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The Problem With Pets

In this issue, much is said about the cruelties involved in the "pet" industry. National and local advocates would agree that much of the "cruelty" appears in the solutions—i.e., theory, at least, though they will be difficult to implement. For example, it's wrong to keep exotic animals as companions because their physical and psychological needs cannot be met with kindness. It's also clearly wrong to intentionally breed dogs and cats while millions of surplus "pets" meet their deaths on the streets, crowded into pounds. But points of contention arise as we reach the core of the "pet" issue.

The dog has been domesticated and genetically manipulated for some 10,000 years. At first, the cat, whose ancestry is debated, may have joined the human community about 5000 years later. Though the first canines and felines may have originally been brought in to help hunt or protect homesteads from human or nonhuman invaders, their "human" "masters" soon began to value their companionship. We see evidence of a tender bond between human and nonhuman in the delicately mummified cats of Egypt and in the dog gravestones unearthed recently by archaeologists in Israel.

For people who have been nourished by the love of a dog or cat, the idea that there could be something wrong with making "pets" out of animals may be difficult to grasp. One might argue that the relationship between humans and their "pets" is symbiotic, and, indeed, sometimes it is. But more often, the scales tip on the side of exploitation. The majority of dogs and cats, and those cared for by humans at all, are treated more as prisoners, slaves, or amusements than as individuals deserving consideration and respect. They are regarded as property rather than as friends. And as property, they all too easily be discarded or destroyed. In better circumstances, cherished dogs and cats may be given all the comforts of a good home, yet remain unfilled in terms of satisfying all their instincts and engaging in natural behavior.

It might be better for the "institution" of "petdom" to be phased out altogether since the nature of the "pet" relationship gives the human dominance over the nonhuman. Even with the best intentions, we control our companion animals' reproduction, decide when they can go out and come in, when and where they can relieve themselves, and what they get to eat. They are permitted few choices of their own.

But however good the reasons for an eventual elimination of "pets," it hardly seems likely to happen in the foreseeable future. To those of us who treasure our relationships with nonhuman beings, the prospect of dogless and catless households seems grim. The health and psychological benefits accruing to the human partner in the "pet" relationship are well known, and sharing our homes with animals seems to provide us with a tenuous connection to the natural world that might be otherwise broken. In no way, however, do the benefits we derive from having animals justify propagating them for selfish purposes.

At the present time, faced with the overpopulation tragedy, it would be unwise for animal rights proponents to refrain from adopting companion animals for philosophical reasons. Faced with the options of either bringing an animal into our homes or allowing him or her to perish in pounds or on the streets, the former seems the morally correct choice. However, by perpetuating an "institution" that breeds animals who can live with us in artificial habitats, we should begin trying to create a more natural environment in which human and nonhuman animals can interact and function independent of unnatural restraints.

Challenging Religion

I found your extensive interview with Peter Singer (September) very attractive. But while he makes many valuable and perceptive points, I think it is counterproductive to state that "the Judeo-Christian religious tradition is our foe." It is unfortunately all too true that people don't always live up to religion's highest ideals. But to deny that religion is to remind religious people of the tremendous gaps between their words of compassion and action and the suffering and the dispossession and the want and the reality of conditions for animals and people today.

I think it is true that we can best promote animal rights by challenging people who profess to be religious with this question: In view of strong religious mandates to be compassionate to animals, preserve health, feed hungry people, protect the environment, and conserve resources—and the very negative effects fast-food-centered diets have in each of these areas, how do you justify not becoming a vegetarian?

—Richard H. Schwartz, Associate Professor The College of Staten Island 715 Ocean Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301

Editor's Note: Dr. Schwartz is the author of Judaism and Vegetarianism.

Interpretation of Singer's Position Misleading

Tom Regan's letter [November 1972] commenting on my Interseven in the September issue may mislead readers who are not familiar with philosophical approaches. Tom has essentially characterized as he has. Although he knows my work, he seems to know little about it. I have consistently stated that I support claims about "the rights of animals" when they are used within a regime designed for the good of the regime. For example, to say that farm animals have a right to an environment which encourages growth and development, and that humans have not such a right, is a mischaracterization of the relevant question. Tom seems to be saying that "the rights of animals" are not the same as the "natural rights of human beings." The problem is that Tom is trying to avoid the issue of whether the moral principles against abuse of animals are the same as those against abuse of humans.

Tom repeats a claim that he has made previously: that my moral principles justify some harmful research on animals. Even if one accepts that principle, it is not clear that Tom is engaging in harmful research on nonhumans. In fact, I am convinced that the best way to advance the interests of animals and humans would be to stop all harmful research on animals and use the money thereby saved in other, more productive, ways. So I don't think it is true that if a moral principle, such as the principle against harming nonhumans, is true, we should continue to conduct research on nonhumans.

—Peter Singer

A Tip for Sign Makers

How often our grassroots group used to admire the professional-looking signs and banners we saw at the big rallies? But alas, we were poor and unskilled, and our homemade hand-scrawled signs confirmed our belief that our cause was hopeless. Then our printer shared her secret with us, and we used it to create professional banners and signs for no more than the cost of materials.

First, we cut slang and graphics from magazines, pamphlets, and clip-art sheets (avoiding, of course, copyrighted logos). We passed these sheets around as a day sign and paper and had it reproduced on a transparency at our local copy shop. Then we borrowed all the necessary equipment from our school, traced our images onto poster...
More on Vegetarian Cats

There are some individuals in the animal rights movement who, after having decided to abstain from meat for reasons of compassion, have taken to imposing their vegetarian dietary habits on their dogs and cats (see "Caveat for the Vegetarian Cat" in the May 1987 issue; also the October Letters section). They should be aware of the following nutritional points concerning canines and felines:

1) Cats are completely unable to utilize beta-carotene, the only form of vitamin A in plant foods (dogs can utilize it with only half the efficiency they utilize vitamin A from meat and dairy products).

2) Cats cannot utilize linoleic acid, the fatty acid which is the main component of vegetable oils. But this compound does have the potential to cause cancer due to its high susceptibility to oxygen-related damage, which turns it into a carcinogen. 

3) Cats require an amino acid (protein component) called taurine which is very rare in plant foods. Recent findings have disclosed that as many as 3.6 million cats may die each year from a heart ailment called dilated cardiomyopathy which is triggered by taurine-deficient commercial cat foods, including major brands which have been using cheap soya meal instead of meat as their main source of protein.

4) Soy products are very high in natural plant hormones similar to the synthetic form of estrogen called diethylstilbestrol (DES). Celebrities in 2008 across the country have suffered liver damage and fertility caused by these hormones which are delivered by the soy meal ingredients in the commercial diets they were being fed. Fortunately, however, when the feline's diets were switched, tests indicated an improvement in liver function.

Although I could give more examples, I think the above points should serve as a sufficient warning to those who attempt to turn companion cats into vegetarians.

Mark Sundin, CA

Boards Need Business Skills

I read with interest the June Time in the September issue. I am one who believes that far too often the requirement for "business acumen" on a board of directors is overlooked by charitable organizations. It is the job of the chairman, who is to be the leader of the animal world in any way or another. Webster defines acumen as keenness and depth of perception, discernment, or discrimination in practical matters. I wonder if animals can be best served without some strong, element of this characteristic on a board. A lack of good business principles will just as surely result in animals being shortchanged as will the lack of adequate humanitarian principles.

The correct formula is a balance of

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Interviewed by Wayne Pacelle

"I reject out of hand their being environmentalists. They are terrorists, they are outliers, they should be treated as such." - J.D. Hay, chief executive officer of the National Wildlife Federation, on the environmental movement.

INTERVIEW

The Foreman of Radical Environmentalism

A discussion with Dave Foreman of Earth First!

In other words, you were being so reasonable you were being co-opted? Yes, there was a fundamental change going on within the environmental groups themselves because of their success. Increasingly, they were moving toward a corporate world view. When you are managing a corporation with a $28 million-a-year budget, getting a hundred grand-a-year salary, having the board of directors breathing down your neck, you start to think like a corporate executive. Other factors could set a group on that dangerous path of "success" as well. For example, the worst thing that Jim Watt (former Secretary of the Interior under Ronald Reagan) ever did to the environmental movement was double the Sierra Club's membership. Suddenly, the Sierra Club had lots of "soft" members. In response, its magazine editors had to tone down the organization's journal to avoid offending the newcomers. The magazine had a very low renewal rate with these people because they were soft, and the organization had to do more direct mail to keep increasing its supporters because they had gotten used to the cash flow from an increased membership base.

What's the problem with direct mail as you see it? It's a waste of resources for one thing. It's also an addiction. It's like buying a junkie—once you start direct mail you have to keep doing it. And you are hiring outside professionals to do it who have a stake in it, who make their money that way. You are filling people's mailboxes with garbage and you're having to do it at a level to keep your cash flow up. I know some groups that spend 90 cents on every dollar they raise from direct mail on more direct mail. It just makes resource sense to me to have a lower budget and avoid that addiction.

Do you think there are other environmental organizations doing good work and which are not? I think everybody is doing some good. We need the Sierra Club lobbying on Capitol Hill, we need the Wilderness Society doing economic analysis, and we need much need the Nature Conservancy buying land. But we also need more radical action. And we need moderate groups to take a stronger stand. It's not that they shouldn't be lobbying, but that they should be asking for more.

Has the radical wing of the environmental movement made the rest of the movement more palatable to mainstream America? It has had several effects. One of our...
Continued from previous page

goals in beginning, Earth First! was to realign the environmental movement. I think we have succeeded. Back in the early 1980s, people were calling the Sierra Club extremists. Nobody is doing that now. There have been newspapers out West calling for saving the woods and protecting the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. Ten years ago, they would have been condemning the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society. We have made the mainstream environmental movement face up to the need to defend wilderness areas. Can you tell us why these tactics are useful to the radical environmental movement?

We have used direct action tactics to mean to defend wilderness areas. For instance, we have had a lot of success in stopping clear-cutting in the Columbia River Basin. We have stopped logging in the White Mountain National Forest and the Yosemite National Park. We have also used direct action tactics to protect the Redwood Forest in California. We have stopped the construction of a nuclear power plant in California. We have also used direct action tactics to protect the habitats of endangered species. We have stopped the construction of a nuclear power plant in California. We have also used direct action tactics to protect the habitats of endangered species.

We are the most important generation of human beings ever to exist. The Holocaust is here right now.

The environmental movement was as far as could be. The media began to print articles indicating that the environmental movement had died. We wanted to make the environmental movement exciting again.

What are the pillars of Earth First! philosophy and practice?

We are a biocentric warrior society. Our most fundamental philosophical view is that all things have intrinsic value and that human beings are not the measure of worth for all things. We preserve wilderness for its own sake; you defend a grizzly bear because she has just as much right to be here as any of us do. We also recognize that there are far too many people on this planet. We are out of bounds and upset the whole biosphere. We are facing the most perilous moment in 3.5 billion years of biological evolution. The rate of species extinction is greater than it has ever been before—ever since 65 million years ago in the Cretaceous (a period characterized by the disappearance of dinosaurs). There are now two great ecological crises that we must face: the degradation of the biosphere and the depletion of resources. The degradation of the biosphere is due to the activities of human beings. The depletion of resources is due to the activities of human beings.

