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The ANIMALS' AGENDA

May 1988 VOLUME VII NO. 4

7 Putting Animal Rights Into Practice: An Interview with David Wills BY WAYNE PACELLE

Less than ten years ago, the public perceived the Michigan Humane Society as little better than a kill center. David Wills has transformed the organization into a model humane society.

14 Animal Shelters: Changing Roles BY CAROL MOULTON

Dog and cat overpopulation has identifiable causes, and is starting to have identifiable solutions. How progressive humane societies are dealing with the tragedy of homeless animals.

18 The Crucial Role of Humane Education BY PATTY FINCH

How and why individual activists should invest in a better future for animals with humane education.

24 Pet Therapy Programs: Can They Help People and Animals? BY RANDALL LOCKWOOD, Ph.D.

Animals can enrich human lives, but there's a fine line between interaction and exploitation. How to evaluate pet therapy programs.

2 Page Two

3 Letters

12 Network Notes

26 Animal Newslne

Phasing Out the Draize ♦ Europe Moves to Defend Farm Animals ♦ Hunter Harassment Law Declared Unconstitutional in Connecticut ♦ Illegal Beagles ♦ The Trial of Roger Troen

34 Dateline: International

36 News Shorts

40 Animal Intelligencer BY PATRICE GREANVILLE

44 Comment

Euthanasia is a Euphemism ♦ In Defense of Animal Shelters

46 Activists' Agenda

Using the Media, Part II

48 Reviews

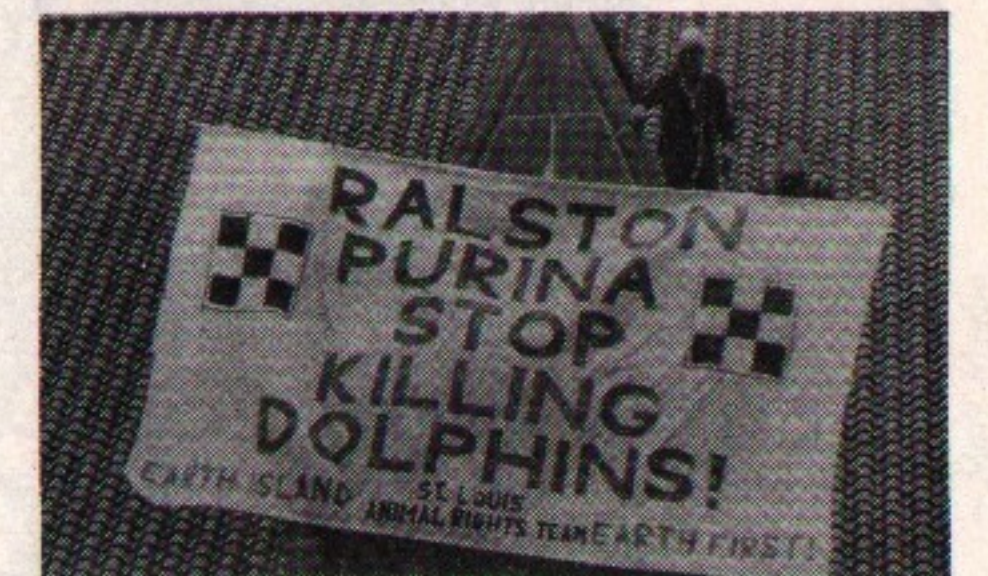
The Natural History of Whales and Dolphins ♦ The Whale War ♦ Maternal Deprivation Experiments in Psychology ♦ Factory Farming

58 Classified

COVER: ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD SALVUCCI



24 Love, the best therapy.



36 Of porpoises and puppy chow.



46 Pressing the issues.

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PAGE TWO

An Endless Quest

It is one of life's greatest ironies that one may know all the facts about a subject and miss the inherent truth. Discernment of truth may be as much a process of reason as it is investigation.

Reasoning is basically a three-step process, though it may happen with lightning speed or require a lifetime, depending on the complexity or perplexity of the problem at hand. It requires that we think, achieve understanding, and—finally—draw conclusions. Seldom, however, does one attain what might be called a "supreme truth," one that will be as valid tomorrow as it is today. More likely, our "truths" will be of temporary duration, rapidly overturned as additional information is presented. Truth evolves and grows with time. And the strength of one's commitment to it is demonstrated not by how fast we hold onto the obsolete, but by the ease with which we give it up in favor of a new revelation.

From time to time, philosophers have presented their contemporaries with new theories of "absolute truth." Rarely, however, have they constructed new formulas for extracting it. One such formula, with roots that extend back to Socrates' procedure of question and answer, was most thoroughly described by Hegel as the dialectical method. A dialectic is a process of reasoning involving, again, three steps: thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. But it can be most easily understood as a method of reconciling or uniting opposing or contrasting ideas into a higher, or more complex, concept.

Writing about the historical dialectic in terms animal rights advocates will surely relate to, Will Durant explained that "the future will see neither the present reality nor the visioned ideal, but a synthesis in which something of both will come together to beget a higher life. And that higher stage too will divide into a productive contradiction, and rise to still loftier levels of organization, complexity, and unity... The dialectical process makes change the cardinal principle of life..."

In the broadest sense, the animal rights movement is composed of all the people who are working towards a new ethic for relating to animals. At one extreme are those who demand nothing more than elimination of "unnecessary" suffering; at the other end of the spectrum are the radical animal liberationists. Of the millions of Americans who can be loosely described as belonging to the animal rights movement, the vast majority occupy the philosophical middle ground. While the disparity of views causes much discord and frustration in the movement, it also presents an ideal dialectical situation. Through the open process of a dialectic, fresh ideas can be conceived, new truths validated, and current ideas incorporated into established ethical principles. In no way does a dialectic demand dilution or compromise of "sacred" moral principles, such as reverence for life. But even in cases involving seemingly immutable precepts, an open dialectic might show us how to best apply the principle to a specific situation.

In this issue, we touch on the moral dilemma presented by animal shelters, those sad places where animals are killed so that they may be helped. There, the desire to aid and preserve life—the noble impulse that leads people into humane work—gives way to the realities of the dog and cat overpopulation tragedy. In the animal shelter, a dialectic between idealism and realism might produce a creative and life-affirming solution. But the process will flourish only in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect.

Often in the pages of The ANIMALS' AGENDA, we present opinions that may not reflect mainstream animal rights philosophy. Readers should know that views expressed do not necessarily reflect a consensus position on the part of The ANIMALS' AGENDA or The Animal Rights Network, Inc., its parent organization. Ideas or statements may sometimes be controversial, or even offensive to certain segments of the movement. But it is our hope that they will always be provocative, and that the magazine will serve as a vehicle for the evolution of a viable system of ethics, helping to turn today's visions into tomorrow's realities.

Sustained thanks

A thousand thanks to those of you who responded to our holiday mailing and our January funding appeal, particularly those who joined the Sustainer program. We couldn't make it without you!

