

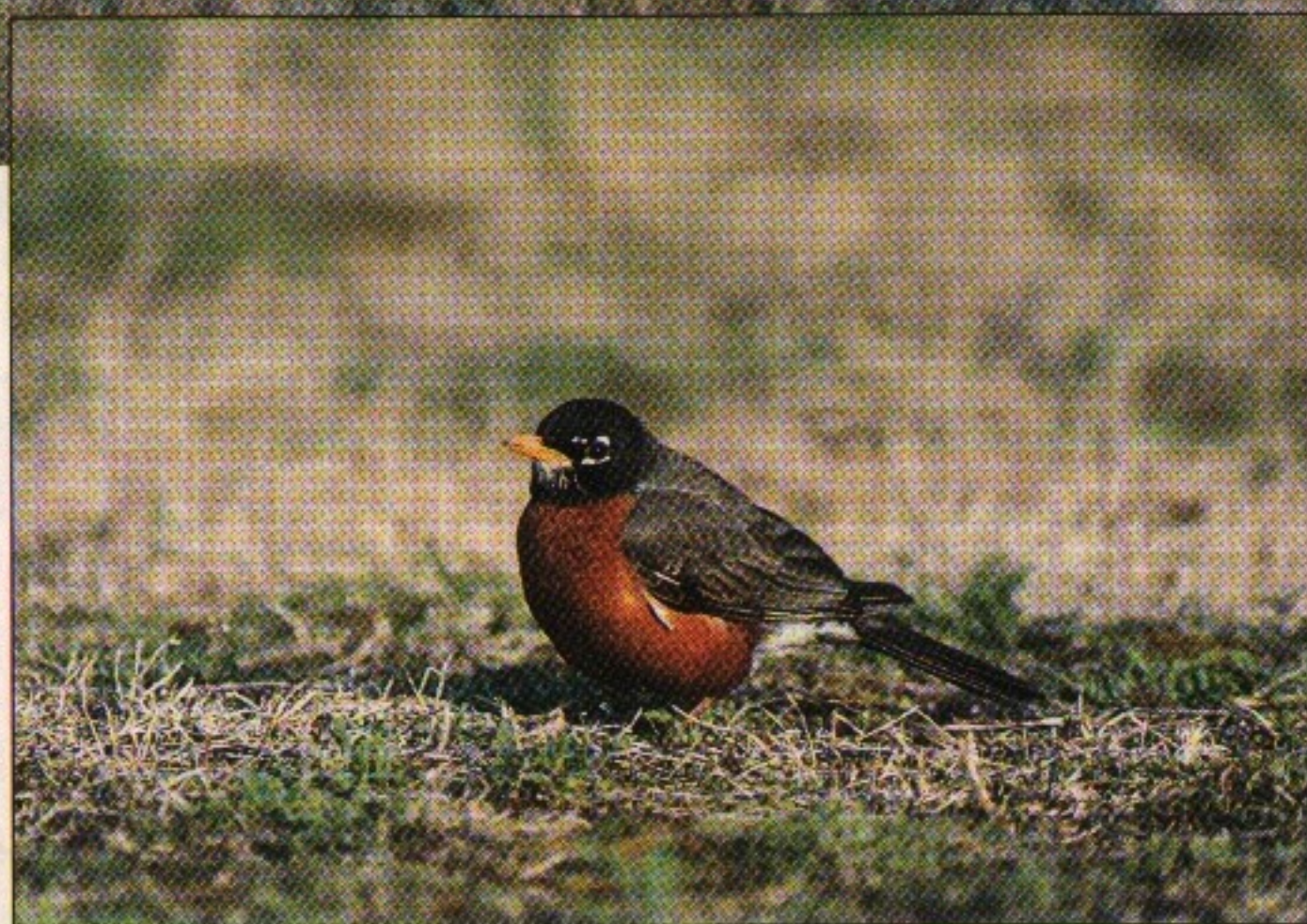
# The ANIMALS' AGENDA

HELPING ANIMALS AND THE EARTH • January / February 1992



## Urban Wildlife Reclaiming Their Birthright

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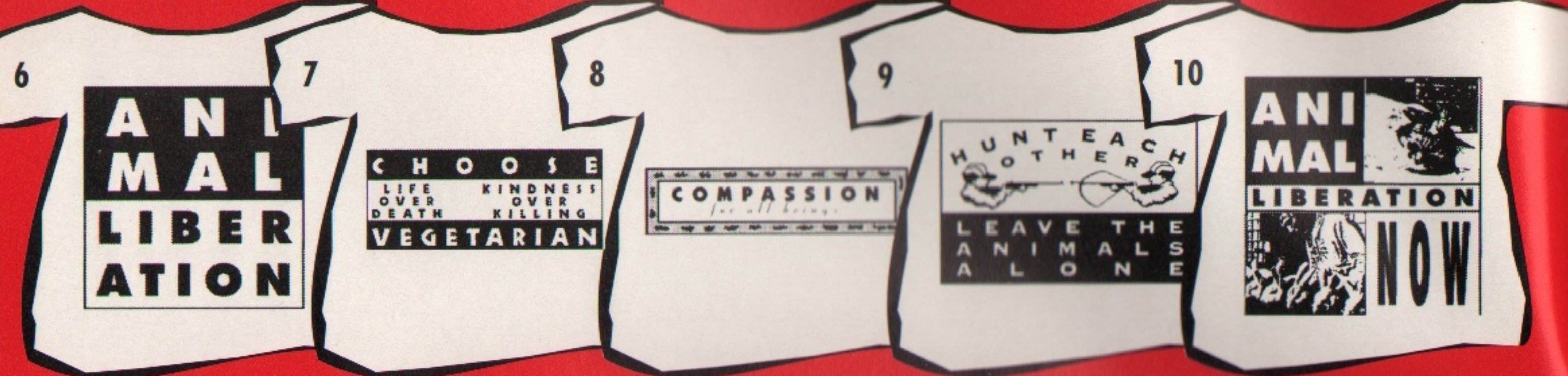




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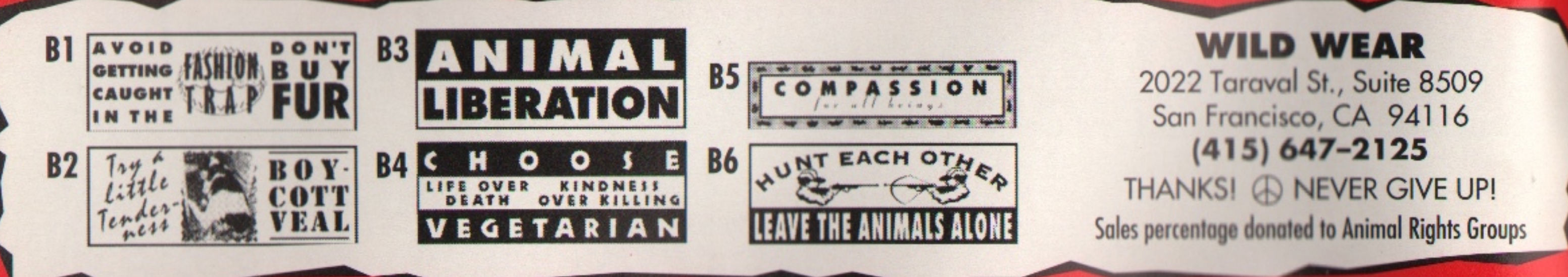
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The ANIMALS' AGENDA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1992 VOLUME XII NO.1

12: Urban Wildlife: Reclaiming Their Birthright

BY MERRITT CLIFTON

Animals usually termed nuisances are restoring a semblance of nature to cities and suburbs—where some highly endangered species are making their last stands.

40: The Animal "Welfare" vs. "Rights" Debate

Do Animal "welfare" means impede animal "rights" goals?

Gary Francione, Tom Regan, and Ingrid Newkirk give their views in this Point/Counterpoint.



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Cover Photos by: Richard Piliero

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As we've struggled to pay the bills for the past few months, it has been of little consolation to know that revenues of most charities were down in 1991. Humane organizations and environmental groups have almost all suffered, with many of them forced to cut programs and/or staff. Among similar enterprises, the Greenpeace magazine has scaled back publication to four times a year instead of six, and *The Animals' Voice* magazine went under—at least temporarily, pending the outcome of a massive fundraising drive to resuscitate itself.

In these hard times, one might think *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* is *lucky* to be alive. But no, *luck* has had nothing to do with it. In fact, we've never had a break. Since *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* began publishing a decade ago, the legendary wolf has never been far from the door. Many's the time we've been forced to take out loans, beg for more time from creditors, and postpone paydays. Somehow we've always managed to keep on going, often with the thought that the next issue might be the last.

We've gone from lean times to even leaner times in the past several years. Even though subscription revenues have grown to where they now provide over half our annual income, funding from animal protection organizations—which made up close to a fifth of our budget as recently as 1989—has now shrunk to less than one percent. It's no secret to us why. As our scrutiny of movement finances and coverage of controversies and improprieties increased, support from the wealthier groups decreased dramatically. Each time, we tightened our belts, dropping one block of complimentary subscriptions after another (to Congress, media, libraries, etc.); paring down every possible office and production expense (while postal increases, beyond our control, have been massive); and cutting staff.

Four years ago, *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* was published by nine full-time staffers (one of them, Doug Moss, on an unpaid basis); today *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* is put out by a full-time staff of *four* (one paid part-time wages) and two part-time consultants, with limited help from our fine freelance writers and artists. All work for salaries and fees about half those of their *Animals' Voice* counterparts. In fact, *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* publishes ten information-packed issues a year, to the *Voice's* six, at half the cost. No, *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* is not full-color like the *Voice*, but it could be if we had money to spend on color separations and additional printing costs. Though we'll continue to improve appearances to the extent our resources allow, content, not packaging, is what *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* stands for.

And getting the word out will always come first.

Though times get harder, *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* is still viable. It has nothing to do with luck, just hard work and personal sacrifice. We have no significant assets—no endowment or million-dollar stock portfolios like some groups—because we spend every dollar we get on trying to make a better world for animals. We're not looking to get rich at their expense.

We must, however, receive enough financial support to continue our vital work, and it has to come from those who believe in it: our readers.

If you haven't responded to our holiday appeal yet, please do so now, and be as generous as possible. Making *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* healthy and strong is up to you.

—The Editor

*The ANIMALS' AGENDA* is published by the Animal Rights Network, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization incorporated in Connecticut. We offer a broad range of materials and information about animals and environmental issues, and provide a forum for discussion of problems and ideas. We try to reach people at all levels of consciousness and commitment to inspire a deep regard for, and greater activism on behalf of, animals and nature.

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# LETTERS



This month's cover story on wildlife in urban/suburban environments is sponsored by a grant from

The Summerlee Foundation, established by Mrs. Annie Lee Roberts. A distinguished Texas philanthropist and lifelong champion of animals, Mrs. Roberts was instrumental in supporting countless humane activities. In 1988, she established Summerlee to aid animal protection organizations and groups promoting the preservation of Texas history. Mrs. Roberts died on April 22, 1990, at the age of 94. *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* and many other animal protection efforts have benefited from her great generosity.

## The Feral Feline Fight

I challenge categorically your claim that neuter/release of cats is better than nothing [see *Letters*, Sept. 91]. It completely destroys any legitimate animal control. Is an animal control officer, whose job it is to get at-large animals off the streets, supposed to check out every cat to see if he or she is one of those supposed to be out there?

Further, don't lay that "marginal life" argument on people who have been in the field for years. No attitude is more patriarchal than viewing quantity of life as more important than quality of life. Turning loose domesticated animals is as bad as confining wild animals.

I keep hearing about colonies of healthy cats. I don't know who's jiving whom, but I picked up strays for 30 years and only about one in 30 was healthy enough to be sterilized with no prior medical treatment.

Your statements regarding the similarities between domestic cats and their wild forebears, and your speculation about natural birth control/stimulation mechanisms can only be viewed as the models of obfuscation they are.

A member of our group, on reading the Alley Cat Allies premiere newsletter,

stated, "If the AMA were looking for a way to divide our movement, they couldn't do better than this."

As I am pretty much convinced you do know all of the above, I suggest you take a good hard look at whatever emotional baggage you're bringing to this particular truck that prevents you from seeing what you're doing.

—Jean Austin  
Clinton, IA

**Editor's Note:** Please re-read my response to the letters on feral cats. We most certainly do not endorse the release of all cats back to where they came from—only those who can be fed and maintained in perpetuity, and only those who are truly wild or "street smart." If some of those are picked up by well-meaning "animal control," no one should be blamed, but at least they won't have bred before being picked up. Frankly, we are not aware of many animal control departments or humane societies that have any program at all for trapping stray and feral cats, only dogs at large, so that would not seem to be much

of a consideration at this point. If such programs were in widespread existence, the homeless cat problem wouldn't be as severe as it is.

The realities of the feral/stray cat issue aside, we are amazed at the acrimony it engenders. We see no reason for it, except that people on each side seem to feel personally threatened by the other. We've been trying to air the debate to lessen the hostility, and will continue to do so. Meanwhile, we are not going to adopt a doctrinaire position. While many or most homeless cats may have to be euthanized at present, alternatives are available for others.

## Strays and Shelters

Demeaning terms such as "unwanted," "throw-away," "dumped," etc., while depicting a very real problem, nonetheless create the false and negative impression in the public's mind that shelter animals are somehow *undesirable* animals. As we should learn from the progression of other causes and movements, the terms we use to define those we care about create

*Continued on next page*

*The future of The ANIMALS' AGENDA depends on the generosity of its supporters. We are extremely grateful for the substantial financial assistance provided by these individuals and organizations during 1991.*

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# LETTERS

Continued from previous page

images in the public mind. Shelter cats and dogs should be referred to as "adoptable animals," "orphaned animals," "lost," or "homeless"—but never unwanted.

Also in need of changing is the term "pet owners." "Pet caregiver" [or keeper or guardian] creates a more positive and nurturing image of what having a companion animal really signifies, as opposed to owning an object. And what about re-naming "animal control" (too easily equated with "pest control") to "animal rescue and care services"?

—Patty Adjamine  
NY, NY

I do not wish to be viewed as a pedant, but I hope the figure of 127 million strays in David Kay's article, "'No Kill' Animal Shelters: Do It Right, or Don't Do It" [Oct. '91], was a misprint. Not even the most pessimistic of estimates of the annual U.S. shelter population (including strays and owner-surrendered animals) comes even close to this figure. In fact, the total dog and cat population of the U.S. is reported to be around 110 million.

According to data we have collected at Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy, the annual shelter population of the U.S. is probably no larger than 10 million dogs and cats with about 50-60 percent of these being euthanized every year.

—Andrew N. Rowan, Director  
Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy  
Tufts Univ. School of Veterinary Medicine  
200 Westboro Rd.  
North Grafton, MA 01536

**David Kay replies:** Dr. Rowan has confused strays with owned animals and animals admitted to shelters. His figure of 110 million is the estimated number of owned dogs and cats in the U.S. The Tufts data on the annual shelter population represents the number of strays taken in by animal shelters (and hence, legally, no longer stray). A "ballpark" guess of the number of stray dogs and cats—feral, abandoned, lost, or free-roaming—has been put at 127 million. Of course, the actual stray population may be less, but it is certainly several times more than the number of animals taken in by shelters.

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With regard to David Kay's thoughtful and intelligent article, I believe it is only fair to also consider the ways "love goes wrong" in traditional "kill" shelters. Having lived near and observed one of these establishments for many years (the ASPCA in New York City), I have learned that indifference, callousness, inertia, and deception can mark any of them.

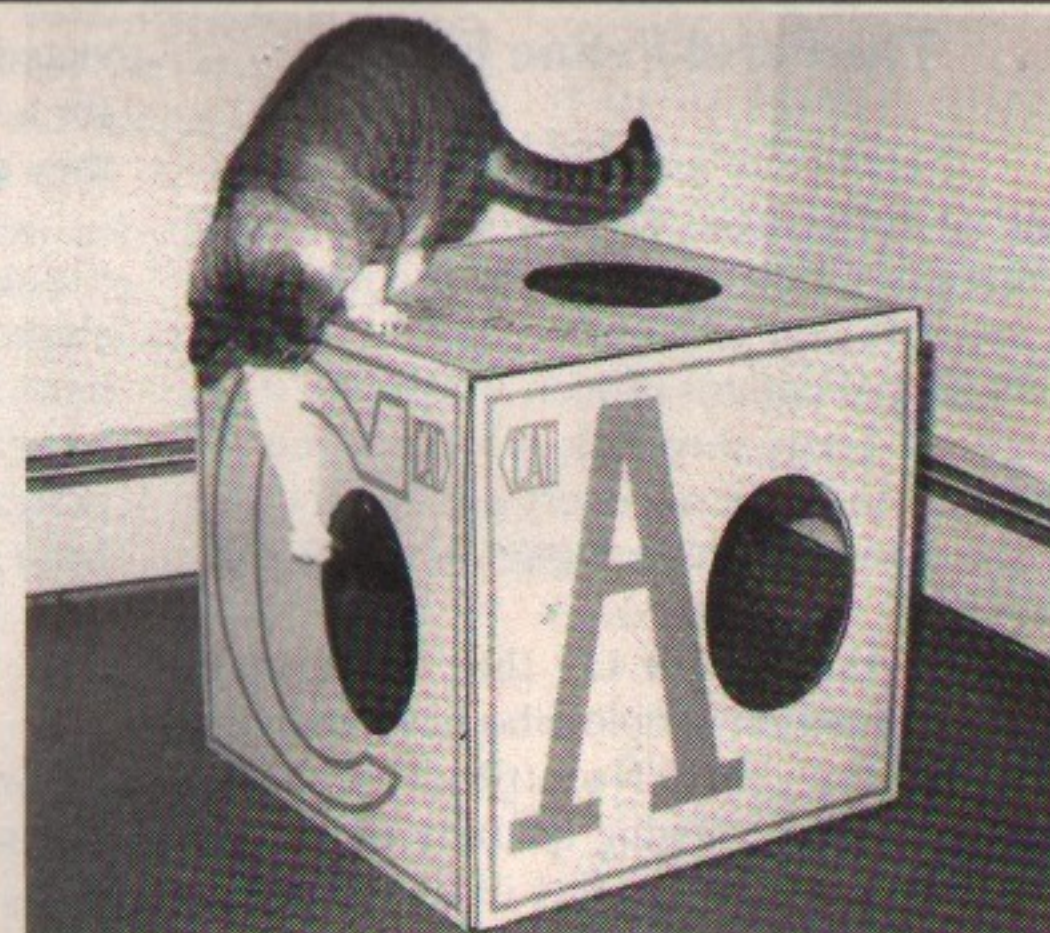
Euthanizing shelters represent the

first line of educational opportunity to the often misinformed and naive public, as well as the last line of defense for animals who have become the hapless victims of unfortunate circumstances and cultural ignorance. Sadly, most "kill" shelters represent neither of these noble aspirations.

I know a woman who naively brought in a friendly "stray" cat, requesting that if a home could not be found for him she be called to retrieve the animal. Instead the cat was euthanized 48 hours later without any attempt to adopt him out or call the woman—this despite a \$10 donation she had made with a promise of more to come. (She later discovered the cat had belonged to a nearby store, thus adding to her guilt and grief.) One might attribute such a story to "exception" or "human error," but this episode represents the rule, as it has been repeated countless times throughout this shelter's history. It occurs

Continued on page 7

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**Correction:** Due to an unfortunate production error, Farm Sanctuary's incorrect address appeared in our November 'Humane Shopper.' ANIMALS' AGENDA regrets any inconvenience. The correct address is P.O. Box 150 Watkins Glen NY 14891.

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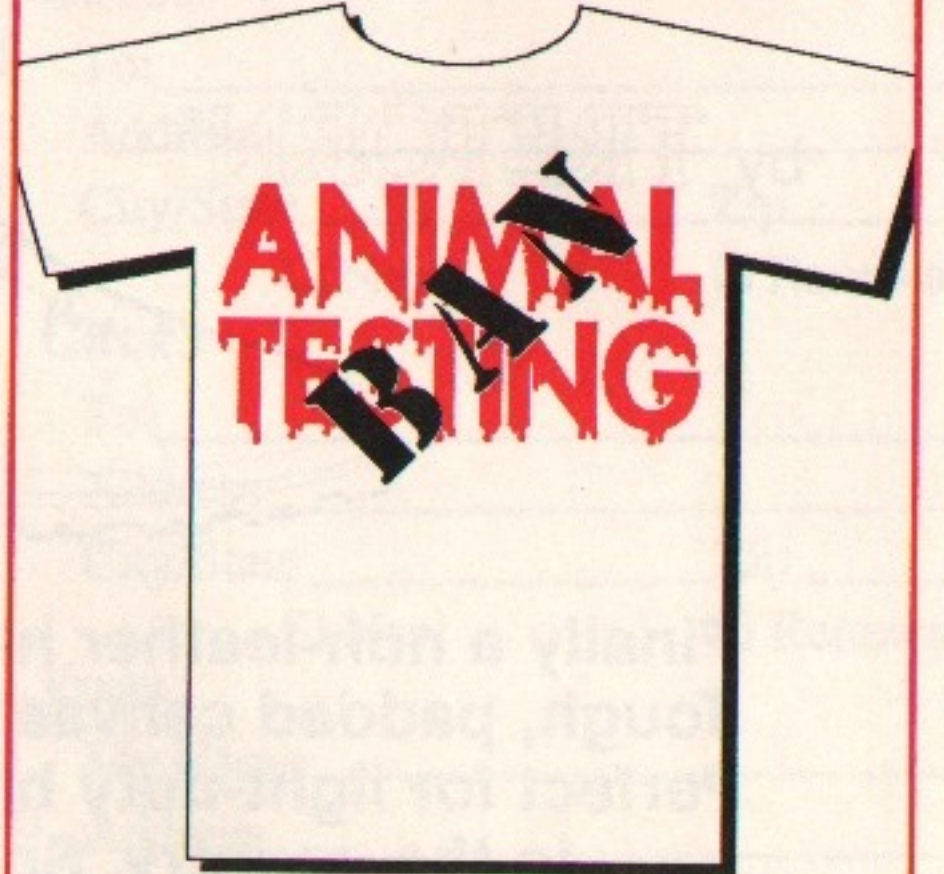
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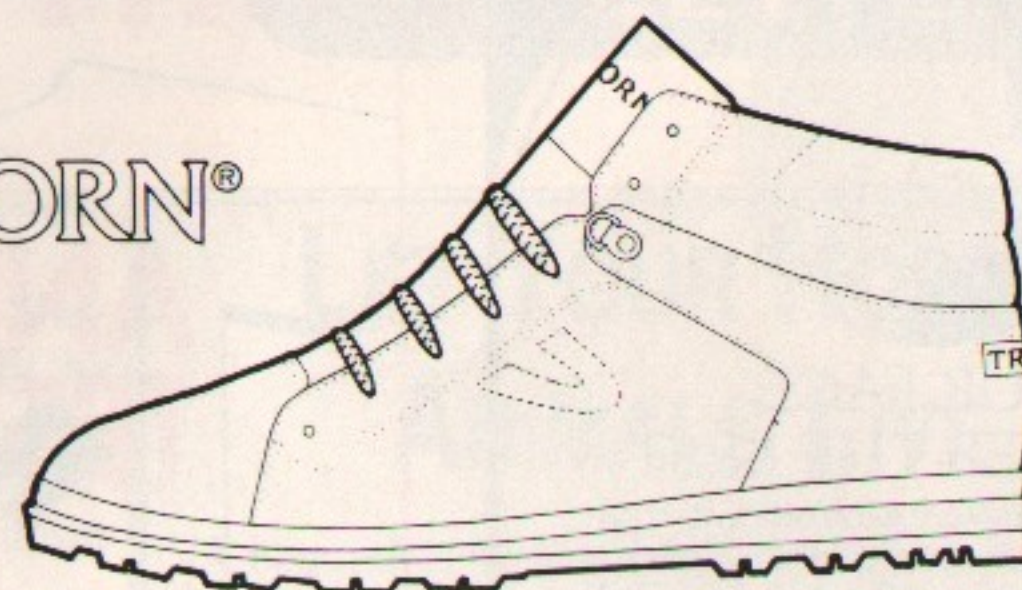
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Continued from page 4

with such frequency for the simple reason that the shelter refuses to apprise people bringing animals in of basic realities (i.e., euthanasia) for the overwhelming majority of shelter animals.

One way to help eliminate unnecessary killing would be to post large readable signs on the front desks of all euthanizing shelters, advising people that "Due to overcrowding, this shelter is forced to euthanize the vast majority of animals surrendered. Should you want to be apprised of any such decisions, you must be willing to leave a minimum deposit of \$25 and inform the desk clerk of your wishes. You will be advised of your options." The advantages of such honest disclosure are many. For one thing, people would have far greater faith and trust in shelters to do the right thing, thereby insuring fewer animals would be abandoned to streets and countrysides out of desperation or wishful thinking. The public would also have far greater understanding and awareness of how serious the animal overpopulation problem is. And finally, more people would be willing to help rescue strays if they felt they had some control over the animal's ultimate fate.

That "kill" shelters have been unwilling to work with this situation insures the continuation and proliferation of the types of "no kill" shelters and collectors described in Mr. Kay's article, as well as continued abandonment of animals and a lack of public faith in animal shelters.

—P.C. Whitaker  
New York, NY

## Document Cruelty with a Camera

Just as I think what I've learned about cruelty to animals can't get any worse, something new and more horrible pops up! I refer to Barb Potter's October [1991] letter on how pike fishers bait hooks with live kittens and baby ducks.

Local humane society officers suggest that anyone who suspects animal abuse take photos which can be used as evidence in court. Hearsay reports will not hold up, and—as the Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto correctly stated—nothing can be done to stop cruelty until there is visible proof of it.

—Lucy Nelson  
Santa Rosa, CA

## Brand to Save Horses

Concerning Amelita Donald's September letter on horse theft, freeze-branding horses would make them less vulnerable to theft for sale to slaughter. It may be momentarily painful, but it's better than walking up the killer's ramp.

—Tina Trenner  
Las Vegas, NV

## Wild Horses

The item you carried in the October 1991 *News Shorts* on the wild horse situation in the Nellis Herd Area stated that worsening drought conditions caused a population drop in Nellis from 6,200 to 4,300 between 1990 and 1991. It implies that the Animal Protection Institute caused the death of 2,000 horses by delaying BLM's plans to remove the 2,000 due to the drought. Nothing could be further from the truth. API did not delay BLM. API did not appeal the Nellis 1991 removal plan. There were never 2,000 dead horses in Nellis. The discrepancy between the 1990 and 1991 figures is explained on their documents. The 1990 count of 6,200 was an actual census. The 1991 figure of 4,200 was called a "sampling." It says it is not to be construed as a total count or census. The purpose was to check the adult-to-young ratios and the condition of horses.

The delay of the 1990 removal (which was for 1,099 horses) was caused by BLM's own Director. He refused to make a timely decision on formal protests related to the 1990 management plan in which 90 percent of the habitat area was eliminated from use.

API agrees with a pending proposal to make reductions from the foal category—which is to intervene where predators would make the cut. But this proposal needs procedures and humane treatment criteria written into it before

Continued on next page

## VIVISECTION.



## It's SHOCKING.

And blinding. And maiming. And burning. Each year, millions of animals are deliberately poisoned, shot, cut up, starved, addicted to drugs and killed in U.S. laboratories.

Despite evidence that shows animal models to be both unreliable and inappropriate, resources that could be directly helping human treatment and prevention programs are being misallocated for experiments on nonhumans.

All over the country, people who object to the infliction of pain and suffering on animals are mobilizing. The animal users are desperate to keep things the way they are, but the time to challenge the status quo is here.

**Help us get the vivisectors off the monkey's back.**

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Jenkintown, PA 19046-1685  
215/887-0816

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implementation. To implement it without these and then announce it as the "rescue" of starving, abandoned, and dying foals needs investigation. The law *requires* the cut be based on population dynamics information. If BLM has accurately estimated mortality rates as 10 to 12 percent, then the adult-to-young ratios BLM quotes in Nellis show a stable population with an annual recruitment (that offsets the mortality) ranging from 9 to 13 percent or a mean of 12 percent. If BLM added to this information the actual utilization data required in the law, and then applied their proper stocking rate formula, they *would have* the needed data to determine how many are excess and they would justify a reduction in Nellis. They refuse to do this here or elsewhere. Why? They are committed to managing by numbers (birth rates, not foal survival) because it allows them to protect and preserve the 1964 AUMs as numbers for livestock "preference." In Nellis, the arbitrary and capricious elimination of 90 percent of the identified habitat area is the issue. Your news item fails to even mention this critical point.

—Nancy Whitaker  
Animal Protection Institute  
P.O. Box 22505  
Sacramento, CA 95822

### Hunting in Brazil

The September 1991 issue helped us enormously. The Brazilian Hunting Associ-

ation mentions the U.S. constantly as an example of wildlife management through sport hunting, and the cover theme of your magazine demonstrates the opposite. We are having the whole article translated into Portuguese for environmentalists who do not understand English, but please send me some extra copies for distribution among wildlife caring politicians, scientists, university professors, etc.

—Anna Maria Pinheiro  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

### German Success

Referring to your October 1991 Page Two editorial, "Measuring Success," it demonstrates success that the [German] general public, according to a representative poll, demands *total* abolition of animal experimentation, confinement rearing of farm animals, and genetic manipulation on animals: 85.6 percent of the population. It is also a success that a similar percentage demands the institution of a "federal department for animal protection and humane legislation" as a super-ministry like the departments of defense, health, and finance.

—Fritz Harimanngruber  
Konradinstraße 16  
8 München 90, Germany

### PETA, Pro and Con

I agree with PETA's Kathy Snow Guillermo, who stated in her Nov. 1991

reply to Vicky Eide's letter that those who disagreed with throwing a pie at the Iowa pork queen would have made better use of media time by saying that "while I would not have thrown a pie, the real issue is the suffering of the pigs..." I think she is right, too, in asserting that the pork queen is not a mere innocent victim of a male-dominated industry but an informed participant the same as the men. After all, it's just as easy to consider the men victims of their upbringing as it is to consider her one.

I confess to keen disappointment in those activists and "leaders" who chose to denounce PETA publicly for the pie-throwing episode and for PETA's later advertisement in the *Des Moines Register* comparing the experiences and treatment of "food" animals with those of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims. I have the distinct impression that they are more incensed by PETA's actions than by the horrible facts these actions refer to.

I believe that PETA is right to take bold, drastic, confrontational steps on behalf of the seven billion sentient animals we torture and execute for food each year in the U.S. If only the fierce indignation against PETA were directed with equal force against *that*.

—Karen Davis, Pres.  
United Poultry Concerns  
P.O. Box 59367  
Potomac, MD 20859

Continued on page 50

## We Need Your Help

### Now Is The Time To Make A Commitment!

While there are many national and grassroots groups actively advancing the goals of the animal rights movement, there is only one magazine...The ANIMALS' AGENDA...that serves as the nucleus of the movement and its most reliable source of information and insight. In over four dozen nations around the world, ten times a year,

The ANIMALS' AGENDA presents the issues and the facts, and provides a forum for rational dialogue. Educating people worldwide to develop a new ethic for animals is vital work made possible only by reader generosity, for subscriptions provide only half the funds needed for publication. Your help now...whatever you can give or pledge...is vitally needed. Every dollar you send will be converted into ethical education, creating a better future for animals, and a healthier earth.

### Please Make Your Pledge of Support Today!

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456 Monroe Turnpike  
Monroe, CT 06468

Thanks!

# THE SHAME OF EUROPE Help Us Save The Animals



## FIGHT AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY IN EUROPE (F.A.A.C.E.) is dedicated to the eradication of cruelty to all animals

F.A.A.C.E. is working in Europe to create a new ethic of treatment for animals. The first step is to institute a good national animal protection law in every country.

We work in the field, making in-depth investigations and studies of the reasons underlying the problems.

F.A.A.C.E. has particularly specialised in the problems of Spain. This country has possibly the worst record of cruelty to animals.

In Spain, we have worked upon the issues of municipal mass slaughterings of pet animals by horrendously inhumane and brutal methods, vivisection, bad slaughterhouse practices, bullfighting and BLOOD FIESTAS.