What do you think of the concept of speciesism?

I think it's the opposite of biocentrism, of globally-centered thinking. The anthropocentric view in every civilization establishes human beings as the measure of value for all things. I think we have to get away from that and look at the intrinsic value of all things. Something is not valuable because of what it means to humans. The grass, the pine tree, the wind, and the mountain lion all have a right to be here.

Along those lines, some deep ecologists have argued that all living things have intrinsic value and that philosophies are in fact anthropocentric. Can you comment on that?

I think that there is a fundamental rift between deep ecology and animal liberation. Deep ecology is coming from an ecological world view and the animal liberation movement is coming from a compassionate world view. On the one hand, you end up valuing things a little differently. I think that ecosystems are more important than the individuals who make them up. The species is more important than an individual.

We are acting as liberal reformists in assuming that by living in our suburbs, practicing vegetarianism, and using cruelty-free cosmetics that we are significantly changing anything. We are as bad as the rest of society in terms of our consumption.

We are acting as liberal reformists in assuming that by living in our suburbs, practicing vegetarianism, and using cruelty-free cosmetics that we are significantly changing anything.
Furs don't grow on trees.

Fighting the Furriers

Poison Patrol

Defenders of Wildlife has started a "Poison Patrol" project, with the goal of forming a national network of citizen scientists who will report suspected incidents of wildlife poisoning. The group is interested in reporting such incidents to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information, contact the Defenders of Wildlife, 1250 New York St., NW, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 639-4177.

The Big Picture

"Animal Rights: An Overview" is a 16-page illustrated brochure covering the major animal-related issues as well as animal rights philosophy and practice. An ideal tool for educating groups to use in their local campaigns, the brochure is produced by the Animal Rights/Anti-Vivisection League. For a free copy, write to Project Floodlight, P.O. Box 3582, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Activists Retreats

Quaker Ministries International Travel Retirements are designed to help participants prepare for lobbying, networking, media coordination, outreach, fundraising, and veggie cooking. The retreats are held the first and third weekends of each month for information, write or call: P.O. Box 603, Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 273-9528.

Helping Strays Without Killing

An effective method of controlling feral cat populations without killing has been developed by the University of Wisconsin's Animal Welfare Program (AWP). A British organization, Cats Protection, is using a similar method in U.K. towns. In both cases, the feral cats are spayed or neutered, marked, and returned to supervised sites away from human areas. Details on how this method can be used is available on request. Write to AWP, 307-357-3684; or call: (802) 425-3266.

Cinnamones Trust

Cinnamones Trust is a British organization formed to assist sanctuary animals. The group is working to establish a fund to help pay for the care of animals in need. Cinnamones Trust is also working to establish a network of "sister" organizations in the U.K. and elsewhere. For more information, contact Cinnamones Trust at 66 Cam High Street, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1DS, England.

Animal Rights Alliance

The Learning Alliance, a wide-ranging coalition that has spearheaded the animal rights movement over the past decade, is offering a day-long workshop on animal rights issues on Saturday, December 5, in New York City. The event will be held at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies. For more information, call (212) 639-4177.

Billions and billions of animals killed.

McDonald's

This restaurant chain's logo is being replaced by the cartoons of the re-release on videocassettes of several successful movies involving animal rights issues. In Animal Rights: Visions Unlimited: The Dreamer, a dolphin tries to save the whale from being ancestred by the whaling fleet. In Requiem for Species Unlimited: The Last Stand, the dolphin is one of the last survivors of his species. All proceeds from the sale of the videos will be used to produce animal rights education materials and to support animal rights organizations.

Disinformation Dept.

The Wisconsin Agri-Business Council (WABC) is planning to distribute a booklet to high school students to counter the "extreme message" promoted by the animal rights group. The booklet, called "The Science of Meat and Other Animal Products," is available from the WABC.

Get Involved

Berkshire County Activists for Animals is a grassroots group using public outreach, education, and protest to advance the cause of animal rights. Contact them at P.O. Box 2976, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Vermonters are needed to support Enfurry, a new state organization whose goal is to achieve a legislative ban on fur. Contact Vermont Vegetarians to Enfurry at Thomas Rd., 06048; or call: (802) 425-3266.

Stamp Out Vivisction

Animal rights organizations are campaigning to stamp out vivisection. One organization is the Campaign Against Animal Testing (CAAT), which has launched an "Outreach Campaign" designed to educate the public about the use of animals in medical research. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the idea of human sacrifice, as opposed to animal sacrifice, for the benefit of science.

To Whom It May Concern:

I receive the money solicited by your organization which may be used to multitude and abuse animals.

IDA's "Stamp of Concern"

IDA's "Stamp of Concern" is a foot-long campaign to urge people to contribute to their organizations. For more information, write or call the IDA at 1800 N. W. Florida Ave., #15, Madison, WI 53701; (608) 295-9976.

Stay of Execution

California's first authorized hunt of mountain lions in 36 years was halted on September 28 at the last moment by a federal judge. Judge Lucy Kelly McCabe of the San Francisco Superior Court. The order for the delay was in response to a lawsuit filed by the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, charging state officials with failing to heed the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The judge's decision allows a hunting season on mountain lions with a stay of execution in effect, pending a final judgment on the lawsuit. Legislative efforts to halt the hunt failed in the state Assembly's Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife. The National Rifle Association (NRA) lobby heavily to in- terdict members of the Assembly into voting on a bill which would have prohibited the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions. Despite the fact that the bill would have barred only the use of dogs, gun lobbyists claimed that the bill was "anti-gun" and said that its defeat was as important to gun-protection forces as a defeat of gun-protection legislation. A ye-to-determine number of lion hunting permits have been secured by lion hunters in an effort to ensure that no lions killed should hurt the cause.

Constance Barton and friends, circa 1955

Constance Barton: M. Barton, a lifelong animal rights activist, recently passed away at her home in Everett, Wash. at the age of 89. Born in England, she became an active member of the Theosophical Society of Service and was a vegetarian. She was one of the founders of the Vegetarian Society and was a member of the British branch of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). She was a key figure in the animal rights movement in the United States, and was a leader in the efforts to ban the use of dogs in hunting mountain lions. Despite the fact that the bill would have barred only the use of dogs, gun lobbyists claimed that the bill was "anti-gun" and said that its defeat was as important to gun-protection forces as a defeat of gun-protection legislation. A ye-to-determine number of lion hunting permits have been secured by lion hunters in an effort to ensure that no lions killed should hurt the cause.

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The Pet Shop Scam

BY JACK ROSENBERGER

Like millions of other Americans, Karen Pacostra wanted a dog for companionship. When she walked in the Animal Kingdom pet shop in Hamden, Connecticut, a black and white Shih Tzu puppy caught her eye. "I fell in love with the dog when I saw him," she says. "It didn't matter to me that his eyes looked funny." While waiting to buy the Shih Tzu, for which she paid $300, she wandered into the store's back room where she saw a German Shepherd stuffed into a cage meant for a poofie. The dog was whimpering, and obviously in pain. "When I saw the dog, one of the employees, who was also in the back room, literally started shaking," she said. "The least you know, the better," he told me. "Don't tell the boss or I'll get fired." Pacostra didn't tell her boss; instead, she called the Canine Control Division of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. According to Pacostra, when officer Maureen Albertson investigated, store employees told her that there weren't any dogs in the back room. Albertson went into the back room anyway, and found the German Shepherd still confined in the cage. "Oh, that dog," an employee said, "it's being wormed." Albertson pulled the dog out of the cage and inspected him. One of his legs was broken. When Albertson demanded that the dog be taken to a veterinarian, there was great reluctance on the store's part. Finally, an employee gave in, put the German Shepherd in a car, and drove away. Albertson got in her car and followed the employee who, it turned out, didn't take the dog to a veterinarian but to a sister store—Animal Kingdom II in nearby East Haven. Albertson went into the store and demanded to know what was happening. She was told that a veterinarian was supposed to show up, and one finally did—several hours later.

Meanwhile, Karen Pacostra was having her own problems. The Shih Tzu, whom she named Anthony, was walking into the walls of her apartment. She took him to a veterinarian, and the dog was diagnosed as having a large cornual ulcer in his left eye. What Pacostra had thought was simply a bump on the dog's forehead turned out to be an abscess. Both conditions, Pacostra believes, were present at the time the dog was sold to her.

Pacostra had told various law enforcement officers about the German Shepherd, but "no one would even listen." She even called the district attorney's office, but learned that animal cruelty is a low priority. "If it hadn't been for the animal rights people—particularly the Animal Rights Front [ARF, of New Haven, Conn.], I probably would have given up," but Pacostra didn't. With ARF's guidance and support, she finally convinced the district attorney to prosecute the case. Both the store manager and supervisor were arrested, charged with cruelty to animals. But the fate of the German Shepherd is still unknown.

Unfortunately, incidents like the one Karen Pacostra encountered happen seven days a week. ARF claims that the Animal Kingdom stores have been neglecting and abusing animals for 12 years. "Rach infestation," "bedding spiling on floor and other exposed surfaces," "pups too large for cages," "birds badly overcrowded," "dead rabbit observed in store," "dead fish on place" and "loose birds in store" are just some of the conditions noted in inspection reports filed by Canine Control officers and in consumer complaints filed with the Canine Control Division of the state.

Few industry regulations

Pet shop owners can literally get away with murder, say many humane organization officials, because the pet industry is loosely regulated. The ordinances or laws a pet shop is supposed to comply with, the frequency of inspection, the degree of law enforcement—even the definition of a pet shop—varies greatly from city to county to state to state. A good example of this is the case of a Maryland man who owned two pet stores, each in a different county. He gave up one store because county law enforcers prosecuted him vigorously for violations of regulations. In the other county, he has encountered no problems. States Robert Baker, an investigator with The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), "If the stores were operated by different owners, PBAC [the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council] would say that one was a bad guy and one was a good guy. But that's not the case—they were owned by the same guy. One county took action against him because things were so bad, and the other county said there was nothing wrong with his store. In fact, it was discovered that the owner was shipping sick animals from the store in the prosecuting county to the store in the other county. That county was informed of this, but they still haven't done anything about it." Whether or not animals at a particular store are treated well—given clean food and water daily, kept clean and uncrowded, and—if sick—given proper medical treatment from qualified personnel—depends on how well the owner balances his concern for profit with a concern for the animals' well-being. "In some stores, the animals are regarded as shell merchandise," says Gill Eisenitz, a staff writer for HSUS. "There's no consideration whatsoever as to how they're living creatures.

Former employees of Ernest Tomas (a veterinarian who owned a Doctor's Pet Center store in Kansas City) say that if a gerbil or hamster was ill or not presentable enough to be sold, Tomas would direct employees to kill the animal by putting it or her down the garbage disposal alive. Or, "If a bird had broken wings or a

Continued on next page

Left: no food or water has been provided for this kitten; below: guinea pigs crowded in a pet shop window.
The Age of Aquariums

Keeping fish in home aquariums is America's second favorite hobby—just behind photography. It is estimated that five to ten percent of the U.S. population keeps fish, millions of which are quiet, nondestructive, and often beautiful animals as "pets"—with an average of 20 to 25 in each tank. This pastime was given a boost in popularity a few years ago when a scientific study concluded that watching a tank of fish significantly reduces stress, lowers heart rate and blood pressure.