—The Editors

Sabbats Not Satanic

I work with the Thomas Morton Alliance, a political group for persons of pagan earth-focused spirituality, and I found your animal sacrifice article ("Food for the Gods," *Animal Newslines*, January/February 1988) most interesting. I am pleased that you made no mention of pagans or witches, for animal murder has no place in our rites, except perhaps in the movies. Paganism is a religion of balance with the Earth and those who walk, crawl, fly, or swim with her.

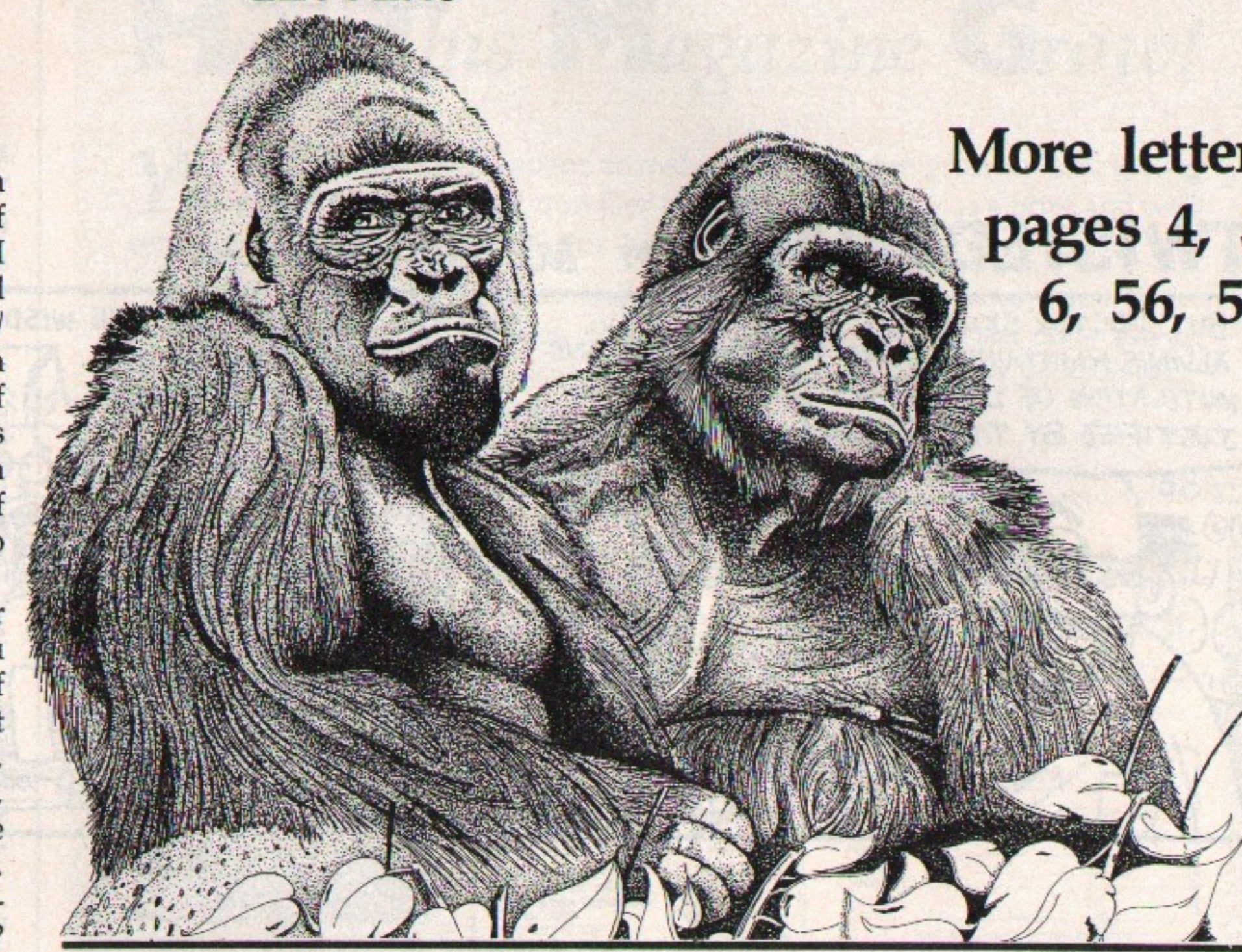
Santeria is not Paganism, and neither is Satanism, so I got concerned when you mentioned Sabbats. The eight Sabbats of the year (called by a variety of names, but usually Yule, Imbolc, Spring Equinox, Beltane, Summer Solstice, Lughnasadh, Autumnal Equinox, and Samhain) are Pagan holidays. They are not Satanic. Who knows what those cynical thrill-seekers celebrate, other than themselves? If they're choosing to honor our holy periods, I can guarantee you it's done in a different attitude than that of the Pagans.

—Devyn
The Thomas Morton Alliance
51 Plover Road
Quincy, MA 02169

"Food for the Gods" was a basically good article on animal sacrifice, but I'd like to make a few points. The term pagan ("country dweller") originally referred to the spiritual beliefs and practices of rural folk—usually involving reverence for a female deity and the earth, honoring of women, attunement to seasonal cycles, and a more natural acceptance of the physical aspects of life—in comparison to the converted city Christians of the time. Modern sensationalist media focus on satanic cults which have little in common with pagan spirituality. In fact, satanism would seem to be based not on paganism, but on Christianity's absolute separation of good from evil and the projection of the latter onto a "devil."

A cult is, presumably, a small group with bizarre beliefs and/or cruel practices. (Is it too cynical to define "religion," then, as a cult that's been unusually successful in forcing or hoodwinking a large number of people into its fold?) Members of dominant social groups are usually grossly misinformed about minorities, regardless of the issue concerned. So when our crusade against animal abuse takes us across religious or cultural boundaries, we must be exceedingly careful to first examine our own biases and information. The operative distinction for animal rights activists should not be whether a belief

LETTERS



—Mark Maglio

More letters
pages 4, 5,
6, 56, 57

or practice is "cultish," but whether it is cruel, or promotes cruelty. Furthermore, we should not let our frustration over our impotence against animal abuse by established, "respectable" people and institutions lead us into overreacting to cruel practices by weaker members of the society. Act we must, but not with cultural blinders.

—Billy Ray Boyd
San Francisco, CA

Criticism from Congress

The animal rights lobby needs to be better organized. As a senior legislative aide to a Member of Congress who handles animal rights, I am always amazed that there is a body of people who fervently believe in a cause, yet—year after year—show no progress in informing policy-makers of their viewpoint.

While sit-ins and protests may be effective publicity stunts, they do nothing for Congressmembers, who regard animal rights activists as just another fringe group. Firm and persistent dialogue with legislators is the best way to ensure the passage of animal rights laws. I recommend that interested parties ask for a yes or no answer when writing to Washington; otherwise, the response is likely to be of the "keep your views in mind" category.

Personally, I believe in conservation of public lands and a balanced wildlife protection program. But I also believe in biomedical research with experimental animals. To be sure, there are gross excesses in many fields of animal research. At the same time, however, I believe that

such research has provided many medical breakthroughs that would otherwise not have been possible. The strident "all or nothing" attitude of many animal rights activists *automatically* alienates this group from elected officials who, by the nature of their profession, are practiced in compromise and gradual change.

