless. Of course birds are different than mammals, but some humans report a sense of euphoria when slowly introduced to low-oxygen environments such as high altitudes."

Bonner in his March 1950 article extensively described the euphoric effect, discovered by University of Southern California professor of aviation medicine Charles F. Lombard through experimentation on more than 100,000 flight training cadets during World War II. But euphoria did not appear to be among the sensations experienced by animals being decompressed to death, using either the slow or fast approaches.

—Merritt Clifton

## Voting to end Wild Animal Orphanage, board seeks new homes for 297 animals

SAN ANTONIO—Wild Animal Orphanage directors Suzanne Straw, Michelle Cryer, and Chris Smith on August 31, 2010 unanimously voted to dissolve the 17-year-old sanctuary, one of the largest in the world, with 297 animals—some at the seven-acre original site just outside San Antonio, most at a 102-acre site located farther away.

Founders Carol and Ron Asvestas were ousted from the Wildlife Animal Orphanage management in an October 2009 coup d'état led by their daughter Nicole Garcia, amid financial stress following years of allegations of mismanagement by former volunteers and donors.

Clashing with several of the then-board members over tactics and priorities, Garcia was terminated on April 30, 2010. The sanctuary has been managed since then by volunteer Jamie Cryer, husband of board member Michelle Cryer.

"Due to over-population, under-funding and inadequate housing for the animals, the board and animal caretakers must say good-bye to our long-time residents," Straw,

Cryer, and Smith posted to the Wild Animal Orphanage web site on September 17, 2010. "Wonderful new homes are lined up for approximately one third of our remaining animals, but that leaves almost 200 animals without a future plan."

"Working with the USDA, the Texas State Attorney General's Office Charitable Trust Division, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare," Straw, Cryer, and Smith added, "the Wild Animal Orphanage board has signed a resolution to dissolve the sanctuary within 60 days by relocating the animal collection to other facilities. Animals not healthy enough to withstand the rigors of transportation will receive veterinary care to prepare them for transport, and if deemed medically necessary by a veterinarian, the remainder will be euthanized."

"We're providing expertise to help make sure the chimps are well taken care of. It's a dire situation," North American Primate Sanctuary Association co-chair Sarah Baeckler told ANIMAL PEOPLE.

"We're not going to close until every single animal has been found a new home," Straw earlier told Enrique Lopetegui of the *San Antonio Current*, pledging to "keep fundraising and feeding them."

Lopetegui learned of the impending closure, he said, from an August 23 web posting by Laurie Gage, identified as big cat specialist for the USDA, who said Wild Animal Orphanage was "trying to find homes for 55 tigers, 14 lions, three cougars, six wolf hybrids, two 17-year-old leopards, and about 200 primates." Among the animals were many who were accepted from other failed sanctuaries, often with IFAW sponsorship, and the 22 survivors among 55 stump-tailed macaques who were retired to Wild Animal Orphanage by the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1998.

Ex-Wild Animal Orphanage vice-president and treasurer Kristina Brunner hinted to Lopetegui that a vegetarian food policy for humans was involved in the splits that preceded the sanctuary dissolution. Some personnel "kept complaining that Nicole never listened to

their fundraising ideas," Brunner said. "So I'd say, 'Tell me about it.' They would come up with off-the-wall ideas like having a meat barbecue on the Wild Animal Orphanage property. I thought they were out of their minds."

Said Lynn Cuny, founder of the nearby Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation sanctuary, where Asvestas volunteered before founding Wild Animal Orphanage, "If you're going to be eating one animal to raise money to feed another, then I don't think you're doing your job, and I don't think you're holding that really true high standard of what an animal protection organization is."

"Legal wrangling continued up to the day before the vote to dissolve," Lopetegui wrote, as the board rejected an offer of settlement of a lawsuit brought by Carol and Ron Asvestas which would have put them back in charge.

Garcia, now tending bar in nearby Leon Valley, alleged to Lopetegui that she "was just used as a pawn to get my parents out." Garcia earlier told ANIMAL PEOPLE that she was the primary source

for exposés of alleged abuses at Wild Animal Orphanage under her mother's management that were posted in 2007-2009 by the *San Antonio Lightning* news web site.

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# Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat:

*Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals* by Hal Herzog

HarperCollins Publishers (10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022), 2010. 324 pages, hardcover. \$24.99.



“When I first started studying human/animal interactions, I was troubled by the flagrant moral incoherence I have described in these pages,” concludes Western Carolina University psychology professor Hal Herzog in *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat*. Examples include “vegetarians who sheepishly admitted to me they ate meat; cockfighters who proclaimed their love for their roosters; purebred dog enthusiasts whose desire to improve their breed has created generations of genetically defective animals; hoarders who caused untold suffering to the creatures living in filth they claim to have rescued. I have come to believe that these sorts of contradictions are not anomalies or hypocrisies,” Herzog states. “Rather, they are inevitable.”

*Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat* appears to have evolved out of Herzog’s professorial role in stimulating classroom debate. Though *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat* could be used as a text in a course about animals and ethics, it is written and marketed for a general audience. The strength of *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat* is that while Herzog makes use of a wealth of academic scholarship, offering hundreds of footnotes to sources, each chapter and moral issue is illuminated by stories about real-life people, resolving real-life problems with a com-

## Testing dog heroism

Do dogs have an innate capacity for heroism on behalf of their people? Do dogs instinctively know how to fetch help for a person in crisis?

Hal Herzog in *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat* acknowledges the abundance of heroic dog stories—“Just Google ‘dog saves owner,’” he challenges—but cites a 2006 study by University of Western Ontario psychologist Bill Roberts and dog breeder/trainer Krista Macpherson which found that none of a dozen dogs they tested responded at all to either a man who was faking a heart attack or a man who was pinned to the floor by a fake falling bookshelf.

Both tests, however, omitted recognition of the subject dogs’ senses of smell—their dominant sense. The stimulus in either case was auditory and visual, but a dog could easily smell the hormone level of the alleged victim, and could probably tell thereby whether the victim was genuinely in trouble or just playing a game, even if the subtle differences in tone between a person acting and a person who is actually in distress did not tip the dog off to the ruse.

Having logged details about 454 heroic dog episodes since 1993, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** compared the Roberts/Macpherson findings to real life, sorting cases according to the primary sensory cues that told the dog that there was danger and suggested a response.

Multiple primary cues were involved in about half the cases, but in 270 cases, or 60%, the dog smelled a hazard which was not easily seen or heard, such as smoke from a night housefire or leaking gas, and took immediate action.

In 261 cases, 58%, a sound—most often a cry for help—was a primary cue, and vision was a primary cue in 244 cases (54%). However, in almost all of these cases, multiple senses were used to confirm the first information that the dog received. Few cases descriptions eliminated the possibility that odor was involved in the dog’s response.

bination of ideas, values, and experience that often include troubling contradictions if extended past the immediate issues to frame universal rules. In the here-and-now, to each person, the resolution serves the immediate need, and the extensions of reasoning to other situations are of no concern.

Herzog’s first major study was of the culture of cockfighting. Herzog references this work repeatedly, for example in comparing and contrasting the relatively privileged life of a gamecock with the lives of poultry raised for slaughter or to produce eggs. Yet, as Herzog recognizes, the cruelty inherent in commercial poultry production is incidental, whereas it is the end point of a cockfight.

Of historical note is that efforts to ban cockfighting began at least 200 years before the beginning of the organized humane movement, 400 years before the advent of factory farming. Though opposition to cockfighting had a huge head start, legislation to reduce the suffering of commercially raised poultry had already begun to be passed before cockfighting was banned in every U.S. state.

Frequently the contradictions that Herzog perceives on the surface of animal-related controversy is indicative of a cultural transition underway at a deeper level.

For example, Herzog notes that there are about three times as many ex-vegetarians than practicing vegetarians. Since the net result is that the percentage of the U.S. population who are practicing vegetarians at any given time has not changed much in 30 years, Herzog takes this to mean that American food habits regarding animals are not changing much in response to increasing animal advocacy.

Reality is that few people stick with any major lifestyle change to the full extent of their initial commitment. Many more people take up daily jogging, change careers, experiment with different religions, etc., than continue with the changes throughout the rest of their lives. Yet abandoning a lifestyle change, or making a further change, usually does not mean a complete loss of motivation. Rather, the individual typically finds a less disruptive way to pursue the goal.

The aspect of making lifestyle changes that adds up to societal change is cumulative. The reality that millions of people jog at any given time, even though few jog every day, built the multi-billion-dollar running shoe industry. The reality that most people change careers at least once has produced major changes in the nature of adult education, the modus operandi of pensions and health insurance, and the political strength of labor unions. The reality that people relatively often seek varied religious experience is the basis of evangelical Christianity, and of the introduction of meditation and other aspects of eastern religions into mainstream American life.

It is not necessary that large numbers of people “convert” permanently to vegetarianism to make the world much more friendly toward vegetarians, and correspondingly, to animals. As becoming a vegetarian becomes easier, more people try it, more become at least semi-veg, and even those who give up purporting to be vegetarian tend to eat less meat, and to remain more sympathetic toward farm animals.

In discussing animal hoarding, Herzog relies for perspective on the work of Gary Patronak. Currently employed by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, Patronak has done quite a lot over the past dozen years to help increase recognition of the problem. However, instead of looking at the spectrum of

chronic neglect of animals, Patronak narrows his scope to just people who keep dogs and cats. This produces the erroneous stereotype that animal hoarders are primarily older women. Looking at the entire spectrum of animal neglect, crunching the data from more than 10,000 cases, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** has demonstrated that younger males are every bit as likely to become hoarders as older females. The major difference is simply that males are more likely to hoard animals as farmers, breeders, pet store owners, keepers of hunting packs, or dogfighters than as self-described rescuers. Males also tend to get into trouble for hoarding between 10 and 20 years earlier in life.