To the fish, however, there are few benefits to living in a glass tank. Being isolated and cut off from the outside world, they are usually denied adequate maintenance facilities in a sanitary condition, and allowed unqualified personnel to practice their art. Hundred of thousands of these quiet, nondestructive, and often beautiful animals as "pets"—with an average of 20 to 25 in each tank. This pastime was given a boost in popularity a few years ago when a scientific study concluded that watching a tank of fish significantly reduces stress, lowers heart rate and blood pressure.

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Pets from Paradise

The Trade in Exotics

By Thor Janson

I met Julian in a classy Guatemala City bar in 1977. He was friendly enough, even when I let him know that I worked as a conservation biologist. He explained to me in no uncertain terms that he felt he was actually doing the animals a favor. "The rainforests are being wiped out," he said. "In a few years all these animals would be killed anyway, so why not provide them with safe homes in the States?" Clean-shaven and dressed in an immaculate sports jacket, Julian looks more like a yuppy than an Indiana Jones. The fact is, he spends as little time as possible in the jungle. His collecting is done for him by local campesinos who earn five or ten dollars for each snake or parrot delivered. This is standard procedure for animal dealers. The process is simple: fly out to a remote jungle settlement; show the natives photos of the animals desired; and offer a reward for each one brought in alive; wait a week or two comfortably back in the city; and finally, fly back in to pay the bounties. The fact that the natives have no knowledge of humane trapping procedures, causing many more animals to be killed than live-captured, doesn't worry Julian. After all, he never told anyone to kill anything--he's just trying to "save" as many animals as possible from imminent destruction (and make a buck at the same time, in the best spirit of capitalism).

Belling in wild animals used to be a piece of cake in Latin America. All one had to do was walk into the local government office in charge of wildlife and, for a small under-the-table donation, legal permits would be issued for the export of the desired animal. Things have been getting a little sticky of late, however, with the creation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which regulates the traffic in endangered wildlife. The problem is that the international wildlife "mafia" is big game. But the animal dealers are not dumb, and as long as there is a market for exotic species, the trade will continue. The dealers are very flexible, and if one country "goes straight" and no longer permits export of certain endangered species, they can just shift their operations to another nearby nation that is still open to trade. Julian used to live in Guatemala, but in 1980 he had a little run-in with the police, who—at the request of U.S.WA—is putting him in jail for his involvement in the many illegal shipments of macaws into the U.S. After several weeks, he mysteriously disappeared, only to surface a few months later—operating out of Honduras.

How big is the international trade in endangered species? Very big. In 1986, information came into my hands about a huge operation involving hundreds of thousands of caiman alligator skins that, according to the informant, were being exported from Guatemala to a country in Europe. This piece of information was a bit hard to believe at first, because biologists knew there were no more than several thousand caimans in the entire country. After several months of investigation and intrigue, it was revealed that the skins were indeed not Guatemalan, but came from the Colombian Amazon. They ended up being sold to the Italian shoe and purse industry. Officials of the Guatemalan government had extended permit limits for more than 450,000 caiman skins during 1985 and 1986—effect, legalizing an illegal trade. Further investigation by several international agencies, including CITES, has indicated that the caiman operation is just the tip of the iceberg. It seems that the big drug dealers of South America have now entered the wildlife trade as an off-season business, while they're waiting for the coca and marijuana crops to mature.

In buying an exotic animal, one becomes part of a system that is responsible for the deaths of millions of animals each year. At the present rate of destruction, most of the world's rainforests will be gone by the end of the century—and the international traffic in wild species is an important aspect of the devastation. It would be wise, therefore, for anyone interested in the preservation of life on earth to resist the temptation to buy a brightly colored bird or even an exotic or ornamental plant.

Thor Janson is with Defensores de la Naturaleza, a Guatemalan foundation concerned with preservation of natural habitat. The group is based at 7 Ave. 13 Calle 2, bp. la Cupula, Guatemala, Central America (telephone 32-50-64), Defensores' international membership fee is $10.00 per year.

The Bird Business

Far left: white-faced or capuchin monkeys are sold illegally to pet dealers and zoos; above, top: maroon cats, presently extinct throughout much of their natural range, are usually captured for sale to the fur industry; above: this kinkajou, held by Thor Janson, was rescued from traffickers and was eventually returned to the wild; far right, top: Guatemalan police agents raided 222 baby parrots from dealers who were trying to smuggle them into Mexico; far right, bottom: as many as three-fifths of the baby parrots removed from nests die before they can be exported.

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no food or water. Birds that arrive in the U.S. (legally) are placed in quarantine for 30 days. In 1984, of the 953,603 birds imported, 44,948 were dead on arrival and 122,773 died in quarantine.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 birds illegally enter the U.S. every year. Some are smuggled across the Mexican border — wrapped in pantyhose and hidden in spare tires, stowed in phony gas tanks, or stuffed behind or beneath the seats of cars and trucks. Others enter the U.S. via "transshipping," dealers in countries where the export of commercial wildlife is prohibited smuggle the birds to countries where, with the proper documents, export is legal. The U.S. has prohibited the capture and sale of its indigent birds since 1932, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working vigorously to stop native birds — particularly Falcons — from being smuggled out of the country. Many nations, including over half of those in Latin America, restrict or prohibit the export of their native birds. The bird trade continues, however, because it's lucrative. An Amazon parrot worth $20 in Mexico could sell for upwards of $2,500 in the U.S. and a cockatoo worth $30 in Australia could sell for $1,000. Friends of Animals, like other animal rights groups, objects to the bird trade on the grounds that "no exotic bird from the wild adds well to captivity or makes a good pet."

In 1984, the state of New York passed the country's first wild bird protection law, which bans the importation and sale of wild birds for commercial purposes. Similar legislation is being proposed in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and other states. The Pet Industry Advisory Council (PIAC) strongly opposed the New York bill, and has successfully blocked wild bird protection bills in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

COUNTDOWN:
Laboratory Animal-Liberation Week 1988 April 24-30, 1988

There are only 4 months left to prepare for Laboratory Animal-Liberation Week. And we need your help NOW!

We want these upcoming events to be the largest and most successful ever — the largest direct action demonstrations in the history of our movement and the best turn-out ever for the animals.

Direct action is one of the most effective tools we have for stopping animal torture and mutilation. And direct action depends on YOU. Last April 24, thousands demonstrated and hundreds were arrested in non-violent direct action for the animals. Next year can be bigger and better!

But we can't do it without your help. We need additional:

- Participating organizations
- Individual participants
- Regional contacts
- Coordinators
- Financial resources

HELP US START PREPARING NOW!
In Defense of Animals
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The struggle is long but hope is longer...

Pet Shops
Continued from page 15

Charm and Freeman say that Ralls is alive and well and operating a Doctora franchise in Detroit.

Dog and cat breeders

"Sick puppies are a nationwide problem for pet shops. One reason is that puppies are shipped by the breeders at a young age — six to eight weeks — when their immune systems are weak. That, plus the stress of separation from the mother and travel to a completely new environment where sanitary conditions may or may not prevail, is more than some puppies can handle. "It makes no difference whether it is Hysteria or Cleveland or Portland, Oregon. We've all faced the issue, in successive waves, and we've lost as many in some stores as 18 or 20 dogs in one fell swoop," Doctora chairmen Eugene Kohn has said.

Another reason for the sick puppies are the kennels or "puppy mills," which supply the vast majority of the 350,000 to 500,000 puppies sold in pet shops in 1987. During the summer of 1985, Baker of HSUS posed as a businessman involved in commercial dog breeding. He went to the Midwest and visited about 500 puppy mills. Baker estimates that 80 percent of the places he saw had serious deficiencies such as inadequate housing, overcrowding, lack of proper sanitation, and insufficient food, water, and veterinary care. He routinely saw dogs living in chicken coops and rabbit hutchs with little protection from bitter-cold winds and snow or baking sun. He also encountered dogs housed inside rusty barrels, old washing machines, and junked cars. "Many of the female dogs used for breeding are forced to spend their entire lives in cages half the size of a bath tub," he said. Females were bred so that they would chum out as many puppies as possible in the least amount of time — and when a female "peaked," she was killed. Baker recently inspected 25 puppy mills at random, and found conditions just as terrible as those he recorded in 1981. "In fact, one place was even worse than any place I'd ever seen," he says. On the whole, breeders are concerned with quantity and not quality — which is killing breeding dogs who may pass on genetic defects or other unassailable traits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the Federal agency which is supposed to inspect the

5,000 licensed puppy mills for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (a law that sets minimum standards for housing and care), lacks enthusiasm for the task. It closed one puppy mill last year. During the last two years, USDA — with the full support of President Reagan — has asked Congress for

The whole idea of buying and selling living beings like merchandise is offensive to animal rights proponents.

"zero budgeting" for the enforcement of the Act. Fortunately, Congress did not grant the request. If USDA's play had been successful, the agency would have been relieved of responsibility for inspecting puppy mills, laboratories, zoos, and other places which commonly mistreat animals.

Cats, who have recently emerged as America's most popular companion animals, may soon be bred like dogs. "In 1981 I saw only one cattery," Baker says. "But every time I go out into the field, I hear about another broker expanding his puppy mill by raising cats — or one who has gotten out of dogs and is totally into raising cats."

Good homes not guaranteed

If the most animal advocates, Baker would "like to see pet shops get out of the business of selling animals." The whole idea of buying and selling living beings like merchandise is offensive to animal rights proponents. That people often make spur-of-the-moment decisions to buy pet shops is another cause for concern. "A lot of people leave the house that morning with no intention of buying an animal," says Baker. "They

The Kansas Connection

There are about 5,000 puppy mills in the United States, and almost half of them are in Kansas. House Bill 2220, pending before the Kansas legislature, would regulate these breeding establishments. HSUS is requesting that letters be sent to the governor of Kansas, Mike Hayden, urging him to support the bill. Address letters to: The Honorable Mike Hayden, Governor, Capitol Building, Topeka, KS 66602.

Letters are also needed to members of Congress, asking them to cosponsor H.R. Res 207, a resolution that would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to examine the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act in protecting animals in puppy mills. Write to your Congressman in the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

In a typical puppy mill, a female is bred so that she churns out as many litter as possible. When she "peaks," she is killed.

December 1987

The ANIMALS' AGENDA
With what is the best dog in the world? Most veterinarians and those dog experts who don’t have a bias for any particular breed will respond without hesitation, “It’s the mongrel or mixed breed.” If we were to take all the various breeds of dog and then loose on an island with a plentiful supply of food, and return a hundred years later, we would probably have the best dog imaginable. That dog would probably resemble the Pariah dog so common in the villages of Southeast Asia.