While it is obvious that I do not support many of the animal rights efforts, I do encourage those of you who do to make your voices heard. This is the only way our democracy functions on Capitol Hill. Personally, I do not enjoy answering (on the Congressman's behalf) letters from animal rights activists simply because of their knee-jerk reaction to many of the issues. The correspondence comes in waves, too. All I have to do is pick up my numerous animal magazines, and I can gauge when the mail will come and what it will be about. If activists are serious about protecting animal rights, they should write frequently, concisely, and—please—originally. Letters by rote only beget rote responses.

—T.B.
Washington, DC

Book Recommendation a Mistake

I must protest the December 1987 Review of the book *Who Goes First?* as well as the introductory designation "Heroes in White." To begin with, the title is a misnomer. A more accurate title would have been *Who Goes Second?* As usual, in virtually all the experiments cited in the

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

book, the procedure was tried on animals first. Your reviewer never mentions this.

Although I applaud the researchers for being the first human animals on which they experimented, my plaudits will never go to those who sacrifice non-human animals first. Your reviewer quoted some lines from the book which she believes are accurate: that "scientists take pride in being independent thinkers and intellectual revolutionaries." We all know of countless experiments that are totally useless, have been repeated for decades, and would be described more accurately as either: demonstrations; in the domain of torture; or playing the "basic science" game which softens the scientists' brains as they comfortably enjoy the enormous funds dumped on them by intimidated government agencies. Those who conduct such experiments can hardly be called "intellectual revolutionaries."

A truly accurate quote from that book that would have been far more appropriate would be: "Researchers have become increasingly dependent on their ability to publish in the medical literature in order to win promotion and continued financial support." And "...research, it would seem, must be conducted not only for its sake, but to gain both salary and advancement. No wonder the desire for short cuts to attractive answers blunts the investigator's judgment about what is and what is not appropriate."

Your reviewer ends the piece stating that the book counters "the tired, over-worked argument: had it not been for experiments on animals..." There is no

logical way she could have come to such a conclusion from reading this book. All the review will accomplish is to produce chuckles about our movement's inability to get the facts straight in something as basic as a book review.

Lawrence Altman's book can be of use to us for his many quotes about the restrictions and efficacy of using animals in many kinds of experiments. Let's pay attention to those statements of fact that will get our point across as anti-vivisectionists, and not become apologists for any researchers who use animals.

—Rhoda M. Karp
New York, NY

Dole Dilemma

Patrice Greanville's article, entitled "The Dole Dilemma" (*Animal Intelligence*, April 1988), would better be described as a "commentary." The article is obviously Greanville's biased attempt to discredit the only presidential candidate—in either party (by Greanville's own admission)—with a positive track-record on animal issues solely on the implied grounds that Senator Bob Dole is alone in his view on world issues. A pragmatic analysis of Dole's political position and views will appear in the May/June issue of *The Animals' Voice Magazine*, published by the Compassion for Animals Foundation, of which I am founder.

It would be great if 230 million Americans shared Greanville's socialistic idealism, and perhaps—over the next two hundred years—the world could change accordingly. In a democratic society,

pragmatism is a weapon the animal rights movement should discover; it is the tool by which our "indispensable task of building a mass social base" can be reached within the foreseeable future.

Dole may very well be the next President of the United States—with or without the animal defense community's endorsement—or, at the very least, continue on in the powerful position as Senate Republican Leader. It would be wise for us to join Dole in the White House; doing so gives us a golden opportunity to achieve what's best for animals, as well as allowing us a chance to enlighten the President on related matters which we find to be of equal importance.

Greanville's attack on Dole serves only to sabotage the integrity and credibility of many animal rights activists who must work with the U.S. government, not against it. It is unfortunate that because of Greanville's prejudice and bias—as well as the use of *THE ANIMALS' AGENDA* as a forum for his inflammatory innuendo and rhetoric—"some prominent activists" who have joined the "Dole bandwagon" are being led to believe they have partaken in a "betrayal of what the animal rights idea is supposed to be" and are supporting a drive which is "seriously misguided." This is an insult to those activists who have worked diligently on this—and other "quick fix"—campaigns for animals, and serves secondly to undermine what little strength and unity we now share. In the words of *THE ANIMALS' AGENDA*'s March 1988 Page Two editorial: "...in criticizing colleagues in the movement, it's important to refrain

from impugning motives. Let's limit ourselves to criticizing each others' methods, policies, and strategies—if it seems called for—and stop short at the sort of defamation that can only have a corrosive effect on the movement, from inside and out."

Most importantly, alleviating and eliminating the suffering of living nonhuman animals now, today—not "frustration with the slow pace of events"—is the reason why many of us are "going for the quick fix." It isn't the wrong idea. It isn't even a bad idea. How much time is going to pass, how much "patience" do we demand from the animals whose minds, bodies, and lives are at this very moment being tortured, tormented, mutilated, and exterminated while we wait for a total "expansion of the realm of moral consideration"?

—Gil Michaels, Animal Welfare Liaison
Dole for President
P.O. Box 5312
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Tigers Drug-Shot

The zoo article in the March 1988 issue was very good, but there was an error in the part about the Detroit zoo. Although the outcome was the same, the "surplus" Siberian tigers killed in 1982 were not shot. They were injected with an overdose of barbiturates.

—Doris Dixon, Field Agent
The Fund for Animals
2841 Colony Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Classroom Vivisection

Thank you for the informative and important article on vivisection in school science fairs ("School Days, Cruel Days," January/February 1988). Unfortunately, this sad state of affairs is only a symptom of a deeper problem alluded to in the article—namely, that of vivisection in education.

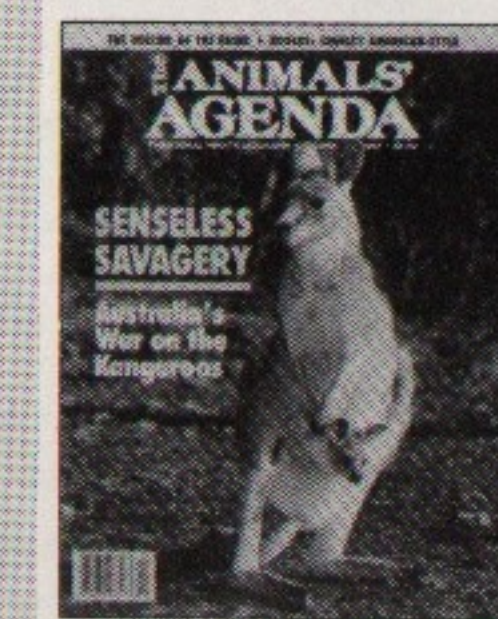
I would like to draw your readers' attention to a statute passed in 1894 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This law, which was the result of intense lobbying by the Massachusetts SPCA, represented the first American victory in the struggle for the rights of laboratory animals. The current form of this enlightened legislation, enacted in 1979, reads in part: "No school principal, administrator, or teacher shall allow any live vertebrate to be used in any [public]