Perhaps most controversially, Herzog tends to reject the common contentions that animal abuse in youth predicts future violent crimes by adults, and that involvement in animal abuse as an adult is closely associated with committing crimes against humans. As Herzog notes, when these questions are studied in a context that considers only illegal violence against animals, different studies yield conflicting answers.

However, Herzog overlooks that when the context is broadened to include participation in legal forms of violence against animals, such as hunting, trapping, fishing, farming, slaughtering, and animal experimentation, the outcomes are rather different. In 1994-1995, for example, **ANIMAL PEOPLE** demonstrated that crimes against children are significantly much more frequent in counties of New York, Ohio, and Michigan with high rates of hunting participation than in other counties, and that high hunting participation coincides more strongly with high rates of child abuse than either population density or per capita income.

Many of the contradictions involved in both human attitudes toward animals and Herzog’s assessment come together in a discussion of Adolph Hitler—but Herzog accepts too uncritically the claim often voiced by defenders of animal use industries that Hitler was a vegetarian who cared about animals. This was part of the public image that the Nazi propaganda machine constructed, but despite avoiding meat at times under doctors’ orders, Hitler never abstained from eating meat for very long. Hitler signed numerous alleged animal protection laws, but they tended to target the practices of Jews (kosher slaughter), or just forbid Jews to keep pets. Laws of broader scope went unenforced. Hitler appeared to love his own dog, but SS training included raising a puppy, then strangling the dog as an adult. Hitler purportedly opposed vivisection, but innumerable humans were vivisected on his watch, and many of the experiments also involved harm to other animals.

In the end, the claim that Hitler was a vegetarian depends on a definition of vegetarian that includes everyone who sometimes avoids meat for any reason. The claim that Hitler was an animal lover depends on a definition of animal lover that includes every hunter and rodeo cowboy who treats his dog well, while killing and violently abusing large numbers of animals of other species. Herzog portrays Hitler as an example of the contradictions to be found among animal advocates, yet reality is that Hitler was much more an example of the contradictions to be found among ordinary people, who perceive themselves to be kind to animals while eating animals, dissecting animals in school, and enjoying entertainments that involve animal suffering.

—Merritt Clifton

## How Shelter Pets Are Brokered for Experimentation:

### *Understanding Pound Seizure*

by Allie Phillips

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers Inc.  
(4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706),  
2010. 220 pages, hardcover. \$34.95.



American Humane Association director of public policy Allie Phillips has in *How Shelter Pets Are Brokered for Experimentation* written by far the best researched report on pound seizure to appear between book covers since the late Animal Welfare Institute founder Christine Stevens contributed a long chapter about it to *Animals & Their Legal Rights* (1990).

Other discussions of pound seizure have usually intimated that the crux of the issue is that evil bunchers supplying laboratory animal dealers sometimes steal pets. In actuality, the evil bunchers mostly traffic in pound animals who have not been rehomed, or puppy mill culls who remain unsold after the picks of each litter are snapped up at dog auctions.

Historically, most dealers who supplied dogs and cats to labs were either for-profit animal control contractors, or worked closely with for-profit animal control contractors, who were underpaid (if paid at all) in the expectation that they would earn most of their incomes by selling unclaimed strays. Thus the culprits most responsible for the existence of this inherently abusive system were the voters, taxpayers, and public officials who looked away instead of taking responsibility for addressing animal homelessness in their communities.

“Pound seizure,” in the strictest sense of the term, refers only to the mostly bygone practice, in states with laws that allowed it, of laboratories and lab suppliers being empowered to “adopt” any pound animal they wanted. This put

humane societies that held animal control contracts in the position of being forced to surrender animals for painful and lethal experiments. In animal advocacy parlance, “pound seizure” eventually came to mean the release of any shelter animals for lab use, even if the release was (or is) entirely voluntary.

Thirteen states passed legislation prohibiting either pound seizure or pound release between 1976 and 1986. Pound seizure and release go on in some states, but tend to become controversial and be abandoned wherever the practices come under public scrutiny—in part because most lab animal users now prefer to avoid notice.

Michigan is among the states where pound seizure and pound release of animals to labs continue. Phillips has been involved in trying to end both pound seizure and pound release in Michigan for about a decade.

Much of *How Shelter Pets Are Brokered for Experimentation* centers on the Michigan struggle. Phillips appears to be aware that she is helping to direct the end game for pound seizure and pound release. Phillips hopes to rally support for eradicating the last vestiges of an old abuse, yet the numbers of animals involved have diminished so much that more pound animals die these days from fighting in the kennels.

Just 947 dogs and 230 cats were sold to labs in 2007 by the 10 remaining Class B dealers. These animals amounted to 1.3% of the dogs used in labs, and 1% of the cats. Even if all of them came from animal shelters, each of hundreds of dealers sold more impounded dogs and cats to labs every year between the 1966 passage of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, which became the present Animal Welfare Act in 1971, and the most recent relevant amendments to the Animal Welfare Act in 1990.

Phillips’ employer, the American Humane Association, has not taken a leading role against either pound seizure or pound release in nearly 70 years. The Animal Welfare Institute (1952), the Humane Society of the U.S. (1954), and the International Society for Animal Rights (1959) were all founded by former donors, volunteers, and staff of the AHA who became disillusioned when the AHA retreated from previous opposition to pound seizure and pound release.