Through video and photographic evidence gained with great difficulty and sometimes danger in the many

investigations carried out by F.A.A.C.E. (see our leaflet "Fiestas of Fear") we have brought global pressure to bear on the Spanish Government and Church. Our video material has been seen at the European Parliament, we have provided evidence for the European Commission and also given photographic material to many anti-cruelty societies throughout the world.

F.A.A.C.E. has exposed these cruelties on television, in newspapers, magazines and radio, all over the world as well as in Spain itself.

We have confronted the mayors and people of Spanish towns who perpetrate such sadism. We have also saved some of the animal victims of the fiestas and cruelties and placed them in safe havens.

## OUR CAMPAIGN IS NOT ANTI-SPANISH BUT ANTI-CRUELTY — F.A.A.C.E. WORKS WITH SPANISH NATIONALS TO ESTABLISH A MORE CARING EUROPE A DONATION TO F.A.A.C.E. WILL HELP US CONTINUE CAMPAIGNING

We are a non-profit-making voluntary organisation and as such F.A.A.C.E. needs your support to continue its work

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28071, Madrid, Spain.

The Spanish Embassy in your country, in the U.K. write to

The Spanish Embassy,  
His Excellency Sr. Felipe de la Morena,  
24 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

**YES** I want to help fight for the animals. Here is my donation of £ .....  
I enclose membership subscription of Friends of F.A.A.C.E. of £10 (£5 under 16 and over 70).

Name .....

Address .....

Send to F.A.A.C.E., 29 Shakespeare Street, Southport PR8 5AB, Merseyside, U.K.



## Warning!

The Animal Welfare Foundation Inc., of 405 Sibley St., St. Paul, MN 55101, is an *anti*-animal rights group sharing the offices of the Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition—a front for the fur trade.

## Obituaries

Humane Society of the U.S. board member and Friends of Animals natl. advisor Regina Frankenberg, 83, died Nov. 9 in New York City. Frankenberg formerly served on the boards of FoA, the Fund for Animals, and the Bide-A-Wee Home Assn., among others, during many years of supporting animal causes. ♦ Roger Royce Earhart, 52, of Camarillo, Calif., was killed Oct. 29 when he dashed in front of a train to push his 15-year-old dog to safety. ♦ Norman Blodeau, 63, rescued Doris Williams, 83, from an Oct. 24 apartment fire in Manchester, N.H., but died from smoke inhalation when he returned inside to get her dog.

## Victories

Following the example of many other school boards around the U.S., the Board of Education in Norwalk, Conn., voted Oct. 29 to allow students to opt out of dissection labs. Norwalk is home of both Friends of Animals (a leading opponent of classroom dissection) and U.S. Surgical Corp., which reportedly spent \$2 million in 1991 to promote biomedical use of animals. ♦ An October "Victories" item confused two separate accomplishments by Chicago activist Buzz Alpert. Alpert, in his own words, both "got the EPA to lift a manufacturing ban on Ornitrol, the pigeon birth control," and "got the Chicago Transit Authority, for whom I am employed, to stop poisoning pigeons and use the birth control instead."

## Dogs And Cats

PetsMart, a pet supply chain with seven Arizona stores, paid up to 25 percent of the adoption fees for any customer who adopted a shelter animal between Oct. 30 and Nov. 12, 1990. "We'd rather help you find

## Edited By Merritt Clifton

a pet this way than sell them ourselves." PetsMart ads declared. ♦ Comedian Kevin Nealon on Nov. 8 asked the American Veterinary Medical Assn. to support Alley Cat Allies' neuter-and-release method of limiting feral cat populations (which both keeps individual cats from breeding and keeps habitat occupied, possibly inhibiting breeding by cats who haven't yet been caught for neutering). The method is already endorsed by comparable groups in England, Denmark, and South Africa. ♦ ANIMALS' AGENDA editor Kim Bartlett challenges activists who haven't yet done similar work to match her initiative of catching and neutering for release, placement, or euthanasia (as appropriate for each) the colony of 16 cats she found behind the nearest supermarket. ♦ United Humanitarians of Orange County, Calif., picketed the county animal shelter recently, seeking a higher neutering deposit and asking it to provide spay/neuter service. ♦ The chair of a citizens' committee appointed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to seek solutions to pet overpopulation announced at a recent meeting that her dog had just given birth to puppies. ♦ The Animal Rescue League offers a video on early spay/neuter: \$27.60, from 701 Colorado Ave., Suite 7, Stuart, FL 34994.

## Group News

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has moved to 1314 2nd St., Santa Monica, CA 90401; 213-394-3198. ♦ The Fox Valley Animal Protectors, active against birdshoots throughout the midwest, may be reached c/o Steve Hindi, 6 Willow Springs, Plano, IL 60545; 708-552-7872. ♦ Contact Let The Animals Live, Israel's first no-kill shelter group, c/o 7 Philadelphia, Tel Aviv 69183, Israel. ♦ The Vegetarian Resource Group has a new area code: their number is now 410-366-VEGE. ♦ *Casopsis*, a Czech animal rights magazine, welcomes exchange with U.S. groups, c/o Petr Urbasek, Mohelnicks 1119, Unicov 783 9r,

Czechoslovakia. ♦ Citizens Against Pet Shops held day-long protests at Docktor Pet stores in numerous locations on three Saturdays in December. Contact CAPS c/o Jim Swasey, 10 Walter St., Lynn, MA 01902. ♦ The Natl. Society for Animal Protection has moved to 7611 State Line, Kansas City, MO 64114; 816-523-0500. ♦ The Intl. Network for Religion and Animals has a new telephone number: 215-721-1908. ♦ Tatshenshini Intl. is a coalition formed to prevent development along North America's wildest river. Get info from #843, 810 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5Z 4C9. ♦ Island Vegetarians have moved to P.O. Box 1146, Huntington, NY 11743-0660.

## On The Screen

A 26-minute video on greyhound racing, including footage from undercover investigations by HSUS, is \$20 from the Humane Society of Ramsey County, 1115 Beulah Lane, St. Paul, MN 55108. ♦ *Ferngully: The Last Rainforest*, scheduled for Easter release by 20th Century Fox, is a full-length animated musical about a bat who escapes from a vivisection lab to lead various spirits in working to save the Australian rainforest. ♦ Expecting low ratings, CBS has repeatedly cancelled scheduled



broadcasts of the award-winning documentary *The Secret World of Bats*. Protest to Peter Tortorici, Executive Vice President of Programming, CBS, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036. ♦ The Assn. of Veterinarians for Animal Rights is producing a series of home videos on pet care. ♦ Hunting, fishing, and

trapping groups were offered first chance to sponsor a public service announcement for the Connecticut Rabies Council, but declined; thus, as the Conn. Trappers Assn. lamented, "HSUS will be picking up the tab (and the credibility) for the production."

## Education

The Purdue Univ. School of Veterinary Medicine now offers a minor in animal welfare, open to all upper division students. ♦ Temple Univ. offers a non-credit course in "Beagling" (hunting with beagles). Protest to Office of Director, Temple Univ., 1619 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. ♦ The Ethical Science Education Coalition recently hosted a series of teacher workshops on alternatives to dissection in Stamford, Conn. ♦ *What Rough Beast?*, an anthology of field work reports, essays, and ethical journals from students in the two-year-old animal rights course at John Abbott College in Montreal, is \$22.95 from Eta Carinae Productions, 2941 Cumberland Dr., St. Lazare, Quebec, Canada J0P 1V0.

## Letters

The Nov. issue of *Vegetarian Times* ran an ad for Lundberg Family Farms products including Quick Chicken Pilaf. Claimed editor Paul Obis, "It is clear that they are selling rice, not chicken." Ask him why, then, the word *chicken* is over 20 times larger on the box shown in the ad than the word *rice*: P.O. Box 570, Oak Park, IL 60303. ♦ Under fire from the Natl. Rifle Assn., Sears cancelled a pre-Christmas catalog sale of plush animals whose proceeds were to aid

HSUS. Protest to 233 S. Wacker Dr., Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60684-0001. ♦ *American Rifleman* magazine, published by the Natl. Rifle Assn., recently asked readers to thank Wal-Mart for promoting guns and hunting. Letters offering the opposite view may be sent to Wal-Mart at 702 SW 8th St., Bentonville, AR 72716. Protest Wal-Mart sales

of live animals while you're at it. (*American Rifleman* also says animal rights activists tried to poison bird dogs—?!—and set leghold traps for them—?!—in Nov. 1990 at the Wing and Shot Hunting Club in Burlington County, N.J. Antithetical to animal rights precepts, the deeds sound more like a trapper trying to keep rivals away from his line.) ♦ Ask the Grand Union supermarket chain to quit selling glue traps: 201 Willowbrook Blvd., Wayne, NJ 07470-7010. ♦ Ask K-Mart to quit selling glue traps: 3100 W. Big Beaver, Troy, MI 48064. ♦ Food and travel critic Elmer Dills of KABC-TV calls veal "nature's most perfect food," and pushes ivory, viewers state. Southern Calif. residents can object to: KABC, 4151 Prospect Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027. ♦ The Health Care Consumer Network asks that letters protesting crash tests using live animals be sent to Robt. Stempel, Chair, General Motors, 3044 GM Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202. No other major car maker still uses animals in crash tests. ♦ Protest the mail-order sale of tadpoles and frogs to *Troll Learn And Play Catalog*, 100 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, NJ 07430. ♦ Object to the inclusion of novelties promoting hunting in the Harriet Carter catalog (which also includes remarks about



"the inscrutable Chinese," among other examples of racism, sexism, and speciesism); Dept. 31, North Wales, PA 19455.

## Honors

Calif. state senator Milton Marks noted World Vegetarian Day on Oct. 14 with a state senate resolution, and presented *Diet For A Small Planet* author Frances Moore

Lappe with a senate certificate of recognition. Lappe, whose book has been in print for over 20 years, also was honored by the Vegetarian Foundation. ♦ The Animal Protection Institute has honored Becky Sansted of Farm Sanctuary as Animal Humanitarian of 1991 for her video of conditions at the South St. Paul, Minn., stockyard. ♦ The Peninsula Humane Society on Nov. 8 named Bob Barker Humane-itarian of 1991, also honoring numerous others, including San Mateo County supervisor Tom Nolan, who introduced the county's pioneering breeding regulations; teacher Mary Seibert; volunteer Ellen Eggleston; and journalists Reed Galin of KPXX-TV, Stanton Samuelson of the *San Francisco Examiner*, and Michael Krasny of KGO radio. ♦ The New York State Humane Assn. on Oct. 19 honored HSUS vice president Phyllis Wright; Ulster County SPCA humane officer Veleria De Santis; Dallas Pratt and Ron Scott of Argus Archives; Mark Rappoport and Christine Falco of the Westchester County Health Dept.; and ANIMALS' AGENDA news editor Merritt Clifton. ♦ The Friends of Animals annual banquet honored Sue Arnold of Australians for Animals, New York wildlife rehabilitator Barry Rothfuss, and Mary Warner of Action 81. ♦ The Marin Humane Society named Joseph Marrino of San Rafael "Humane Teacher

of 1991"; humane students of the year were repeat winners Erica Timmer and Michele Stern. ♦ Actors and Others for Animals celebrated its 20th anniversary by awarding a Minnie to Gretchen Wyler, founder of the Genesis Awards for show business attention to animal issues. The Minnies are named for Minnie Blumfield, who, when over age 90, rescued a flock of chickens from a wrecked poultry truck, fed them for seven years, and finally found a safe home for them. ♦ ASPCA president Roger Caras is 1991 winner of the James Herriot Award, presented by HSUS.

## People

Finn lawyer Matti Wuori has replaced David McTaggart as

head of Greenpeace. McTaggart served 12 years. ♦ Proceeds of a song honoring primatologist Jane Goodall, by rock star Stevie Nicks, will benefit the Jane Goodall Institute. ♦ Former ASPCA president John Kullberg has been named president of Guiding Eyes for the Blind Inc., a 35-year-old group with a budget of over \$4 million a year that matches about 150 blind persons per year with seeing eye dogs. ♦ Harry Rowsell, notorious for endorsing "humane" seal hunting and defending the use of animals in biomedical research, has resigned after 23 years as executive director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.



## Campaigns

The Fund for Animals and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society began a push Nov. 7 to persuade Sea World to return an orca named Corky to the ocean. ♦ In Defense of Animals members costumed as experiment victims haunted vivisector Sharon Juliano on Halloween. Earlier, IDA members in 30 states distributed doorhangers calling a boycott of Procter & Gamble products in protest of animal testing. ♦ The Network for Ohio Animal Action on Oct. 18 protested a deer hunt at the NASA research station in Sandusky, Ohio. ♦ Citizens to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation picketed the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus in Boston on Oct. 19.

## Coming Events

The 5th annual Wisconsin Animal Rights Convention will

be held in Neenah, Wisc., March 13-14. Get details from P.O. Box 1503, Appleton, WI 54913; 414-757-6033. ♦ The first annual conference of the Coral Reef Coalition will be held March 19-22 in Key West, Fla.; get info from the Center for Marine Conservation, 1725 DeSales St. NW, Washington, DC 20036. ♦ United Poultry Concerns will lead a 24-hour mourning vigil for chickens outside the Perdue chicken slaughterhouse on U.S. Rte. 50 in Salisbury, Maryland, on May 2, starting at 7:30 a.m.

## Offerings

*The Tide* is a newsletter informing constituents of how their representatives in Congress and the Senate voted on environmental issues, \$24/yr., from 8205 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 1-308, West Hollywood, CA 90046-5912. ♦ Send SASE for a list of 101 D.C.-area restaurants with at least three vegetarian entrees compiled by the Vegetarian Society of the District of Columbia: P.O. Box 4921, Washington, DC 20008. ♦ Send SASE for *Heart Healthy Eating Tips*, a brochure, to the Vegetarian Resource Group, P.O. Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203. ♦ *Compassionate Cooking*, a vegan cookbook from the Manitoba Animal Alliance, is \$7.00 from P.O. Box 3193, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0K2. ♦ The 1991 *Annotated Bibliography On Laboratory Animal Welfare* is now available from the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, 4805 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814.

## Help Available

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals offers psychiatric referral help to activists suffering burnout and stress. Write to P.O. Box 1297, Washington Grove, MD 20880, or call 301-963-4751.





# Urban Wildlife: Reclaiming Their Birthright

By Merritt Clifton

**W**hoever began the file folder, years ago, from which this article grew, titled it, "Urban/Nuisance Wildlife."

The equation of "urban wildlife" with "nuisance" by the first filekeeper is no surprise, even at a magazine whose premise is that all life is to be respected. To most humans, wildlife is first something that doesn't belong in their neighborhoods, and, second, an unending source of problems as diverse as pigeon droppings in doorways, mice in kitchens, raccoons and rats in garbage areas, skunks under the porch, opossums in the basement, bats and squirrels in the attic, beavers flooding the driveway, geese defecating on the lawn, and deer nibbling down the hedge. People who write or call *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* with questions about urban wildlife usually want help with a nuisance.

But the identification of urban wildlife as nuisance overlooks the many other nuisances we'd have without the animals. Many so-called nuisance species help significantly to dispose of urban detritus, including food wastes, roadkills, and fallen ornamental fruits, nuts, and berries. Some species fertilize our green spaces, assist in fire prevention, and conserve water. Most urban wild animals also help control the populations of others. (See sidebar, "What Have They Done For Us Lately?")

That urban wildlife is not a nuisance but an asset becomes clear upon considering the work of other species rarely reported as nuisances and often barely noticed: rodent-eating owls, the garter snakes who quietly patrol suburban yards, the nighthawks who eat over 500 insects an evening (nesting on gravel roofs when sandy ground-nesting sites are unavailable), and the robins and sparrows who cleanse sidewalks, to name just a few.

And this is considering only the pragmatic value of wildlife to humans, discounting spiritual and aesthetic values to humans, the intrinsic value of each individual animal, and the importance of each species in the urban ecology. We may have little use for mice and rats, no matter how much trash they eat; and rabbits, frequent garden raiders, do even less to help people. Predators and scavengers, however, require abundant rodents and rabbits to survive.

## Biodiversity

Among them, urban and suburban wild animals have gradually recreated a semblance of the ecosystems that once occupied the sites of our biggest cities. Though wildlife was virtually extirpated from the greater New York City area by 1900, so many native mammals have returned that almost every mammalian species known to the Indians who sold Manhattan in 1626 can still be found within a 50-mile radius, including the occasional bear in the thickly wooded watersheds of New Jersey and Connecticut. With the exceptions of species driven extinct by human activity, such as the passenger pigeon, the same could be said of birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Factor in the several hundred insect and arachnid species who inhabit the typical house or place of business, together with the range of ornamental and house plants that have been added to whatever native plants survive in yards, parks, and weed patches, and a case can be made that biodiversity is as alive in the urban jungle as in the rainforest. Undoubtedly, countless species and subspecies unique to

habitats now buried beneath urban and suburban sprawl have been lost. At the same time, human traffic continually brings seeds, spores, eggs, and plants and animals into every big city from almost all corners of the globe—sometimes in deliberate commerce, sometimes by accident. Escaping human control to take hold where they can, such introduced species may fill the vacant ecological niches (occasionally with uncomfortable results for humans. Highly venomous South American violin spiders have provoked panic in Los Angeles suburbs seven times since 1969, while both the San Jose and Los Angeles areas were repeatedly blanketed with the insecticide malathion in 1981 and 1988-1990 to eradicate Mediterranean fruit flies).

The niches of today are certainly different from those of pre-urbanization, and the numbers of individuals of most native species—especially plants, reptiles, amphibians, and large mammals—are far smaller. Yet it would be difficult to argue that the actual number of niches has dropped. Further, as in wilderness areas when fires, floods, or climate shifts bring change, the population loss suffered by the most severely harmed species tends to be offset by proliferation of other species. Reported *Science News* in December 1985, "A study of a large planned community in Maryland by Al Geis, urban wildlife specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, revealed a dramatic shifting of bird populations," as buildings went up and people moved in. "Although he found increases in total numbers, there were steep declines in species like meadowlarks and mourning doves. These field-loving songbirds were replaced by pigeons, starlings, and sparrows, better adapted to nesting in human-made structures." Such a change in dominant species is not necessarily desirable from a human point of view; but so long as some meadowlarks and mourning doves maintain a viable population, biodiversity is maintained within a new balance, one dictated by the altered ecology.

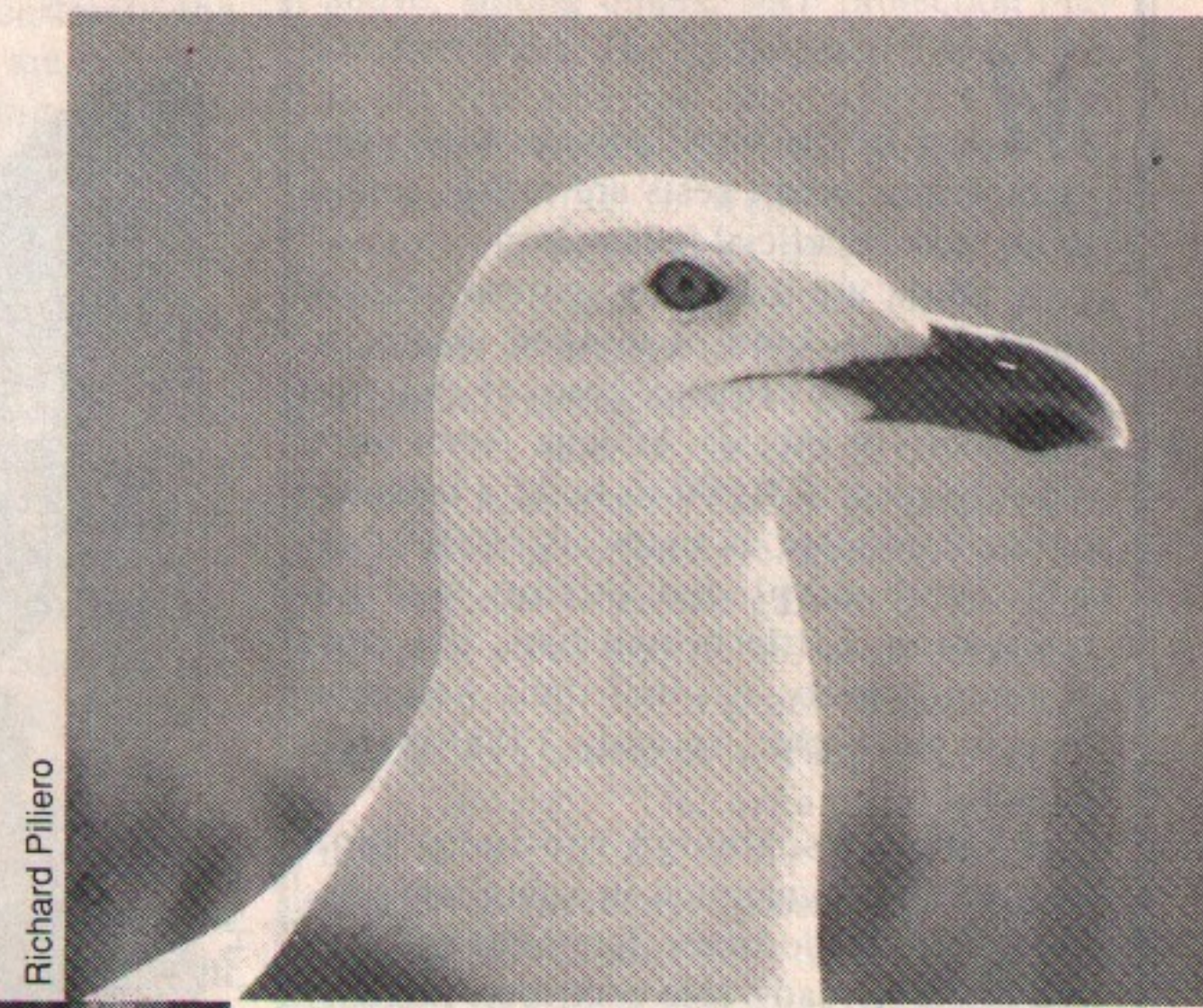
## Endangered species

Urban and suburban living is a last stand for many species whose former wild habitat has been overrun by development, and some who have been over-trapped and over-hunted, or poisoned by pollution. The most unique animals in any particular urban or suburban area tend to be remnants of species who were already there when development started, whose habitat was surrounded and isolated from open country by development. These tend to be relatively immobile species (reptiles), species with a particularly strong affinity for a traditional wintering or breeding site (many birds), and/or species strongly adapted to a single locale. Examples of such animals who have qualified for protection under the 1973 federal Endangered Species Act include silverspot butterflies in coastal Oregon; the Florida gopher tortoise; the Delmarva fox squirrel in the Eastern Shore district of Maryland; the golden-cheeked warbler in northern San Antonio; the desert tortoise in the outskirts of Las Vegas; and in greater Los Angeles, the Stephens kangaroo rat and, perhaps, the California gnatcatcher. (At deadline, the proposed federal listing of the gnatcatcher was still pending. At the urging of the real estate and construction industries, the California Fish and Game Commission on August 30, 1991 rejected a proposed listing under California's own Endangered Species Act).

Continued on page 15



Debi L. Harrison



Richard Piliero



Kendra Bond



Richard Piliero



Richard Piliero



# What Have They Done For Us Lately?

**M**any of the wild animals most often identified as urban pests are in fact among those most beneficial to humans:

**Bats** are a leading natural defense against every kind of winged insect, so valuable in mosquito control that the University of Florida Athletic Association recently spent \$30,000 to build a bathhouse to accommodate as many as 10,000 bats who were displaced during stadium renovation. Little brown bats, the most common variety, eat half their weight in insects per night: roughly 1,000 insects apiece.

**Beavers**, though routinely shot, trapped, and dynamited in suburban areas for felling shade trees, damming culverts, and flooding roads, also contribute mightily to watershed conservation. In fact, beaver dams that block rapid runoff after severe storms and quick snowmelts may actually prevent more floods than beavers are often unjustly blamed for causing in areas where humans have built upon floodplains. Beavers are additionally blamed for contaminating reservoirs with *giardia*, an intestinal parasite carried by many species, including humans. But only a well-placed beaver dam preserved the aquifer serving the town well at Grant City, Missouri, in 1989, while drought left surrounding towns who had killed all their beavers dry and thirsty. (See "Beavers: Nature's Engineers Build Ecologically," July/August 1990.)

**Coyotes** are both the most active scavengers and top predators in many urban areas, cleaning up roadkills and controlling rabbit and rodent populations. As many as 5,000 coyotes live within Los Angeles County, California, human population 7.5 million. According to Pomona College biologist William Wirtz, the Los Angeles coyotes' diet is 79 percent garbage. The coyotes reputedly also eat homeless or wandering cats, not a pleasant demise for the felines, but probably no more unpleasant than much humans do to them. (See "The Wily Coyote," May 1990.)

**Deer** may be the most often maligned of all mammals who don't actually invade human homes. Deer/car collisions, mostly at night, annually kill about 100 people, injure 7,000, and kill 350,000 deer, according to the National Safety Council. Deer also ravage hedges and gardens, particularly in the northeast. But contrary to the frequent assertions of hunters and professional wildlife managers whose jobs depend upon hunting license sales, there



Robt. L. Harrison

isn't really any widespread deer overpopulation problem. (If there was, deer would starve, and fail to reproduce.) An estimated 24 to 36 million whitetailed deer inhabited the northeastern U.S. before European settlement, while 10 to 15 million mule deer roamed the west. Unrestrained hunting cut the whitetail population to under 500,000 circa 1900, with about an equal number of mule deer. As growing public concern increased the likelihood that hunting might become as restricted in the U.S. as it long has been in most of Europe, hunting proponents secured the passage of "buck laws," which encourage buck hunting but protect does, upsetting the balance of the sexes, thereby unnaturally accelerating reproduction. The combination of buck laws with second growth reforestation, especially in suburban and semi-rural areas, has increased whitetail numbers to 25 million today, while mule deer now total 5.5 million. In short, the deer population is nearly back to what nature decreed as optimum for the continent—and deer again fulfill their ecological role as four-legged brush cutters. Each adult deer eats three to six pounds of browse (grass and leaves) per day. This clears the woodland floor, enabling trees to break through choking cover (though they might be nibbled on their way up) and reducing undergrowth that would otherwise provide tinder for wildfires—which may occasionally be beneficial in a natural setting, but are not especially welcome in suburbs. Just ask former residents of the fire-ravaged Oakland and San Diego hills. Mule deer have become so scarce in the latter, due to

overhunting, that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in early 1990 asked the California Fish and Game Commission to ban antlerless deer hunting within the county until the population of about 3,400 (counting both sexes) recovers. Blaming poor habitat for the decline, the Fish and Game Commission instead issued 7,000 buck permits and 170 antlerless permits.

**Foxes**, like coyotes, are important roadkill scavengers in semi-rural suburbs and occasionally even inhabit freeway divider strips. In urban settings, their primary food other than roadkills tends to be mice and rats, followed by rabbits.

**Ducks and geese** were rarely considered nuisances before the late 1970s, but then, as habitat loss made traditional migratory destinations less attractive while suburban sprawl drove predators out of suitable habitat in the northeast, midwest, and southern California, increasing numbers of mallards and Canada geese gave up long migrations to become fulltime urbanites. Simultaneously, feral muscovy ducks proliferated along the heavily developed Florida coasts. The waterfowl are unpopular chiefly for the volume of phosphate-rich guano they deposit on lawns: a duck dumps about 50 pounds of phosphate per year, while a goose may dump 75 pounds. But all that natural phosphorus replaces an equal volume of chemical fertilizer, and comes in part from high-volume insect consumption. A more appropriate ecological concern would be about the volume of phosphate from ducks and geese that gets into water to stimulate weed growth (which the waterfowl do help control, however, pulling up considerable amounts of vegetation during the aquatic portion of their feeding).

**Pocket gophers and moles**, mercilessly poisoned, gassed, trapped, burned, and shot by devotees of pristine lawns and gardens, in truth contribute to lawn and garden health by aerating the soil. While gophers reward themselves for their work by feasting on garden vegetables, when they can, moles are primarily insectivores, and most of the grubs they devour could do a lot more damage to a yard than the moles will.

**Mice and rats** have been the most detested of all urban mammals since the Middle Ages, when they proliferated during a spate of religiously inspired cat-burning and spread bubonic plague-carrying fleas throughout Europe. The cats were avenged when an estimated three-fourths of the

human population of Europe succumbed to the plague between 1334 and 1354. "It has been said," Montreal wildlife ecologist David Bird wrote in his 1986 book *City Critters: How To Get Along With Urban Wildlife*, "that rat-borne diseases have taken more lives than all the wars in human history. As for economics," Bird continued, "one rat eats up to 18 kilograms (about 36 pounds) of food per year, but contaminates ten times that much with its droppings (over 25,000 droppings per year)." Bird, however, unfairly lumps the depredations of grainary-raiding rural and Third World rats together with the work of the Norway rats who thrive in the back alleys and sewers of American cities on a diet of refuse and house mice. The estimated 35 million rats in New York City, for instance, eat 45,000 tons of detritus and house mice per year. Factor in the detritus the mice consume, and even allowing for mouse-and-rat-caused food spoilage, it's plain that for better or worse, mice and rats are a vital part of the New York waste disposal system, converting at least 120 tons of mass into energy each and every day. This isn't much compared to the 25,000 tons of refuse trucked out of New York City every day, but it is equivalent to the output of about 40,000 of the city's seven million humans. The roof rats common to the American south and southwest are a bit less voracious, and usually don't eat house mice, but also offset whatever harm they do with a positive contribution to the urban ecology.

**Opossums** do relatively little damage, but annoy humans by nesting in attics and basements. They eat mainly insect larvae, refuse, roadkills, and fruit fallen from ornamental trees that would otherwise noisily rot; a neighborhood with opossums tends to be considerably cleaner than a neighborhood without them.

**Pigeons**, according to ornithologist Buzz Alpert, of Evansville, Illinois, are the sweetest-natured of urban animals. Tens of thousands of people who feed pigeons from park benches evidently agree. But pigeons drop about 20 pounds of guano apiece per year, mostly on sidewalks, building facades, monuments, and other places where it won't help grass grow. Moreover, pigeon feces—or spores that flourish in it—transmit more than 30 different diseases to humans, the most common of which is histoplasmosis. Because the amount of food urban pigeons are given may equal or exceed the amount they scavenge, they don't make the net contribution per capita of rats to waste disposal. But they do make some contribution: the five to 10 million pigeons in New York City convert three to seven tons of solid waste per day to energy.

**Raccoons**, reaching population densities of up to 300 per square mile in especially favorable suburban habitat, may be the most ubiquitous mammalian pests after rats and mice, and are certainly the most clever. But raccoons, too, are valuable scavengers. Cursed for raiding gardens, especially corn patches, they also clean up fallen ornamental fruits and berries, root out and consume insect nests, and, as aggressive nest raiders, are the leading predator of urban waterfowl.

**Seagulls** have rapidly expanded their range over the past 30 years, establishing themselves wherever pesticide buildup in the food chain and habitat loss have afflicted more sensitive raptors. Depending on the species (four kinds of gull are common in North America), a gull may drop anywhere from 12 to 36 pounds of phosphorus per year, most of it in or near water. However, gulls thrive on pollution-caused fish kills; a gathering of gulls is often the first indication of an aquatic pollution episode. Gulls have also become the most voracious mouse and rat predators in about three-fifths of the U.S., including the northeast and midwest. (See "Seagulls Are A Symptom, Not The Problem," May 1990.)

**Skunks** irk homeowners by digging up lawns to get beetle grubs—which the homeowners in most instances would be otherwise trying to poison. Skunks also eat fallen fruits and berries, catch occasional mice, and raid the nests of ground-dwelling birds, including ducks and geese. Usually unobtrusive, skunks have recently caused widespread alarm in the Chicago area, where the skunk population is reputedly up 39 percent since the end of a local rabies outbreak in 1989. Most of the concern is about their potential for raising a stink when disturbed, and most of it comes from people who don't know that skunks spray only as a last resort, almost always after giving ample warning. (See "Who's A Stinker? Not The Skunk," Jan./Feb. 1990.)