The Pariah dogs are “super mutts.” They have never been subjected to selective breeding in order to create local breeds with various unique traits as happened in Europe where most “purebred” dogs originate, and in other areas where dogs have been bred for specific purposes, such as for herding, pulling a sled, killing sheep, or drafting work and hunting. The Pariah dogs, thanks to minimal genetic interference by humans, have been subjected to the most rigorous selection and survival pressures of nature—such that only the fittest survive. As a consequence, the average Pariah dog is a highly intelligent, agile and brawny, proportioned animal, resistant to many endemic parasites and other diseases, and well able to fend for himself or herself without food or shelter provided by humans. The Australian Dingo is a somewhat larger type of Pariah dog who has become feral (i.e., gone wild). The African Basenji is one example of a local type of Pariah dog who has been subjected to selective breeding to “fix” and exaggerate certain traits, such as the curled tail and wide forehead. The Pariah dogs that I studied in the tropics are as unique to their mid and late teens, and are virtually free of the diseases of hereditary origin which are so prevalent in pure breeds.

Scientists Leonard Bailey hypothesized that the Pariah dog is probably a prototype of the original ancestral dog. By comparison, the relatively sick and often deformed purebred dogs of the Western industrial world seem like orphans, the intentionally disordered and distorted Asian trees. Indeed, they often have serious structural or orthopedic problems. In an article published by the American Animal Hospital Association, veterinarian Wayne H. Riser wrote:

“Natural selection can be identified by the following characteristics: medium build (35 to 55 pounds); a long, slightly upcurved tail and long, straight legs; head, body, and limbs beautifully proportioned and balanced; ears erect or semi-erect; muzzle of moderate length; and oval or almond-shaped eyes. The coat is short and may vary in color from black to white and piebald to brindle, the most common being light fawn or a darker reddish-brown. With proper care, these dogs enjoy a life well into their mid and late teens, and are virtually free of the diseases of hereditary origin which are so prevalent in pure breeds.

Induction change unlikely

The pet business—often selling small animals like parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and gerbils. Since the revenue from the pet business is significant, providing small animals like parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and gerbils. Since the revenue from the pet business is significant, providing small animals like parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and gerbils. Since the revenue from the pet business is significant, providing small animals like parakeets, canaries, hamsters, and gerbils.
ANIMAL NEWSLINE

LAB RAID AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

The ALF Gets Their Goats

On Thursday, August 13, animal liberationists freed three goats from the biology department of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas (UNLV). The goats, donated to the university by the Nevada Dairy Goat Association, were destined for dehydration experiments to be conducted by UNLV biology professor Mohamed Youssef. Responsibility for the raid was claimed by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Sometime before dawn, the goats were taken from their pens and were apparently lifted over a wall behind the university's life sciences building. Researcher Youssef was attending a symposium on bioethics in Montreal at the time of the break-in. Acting as a spokesperson for the liberators, Veronica McPhelan of the Nevada-based group People Against Vivisection Experiments (PAVE) reports that the ALF has placed the goats in safe, permanent homes.

Youssef had planned to dehydrate the goats in order to study how their bodies store water over long periods of time. He told reporters that the purpose of the research was to study the effectiveness of using goats as a major food source for people in arid regions of the world, since the goats can store water efficiently and are able to eat plants that humans cannot. Youssef also announced that he had hoped to be able to "transfat" the goats' ability to store water to other animal species. It remains to be seen whether or not Yousef will obtain replacement goats in order to continue with the dehydration project.

In response to a column by Jamie Greenup of The Las Vegas Sun which criticized the research, Youssef lashed out in a Sun editorial. Referring to the raid, Youssef asserted, "Attempt to justify those actions to the seven million children under five years of age who died this year because of malnutrition induced by lack of animal products." Responded Marla Cohen, M.D. (director of the Medical Research Modernization Committee), "... complete proteins [in the form of eggs and dairy products] are ingested by most vegetables. Even in vegans—who refrain from eating all animal products—essential amino acids can be assured by exercising appropriate care to eat a balanced diet... it is not a 'sensible approach' to raise animals on arid lands because of the expense, the waste of plant products, the resultant pollution from nitrogenous waste... the likely possibility that hungry persons will not have access to the meat which is produced anyway..."

A world free of hunger and food-related illnesses need not, and cannot, be brought about by reliance on animal agriculture. More equitable systems of food distribution combined with ecologically sound plant agricultural projects hold the greatest promise for feeding the world's hungry.

Two of the UNLV goats, prior to release by animal liberators.

The ANIMALS' AGENDA is the only magazine independent of an animal rights membership group. We bring you all the issues, all the activity on behalf of the animals, plus what you can do to make a difference. Our contributing editors, activists and thinkers from the U.S. and elsewhere, keep you in touch $9.95 per year/ 10 issues. Subscribe today!
ANIMAL NEWSLINE

World Farm Animals Day—1987

Thousands of activists in seven countries and approximately fifty U.S. locales participated in World Farm Animals Day events this year. The annual observance, which began in 1983, has been coordinated by the Farm Animal Reform Movement (FARM). FARM president Alex Hershaft says that the events are intended to memorialize the suffering and death of the billions of animals who are abused and slaughtered for food and to call public attention to the grave threat posed by intensive animal agriculture to public health, world food supplies, agricultural resources, and environmental quality.

The October 2 date of the observance marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, the world's preeminent farm animal protector. Because several other related observances fall in the same period, many groups combine observances of World Farm Animals Day with events commemorating World Vegetarian Day (October 1), World Animal Day (October 4), the Feast of St. Francis (October 4), and the World Week of Prayer for Animals (October 1-11). It is not possible to mention all of the events that took place this year; however, the sampling that follows illustrates the diversity of approaches that was seen in events held on or about October 2.

On the West Coast, approximately 50 people demonstrated at a McDonald's restaurant on the legendary Sunset Strip corner of Hollywood and Vine in Hollywood, California. Several dozen people participated in a Peace March for Animals in San Francisco's San Francisco, California. Activists from the Animal Rights Coalition provided free vegetarian burgers and hot dogs, as well as animal rights literature, to participants at a heavily patronized McDonald's.

In the central U.S., the group Awareness of Wildlife and Animal Rights in St. Louis (AWARPR) led a motorcade of more than 25 banner-draped cars from downtown Chicago to the Chicago Zoological Park in Union Stockyard, where hundreds of millions of animals perished under wretched conditions described by Upton Sinclair in his 1906 book The Jungle. People for Animal Rights invited the citizens of Columbus, Ohio to a vegetarian picnic honoring Gandhi's 188th birthday. Caribbean activists gave support to the ethical and health aspects of vegetarianism and set up displays on famous vegetarians in local public libraries. Approximately 50 activists participated in a motor "funeral" procession in Denver, Colorado, co-sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Humane Society (RMHS) and FARM. The motorcade's destination was the Livestock Exchange Building, where activists held a memorial service for farm animals. In addition, RMHS erected the nation's first billboard promoting the rights of farm animals at Denver's busiest intersection (information about RMHS's innovative advertising efforts may be obtained by contacting the organization at 303/755-9217).

Actions in the Southwest included the placement of large newspaper display ads and the staffing of information tables at public locations by members of the Arizona chapter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Animal Connection, a Texas group, held a 24-hour vigil at Owens Sausage Packing Plant in Dallas. The Houston Animal Rights Team, in conjunction with FARM, held a memorial service at a Houston slaughterhouse.

In the South, Miami activists demonstrated at Iron Dutch Meats, one of Florida's largest retailers of meat and veal. In commemoration of World Week of Prayer for Animals, 80 North Carolina activists took part in a candlelight march followed by speeches in Durham. An Indian vegetarian dinner accompanied by Indian dancing was held in Raleigh, N.C. in honor of Gandhi and Saint Francis.

Ceremonial blessings of animals were performed by clergy in Greenville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem, N.C. Sixty people attended the annual Celebration of Life in Nashville, Tennessee, which featured a meatless dinner at the British vegetarian columnists Dr. Tessa Nelson-Humphreys. However, the event was overshadowed by a confrontation with the audience by two vegetarian and Governor Ned McWhorter. McWhorter, a cattle raiser and member of the Committee's Association, refused a request from the East Tennessee Vegetarian Society (ETVS) to sign proclamations acknowledging World Farm Animals Day. A member of the audience reportedly threatened to strike the speaker.

The Rocky Mountain Humane Society placed this billboard ad in downtown Denver in recognition of World Farm Animals Day. Right: FARM president Alex Hershaft had himself chained by the neck in a real crate in order to demonstrate the confinement suffered by veal calves in factory farms.

FARM Animals Day, World Vegetarian Day, and World Week of Prayer for Animals in Tennessee. The party governor explained, "I don't think it's my prerogative to instruct the public on what to eat." Last year, former Governor Lamar Alexander received extensive political backlash from the meat industry after signing a proclamation recognizing World Vegetarian Day. ETVS spokesperson Lige Wells is asking acitivists to write McWhorter (c/o State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219) and ask him to change his policy on signing vegetarian and pro-animal proclamations.

On the East Coast, an event was held a 24-hour fast by FARM president Hershaft, former Governor Lamar Alexander received extensive political backlash from the meat industry after signing a proclamation recognizing World Vegetarian Day. ETVS spokeswomen, Lige Wells is asking acitivists to write McWhorter (c/o State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37219) and ask him to change his policy on signing vegetarian and pro-animal proclamations.

Action for Life

Nearly 200 animal advocates met in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the first day of Life Week (September 24 to October 4) at the seventh annual Action for Life conference, sponsored by the Farm Animal Movement (FARM) and the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research (CARR). Individual activists and group representatives shared experiences, reported on their progress, learned new research techniques and planned projects for the coming year. The consensus among various conference participants was that the program, including five briefings, eighteen training workshops, ten "rap sessions," and fifteen planning meetings, was the best and most professional ever.

This year's Mahatma Gandhi Award for "outstanding contribution to the promotion of animal rights and vegetarianism" went to Tom Scholz of the rock group Boston. Scholz has been supporting and promoting several animal rights organizations listed on the jacket of the group's best-selling album Third Stage. Past recipients of the award include philosopher Tom Regan, Cleveland Amory of the Fund for Animals, Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), philosopher Peter Singer, actress Gretchen Wyler, and farm workers' leader Cesare Caporali. Other conference topics included the keynote address by John Kullberg, president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; an address by Amory; and reports on animal rights activities and issues abroad.

The conference program began on Friday afternoon with orientation for newcomers and a series of briefings on the various aspects of animal abuse by FARM's Amore, CCBER's Cole Agha, and others. The next two days provided intensive training workshops on such areas as organizing, research and investigation, outreach, communications, fundraising, conflict resolution, argumentation and persuasion, public speaking, legislative and electoral action, and strategic planning. "Rap sessions" provided opportunities for airing concerns about such issues as euthanasia, direct action, and sharing of resources among groups, to name a few. On Monday, the last day of the conference, participants gathered to discuss the objectives and priorities of several of the organizations represented and to plan campaign deals in California, electoral action, human education, and other issues. A number of organizations displayed their literature and other materials in the exhibit hall, and over 20 video tapes were screened for attendees. Open to nonmembers, the conference included singing, musicians, comedians, and dancers provided entertainment in the evenings.

This year marked the first time that the Action for Life conference has been held in New England. The first conference, held in Allentown, Penn., in 1981, was an outgrowth of the heated momentum to the animal rights movement in the U.S. Although the annual conference has been traditionally sponsored by FARM, this year CCBER took care of local arrangements and financing. Additional funding was provided by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Friends of Animals.