Phillips’ sincerity is not in question. She fought

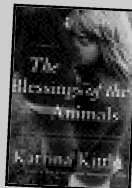
pound seizure and pound release long before the AHA hired her. Longtime observers, however, cannot help but notice that the AHA only resumed giving pound seizure and release prominence, after a hiatus of decades, after the issue reached the mop-up phase. Meanwhile the AHA has avoided taking conspicuous positions on other aspects of laboratory use of animals, and has taken compromised positions on farm animal issues, such as endorsing caged egg production and decomposition of chickens, which recall the spinelessness of the AHA on pound seizure and release for nearly half of the 20th century.

—Merritt Clifton

## *The Blessing of the Animals*

by Katrina Kittle

HarperCollins Publishers  
(10 East 53rd St., New York, NY 10022), 2010.  
424 pages, paperback. \$14.99.



Cover accolades claim *The Blessing of the Animals* “Illustrates the devastation of betrayal and loss, the healing power of love and compassion, and the joy and comfort that comes from knowing—and relating to—animals.” Yet there is little about animals in this work of fiction.

Narrative persona Cami Anderson, a veterinarian, partners with her local shelter and accompanies investigators on cruelty investigations. *The Blessing of the Animals* opens with a horse rescue, begun after several horses have already starved in a barn while their owner and her new boyfriend took a five-week vacation.

This and other episodes centering on animals seem authentic, including Anderson’s acquisition of an injured stray cat whom she cannot bring herself to euthanize. But *The Blessing of the Animals* is mostly about an acrimonious divorce. The back cover says a horse gives Anderson comfort during a difficult time. I would like to have read more about Anderson’s relationship with Moonshot the horse and less about her failed marriage.

—Debra J. White

# On Their Own Terms: *Bringing Animal-Rights Philosophy Down to Earth*

by Lee Hall

Nectar Bat Press (777 Post Road, Suite 205, Darien, CT 06820), 2010. 330 pages, paperback. \$17.95.



Friends of Animals vice president for legal affairs Lee Hall argues in *On Their Own Terms: Bringing Animal-Rights Philosophy Down to Earth* for a vegan world, in which all animals roam free. Her perception of the central problem in animal/human relations is that humans exercise dominion over animals. Her strategic approach is “abolitionist,” meaning that she believes every campaign activity should work toward the ultimate goal.

Theories of human and animal rights typically proceed from either of two mutually exclusive starting points.

The traditional legal view is that rights proceed from participation in an organized society, with structured and consistent rules. Membership in organized society need not be voluntary, and usually is not. Individuals, human or animal, obtain rights only to the extent that rights are recognized by the rulemakers, whether the rulemakers are kings, priests, or a democratic system of government. This perspective is the historical basis of civilization, and of most jurisprudence.

Increasingly influencing the traditional legal view of rights, over the past several centuries, is the concept of “natural rights,” intrinsic to individuals from birth—even conception, in some arguments. What exists as a “right” in the legal view is often just an obligation of a power holder in the “natural rights” view. The purpose of law, from the “natural rights” perspective, is to protect the inherent rights of individuals. These rights are often collectively called “The right of autonomy,” centering on a right to not be involuntarily exploited by others.

Animal rights theorists tend to proceed from exercises of moral philosophy which presume the existence of “natural rights.” The utilitarian argument advanced by Peter Singer in *Animal Liberation* (1976), *The Case for Animal Rights* presented by Tom Regan in 1983, and the “abolitionist” critiques of Singer and Regan offered more recently by Gary Francione and now Lee Hall have in common that they start with ideas about “natural rights.” Their cases diverge in their interpretations of what those rights and human obligations are, where they begin, and how they might be applied in animal advocacy.

Yet legal rights remain rooted in jurisprudence, evolving verdict by verdict from the traditional notion that rights are conferred by society, not by nature. This leads to an inherent contradiction: regardless of which version of animal rights philosophy an advocate accepts, actually advancing the well-being of animals in almost any meaningful way requires working within a system which in most nations does not yet recognize universal rights of autonomy for humans.

Most political jurisdictions do recognize some limited legal rights for animals, similar to some of the “rights of prisoners” advocated by Amnesty International, such as the right

to be fed if held captive. However, these are not “rights” but obligations from a “natural rights” perspective. In the case of animals, they presuppose that animals may be kept in captivity without having committed any sort of crime. In the traditional legal view, it is reasonable and necessary to regulate animal captivity. Whether animals should be kept captive, from an ethical perspective, is usually not a subject of law, though for reasons of ecology and public safety laws increasingly often prohibit individuals from keeping wildlife.

In Hall’s view, animal captivity should only be regulated in a manner that proceeds toward ending it. Though many animal advocates might agree, reality is that this seriously constrains and perhaps entirely precludes pursuing many reforms that might significantly reduce animal suffering.

Hall is not insensitive to this conflict. Much of *On Their Own Terms* considers it, often explaining why her employer, Friends of Animals, frequently opposes the campaigns and views of the majority of animal protection societies.