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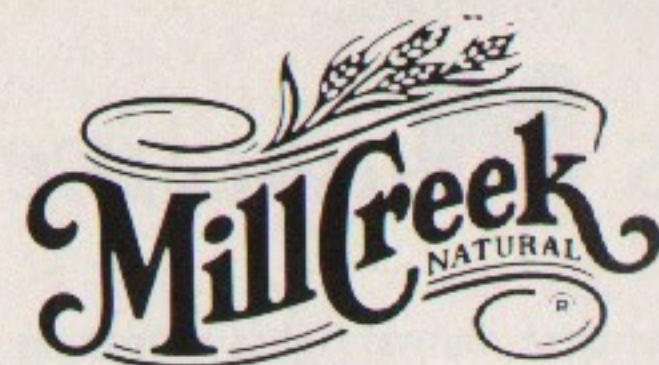
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LETTERS

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elementary or high school...as part of a scientific experiment or for any other purpose...where the normal health of said animal is interfered with or where pain or distress is caused."

The Massachusetts law also bans the demonstration of vivisection in classrooms. While the measures suggested in the article are important, no action is likely to have a greater long-term impact in this area than the passage of similar legislation by other states, counties, and cities. Concerned citizens who wish to use the Massachusetts statute as a model may obtain a copy of it by writing to me.

Also worth noting is a British law enacted in the last century which forbids the use of invasive animal experimentation in education—even at universities and medical schools.

—Gul A. Agha, Ph.D.
Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research
P.O. Box 1626
Cambridge, MA 02238

Too Many People

I was interested to read the interview with Dave Foreman of Earth First! (December 1987). Although there is obviously a conflict between some of his views and the animal liberation philosophy, animal rights campaigners should take serious note of a few of his points. The idea that there are far too many people on this planet, for instance, and the fact that "we are acting as liberal reformists in assuming that by living in our suburbs, practicing vegetarianism, and using cruelty-free cosmetics we are significantly changing anything."

Of course it is right and necessary to avoid the products of animal persecution, and to encourage others to do the same. Hopefully, this boycott will help to eventually bring such things as vivisection, the fur trade, factory farming, and perhaps even the meat industry to an end. This will get rid of the "concentration camps," but we will still be faced with the much more fundamental problem of the actual "enemy occupation."

The extreme forms of animal persecution are just the tail-end of a process by which human imperialism has invaded, occupied, and despoiled the homelands of animals. Instead of limiting its numbers to something fair and reasonable in relation to the other animal species (perhaps Dave Foreman's optimum population of 50 million people worldwide is about right), the human race has gone forth and multiplied with horrendous consequences for all other creatures. The

Continued on page 56

INTERVIEW

Putting Animal Rights Into Practice

An Interview With David Wills

BY WAYNE PACELLE

From the moment I arrived in Detroit, David Wills seemed more like a tour guide than an interview subject. For four days, Wills, the executive director of the Michigan Humane Society (MHS), took me through virtually all of the MHS's numerous facilities. Finally, after that initiation, Wills sensed that I was adequately exposed to the MHS's unique operation to conduct the interview. It was none too soon. My plane would be departing in a few hours and Wills, who is completing his Ph.D. in philosophy, had to leave for class shortly. So, with a feeling that there was no time to waste, we weaved our way through the crowded administrative office area of the MHS's Detroit headquarters and slipped into his tiny, windowless office. Sensing my surprise that the MHS's executive was staked out in such a cramped, drab office, Wills offered, "At the MHS, excess working space doesn't go to humans."

When you came to the MHS eight years ago, what kind of shape was it in?

The MHS had virtually run out of funds in 1979. More important, the public perceived it as little more than a place to bring and kill animals. It didn't sterilize animals before they went out, did little adoption screening, and, up until 1978, gave away animals at mall shows. Almost 50 percent of its income came from contract income paid by the cities to kill stray dogs. It had literally become little better than a poor dog pound.

How do humane societies like the one you stepped into stray so far from their original mission?

With rare exceptions, humane societies are run by well-meaning boards of directors who, plain and simple, are not professional humane people. Or they have directors who have more of an interest in their own well-being than in the animals'. As a general rule, they forget the animals they should be serving and try, instead, to satisfy the community, the board members, and the membership.



David Wills addressing supporters before testifying on the issue of pound release at state committee hearings in Lansing, Michigan.

What image of a humane society did you want to create?

My idea is to take the rhetoric of animal rights and apply it in the field. We try to meet the needs of our clients (the animals) by creating community service centers. We are a mix of a hospital and a YMCA. The program is geared toward taking in an animal, making the determination of his or her adoptability, and, once that decision is made, throwing everything into getting that animal into a humane environment.

In a sense, the public has looked upon humane societies and shelters as our sinners. Give us ten dollars, and then walk away and forget that a serious social problem exists. We don't apologize for the problem. We want to teach people who contribute to pet overpopulation problems to be more responsible and, in a larger sense, to treat all animals with respect.

What are the major structures of the organization?

Its primary physical structures are the

three community service centers, each with a shelter and a veterinary hospital. We also have a wildlife rehabilitation center and a development center, from which we direct our retail sales.

All facilities are animal-centered: they're designed to satisfy the animals' physiological and psychological needs. For instance, cats look out windows and have light; dogs and cats are housed separately because cats are sensitive to barking; and nearly all animals have indoor and outdoor runs.

Fiscally, we take creative risks. Last year, we raised 50 percent of our money through operations—money generated by the veterinary hospitals, retail sales, adoption fees, and a little contract income—in sum, roughly about \$1.7 million (people walk into the hospitals and pay for service if they can, but we turn down no animal if his or her "owner" can't pay). We also raised another \$1.7 million from the public. Though the organization only has \$340,000 in the bank, we are breaking ground on a \$2.5 million shelter. Though the MHS has no endowment to speak of, this year's budget exceeds \$4 million. We operate on the edge, but we're not fiscally irresponsible. We don't have any one source of income that we're overly dependent upon. It's an integrated approach to financing.

Distinguish the MHS of today from what existed eight years ago.

First, we believe that humane societies should operate veterinary hospitals. Despite the public believing otherwise, organized veterinary medicine is, in many respects, the antithesis of what we believe it should be. Yet veterinarians have the skills to make a difference for animals. We have 12 full-time vets who have some of the best equipment available. Second, we emphasize enforcing existing cruelty statutes. I think lots of laws should be changed, but there are many useful cruelty laws on the books. We have made these laws work for animals. Third, we market our product: animal rights. The honesty and intensity of marketing that message distinguish us from everybody else. We have 54,000 current members and donors who understand what we are doing.

Continued on next page

INTERVIEW

Continued from previous page

Fourth, we have formalized education programs like everybody else, but that's not enough. Not only is the person who goes into classrooms an educator, but so are our doctors, rescue drivers, cruelty investigators, and other staff. Even our physical structures are educational. For instance, those veterinary hospitals are the greatest educators in the world. Our general message becomes a subliminal part of everything we do.