**Squirrels and chipmunks** are often described as "rats with bushy tails" because of their habits of raiding bird feeders and chewing electrical cables. A 1982 telephone survey of residents of Syracuse, New York, by Michael O'Donnell and Larry VanDruff, found that squirrels accounted for 23 percent of all reported wildlife-related problems. But squirrels (and chipmunks) are also the major consumers of fallen nuts from ornamental trees, that might otherwise feed real rats, the ones without bushy tails. Essentially, they hold habitat against invasion by a species most people consider much more obnoxious and dangerous.

—M.C.

While the federal Endangered Species Act and some supporting state acts have obliged developers to set aside the preferred habitat of the species named above, among others, such protection may be short-lived. The Endangered Species Act is up for renewal this year. Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan has indicated that he would like to weaken the habitat protection provisions of the act in the reauthorization bill, which could force hundreds of species to either adapt quickly to human encroachment or go extinct.

The most successful native species in cities and suburbs tend to be species who were present before development, who fled, but returned when the growth of trees and brush in yards and public areas restored a semblance of the original habitat. These species live among us by choice.

Indeed, "The urban environment may be the habitat of the future for such animals as raccoons, opossums, skunks and canids [foxes and coyotes]," suggested University of California at Riverside geographer Dennis Clayton in a 1985 presentation to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The experience of the past seven years bears out Clayton's contention, as the urban and suburban populations of all the species he mentioned have continued rapid growth.

Introduced species such as Norway rats, European pigeon varieties, English house sparrows, starlings, and both roaming and feral domestic cats complete the typical urban/suburban bestiary, performing roles as vital as those of the long vanished native rodents, birds, and felines who inhabited the territory before the arrival of modern civilization. (See "Feral Animals: Alien Menace?," March 1991.) Cats are especially important predators. If data gathered in the suburbs of London, England, by ecologist John Lawton and biologist Peter Churcher can be fairly extrapolated, the 57.9 million cats in the U.S. (as of 1989) annually kill over 8.2 billion small mammals (mostly mice and voles), plus 232 million birds, including 37 million sparrows (which would account for a third to a half of all sparrow deaths). Since the greater London climate and environs are comparable to those of many U.S. metropolitan areas, and since similar prey species thrive both there and here, the Lawton/Churcher findings are probably more accurate than not.

## Habitat

Versatile native species and ferals flourish in cities and suburbs for multiple reasons, including the richness of the habitat. Though buildings and blacktop

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# Relocating Prairie Dogs

"The prairie dog is, in fact, one of the curiosities of the Far West, about which travelers delight to tell marvelous tales, endowing him at times with something of the politic and social habits of a rational being, and giving him systems of civil government and domestic economy," wrote Washington Irving after his travels on the prairie in 1832. Now we are learning these great diggers have a beneficial influence on grasslands by plowing and enriching (in a manner similar to earthworms) the sun-caked prairies. Prairie dogs, who are really short-tailed ground squirrels, live in vast towns, governed by a complex social system. Any animal lover could happily spend hours surveying a prairie dog town, listening to their sharp whistles and watching as they stand upright, linking arms and sealing friendships with a kiss.

But prairie dogs are seen by other people as competitors for space on the flat prairie lands of the western U.S. and Canada. In most parts of the grasslands, from Saskatchewan to Texas, prairie dogs have been eradicated, with poison gas most often used to turn a thriving prairie dog town into a parking lot or office building.

The Front Range in Colorado (home to the majority of people in the state) has its share of grasslands and prairie dogs. Fortunately, it also has a good number of animal rights activists and environmentally aware residents, and thus Prairie Dog Rescue groups have been established in many Front Range communities. According to Sunny Apke, the Director of Wildlife Rehabilitation at the Boulder County Humane Society, the determination to relocate the animals came before anyone truly knew how to do it. And there is still much to learn.

Capture of prairie dogs for relocation involves flooding their warrens with large quantities of water, mixed with biodegradable soap. Since prairie dogs are accustomed to spring flash floods, water alone would not flush them out. But suds from the soap fill the holes, tricking the animals into thinking they are drowning. When they surface, they are captured by gloved volunteers, and are dried and dusted for fleas. The Prairie Dog Rescue water truck holds 2,400 gallons, but as much as 60,000 gallons may be needed to flush out a colony. Sometimes the volunteers are highly successful and capture most of the prairie dogs, but at other times the animals escape, and the volunteers then diligently return repeatedly to the site, some times also using live traps to complete the capture.

When Celestial Seasonings, the

herbal tea company with headquarters in Boulder, decided to erect a new building, concerned neighbors wanted to know what would happen to the prairie dog town thriving on Sleepytime Drive, property owned by the company. Barbara Petruzzi of Celestial Seasonings, says the company never considered anything but relocation. Celestial Seasonings has, to date, done two relocations. In September 1989, before ground breaking, Sunny and her crew relocated 400 prairie dogs, but they did not get them all. After the building was complete, some prairie dogs were found in the elevator shaft, and the landscape contractor said he would not guarantee his work unless the prairie dogs were again moved. Celestial Seasonings then did a second relocation and Sunny and her crew captured another 200 prairie dogs. This time Celestial Seasonings did a smart thing. They paid to have a prairie dog barrier erected. Barbara Petruzzi says there are about six prairie dogs still living at Celestial Seasonings and she continues to try to live-trap them, using watermelons and strawberries as bait.

Prairies are big open spaces, and with encroaching development there is nothing to stop prairie dogs, retreating from one development, from moving into an area recently "de-prairie dogged." Michael Sanders, Senior Resource Specialist with Boulder County Open Space, has been studying prairie dog barriers (and methods for keeping prairie dogs in or out of an area) for the past four years. His methods are based on careful study of the prairie dog's behavioral instincts. If they can't see into an area, they won't burrow. Michael Sanders says the problem is to find materials that won't break down under the constant sunshine of the Southwest. The fences can be made out of any material that is 18-24" high, as long as all light is blocked out, meaning the material has to be stretched to the ground. Although the fences are successful, the cost is about \$1 per foot. The cost of relocation (about \$5 per hole for the water truck and soap) is about the same as poisoning, but the fencing is an added expense. Celestial Seasonings put humane treatment before cost, but other developers aren't willing to pay the extra money. Of course, the best solution of all is to simply erect barriers where essential and to share space with the prairie dogs. As Michael Sanders says of his barrier program, "It makes the most common sense and it is the best way to learn to coexist with the animals."



Boulder County Humane Society

While relocation is better than poison gas, it does have its problems. First, the actual flooding of the holes and the capture of the sudsy prairie dogs is a very traumatic experience. As in other wildlife relocation, the rate of longterm survival of the animals is low. Estimates of prairie dog survival range from 25 percent to 70 percent, but no one really knows. Family units released together seem to have a better chance, and box trapping, while much slower and therefore less acceptable to landowners, is less stressful than flushing.

Since development is the main reason for prairie dog removals, it is obvious that there is a diminishing amount of space in which to relocate the animals. The new home for the majority of Front Range Prairie dogs is the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Now that this 27 square miles of land (just ten miles from Denver) is no longer a site for weapons, it may eventually deserve a name change. Nonetheless, chemical weapons, pesticides and herbicides were manufactured and stored there, from 1942 into the late 1980s. Currently the sole operational mission at the Arsenal is the cleanup of environmental contamination caused by past waste disposal practices, but 20 percent of the soil and ground water remains highly contaminated. The prairie dogs, according to the wildlife biologist Jan Griess, are only released to the buffer zones, and biologists are experimenting with visual barriers (fences and tall grasses) to keep the prairie dogs out of the contaminated areas.

The prairie dogs are released at the Arsenal within 48 hours of capture. They are carefully checked for fleas, since a 5,500-acre prairie dog town at the site with a population of about 50,000 was wiped out by bubonic plague during the mid-1980s. The releases take place in areas with empty burrows where the grass has been mowed. Their ears are tagged; family groups are released together. According to Jane Griess, over 4,000 prairie dogs were released in 1990, who have now started several successful colonies. Eventually the Arsenal will have a full population, although since the prairie dogs will not be released into the contaminated areas, there will never be as large a population as before the plague.

—Naomi Rachel

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offer little space for animals other than insects, mice, rats, and some birds, cover for tree-dwelling and burrow-dwelling wildlife is plentiful in green spaces such as parks, cemeteries, and the greenbelts alongside freeways, as well as in older residential neighborhoods, where yard vegetation has had time to mature. Urban pollutants such as exhaust fumes, lead, and lawn sprays take a toll on wildlife, but tend to be sufficiently slow-acting that the afflicted animals can reproduce. Food is readily available, and for reasons of safety to humans, urban and suburban communities don't often tolerate hunting and trapping of animals not specifically designated as nuisances (despite the efforts of game agencies in many states, including Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, to encourage suburban deer hunts).

Roadkills are the major threat to most urban and suburban wildlife. Projections of data collected by the Humane Society of the U.S. indicate that roadkills may claim as many as a million wild animals every 24 hours. The most frequent victims are birds, frogs, toads, raccoons, deer, opossums, and skunks. But the majority of these species seem able to live with cars just as they formerly survived the depredations of cougars, bears, wolves, and other large predators. They travel mainly at night, when cars are fewer, and they reproduce early and often.



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city limits. In an ongoing species rescue effort begun in 1970, over 3,000 peregrines hatched at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and at McGill University in Montreal have been successfully introduced to ledges on the sides of skyscrapers in numerous U.S. and Canadian cities. The ledges simulate the steep cliffs peregrines favor in the wild, while pigeons and starlings provide abundant food (a peregrine typically eats one or two other birds per day). Bans on

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## Wildlife Watching In Southern Connecticut

When I joined The ANIMALS' AGENDA staff in Fairfield County, Connecticut, after nearly 13 years of living in relative isolation in rural Quebec near the Vermont border, I feared that one of the prices I would pay for becoming able to write fulltime on behalf of animals would be—ironically—becoming less able to study wildlife first hand. Fairfield County, after all, holds over 800,000 human beings; Brome-Missisquoi County, Quebec, has barely 40,000, and adjacent Franklin County, Vermont, has only 37,000, each in a comparable number of square miles, with similar hilly terrain.

Yet in just over two years, I have observed more wildlife in Fairfield County than I ever saw in Brome-Missisquoi and Franklin counties, including representatives of at least as many species. Among the more interesting animals I have watched, listened to, or tracked within a mile of home are great horned owls, barn owls, golden eagles, marsh hawks, gulls, bluejays, crows, turkeys, hummingbirds, Canada geese, mallards, great blue herons, several kinds of woodpecker, red foxes, coyotes, raccoons, opossums, grey squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, skunks, muskrats, painted turtles, snapping turtles, copperheads, garter snakes, whitetailed deer, feral Maine coon cats, beavers, and numerous types of toads and frogs. Once I even heard a lynx shriek (a neighbor saw the lynx).

I haven't yet observed porcupines, mink, weasels, fishers, or bears, whom I did observe occasionally in Brome-Missisquoi. Nor do I expect to discover them. These have been extirpated from Fairfield County, probably never to return (although bears have been seen somewhat to the north, and the state has tried rather unsuccessfully to restore the fisher population). On the whole, however, wildlife seems to be both more plentiful and more diverse here, despite the vastly larger numbers of people.

The obvious conclusion is that the Fairfield County habitat is friendlier. The temperature is warmer; a comparable amount (60 to 70 percent) is covered by primarily deciduous forest; there are many

times more nut trees; and roadkills and human refuse are important food sources for many species. But there are also significant differences in human uses of the habitat. Though deer hunting is about as popular in each county, relatively few Fairfield County residents trap, or shoot birds and small mammals. (In fact, while I found and destroyed countless illegal traplines every winter in Brome-Missisquoi, as authorized assistant to a deputy game warden, I have yet to find any traps here at all.) Vast tracts of protected watershed in Fairfield County are altogether off limits to human incursions, including hunting, trapping, fishing, and use of motor vehicles; comparable-sized timberlands in Brome-Missisquoi are by contrast heavily exploited, albeit by a relative few.

But most significantly, more than 80 percent of Brome-Missisquoi is used for agriculture (including maple-tapping and commercial tree-growing). Commercial agriculture has all but vanished from Fairfield County (although I live in a rented house on one of the few remaining farms). Despite the prevailing notion that farms preserve space for animals, they don't necessarily preserve any more than suburbs developed at light to medium density. Woodlots furnish some habitat, but most of the space on most farms is a monoculture, of value only to the relative handful of species who can make use of that particular crop (whether it's vegetables, fruit, fodder, Christmas trees, or just grazing land). Further, both cultivated lands and pastures tend to be fenced, keeping wildlife out. Wildlife may also be excluded from water sources. Pesticide use further repels—or kills—wild animals.

Suburbs, like Fairfield County, may be crowded, busy habitat, but they are also accessible habitat, the best that most of the animals I enjoy watching are likely to find. And the habitat is likely to be preserved, if not by the appreciation of the human residents, then by reluctance to pay the higher taxes that would be required to build sewer lines, which would be necessary if the town I live in allowed new construction on lots of less than three acres. Ironically, nature benefits in this neighborhood because humans don't want to clean up their, er, septic waste.

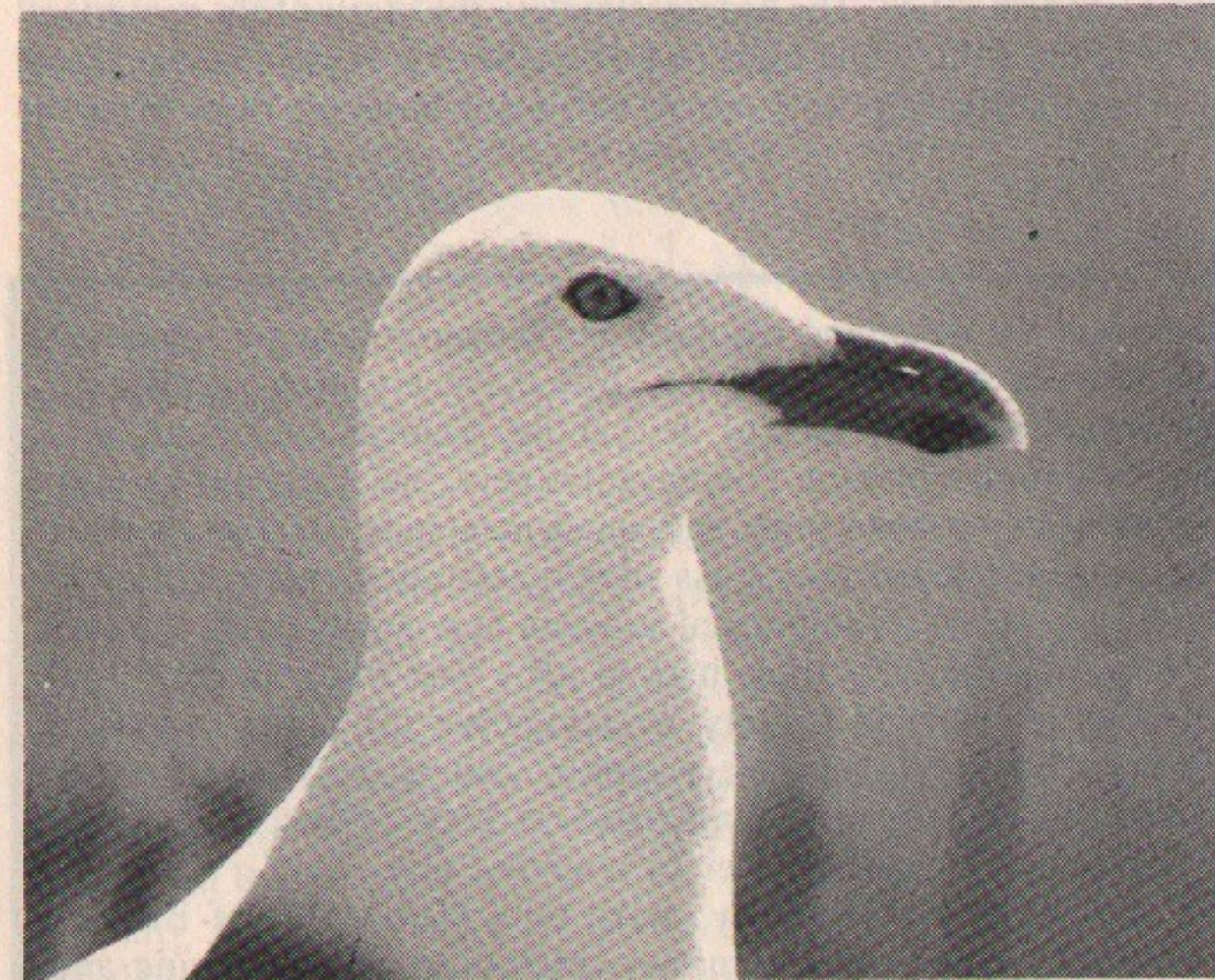
—M.C.



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DDT imposed by Canada in 1969 and the U.S. in 1972 have enabled rural peregrine populations to recover somewhat, but they continue to suffer from food chain buildups of other toxins. Although there are now about 1,200 breeding pairs in the U.S., the species is by no means out of danger, and according to Tom Cade of the Idaho-based Peregrine Fund, urban peregrines still have a slightly better rate of reproduction despite some loss of young falcons to collisions with windows as they dive at speeds of up to 150 miles an hour. Of 30 breeding pairs in U.S. cities in 1991, 22 reared chicks successfully. Recent counts found 11 nesting pairs in New York City, but just four in the rest of the state. Vermont, with abundant natural habitat, still has only seven nesting pairs. Indicatively, peregrines have independently colonized Denver, while nine peregrines released in Los Angeles have attracted and mated with cousins from the Coast Range mountains. Unfortunately, at least 11 Los Angeles peregrines have been shot since 1985, apparently by pigeon fanciers.

Afflicted by both DDT and loss of snag-filled wetlands to development, ospreys nearly vanished from the mid-Atlantic coast during the 1960s and 1970s. Even after DDT use ended, ospreys continued to decline from the lack of suitable snags (tall dead trees, surrounded by enough water to daunt nest-raiding raccoons, the only major osprey predator). By 1976, the Long Island osprey population had fallen from about 800 nesting pairs in the early 1950s to just 69



Richard Piliero

nesting pairs. Encouraged by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, volunteer groups began building and annually repairing dozens of artificial nesting platforms. Enough ospreys have accepted them that by 1983 the species was moved from the state "endangered" list to the "threatened" list. The 1991 nesting population was over 200. The biggest threat to the mid-Atlantic ospreys now is human competition for declining offshore fish stocks.

DDT also badly depressed redwing hawk and goshawk populations, but these too are recovering, especially in urban areas including New York City, where according to Cade, pigeons make up 75 percent of their diet. The pigeons have responded by learning how to hide under parked cars—and, some observers suspect, how to lure unwary hawks and falcons into collisions with reflecting surfaces.

Barn owls, who prey almost exclusively on field mice (also called meadow voles), also thrive in cities and heavily populated suburbs, managing to make a living by hunting over cultivated lawns. Between 1973 and 1988, owl rehabilitator Leonard Soucy found 234 nesting pairs of barn owls, banding 1,011 adults and offspring, in Hunterdon and Somerset counties, New Jersey, with a human population of over 290,000. Uncounted hundreds inhabit Central Park in New York City, though vandals smashed 25 nesting boxes the Parks Department put up in 1989 in an attempt to attract still more owls to help control the rat population.

Eastern screech owls, who range from southern Quebec to northeastern Mexico, are five times more numerous in suburbs than in nearby woods, according to a 23-year study of nearly 400 owls by Texas ornithologist Frederick Gehlbach. Gehlbach discovered as

## Airports vs. Animals

Contrary to public perception, the animal most dangerous to the greatest number of humans isn't a large predator or even a raccoon carrying rabies. Rather, it's any animal who gets sucked into a jet engine or causes an airplane to unexpectedly swerve or bounce during takeoff or landing. Human fatalities from animal/plane collisions are sharply down since 1960, when an Electra turboprop crashed at Logan Airport in Boston after hitting a flock of starlings, killing 61 passengers and bringing international attention to the problem. But despite improvements to aircraft engine design and airport security, bird strikes in the U.S. alone caused 38 aircraft accidents and seven human deaths between 1982 and 1989, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The USDA records 1,200 to 1,500 bird/plane collisions a year, with a handful of others involving deer, moose, coyotes, and foxes. In the most costly recent incident, both in human lives and money, a bird/plane collision knocked a \$280 million B1-B bomber out of the air in 1987, killing three crew members.

Bird/plane collisions are even more frequent abroad. Birds caused over 350 civilian aircraft accidents in India between 1985 and 1988, though no people were killed; between 1978 and 1987, Indian military aircraft hit birds over 800 times, resulting in 25 crashes. And without acknowledging exact numbers, Israel admitted in 1987 that it had lost more military aircraft to bird strikes than to enemy fire.

"Gulls have been responsible for more than half of the reported collisions," reports Richard Dolbeer, who leads a current \$1.9 million USDA study of habitat modifications to keep birds away from airports.

"At first glance, it's hard to believe that a one-pound seagull can damage an airplane," adds James Glosser, former head of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "But in fact, the airline industry reports well over \$25 million per year in damages from birds." The cost mounts quickly; United Airlines lost \$250,000 in August 1991 when Boeing 747 was grounded overnight for repairs after hitting a single juvenile peregrine falcon at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

The problem is that in crowded urban areas, the open space around airports can be irresistibly inviting to wildlife—especially when, as often happens, the airports are located near refuse disposal sites and/or wetlands. Typically, ground-nesting birds come first; then nest-raiding predators; grazing ungulates; and larger predators. That the predators help control the numbers of birds and ungulates is small comfort to pilots. Three foxes were killed by planes within half an hour at the San Jose airport on May 8, 1991. "When you're landing at 160 miles an hour," explained pilot Mark Wingert, "you don't notice something as small as a fox." Wingert considered it luck that people weren't killed as well. "A landing plane is sort of like a bullet," he continued. "If you hit something that's ten pounds heavy, something's just going to happen."

In absence of any effective way to keep wildlife away, most airports resort to shooting wild intruders. Noise deterrents don't work at airports; fences don't stop birds; catching animals to relocate them in spaces as big and busy as airports can be almost impossible. "We don't feel good about this," summarized Peachtree City Airport Authority member Viki Brigham recently, after authorizing a deer massacre at one of the major airports serving Atlanta. "But the deer were causing a risk to human lives, and we had to do something about it." The inventor who finds a humane solution will find customers lined up waiting.

—M.C.

many as one screech owl per two acres of favorable suburban habitat. Screech owl prey, he reported, is from two to eight times more plentiful in suburbs than in rural areas, while rural screech owl nests are three times more likely to be raided by other predators.

Even rare snowy owls native to Greenland and northern Canada have found suitable urban habitat: about three dozen migrate each December to spend four months at Logan Airport in Boston, whose runways apparently form an acceptable (and warmer) substitute for tundra. The ground-nesting owls prey upon muskrats who inhabit adjacent wetlands and Norway rats from the Boston waterfront.

Nor are raptors the only scarce birds to find refuge in urban areas. Loons, for instance, declining in Vermont because of habitat disturbance, dwell at several sites along the Hudson River in Manhattan. "There aren't hundreds, but they are loons, and they are in New York City," observer Jean Watson wrote to *The New York Times*—where urban wildlife frequently makes the letters page—in April 1991. "Several times I've observed a pair or two in the courtship ritual, the male displaying for the female, so they must breed here, too. I don't believe they fly north to have the chicks resulting from this mating."

## Large predators

Various other rare species turn up in suburban and even urban habitat from time to time, and possibly could survive if the laws of nature prevailed unamended by the laws of human beings. Alligators regularly surface on the outskirts of cities and suburbs in Florida and Louisiana. Bears often wander into suburbs in parts of New Jersey, Colorado, northern California, and Alaska, and put in occasional appearances almost everywhere housing development has crept up wooded mountains. Pumas have recently terrified suburbanites in Colorado, Montana, and southern California.

Such large predators are, of course, unwelcome among people. Forty-six people have been killed in unprovoked alligator attacks in Florida since 1948; the most recent victim was Erin Glover, age 4, of Englewood, who was snapped up by a ten-and-a-half-footer as she played near her home on June 6, 1988. Bears almost never attack people without provocation, even in the wild, and would usually rather scavenge than hunt, but can do immense property damage as they ransack houses in search of food, and become extremely dangerous when cornered. Pumas had killed only two people since 1900, and none in urban or suburban environments, until January 21, 1991, when a puma fatally ambushed jogger Scott Lancaster, age 18, near Idaho Springs, Colorado. However, a puma did severely maul Laura Small, age 5, near Santa Ana, California, in 1986; and police in Pasadena, California, in 1988 shot a puma who had entered a yard where three children were playing, only days after officers in nearby Yorba Linda shot a puma who was crouching behind a hedge. More recently, Hilary Gordon of Vail, Colorado, reportedly drove a puma away from an attempted attack on two four-year-olds on September 18, 1991; and a puma who was shot by wildlife agents in Glendora, California, on August 12, 1991 had apparently eaten numerous neighborhood dogs as well as deer, foxes, and other wild prey.

Thus large predators are usually live-trapped and relocated or shot on sight when they try to share human habitat, and are accordingly unlikely to ever reestablish themselves in cities and

suburbs even if they could make a living. Similarly, the odd moose who enters a city or suburb isn't welcome; though moose, as strict vegetarians, are quite unlikely to eat anyone, they are notoriously unafraid of cars. While people are killed in only one deer/car collision out of 3,500, human fatalities result from one moose/car collision out of 40.

And then there are scarce exotics who find habitat and thrive for a time. Contrary to legend, there probably never were any live alligators or crocodiles living in the New York City sewer system, but nuisance wildlife trapper Todd Hardwick of South Miami, Florida, apprehended a 22-foot python in a Fort Lauderdale yard in 1990, and a six-and-a-half-foot water monitor in a Miami lagoon in 1991. Both reptiles are natives of Southeast Asia, both apparently had escaped from or been dumped by people who acquired them (illegally) as pets, both found the Florida environment congenial, and both might have reproduced successfully if mates had been available.

## Wildlife vs. authority

Despite the success of wildlife in urban habitat, urban-dwelling wild animals receive little positive attention from people in authority. Blaming the highway beautification projects initiated by Lady Bird Johnson in 1965 for increasing numbers of roadkills, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official Bill Hesselton asserted at a recent conference of wildlife agency representatives and animal rights groups that, "Wildlife has no place in the city. In my view, the strips beside highways should be biological deserts."

Hesselton was promptly rebutted by Richard Hatcher, an Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation biologist, who pointed out that in many states, where most land is privately held and securely fenced, roadsides are virtually the only areas available for use as wildlife corridors—especially by nongame species. Still, the Hesselton view is widely shared, if less bluntly expressed, by many civic administrators. Looking uneasily at the growing cost of animal control, financially strapped municipal governments have scant incentive to see wild animals as anything but a nuisance. State wildlife agencies are typically uninterested because, since most urban wildlife can't be hunted or trapped, it isn't a potential revenue source. Further, when the public insists that nuisance wildlife be relocated rather than killed, the effort can become a major revenue drain: the California State Department of Fish and Game claimed to have spent 145 hours of staff time in April 1991 to remove a mother fox and six kits from beside a new stretch of freeway in Costa Mesa. And that didn't include the value of volunteer help. Conservationists and academics likewise tend to give urban wildlife short shrift, perhaps because urban and suburban ecosystems are of relatively recent origin, mingling native and feral species seemingly at random; and perhaps too because most conservationists and researchers are more interested in protecting what little remains of unsullied wilderness than in becoming involved in urban politics.

New York City provided leadership in the opposite direction beginning in 1984, with the appointment of parks commissioner Henry Stern. Declaring himself "a man for all species," Stern formed a new Natural Resources Group to promote urban wildlife and resume the direction pioneered by Frederick Olmsted, who designed Central Park as an urban oasis in the mid-19th century (along with

Continued on page 22



Richard Piliero



# Landscaping for Wildlife

**L**andscaping to attract wildlife has multiple benefits—for gardeners as well as animals. Yards and gardens laid out to encourage native animals also tend to feature those plants that conserve water and thrive with minimum attention.

Biodiversity and organic self-maintenance are the watchwords. A "wildlife zone," even in an urban area, fosters complete biological systems. From such habitat, birds and beneficial insects venture forth to patrol lawns and gardens for insect pests. Providing natural food sources, the zone can replace human-supplied feeding stations, which often encourage an overabundance of aggressive species, such as gray squirrels, rats, and blue jays, who prey on smaller birds' nests and fledglings.

While many of us would prefer a wild look, unrestrained nature is still taboo in most neighborhoods. Yet a wildlife haven can be created in even the most fastidious suburb by selecting popular landscape trees, shrubs, and flowers as attractive to birds and small mammals as they are to fussy neighbors.

## Planting a tree

For providing shelter, nesting sites, and food, no single plant is more useful than a tree. In fact, some trees have evolved fruit-covered seed precisely to take advantage of mobile creatures' craving for high-energy food. Young mammals and fledgling birds feast on fruits and berries, then deposit the indigestible seeds elsewhere in the forest. To ensure pollination and a good crop of fruit, these trees often produce wonderfully fragrant, ostentatious flowers that people enjoy as well as bees. Many ornamental trees in this category top out at 30 feet or less, making them ideal for small yards. Varieties bred for larger and more colorful spring blooms usually produce as much fruit as their wilder cousins (though much less than agricultural varieties). A single tree, surrounded by lawn, may be visited by many species for its fruit, while also providing an ideal nesting site for orioles, robins, kingbirds, cedar waxwings, and other birds that prefer open spaces.

In the north, the most commonly planted decorative tree is the flowering crab. Its pink, white, or red blossoms are followed in the fall by small sour apples relished by birds, squirrels, rabbits, skunks, foxes, and raccoons. A few varieties, such as "Spring Snow," are sterile, so be sure to check with the nursery if you want fruit as well as flowers. Weeping varieties such as "Red Jade" are grown especially for the hundreds of tiny, bright red apples that cover pendulous branches. Easy to grow,



Constance Perenyi

flowering crabs seldom reach beyond 15 to 20 feet in height.

Where winters are somewhat milder, hawthorns are popular small shade trees. Planted primarily for their decorative flowers, in late summer they produce dark berries, or "haws," that attract woodpeckers and grosbeaks, among others. At least 30 species of hawthorn grow in North America. Most prefer moist situations, but a few, such as the Kansas hawthorn, the Gregg's and the summer haw, are partial to dry sandy soils. One of the hardest varieties, "Toba," was developed in Canada; it bears double light pink flowers and is tolerant of pollution.

In the south, the flowering dogwood graces many suburban gardens. Wild dogwoods are suffering currently from by blight, but they seem to thrive in town where they don't have to compete for sunlight with other trees. Their four-petaled flowers are followed in late summer by bluish-black fruits that attract many kinds of wildlife. The pagoda dogwood, with its decorative tiers of long branches, prefers moist soil and thrives farther north than most. The roughleaf dogwood of the midwest spreads from root suckers, in the wild, to form thickets for small birds to nest in.

Gardeners who prefer native species will like the shadblow, or serviceberry tree. Small and slow-growing, they bloom before other trees break into leaf. Their dark fruits are favorites of songbirds and squirrels. Native American plums also bloom early, covering their branches with white sweet-smelling flowers.

Some trees are grown for their showy fruit, though wildlife will often take advantage of the bounty as soon as it's ripe. The evergreen American holly, and its close relative, the deciduous winterberry, have inconspicuous flowers. Their bright red fruits hold fast to the twigs into winter, when they provide welcome sustenance for songbirds, raccoons, and opossums. The mountain ash, both native and European, produces showy clusters of orange berries in the fall. They disappear quickly, however, when they're discovered by flocks of grosbeaks or cedar waxwings. The Russian olive, another favorite of waxwings, grosbeaks, and robins, is native to southern Europe and Asia. Its hardiness, drought resistance, and tolerance of city conditions make it a good choice for difficult sites.

## Hedges and thickets

While a single tree can be an oasis for wildlife amidst acres of lawns, a planting of mixed shrubs creates an island of biodiversity. Where space permits, a tall mixed hedge can provide shelter, nesting sites, and food for a wide variety of small birds and other creatures. Cardinals, goldfinches, indigo buntings, and catbirds are just a few of the birds who will nest in dense shrubs. Where space is limited, a similar effect can be achieved with a thicket, or cluster of shrubs of different varieties and habits.