For example, Hall writes, “Contraception might involve less physical pain than another form of animal control, but does involvement in the manipulation and control of animals mean unintentionally accepting the human agreement that animals simply must be kept in check if not used as food, clothing, entertainment, or objects of curiosity? All animals would be free-living animals in a society that accepts animal rights, so there is every reason for the advocate to appreciate their autonomy rather than remove it.”

Hall accepts—and advocates—surgically sterilizing pets and feral cats. But, though advocating morally based veganism as central to resolving most social, economic, and environmental problems, she questions both pursuit of personal purity at the expense of larger goals, and the whole notion of keeping pets. “Today, we can find ‘vegan horse riding boots’ advertised,” Hall writes. “Is the material the big question here? We’ll ask about the customs that put the bodies of horses under our behinds. Similarly, the idea of vegan cat food only looks at the surface issue: the components of the product. Is it our role to press cats into becoming herbivores? Our real concern is whether the very concept of pet cats makes ethical sense. If we can’t bring these matters up with other vegans, then maybe we are singularly focused on ingredients at the expense of the overall picture of our interactions with animals.”

Hall does not reject caregiving as a part of animal advocacy, at least in the here and now. “Animal autonomy does need defending, and dependent animals do need caregiving,” Hall accepts. “Yet it’s worth noting that a vegan, by being vegan, spares more animals in a year than most any sanctuary in the world can take in.”

This is *Bringing Animal-Rights Philosophy Down to Earth*. So is Hall’s approach to protecting wild horses: “If we want to spare free-roaming horses from being rounded up and auctioned off, the answer cannot be limited to closing horse slaughtering plants. Confronting slaughter makes sense, but as part of a broader perspective. In the U.S., campaigners have allowed the public to become outraged over the idea that horses are the wrong animals to eat,” Hall writes. “If Italians do think eating horse meat is proper, and U.S. residents continue to eat the flesh of pigs and cows, the argument becomes on some level one of cultural superiority. Only if the demand for the closure of horse slaughter operations comes as part of a whole vegetarian view is it consistent, respectful, and sensible.”

Hall succeeds as well in *Bringing Animal-Rights Philosophy Down to Earth* in her discussion of campaign tactics. “Attempting to design a campaign or community around a regular diet of blood and every imaginable suffering,” she writes, “probably won’t attract most healthy people to our cause. That reality is often forgotten when groups excuse sensationalism, sexism or any kind of insensitivity to human experiences by insisting such advertising brings a lot of attention, and thus supporters. We have no way of measuring how many people that insensitivity chases away from the same cause.”

However, Hall’s most admired role model for animal advocacy appears to be Donald Watson, who coined the word “vegan” and formed the Vegan Society in Cumbria, England, in 1944. At Watson’s death in November 2005, at age 95, 61 years later, the Vegan Society had attracted just 5,000 members. Only four tenths of 1% of British people had become vegan. Achieving reasonably universal recognition that animals should possess certain inalienable natural rights may take many generations of Watsons, if indeed this is ever achieved. Conferring incremental extensions of the present limited legal protection of animals has meanwhile already gained political momentum in much of the world. This process, often compromised though it is by the need to “render unto Caesar what is Caesar’s,” in law and practice if not moral philosophy, is also a form of bringing animal rights philosophy down to earth.

Probably the conflict in approaches will never be resolved to Lee Hall’s satisfaction. Probably many strong animal advocates will continue to ride horses, and even eat meat, though—one hopes—increasingly troubled by the habit. Probably animal advocacy will never be entirely consistent, not least because the starting points for considering what animal rights ought to be will remain widely diverse.

—Merritt Clifton

## Do Fish Feel Pain?

by Victoria Braithwaite

Oxford University Press (198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016), 2010. 194 pages, hardcover. \$29.95.



Victoria Braithwaite, a professor of fisheries biology at Pennsylvania State University and a visiting professor at the University of Bergen, Norway, had no idea in 2003 that she was about to make a discovery that would change her life, the direction of her field, and the perception that much of humanity has of fish. Braithwaite certainly did not foresee, as an animal researcher, that she would open a whole new direction in animal advocacy. Even three years later, when

Braithwaite summarized her work in an op-ed essay for the *Los Angeles Times*, she was surprised by the intensity of the response she drew from readers.

All Braithwaite set out to do was to better understand how fish perceive their world. What she accomplished, however, was the most convincing demonstration to that point that fish feel and respond to pain. Though seemingly self-evident to anyone who ever watched a hooked fish fight, or a netted fish try to flop back to water, the idea that fish suffer as human food and playthings had long been resisted by scientists, conservationists, and even some animal advocates, who argued that fish should be used in laboratories instead of mice because they purportedly feel less.

Braithwaite is uncomfortable with oversimplifications of her findings, but now argues that the sentience and suffering of fish should be taken into account. *Do Fish Feel Pain?* summarizes both her own work and the work of other scientists who increasingly argue that fish belong within the circle of compassion.