Broadly speaking, I believe that philosophy without structural application is meaningless. If we don't develop structures so that other people can continue, then we have given the animals the ultimate betrayal. No matter how good the education, alternatives must exist for people who want to act on what they have learned. For example, we tell people to sterilize their animals. But what does that mean if they cannot find a place where such surgery is available and affordable? To paraphrase Robert Frost, it's fine to tear down fences, but you've got to know where the bull is standing. In the animal rights movement, I see a vast move to tear down fences, but little effort to rebuild structures. We put a structure together that lets the education be more than words. And to paraphrase Hobbes, you don't change human nature, you change the parameters under which it operates.

You mentioned the word "integrated" in describing your fiscal program. Does the concept of integration apply to other parts of the MHS's programs?

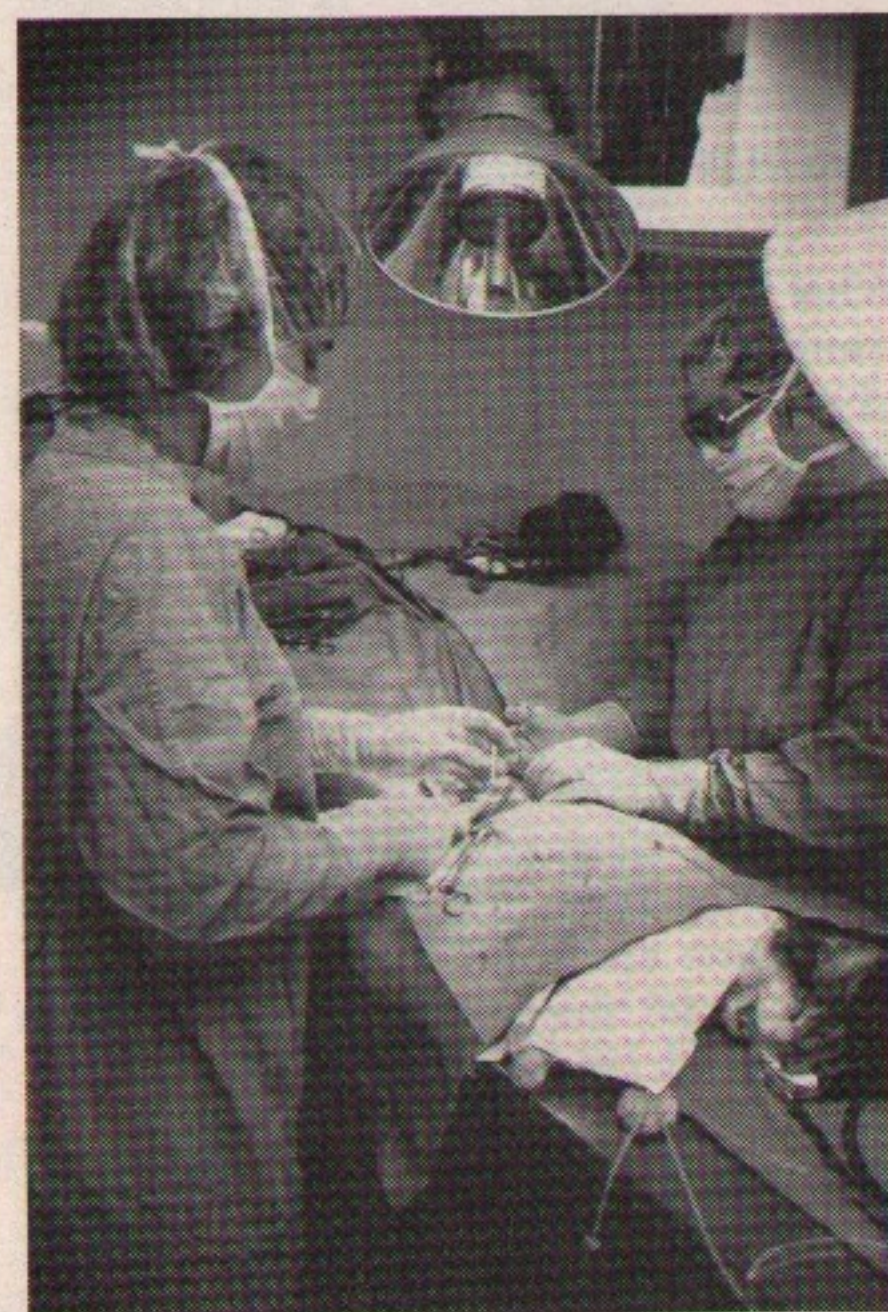
Definitely. Overall, there are three levels of integration. There is integration of program—hospitals working with the cruelty division, cruelty working with rescue, and rescue working with shelters, etc. The second level is economic. Hospitals provide a continual source of cash until fundraising efforts can offset operational deficits; retail sales get your message out and provide additional revenue. But the major level of integration is philosophical. It's not enough to aid dogs and cats and lab animals, you've got to help exotics and native wildlife, and, in general, prevent cruelty to all animals.

Your vets are doing some extraordinary work. But, as you alluded to earlier, the veterinary profession is hardly what the public thinks it is. Tell us how you came into conflict with the veterinary community.

When we set out to establish top-notch veterinary facilities—actually we invented the term "charitable animal hospital"—the



Tim Clements, an MHS cruelty investigator, holds a dog left homeless after a fire gutted this Detroit dwelling.



Dr. Barbara Hogarth and Martha Sands, a veterinary technician, perform a cat spaying operation at the MHS's Central Shelter in Detroit. Over 8,000 animals are sterilized annually in MHS's low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

vets took us to court at local and county levels to prohibit the construction of our buildings. In succession, they took us to the IRS to have our nonprofit status stripped and then to the Michigan capitol and to Washington D.C. to make our clinics illegal. We beat them everywhere. They've cost us \$250,000 over the last five years. Fundamentally, if animals have any rights, they surely have the right to receive medical care to relieve their suffering. Twenty years from now, people will look back and see this as a major step forward for animal rights.

Tell us about the MHS's cruelty investigation work.

Last year, our four cruelty investigators—whose movements are coordinated by a dispatcher—handled nearly 5,000 cases in one of the most crime-ridden cities in the nation. That's about 150 to 200 cases of violent shooting, poisoning, dog fighting, sadism, and cult worship every week. Our successful prosecution rate of these cases results, again, from our integrated approach. Our vets back them up with medical expertise. When we go to court, Sienna LaRene, our general counsel, uses her criminal law background to prosecute to the fullest extent possible.

It seems to me that if we can't be on the front line of defense for animals who suffer on a daily basis—not just cases of institutionalized cruelty like research or hunting, but in the backyards of America—that we are failing our mission. The thrust of every humane society, supposedly, is not to be animal killers but defenders.

You told me that you are planning for a future in which it will be possible for people to be trained in cruelty investigation.