Left to right: FARM's Melinda Marks, Boston's Tom Scholz, and Alex Hershaft.
Animal Newsline

A Rising Tide

The fourth biennial national conference of the Animal Rights Coalition (ARC) was held September 25-27, 1987 at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. Entitled "A Rising Tide: Change for Animals," the conference concentrated on the ethical basis the animal rights movement shares with other social change movements. A distinguished and energetic group of speakers also discussed the process of change in individuals, society, and the world.

Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, and Constantina Salamone, editor of the New York City feminist newspaper Majority Report, were the conference's keynote speakers. Watson delivered an address entitled "The Future of the Planet," suggesting that everyone perform what he calls " planetary duty": working at least part-time throughout their lives towards saving the planet, the animals, and the human species. Salamone presented an enlightening slideshow that drew parallels between the abuse of animals and the abuse of women, children, and members of ethnic and racial minorities.

The ARC conferences have distinguished themselves by forthrightly challenging the animal rights movement to embrace feminist perspectives, which affirm the value of each individual and seek to create systems for sustenance rather than destruction of life. Other issues discussed at the conference included the need for greater support of grassroots efforts on behalf of animals, and an analysis of organizational structures which are prone to excesses in bureaucracy.

Teach a Teacher

The following suggestions for holiday gifts for teachers come from Lauri Buechta, a third-grade teacher and a member of the People-based group Citizens for Animal Rights.

I have, over the last 16 Christmases, accumulated from my students enough bubble bath and hand towels to meet the hygiene needs of every person in Missoula, Montana. This holiday season, parents should consider giving their children's teachers gifts that will benefit students and animals alike.

Most elementary school teachers would appreciate receiving stickers to use as "rewards" on their students' papers (I probably give through about 87,000 per year). If the stickers convey an animal rights message along with an appealing picture, so much the better. Many animal protection groups provide stickers suitable for young children at a nominal cost.

Other animal-oriented gifts might include a subscription to Children and Animals magazine, a "People and Animal Care Curriculum Guide" or a "Kids and Centers Curriculum Guide"—all available from the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE, PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423), the Center for Environmental Education (623 9th St NW, Washington, DC 20001) has produced an interesting curriculum guide complete with a coloring book section on marine mammals. Elsa Wild Animal Appeal (PO Box 257, Eldin, IL 60115) has excellent Wildlife Learning Kits, as well as newsletters for children.

Groups with humane-minded coloring books include NAHA, Gowerpeace (411 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005), the Humane Society of the U.S. (210 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20007), and the Associated Humane Societies (PO Box AE, Keyport, NJ 07735). A humane education packet and curriculum based on the teachings of Judas is available from Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (PO Box 3341, Alexandria, VA 22302).

A book for teachers would make a nice gift, as would one donated to the school library in honor of the teacher. Films and videos with animal protection themes are easy to rent or buy. Focus on Animals (PO Box 150, Trumbull, CT 06611) makes such films and videos available; the group also publishes a free newsletter for teachers—readers may send them names of teachers who would like to receive it. Individual or library subscriptions to The Animal Rights AGENDA would keep teachers informed about animal rights and provide source material for students' papers, bulletin boards and other classroom displays with animal rights themes might stimulate classroom discussion of animal issues. Any of these gifts would be a welcome change from the annual barrage of lolipops, and just may help turn your child's teacher into a humane educator.

—Lauri Buechta
Citizens for Animal Rights
PO Box 513
Peoria, IL 61601
CEASE Sets Advertising Trap for Furriers

For the past few winters, CEASE (Coalition to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation) members have held regular pickets outside downtown Boston fur salons. Braving Beantown’s ice-cold winter chill, protestors have used signs, leaflets, chants, and “bloodstained” fur to expose the suffering stitched into every fur coat. This year’s fur season, however, marks a new stage in CEASE’s anti-fur campaign: magazine and billboard advertising.

“Life is hard to capture a glossy magazine ad with a crudely picket sign,” explains CEASE president Troy Soos. “We felt that advertising in the same mainstream media that the fur companies use would allow our message to be presented on equal footing with theirs.”

“The picquets are important because they make us visible to the public as activists,” adds CEASE member Louise DellAmico, “and downtown shoppers have become familiar with our presence.”

One of CEASE’s display ads on fur ranching.

But there is real satisfaction in knowing that the ads are reaching thousands of people in combination with the pickets.”

Ten anti-fur billboard advertisements, prepared by CEASE artist Richard Salvucci, will be viewed by tens of thousands of Boston-area travelers at the height of the holiday shopping season (from mid-November to mid-December). In addition, ads that focus on the suffering of animals raised on fur ranches are being carried by Boston magazine, New England Monthly, and the regional edition of Time. The high-exposure ad campaign takes aim at the fur industry’s own propagandists by targeting the traditional association of fur with glamour and status.

“Fur coats are worn for vanity,” says Soos. “When they become symbols of cruelty to animals, instead of status symbols, people won’t want to be seen wearing them. Even if the ‘cruelty to animals’ issue isn’t sufficient reason for those people not to purchase fur, their fear of being viewed as callous or insensitive could deter them. So we’re out to change the image of fur.”

Part of that change must come in the public’s perception (fostered by the furriers) of fur ranches as safe, comfortable places for wild animals to spend their lives. Fur-hering, animals raised on ranches suffer confinement and boredom in small wire-mesh cages, denied the relative freedom from which the victim of a leghold trap would enjoy in the wild prior to capture. Animals on fur ranches are killed by such means as electrocution, poisoning, and neck-breaking. “The conditions and practices are largely unknown to the general public, so our display ads address the issue of ranch-raised animals directly,” says Salvucci.

CEASE has been educating the public on the fur issue—as well as vivisection and pet overpopulation—for years on Boston subways through its successful “Pledge-An-Ad” campaign. In addition to conducting regular fur store pickets, the group has also succeeded in disrupting fur sales at a glitzy Salon Fifth Avenue department store in a much-publicized protest, and was able to get the Greenpeace/Lynn anti-fur TV commercial screened at a movie theater for three months. But after noticing an increase in fur wearing and advertising last year, the group began planning an anti-fur media blitz in the spring, and established a restricted anti-fur fund to pay for the advertising.

Hundreds of private donations, together with generous grants from the Compassion for Animals Foundation and the Ahimsa Foundation, brought nearly $20,000 into the campaign coffers for more signs and brochures. Because grants were awarded early in the fundraising effort, they provided a psychological boost by making the campaign goals seem more attainable. And since the artwork and production were donated, all of the money went into ad space and printing.

After surveying the circulation and readership demographics of several local and national magazines, the group opted for running their advertisements in publications that run fur ads and attract upscale readers—the very people most likely to buy fur. The decision to put the powerful anti-fur message on billboards—a medium usually reserved for mind-numbing commercial advertising—was made with the intention of reaching large numbers of people. Says Salvucci, “For years we thought how great it would be if we could put ads in magazines that the furriers themselves use, or see an announcement of a fur coat leaving behind a trail of blood on a giant billboard and see these ads getting the kind of exposure they’re receiving is like a dream come true.”

For DellAmico, it’s also an indication that the animal rights movement can take on the fur industry and win. “Some people feel that the anti-fur campaign is futile because there’s an increasing number of people wanting fur coats. But the fur industry has had decades to sell the false image of fur, and for us it’s only the beginning. This is an exciting time for us. We’re going to make the tide turn.”

—Mark Sommers

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**NEWS SHORTS**

- **The Justice Department has dropped charges against James E. Billie, Seminole chief accused of killing a rare Florida panther in violation of the Endangered Species Act. (See the September 7 Commentary entitled "De Native Americans Have Hunted Rights?" in The Animal Rights.) The decision, announced on October 5, marks the end of four years of efforts by Federal authorities to bring the case to court and prosecute Billie. The Justice Department dropped the charges following Billie's acquittal on charges brought by the state. In a previous Federal trial, the jury was unable to reach a verdict and a mistrial was declared. The case pitted advocates of Native Americans' hunting rights with the concerns of those seeking to preserve endangered species; however, the state jury's verdict was based on their doubts about the evidence presented. Billie's lawyer contended that the state had failed to prove that the animal in question was indeed an endangered Florida panther, one of the jurors in the state trial said that the failure of the state to adequately preserve the evidence "brought the case against Billie."**

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**Western ranching interests want to remove protections for grizzlies.**

- **The Wildlife Waystation, a private nonprofit 20-acre compound which houses some 1,000 exotic animals, is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for at least 19 housekeeping, safety, and sanitation deficiencies, according to a recent report in The San Francisco Chronicle. The Waystation has a four-year record of violations, according to Michael McCarron, a compliance officer with the USDA's Los Angeles office. Deficiencies noted by USDA inspectors have included broken and torn cage structures, water pans covered with algae, and unsanitary food preparation facilities. A pile of animal bones and toilet paper was discovered during an inspection.**

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**The reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act is still under consideration in Congress. House and Senate subcommittees have held hearings on the reauthorization, and the bills are now in the markup stage, where the final versions of the bills will be formed and amendments are still being considered. Amendments backed by animal advocacy groups to add language to restrict the Secretary of the Interior from allowing the Secretary to establish a monitoring system for "candidate" species waiting for placement onto the endangered species list; and extend greater protection to endangered plants. Amendments opposed by the humane community include: a provision to weaken protection for grizzly bears and grey wolves, allowing them to be trapped and killed and used for sport; and provisions designed to weaken regulations requiring the use of the turtle excluder device by shrimp trawlers. The device is designed to keep sea turtles from getting caught in shrimp nets. Readers are urged to contact their Senators and Representatives and urge passage of the strongest possible protections for animals in the Act's reauthorization.**

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**Hundreds gathered on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on September 12 for the first International Vegetarian Festival, co-sponsored by the Ahimsa Foundation and Ark II. Participants say that the event, originally scheduled for two days but cut short by rain, was a great success. Vendors served: Joyce, a state humane officer and president of the 1st Humane Society of Ventura County, was quoted in The Chronicle as saying that the Waystation "does not show sensitivity to the physical and emotional needs of the animals. The place is in obvious disrepair, and it is difficult to believe that government regulations are being met." Other deficiencies mentioned in the article include lack of a water system, inadequate shelter for animals in summer heat, no drainage or fire prevention systems, and lack of adequate fencing and caging to ensure that animals cannot escape. The animals, many of them "ex- circus," include lions, tigers, cougars, bears, wolves, primates and birds. The Waystation receives $30,000 per year under a contract with the state Department of Fish and Game, and was fined another $30,000 last year by the agency to make necessary improvements to the facility.**

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**The scene of the crime.**

- **Two dogs were bludgeoned and shot by a local ordinance banning the use of steel-jaw leghold traps has been officially upheld in a legal opinion issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Officials from CDFG presented testimony in opposition to the ban when local public health officials pressed the issue, and the agency requested an opinion from the Attorney General following the ordinance's passage. Van den Camp concluded that county leghold trap bans do not conflict with state wildlife regulations — as long as the bans are passed for reasons of public health and safety as opposed to wildlife protection. The decision has set an important precedent which may be useful in other counties where such ordinances may come under consideration. Meanwhile, a judge in Massachusetts has ruled that so-called "soft catch" (padded) traps can be used by trappers in the state, despite the Massachusetts ban on leghold traps. Fur industry sources say that the Massachusetts ruling is a victory.**