One of the best all-around hedge and thicket shrubs is the tatarian honeysuckle. Growing to eight feet in only three years, this bush is available in red, pink, or white-

flowered varieties, all attractive to hummingbirds. It isn't fussy about soil and can take some shade. Its only drawback may be attacks of "witches broom," a virus which is more prevalent in heavily pruned plantings. Robins, grosbeaks, and catbirds feast on its red berries in late summer.

Viburnums are old-fashioned shrubs that are making a comeback, many of them crossed with imported species. Tolerant of shade, they produce white flower clusters followed by blue-black fruits. The native arrowwood viburnum is also striking in the fall with its shiny red leaves. While arrowwood does best in sandy soils throughout most of North America, nannyberry viburnum is a taller, cold-hardy shrub suited to damp sites. In the southeast, the possumhaw viburnum attracts the marsupials for which it's named, while the tall blackhaw viburnum is native from the middle Atlantic coast to the midwest.

Other berry-producing shrubs useful in mixed plantings include the autumn olive (a shorter, bushier relative of the Russian olive) in dry sites, or the white-flowered elderberry, often grown for human consumption, in moister soils. In acid soil, highbush blueberries are a good choice. People share these berries with the birds, and their leaves turn a brilliant red in autumn.

Also noted for its scarlet autumn leaves, euonymus has tiny red or purple flowers that develop into capsules containing four to eight redcoated seeds relished by many birds. For winter color, the right-stemmed red osier dogwood ("kinnikinnik") stands out against the snow. Very

cold hardy and tolerant of wet soils, red osier dogwood seldom grows more than six feet high, and supplies songbirds with an abundance of white berries in late summer.

## In smaller spaces

Where there's no room for trees or tall bushes, gardeners can still plant to attract wildlife. Small shrubs and flowers can be grown in narrow beds along walls and walkways. Some are irresistible to hummingbirds. Others produce seeds that attract flocks of small migrating birds.

Hummingbirds are fond of almost any tubular flower, but their favorite is undoubtedly bee balm (*Monarda didyma*). This perennial grows to four feet tall, blooming the second year from seed in many shades of pink, red, and purple. While bee balm prefers full sun, perennial scarlet lobelia likes shade and damp places. Its intense dark red flowers bloom along tall stalks a little later in the season. For partial shade in early summer, the many varieties of columbine provide nectar for hummingbirds, too. Annual and biennial sweet William and pinks are also frequented by hummingbirds.

If your growing area is limited to boxes on a patio or balcony, you might consider scarlet salvia or petunias, sun-loving annuals irresistible to hummingbirds. Dwarf sweet William is another good choice for containers, and fuchsia in a hanging basket is a hummingbird magnet. To cover a vertical space, consider the climbing annual scarlet runner beans. Grown on a chain link fence, trellis or string, their brilliant orange-red flowers supply nectar all summer long.

Ambitious city gardeners can grow several flowering and fruiting shrubs in sturdy, capacious tubs. Compact viburnums, four to five feet tall, and the shorter varieties of shadbush can be grown in containers. Given sufficient moisture, they'll flower and produce berries. Weigela, another shrub for containers, can be grown for its nectar-producing red flowers.

A small garden or flowerbox can also be used for seed-producing flowers. Sunflowers are an obvious choice, though not necessarily the gigantic annuals that produce commercial birdseed. On the prairies, the ten-foot-tall perennial Maximilian's sunflower produces numerous two- to three-inch flowers all summer, followed by thousands of small seeds. Decorative annual varieties are readily available for the home garden. While their seeds are small, they're nonetheless relished by finches, chickadees, and juncos. Tall branching types have the smallest seeds; these include bicolored blends and separate colors from almost white to deepest red. Shorter varieties with large single flowers produce

seeds almost as large as their giant relatives. Small enough for container culture, "Sunspot" grows only two feet tall with a ten-inch classic flower. The three-foot-tall "Teddy Bear" has fluffy golden blooms like an oversized chrysanthemum.

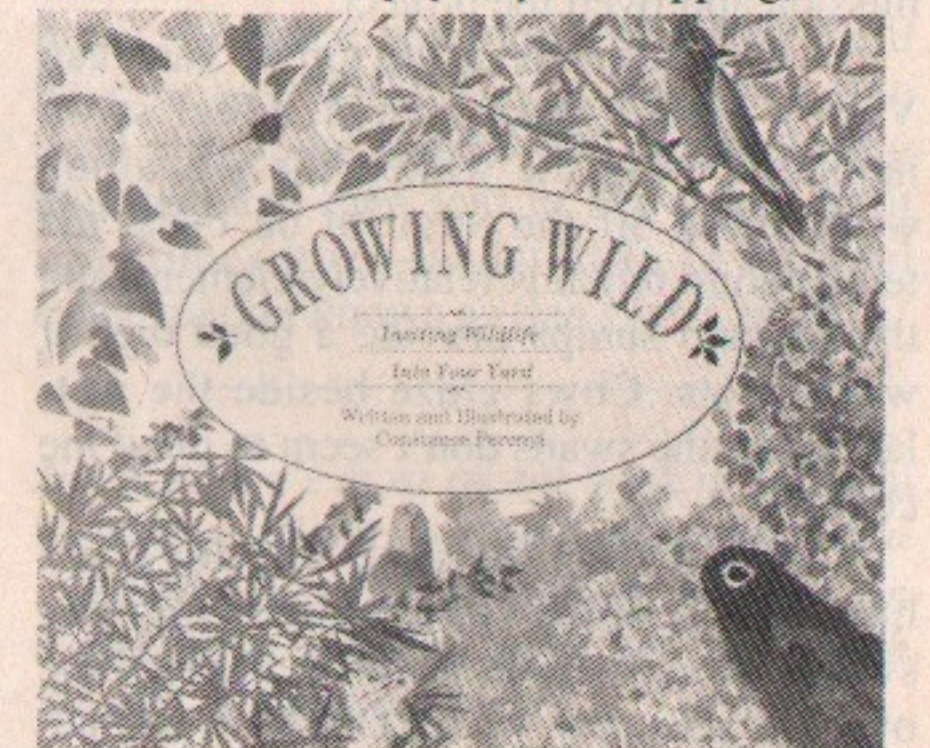
Small migrating birds are also fond of cosmos seeds. While they will ignore seeds of the orange and yellow-flowered sulfurous, or "Klondike," varieties, they'll spend hours picking seeds out of the dried heads of pink, white, and red-flowered *Cosmos bipinnatus*. Usually offered in a "Sensation" blend, this taller, fine-leaved variety is available as well in individual colors and some very odd forms: one recent development has petals fluted like seashells. New this year, *C. bipinnatus* "Sonata" has pure white flowers, and at two feet is small enough to be grown in planter boxes.

Cosmos and sunflowers both require a light fertile soil in full sun. Their seed stalks can be harvested and tied in sheaves to provide food for winter birds. Usually, however, fall migrants will find the first seeds in the garden before we suspect they're ripe. But they'll drop plenty of seeds on the ground that will germinate the next spring.

Many common weeds—knotweed, English plantain, crabgrass, evening primrose, the bright gold wild mustard, even poison ivy and ragweed—also supply seeds for songbirds. Nature endows every empty lot and roadside with resources for wildlife. Humans, however, are constrained by our communities to eradicate most of nature's weedy bounty. Our only alternative may be to utilize acceptable plants that will, in some small measure, restore the tilted balance.

—Cathy Czapl

**Growing Wild: Inviting Wildlife Into Your Yard** is a gardening book for children, written and illustrated by Constance Perenyi (1991, Beyond Words Publishing, Inc., 13950 NW Pumpkin Ridge Rd., Hillsboro, OR 97123; 1-800-284-WORD, 503-647-5109; \$14.95 hardcover, \$9.95 paper, plus shipping).





the major city parks of Brooklyn, Hartford, and Montreal). With 34,600 acres of park land to encourage wildlife on, forming fully 17 percent of the New York City land area, Stern drew assistance from the New York Audubon Society, members of the Brooklyn Bird Club, the New York Natural Heritage Trust (a state agency, which granted the wildlife project \$300,000), Cornell University, and the state forestry department. By 1989 the NRG had inventoried over

300 bird species in Central Park alone, along with 12 fish species and five mammals. Never numerous in the U.S., feral mute swans were welcomed to Prospect Park in Brooklyn, even as Rhode Island and New Jersey adopted mute swan elimination schemes and Connecticut wildlife officials proposed one. The NRG also discovered 13 of the 27 plants on the New York endangered species list in Greenbelt Park, on Staten Island. Despite crippling city budget cuts, the brilliant effort has continued, albeit largely through private contributions and at a slower pace.

**A**sk author Milenko Matanovic, in *Meandering Rivers and Square Tomatoes*, "Why are new housing developments named for what they have destroyed? Do you see any oaks at the 'Oak Grove Condominiums'; any eagles at 'Eagles nest'? The names are tombstones, not the living reality."

Here on San Juan Island, in the northwest corner of the Pacific Northwest, the Trumpeter Inn is located on Trumpeter Way. So far, these two place names have escaped the onus of Matanovic's rule. From San Juan Valley Road on just about any day between November and March, up to two dozen trumpeter swans may be seen cavorting in the adjacent wetlands with their long necks stuck deep into the water, rooting out a winter's meal.

But a housing project is planned for the adjacent property. Aware of both the swans and state wetlands protection requirements, the developers recently went before the local planning commission, offering to build a four-foot fence topped with barbed wire around three sides of the wetland. They also negotiated with the local Preservation Trust to put a conservation easement on the entire parcel. Furthermore, houses could not be sited within 100 feet of the wetland. They named the new development *Swan Valley*.

According to the Trumpeter Swan Society, San Juan Island shelters the second largest flock of wintering swans in Washington, one of the few states where the birds survive at all. Unfortunately, the island swan count fell from 61 in 1989 to just 45 in 1991. The Society warned that while the fence might protect the habitat, it probably wouldn't protect the use of the habitat by the swans, an exceedingly shy species. Nonetheless, the planning commission approved the project.

The wetlands at the top of San Juan Valley are, in many ways, ideal swan habitat. During the winter, the prevailing wind blows off the Strait of de Fuca, the temperature remains relatively clement, and the wetland sumps provide a good diet of water roots. Cows graze beside the wetlands, but the swans don't seem to mind the cows.

What they do mind are dogs and hunters. Despite laws against hunting swans, at least three have been shot here over the past few years. Dogs are as bad.

## The San Juan Swan Song

BY JIM NOLLMAN

Just their barking can set the swans to flying. In some cases, setting a swan to flight in the dead of winter may accomplish the same end as shooting him. This is because swans are among the heaviest birds that fly, and the trumpeter—the biggest and heaviest swan—uses considerable calories to become airborne. A bird who expends such so much energy to get into the air does not choose to do so when food is scarce and cold can be a killer. Furthermore, some authorities now believe that trumpeters slow their metabolism in winter, making recovery from each flight more difficult. This is why swans tend to congregate in the same areas all winter long, year after year.

Trumpeters once ranged across all of North America, until the pioneers hunted them to the verge of extinction everywhere outside Alaska. Although they have recovered somewhat, they still face an uncertain future. Stocks have dropped at least 20 percent over the past few years, mostly due to loss of habitat from dam building. As people throughout the West fight to control their own limited water supply, they inevitably dam more and more prairie wetlands. The swans have no place else to go.

### Falling through the cracks

Both the developer's fence and his 100-foot setback may be interpreted to be direct results of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act. In fact, such stipulations have become fairly standard in development around wetlands, and have proven effective at protecting ducks. Unfortunately, the stipulations that protect the relatively gregarious and agile ducks are not adequate to protect swans. Equally unfortunate, local governments prefer to deal with ecological issues as if they were one aspect of the one-at-a-time real estate packages being submitted to them. Swans must line up in the same queue as the developers. And when developers follow all the rules, they expect to get their permits. When they don't get them, especially for some reason that falls through the cracks of the legal process, they often sue the decision-makers.

In certain cases, this permit-via-threat tactic has become such an ingrained aspect of the permit process that bureaucrats usually prefer to follow the most obviously ineffective guidelines to the letter just to protect their office from litigation. For example, in this case the San Juan County Planning Commission chose to protect its own ass despite several other legal but "risky" alternatives that would have allowed the developer to build his houses while protecting the swans at the same time. In the words of the local Planner, "We could only encourage the developer to build cluster housing. He chose not to follow our recommendation. As long as his development met the permit requirements, we were legally bound to pass it." Lucky for the swans, that's not the end of it. In San Juan County there is yet one more step to the approval process. The county commissioners make the final decision.

### Getting involved

I am not your usual disinterested journalist. I happen to pass those wetlands every time I drive into town, and I cannot deny being deeply touched by those huge aristocratic birds swimming out there on the flats. I got involved, further motivated by the nagging feeling that growth on San Juan Island is out of control. In fact, life in these parts sometimes feels like a stacked game of Monopoly where the developers and tourism promoters have hotels on all the yellows, greens, and blues, while I own a little house on Mediterranean Avenue. My taxes rise to support both development and a compromised "quality of life." And even though there's a well-known critical water shortage, and although you can't find a parking place in Friday Harbor from June through September, the town council still saw fit to approve 144 new housing units in April of 1991 alone.

Eventually, I got the attention of powerful wildlife officials at both the state and federal level. Official letters were written to the county commissioners reiterating many of my points. I began to believe that the swans were going to win

Human interest in preserving natural scenery also aids urban wildlife. Approximately 900 land trusts in the U.S. conserve habitat, much of it within urban and suburban areas where lakes and wooded hillsides would otherwise be prime development sites. Journalist Cliff Collins of the Portland *Oregonian* has recently noted a parallel "growing national trend in housing: building 'green.' Developers, often at odds with conservationists and regulators, are realizing they can win favor—and make money—by preserving and enhancing natural resources on their property rather than stripping the land to

create as many lots of units as possible. These builders," Collins continued, "market their properties as nature preserves that include housing," much as the developers of the past several decades marketed housing developments that were surrounded by golf courses or shopping malls. (See sidebar, "The San Juan Swan Song.")

The approach isn't really new: developers in the recently fire-

Continued on next page



Richard Piliero

this one. I decided it was time to appeal directly to the developer.

As everywhere else, the local developers on San Juan Island don't feel they're getting a fair shake. In their view, everybody needs a house, visits doctors in clinics, goes to work in offices, etc.; but no one respects the people who take considerable risks to build such edifices. If Rodney Dangerfield's "I get no respect" character had a profession, you just know he'd be a land developer.

The most aggressive developers meet criticism with what are now called Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. The cost of fighting such SLAPP suits, even successfully, is usually so high as to divert the resources of the people who are sued away from their cause, and to intimidate other critics.

A recent hour spent with one of the Swan Valley developers at a local doughnut shop proved to be the least satisfying experience of my swan odyssey. I had hoped the two of us could find common ground based on our mutual bottom line of swan protection. Why else would he build his expensive fence? He'd proceed more conservatively, wouldn't he, now that expert doubt had been cast on his plan?

I was never able to pinpoint what he felt in his heart about protecting swans. Instead, he answered every version of the question by reaffirming that his was a "quality development" going "far beyond the minimum" to save habitat. When I asked about clustering the houses into one area, he countered by asserting he'd never "condominionize." Then he looked me in the eye: "Would you live in cluster housing

if you had the choice?"

"That's no choice of mine," I answered. "A better choice is whether something or nothing gets built there."

Our most revealing discussion covered what he would do if the county demanded cluster housing. He said he might comply, but then again, he might just as easily "be forced to" forgo the permit process entirely and (smiling) "open up the wetlands as a private hunting club...for the ducks of course"—hinting that, at least in his mind, the people trying to protect swans should be held responsible for whatever he himself might do.

There was no common ground. He never wavered in defining Swan Valley as a long plat, a suitable site for human housing, while I could never perceive it as anything but a home for swans.

### The decision

The three-member board of commissioners for San Juan County heard the issues swirling about the Swan Valley long plat in June 1991. They voted unanimously to add several swan-protecting constraints to the proposed design. In a rare gesture, they even overruled the findings of the planning commission by pushing the property lines 150 feet back from the wetlands. That alteration alone would almost surely force the developers back to the drawing board. More measures: for the first time in this county, strict covenants against certain herbicide and pesticide use were written into the decision. Further, construction would only be allowed between May and October when the swans

migrate elsewhere. The commissioners went so far as to require the developer to help fund a study of the effects of both development and hunting on San Juan County swan habitat.

One commissioner later noted that the restrictions drawn up in this case will become policy for all future decisions impacting swan habitat. But only hours before the county commissioners' decision, another local board, this time the board of adjustments, approved yet another development that would definitely impact yet another swan habitat.

At least locally, trumpeter swans may soon be to wetlands what spotted owls are to old growth forests. Both are indicator species, meaning that their very presence tells us something crucial about the health of a particular habitat. Likewise, both species have recently transformed into icons who delineate deeply conflicting views about how human beings should or should not use nature.

Here on San Juan Island, it sometimes seems that half the island gets covered with fresh water during some part of any winter, and that the swans are capable of turning up just about anywhere if you watch long enough. Now that the swans are starting to dictate real estate practices, I feel a bit concerned about the risk that inevitably escorts such power. Everyone has read about the loggers who kill owls, stringing them up like posters to make some self-defeating political statement about the frustrating demise of logging communities. Swans make a much larger target than spotted owls.

There's also another local myth to consider. As the story goes, a wealthy woman wanted to build a million-dollar home on a site having a tree containing an eagle's nest. When told by the county that the nest made it illegal for her to build there, she asked how much of a fine she'd have to pay. \$10,000 was the reply. She went ahead and cleared the site, including that tree, and then sent in her check. So it sometimes goes for wildlife in the real estate market known as San Juan County.

*Jim Nollman's most recent book is Spiritual Ecology (Bantam), which has been translated into five languages. He lives on a small homestead on San Juan Island with his wife and two daughters.*



Continued from previous page

blackened Berkeley Hills attempted it as far back as the turn of the century (making a twice-fatal mistake in replacing native oaks with scenic but explosively flammable eucalyptus. In 1923, 584 homes burned as result of a wind-driven eucalyptus fire; more than 3,000 burned in November 1991). Until the present generation, however, the demand for new housing has



Richard Piliero

so far outstripped consumers' interest in habitat—and ability to pay for more than just the lot a house sits on—that conservation-oriented development hasn't often been viable. Even now it remains a question mark. A recent survey of property in Boulder, Colorado, found that the average value of a site next to a green space is 32 percent more than the average value of a similar site half a mile away, and a survey in Salem, Oregon, found land adjacent to a green space fetched \$1,200 more per acre than land only 1,000 feet away. But continued recession may be obliging potential homeowners to choose more cramped building lots, regardless of their preferences, thus encouraging developers to go on bulldozing prime habitat.

Ironically, the leading voices for urban wildlife are often people who, with different attitude, could consider themselves among the most inconvenienced. One of the most outspoken voices for animals in southern California is suburban resident Lila Brooks, called "The Coyote Lady" by local newspapers because of her successful efforts to halt leghold trapping of alleged nuisance coyotes. As drought forced wildlife into cities in search of water during the past few years, Brooks convinced Los Angeles, Glendale, and Burbank to set up 10 water holes just for animals in surrounding foothills. Many more are needed. Animal control officers relocated 45 thirsty animals a week from the San Fernando Valley in 1990, ranging in size from bears to snakes.

"These animals were in the suburbs long before us, and we have stolen their habitat," Barbara Monroe of Great Neck, New York, recently reminded readers of *The New York Times*. "Rather than chase them away, we should welcome the chance to help them live alongside us...We must learn to respect all wildlife, and to cherish and be kind to those who live among us."

Added Buzz Alpert, in a later issue of *The New York Times*, "Some of the best

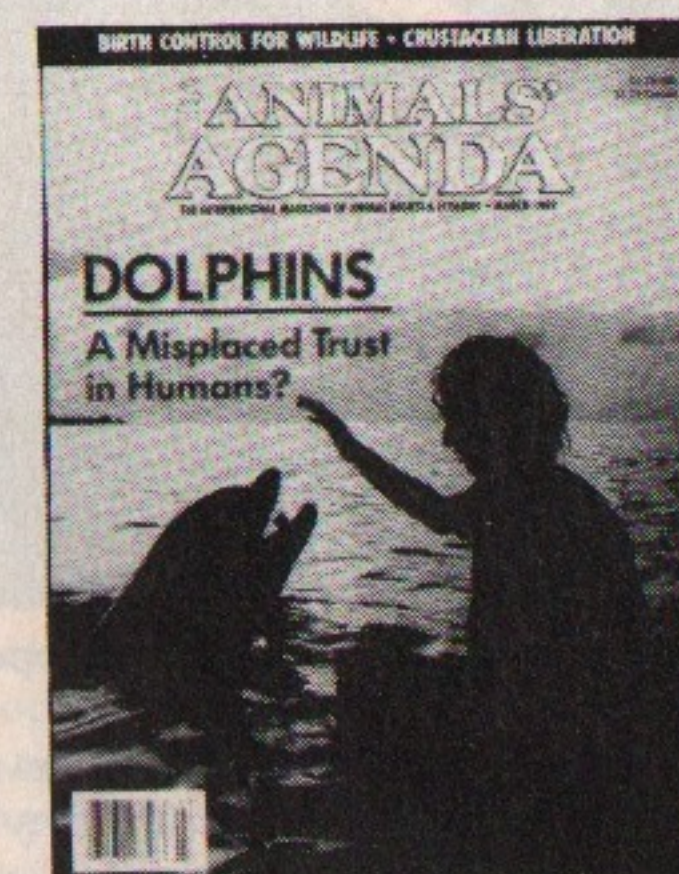
things in life are really free—that is, if we can ever stop thinking in terms of 'urban nuisances' and start thinking in terms of kindness for all creatures, animal and human."

Whether or not urban wildlife benefits us, whether or not the species in question are attractive to us, whether or not we understand the ecological role of animals who may not even belong to our continent in untrammelled nature, the resurgence of wild creatures in our cities and suburbs represents the triumph of the most fundamental of all animal rights struggles. By simply existing, despite human-induced habitat change and the \$4.5 billion a year Americans spend on "nuisance" wildlife control, urban and suburban wild animals assert their birthright to survival—as species, and as individuals.

*The New York Times* on September 25, 1991 editorialized that by surviving all attempts to exterminate them, coyotes have not only claimed but earned the right to live unmolested. It was that newspaper's first editorial recognition that any animal might have rights. One can only hope that the similar tenacity of other species shall eventually win similar respect, accompanied by sympathetic tolerance.

For further information, see "The Plight of Urban Animals," April 1988; and "Living With Wildlife," July/August 1990.

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## COMPASSIONATE LIVING

BY VICTORIA MORAN

### Assisting Wild Birds

It happened almost every spring of my childhood: the well-meaning but ill-fated attempt to rescue baby birds believed to have been abandoned. Despite my grandmother's patience in trying to feed the nestlings with an eyedropper, I don't think we were ever able to raise a bird to maturity.

My daughter finds as many injured and orphaned wild creatures as I did at her age. Because of that, I keep the name and phone number of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with all my emergency numbers—the doctor, the poison control center, the vet. In fact, a veterinarian can be an excellent resource in locating someone trained in helping out free-roaming birds and small mammals. Nature centers are another place to locate such people. If these local contacts don't help, call the government wildlife bureau in your state capitol. This state department licenses wildlife rehabilitators and keeps a listing.

It's important to have this information close at hand, because helping wild neighbors in need is no job for amateurs, and in some cases it's actually illegal: migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, animals believed to be likely carriers of rabies, and animals rescued from traps are all legally "protected" from those who would help them as much or more as they are protected from those who would kill them. Experienced rehabilitators know not only what to do in most cases, but also how to recognize those times when it's best to do nothing. Young birds, for instance, can appear to be abandoned when, in fact, they're nothing of the sort.

Our neighborhood rehabilitator, Alison Taintor, is licensed by both the state and federal government. Birds are her specialty, and under her tutelage I've learned many valuable tips on how—and when—to aid feathered folk. The basics are:

**When a bird flies into your house**, open all the windows and allow her to fly out on her own. If this doesn't work, wait for her to alight somewhere. If she's a small bird, you can cup her gently in your hands and let her out the window; if she's larger, cover her with a towel and escort her out.

**If you find a bird who is obviously ill or injured**, move him carefully to a carrying box and take him to a vet who treats wild birds (that's another name and number for your emergency list). In the meantime, locate a wildlife rehabilitator who can care for the bird during his recuperation—a period that is usually too long for a continued stay at the vet's.

In any instance when you need to handle a bird, you shouldn't have to worry about mites or other parasites (most are host-specific—those who like birds usually want nothing to do with humans). Caution should be exercised, however, when rescuing birds with sharp claws or beaks. If you need to move a crow or any kind of raptor (hawk, owl, seagull, etc.), wear heavy gloves and wrap the bird in a towel, covering his head, to carefully get him into the box. (Keeping sturdy gloves, a towel, and a covered box or carrier in the trunk of your car is a good idea.)

**If you see a nest with baby birds** in it, make sure the nest is abandoned before attempting a rescue. If it's in a tree, the mother and/or father are probably out getting food for an incessantly hungry family. Should you find a nest on the ground after a storm, put it



Constance Perenyi

back in the tree.

There is no truth to the old tale that a mother bird will not return if she "smells humans." She may, however, stay away if she sees humans too near the nest. Therefore, although you will have to watch for her, do so out of sight. To be effective, someone will need to watch continually. Leaving your post for even a few minutes could cause you to miss the parent's return for a quick feeding and taking off again. If after two hours of constant watching no parent returns to young babies, something is wrong. Your assistance can at this time be a lifesaver.

**If you see a young bird on the ground**, don't jump to conclusions. Fledglings, birds who can hop but can't yet fly, spend up to two weeks on the ground as an important part of their development. This is when they learn to find food and escape predators. If the bird is fully feathered, if you can hear the parent chirping, if there is more than one little bird nearby, or if you have to chase the bird to catch her, chances are you're looking at a fledgling doing adolescent exploring. Leave this bird alone.

**If you come upon a baby who's fallen from the nest**, however, put him back in the nest if you can see it. If it happens more than once, the bird may be ill and therefore rejected by the parents. Certainly get help in this case, although the little one's chance for survival may not be good.

When you need to bring a bird in, contact a licensed rehabilitator at once. If you cannot make contact right away, be sure to keep the bird's box in a warm, quiet place. If the baby is not feathered, place a heating pad under the box and drape a towel over the top. A plastic bowl stuffed with tissues and topped with a paper towel makes a nest-like enclosure when the bird sits on it. (Never use grass—it can be too damp.) Don't move or handle the bird unnecessarily; birds succumb easily to stress from handling or noise.

A bird who is feathered but sits fluffed up and is not active may be dehydrated. Make a rehydration solution of one tablespoon of sugar and one teaspoon of salt to one quart water; dribble a few drops of this outside the beak, which should trigger him to swallow. Don't force open the beak or get him to drink as he could get fluid in his lungs. In most cases, a young bird will not need water and gets ample moisture from the food you'll provide: high-protein dogfood made into a mush with water, and fed from the end of a straw or coffee stirrer. Put the food well back in the bird's mouth. When he's had enough, he'll stop gaping. The next mealtime will come soon, however. Baby birds can eat as often as every half-hour during the daytime, and morning comes early for birds!

Our last founding, a partially feathered sparrow found near a shattered nest on a downtown street, spent two weeks with us under Taintor's observation before moving to her aviary. After a month there, the big day came: release. My little girl opened the door of the aviary and the three of us watched "Chirper," as we'd called him, fly off into the woods. It was truly a peak experience for us. Chirper flew strongly and surely, knowing exactly how to be a sparrow, and never looking back. Had someone asked me to define freedom at that moment, I could have done it very, very well.



## Organic Gardening: Better, But Not Benign

By JEAN BLACKWOOD

When I'm around other people who care about animals, I always want to ask, "How do you feel about bugs?" I don't ask because I know they may feel threatened by the question. They may assume it's an ethical "Ah ha!" I'm trying to spring on them—like the one carnivores like to pull on vegetarians: "Don't you care about the lives of all the plants you eat?" You know those asking don't give a hoot about the plants.

But I do care about bugs, and I would like to know how other animal rights people live with them. At my house we put out hundreds of wasps, spiders, crickets and moths who wander in; we even do this with carpenter ants until they threaten to overwhelm the home. My children have been taught not to wantonly destroy or torment bugs, and nothing would please us more than to live in peace with all the creepy-crawlies in the world. However, there's the garden.

I garden organically. But lest anyone suppose that organic growing means only planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting, the reality is less simple. And less pleasant.

There can be no doubt that conventional chemical agriculture harms far more animals of all kinds than organic methods. Pesticides and fertilizer runoff are deadlier than most industrial waste, afflicting whole ecosystems. Proper organic farming spares the use of such chemicals, but this doesn't mean that organic growers stand in their fields looking like St. Francis while grasshoppers eat the crops. To grow food without chemicals, organic growers must use a large and growing arsenal of other weapons.

Healthy soil is the first line of defense: healthy plants naturally fend off pests and diseases. Unfortunately, organic growers usually fertilize with animal products and byproducts, thinking little about the sources of such products as manure; whey; feather, bone, blood and crab meals; plus tankage, a byproduct of leather making.

Good soil *can* be built up without the use of animal byproducts. Mine has been built up with limestone, rock phosphate, grass clippings, turned-under clover, and a constantly rotting layer of straw or hay mulch. Sprayed directly on plants, liquid kelp emulsion makes an excellent fertilizer, and it helps repel pests as well.

When a healthy plant in healthy soil fails, the organic grower must choose the next weapon. It's at this point that I feel myself stepping out of Gandhi's sandals into the boots of Heinrich Himmler.

We do some awful things to bugs in organic gardens, though it should be said in our defense that the bugs do awful things to the garden. In the orchard we hang red spheres coated with a sticky substance that hopelessly traps the apple maggot flies attracted to them. A number of harmless insects, even butterflies, end up caught as well, and I haven't found any way to save them once they're gummed up. I'm sure it can't be a pleasant way to die.

In the spring and early summer I would lose all my young cabbage and broccoli plants to various caterpillars if I didn't apply

BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a naturally occurring bacteria applied as a powder or spray. Other forms of BT are being developed which will be fatal to mosquitoes and potato beetles. BT isn't kind to its victims but it is harmless to all other living things. You can't say that about many pesticides.

If a spring garden or orchard is infested with aphids, the organic grower has a couple of options—neither of them perfect. Ladybugs in both their adult and larval stages love to devour aphids. If a garden is without them, they can be purchased. Distributors scoop up the hibernating ladies, store them, and ship them out to gardeners everywhere. Other "good" bugs can be bought via the mail, among them praying mantises, spined soldier bugs, green lacewings, trichogramma wasps, and beneficial nematodes. But while the use of bugs to control bugs is ecologically correct, and helps prevent the use of pesticides, the waste of life and probable suffering involved in the mass handling and shipping of these insects bothers me. Rather than buy ladybugs to get my aphids, I spray affected trees with some insecticidal soap, a very mild organic pesticide.

No matter where you live and what you grow, there will doubtless be a few really tough bugs out there who force the organic grower to bring in the big guns. Here in southwest Missouri my biggest problems are squash bugs, who chew on every variety of cucurbit until they weaken the plant and disease kills it, and blister beetles who move in to devour the foliage on tomatoes, eggplants, and beans once the usual summer heat and drought take hold. Last year I paid some high prices for organic plant-derived insecticides to deal with these creatures, but with mixed results: the squash bugs got all the squash and cucumbers, and the blister beetles defoliated a lot of plants but didn't prevent a bumper crop of tomatoes. Once I saw that my expensive sabadilla dust wasn't going to get rid of the blister beetles, I took to shaking the infested plants and stomping on dozens of the creatures. I didn't enjoy it, but I felt justified.

If all this has left you with a strong desire not to grow a garden or crop of any kind—by any means—I know how you feel. When I'm poisoning squash bugs and harmless bystanders, blasting aphids with insecticidal soap, or stomping blister beetles by the hundreds, I don't feel like a very authentic animal rights person. At times I take it all personally and see the bugs as malevolent enemies, but even so, I abhor what I have to do to them. I try explaining to my daughter, "We'd be willing to share the garden but they want it all!"

Perhaps one day the health of my soil will be such that my plants can resist the onslaught of their enemies and I will be able to employ gentler methods of control. But not to garden at all, and not to garden organically, would be a coward's way out of the dilemma. My family and I must eat. We don't eat meat, and if we're to eat vegetables without relying on the unhealthy methods of chemical agricide, then we must muddle along with our sometimes nasty



organic methods.