When I first worked with a humane organization, my training consisted of a map of the city, a catchpole, and a copy of the statutes of the area I was working in. Then, as now, there were and are too many repeated mistakes and too much redundancy—the same things we accuse the research community of. Overall, there are no standards.

We all agree on the same thing: we want to change the world for animals. But where do people learn to design shelters, to rescue, to investigate cruelty? The MHS is in the process of developing a curriculum to train people in cruelty investigation, as well as in other areas. We're working toward designing an associate degree in Anti-Animal Cruelty Criminology at a local major college. It will require in-house training in our hospitals to recognize debilitating



This deer and many others have met a similar fate in Midland, Michigan. They were humanely trapped and released to a sanctuary as part of MHS's deer relocation project.

diseases and conditions, and legal and law enforcement training. I fear that if we don't develop disciplines in our field, there will be no second generation to carry this on. We will not get very far for the animals if we keep reinventing the wheel every time we try to accomplish something.

Almost uniformly, as they now exist, state wildlife agencies exclude the input of non-consumptive wildlife enthusiasts and instead cater to consumptive users. Tell us how you have taken on Michigan's state wildlife agencies.

In 1985, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), a seven-person, gubernatorially-appointed body with nearly complete control and authority over our state's wildlife, voted unanimously to allow hunting of mourning doves, in spite of 10,000 letters from the public urging otherwise. Frustrated at that point, we wanted to penetrate the structure that allowed such an undemocratic decision. After looking at the state's constitution, we concluded that wild animals belong to all of us and that the decision to hunt a particular species should be decided by the legislature, so everyone can have a say.

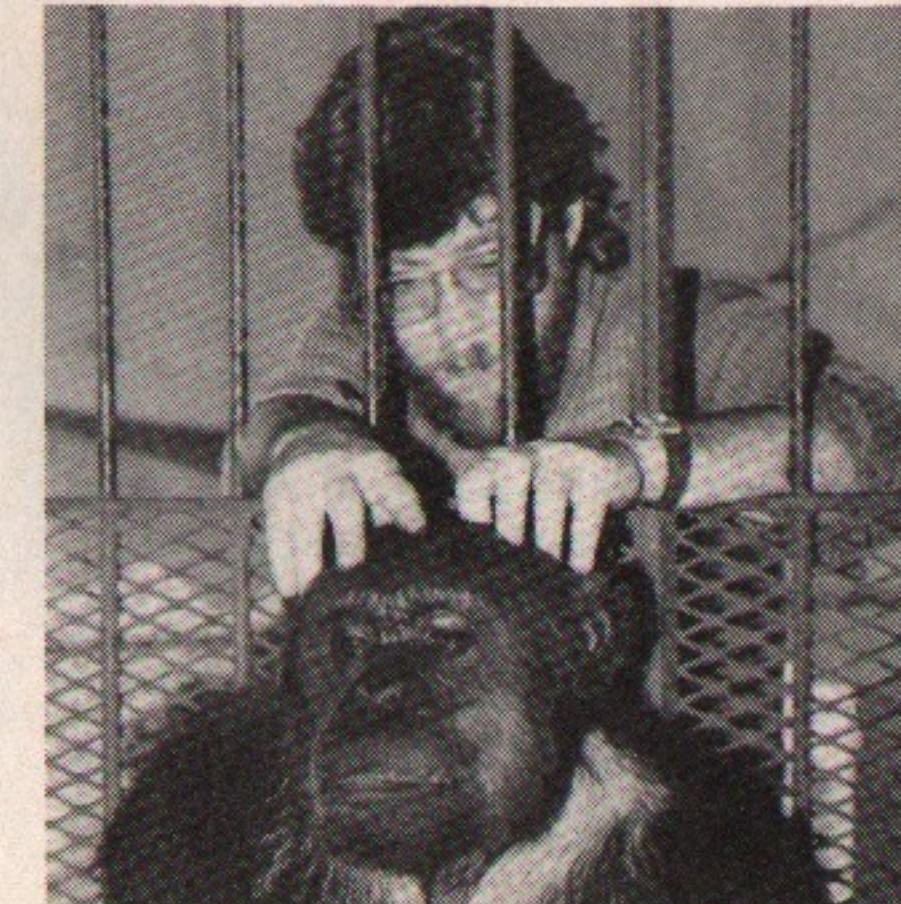
Not only did the lower court agree with our argument that any decision to hunt mourning doves should originate from the legislature, but the state Court of Appeals did too. We succeeded in preventing mourning dove hunting. The NRC and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have regrouped and gone to the state capitol to try to pass a law that would take the last vestiges of our elected state legislature's authority over wildlife

INTERVIEW

management and give it all to the NRC. This includes giving them the power to decide which wild animals will be protected by classification as "non-game," which will be classified as "game," and if and when game animals will be hunted. The MHS has realized that the hunters and trappers have illegitimately assumed power and challenged this NRC-DNR bill as unconstitutional.

There's a substantial amount of animal experimentation and animal agriculture conducted in Michigan. But those forms of animal exploitation are not your primary targets. While the MHS has done some important wildlife work, it still emphasizes dog and cat work. Why? The reason for the focus on dogs and cats is two-fold. One is demographics. We serve a major metropolitan area, and deal with what comes in front of us.

Second, I think that dealing with dog and cat overpopulation, neglect, and abuse problems is a necessary first step in solving other problems, both logically and chronologically. There is no rational reason for pet exploitation to continue. If people can't realize the important moral aspects of caring for a pet, they will not put other animals ahead of their own self-interest. People will get terribly upset over seals and whales, but the minute human self-interest is threatened, all that becomes secondary. But if you have a world that will not tolerate such things as pet overpopulation, then you have a world that may not tolerate the killing of higher sentient species. You extend ethics starting with what is closest and move outward. It's arrogant and misguided to believe that it's a more noble calling to save a primate from a lab than to save a



Wills grooms "Tyrone the Terrible." MHS cruelty investigators confiscated Tyrone from an abusive travelling circus. Tyrone has since found a home at Primarily Primates in San Antonio, Texas.

dog from starving. That is speciesism of the worst kind.

Let me add, however, the MHS, as a full-service animal rights organization, is aggressively involved at the local, state, national, and international levels to stop all types of animal exploitation. Besides challenging the animal research industry, we've been fighting a large hog farming corporation for over five years. But I believe that the mainstream rejection of pet abuse happening at their feet will most effectively prompt the vast majority of people to internalize a new ethic for treating all animals.

Many animal rights organizations have a lab animal bias. Do you think lab

Continued on next page

COMING SOON

◆ **WHAT'S AROUND THE BEND FOR HORSERACING**, the most popular spectator sport in the United States? Like other businesses that use animals, the horse racing industry is run by profit—not by a concern for animal welfare. A look into a multimillion-dollar business that stays on course despite glaring economic, social, and ethical problems.

◆ **AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM NOLLMAN**, author of *Animal Dreaming*. Using flutes, guitars, and underwater drums, Nollman breaks the interspecies communication barrier with music in his work with dolphins, whales, birds, and buffaloes.