PETA cited some of Braithwaite’s studies in persuading a Sacramento restaurant to stop serving live shrimp in early September 2010. The Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations paraphrased Braithwaite in persuading the destination resort company Club Mahindra to stop promoting angling on their web site. This is likely to be only the beginning of Braithwaite’s influence.

—Merritt Clifton

## Bad Hare Days by John Fitzgerald

Olympia Publishers (60 Cannon St., London, U.K. EC4N 6NP), 2008. 397 pages, paperback. \$14.45 U.S., £9.99, 12.99 euros.



Northern Ireland banned hare coursing on June 23, 2010, six years after the rest of the United Kingdom. Ireland banned hounding deer on June 29, 2010. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission banned hounding foxes and coyotes in so-called chase pens on September 1, 2010. Yet opponents of pack hunting are not celebrating. In Britain, despite strong public approval of the Hunting Act, which officially ended most pack hunting while leaving loopholes that allow some to continue, present British prime minister David Cameron took office in May 2010 with the promise that he would seek to repeal it, to reauthorize fox hunting, hare coursing, and hounding deer. A free vote in Parliament on a repeal motion is expected as early as October 2010. Only 179 of the 650 Members of Parliament are committed against the repeal.

In Ireland, days after ending stag hunts with dogs, environment minister John Gormley allowed the 2010 hare coursing season to begin two weeks earlier than usual, despite a finding by the Irish National Parks & Wildlife Service that Irish hares are in decline.

Pack hunting in Britain, Ireland, and the southern U.S. is a legacy of feudal times, when the ruling classes amused themselves between feuds by hounding livestock predators, crop-raiding deer and boar, and runaway serfs. The feudal system, faltering in the Old World, was renewed for a few generations in the slave-holding South. Post-Emancipation, mounted fox hunting persisted as an elite pursuit, but the socio-economic status of most U.S. houndsmen markedly declined.

A similar schism evolved in Britain and Ireland, as mounted fox hunting partially split from “lamping,” “lurching,” and hare

coursing. However, while U.S. fox hunters mostly prefer to avoid association with backwoods coonhunters, British and Irish fox hunters often employ lampers, lurchers, and hare coursers to “beat the bush” for them, and in an unspoken addenda to the bargain, sometimes beat protesters.

John Fitzgerald, of Callan, County Cork, first witnessed hare coursing in his early teens, nearly 40 years ago. Discovering that he was not alone in his revulsion at what he saw, Fitzgerald found himself up against the class system and the alliance of politically influential people with out-and-out thugs when he sought to organize anti-coursing protests. Eventually Fitzgerald connected with the Irish Council Against Blood Sports, but in the interim, as a lone voice, he developed his writing skill as a prolific author of provocative letters to newspapers.

Coursers retaliated, beating him up and applying pressure that eventually cost him his job of 10 years at a farm supply store. Finding other work, despite the efforts of coursers to keep potential employers from hiring him, Fitzgerald persevered—and was framed for a string of arson attacks against property owned by coursers. Fitzgerald has outspokenly opposed violent protest throughout his involvement against coursing. Under duress, however, he signed a police-written confession to having written threatening letters to coursers that became the basis for five trials in three years—all of which failed to convict him of anything.

Eventually a courser with a vendetta against fellow coursers was convicted of the offenses of which Fitzgerald was accused.

Fitzgerald emerged from the persecution as a strong voice not only against hounding animals but

on behalf of reform of the Irish system of law enforcement. Focused on his first trial, *Bad Hare Days* makes clear the extent to which the struggles for animal rights and human rights are intertwined.

The concluding chapters recall the last campaigns of the late International Society for Animal Rights founder Helen Jones and photographer Vito Torelli, a contributor to early editions of **ANIMAL PEOPLE**. Both were American allies of Irish efforts against hare coursing. Twice they brought Fitzgerald to New York City to protest at the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Fitzgerald believes he will live to see hare coursing banned in Ireland. He regrets that generations of earlier opponents of coursing will not see that day, when he will at last celebrate.

—Merritt Clifton

## From the Jungle to Kathmandu:

*Horn & Tusk Trade*

Esmond Bradley Martin

Wildlife Watch Group  
(20-Pulchowk, Machaagal, Lalitpur, Nepal), 2010. 186 pages, paperback.

Order c/o <www.citesnepal.org>

*From the Jungle to Kathmandu* anthologizes Kenyan wildlife traffic investigator Esmond Bradley Martin’s previously published investigations of rhino horn and elephant ivory poaching and trafficking in Nepal, 1979-2008—the last decades of the former hereditary dynastic government and first years of an elected coalition government including leaders of a Maoist insurgency that supported itself in part by selling rhino horn and elephant ivory.

Along the way Martin, formerly United Nations special envoy for rhino conservation, refutes the common belief that rhino horn is coveted in Asia for alleged aphrodisiacal properties.

—M.C.

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## Through a Dog's Eyes

by Jennifer Arnold

Random House (1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019), 2010.  
240 pages, hardcover. \$25.00.