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**The right of California counties to enact ordinances banning the use of steel-jaw leghold traps has been officially upheld in a legal opinion issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Officials from CDFG presented testimony in opposition to the ban when local public health officials pressed the issue, and the agency requested an opinion from the Attorney General following the ordinance's passage. Van den Camp concluded that county leghold trap bans do not conflict with state wildlife regulations — as long as the bans are passed for reasons of public health and safety as opposed to wildlife protection. The decision has set an important precedent which may be useful in other counties where such ordinances may come under consideration. Meanwhile, a judge in Massachusetts has ruled that so-called "soft catch" (padded) traps can be used by trappers in the state, despite the Massachusetts ban on leghold traps. Fur industry sources say that the Massachusetts ruling is a victory.**

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**The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking a permit to place 48 loggerhead sea turtles (a threatened species) in cages near an offshore oil platform that is to be blown up, reports The Washington Post. The stated purpose of the experiment is to study the effects of underwater blasts on sea turtles when explosives are used to dismantle offshore oil platforms. The plan is to place the loggerhead turtles about 500 yards from the platform, with Red-tail turtles (not an endangered species) placed in cages on both sides of the platform and with their bellies toward the explosion. The resulting injuries and deaths will be compiled and studied afterwards. The permit request is presently under consideration by NMFS. Readers are urged to write to the NMFS and express opposition to the use of any animal in an experiment that is dangerous or not, in such an experiment. Send letters to: Assistant Administrator for Science, NMFS, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20235.**

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**A fire at a vault processing company in California caused $7,000 in damage on September 1. An unidentified woman contacted news agencies and claimed responsibility for the fire at the Sono Joa Valley Company in Santa Clara, on behalf of the Animal Rights Militia. The caller said the place was taken to protest the manner in which veal calves are raised and slaughtered.**

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**More Shorts on next page**
NEWS SHORTS

The Foundation on Economic Trends has petitioned the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to stop funding the National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI), a Philadelphia-based nonprofit organization which distributes tissue and organs from human fetuses for scientific research. According to the Foundation, NIH funding of NDRI may violate a 1992 Federal law prohibiting support of or funding of efforts to "harvest" human fetal parts while the fetuses are still alive. Some 25 state laws also prohibit research and experimentation on living human fetuses. Another petition filed by the Foundation asks Federal officials to prevent the sale of human fetal tissue by Hana Biologics, a San Francisco biotechnology company. The petitions were filed in order to urge Federal agencies to establish appropriate regulations of biotechnology companies interested in entering the lucrative fetal parts business. Scientists foresee the use of tissue from human fetuses for transplants into those suffering from a variety of disorders and diseases, leading some to speculate that women might deliberately become pregnant and then abort the pregnancy solely to make a profit. Says the Foundation's Jeremy Rifkin, "the notion of harvesting and commercially exploiting tissues and organs from thousands of human fetuses for transplant surgery is abhorrent and contrary to the ethical concerns of a civilized culture... Do we want our children to grow up in a world where human fetuses are commercially harvested to provide space parts for the medical industry? For more information on this issue, write to: The Foundation on Economic Trends, 1130 17th St. NW, Suite 630, Washington, DC 20036.

East Carolina State University (ECSU) has announced a one-year moratorium on its "dog lab" laboratory sessions required in physiology and pharmacology courses at many institutions. The moratorium was announced in response to a request from the North Carolina Network for Animals. The group compiled statistics showing that ECSU was using 20 to 30 times the number of dogs as were being used by two prestigious nearby schools—the University of North Carolina and Duke University. A videotape of a dog lab at ECSU was provided—apparently by an insider at the lab—to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and may have also played a part in getting university officials to announce the moratorium. The tape shows an inadequately anesthetized neutered male dog strapped to an operating table. The instructor tells the students to disregard the dog's cries, and jokes continuously while cutting into the semi-conscious animal. Across the nation, opposition to dog labs on ethical and scientific grounds is growing. Sharon A. Allen, a medical student at the University of New Mexico, describes her experience with dog labs: "I derived very little educational benefit from these labs. I was sickened by the violations inflicted upon the dogs... I felt trapped in a system run by people who are still little boys pulling the wings off flies and watching what happens next." Copies of the videotape, entitled "Dog Lab," are available for $50 to buy or a $45 refundable deposit to rent. Contact: PETA, P.O. Box 4256, Washington, DC 20015; (202) 789-0136.

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ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE

Furrier Voices

BY PATRICE GREEANVILLE

"Harrowe's frothings against the industry's tormentors usually fall hilariously short of the mark."

Since early this year, Harrowe seems extraordinarily exercised by Barker's actions. Apparently, the last straw came when Barker, who, as a prominent Fur Trade Association—(FTA)—Fur-Fish-Game (FFG), and the less well-known U.S. Fur Rancher. Limited in circulation and therefore they don't know the purposes for which they were created: dissemination of vital industry information among furriers, trappers and traders; morale boosting (deeply appreciated now that animal rights activists are making life difficult for the industry); and the usual strategic and commercial coordination offered by all tradebooks. As far as the animal rights activists are concerned, two publications deserve special mention: FarAge Weekly, which summarizes industry developments week after week, and The Trapper and Predator Caller, a veritable bible of specialized information.

Inventive, news, and hilarity in one package

Although in terms of English grammar it often offender to the brink of illiterate, "Far Age Weekly", which has been chronicling the fur industry's fortunes since 1922, has little trouble speaking fluent "furriepox", a variant of English adapted to the peculiar idiosyncrasies of the fur industry. (A recent headline, "Beets Show Minn. Among Best Buy, Fur-Off Animals", might have made Orwell proud.)

Staffed by a band of old-timers and true believers (FWA usually thinner than eight or sixteen pages—no slick, glossy-stock publication. Its amateurish look, however, should not mislead anyone about its value. The publication offers the animal rights activist a very real information source. In this, including the latest fur auction prices, a calendar of upcoming industry events, buyouts, personnel problems (acids, as the industry is known), international news, hard-to-find statistics, and plenty of inside dope on the industry's machinations to defeat the fur industry's "anti-fur" campaigns.

The paper is considerably enlarged by the unwary character of its chief editor, Bob Harrowe, a curmudgeon-like figure noted for his intemperate editorials. Spewing vitriol in almost every issue, Harrowe's frothings against the industry's tormentors—particularly Cleveland Amory, Bob Barker, the ALE, and HBO's enlivened cartoon "Deathbeast"—usually fall hilariously short of the mark.

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THE KILLING SEASON

Peltng Time at a Mink Ranch

By Tom H. Davis

This pelting season is a time of death at mink ranches. The grisly business usually occurs in December, when the mink’s fur is at its finest, most luxurious, and most valuable. As a temporary worker at a mink ranch in Washington state, I witnessed the killing season and found the operation revolting to my eyes, nose, ears, and conscience. At the root of this horror is greed. According to United States Department of Agriculture statistics, in 1985 the 1,024 mink farms in the U.S. produced 4,170,000 pelts—selling for over $126 million.

Minks are sleek, elegant animals. But when the killing started, they went into a frenzy. They seemed to know their minutes were numbered; and as the killer moved down the row of cramped cages, they became violent and aggressive. The killer carefully and skillfully grabbed each small animal by the neck, and pulled him or her out of the cage. The man then inserted a neck-breaker (a device commonly used at mink farms) into the mink’s mouth, knocking it back to the agitated animals. Sometimes their razor sharp teeth penetrated the killer’s heavy leather gloves, or sunk into his arm. The killer device is simple and effective. It consists of two attached metal bars. One bar is inserted into the mink’s mouth, and the other bar is placed on the back of the neck. The killer pulls the two bars together, using a lot of muscle power, and the mink’s neck is broken—usually immediately.

The “best” mink are saved for breeding purposes, but generally two-thirds to three-fourths of the population of the farm are killed every year. After the designated number of mink were “terminated,” the factory-like preparation of the pelts began. A helper hauled a wheelbarrow full of dead mink into the skinning room. There, up to four skinned mink were placed on poles, and loaded into the fleshing machine. The device used a powerful vacuum and a rapid turning motor to suck off the fat and gristle from the skins. The fat was saved in a barrel for the eventual manufacture of mink oil. The machine was noisy, fast, and messy. By the end of a day’s work, the fleshed mink fat splattered in his eyes, nose, hair, and beard. His apron was saturated with mink oil, and his body had the characteristic odor of mink.

Despite the effectiveness of the fleshing machine, only about 90 to 95 percent of the fat and stringy gristle was removed from the skins. So the pelts, still on the poles, were placed on a rack and manually scraped until the remaining bits of fat and tissue were removed.

The pelts were then taken to the second floor of the farm building, where five women performed the final touches. A load of furry pelts was placed in a dryer along with some ground corn cob called cob grit. This drying process removed any particles of fat still remaining on the skin. The pelts were then placed on drying boards, and glycerin was rubbed in to keep the fur soft. Finally, the pelts were hung to dry for a few days, after which they were sorted and boxed. The pelts were then auctioned off at a sale in Seattle in lots of 50 to 300 skins of similar breed, sex, size, quality, and color.

I worked at the mink ranch because I needed money. But the experience made me aware of the cruel ways involved in fur farming—and in the killing and breeding of animals. Some people may soothe their consciences with “incest bred” fur coats instead of those made of trapped wild animals, but there’s something sick and unnatural about killing—and nothing but blood and greed behind the false glamour of the fur industry.

Tom Davis is an animal rights activist living in Kirkland, Washington.

One of millions of minks killed annually on fur farms.

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COMMENT

The "Divine Right" of Humans: An Idea Whose Time Has Gone

BY KIM BARTLETT

Once upon a time, there was a great king who ruled over many people. He commanded armies, whose terrible screams gave him control over his subjects. Those who did not submit to his power were punished or killed. He demanded tributes from those he governed and, because they lacked the power to defend themselves and their possessions, they surrendered to him much of what they had.

But, despite his undisputed sovereignty, he was uneasy. He had begun to feel guilty about his tyranny. He knew his subjects hated and feared him—they had not chosen him as a leader, and he had shown little concern for their welfare.

What the king needed was a way of legitimizing his despoticism to his people, and justifying it to himself. He had won his throne through the use of force, but weren't the characteristics that allowed him to attain a position of superiority over others born in him—instilled, perhaps, by a supernatural power that had chosen him over the rest? Wouldn't it follow, then, that he had been granted the "right" to expand his domain? Because desires so strongly influence thoughts, the more he pondered this new idea, the more plausible it seemed.

So the king's new status was proclaimed to the people, and the "divine right of kings"—as a doctrine—was born.

The medieval European belief that temporal rulers received their authority directly from God can be traced back to the fourth century when Constantine became the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity. In earlier times, powerful rulers (such as the Pharaohs of Egypt) might declare that they were descended from gods, but not just divinely appointed, but there was no place in the new religion for temporal deities. As amazing as it seems today, for about 1,500 years—until the

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The Religious Slaughter Controversy

BY JIM BARTLETT

The Bible has been consumed throughout the ages to "prove" and "disprove" many opposing points of view. Passages can be cited by animal advocates in making the case for vegetarianism (for example, Genesis 1:28; Numbers 13:10; Deuteronomy 22:6). But one thing seems to be clear: the writers of the Hebrew scriptures—from the story of creation to the prophecies of Isaiah—consistent-ly advocated the "righteous man" to be kind to animals.