◆ **WHO TESTS WHAT?** Most people think that governmental regulatory agencies oversee industry to protect the environment and the public from dangerous products. In reality, Federal regulators are more effective at protecting corporations by balancing risks to humans with benefits to big businesses.

INTERVIEW

Continued from previous page

animal issues should be the front line issue in promoting an animal rights ethic?

The fact that "science" is used to mask this barbaric abuse of sentient creatures is atrocious. But I think that it will be the last bastion to fall. When people are pushed against the wall—no matter the facts—many of them will be seduced by the idea that the "occasional" sacrifice of a dog or a rat will save their lives. It will be a long time before the public will reject perceived medical advances because of suffering inflicted on animals.

Is pound seizure an issue that merits attention from animal rights groups that aren't involved with shelter work?

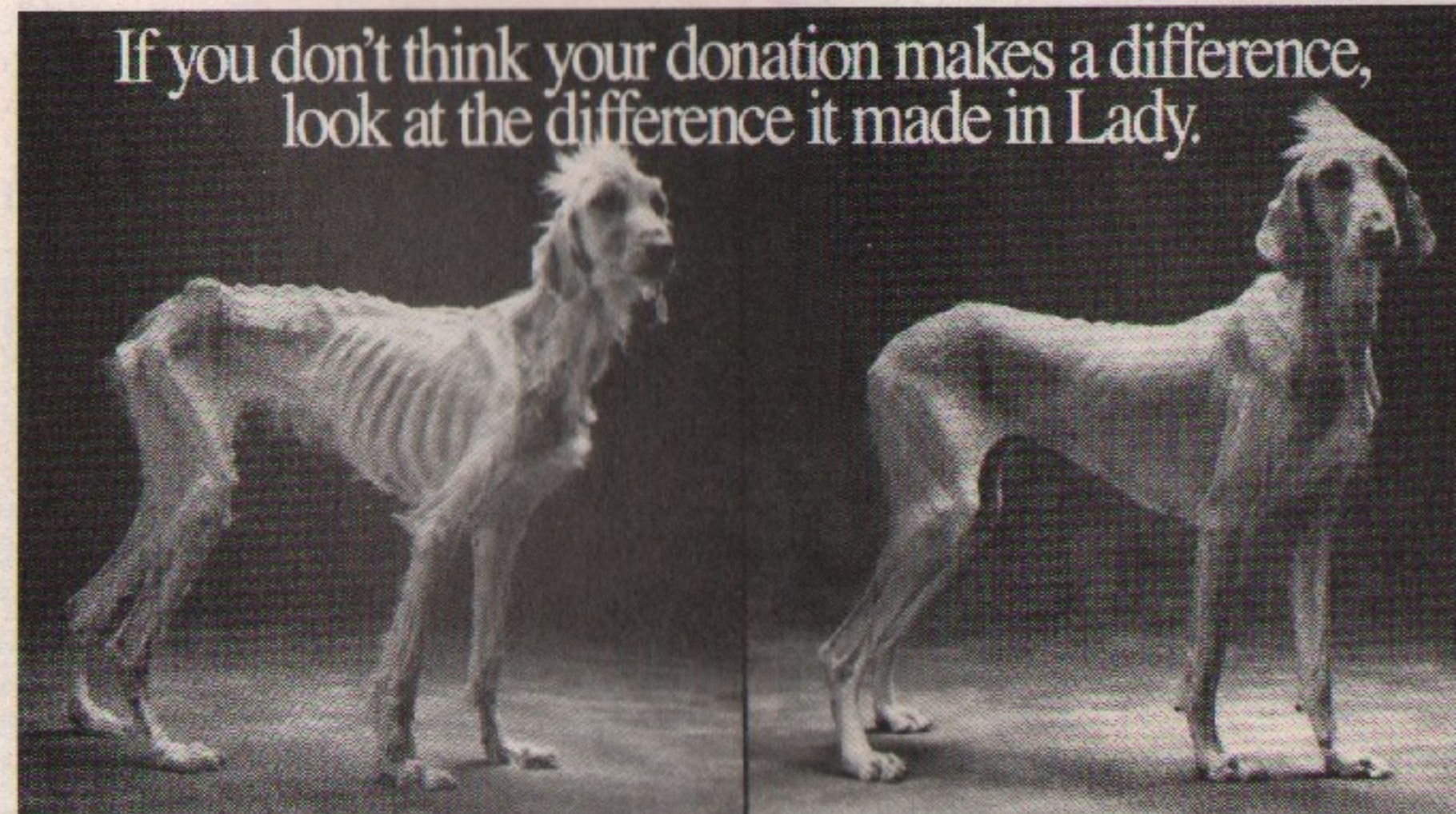
The animal rights movement should point out that researchers are capitalizing on a social tragedy. The real myth is that these animals are going to die anyhow. The animals that most pounds and humane societies kill are the sick and emotionally maladjusted—the animals the research community doesn't want. They want healthy, well-disciplined pets—the very animals who would have the best chance to be redeemed or adopted. That's the bitter deceit of the research community. Pound release should be fought not as a research issue, but as an extension of the pet overpopulation issue.

If we had it your way, the priorities of the animal rights movement would be different.

Dramatically. The research issue is one of the best fundraising issues ever developed in the humane movement. But the fact that many organizations pour 90 percent of their effort into these areas is immoral, especially to the exclusion of other issues. As compared to other animal rights campaigns, the move to end animal research has resulted in a minor reduction of units of animal suffering.

Alternatives are the answer to the issue of animal experimentation, and I heartily endorse those national groups that, while keeping attention focused on atrocities to animals in labs, provide funding for alternatives. I think that animal-based research will eventually die because of alternatives. But, in the meantime, it is an impossible issue over which to win substantive public support. We have much stronger arguments on a variety of fronts, and therefore, a greater responsibility to animals to move on to these other fronts.

Do you think the animal rights movement has gone astray?



If you don't think your donation makes a difference, look at the difference it made in Lady.

Images such as this one have elicited a tremendous response from the public. This direct mail piece generated contributions in excess of \$170,000. Starved without food for a month, Lady, an Afghan Hound, weighed only 19 pounds when cruelty investigators carried her into the Michigan Humane Society.

The animal rights movement can pat itself on the back for heightened visibility among the general public and specifically the media. But the next stage has barely been considered: how do we translate this increased awareness into relieving animal pain? I see little overall lessening of units of suffering. I do not see any broad-based sociological change. The animal rights movement has been remiss, and maybe grossly negligent, by forgetting the *one* in attempting to solve the problems of the *many*. Success has become a measure of how many words we get in the newspaper, not how many animals we have saved. Among many other things, I am proud that the MHS sterilized 8000 dogs and cats, placed 6000 animals in responsible homes, blocked mourning dove hunting in Michigan, rescued over 5,000 domestic animals and 2,000 wild animals, and pioneered a humane deer relocation project—all in 1987 alone.

You've done a bang-up reform job with this humane society. But most other organizations would not allow someone with your ideas to assume power. What do you think of takeovers of humane societies?