Growing food is one of those areas where, at present, our moral intentions are ahead of our practical abilities. There is no kind way to kill. There are no shelters for unwanted blister beetles. In attempting to be humane in the garden, about the best we can do is to focus on good soil and try to limit our attacks on other life forms to the bare minimum. Certainly the small organic grower is in the best position to garden with humane ideals; I fear that as organic growing becomes big business, larger growers will necessarily pay

diminishing attention to detail and rely more upon botanical insecticides, manure-based fertilizers, and exploitation of "beneficial" insects.

I would like to see American gardeners adopt the Japanese custom of celebrating the Feast of Dead Insects. On this day in the fall we would show our regret for all the insects we killed in the garden that year, but at the same time we would use the day to clean our hoes and sharpen our spades, preparing for next year's garden. ♦

—Jean Blackwood



# NEWS SHORTS

Edited By Merritt Clifton

**Bison shooting in Montana**, just north of Yellowstone, began ahead of schedule this winter, Yellowstone Bison Watch reported, as unusually heavy snow drove some bison out of the park, into private property and gunfire, as early as the first week in November.

**Authorities are trying to identify** the source of human remains found in grizzly bear scat near Glacier Natl. Park in Montana. No other human remains have turned up in the vicinity, nor is anyone reported missing from nearby towns. The bear in question, who has been monitored by researchers for about two years, is believed to have found and scavenged the corpse of someone already dead.

**Yellowstone grizzly bear researchers** Steve and Marilyn French report that many of the bears who live above the tree line get 90 percent of their nutrition from eating army cutworm moths during the summer months. The couple found during four years of observation that the grizzlies never left the moth fields while the moths were active. The discovery could result in realignment of protected critical habitat for grizzlies, upsetting some mineral exploitation claims.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director John Turner** says that if wolves are confirmed to be living in or near Yellowstone already, captive wolves will probably not be introduced to the area. A wild pack is believed to have colonized the area during the prolonged debate over whether or not wolves should be reintroduced, about 70 years after they were extirpated to benefit cattle ranchers.

**A House/Senate appropriations conference committee** dominated by western representatives on Oct. 30 killed efforts to raise the fee for grazing animals on federal land to market levels, from the present \$1.97 per animal unit month, and to prevent the sale of federal land claimed under the 1872 Mining Law for as little as \$2.50 an acre. The proposal to raise grazing fees, which had cleared the House, died when Rep. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) attached it to a Senate bill by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) that would have banned Natl. Endowment for the Arts funding of sexually explicit works.

**Overgrazing by about 800 cattle** in the adjacent state-managed Sauvie Island Wildlife Area has undercut a \$1 million effort to restore Sturgeon Lake, near Portland, Ore. The lake, which attracts 250,000 ducks, geese, cranes, and swans each winter, "is so polluted with cattle and waterfowl waste and sediment that it violates the Clean Water Act in summer months," according to the *Portland Oregonian*. Overgrazing has also wiped out whole species of shoreline plants. In addition, gunfire from hunters each fall and skeet shooters at a nearby range year-round sharply limits human use of adjoining Steelman Lake, which even attorney Roy Elicker of the pro-hunting Natl. Wildlife Federation calls "a cesspool" because of the cow manure.

**Cleveland vivisector Robert White** may portray himself as a local hero, but TV critic Mark Dawidziak of the Akron *Beacon-Journal* (published from Cleveland's biggest suburb) was unimpressed by a British documentary on White's life, *The Man Who Believed In Body Transplants*, recently aired by hometown stations. "The documentary cheats itself and us by raising disturbing questions, then veering away from the darker aspects of them," Dawidziak wrote, objecting that "No spokesperson from PETA or any animal rights group is given a chance to articulate the objections to White's views."

**A study of fossilized dinosaur dung** by a team led by Univ. of Calif. at Santa Barbara geologist Karen Chin indicates that dinosaur flatulence contributed to global warming from 144 million to 65 million years ago. The study backs the theory, now being researched by Washington State U., that methane from cattle flatulence helps cause global warming today.

**The federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities** program, with a budget of nearly \$500 million, is helping to fund youth fishing promotions by the Future Fisherman Foundation and the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Assn.

**Auditors are probing** a secret account into which Stanford Univ. lung transplant expert Dr. Norman Lewiston deposited privately raised research funds. Although the first \$30,000 in

expenditures from a total of \$87,000 the account received during 1990-1991 have proved legitimate, Lewiston was discovered to have three wives—each unaware of the others—at his death on Aug. 6, 1991, and an audit of Stanford misuse of federal research funds meanwhile turned up \$180 million worth of improper billing during the past decade.

**Apple Computers has appointed** Koko, the gorilla who speaks American Sign Language, to the advisory board of a program studying the nature of intelligence, and has built a special version of the Macintosh to give her an audible voice.

**No more than five percent of Americans** have ever identified the environment as the leading problem facing the U.S. in a series of 21 *New York Times*/CBS telephone polls, taken nationwide at regular intervals since Jan. 1985. Animal issues have never been identified as a leading problem by enough people to make the charts. However, such issues as abortion, AIDS, crime, Central American policy, racism, arms control, and Social Security also haven't ever scored above five percent, even though the latter, along with animal issues, rates among the most frequently mentioned three subjects of letters to Congress. Child abuse and women's issues haven't ever scored above two percent in the *Times*/CBS polls.

**On Oct. 13, three days** after Indianapolis-area farmer William Foy adopted a stray cocker spaniel, the dog led Foy's 10-year-old son to him in time for the son to prevent him from being crushed in the aftermath of an almost fatal tractor accident.

**Democratic presidential candidate** Bill Clinton, governor of Arkansas, "counts among his loyal campaign contributors the state's worst polluters—chemical companies, oil and gas companies, and the poultry and hog industry," according to national syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. Under Clinton, Arkansas ranks 48th among the 50 states on the Green Index devised by the Institute for Southern Studies.

**"If the troubles from environmentalists** cannot be solved in

the jury box or at the ballot box, perhaps the cartridge box should be used," former Interior Secretary James Watt recently told a cattle ranchers' banquet, according to *Outside* magazine.

**Jennifer Collins of Louisiana Smoked Products** says she has no preference among the firm's varieties of alligator meat sausage because, "I'm a vegetarian."

**Twelve years after the 1980 eruption** of Mount Helens, Ore., about 20 percent of the ash-and-lava-covered slopes have regained plant growth, according to Oak Ridge Natl. Laboratory researcher Virginia Dale. However, Dale also found that non-native birdsfoot trefoil, which was seeded by the Soil Conservation Service of the USDA to prevent erosion, not only didn't stop erosion, but encouraged a proliferation of mice, who ate the bark off the first young conifer trees to sprout and killed 55 percent of them before mouse predators returned to the area.

**Over two years after George Bush** announced plans to have volunteers plant a billion trees a year, no trees have been planted, and the initial budget for the Natl. Tree Trust, recently given to Congress, calls for \$1.23 million to be spent on overhead, but only \$350,000 on grants to tree planting groups. Further, the U.S. Forest Service is slated to plant all but 30 million of the first billion trees.

**Police in Hastings, Neb.,** seek whoever dismembered Andy, a goose born without feet who learned to walk and appeared on the *Tonight* show after owner Gene Fleming outfitted him with baby shoes. The culprit also took Andy's companion goose, Polly.

**Fighting cock breeder Manuel Costa** has been named to head the Sacramento, Calif., chapter of Putting People First, which puts in perspective the group's claim to support animal welfare—just not animal rights. Cockfighting is opposed by every recognized animal welfare group, worldwide, and is illegal in 44 of the 50 states. (Meanwhile, though Putting People First claims to lead the opposition to animal rights, it didn't even rate a mention, among many groups

cited, when recent nominees to The ANIMALS' AGENDA board were asked to name the two organizations that pose the biggest threat to the movement.)

**The Dairy Council of Wisconsin** has withdrawn from the Natl. Dairy Council, claiming it has become ineffective in promoting milk due to cutbacks by the parent group, the financially troubled United Dairy Industry Association. There are reportedly more vacancies on the NDC staff now than there are filled positions.

**The Midland United Dairy Council** for the 35th year has provided two rats each to fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classrooms through northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri. One rat is fed milk, cheese, and other products from the four food groups. The other rat is fed candy and soft drinks until he suffers malnutrition, at which point he receives milk, cheese, etcetera until he recovers. No one points out that millions of wild rats in the same vicinity are perfectly healthy on a diet of whole grain pilfered from storage bins.

**FMC Corp. on Oct. 28 introduced** a new non-animal testing product called CompatiGel agarose, to be used in assessing the toxicity of cosmetics, detergents, and other household chemical items in place of the Draize rabbit eye irritation test. The new test is based on cell cultures.

**Nationally syndicated advice columnist** Abigail Van Buren called the annual Hegins, Pa., Labor Day pigeon shoot a "shameful sport" in her column of Oct. 28. The Pottsville *Republican*, the major newspaper serving the Hegin area, didn't publish that part of the column. Van Buren has previously spoken out against the shoot, which she asked former Pa. governor and former U.S. attorney general Dick Thornburgh to ban as far back as 1986.

**Effective Jan. 1,** California has outlawed theft of any animal, including obtaining animals for slaughter or vivisection via false representation. Previous laws covered only animals who could be assigned a value as property.

**Lincoln University and the Natl. Science Foundation** have begun a

Saturday morning dissection lab for West Philadelphia seventh graders.

**The foods that disgust people**, says Univ. of Pennsylvania psychologist Paul Rozin, are more often animal than vegetable, and tend to be anything that reminds people that they too are animals with finite lifespans. The vegetable products most often considered disgusting, moreover, are those most resembling animal byproducts.

**After prolonged dickering**, entertainer Bob Hope on Nov. 8 sold 10,000 acres of land in the Santa Monica mountains of southern California to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, for a below-market price of \$29.5 million. Upon approval by Ventura County, the deal will create a major state park—and preserve one of the largest urban wildlife habitats in the U.S.

**Thirty mule deer**, trapped in Ardenwood Regional Park near Fremont, Calif., by surrounding development, have been moved to the Ohlone Wilderness Area about 20 miles away and fitted with radio collars so that biologists can track their survival.

**Hundreds of household animals** and wildlife including raccoons, opossums, skunks, foxes, rodents and even some deer were killed in the fire that swept the Oakland and Berkeley hills during the last days of October, where prolonged drought had left dense vegetation tinder-dry. Numerous suddenly homeless dogs and cats joined the feral colonies around Lake Temescal soon afterward. Some were reunited with anxious owners, while bulletin boards were covered with lost pet notices and hotlines were set up to try to identify and place as many animal survivors as could be captured. The fire was indirectly caused by state water policies that favor animal-based agriculture while restricting yard-watering. Among the few houses still standing in the fire zone were several whose owners said they had used significant portions of their water rations to keep shrubbery green.

**A 23-year study of warblers** by Richard Holmes of Dartmouth and Thomas Sherry of Tulane indicates that suburban sprawl in the U.S. is harming

# NEWS SHORTS



the birds' habitat much more than destruction of rainforest in Central America and Jamaica, where they spend their winters. Suburbs not only encroach upon warbler feeding areas, but also attract predators including cats, raccoons, chipmunks, skunks, and bluejays, as well as cowbirds, who place their eggs in the warblers' nests. The cowbird chicks then outcompete the warbler chicks for food.

**The Missouri bluebird** population has increased sevenfold since the state Dept. of Conservation began encouraging people to build nesting boxes. Bluebird numbers had crashed due to habitat loss in the late 1970s.

**As debate continued over whether or not** Massachusetts wildlife officers should have killed a moose who wandered into Natick, Maine wardens tried to tranquilize a bull moose who approached I-295 near Portland. Hit in the chest by a tranquilizer dart, the moose swam 300 yards into Back Bay and was dragged back to shore by a police boat before keeling over. The moose was slated for release in distant woods.

**Philadelphia sets out poison** once a week to kill the abundant rats who purportedly menace homeless people as they sleep in litter-strewn John F. Kennedy Plaza. "We're the ones in the wrong place, not the rats," objected homeless Vietnam veteran Jesse Dumas recently, to *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter Ginny Wiegand. "We're the rats of the human race."

**Rats, mice, gerbils, and gophers** see better in the ultraviolet spectrum, invisible to humans, than in any other, reports Univ. of Calif. at Santa Barbara researcher Gerald Jacobs. Why this should be is unclear, since the rodents are primarily nocturnal, and ultraviolet light is scarce at night. Ongoing studies by another U.C. Santa Barbara vision researcher, Steven Fisher, have drawn protests from Animal Emancipation for several years. A.E. also targeted one of Fisher's graduate assistants, Robert Fariss, with a letter campaign, after Fariss prevailed upon the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game to cancel a project in which A.E. and the Calif. Parks Dept. were collaborating to relocate 400 squirrels whose removal from the

campus had been ordered by the Calif. Health Dept.

**Newly appointed Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas** reportedly once complained about an "explosion of rights," citing "welfare rights, animal rights, and children's rights." However, when Sen. Edward Kennedy asked Thomas during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings which children's rights he objected to, Thomas replied, "Senator, I don't object to any rights."

**A five-year study of native grasses** by Univ. of Minnesota researchers David Tilman and David Wedin, recently published in *Nature*, significantly challenges prevailing notions that there is any "balance of nature," even in absence of external disruptions. According to Tilman and Wedin, the population of at least one of the grasses rose and fell during the study in a self-regulating non-pattern, whose effect was to prevent equilibrium from establishing itself among the many other plants and animals affected by grass growth.

**As a cost-cutting measure, California** is considering turning Jed Smith Redwoods State Park, Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park over to the Natl. Park Service. In addition, the state may close 50 more of its 300 parks.

**The U.S. Army 18th Airborne Corps** was grounded in mid-November when endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers were found living in the helicopter gunnery range at Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Clearer and stricter food labeling rules**, introduced by the Food and Drug Administration in mid-Nov., are expected to cut consumption of animal products by increasing awareness of cholesterol.

**Texas emu and ostrich ranchers** began tattooing the huge birds recently, after rustlers nabbed 28 emus valued at \$230,000 from a pasture.

**The Eastern Orthodox monks** of New Skete, N.Y., breed and sell German shepherds at \$800 apiece.

**A new strain of sweet potato whitefly**, discovered in 1986 and dubbed the poinsettia after the first plant it attacked, breeds twice as fast as better known

varieties, eats five times as much, has no known major predators, and is resistant to approved insecticides. It reportedly cost melon growers in southern Calif., Arizona, and Mexico \$85 million in lost income during 1991, putting 2,500 people out of work. Having caused the melon growers to plow under 95 percent of their crop, the poinsettia is now attacking winter vegetables, especially broccoli. Meanwhile, barely a year after California announced the extermination of the Mediterranean fruit fly, concluding a two-year campaign of intensive spraying, more Medflies turned up Oct. 7.

**Woolly adelgids, insects** native to Asia who reached the U.S. circa 1975, have devastated hemlocks from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

**New York City has 6,000 acres of urban forest**, including 40 acres of virgin old growth in the Botanical Garden.

**Scallop fishers seeded 314,000 scallops** in Long Island bays during mid-November, trying to restore the species, which hasn't been caught commercially since brown tides caused major dieoffs in 1985 and 1986. Worms and algae killed 90 percent of the estimated 60 million scallops who spawned in 1991.

**Students at Cal State Northridge** voted Oct. 30 against allowing a Carl's Jr. hamburger franchise to open on campus. The major issue, however, was not meat-eating, but rather Carl's Jr. founder Carl Karcher's support of anti-gay legislation and alleged insensitivity toward women and minorities.

**Lillian Woodside, 79**, of Buffalo, N.Y., was saved from a mauling by an 80-pound Akita on Oct. 30 by her 12-pound Yorkie, who drove the Akita back until two passersby could complete the rescue. Both Woodside and the Yorkie received multiple bites.

**The anti-animal rights group** Research!America and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics used high speed software during the recent three-day ASPET annual conference to generate 1,600 personalized letters (each on different letterhead) to members of

*Continued from previous page*

Congress and the Senate and president George Bush, supporting increased research funding and passage of anti-laboratory break-in legislation.

**The Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives** to Animal Testing reports having received 110 research grant applications for the 1992 grant year, up from 64 in 1991. The Center, founded in 1982, initially funded nine projects. It now funds 16 projects a year, in amounts of up to \$20,000 each. "In addition," says assistant director Joanne Zurlo, "the quality and diversity of the proposals is increasing. There are more viable proposals than support money can cover."

**The Youngstown Vindicator**, a local newspaper, recently summarized three days in the life of Doc, a nine-year-old elephant owned by Adam and Shirley Anhalt of Stoneboro, Pennsylvania. Friday, Nov. 1, Doc was trucked to Youngstown, Ohio, where he spent the noon hour on public display downtown alongside a calliope. Friday evening, he was ridden by children for two hours, to calliope music. Saturday morning, Doc was trucked to New Castle, Pa., to march in a parade. Saturday afternoon, he was trucked back to Youngstown to be ridden for another two hours in the evening, this time accompanied by disco music. Sunday afternoon, Doc was ridden for two more hours before being trucked home.

**Tacitly admitting** that laboratory use of frogs is a factor in the global decline of amphibian populations, researcher David Bernhart reported in the Sept. issue of *BioScience* that farm-raised African clawed frogs can be dissected just as well as wild-caught leopard frogs.

**The last male rhinoceros** at the

Audubon Zoo in New Orleans died recently at age 18. Captive rhinos can live to age 50. A year ago, the zoo had four rhinos, but one died in December 1990 of heart failure, and another died in June 1991 of an ailment later diagnosed as tuberculosis. All three rhinos died within a week of being anesthetized, two of them for reasons other than the direct cause of death.

**San Francisco Zoo** chief veterinarian Craig Machado has resigned, two years after a citizens' panel appointed by the city Board of supervisors recommended his firing upon learning that 597 of the approximately 1,000 animals the zoo had in 1985 had died in Machado's care by 1990. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that Machado is under investigation by the Calif. Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

**The General Accounting Office has reported** that the biggest study of U.S. eating habits ever undertaken, the \$7.6 million Nationwide Food Consumption Survey done for the USDA in 1987-1988 by Natl. Analysts Inc., was so poorly controlled that the data from it may be unreliable. The 1987-1988 survey, the sixth taken at approximate 10-year intervals since 1936, drew a 34 percent response rate, well short of the 61 percent response rate achieved by the previous such survey.

**The USDA predicts** that despite declining consumer demand for meat, total U.S. meat production in 1991 will be up three percent over 1990 when all figures are in, and 1992 production will be up another three percent. Some of the production increase is occurring because more calves are being raised to adulthood and fattened, instead of being slaughtered as veal—the only major sector of the meat industry in which producers are cutting back production in

response to lower sales.

**Zebra fish are rapidly replacing** fruit flies, worms, mice, and frogs in basic biological research, according to Natalie Angier of *The New York Times*, because their transparent bodies enable researchers to study life processes as they occur. The Univ. of Oregon now maintains a lab colony of 10,000 zebra fish.

**Llamas, says Newsweek**, "have become the guardian of choice for shepherds trying to fend off coyotes. The 500 or so llamas now standing guard in the Rockies are instinctively aggressive toward coyotes, and better yet, can kick their butts in one-on-one tussles. Many shepherds say llamas are more effective than guns, chemical repellents, electric fences, or dogs."

**That biomedical researchers** often seem indifferent to animal suffering should be no surprise to those familiar with the medical record on painful procedures done to children. A 1970 study revealed that half of all children between the ages of four and eight who underwent surgery received no post-operative pain relief—including children who had suffered amputations and open-heart operations. A 1987 study showed little change; even children who did get post-operative pain relief got inadequate doses. British researcher Dr. K.J.S. Anand finally turned things around with a study, published in *Lancet*, showing that pre-term infants were significantly more likely to survive surgery if they had been anesthetized instead of just immobilized, the predominant practice. Only then did the American Academy of Pediatrics and leading medical journals agree that operating on babies without anesthetic is unethical.

## ANIMAL NEWSLINE

### Something To Grouse About

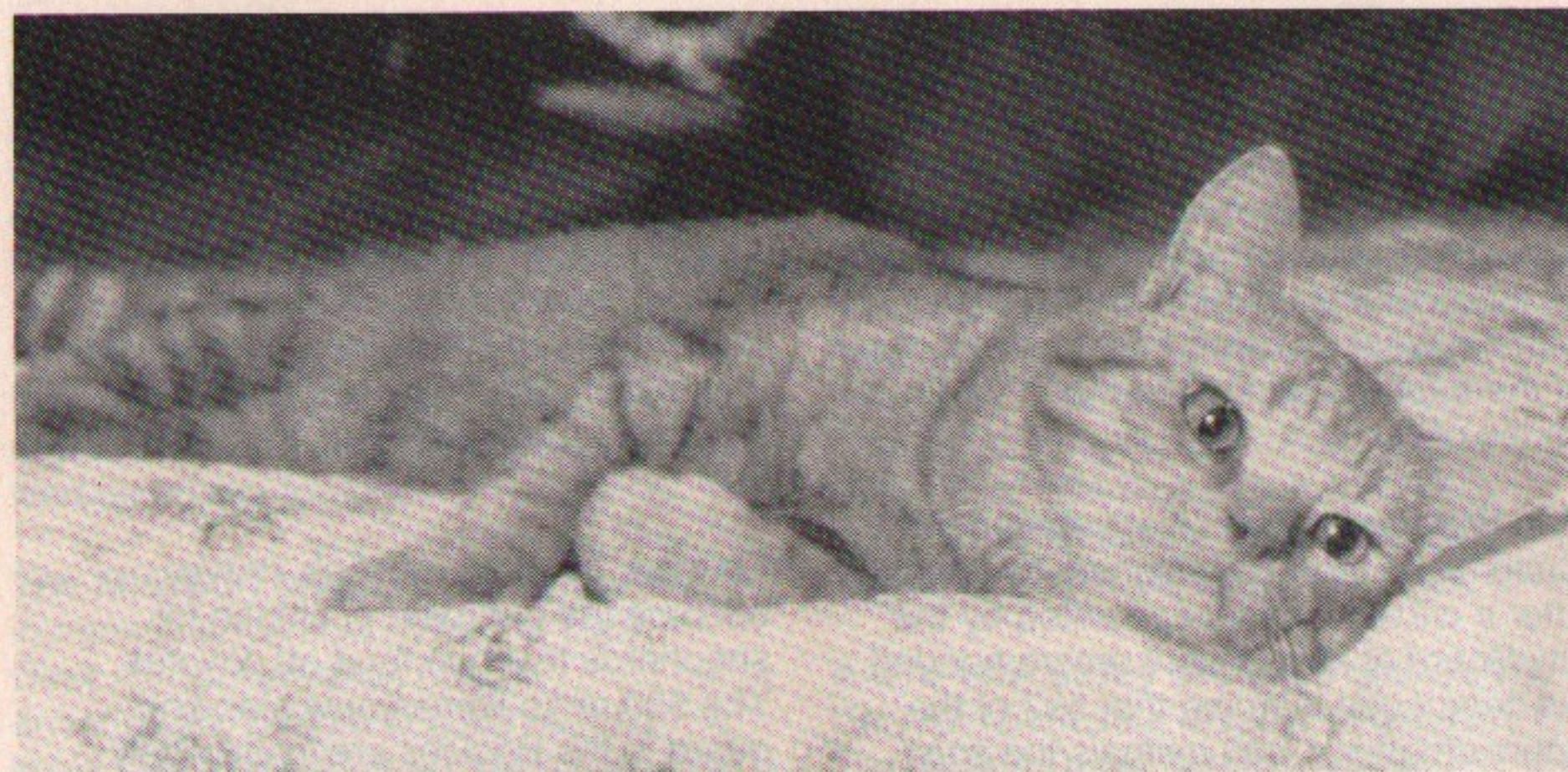
**R**obert Duncan, 57, of Aberdeen, Wash., had just lifted his coffee to his lips in his daughter Cindy Matthews' kitchen on the evening of

Nov. 1 when either Richard Duane Dailey, 41, or Richard Charles Tupper, 27, allegedly shot him dead. Arrested for manslaughter, the two told sheriff's

investigators they were hunting grouse. Scott Rodberg, 31, of Joice, Iowa, shot the horse out from under a hunting

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Big Red: cat killed by raccoon hunters

guide on the opening day of Colorado elk season, mistaking the horse for an elk from 90 feet away (the distance between baseball bases). Near Clarion, Pa., on Oct. 10, Glenn Gerwick Sr. killed fellow hunter Donald Shaffer, mistaking him for a turkey. Jean-Claude Crites, 33, of Montcerf, Quebec, was killed near Jane Lake when his brother (whom police didn't name) mistook him for a bear. In Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 22, David Joseph Isamu Hose, 19, twice shot his mother Takeko Hose, 47, as she pruned a fruit tree behind their home. The mother survived. The son claimed he thought she was a deer, and fired even though discharging a gun in Tarrytown is illegal at any time; at 6:45 p.m., it was well after dark. John Stephens, 31, of Nashville, Tenn., told sheriff's deputies he was shot in the back by his estranged wife's boyfriend, but finally admitted Oct. 16 that he shot himself in a hunting accident. In New London, Conn., Michael Wisniewski, 24, pleaded guilty Oct. 8 to manslaughter—nearly three years after he killed Jack Rogan, 26, on Nov. 25, 1988, mistaking him for a deer. Wisniewski was apprehended along with hunting buddy Richard Gorman as result of detective work not by police, but by the victim's parents. Gorman, who allegedly covered up the killing, faces trial for hindering prosecution, witness tampering, and threatening.

Unidentified hunters chased about 20 deer into a fenced field with pickup trucks on Oct. 12 near Riverside, Wash., and then slaughtered the deer with automatic weapons.

Neither so-called hunting sportsmanship nor strict hunting law

enforcement was particularly evident elsewhere, either.

Bowhunters James McCallum, Arnold Burlingame, James Pechie, and Dennis Divoll, all of Massachusetts, were fined a total of \$20,500 for killing at least 11 deer more than their quota during the Pennsylvania archery deer season. And 88 hunters were nabbed Sept. 7 for hunting doves over baited fields in Louisiana. However, police in Medina, Ohio, refused to disarm a convicted drug dealer and a convicted rapist who were seen walking down a city street with shotguns in their hands because they had valid hunting licenses—even though Ohio law specifies that persons "convicted of any felony of violence" shall not "knowingly acquire, have, carry, or use any firearm."

Near Evansville, Wisconsin, state and county authorities refused to prosecute a group of raccoon hunters whose dogs ripped apart Big Red, a cat belonging to ANIMALS' AGENDA reader Sally Boulware. However, the raccoon hunters allegedly also took pelts from traps they found nearby on the same expedition, and are reportedly being prosecuted for trespassing by the trapper's father-in-law, the landowner.

Sometimes police and wardens had reason to be timid: Oklahoma warden Jamie Cole was shot in the hand Sept. 7 while confronting three alleged jacklighters. Karl Martin, 42, William Marti, 25, and Harrison Carter, 52, were charged with the shooting on Sept. 27. But in other cases, law enforcement officials were the offenders. Quebec Police Force officer/game warden Jean-Guy Henry of Asbestos was

suspended without pay Oct. 12 for allegedly shooting a deer two weeks before the hunting season opened. Broken Bow, Okla., police officers Randy Collins and James Day were suspended without pay on Oct. 29, after being cited for jacklighting deer from a patrol car.

Lifetime Natl. Rifle Assn. member N.F. McNaughton meanwhile lobbied in Oklahoma City against a proposal to make shooting from inside a vehicle a felony. McNaughton objected that the bill, intended to curb drive-by gang shootings, would interfere with his habit of shooting 30-35 prairie dogs a day from his car. At Riverside High School, in Basin, Wyoming, principal Alan Dennis attacked the Fund for Animals for having an alleged "liberal eastern attitude" after the Fund brought national attention to an Oct. 16 class exercise in which students were encouraged to shotgun pigeons in a teacher's barn. Although Dennis said he had "no reason to assume that such an activity will be repeated," he refused to apologize for it.

But there were signs more and more Americans are fed up with the hunting cult. Continuing a 10-year decline, California deer license sales dropped from 250,000 in 1990 to 234,000 in 1991. The Great Trail, Ohio, council of the Boy Scouts of America voted Oct. 21 not to open Camp Manatoc to hunters, despite the promise of raising \$15,000 in access fees. Edmond, Okla., for the second year in a row refused to authorize a bowhunt at Arcadia Lake, recommended by the state Dept. of Wildlife Conservation. Not one resident favored the hunt at the Oct. 28 city council meeting. Vonore, Tenn., cancelled two weekend deer hunts because mayor Mark Kennedy feared hunters would attack antihunt protesters, who would then sue the town.

Some animals, too, seem to have had it. Rarely known to attack humans, coyotes jumped Vermont bowhunters Ernie Racette, 29, and Jason Amsden, 17, in separate incidents Oct. 5 and Oct. 11. Neither man was badly hurt. Oct. 16, a mule kicked Idaho governor Cecil Andrus in the face when Andrus tried to load a dead elk aboard her. "I guess she just didn't like the smell of all that blood," Andrus speculated.

—M.C.

## Furs For Felons



"Furs For Felons!", the New York Post bannered on Nov. 14, announcing a fur fashion show held for female Rikers Island (N.Y.) prison inmates by Daniel Antonovich, who now does business as Danny A., following the 1989 bankruptcy of Antonovich Inc.

"The majority of my customers are black and Hispanic," Antonovich told The Post. "Jails are...full of those." Antonovich claimed the fur show would help lead the inmates into careers in the garment trade, and into a housing program for female parolees he plans to start.

"I see this as a foundation to get them started again and help reduce the high level of recidivism," Antonovich said, failing to note that fur thefts are among the crimes most commonly associated with assault and murder in New York ghetto areas.

Other furriers were appalled that Antonovich would so blatantly acknowledge that the market has shifted from high fashion to the red light district. "It is horrible, offensive, disgusting, and not at all appropriate," The Post quoted Donna Karan designer Mallory Israel, while an anonymous Perry Ellis designer admitted, "This truly shows how pathetic and terrible the entire fur industry is."

And business was terrible. Evans Inc., reputedly controlling 10 percent of U.S. retail fur sales, announced losses of \$4.2 million for the first half of 1991. The only major customer for Canadian ranch mink was the Canadian Agricultural Products Board, which tried to support fur prices by spending \$13 million to buy 650,000 mink pelts, 81 percent of the nation's total production. The European Economic Community in early November finally adopted a long-pending resolution that will bar member nations from importing pelts of animals commonly caught in leghold traps by 1995, unless the exporting nations have made substantial progress in promoting "humane" trapping. (Species thus protected include beaver, otter, coyote, wolf, lynx, bobcat, sable, raccoon, muskrat, fisher, badger, martin, and ermine.)

F.A.O. Schwartz informed Friends of Animals on Oct. 23 that it had removed the last fur it had in stock from display. FoA began rotating antifur protests at numerous New York

locations on Oct. 26, building toward the annual Fur Free Friday demonstration at Columbus Circle on Nov. 29—the traditional start of major antifur activity. The British group Lynx joined the U.S. antifur push in November with billboards in New York and Los Angeles, showing a fox in an electric chair with the slogan, "One Way Your Fur Coat Is Made. The Others Are Equally Fashionable," with a toll-free number (1-800-777-Lynx) for further information. Justice For Animals targeted The Fur Vault with demos beginning on Nov. 3. Working On The Life Force took to the streets of Toronto with a Fur Free Float, for the second year in a row, starting Nov. 23. Furriers were so rattled that the Cleveland Fur Institute, via Stern Public Relations, reportedly asked the Cleveland Plain Dealer not to print letters attacking fur.

—M.C.

## KEY ANIMAL BILLS NEED SUPPORT

As the battle for renewal of the Endangered Species Act loomed, the 1992 Congressional session opened with four key wildlife protection bills introduced during the 1991 session still awaiting action.