Since the time of the legendary Jewish, Jewish dietary laws have required that an animal slaughtered for food be killed by the most painless method. In Kosher slaughter (called shechita, meaning permitted or proper) and a similar Islamic ritual (halal), animals— who must be fully conscious—are killed by having the major blood vessels of their throats severed by a sausagelike knife, a procedure which should result in an immediate loss of consciousness. But unfortunately, the laws that were laid down long ago to minimize pain today are often ignored. Kosher meat can be obtained by many religious Jews; but unfortunately not by many religious Jews.

Modern slaughterhouses practice inhuman, inhuman acts, and are not able to provide for the welfare of the animals killed by them. In some cases, the animals are subjected to severe pain and suffering, and their bodies are not handled with care. This is a cause for concern, and it is important that we continue to work towards a more humane and ethical treatment of animals.

An uncertain future

G iven the record, it is tempting for animal advocates to abandon the idea of religious slaughter as a solution to the problem of animal suffering. But we must remember that the Bible and the Quran are not the only sources of guidance for us as we seek to make ethical decisions on how to interact with animals. We must also consider the wider implications of our actions, and the impact they may have on our own lives and the lives of others.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we must continue to seek ways to make the religious slaughter more humane and ethical. We must also work towards a more compassionate and caring society, where animals are treated with respect and consideration. Only then will we be able to truly honor the teachings of the great religious traditions.

The writer is a Catholic in poor standing.

This diagram illustrates one method of restraining animals for Kosher slaughter which keeps the animal intact and is a relatively comfortable position. It was developed by Temple Grandin in 1977. Another method involves straddling the animal on a double-cone conveyor belt.
Is There a Real Problem in Promoting Fakes?

A FORUM ON SIMULATED FURS

EDITED BY KIM BARTLETT

In trying to have consistent and practical approaches to specific issues, the animal rights movement often encounters grey areas in which there may be legitimate differences of opinion. Believing there to be considerable disagreement among animal advocates as to whether fake furs should be promoted as an alternative to coats made of real animal skin, The ANIMALS' AGENDA decided to commission a forum on the subject. The responses we received are printed below in alphabetical order.

PATRICIA FORKAN

In the 1960s, many animal welfare organizations applauded the introduction of synthetic materials as replacements for real animal skins in the production of fur garments. It seemed that not only would many animals be saved from the suffering inherent in the production of fur coats, but also that the message of the cruelty involved had been heard. However, as time went on, many realized that wearing fake fur actually had the opposite effect. Garments were created that to the casual observer were indistinguishable from real animal skins.

As a result, The Humane Society of the United States no longer supports the use of synthetic or "fake" fur because we believe this practice condones and encourages the wearing of real fur. The best way to combat the cruelty and suffering behind every fur product is to refuse to wear "fur" of any kind. We should not glamorize a product that results from cruel and inhuman practices such as trapping and fur ranching.

HELEN JONES

Because fake fur represents real fur, which is produced through the suffering and killing of animals, it's a product animals rights advocates can't promote.

In one widely publicized recent event, however, fake fur served a good purpose. When Bob Barker successfully took a stand against real fur on the Miss USA Pageant, many millions of people were made aware that fur is a product of animal suffering. Fake fur was substituted by pageant organizers, but it is unlikely that any viewer left compelled to rush out and buy a fake fur as a result. The anti-fur message was the one with impact.

More important than the question of whether or not the movement should promote fake fur is the fact that all of us believe this practice condones and encourages the wearing of real fur. When we make consumers too uncomfortable to buy or wear fur, the fur market will begin to dry up. Fake fur is better overlooked and ignored while we get on with the job. When real fur is no longer worn, fake fur will probably disappear, too.

JANE LIDSKY

The problem with wearing fake furs should be obvious: they perpetuate the myth that animal fur is beautiful and desirable on the backs of humans. In addition, the wearing of fake fur encourages the buying of real fur, because most consumers are not able to distinguish between a real dead animal cost and a "quality" fake fur. With a fur coat, the attraction is not the item's usefulness (warmth), but rather the image it supposedly conveys.

There is something to be said as justification for fake fur: that animal fur is beautiful; that art often copies nature; and that fake furs are an alternative for those seeking to "make compassion the fashion". But to encourage the idea that wearing animal fur is desirable and acceptable, whether fake or real, is dangerous.

ESTHER MECHLER

Years ago, I felt that fake furs would provide an "interim solution" to the goal of eliminating fur-bearing people. But as some fake furs have become virtually indistinguishable from the real thing, and as furs have once again
Continued on page 50
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Cat-owned

The Cat Who Came for Christmas
By Cleveland Amory
Little, Brown & Co., 1987
$15.95 cloth, 248 pages

With a subject mattergrim as animal exploitation in all its horrifying forms, many of the books we review in these pages are not exactly of the cheerful variety. That's why The Cat Who Came for Christmas is such a welcome respite. Written to celebrate a moving victory over adversity, in this case the rescue by the author of a poor, bedraggled feline from the lethal hazards of alleyway life in New York City (Polar Bear, so named because of his glistening white coat and the warm relationships that ensued), this volume chronicles the adventures and misadventures of a cat named Holly that was made part of the Amory family in their first year together. (After ten years the relationship is none the worse for the wear. I'm happy to report.)

The book, however, achieves much more than that. Writing as a pro to today's general public, Amory has covered in this volume a multitude of topics—from cat history to celebrity chronicling (for which he is admirably suited); and from important events in the animal rights struggle to the sort of hilarious domestic skirmishes anyone who has shared quarters with a cat can recognize.

Now, it should be said up front: Amory—who succeeded so easily to Polar Bear's charisma—is not a writer. As a vintage-romantic alluringly sleek, I can attest to the fact that cats are hard to resist. Anyone who has spent time with a cat, watching his or her playful antics, mysterious slumber, curiosity or fondness for wildness, amazing agility (Baryshnikov looks leaden by comparison), and tremendous capacity for affection, will testify that cats are nothing short of wondrous—the closest thing to purring tigers in our midst.

Fully aware that a lot of animal abuse stems from nothing more than a lack of imagination, Amory misses no chance to educate his audience. Thus his fus- ing of pruriently disquieting with butt-kicking exposes the transcontinental flight of a cat not only hilarious; it's also a gentle lesson in animal rights, all the better to warn the uninitiated about the warning about checking whether the

Polar Bear and social mentor Amory

hotel windows are screened beneath letting the animal out of the carrier). And his musing about Polar Bear's mysterious past affords him an occasion to elaborate on the hardships of a stray's life:

Beside the fact that he had been thrown at and hit with things and had been severely cut, what else, I was wondering, had been done to him? I found myself thinking of a film I had been made by the Pasadena Humane Society, and I have always remembered one scene, shot at a cat's-eye level. It was of the cat at night trying to cross a California freeway. He was looking for any possible way to get across all those lanes—in the end of all the screeching noise, the blinding headlights, the whizzing cars, and the monster trucks.

—P. G. O'Conor

Heroes in White

Who Goes First? The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine
By Lawrence K. Altman

While there have been noteworthy animal protection initiatives in many South American, Asian, and African countries, people living in so-called Third World nations are first and foremost concerned with making a living. That's an important message communicated in The Animal Smugglers, written by John Nichol, a Briton who has crossed the globe to present this story of smuggling. The book focuses on the scattered and predominantly underground international traffic in animals and pets.

Based on a series of documentary films that Nichol produced, The Animal Smugglers is not a study of the trade in live animals and animal products, but a collection of short talks about the dealing and methods of the legal and illegal wildlife traders. A former animal carer (for zoos) versed in several Asian dialects, Nichol was able to penetrate animal-dealing circles (composed of individuals who are often too lowly placed in society to undermine their livelihood) better than the most determined investigator could ever have done. His ability to enter that underworld distinguishes his book from others covering this sprawling subject.

Unfortunately, many of Nichol's attempts to demonstrate that he is still philosophically true to his past occupation. Nichol's problems only arise in the trade, frivolous animal demand (both of which he defines liberally), and the destruction of habitat—all very legitimate concerns—he neglects to critique the moral implications behind using animals for showcase and show-off. He states his position clearly enough: "As to keeping animals in captivity, I feel that is a realm that is very basic within us." Given that, it is not surprising that he says he has "little tolerance" for those who would want to close down properly maintained zoos. Even worse, he actually demonstrates his satisfaction after capturing some animals—a practice for which he provides no justification or explanation. In general, his analyses of the Western institutions

The Story of Self-Experimentation in Medicine
By Lawrence K. Altman

...encourages scientists to design scientific experi- ments that they are prepared to test on themselves. Thus the idea of "animals not human"... According- ly, society and the medical community must ultimately "recognize that the right animal ... to advance our knowledge of human diseases must be human.

Altman's many amusing accounts of self-experimentation include the story of Dr. Werner Forssmann, German pioneer of the invaluable direct observation of heart catheterization which made heart surgery possible; the case of a dental surgeon who attached a hollow needle to a vein near his elbow, Forssmann pro- ceeded to thread the tubing into his heart; then he had himself X-rayed.

Equally astonishing is Altman's story of doctors self-experimenting with substances such as curare, the poison which helped to develop techniques of anesthesia, digitals and nitroglycerine, drugs which relieve angina and other heart conditions; and amphetamine, a drug used in treating alcoholism. Altman also tells us about scientists who tested vaccines—including those for rabies, cholera, typhus, malaria, and polio—and induced such dietary deficiencies as pellagrin among themselves. Explaining why so many doctors are willing to risk their lives 'to go first,' Altman explains that there are practical and ethical reasons, including the fact that people learn best from first-hand experience. In addition, Altman comments accurately, that "scientists take pride in being independent thinkers and intellec- tual revolutionaries.'

On the side of discovery of the mouthwatering as a prelude to the development and perfecting of anesthetic, Who Goes First offers a catalog of compelling material to counter the tired, old wornout argument: 'Isn't it bad for experiments on animals...'

—Renee Strauss
Ms. Strauss is a Seattle-based freelance writer associated with Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).
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An orphaned leopard-cats, but certain to face a quick end.

An animal activist already concerned with the routine exploitation of animals by Western institutions — some of which are closely linked to and dependent upon animal trading. For those arduous to hear that the situation is improving, Nickol comments on the legal trade in the state of California... It’s no longer conducted on the scale of the 1970s, when airliners regularly carried more animal passengers than human.