Operating a service dog school is a monster job. People with major disabilities rely on dogs to safely lead them across busy streets, open doors, and retrieve fallen objects. Some dogs predict the onset of seizures or pick up sounds their people cannot hear. Training a service dog takes money, time, patience, and skill. Jennifer Arnold pulls this off despite having multiple sclerosis.

*Through a Dog's Eyes* is a journey through Arnold's life with service dogs. She picked up perseverance and strength from her mother, who raised four children after a drunk on a motorcycle killed her dad. An inane clause in his life insurance policy voided the payout because a two-wheeled vehicle caused his death.

An article about a woman training dogs for the disabled piqued Arnold's interest. This, and her life-long love for animals, started her on her career path. Assisting in veterinary offices provided hands-on experience.

Arnold developed an approach to training based on teaching dogs to make choices, as opposed to following commands, using only positive reinforcement. To Arnold, explains promotional material for *Through a Dog's Eyes*, dogs are neither wolves in need of a pack leader, nor babies in need of coddling. Rather, they are trusting beings, attuned to human needs, who try to please.

Arnold acquired the Canine Assistants property in 1990. To keep money flowing, Arnold started a boarding kennel. As the "new kid on the block," she boarded all the dogs no one else wanted to accept. One often traveling and sometimes tipsy owner insisted on singing her dog Mabel to sleep each night. She sometimes lost her place or dropped the phone, restarting her lullabies from the beginning. When neighbors complained about dogs barking, Arnold boarded the loudest in her own house.

Early in the history of Canine

Assistants, Arnold chose dogs from shelters or rescues. She still prefers to rescue, she writes, but admits to having started a small breeding program.

Adopting potential service dogs can bring unforeseen complications. Once Arnold sent a colleague to pick up a shelter dog whom Arnold earlier approved for training. Through a mix-up, that dog was adopted by someone else. The colleague mistakenly brought back a much older dog. Old Fellow spent the rest of his life at Canine Assistants.

On another occasion, at a local shelter evaluating dogs, Arnold stopped in front of an emaciated dog, Nick, whose skin hung off his bony frame. Open sores oozed pus. Clearly, this was not an ideal candidate, but Arnold adopted Nick on the spot. Nick never became a service dog, but did become Arnold's constant companion at speaking events, conferences, and meetings. Nick proved to be an excellent fundraiser, and introduced Arnold to her husband, veterinarian Kent Bruner. Nick's death in 2004 poked a giant hole in Arnold's heart.

*Through a Dog's Eyes* is not just about Arnold's personal experiences building a service dog organization. She shares her broad knowledge of dogs and their behavior. One of Arnold's most important jobs is matching dogs with people. The match should last until the dog retires, so she has to get it right.

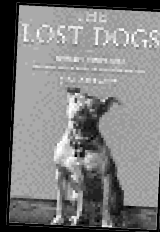
Sometimes the connections between dogs and people just seem to happen. Jorge, a yellow Lab, went through four training camps with 23 different trainers. He ignored almost everyone. Arnold feared he would be a drop-out. Then Jorge and a six-year-old named Emma bonded. Jorge did everything that Emma asked of him.

*Through a Dog's Eyes* is an inspiring tale of determined people and the even more determined dogs, like Jorge, who serve their disabled people. —Debra J. White

## The Lost Dogs:

Michael Vick's dogs and their tale of rescue & redemption by Jim Gorant

Gotham Books (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014), 2010.  
287 pages, hardcover. \$26.00.



*The Lost Dogs*, like a Three Stooges film, should open with the warning, "Don't try this at home, kids."

Yes, the American SPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, and several other partner organizations were able to avoid euthanizing 47 of the 51 pit bull terriers who were confiscated from football star and dogfighter Michael Vick in April 2007. About two-thirds of the dogs were eventually placed in homes; the rest remain in sanctuary care.

But, contrary to hype, this does not mean anyone has achieved magical advances in handling authentic fighting pit bulls. Little was done that might be within the means of local animal shelters. Much as the chairs that the Three Stooges smashed over each other's heads were made of balsa wood, most of the Vick dogs were not elite fighting stock. Most were barely more than puppies. The one dog who was a confirmed fighting champion was euthanized.

"Breeding no doubt plays a role in dog behavior," admits *Lost Dogs* author Jim Gorant. "There are border collies who are better at herding and retrievers who are better at retrieving because they have been carefully selected to perform that task over time. By the same logic there are pit bulls—so-called game-bred dogs—who are more inclined to fight and are potentially better at it than others. The Bad Newz crew, it seemed, had not been willing or wise enough to spend the thousands and sometimes tens of thousands of dollars more it cost to buy dogs from elite lineages."

Vick and associates had ordinary pit bulls, not confirmed killers. The ASPCA and Best Friends, meanwhile, are among the wealthiest and best staffed humane societies in the world. They collected \$1 million from

Vick as part of a court settlement, and enjoyed national publicity that afforded them the pick of thousands of prospective foster caregivers and adopters.

More than 80% of the animal shelters in the U.S. have less funding per year for all of their programs combined than was invested in the Vick dogs. Probably fewer than 5% have as many volunteer and adoption applicants per year.