S. Con. Res. 70, introduced by Terry Sanford (D-N.C.), calls upon the Bush administration to "continue to support the full protection of the African elephant through the unqualified listing of all populations of the African elephant on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species." Since 1989, CITES has barred international trade in elephant ivory, collapsing ivory prices and briefly reducing poaching that had extirpated African elephants from much of their former range. "But now," explained Christine Stevens of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation in a recent emergency alert, "Zimbabwe, South Africa, and (several other African nations)...want to weaken the ban by a 'split listing,' so they can sell their stockpiled ivory and 'cull' more elephants...The price of ivory is now rising in the southern African countries, and poaching is already increasing there in the belief that a 'split listing' can be adopted at the CITES meeting

scheduled for Kyoto, Japan, in March."

The Wild Bird Protection Act (H.R. 2540 and S. 1219) would ban the import of wild-caught birds for the pet trade, effective immediately. According to Stevens, "An estimated 80 percent of these birds die before being sold." (See "Wanted: Wildlife, Dead Or Alive," June 1990.) Backed by most animal protection groups, the Wild Bird Protection Act is opposed by a coalition including the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council and the World Wildlife Fund, who instead favor the Exotic Bird Conservation Act (H.R. 2541 and S. 1218). The latter would phase out the import of wild-caught birds over five years, during which time several species of parrots could be wiped out in the wild and many others pushed to the verge of extinction.

The Wildlife Refuge Reform Act (H.R. 330) would bar exploitive uses of wildlife refuges, including hunting. Although it has 68 co-sponsors, it faces heavy opposition from the gun lobby, and has no Senate companion bill. The closest correlative, Natl. Wildlife Refuge System Management and Policy Act of 1991, introduced by Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) would enable refuge managers

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to phase out over a five-year period such activities as grazing, oil and gas extraction, use of off-road vehicles and power boats, trapping, and military. However the Graham bill specifically allows hunting to continue, even though the GAO noted hunting was one of the most frequently practiced incompatible uses. The Graham bill is endorsed by the Natl. Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, the Wilderness Society, the Natl. Wildlife Refuge Assn., and the Sierra Club. While some members of

the Wildlife Refuge Reform Coalition oppose the Graham bill because of the authorization of hunting and fishing, American Humane Assn. lobbyist Adele Douglass suggests animal rights activists should, "Write to your Congress people and Senators and tell them you support the intent of the Graham bill because it is necessary to reform the refuge system, but ask them to amend the Graham bill with H.R. 330, which would also bar hunting from refuges."

In other ESA-related action, the Natl. Marine Fisheries Service on Nov. 14 added the Snake River sockeye salmon to the Endangered Species List, increasing the likelihood that water will be diverted from irrigation and power generating to help spawning runs in the Columbia River basin—and the likelihood that the agriculture and energy lobbies will go all out to weaken the ESA reauthorization bill.

—M.C.

## UAA Rebuffs ISAR Takeover Bid

Refusing a takeover bid from the International Society for Animal Rights, United Action for Animals is seeking a new executive director to lead campaigns on behalf of laboratory and companion animals, and according to board member Marilyn Mason, has resolved financial problems that had plagued the group since 1989.

"We are not in the red," Mason told The ANIMALS' AGENDA. "We had extended ourselves too far, too fast, in some areas," but a cash flow crunch was averted by moving to smaller quarters within the same building, and by laying off all salaried employees pending the hiring of the new director. (The move also led to the relocation of Legal Action for Animals, which had shared the UAA offices.)

Noted for keeping extensive archives on vivisection, UAA was leaderless for much of 1991, after the sudden death of research director Anne St. Laurent from pneumonia in April and the subsequent retirement, for health reasons, of president MacDonald White.

On August 26, ISAR told UAA by letter that it was prepared to, "Provide a home for UAA rent free at ISAR's headquarters in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania," if ISAR president Helen Jones could "assume the presidency of UAA." Through attorney Henry Mark Holzer, ISAR demanded that "UAA's current board will elect as directors Henry Mark Holzer and two other persons recommended by ISAR," after which, "UAA's current board and officers will resign immediately."

The ISAR letter concluded, "In the name of the laboratory animals...in the name of the animal rights movement, and in the name of what the late Eleanor Seiling [UAA founder] stood

for...if our offer is not accepted by Wednesday, September 4, 1991, ISAR will attempt to have the Attorney General of the State of New York put UAA in receivership." On September 6, UAA attorney William Thomashower responded that, "if ISAR or any other organization...wishes to work constructively with UAA to advance the interests of both, we are open to such suggestions, but proposals containing ultimatums and threats will be rejected." Thomashower also pointed out that ISAR has no legal standing to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against UAA, which in any event is not insolvent. "Such attempted coercion is itself grounds for rejection of your proposal," Thomashower said.

Mason said UAA had heard nothing further from ISAR. ISAR did not respond to a faxed request for comment. The ISAR end of the correspondence was anonymously leaked to The ANIMALS' AGENDA only two days after UAA announced the opening for an executive director.

—M.C.

## Hearings On Military Animal Abuse?

Long-awaited Congressional hearings on military-sponsored animal experiments were tentatively set for late January or early February. The hearings were requested more than a year ago by numerous Representatives, including Armed Services Committee subcommittee on research and development chair Ron

Dellums (D-Oakland, Calif.), after media exposes drew public attention to since-cancelled cat-shooting experiments at Louisiana State University and leg-breaking experiments on greyhounds at the Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco.

According to Michael Budkie of In Defense of Animals, "Recent investigations have revealed that these two shocking instances of abusive and useless experimentation are only the tip of the iceberg." Preparing for the hearings, IDA filed Freedom of Information Act requests with the Defense Department, seeking first a list of facilities doing animal research, and later, particulars of the experiments performed. But the list of 53 facilities that IDA received omitted five military facilities that were registered with the USDA (although the USDA does not inspect military research facilities, which are supposed to be self-policing under the Animal Welfare Act). Further, responses to some of the FOI research requests have been denied, or delayed for as long as 17 months.

Necropsy reports that IDA has obtained from military facilities indicate extensive mistreatment of primates. The reports from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, "indicate neglect, animal abuse, poor experimental techniques, and grotesquely inadequate medical practices," according to veterinarian Bernard Feldman, a professor of pathobiology at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. At least one primate at the Naval Biodynamics Laboratory died after a "chronic history of self-inflicted injuries." Another at NBL died of "electrolyte imbalance due to lack of water," some time after the water supply to her cage had been turned off. "It appears that this primate died

from negligence," commented veterinarian Bruce Max Feldmann.

Budkie also charges that, "Many primate deaths at the Armed Forces Radiobiological Research Institute resulting from infected surgical sites have raised questions regarding inadequate post-operative care," as have similar deaths at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences.

(Urge that the hearings proceed as scheduled c/o Rep. Ron Dellums, 2136 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515.)

—M.C.

## COURT CALENDAR

### Wildlife

◆ The Fund for Animals on Nov. 4 gave the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a 60-day warning of intent to sue, seeking enforcement of the Endangered Species Act on behalf of 600 species who meet requirements to be added to the 581 species already on the federal endangered species list, and on behalf of another 1,300 to 1,800 species who may qualify for listing when requisite studies are completed. "At current rates of listing," Fund national director Wayne Pacelle explained, "it will take from 38 to 48 years for the USFWS to list just those species now estimated to qualify." The suit is calculated to point out the weaknesses of the current Endangered Species Act as it comes up for renewal during the 1992 Congressional session, against heavy opposition from business interests who maintain it is too strong. Added Pacelle, "The USFWS should revamp its priorities and ask Congress for more support for listing species. The USFWS is presently spending \$192 million on its sport fishing restoration program—more than 60 times the amount spent on listing activities."

◆ In a promising precedent for the Fund case, the USFWS agreed Aug. 22 to add 159 California native plants to the ESL over the next four years, settling a similar suit filed by the Calif. Native Plant Society. The Calif. settlement followed a 1990 settlement whereby the USFWS agreed to put 186 Hawaiian plants on the

ESL by 1994.

◆ A series of lawsuits filed by retired oil transport and exploration lease broker Charles Hamel against Exxon Corp. and other defendants alleges that Exxon, Arco, and Chevron conspired from 1977 until early 1989 to cover up a major oil find near Point McIntyre, Alaska, to strengthen their case for drilling in the Arctic Natl. Wildlife Refuge. If oil were available from Point McIntyre, ANWR oil wouldn't be needed to keep the trans-Alaska pipeline full.

◆ The U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals ruled Nov. 14 that the Natl. Park Service has the authority to bar trapping from any park where trapping was not expressly authorized in the legislation that created the park. The verdict blocked an attempt by the Natl. Trappers Assn. and Michigan United Conservation Clubs to open two parks alongside Lake Michigan to trappers.

◆ The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on Oct. 23 sued the state of Hawaii on behalf of 12 local groups, alleging that geothermal energy development near the Wao Kele O Puna rainforest violates the state environmental policy act, because an impact statement has not been completed. (See "Losing The Green From Blue Hawaii," April 1990.)

◆ Hydro Quebec may not begin a \$1.5 billion diversion of the Eastmain River in the James Bay region of Quebec, Canadian federal court justice Paul Rouleau ruled Oct. 3, until a federal environmental assessment is done. The Eastmain diversion is part of the LaGrande dam complex, a portion of the James Bay I project begun in 1975, predecessor to the controversial \$12.6 billion James Bay II (Great Whale) dam project.

◆ Timmy the lowland gorilla was moved from the Cleveland Metropark Zoo to the Bronx Zoo on Nov. 1, one day after U.S. District Court judge Alice Batchelder denied a request for an injunction against the move filed by In Defense of Animals. IDA argued that Timmy's health would be endangered by separating him from his mate and close companion, Karibe Kate, who is infertile. Zoo officials hope Timmy will now mate with four females at the Bronx Zoo. Karibe Kate has been introduced to an infertile male brought from the Topeka Zoo.

◆ Acting on a petition from the Fund for Animals, Maricopa County, Ariz., Superior Court judge Robert Myers on

Nov. 19 indefinitely suspended a special elk hunt that was to have been held near Flagstaff, on grounds that the state Game and Fish Dept. had called the hunt without giving the required opportunity for public comment. The hunt actually began on Oct. 4, but was halted Oct. 5 by an injunction issued by fellow Maricopa County Superior Court judge Elizabeth Stover. Requested by ranchers who claim the elk have overgrazed the habitat, the hunt was opposed by the Arizona Wildlife Federation as well as the Fund—pitting ranchers and elk hunters against an alliance of hunter/conservationists and animal rights activists.

◆ Judge L.J. Hymel ruled Oct. 24 in Baton Rouge that Louisiana agriculture commissioner Bob Odom must release to the New Orleans Audubon Society information on whether applications of the pesticide azinphos-methyl to cane fields caused major fish kills last summer. The case was argued by the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, which has also sued Odom for not implementing stricter pesticide use regulations.

◆ David Meeks, of South Carolina, has been charged with illegally selling two endangered grizzly bears to the Texoma Hunting Wilderness in Oklahoma in Sept. 1988, via an auction in Macon, Missouri. Oklahoma and federal wildlife agents closed Texoma in late 1990. Texoma owner Charles Bartholomew pleaded no contest to cruelty charges in July 1991, paid a fine of \$6,000, and deeded the site over to the state. The Macon auction owners paid a fine of \$10,000 in September 1990.

◆ Billy Dale Inman and Curtis Collier Sayers, of Marble Falls, Tex., have been ordered to pay \$8,100 restitution for shooting an endangered whooping crane while on a fishing trip in April 1990. Why they took a shotgun to go fishing remains unclear. Inman was also fined \$15,000 and given 60 days in prison; Sayers was fined \$2,000 and jailed for 20 days, on weekends. Each must also perform 200 hours of community service, and will then be on probation.

◆ The American Civil Liberties Union has sued Vermont Fish and Wildlife Dept. commissioner Timothy Van Zandt and two wardens, one now retired, for allegedly framing Essex Junction trapper and chiropractor Michael Tveraas on poaching charges and then covering up



Continued from previous page  
the wrongdoing. Tveraas was accused of illegally trapping four fishers in 1988. The case was dropped and the wardens were reprimanded in Feb. 1990.

## Anti-Activism

◆ *The Washingtonian* magazine agreed October 16 to an out-of-court settlement of a libel suit brought by PETA in response to a February 1990 expose by freelance writer Katie McCabe, which alleged financial irregularities and tried to link the group to laboratory break-ins by the Animal Liberation Front. *The Washingtonian* acknowledged in a public apology "that some of the statements in the article are incorrect and others require clarification." The suit was one of three *The Washingtonian* settled during the fall, which together cost the magazine an estimated \$2.5 million in legal fees.

◆ Animal dealer James Joseph Hickey of Sharon, Oregon, has filed a \$5 million libel suit against Capital Cities/ABC Inc., alleging that the expose *Pet Bandits*, aired on 20/20, put him out of business. Hickey, whose firm and family have had repeated run-ins with the USDA, was fined \$10,000 in spring 1990 for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and lost his license to sell animals until April 16, 1992.

◆ Three trapper boys (pigeon shoot helpers) sprayed deer urine on 10 activists including Doris Gitman, head of the Pennsylvania Animal Protectors Assn., as the activists set up a protest against an Oct. 20 pigeon shoot at the Powderbourn Sportsman's Club near East Greenville, Pa. The trapper boys, ages 15, 16, and 17, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and harassment. Shoot promoter Richard Kolbe, who allegedly gave the trapper boys the deer urine and urged them to spray the activists, faces charges of criminal mischief. Gitman also said she intends to press a civil suit against Kolbe. The spraying came five days after Barry Knauer of Lititz, Pa., was convicted of disorderly conduct for calling Lynne Wagner of Mobilization for Animals, Pennsylvania, a "sick slut" during the Labor Day 1991 protest against the annual Hegins pigeon shoot.

◆ A pre-dawn arson attack, possibly with Molotov cocktails, burned animal rescuer Iris Lance out of her home in Little Ferry, N.J., on Nov. 9. The Bergen County Animal Shelter took in the 35 cats and five dogs who were left homeless; several other animals were

killed, and Lance also lost the address list of her nonprofit support group, Animals Be Cause. Considered an unwelcome animal collector by some of her neighbors, Lance agreed to stop taking in animals at her home after successfully appealing a borough summons in 1986, but continued to spend \$1,500 a month, she told local reporters, to feed homeless animals throughout the Little Ferry area.

◆ Police in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, have closed the file on a window-breaking at the home of a University of Alberta biochemistry professor on Aug. 29, 1990, which the university blamed on animal rights activists because of an anonymous telephone call. According to the police, the rock that broke the window was actually hurled by a man whose advances had been refused by a female activist; he then tried to implicate the activist, who had no involvement in the incident.

◆ Michigan activist Chris Anderlik on Oct. 30 sued hunter Larry Hayward, seeking "an amount in excess of \$10,000" in compensation, for abuse of process in charging her with hunter harassment. A jury acquitted Anderlik of that charge on July 19, 1991, but she was fined \$150 for illegal possession of fireworks, and was put on probation restricting her contact with hunters under terms stricter than those of the hunter harassment law.

## Crime

◆ Jerome Strauss, 47, his son Adam, 22, and Gary Evers, 52, all of suburban Long Island, N.Y., were arrested by the FBI on Nov. 7 for allegedly selling adulterated, mislabeled, vermin-and-insecticide-contaminated dog food, said to have made many dogs severely ill. The trio are accused of pulverizing stale dog biscuits and repackaging them under the label Professional's Choice for sale through the Strauss family's chain of 10 Bow Wow Meow stores. The Bow Wow Meow chain grossed \$250,000 a month, about \$100,000 of it from sale of the Professional's Choice food. Though there was no difference in the content, according to the FBI, some of the food bags were labeled as high-quality cereal for puppies, older dogs, and overweight dogs. Jerome Strauss' father and brother, owners of the Long Island Pet Cemetery, were indicted earlier in 1991 for allegedly improperly disposing of as many as 240,000 animals and defrauding owners who paid for various cremation and burial arrangements.

◆ Bowhunter and former Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Assn. of Canada publicist Colin McGregor, 30, was charged with murder on Nov. 14, minutes after using his crossbow to kill his estranged wife, Revenue Canada lawyer Patricia Allen, 31, as she left her office next door to the Parliament complex in downtown Ottawa.

◆ Korean-American animal part trader Haeng Gu Lee, 39, was stabbed to death Oct. 21 in his Brooklyn apartment, apparently by thieves who took an undetermined number of bear gallbladders from his refrigerator. Ed Feldman of the New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation explained to quizzical crime reporters that dried bear gallbladders "have an equal value with the same weight of narcotics" in Asia, where in powdered form they are considered a potent pain reliever.

◆ Former Pentecostal minister Glen Dale Summerford, 46, faces assault charges in Scottsboro, Alabama, for allegedly forcing his wife, Darlene, to stick her hand into a box of rattlesnakes. She was hospitalized in undisclosed condition after suffering two bites.

◆ Tracking use of dangerous reptiles to guard illegal drugs, Univ. of Colo. snake specialist David Chiszar has discovered about a dozen recent cases, involving pythons, rattlesnakes, cobras, gabon vipers, and one caiman (a relative of crocodiles). Six cobras and 11 rattlers of four different species were seized from a single crack house in Oxnard, Calif.

◆ The ACLU and Natl. Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People have sued the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. for allegedly misusing dogs to attack people who pose no threat to others. The suit parallels one filed by the same groups against the Los Angeles Police Dept. in June 1991.

◆ Middleton (Tennessee) Livestock Sale Co. owner James Leroy Bartlett, 55, was indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 21 for assault with a deadly weapon. Bartlett allegedly struck a USDA technician with a cattle whip after the technician ordered that a cow who tested positive for brucellosis be sent directly to slaughter.

## Humane Enforcement

◆ Ruth Koechling, 63, was to be arraigned Nov. 21 in Sharon, N.Y., on charges in connection with the deaths from starvation and neglect of as many as 400 dogs and cats. State police and animal shelter volunteers removed 132

live animals including 81 dogs and 51 cats from Koechling's Rolling Hills Kennel on Nov. 1, of whom 51 dogs and 47 cats were euthanized because of malnutrition, dehydration, advanced infectious diseases, injuries, and severe parasite infestation. The survivors were housed by the Schoharie Valley Animal Shelter in Howes Cave, whose resources were stretched to the limit. Shelter staff received at least four death threats from apparent supporters of Koechling, who like many other animal collectors was considered a virtual saint by people who noted her readiness to accept animals without questioning the quality of care she provided. One caller threatened to tie up shelter managers Leroy Slater and Gloria Stroub, then burn the building down. Koechling was previously arrested in Delaware County, N.Y., in 1975, when authorities found her sharing a barn with about 200 animals. Charges were dropped when she agreed to move out of the jurisdiction. In late 1976, she was arrested again in Rosebloom, N.Y., where she was discovered in possession of 200 malnourished and diseased dogs. All were euthanized. Koechling spent three days in jail, but charges were dropped when she promised to keep no more animals. But only four months later, in March 1977, Koechling was arrested in Clifton Park, N.Y., for failing to provide veterinary care to 31 dogs. Despite her history, Koechling was released after arrest on the current charges on just \$1,000 bail. The Rolling Hills Kennel raid-and-rescue came five months to the day after many of the same authorities and volunteers conducted a similar raid-and-rescue at the Esthersville Animal Shelter, in Greenfield, N.Y., run by 76-year-old Edna Ann Senecal. Senecal, who faces

100 counts of failure to provide sustenance to animals, had reportedly acquired at least 40 more animals by mid-November.

◆ Nine gay rights activists were arrested Oct. 22 in Los Angeles on suspicion of felony cruelty to animals for allegedly striking police horses with protest signs, after mounted police pushed a crowd of about 200 gay demonstrators back from the Century Plaza Hotel, where Gov. Pete Wilson was attending a fundraiser. Wilson recently vetoed a bill barring job discrimination against homosexuals.

◆ Police in Medina, Ohio, told *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* on Oct. 16 that they planned to stake out a dumpster at the Natl. Solvent Corp., where dead fighting cocks had been found half a dozen times in two months. As Donna Robb of Ohio Action for Animals put it, "We can only hope that the rooster-dumper doesn't read *The Plain Dealer*."

◆ Ricardo Tejada of Lawrence, Mass., one of 32 people arrested at a Sept. 1 cockfight in Londonderry, N.H., announced at his October arraignment that he had enlisted 55 people in his newly formed New Hampshire Game Fowl Assn., and would press to have cockfighting legalized in N.H., rather than Mass., because animal rights activists are stronger in the latter. Tejada and three others pleaded innocent; the other 28 pleaded guilty, and were fined amounts ranging from \$120 to \$240.

◆ Joplin, Mo., police officer Bill Goodwin pleaded innocent to animal neglect and was to be tried Nov. 20, after serving a 30-day suspension without pay for leaving a \$5,500 drug-sniffing dog unattended in his car for five hours in 87-degree heat on Oct. 18. The dog died of

heat exhaustion.

◆ Mary Valentine-Balch, of the Edmond Wolf Sanctuary in Edmond, Okla., has been ordered to cease violating the Animal Welfare Act by operating without an exhibitor's permit. In other recent USDA actions, Gustave White III and Betty White of the Collins Exotic Animal Orphanage in Collins, Miss., were fined \$10,000, suspended on condition they do not violate the AWA for one year, for operating without a license and failing to keep animals in sufficiently secure quarters. David and Judy Twomey of the Happytime Dog and Pony Circus, in Windsor, Calif., were fined \$4,000 and got a five-month license suspension for operating without a license, improper food storage, and improper record-keeping. Dog dealers Mary Jane Wood of Cincinnati, Iowa, and Letha Hamilton, of Goodman, Miss., drew 10-year license revocations for improperly caring for animals and multiple record-keeping failures. Kodak, Tenn., exotic cat exhibitor Kevin Antle was fined \$3,500 for animal care violations.

◆ Cynthia Biniewicz, a.k.a. Boot, of Beverly Hills, Calif., pleaded no contest Oct. 11 to animal cruelty, for leaving her Lhasa apso dog locked in her car on Sept. 24 while she shopped. The dog passed out, but was rescued by deputy sheriff Kristin Aggas. "You can't leave a pet or a small child inside a locked car without proper ventilation," deputy district attorney William Clark said of the high-profile case, "or there will be serious consequences. Everyone has to know this."

—M.C.

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Edited By Merritt Clifton

**Public torture of animals** at "blood fiestas" is sharply up in Spain, due to the advent of professional fiesta promoters, reports Vicki Moore of Fight Against Animal Cruelty in Europe. Few of the blood fiestas are traditional; many begun centuries ago had long been abandoned. Protest to the Minister of the Interior, Paseo de la Castellanas, #5, 28071, Madrid, Spain. For further info, write FAACE, 29 Shakespeare

St., Southport PR8 5AB, Merseyside, U.K.

"The *foie gras* eaters in southwest France have the lowest rate of death from cardiovascular disease in the country," Dr. Serge Renaud of the French Natl. Institute of Health and Medical Research concluded in mid-November after completing a 10-year

epidemiological study. The heart disease death rate among middle-aged southwestern Frenchmen is 80 per 100,000 per year, compared with 145 in all of France and 315 in the U.S.—but as Univ. of Calif. at San Francisco heart expert Dr. Dean Ornish countered, Renaud may have missed "things like positive social support systems or low stress

that could offset harmful dietary choices like pate or foie gras."

**Ozone depletion over Antarctica** has allowed ultraviolet radiation to reach much deeper into the ocean than previously suspected, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography executive director Susan Weiler told Congress on Nov. 14. Radiation levels as intense as any since

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## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Continued from previous page

the earth's formation have caused a six-to-12-percent loss of phytoplankton—the base of the oceanic food chain.

**Responding to protests** by Friends of Animals and the Minneapolis Animal Rights Coalition, Swissair and Northwest Airlines have cancelled contracts to fly beagles from the U.S. to Research and Consulting Co., of Basel, Switzerland, for use in terminal toxicity tests. However, hours after cancelling the third of six scheduled shipments of 28 beagles each, Northwest reportedly solicited support from pro-vivisection groups. Urge Northwest to stand firm against the shipments c/o 5101 Northwest Drive, St. Paul, MN 55111. The Swiss firm wants to get beagles from Hazleton Research Products, the U.S.-based world's largest breeder of dogs used in research, because new laws have restricted dog breeding in Switzerland and dog shipments from England.

**The New South Wales, Australia,** Court of Appeal ruled Nov. 1 that the State Forestry Commission could not permit logging in 560 hectares of the Chaelundi State Forest, a prime koala habitat, that had been slated for immediate cutting. The Forestry Commission is now doing an environmental impact study that will designate portions of Chaelundi for logging—promising that known koala habitats will be excluded. Koala habitat in general is threatened by urban sprawl, Sue Arnold of Australians for Animals reported in the Nov./Dec. FoA Action Line, noting that, "Disoriented koalas are regularly seen wandering into city streets and highways," while developers "sometimes

even have trees bulldozed with the animals in them," leaving the koalas who survive, "crying at night, searching unsuccessfully for their former treetop dwellings."

**Croatian rebels set up a firebase** in the zoo at Osijek, Yugoslavia, in early October. Incoming mortar fire blew a leg off the monkey keeper and killed some animals, but most of the menagerie were moved to safety in Hungary and two quieter Yugoslav districts.

**"When an African elephant** is killed by a poacher...public protests and the outpouring of money for action is enormous," observes Colombian geneticist Masaru Iwanaga. "But the public silence is deafening when a goat eats the last remaining wild potato, corn, or bean plant that may spell the difference of whether millions will be fed or perish in a famine."

**Half of all car crashes** in Sweden result from collisions with animals, according to the Swedish auto maker SAAB.

**About 100,000 animals a year** are abandoned in France, according to the Natl. Society for the Protection of Animals.

**The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago,** which took two beluga whales from Canadian waters in 1989, has applied to take four more. The Intl. Wildlife Coalition urges that protest be sent to Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister, House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada.

**As many as 2,000 animals,** including rare and endangered species, are sold each Sunday at the Duque de Caxias market in Rio de Janeiro. "Weary and badly treated animals who failed to attract the attention of

buyers," the newspaper O Globo added in a recent expose, are sold a day later at the Areia Branca market in Belford Roxo. Another 15 large animal markets and nearly 200 smaller ones also operate in Rio, whose residents illegally keep up to a million wild animals, mostly birds. The Animal Protection and Ecological Defense Assn. is threatening to show the illegal traffic to journalists who attend the upcoming Rio-92 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Understaffed police raid only one animal market a week, but still seized 1,080 birds and 72 other animals during the first six months of 1991. An estimated 130,000 wild animals are caught each month to supply the Rio-area traffic; only 13,000 survive long enough to be sold.

**Brazilian Secretary of the Environment** Jose Lutzenberger, who personally opposes sport hunting, has reportedly agreed in principle to permit regulated hunting in Amazon State, where governor Gilberto Mestrinho has declared his intention to let hunters and wildlife traffickers carry on at will.

**The Brazilian Hunting and Conservation Assn.** has been expelled from the Natl. Environmental Council for seeking objectives contrary to the purposes of the group.

**Pope John Paul II** blasted Brazil for rainforest destruction during a 10-day tour of the nation in October.

**Germany has given Brazil** \$200 million of the \$1.6 billion that president Fernando Collor de Mello has demanded from the Group of Seven industrialized nations as price of preserving the Amazon

rainforest, eight percent of which was destroyed in 1991. Japan, the U.S., Canada, France, Italy, and Britain have yet to ante up.

**Brazil on Nov. 17** created a forest reserve the size of Portugal for the 23,000 Yanomani native people, in Amazona and Roraima states, adjacent to a similar reserve in Venezuela. With 71 smaller native reserves created Nov. 3, 100,000 square miles of rainforest have now been protected.

**Unarmed patrols** by the 70-member Assn. for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna are the primary defense against wildlife traffickers in Costa Rica, which has only nine government wildlife agents. Juan Carlo Arguedas, 31, founded the group in 1985, out of disgust with the exploits of his father, a duck shooter and trophy hunter.

**Shirley McGreal of the Intl. Primate Protection League** on Oct. 21 asked Queen Sirikit of Thailand to use her influence to help curb the Thai trade in endangered species. Thailand has already been sanctioned by the U.S. and the Worldwide Fund for Nature for ongoing flagrant violations of CITES.

**Of the estimated 5,000 elephants in Thailand,** about 3,500 are captives. Rarely bred because breeding puts the females out of work as performers and draft animals for several years, the captive population will be extinct by 2030 at the present birth and death rates; the wild population may be wiped out even sooner, via poaching and habitat loss.

**Giofranco Amendola,** a member of the European Parliament committee on the

environment, public health, and consumer protection, on Oct. 10 asked the group to endorse a 20-point resolution calling for passage of "comprehensive national legislation on the protection of animals" by all members, increased humane education, sanctions to enforce CITES, and "the promotion of vegetarian and vegan food as a practical everyday contribution not only to animal welfare but also to combatting deforestation and pollution." Action is pending; address letters of support to the European Parliament Environment Committee, c/o 97/103 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

**The five chief executives** of Quorn Hunt, Prince Charles' foxhunting club, resigned in October after a clandestinely filmed video showed members digging a fox cub out of a hole to be torn apart by dogs.

**Hydro Quebec has hired** the public relations firm Burson-Marsteller to promote the James Bay II dam project—the same firm that promoted the fur trade from 1989 into early 1991; represented Union Carbide after the 1984 poison gas leak in Bhopal, India; and covered up for the Argentinian military junta during the "dirty war" that killed thousands of dissidents in the 1970s.

**Only 15 percent of North Sea cod**—whose natural lifespan is up to 20 years—go uncaught long enough to breed at age three, reports York University, U.K., biologist Cathy Rowell. Just five percent live to age four. Fishing pressure encourages early reproduction to the point that while half of all female cod became sexually mature at 75 centimeters long in 1893, half now become sexually mature at only 50 centimeters.

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

**Screwworms, a deadly parasite** of both livestock and wildlife, have been eradicated from North Africa by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, who distributed over a billion sterile males over infested areas of Libya from April through October. Screwworms were extirpated from the U.S. in 1982, and from Mexico in 1989.

**Feral cattle on Enderby Island,** a subantarctic possession of New Zealand, were to be exterminated to protect wildlife until scientists discovered they are the sole survivors of an early shorthorn breed, and among the only cattle who have never been exposed to antibiotics.

**The Aug. 12 eruption of the Hudson Volcano** in the Chilean Andes killed as many as a million sheep, mostly by covering water and grass with hot ashes.

**The Beijing Zoo restaurant** features bear, antelope, beaver, and squirrel meat.

**The World Society for the Protection of Animals** is rehabilitating four pacareñas, a rare Andean rodent, in Bogota, Colombia, for return to the wild. Only 24 others exist in captivity. ▼



**Canadian Fisheries Dept.** regional director Mike McMullen has barred staff scientist John Rudd from testifying at hearings on the James Bay II project about his 13 years of research that indicate rotting vegetation in hydroelectric reservoirs are a significant contributor to greenhouse gas buildup in the upper atmosphere, which causes global warming.

**The last male crested ibis** in Japan has been sent to China, where 30 of the birds survive, in hopes he will mate. The last female crested ibis in Japan is now 26, too old to breed.

**Preserving the global environment** will cost \$1,288 billion over the next decade, the United Nations Environment Program, World Conservation Union, and World Wide Fund for Nature reported on Oct. 22. The U.N. Population Fund warned the same day that the world fertility rate must be lowered from 3.8 births per woman to 3.3 for the human population to remain at a sustainable level.

**Having permitted giraffe and rhino** roasts, the South African government finally drew the line on Oct. 17 by refusing to authorize a whale roast.

**The Univ. of Wisconsin** is helping the Univ. of Kinshasa, in Zaire, to domesticate cane rats as a meat source.

**An estimated 25 percent** of all meat slaughtered in the Soviet Union spoils due to poor handling and storage before reaching consumers. Another 25 percent is declared spoiled and discarded, but is actually pilfered by butchers and truckers. The waste of animal lives may get worse this winter, as many collective farms held animals back from slaughter because of low official prices, hoping to get more later via the black market—but planners expect a feed shortage of 70 million tons.

**"Almost all laboratory animals produced in the USSR** are low quality animals because there are no standardized husbandry, breeding, or health records," according to Chilean-born Soviet biomedical researcher Hugo Caro. "Ninety-five percent of the animal facilities should be demolished because they cannot be remodeled to maintain basic animal conditions."