But other factors that might indicate the situation is improving are more ambiguous in their effects than an initial glance might suggest. For example: many countries have become signatories to CITES. But CITES, an international treaty designed to protect certain wild species, has proven to be not only as strong as any signatory country’s desire to honor it. The problem is that more and more countries, while publicly dedicated to the protection of these species, do not adhere to CITES conservation standards in practice. Nickol adds, "The public face of efficiency in every country either maintains that the problem is non-existent or that it is very minor, and whenever someone is caught much is made of it." With serious economic problems, many countries regard the detailed study of the documentation of conservation as "non-essential." Nickol cites India as the only country which has formally legislated its laws and put a thorough audit to the trade in endangered animals. Undeniably, conservation laws have altered the trade in animals, but so have other factors such as shrinking habitat and reduced animal populations. Aware of these trends, some dealers are relying less on wild populations and more on captive breeding systems. This trend threatens to institutionalize, in a long-term sense, the brisk international trade in animals. Further, it may not ease the stress on wild populations, as traders claim that wild animals are actually ranched and can dump their products on markets otherwise closed to them. In the U.S. the increased promotion of "game meats," and the tremendous demand for tropical birds (the bird trade into the U.S. is enormous — Nickol says we have gone "parrot mad") indicates that the desire for the exotic is increasing here as well.

Finally, Nickol is correct in pointing out that habitat destruction threatens animal populations most seriously. Nickol says, "We don’t get anyone to see that it [rainforest destruction] is being done by the poor starving peasant who is trying to live out a reagin living in the face of starvation." Underneath, large companies are behind that process. To combat their economic and political influence, he proposes that the only way to protect large areas is to commercialize them — a trend that many groups interested in protecting individual animals are already promoting.

At the same time though, there are other things we can do. Besides strengthening CITES standards, we must convince signatories of CITES of the importance of their national interest to protect species. In a more general sense, we must look unfailingly upon institutions and individuals who demand and use these products in the West. It must be made socially unacceptable to have a parrot in the house, reptile skins on the feet, or a frog leg in the mouth. Nickol’s axiom, "As long as there is someone who wants something bad enough there will be someone else who is willing to supply that demand," must be taken seriously.

— Wayne Pacelle

There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

— Victor Hugo
F

DORIS PRIMACK

Until the majority of people outside the animal rights movement, the mere existence of a controversy on fake furs is puzzling. The argument seems to confuse the appearance of fur with its origin—or aesthetics with ethics. The crux of the matter is, are not the look of a product that is coming from. Looking at the range of winter garments, there are real ethical arguments against using wool and down costs. Cruelty-free living is full of "fakes," from synthetic shoes and handbags to tempestuous "barkers" and toe "cheese"—all of which could be said to evade and perpetuate the desire for "the real thing," but none of these come under attack because they contain no Cruelties underlining these "real things" cease to use them. The same should logically apply to non-animal "fur."

There is no denying the fact that animal fur is aesthetically appealing. If the qualities of fur can be simulated and obtained without spilling a single drop of blood, then it seems unreasonable to deny access to those products. The public is more receptive to an ethical message when it is less disapp"
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The ANIMALS' ALGENDA
DECEMBER 1997

ANNOUNCING

Continued from page 9
use of antibiotics—are very good arguments for vegetarianism. But fundamentally, I don't see an ethical argument in it.

One of my disagreements with the animal rights movement is using vegetarianism as a litmus test—saying that if you are not a vegetarian, then we won't have anything to do with you. I know that the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) group in Arizona no longer uses that as a litmus test. They encourage vegetarianism, but it is not a requirement. There needs to be a little more tolerance and a little less of a holier-than-thou attitude among ethical vegetarians.

Animal liberation philosophy, as presented by Peter Singer and Tom Regan, has been put solely in terms of ethics. Do you think there should be a greater emphasis on its social and political dimensions? Yes. Ethics is a real problematic thing. I want to get beyond good and evil. Good and evil only exist in relationship to human activities. A problem with being human is that so many of us are bound up in good and evil and that we try to abstract things. Aldo Leopold (an American biologist and the author of A Sand County Almanac) said, "A thing is right when it tends to promote the diversity, the beauty, and the health of an eco-system. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise". I think human beings are the only factor that does otherwise. In a natural state, you are beyond good and evil. You just let being be.

Some Earth Firsters believe that so-called primitive cultures are the key to a model for establishing our appropriate relationship with the rest of the natural world. What do you think of that idea? I think that they can be a good role model. There is a danger, though, in the myth of the noble savage. I am a believer in the "overkill hypothesis"—that the Pleistocene megafauna was killed off primarily because of overhunting by primitive people 10,000 years ago. Primitive people can be out of balance with their environment too. The rhetoric and the rituals are very good, but sometimes the practices did not follow the philosophy.

We've got to look at ourselves as a species in biological time. We've been around as Homo sapiens for 300,000 years. We've been practicing agriculture for 10,000 years. We've been in an industrial world for a couple of hundred years. We've been in the atomic age for 40 years.

One of several Bald Mountain Road Blockades that took place in 1983 in southwest Oregon. That year, 44 Earth Firsters were arrested in actions intended to stop old growth timbering in the Kalmiopsis Forest.

And we've been in the computer age for about ten years. Yet we establish the standards of today as the norm, even though they represent a fraction of our time on earth. The hunter-gatherer tribal group represents the most sustainable, the most democratic, the happiest, and the healthiest social system human beings ever have had. Gary Snyder (a radical environmental author and poet) says that we've been in the back eddy of culture for 10,000 years. What we need to do is get out into the mainstream again.

Do you think that Native Americans trying to make it in our culture should subordinate their traditions should be exempt from criticism about their killing of wildlife? No. I don't think anyone should be immune from criticism. For example, I'm opposed to trapping by anybody, because I think it is unnecessarily cruel. I see it as being part of the world economic system. This is true even on the eastern interior of Alaska wants to trap for his own use, then let him use a dead fall instead of a steel trap manufactured in Pennsylvania. Let him use the fur for his own use instead of selling it to some New York furrier. If you want to be a subsistence hunter, then use the traditional tools.

What are some issues that animal liberationists and radical environmentalists can jointly work on?

There are many issues. Mountain lion hunting in California, the imprisonment of the last California condor, the destruction of grizzly bears by the National Park Service and the Forest Service in and around Yellowstone, the capturing of primates for laboratory research, whaling, marine mammal killing, and dolphin fishing are all issues we can jointly work on.

You don't have to totally agree with somebody's world view or ethics to cooperate with that person on certain campaigns. We need to do that more. We will always be coming from slightly different perspectives, but I'd like to see us try to get a little closer together. People dealing with ecosystem concerns tend to forget compassion for individual creatures, and having a connection with animal rights activists helps us see that more clearly.

What do you think of direct action by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF)? I think it is very good. I would suggest, now and then the priorities, in terms of targets, set by the ALF. For example, there are better targets than a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. A fur store is a much better target. A lab experimenting on primates is also a better target. We have limited energy and a limited capacity for action. It becomes necessary to set priorities. You are taking a chance on going to jail. Freedom is a very valuable thing and you should spend that freedom in most valuable way possible.

What do you think of the Green movement internationally? I consider myself a Green, but I have a little trouble with the Green movement as it has manifested itself. I see the Greens as setting around, hammering out details and platforms, and then doing nothing to implement them. Greens have to become activists. By focusing on electoral politics, you are opening yourself up to being co-opted, besides, with a system that denies proportional representation, we're not going to see Green members in our government.

What does ecotopia look like for Dave Foreman?

Ecotopia would be a planet with about 90 million people who are hunting and gathering for subsistence. But we aren't going to get there from here. There'll be no nice peaceful transition. I don't even know if human beings are going to be around much longer. An important statistic to remember is that 30,000 years ago there were ten million human beings and three million orangutans. Now there are five billion human beings and a few thousand orangutans. I'd like to see the balance switch back a little more.

I've decided that it is not my job to try to devise a sustainable society for the future. That is going to take generations. My job is to be a warrior, to protect threatened natural diversity where I can, and to articulate the philosophical basis for that warrior approach. I hope that other people such as the back-to-the-landers come up with good techniques on how to live. That approach is needed too. But it is not what I can do.

What are the priorities for Earth First! over the next few years? That gets decided by local Earth First! groups. No heard of directors sits down as set priorities. I can argue for general guidelines—but we've got to protect ecosystems and preserve natural diversity. But that translates into a lot of different issues—from protecting mountain lions, mountain grizzlies, the Grand Canyon, the Florida panther to developing visionary wilderness proposals to reintroducing the Mexican wolf into Arizona. In a volunteer group, you don't tell people what to work on—they pick something to work on. Also, there is no way to visualize how Earth First! will change over the next five years. You are taking a chance on going to jail. Freedom is a very valuable thing and you should spend that freedom in most valuable way possible.

How do you see the relationship between your direct action and the nonviolent tactics described in your 

As the Voice of Nature Network, we have been committed to helping people understand the connection between environmental and animal rights issues. Now, after several years of organizing and creating resources, we are excited to announce the launch of TVN!.

TVN is an online platform that connects people with information about the environmental and animal rights movement. With TVN, we aim to provide a space for individuals to learn about the issues, connect with like-minded people, and take action in their own communities.

To get involved, simply visit our website, TVN.org, where you can sign up for our newsletter, join our online community, and access a variety of resources and tools.

Additionally, TVN is committed to ensuring that all resources are accessible to everyone. We have a mission to make sure that our online platform is inclusive and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of their background or location.

To learn more about TVN, visit our website or join our online community today. Let's work together to create a world where animals and humans can live in harmony and respect for one another.

The Voice of Nature Network
Editor's Note: Your point is well taken, but what is a good band isn't necessarily an either/or proposition. Animal rights activism come from many different backgrounds and requires a wide variety of professional skills. Indeed, directors of charitable organizations should be selected not only because of their commitment to the cause, but also with consideration given to the skills and talents they will bring to the board. Involvement in a progressive movement does not preclude business expertise, but “business acumen” should never be sought at the expense of a demonstrated dedication to the principles espoused by the group.

Magazine Means A Lot

I extend my most sincere appreciation for this great magazine. You assigned me to your subscription list free of charge when I wrote and conveyed that I was indigent but would like to receive it. The ANIMALS' AGENDA keeps me abreast of some of the most crucial issues plugging our world and our society. It has opened my eyes to the hidden abuses of animals. I don't eat flesh of any kind—no eggs or fish—and I don't even like wearing leather or using soap or other animal by-products. I am really appalled by the treatment of monkeys, chickens, rabbits, cows, and other animals are treated in laboratories and farms across the land. Personally, I don't believe in or condone experimentation on animals for any reason whatsoever!

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA welcomes letters from readers, but briefly written, unsigned messages are more likely to get published. Please try to restrict letters to 250 words (double-spaced, typed pages). We reserve the right to edit all letters. Address them to LETTERS, THE ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881.

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For the animals.

Brian Davies
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"My mom and Grandma and I lived across from a garden place where a man kept deer in a pen. He used to go away for a long time without feeding them, so we started taking food over to them. One died anyway.

Then one day some hunters came and killed another one, and that left only 'Prancer', a female. We took her home and last year she had a baby we call 'Blitzen.'

"I'm against hunting because it's unfair to the animals, and because animals are beautiful and shouldn't be harmed by us. How can they call something a 'sport' when only one side has a gun, and when someone gets hurt. Besides, guns hurt people, too. And I know that when they say there's too many deer it isn't true. It's just an excuse so hunters can go out and kill animals.

"That's why I'm part of the Animal Rights Network, and read its magazine, The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Because animals are our friends and I want them to be free.

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