Understates Gorant, "Because there might be resources available to support them, it could be possible to save dogs who would otherwise probably not make the cut."

The success—so far—of the effort to save the Vick dogs has escalated the pressure on shelters to save every dog. The ASPCA itself felt the heat after euthanizing a pit bull named Oreo who recovered from physical injuries after being thrown off a rooftop, but proved excessively reactive.

Any of the Vick dogs may yet crack under stress. The odds are against it, but each year about one pit bull in 100,000 kills someone, compared with one dog of other breeds in about 10 million. About one adopted pit bull in 30,000 kills or disfigures someone after passing behavioral screening.

The ASPCA, Best Friends, their partners, and the Vick dogs themselves have all enjoyed a long run of good luck. But a more indicative case may be the disposition of more than 500 dogs who were seized from a fighting ring by the Humane Society of Missouri in October 2009. Through extraordinary effort, with more resources than most humane societies but still just a fraction of the resources available to the Vick dogs, the Humane Society of Missouri has also saved about two-thirds—and has had to euthanize more than one third. —Merritt Clifton

## ANIMAL OBITS

**Cedric**, 6, a captive-born Tasmanian devil who was the first known to produce an immune response to Deadly Facial Tumor Disease, was euthanized in late August 2010 after X-rays showed tumors in his lungs. Taz survived two years of repeated injections with DFTD cells at the Menzies Research Institute in Hobart, Australia, which has been trying to find a cure or a prophylactic for the disease. Discovered in 2006, DFTD has killed about 80% of the Tasmanian devils left in the wild. The disease, which began with a mutation circa 20 years ago in the devils' nerve tissue-producing cells, is transmitted when devils bite each other. The tumor gene was identified in March 2010. Discovery of a colony of apparently immune wild devils was reported the same month. Australian National University researcher Elizabeth Murchison announced on September 16, 2010 that mapping the devils' genome had been completed. Together, the findings raised hope that a vaccine can be engineered to save the species.



**Kaveri**, a camel rescued from sacrifice in 2004 by Bangalore activist Fizzah Shah, died at Shah's farm in Bhuj on August 21, 2010.

## MEMORIALS



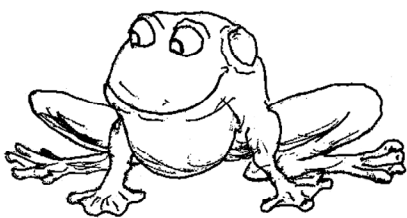
In loving memory of and tribute to Sishya, 6/3/98-9/17/10, forever in our hearts and, we know, welcomed by many at the Bridge.

Soon, angels, soon!  
—Jamaka Petzak and family

In memory of Mewpurr.  
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In memory of Fargo, Pete, and Moyer.  
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## HONORS & TITLES

**The Home Box Office** biographical film *Temple Grandin* on August 30, 2010 won Emmy Awards for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Director, and Best Picture. A **Colorado State University** professor of livestock handling and psychology, Grandin has for more than 30 years worked to reform slaughterhouse management and design, consulting often with both animal welfare organizations and the meat industry.

**The Sierra Club** on September 27, 2010 honored former **Care for the Wild** operations director **Chris Jordan** with the Ansel Adams Award for conservation photography. The son of Care for the Wild founder **Bill Jordan**, Chris Jordan has visually documented the effects of ingesting plastic on wildlife in remote parts of the Pacific Ocean.

**Laura Maloney**, most recently senior vice president of the **San Diego Humane Society**, has been named chief of staff for the **Humane Society of the U.S.** Maloney previously was executive director of the **Louisiana SPCA** and was senior vice president for anti-cruelty operations at the **American SPCA**.

**Robert Atkinson**, previously head of wildlife issues for the **Royal SPCA** of Great Britain, and formerly scientific advisor to the **Coalition for Captive Elephant Well-Being**, is to become chief executive officer of **The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee** in November 2010.

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

**Scotlund Haisley**, introduced as chief executive officer at In Defense of Animals on June 4, 2010, "is no longer employed by IDA," board member and attorney **Terri Macillaro** confirmed to **ANIMAL PEOPLE** on September 17. Previously director of emergency services for the **Humane Society of the U.S.**, Haisley left HSUS after he was named in several lawsuits contending that he and other HSUS staff had improperly conducted searches and seizures of private property on behalf of law enforcement. Haisley earlier held various posts with the **Washington Animal Rescue League**, **Peninsula Humane Society**, **New York City Center for Animal Care & Control**, and **PETA**. Haisley at IDA succeeded former **International Fund for Animal Welfare** disaster relief coordinator **Anand Ramanathan**, whose tenure lasted one year.

**Marie Belew Wheatley**, president of the **American Humane Association** from February 2004 to January 2010, in September 2010 became executive director of the **Colorado Ballet**.

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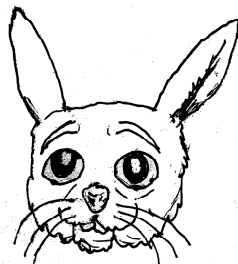
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