**On Oct. 4, Quebec hunting writer Real Hebert** quoted statistics showing that the 260,000 Quebecois hunters kill 2.2 million birds and 1.5 million snowshoe hares per year, among a total of 4.5 million victims (also including 20,000 deer, 12,000 moose, 9,100 caribou, and 3,250 bears, plus over 400,000 animals caught in traps). Two weeks later, Hebert called for an open season on coyotes, warning that otherwise, "our woods will be empty."

**Earth Harvest Co-op,** an Alberta health food store, has asked the province to rescind

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# Point / Counterpoint

## POINT

By Tom Regan and  
Gary Francione

### A Movement's Means Create Its Ends

Many animal advocates hold that there really is no difference between animal welfare and animal rights. Others claim that while there is a difference, advancing animal welfare is a necessary prerequisite to advancing animal rights. Given either assumption, many conscientious activists conclude that we must support welfarist measures in our march toward animal rights ends.

We believe these views are mistaken. Not only are the philosophies of animal rights and animal welfare separated by irreconcilable differences, and not only are the practical reforms grounded in animal welfare morally at odds with those sanctioned by the philosophy of animal rights, but also the enactment of animal welfare measures actually impedes the achievement of animal rights.

We emphasize at the outset that we do not intend to be critical of past activities of the movement or of the admirable efforts of individuals to end animal suffering. Rather, we are discussing the future direction of the movement as a matter of movement policy, and the campaigns chosen by the movement pursuant to that policy.

#### Fundamental differences

There are fundamental and profound differences between the philosophy of animal welfare and that of animal rights. Animal rights philosophy rests on the recognition of the moral inviolability of the individual, both human and nonhuman. Just as people of color do not exist as resources for whites, or women for men, so other animals do not exist as resources for human beings. The goal of the animal rights movement is nothing less than the total liberation of nonhuman animals from human tyranny.

No one who accepts the philosophy of animal rights would be satisfied with a continuation of our society's rapacious consumption of farm animals, for example, even if these animals were raised in an ecologically sustainable fashion, and were transported and slaughtered "humanely." Animal welfarists, by contrast, are committed to the pursuit of "gentle usage." They believe it morally permissible to use nonhumans for human benefit, but think humans should try to "minimize" suffering. Thus, whereas welfarists seek to reform current practices of animal exploitation, while retaining such exploitation in principle, rights advocates oppose all such exploitation in principle and seek to abolish all such exploitation in practice.

Recognition of the moral inviolability of individual animals not only helps shape the ends that the animal rights movement seeks, it should also help articulate the morally acceptable means that may be used. And this is important. Many animal rights people who disavow the philosophy of animal welfare believe they can consistently support reformist means to abolition ends. This view is mistaken, we believe, for moral, practical, and conceptual reasons.

#### Moral concerns

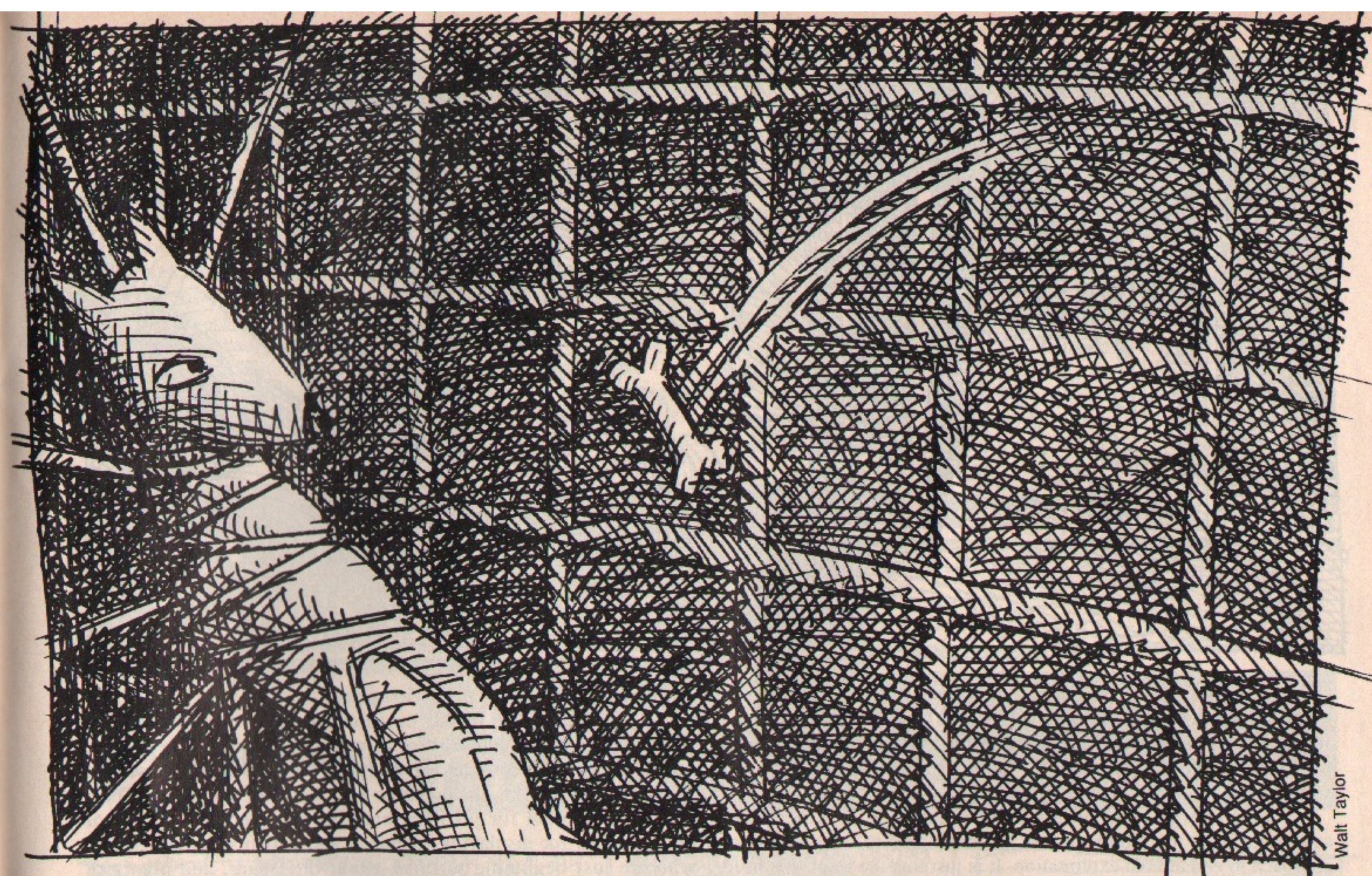
The view that animal welfare means can be used to achieve animal rights ends rests on unsupported, implausible speculation about the future. For example, why should we believe that making "animal model" research more "humane" will persuade people in the future to stop using nonhuman animals in research? Why not draw the opposite conclusion—namely, that the "humane" exploitation of nonhuman animals will lead to the indefinite perpetuation of such exploitation? By analogy, why think that permitting "gentler" rape or "more humane" slavery would lead to the absolute prohibition against rape and the total abolition of slavery? Clearly, when so much depends upon beliefs about the future, a minimal respect for rationality demands more than a minimal amount of empirical support. The thesis that reformist means will lead to abolitionist ends is entirely lacking in just such support.

More than troubling, a reformist response to animal oppression is morally inconsistent with the philosophy of animal rights. Advocates of this philosophy must reject the idea that the end justifies the means; thus, they must refuse to support the institutionalized exploitation of some nonhuman animals today, no matter how "humane," in the hope that other animals will benefit in the future. Since reformist measures necessarily authorize such exploitation (this is true by definition), consistent animal rights advocates cannot support them.

#### Practical concerns

The belief that making animal exploitation more "humane" through legislation now will help end it in the future is mistaken for a second reason: the real world doesn't work that way. For an example we need look no further than the federal Animal Welfare Act. Many of the supporters of the 1985 amendments to the AWA argued that they were simply one step in the struggle to end vivisection.

It is clear in hindsight that these expectations have remained miserably unfulfilled. Rather than hastening the demise of vivisection, the amendments fortified it through explicit Congressional recognition of its legitimacy, and gave vivisectors an ostensibly strong law to point to when questioned about abuse of animals in laboratories. For example, in a recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article, vivisectors, pointing to the AWA and its amendments, state that the public need not be concerned about the treatment of animals because "[t]here are stringent regulations, [which] carry the force of federal law, governing the care and use of animals in medical research." What the authors do not point out—and what the American public does not know—is that the AWA prohibits "unnecessary" animal suffering, but leaves to the exclusive



discretion of vivisectors the determination of what constitutes "necessity."

Moreover, as a result of the amendments, which require that each research facility have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, vivisectors now argue that the committees provide animals protection equivalent to that provided by human experimentation review committees. What the vivisectors do not mention, however, is that human experimentation requires the informed consent of the human subject—a crucial concept that cannot be applied in the context of animal experimentation—and that these committees are composed almost exclusively of other vivisectors who for the most part "rubber stamp" what the vivisector wants.

Small wonder, then, that many activists who worked for the 1985 amendments to the AWA now realize that the AWA serves as a most convenient tool in the biomedical industry's bag of public relations tricks.

We should add that animal rights advocates who support animal welfare means are playing into the hands of the biomedical establishment's current strategy of portraying this "temporary" acceptance of animal welfare as proof of the "dishonesty" of the animal rights movement. In a recently published article, Patrick Concannon of Cornell Veterinary School argues that animal rights advocates often support welfarist reforms, but "are not bound by any moral requirement to be truthful about their ultimate goals and intentions." The animal rights movement must be careful to ensure that these untruths do not succeed in creating an impression of the movement as dishonest in any sense.

#### Conceptual concerns

The belief that animal welfare reforms advance the cause of animal rights is also mistaken conceptually. As long as humans have rights and nonhumans do not, as is the case in the welfarist framework, then nonhumans will virtually always lose when their interests conflict with human interests.

Thus welfare reforms, by their very nature, can only serve to retard the pace at which animal rights goals are achieved.

In order to understand this point, we need to remind ourselves of the nature of rights. In the ordinary course, rights are not subject to violation simply because others will benefit from that violation. For example, under the U.S. Constitution, people enjoy a right to liberty that may not be violated without due process. This right, among others, prevents people from being used in biomedical experiments against their will—even when such use would produce substantial benefits for many other people. The whole purpose of a right is to act as a barrier of sorts between the rightholder and everyone else.

In our society at the present time, and indefinitely into the future under the welfarist framework, only people have rights enforceable by law. Animals are regarded as the property of humans, and rather than having rights, animals are almost always regarded as the object of the exercise of rights on the part of humans. When we confront a situation in which human and nonhuman interests conflict, we should attempt to balance those interests, but, under the animal welfare framework, we balance two very dissimilar interests: the interest of the nonhuman animal, who is regarded as property and the object of the exercise of human rights (usually property rights), against the interest of the human rightholder. And the animal is almost always bound to lose because by weighing the human right so heavily, a presumption in favor of exploitation is created.

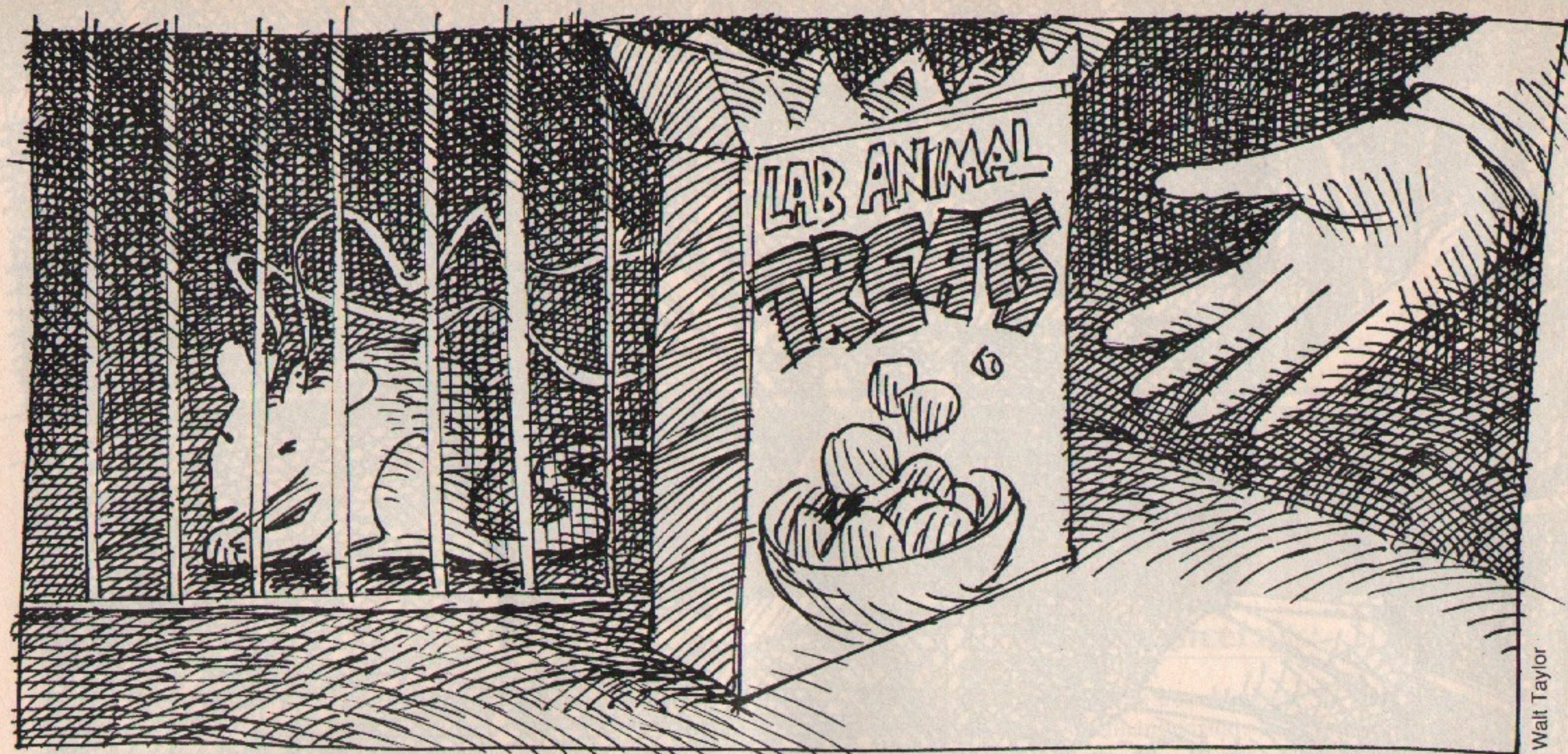
Thus the moral framework established by the animal welfare philosophy guarantees that nonhuman animals will almost always lose when their interests are balanced against the claims of human rights. This moral framework can only serve to impede animal rights.

#### Animal rights activism

Many animal advocates will agree with us up to this point, but will then make the familiar charge: "We cannot end animal

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exploitation overnight. We must take things one step at a time, and we must be content with the reform of the system. The abolitionist philosophy would have us do nothing, and we need to do something."

This charge rests on a misunderstanding. It is perfectly consistent with the philosophy of animal rights to take a gradual approach to end animal exploitation. It is just that the steps that need to be taken must themselves be abolitionist in nature.

What would such abolitionist steps be like? Here are only a few examples: an end to the Draize, LD50, and all other toxicity and irritancy tests; an end to the use of animals in product testing; an end to the use of animals in maternal deprivation, military, and drug addiction experiments; an end to commercial whaling; an end to the killing of elephants, rhinos, and other "big game"; and an end to the commerce in fur.

As far as the billions of animals used for food are concerned, the abolitionist means is found in education. Those who advocate animal rights must seize the vegan initiative that contemporary society, for a variety of reasons, presents to them. Americans are, in unprecedented numbers, prepared to stop eating nonhuman animals and animal byproducts, and the advocates of animal rights should direct their time and effort to getting those ranks to swell through education and rational persuasion. A "No veal at any meal" campaign, not "Eat happy veal raised in larger social units," is the realistic abolitionist place to begin.

### Abolitionist philosophy divisive?

Some activists might object that the demand for abolitionist "purity" will "divide" the animal rights movement and thereby slow its progress. Some have even gone so far as to denigrate the philosophy, which we along with many thousands of grassroots activists espouse, as the "new fundamentalism." This is, in our view, an unfair, harmful perjury of a serious, well-developed philosophy, and represents the type of rhetorical excess activists have learned to expect from image-makers in the employ of the American Medical Association or the American Farm Bureau, but not from persons committed to working to advance the struggle for animal rights. These issues to one side, we believe that a clearer understanding of the two philosophies—animal rights and animal welfare—coupled with the determination to work for abolitionist means to abolitionist ends, does not divide people otherwise united by their commitment to animal rights; rather, it serves to clarify

whether any unity exists in the first place.

The acceptance of our position does not mean that animal advocates—whether adherents of animal rights or animal welfare, or others—must be at constant war with one another, or that those who advocate animal rights should strike a "holier than thou" pose. There is plenty of room for justified humility by everyone, plenty of opportunities for displaying tolerance and patience toward people who are just beginning to think about the issues, and plenty of occasions calling for cooperation among the partisans of conflicting philosophies, from educating the public about how badly other animals are treated, to joining forces on specific actions, such as the Hegins pigeon shoot, opposition to particularly egregious research, students rights in the classroom, and anti-fur campaigns. But it is our view that animal rights organizations should pursue animal rights campaigns, and not spend their human and economic resources on projects that seek to promote the welfare but do not vindicate the rights of nonhumans.

The purpose of our remarks is not intended in any way to disparage the efforts of people who perform acts of kindness toward animals. People can clearly help animals even though they do not share the rights perspective. We are talking here about the future direction of the animal rights movement, and although we value those individual acts of kindness that result in the amelioration of animal suffering, the movement simply cannot afford to formulate its philosophies, policies, strategies, and campaigns so that everyone who has any concern for animals will be able to agree on the principles informing and directing the movement. To do so would be to adopt views that are so broad as to be meaningless, and that would frustrate, rather than forward, the achievement of animal rights goals.

There will always be organizations espousing a moderate welfarist message, whose primary aim will be attracting those people who have a genuine concern for animals but who, for whatever reason, do not accept the rights position. Those organizations serve a valuable role in providing a niche for such people, who often evolve to accept a rights approach. Those groups, however, are not animal rights organizations, and indeed they often quite explicitly disavow the rights position. Over the past several years, some groups that once advocated animal rights appear to have backed away from that position, claiming that they must have a position that will be comfortable for everyone who wants to help animals. But no organization can be all things to all people; indeed, advocating an approach that everyone can live with is substantially certain to result in a position that will appeal to the lowest common denominator, and that will ensure that animal rights will remain an unattainable ideal.

### The larger social context

The philosophy of animal rights views the systematic exploitation of animals as a symptom of a society that tolerates the systematic exploitation of "the other," including those human "others" who lack the economic and other means to resist oppression. Thus, the philosophy of animal rights necessarily calls for human, not only animal, liberation; by contrast, the philosophy of animal welfare neither addresses nor advocates why and how justice for humans is to be achieved.

The philosophy of animal rights is an inclusive philosophy. Rights for nonhumans only make sense if we accept the total inclusion of our human sisters and brothers as full and equal members of the extended human family, without regard to race, sex, economic status, religious persuasion, disability, or sexual

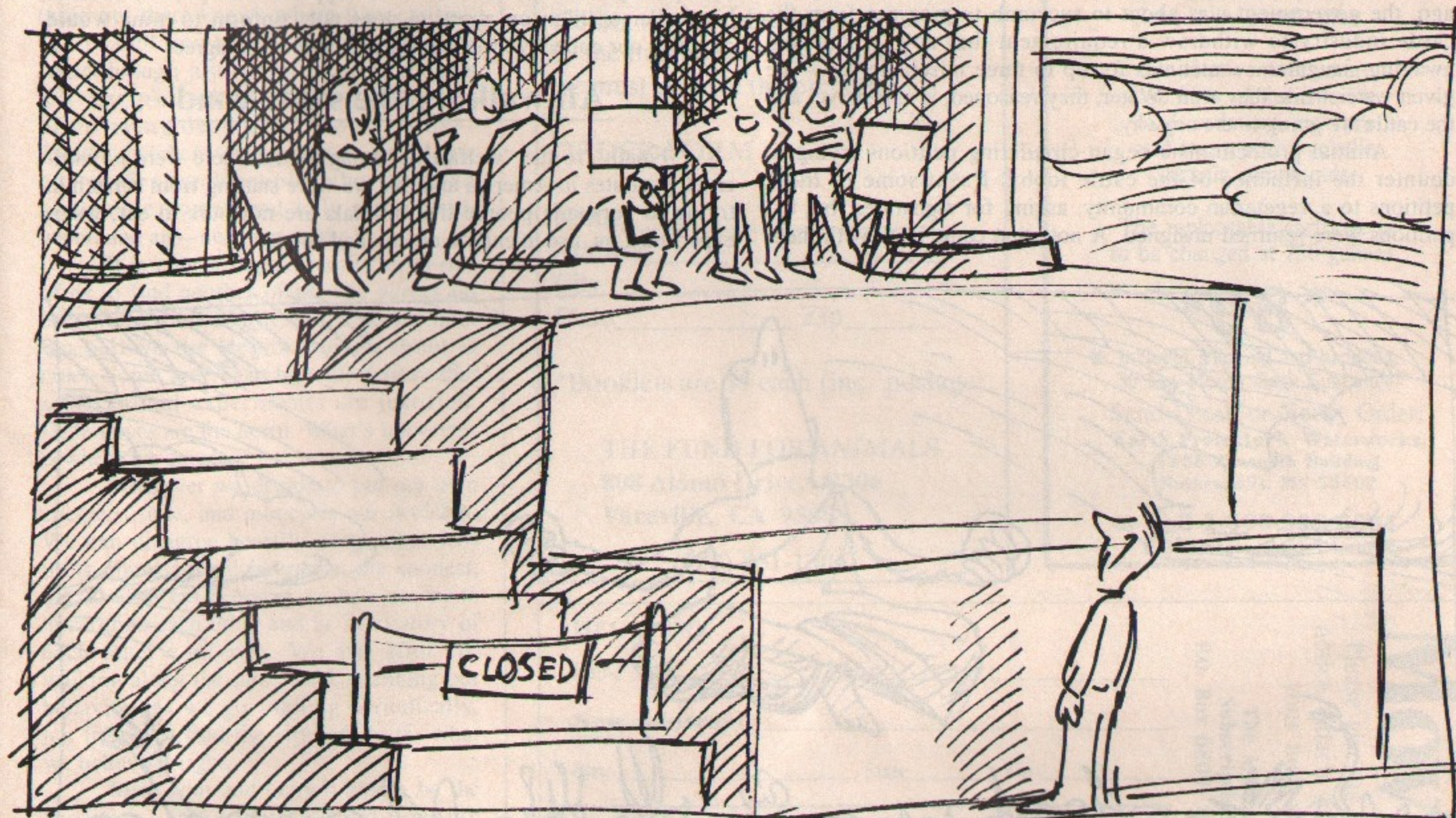
preference. Thus the philosophy of animal rights entails far reaching social change. Animal liberation is human liberation. The philosophy of animal rights illuminates why this is. But it is no less true that human liberation is animal liberation. To believe in and work for our oppressed and exploited brothers and sisters in fur and feather and fin commits animal rights activists to believing in and working for our oppressed brothers and sisters in human flesh. Perhaps our movement has not yet arrived at this degree of inclusion, but in our view, such inclusion is the goal to which our movement must aspire.

Tom Regan, professor of philosophy at North Carolina State University and author of *The Case for Animal Rights*, is president of the Culture and Animals Foundation, 3509 Eden Croft Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612. Gary Francione is professor of law at Rutgers University School of Law, and director of the Rutgers Animal Rights Law Clinic, 15 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07102.

## COUNTERPOINT

By Ingrid Newkirk

### Total Victory, Like Checkmate, Cannot Be Achieved in One Move



With only an idea of what the "Point" piece will say (it was not available for me to see), I doubt my commentary can fairly be called a "Counterpoint," because, like Tom and Gary, I hold dear the vision of a world in which other-than-human beings are respected to the fullest.

This is a most unrealistic view, of course, because no one has yet been able to reason, bully, or cajole human beings out of warmongering against one another, or even stealing from, cheating, and undercutting their own friends and relatives. (Take, for example, the pettiness of group rivalries, and the energy wasted arguing over

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which way is *the* best way, by every group of human beings, from model airplane enthusiasts to civil rights advocates.) However, while utopia may be unattainable, most forms of animal slavery will be abolished, I'm sure, if we push for them without embarrassment or hesitation and force ourselves to accept that total victory, like checkmate, cannot be achieved in one move.

Although I expect the "Point" piece to be a well-reasoned call for us to go beyond the admittedly ridiculous—albeit, in my opinion, sometimes necessary—task of trying to regulate atrocities, I have a concern: Recently, I heard audiences being told that "animal rightists" must take an all or nothing approach. Further, that we must cast out "animal welfarists" and others who happen not to endorse that speaker's own views on issues involving not only other-than-human beings but our own species. It was a very destructive call.

My appeal here, therefore, is for us always to try, at least, to be constructive in our criticisms; welcoming to all new arrivals; and tolerant of people who are trying, in their own diverse ways, to help animals, even if we don't agree with them.

I will go to bat for "animal welfarists" (many of whom I respect enormously and consider my dearest professional friends); argue very briefly that there are pitfalls in attempting to reduce the membership of the animal rights movement to "purists," whatever each of us imagines that to mean; and give an example of why I believe that each step in the right general direction can only bring us closer to our ultimate goal.

### Steps in the right direction

To take the last point first, here's the example: Some years ago, the government was about to succumb to pressure from the cattle industry to withdraw a requirement that cows and steers awaiting slaughter—sometimes for up to three miserable days—be given water while they wait. Water, they reasoned, is expensive, and the cattle are going to die anyway.

Animal protectionists began circulating petitions trying to counter the influence of the cattle lobby. I sent some of these petitions to a vegetarian community, asking for signatures, but the petitions were returned unsigned. A note that came back with them

read, "We are ethically opposed to the slaughter of animals for food, therefore we cannot get involved."

Luckily, the water requirement remained in place, but I cannot imagine how those vegetarians with clean hands, who declined to help, could explain their politics to the poor cows, sitting in the dust with parched throats. The issue was not to slaughter or not, it was to water or not. Sometimes philosophy can get in the way of helping animals suffer less during the many years before they achieve the rights we wish for them.

### Movement "purity"

Secondly, in regard to "purifying" our movement: only dead people are true purists, feeding the earth and living beings rather than taking from them. Most vegans drive cars, buy consumer goods, and live in buildings that have displaced hundreds to thousands of other-than-human beings. We know it is impossible to breathe without hurting or exploiting; we can simply try to keep improving and eliminating old habits we don't need.

At the Alliance conference last summer, I listened to two people who have each contributed enormously to people's understanding of animal rights. They addressed the audience within minutes of each other. One argued that, "to be consistent," people who are fighting for animal rights must be "pro-choice." The other argued that, "to be consistent," we must fight for all life, even that of unborn babies. Each was sincere, vehement, and wholly committed to his/her position on abortion.

The animals, judging by what is going on in slaughterhouses and on mink farms, among other places, need the good works of both speakers and everyone in the audience. To ostracize one speaker (and perhaps half the audience who supports that speaker) because his or her opinion on abortion does not conform to mine would diminish our collective work in areas where we do agree.

### All walking the same road

Finally, re the "welfarists." Imagine that there were no anti-cruelty statutes in America and that we were starting from scratch in trying to persuade people that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, use in entertainment, and so on.

It is only within the last hundred years that the "animal welfarists" have worked to compel society to accept that cruelty to animals (beating lame horses who no longer had the strength to pull heavy carts, drowning crates of stray dogs in the rivers—that sort of thing) is more than wrong, it is illegal. (Incidentally, the public's perceived self-interest prohibited it from accepting the anti-vivisectionist movement, even though it emerged at the same time as the humane movement; thus the circa 1890 anti-vivisection societies became dormant for some decades.)

It is certainly thanks to the "welfarists"—many of whom have embraced animal rights, but some who still have bull roasts, breed purebred dogs, and do other things I wish they wouldn't—that we are now able to springboard into animal rights. It is also thanks to them that spaying and neutering, euthanasia (as opposed to drowning, bludgeoning, electrocution with jumper cables, death by inhalation of hot, filthy carbon monoxide) and humane education are no longer considered radical ideas. Frontline "welfarist" workers' jobs are lousy, thankless, and stressful enough as it is without animal rights purists jumping all over them. (Yes, euthanasia is a miserable solution, but if any euthanasia critic out there knows where they can put the 14,000 unwanted animals who will come through just one of my area shelters this year, please drop me a line. Those who offer living deaths and slow deaths—furriers, butchers, experimenters, guard dog companies, and people who think an acceptable home need only mean food, water, and air—need not apply.)

It is almost impossible for even one of us to find another of us who agrees on *everything* we hold true. Some people hunt but believe the Hegins pigeon shoot is cruel. Some are vegan but still believe that *some* animal experiments are justified. Differences are the norm. What's important is where we agree.

Wherever we decide to put our own energies, time, and money is our decision. We can disagree heartily as to what will bring about animal liberation the soonest, but all of us are guessing, so let's not try to undermine each other and be accusatory of each other's motives. We are, after all, walking along the same road, changing our behaviors as we go, stalling periodically, but trying to find the strength to do what we believe is right.

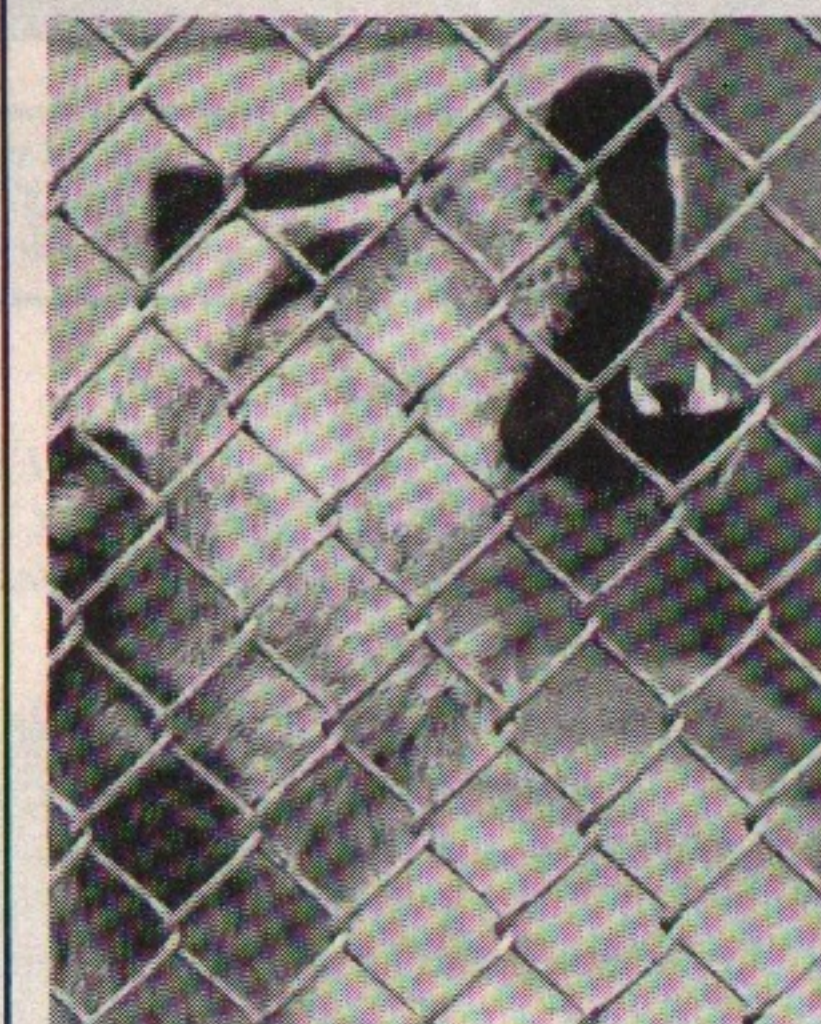
May Tom and Gary's article be the (positive) voice of the "loud-howling wolves [who] arouse the jades that drag the tragic melancholy night."

Ingrid Newkirk is cofounder and national director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, P. O. Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015; 301-770-7444.



Walt Taylor

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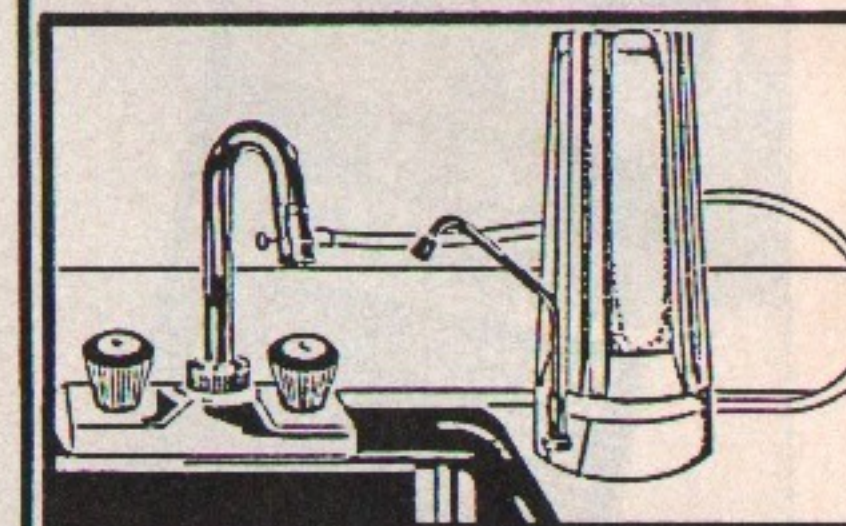
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# REVIEWS

## Videos

### *Diet For A New America*

Produced by Michael Wiese for KCET Video (4401 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027; 1-800-765-7890), 1991; 60 minutes, VHS, \$19.95.

A synopsis of John Robbins' 1989 best selling book by the same title, the video version of *Diet For A New America* updates Robbins' contentions about the benefits of a vegetarian diet by including the findings from T. Colin Campbell's 1991 report on diet and public health in China. Based upon the largest dietary survey ever undertaken, Campbell's work conclusively established that the less meat people eat, the healthier they are.

Apart from a sequence of an autopsy in which the medical examiner pulls an immense strand of cholesterol from the arteries of the deceased, the video adds little drama to Robbins' usual lecture. But it got great reviews from the California Cattlemen's Association, the California Dairy Council, and the California Beef Council, who lobbied unsuccessfully for over a year in hopes of dissuading the Los Angeles affiliate of the Public Broadcasting System, KCET, from producing it. Beef Council spokeswoman Mary Ryan described it as "marvelously produced... very New Age... environmental and spiritual." Although KCET included a nutritionist recommended by the Beef Council in a follow-up panel discussion, the meat

and dairy industries—who have rarely faced such public criticism—continued crying to the media about purportedly unfair treatment right up until the video aired on September 22.

The meat and dairy industries may indeed have something to fear. With 5,100 copies sold so far under the PBS Home Video label, *Diet For A New America* seems likely to become a bestseller in this genre as well as in print.

—M.C.

### *Wolf Teacher: A Modern Wolf Saga*

Produced by Pamela Brown and Gay Dillingham; distributed by Clem & Jethro Lecture Service (Box 5817, Santa Fe, NM 87502; 505-983-8602), 1991; 28 minutes, VHS, \$25.00 postpaid.

Disappointing reproduction quality mars an entertaining and informative look at both wolves and the Wolf Project, which has been introducing children to wolves and promoting the restoration of wolves to the wild for nearly 25 years. *Wolf Teacher* could be used either as an introduction to Wolf Project classroom visits, or as a stand-in at schools the Wolf Project isn't able to visit. Proceeds from video sales will go into further wolf education efforts.

—M.C.

## Musings From The Ivory Tower

### *A Morally Deep World: An Essay of Moral Significance and Environmental Ethics*

By Lawrence E. Johnson; Cambridge University Press (Pitt Bldg., Trumpington St., Cambridge CB2 1RP, U.K.; 40 West 20th Street, NY, NY 10011), 1991; 301 pages, hardcover, \$39.50.

Man is not the measure of all things, contrary to what we like to believe. Lawrence Johnson carefully points out, with the help of various schools of philosophy, that there are whole biosystems that live and die blithely unaware of a human's compass and square. And yet the individual members of these systems, from micro-

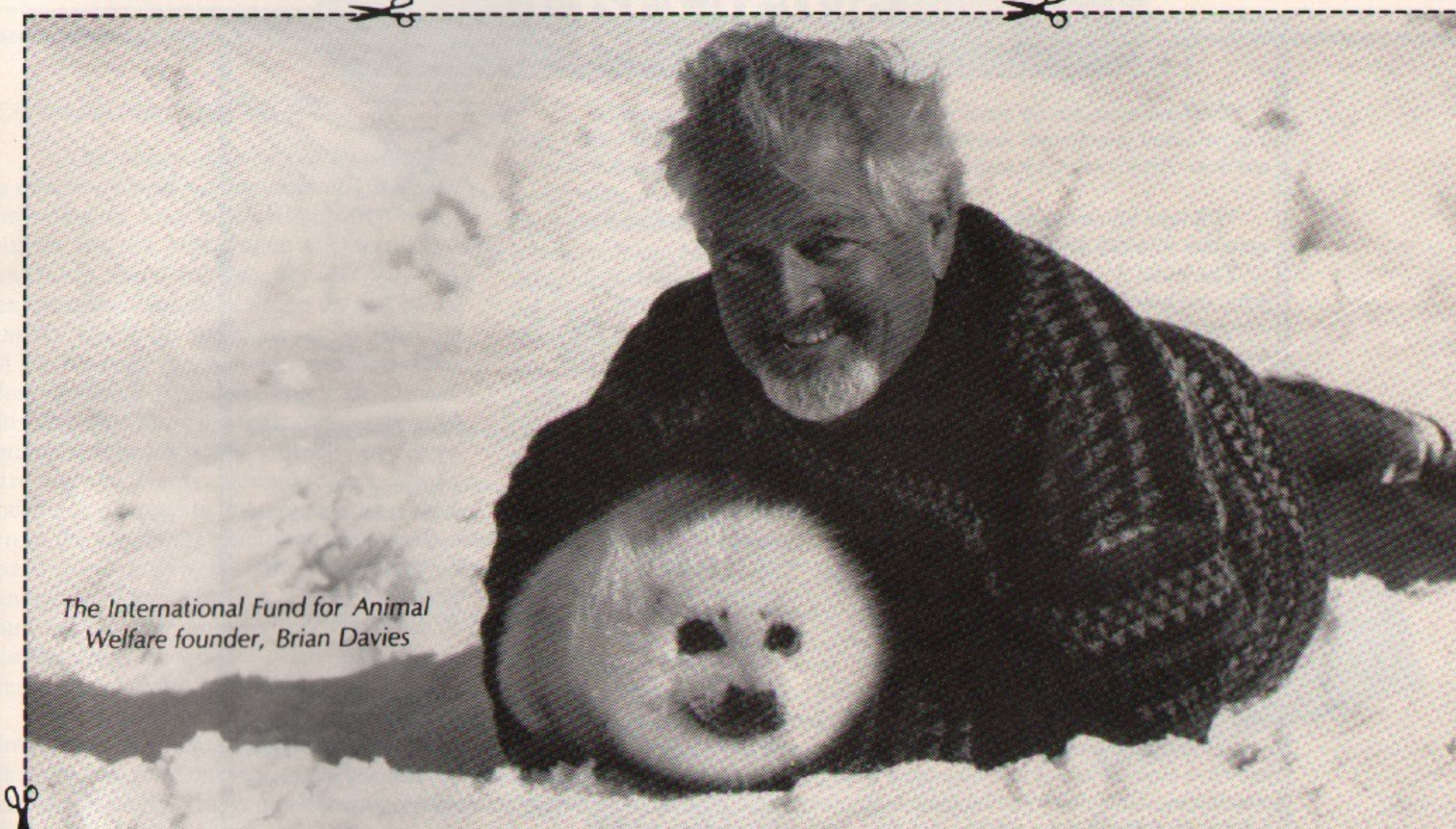
scopic bacteria to the largest predator, are not insignificant to themselves or to their environment.

Johnson takes up the greater part of *A Morally Deep World* to prove his point through lengthy philosophic arguments regarding humankind's moral attitude and obligations toward both sentient and non-sentient entities. He advises humans to become more sensitive to "the well-being of morally significant entities," and to curb the "indiscriminate indulgence of our natural tendencies," which are quite often disruptive to the ecosystem. Johnson contends that, once the majority of us learn to become "morally deep"—that is, extending our field of concern and respect to all systems and not just to humankind's own

interests—then we will be able to formulate more effective policies and laws regarding the protection of the environment.

Johnson writes with an obvious passion for philosophic equations, and with a breezy and self-confident attitude that his way of solving the problem is right and practicable. And perhaps in a more reasonable, gentler, and fairer world, it would be. He seems, however, to underestimate humankind's attitude about ownership. The majority of people own no part of the earth, often not even the ground they live on, and to them, the natural world is no more than a backdrop to their activities.

Continued on page 49



The International Fund for Animal Welfare founder, Brian Davies

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## The Myth of the SUPERCAT

You have a cat, but for some reason don't want him or her anymore. You've asked your friends and neighbors if they want the animal, but no one does. Here's what you may be thinking...

**"I'll take him somewhere he's likely to be seen and picked up by someone who can give him a home."**

**The truth:** A cat abandoned in an unfamiliar place is more likely to panic and hide from people, although he may wait close to where you dumped him, hoping you'll return, until hunger and thirst force him to begin wandering. He'll be afraid of strangers, and even if someone wanted to pick him up, they probably won't be able to catch him.

**"Cats know how to survive. I'll turn her loose, or drop her off in the woods or at a shopping center where there will be plenty of mice or other prey to hunt."**

**The truth:** An animal who has grown up dependent on human care will not survive for long without it. Like any other creature, cats need shelter, water, and food. Unless they were taught to hunt as kittens by their mothers, they may not know how to feed themselves—even if enough prey is available. (How many mice have you seen around lately?) Homeless cats are menaced by traffic and unkind people. Homeless cats who become injured or sick have no one to care for them. And even if they can hang on through the summer, what happens when winter comes? Have you ever seen a fearful, hungry, hopeless cat scurrying under bushes or behind buildings or dumpsters? It's not a happy sight.

**"I'll leave him at that barn down the road where I've seen other cats. He'll be all right there."**

**The truth:** This is almost as bad as leaving your pet outside to fend for himself. You cannot expect barn owners to feed unwanted cats, or to provide them with any medical attention. In fact, barn owners have been known to shoot or poison cats they don't want hanging around. Also, viruses can become rampant in barn cat populations, delivering a painful death to the cats. And if your cat is not already neutered (or spayed, if a female), he will add to the already enormous number of homeless animals.

### What You Should Do

If you cannot or will not keep your pet, either find a good permanent home—which may not be easy—or turn him or her into a humane animal shelter. If your animal is not adopted from the shelter, he or she may indeed be euthanized, but a painless death is better than a slow death by starvation, exposure, injury, or disease.

You are *not* "giving the animal a chance" by releasing him or her into an unfriendly environment.

Next time, think of the animal's future before getting a pet. Don't get a pet unless you can provide a permanent, comfortable home. Pets need and deserve an investment of time and money.

**Your cat depends on you. Please don't abandon your pet!**

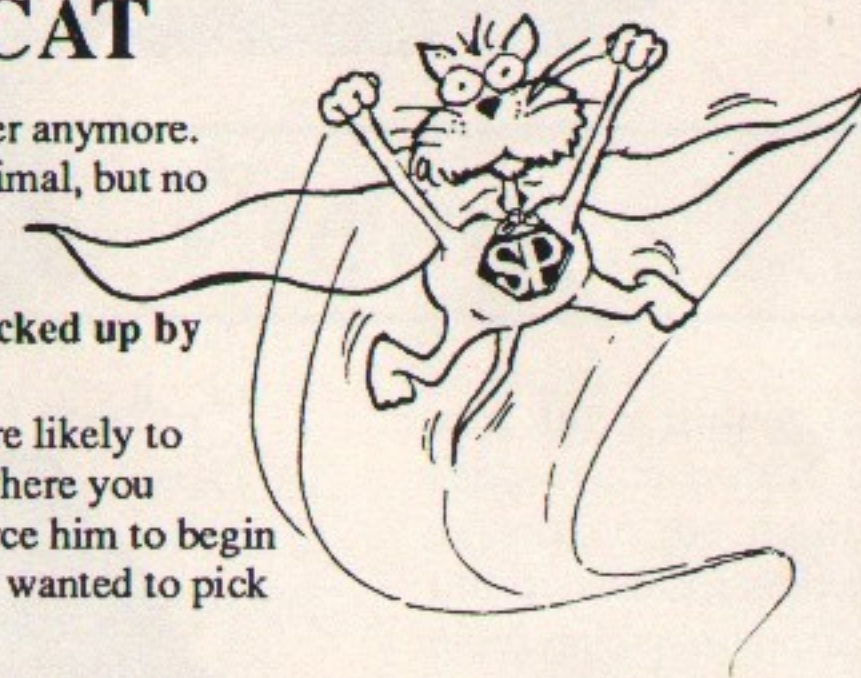
### Prevent the Births of More Unwanted Animals

All cats and dogs should be spayed or neutered at six months of age to prevent unwanted births. Millions of kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs are killed in shelters each year simply because there are no homes for them: each additional litter means the death of that many more of those already born and awaiting adoption in shelters. Even if you manage to place your pet's kittens or puppies, you've "used up" a home that might have taken in another needy animal. Only spaying and neutering can stop the tragic cycle of homelessness.

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## REVIEWS

Continued from page 46

The vacationer who sets up camp for a couple of weeks in summer at a lakeside community may have lived only in an urban milieu and doesn't understand anything about the country. His idea of enjoyment of nature is to zip up and down on the lake in his speedboat, or to drive his ATV through the woods, both activities fouling the air with noise and stink. He lets his dog run loose to hunt the small wild animals. Johnson would correctly say these are immoral acts, because they cause needless damage to the environment. But from the vacationer's point of view, he has paid good money to get some kind of enjoyment from these two precious weeks, and he therefore pursues the only kind of amusement he knows with relentless, fervent, and destructive zeal.

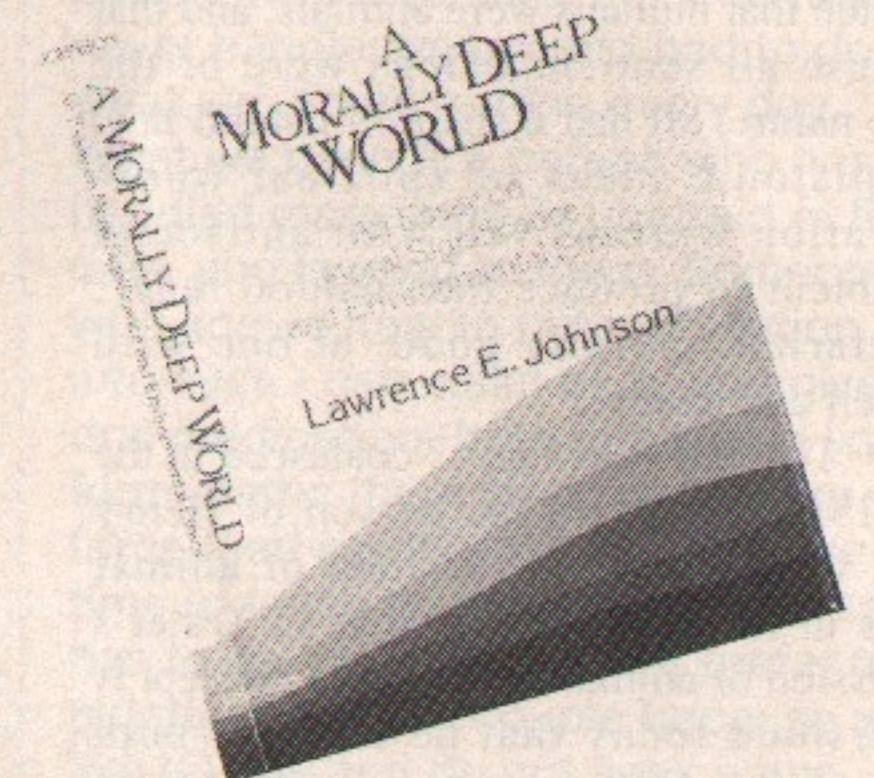
Where do real people like this fit into Johnson's equation? How to induce them to become "morally deep" when they are desperately grabbing at any kind of diversion from their usual high-pressure routine? The problems are subtler than Johnson realizes, because people are not an amorphous society of citizens to be educated, but individuals who generally

don't have the time or ability to ponder the abstractions of morality and nature.

Also, while the sensible legislation Johnson advocates is admirable in concept, in reality it can be and often is fraught with difficulties. Consider, for instance, this recent report: "The slaughter of elephants for their tusks has increased dramatically since the 1989 international ban on the ivory trade, the Zimbabwe government said yesterday...this country is losing about 100 elephants a year to poachers. Before the ban only about five elephants a year were being taken." (Montreal Gazette, 7/17/91) Legislating morality tends often to have a counterproductive effect (in this case by encouraging poachers to flock to Zimbabwe, one of the few nations where ivory is still bought and sold legally), and is therefore not a panacea.

Johnson has good intentions, but there is far too much of the ivory tower about *A Morally Deep World*. In a world where nature itself is largely an abstraction to the majority of people, abstract appeals are not going to set the collective consciousness afire.

—Pamela Kemp



## Basing Rights on Human Similarities

### Animals And Society: The Humanity of Animal Rights

By Keith Tester; Routledge (29 West 35th St., NY, NY 10001, 212-244-3336; 11 New Fetter Ln., London EC4P 4EE, U.K.), 1991; 218 pages, cloth \$59.95, paper \$15.95.

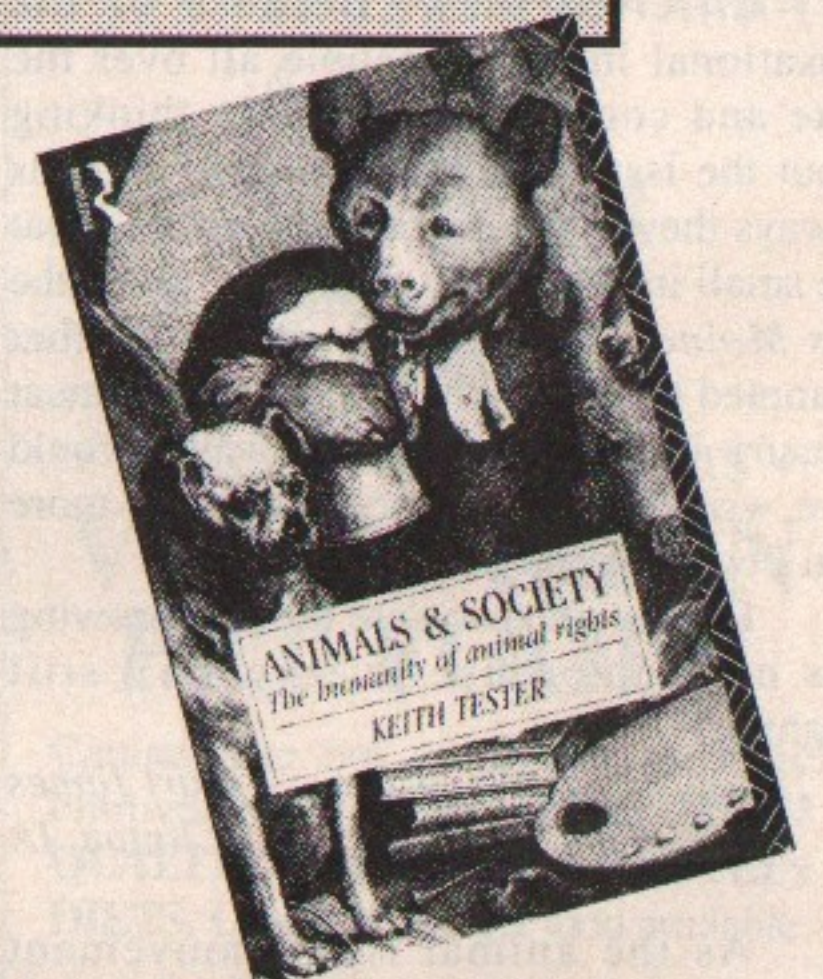
Recent attempts, such as those of Peter Singer and Tom Regan, to ground considerations of justice to animals in solid philosophical theory usually differentiate between the rights and considerations deserved by various classes of beings. As author Mary Midgley put it, the logic of animal rights "is hard to apply convincingly to locusts, hookworms, and spirochaetes." Even so, it would be a mistake to deny animal advocates' concerns for reptiles, fish, and even insects.

Keith Tester makes that mistake from the outset of his alternately illuminating and exasperating book, *Animals and Society*. For it is Tester's contention and theme that "animal rights is restricted to those animals who are most like us," because animal rights really talks about human society, not about animals. That

animal rights is more about humans than animals is an important point, but it is far from the whole truth.

*Animals and Society* often exhibits a stale reductionism, founding all talk of animal rights on the social and historical circumstances of its expounders. Because he avoids coming to grips with the logic of animal rights, Tester suggests that animal rights supporters possess a purely arbitrary doctrine, and that they can never transcend their social and class interests.

The rise of concern for animals in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries, discussed at length by Tester, did clearly owe much to concomitant worries about human society. Tester's apt quotations from early animal welfarists such as Richard ("Humanity Dick") Martin and Lord Erskine show how the sorts of cruelty and abuse they hoped to diminish were those associated primarily with the lower classes: e.g., bull and bear baiting, which were practiced by "the lowest and most wretched description of people." Fox hunting and bird shooting, upper class activities, were not addressed. Tester sees in this what he terms the "Demand for Difference," a



desire of the bourgeoisie to improve the morals and behavior of the lower classes, to make them more "human" and less "animal."

The Industrial Revolution gave rise to a wealthy urban population which had little to do with animals, and whose definition of humanity involved making a distinction between humans and animals. Whereas the historian Keith Thomas sees

Continued on next page



increasing compassion for animals as a manifestation of decreasing anthropocentrism in the human view of the world. Tester argues that it is the very power of humankind, our *difference* from animals, that caused this. Humans, he maintains, had become more anthropocentric than ever.

In contrast to the "Demand for Difference," the "Demand for Similitude" based itself on the Rousseauian "noble savage" and the Romantic longing to return to nature. The "Demand for Similitude" asserted that humans were animals, and that because all sentient beings were of the same nature, all had a share in natural law. Neoplatonic ideas of spiritual transmigration were woven with antisocial sentiment to produce the "natural man": vegetarian, morally good, at one with himself and nature.

The two "Demands" coalesced in the late 19th century in the person of Henry Salt, who described the idea of animal rights in its modern form. It is in Tester's discussion of animal rights as the concept is understood today that he delivers both

insight and wrongheaded judgement. An example of the former is his argument that there are many rewards to those who support animal rights. Tester believes the vegetarian will gain a "socially prestigious body" which is "highly desirable to the opposite sex"; his or her "perfection increases in proportion as the reliance on animals decreases." However exaggerated these particular claims, there is no denying the health advantages of vegetarianism.

But Tester is way off track when he cites minority views as representative of the animal rights movement: e.g., "People who uphold animal rights should have nothing whatsoever to do with animals." Most animal rights supporters share their homes and their lives with animals, and feel closely bonded to them. Tester also claims animal rights is "worshipped" as a "fetish."

However much there is to disagree with, *Animals and Society* provides an unusual critique of animal rights. The movement must inevitably confront and contend with Tester's ideas.

—Dennis Mangan

## Letters

Continued from page 8

I was appalled, but not surprised, at Vicky Eide's letter regarding the PETA pie-throwing. Many of us in Iowa have a very different view. Because of the sensational incident, people all over the state and country are not only thinking about the issues but talking about animals in ways they never dreamed of before. That one small incident may even have given the *Des Moines Register* the extra poke that prompted them to write a series on the meat industry in Iowa—not in the way I would have written it, of course, but it was more than I ever expected.

Eide seemed so sure the pie throwing was not humorous. So why am I still laughing?

—Carl James Clinton, IA

As the animal rights movement grows, it is vital that we continually evaluate the strategies and actions of any person or organization on our side. This examination, however, should not focus on subtle differences in ideology or priorities, but rather the overall effect on the longterm welfare of animals. Of particular importance are the actions of groups that represent to the public the majority of animal activists. Currently, that group is PETA. Deservingly, PETA has grown in numbers and resources because of its widespread

educational efforts and consistent philosophy of respect for all life, no matter how small. As PETA is in the limelight, it must live up to its responsibilities to the movement. Unfortunately, I believe PETA has crossed the line twice recently and has done great harm to the movement and the animals.

The newspaper ad following the Jeffrey Dahmer murders was in extremely poor taste. Yes, what happens in the slaughterhouse is abominable and yes, there are similarities to the human tragedy. But taking advantage of such a traumatic incident is not the way to further our cause. This kind of action only perpetuates the notion that animal rights activists are insensitive to people. As for the pie-throwing, I was truly shocked that PETA would commit such an act and, even worse, continue to consider it a victory. No matter what the atrocity that we are trying to halt, we cannot stoop to the level of the abusers. And regardless of our emotions, we must control our behavior at all costs. The animals deserve our thoughtful activism.

—Ellen M. Cullinan Louisville, KY

In our opinion, PETA's campaigns have always been, and continue to be, relentlessly uncompromising, increasingly innovative and creative, and eminently

effective. We applaud the dedicated people at PETA for their consistently outstanding work.

—William R. Bey and Linda Buyukmihci-Bey Barto, PA

### Women and Animals Have Similar Interests

One of the many disgusting disclosures emanating from the Clarence Thomas hearings was that Members of Congress are overwhelmingly male. Of 100 Senators, only two are women. This "good ol' boy" network and their non-actions concerning the rights of women and animals can be found polluting state and local legislative bodies as well. One area that stands out are those government agencies involved in wildlife management. Women in policy-making positions are an endangered species; those who may have found a way into top levels of wildlife management have generally adopted the "good ol' boy" philosophies themselves, seeing nothing wrong with hunting or trapping.

Women with a feminist consciousness must begin to enter the political arena if things are to change for women and animals. Prof. Gary Francione was correct when he stated at the '91 Alliance conference that it is time for the animal rights movement to get involved politically with other oppressed groups in America. The animals cannot afford for us not to.

—Lou Peluso Philadelphia, PA

### Non-Hunters' Rights

Thanks for running my commentary on non-hunters' rights in your September '91 issue. From all across the country, letters have come streaming in, and the article itself has been widely reproduced and distributed. Some letters are simple requests for more information, but many are heartwrenching chronicles of people being forced to endure abuse and trespass, and witness barbaric cruelty to wildlife. These writers desperately seek a remedy, and the number of such stories confirms my early suspicion that a powerful political lobby resides in this angry group of people who are tired of living under the gun and being made to witness the annual fall killing rites.

Now the job is to continue with our local activities and make constructive contact with all those who have brought us their stories and hopes. Keep your eye on the movement for non-hunters' rights.

—Dan Namowitz Non-hunters Rights Alliance P.O. Box 8182 Bangor, ME 04402

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## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Continued from page 39

a ban on selling soy cheese. All 10 Canadian provinces bar the sale of synthetic dairy products to protect the dairy industry from competition.

**Environment Canada has barred the export** of any bear parts except the skulls, skins, and attached claws of black bears. The move is intended to prevent grizzly and polar bear poaching.

**Amphibians are declining** in Costa Rica due to drought caused by the weather formation called El Nino, zoologist J. Alan Pounds reported recently—and that formation, in turn, is probably a product of excessive rainforest logging. The decline of amphibians in much of the U.S. may be related to the same phenomena.

**Flash floods caused by mostly illegal** rainforest logging killed over 2,000 people and countless animals in the Philippines on Nov. 6.

**The last of 749 oil fires** set in Kuwait by retreating Iraqis during last year's Persian Gulf War was put out on Nov. 7. John Walsh of WSPA warned, however, that loss of habitat and insect life would continue to harm migratory birds, whose flights through the region peak in January. The U.S. EPA reported enduring damage to wetlands, marine mammals, and the desert ecosystem, along with a paucity of reliable data from which to judge the extent of the problems.

**A previously unknown antivivisectionist group** called the Black Crows joined with the militant environmental group Keepers of the Rainbow to raid the Nizhegrodskaya Hospital research laboratory in Nizhni, Novgorod, on June 9, and struck again June 19 at

Moscow University, liberating animals each time. The raids were the first known actions of the kind in the Soviet Union.

**Israeli activists** Vered Loubin, 23, Rachel Pains, 30, and Dan Dan, 20, face up to seven years in prison apiece for smashing vivisection equipment valued at \$300,000 at Tel Aviv Univ. on the night of Sept. 12—the first such actions in Israel. Two other participants remained at large.

**Chinese bullfight promoters** pushed 12 water buffaloes and Brahma bulls into a Beijing arena on Oct. 26 to fight among themselves. Few of them did, but one bull was badly gored. Such bullfights have long been held in Guizhou province, to the south, but were new to the capital.

**South African running champion** Zola Budd, a vegetarian, keeps five dogs, three cats, eight turkeys, five geese, and 15 chickens—all as pets.

**"We at the National Front** respect life and animals," says French conservative politician Jean-Marie Le Pen. "I myself have a white rat whom I kiss every day on the mouth."

**Cruise ship anchors** are devastating coral reefs from the Caribbean to the South Pacific, marine ecologists report. Documented anchorings off Grand Cayman in 1985 and the Virgin Islands in 1988 smashed coral in areas half the size of a football field, ruining fish habitat. The harm will likely get worse: the number of cruise ships in the Caribbean rose from 35 in 1982 to 82 in 1987 and is expected to reach 160 by 1995. Reefs off the Galapagos Islands have been protected thus far, but Ecuador has

opened two of the islands to the international cruise traffic, after years of allowing visits from Galapagos-based cruise ships only. Yacht anchors, being smaller, do less harm, but yacht traffic off the Virgin Islands is now at 30,000 vessels a year, four times the 1975 pace, increasing the cumulative damage.

**"If the latter half of the 20th century** has been marked by human liberation movements, the final decade of the second millennium will be characterized by liberation movements among species, so that one day we can attain genuine equality among all living things," the Group of 100 declared in a Nov. 1 full-page ad in The New York Times. Co-signers represented 22 nations.

**Feral Euglandina snails** brought to the South Pacific island of Moorea in the mid-1960s to be farmed as a food source have almost eaten themselves out of habitat, researchers report. The Shedd Aquarium and the French Antienne Museum have begun trying to reintroduce native snails that the Euglandinas ate into local extinction.

**"The end may be near for the LD-50 test,"** the Oct. 10 issue of *Nature* reported. "The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is expected to adopt new guidelines for toxicity testing" on Nov. 24, 1991, that would replace the LD-50 test with one that would use only 10 rats, instead of 30 to 100.

**British biomedical testing and research** used 3.1 million animals in 1990. While estimates frequently assume rats and mice make up 80-plus-percent of animal research and testing subjects,

rats and mice made up only 51 percent of the British total (rats and mice are not counted in official U.S. statistics). Other subjects included 8,567 dogs; 3,456 cats; 3,630 primates; and 109,295 birds. Four thousand rabbits were subjected to the Draize test. No anesthetic was used in 69 percent of the procedures; 48 percent were medical or veterinary in nature.

**Cracking down on animal poisonings**, the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food investigated 798 suspected cases in 1990, finding pesticides responsible in about 200 cases—and illegally used in about 140 of them. Victims included 40 dogs, 36 birds of prey, 20 cats, 20 crows, and 12 foxes.

**Guyanese wildlife smuggler** Sadhu Jagdishwar Lall was apprehended in August at a private zoo he set up as a front in Grenada. About 215 endangered and rare birds were rescued from feces-filled cages and rehabilitated through the combined efforts of the Grenada SPCA, the Environmental Investigation Agency, the American Humane Assn., British Airways, and British West Indian Airlines. (The airlines flew food purchased by EIA and AHA to Grenada free of charge.) Lall, previously convicted of parrot smuggling in both Miami and New York, had apparently amused himself by pushing endangered macaws into cages with hungry hawks.

**The Freeman Cosmetic Corp.**, of Beverly Hills, Calif., increased sales to Mexico from 20,000 units in the fourth quarter of 1990 to 226,000 units in the first half of 1991 by introducing a product line not tested on animals.

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