Effecting a change of a traditional humane society does not always have to entail a major disruption or "hostile" takeover. Our dreams and goals for animals should not be built by treading upon human animals. I don't have any magical blueprint for reforming existing humane societies. In my case, it has taken me eight years to gradually build the sort of dynamic and committed board of

directors we need to do our job effectively. Animal activists need to get hungrier and think of creative ways to penetrate these structures.

Also, I honestly do not think takeovers are productive. Generally, groups that take over others seldom avoid the pitfalls of the groups they rest power from. A favorite example of mine is Martin Luther, the protestant reformationist, who left the Catholic church because it dealt ruthlessly with critics. Ten years after he left, he was burning anti-Baptists because they disagreed with him.

In a general sense, I think economics, public opinion, and developing standards will lead people to more progressive action, to change from within. In Michigan, we are the standard by which other humane societies are judged.

It's the year 2010 and David Wills has put into place the structures he believes are necessary for most effectively changing our relationship with other animals. What do things look like?

In the year 2010, humane societies, having integrated programs, will deal with the suffering of individual animals. As we create disciplines designed to *save* individuals, the many will be served.

While ethical philosophers continue to debate what species possess moral rights, the scientific fact that animals have feelings remains indisputable, and the initiatives of the animal rights community will be geared toward a concern for their feelings. And no group will initiate public campaigns until they have the victims of abuse safe from the hands of their abusers.



THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

"A sensitive and powerful film." --Henry Spira, Animal Rights International

"An essential tool for educators everywhere." --Brad Miller, Humane Farming Association

"An example of moral education in the best sense."

--Tom Regan, Culture and Animals Foundation

These are just a few of the comments critics have made about THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, a new humane education video program produced by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Varied Directions, Inc. Designed for a junior high through high school audience, the film introduces viewers to the confining conditions under which "milk-fed" veal calves are frequently raised. Using the calf as an example, it reveals that the physical and behavioral needs of farm animals are routinely ignored on mechanized "factory farms."

Unlike other films of its type, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE is not designed to shock or disgust the viewer. Rather, its aim is to create empathy by showing that the needs of human and non-human animals are remarkably similar. Finally, the film offers suggestions for actions viewers can take to alleviate the suffering of farm animals.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE is available on 1/2 inch videotape, at a cost of \$49.95. For ordering information, please contact the ASPCA Education Department at the address below.

**The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
441 East 92nd Street New York, N.Y. 10128 (212)876-7700**

America's First Humane Society

NETWORK NOTES

Psych 'Em Out

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PsyETA) is making available the second volume of its annual publication *Humane Innovations and Alternatives in Animal Experimentation: A Notebook*, which gives details on experimental designs and curricula that reduce the numbers and suffering of animals in research. The group has also established a scale of invasiveness that classifies procedures performed on lab animals in terms of the pain and harm they cause. For more information, contact PsyETA at: P.O. Box 87, New Gloucester, ME 04260; (207) 926-4817. ♦ A monograph entitled *Experimental Psychology: Experiments Using Animals* provides detailed information on the waste and suffering associated with psychology research on animals. Copies are available for \$10 postpaid from: the International Society for Animal Rights, 421 S. State St., Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

Coming Unglued

Activists continue to counter the merchandising of the glueboard, a particularly fiendish kind of rodent trap. Animals who become mired in the trap's sticky surface ultimately die of starvation or are suffocated by the glue itself. Those who attempt to escape may have skin torn from their bodies. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) succeeded in convincing the city of Takoma Park, Md. to offer the alternative of humane cage traps to residents as part of its municipal rodent control program. PETA also reports that the Kroger grocery store chain has agreed to remove glueboards from its shelves. Readers may help rid the world of glueboards by writing to the following two stores which, at present, continue to carry the traps over activists' objections: J.S. Kraiss, Drug Store Operations, Walgreen Co., 200 Wilmont Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015; and: Armstrong Building Material, 11321 W. Pico, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Also write to Good Housekeeping, which has given its "seal of approval" to Stick-em brand glueboards: 959 8th Ave., New York, NY 10019.

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE



Courtesy Palace Charities

What's good for animals is good for humans.

Vegetarian Meals-on-Wheels

Palace Charities, an effort sponsored by the Hare Krishna religious organization, brings free nutritious vegetarian meals to the doors of more than 400 low-income individuals and families in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia three days a week. The charity is legally separate from the Hare Krishna group. Funding comes mainly from local temples, with independent donors making up the balance. The group hopes to open a vegetarian soup kitchen in West Virginia to serve meals to homeless people, and would also like to extend the meals-on-wheels program to a five-day-a-week operation. For more information about this exceptional project, contact: Palace Charities, Vegetarian Meals-on-Wheels, RD1 Box 320, Moundsville, WV 26041.

Advertising Hypocrisy

The Rhode Island Animal Rights Coalition is calling for letters of protest to *The Christian Science Monitor* and WGBH-Boston (a public TV station), both of which carry fur advertisements despite editorial content which promotes appreciation for animals and nature. Write to: David E. Morse, president—advertising sales, *Christian Science Monitor*, 1 Exeter Plaza, Boston, MA 02116; and to: Christopher E. Ridley, manager for corporate communications, WGBH Educational Foundation, 125 Western Ave., Boston, MA 02134.

Unlearning Speciesism

Students of all ages can fight cruelty in the classroom and promote awareness of animal rights by launching animal rights clubs and organizations in their schools. The Student Action Corps for Animals (SACA) has prepared a booklet entitled "Suggestions for Students Groups" to help get such efforts off the ground. For a copy, send \$1 to cover postage and copying to: SACA, P.O. Box 15588, Washington, DC 20003. The group also publishes a newsletter for student activists.

Upcoming Events

The Animal Shelter Reform Committee (ASRC) is staging a protest on Sunday, May 22 at 1 P.M. at the North Shore Animal League (NSAL) in Port Washington, Long Island. The group charges that NSAL is not putting its \$33 million in assets to work for animals—and lacks programs to promote humane education, animal protective legislation, and spaying and neutering. For further details, contact ASRC at: P.O. Box 20451, New York, NY 10017; (718) 376-6405. ♦ Elsa Wild Animal Appeal, in conjunction with other state and national groups, will spearhead an anti-leghold trap rally and picket on Saturday, August 13. The protest will coincide with the National Trappers Association Convention, to be held August 11-14 in Peoria, Ill. For more information, contact Elsa-USA, P.O. Box 675, Elmhurst, IL 60126; (312) 833-8896.

Do Us a Favor

Indexing in *The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* is considered by some librarians to be essential in order for magazines to warrant display on library shelves. Unfortunately, the H.W. Wilson Company, which owns the guide, only meets *once every five years* to review new publications for possible indexing—but, they've been known to make exceptions. If you feel, as we do, that *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* should be widely available to the general public, please take the time to support the magazine by writing a letter on our behalf. Write to: Ann Case, associate director of indexing services, H.W. Wilson Company, 950 University Ave., Bronx, NY 10452. Thanks!

"Bronx Cheer" for Koch

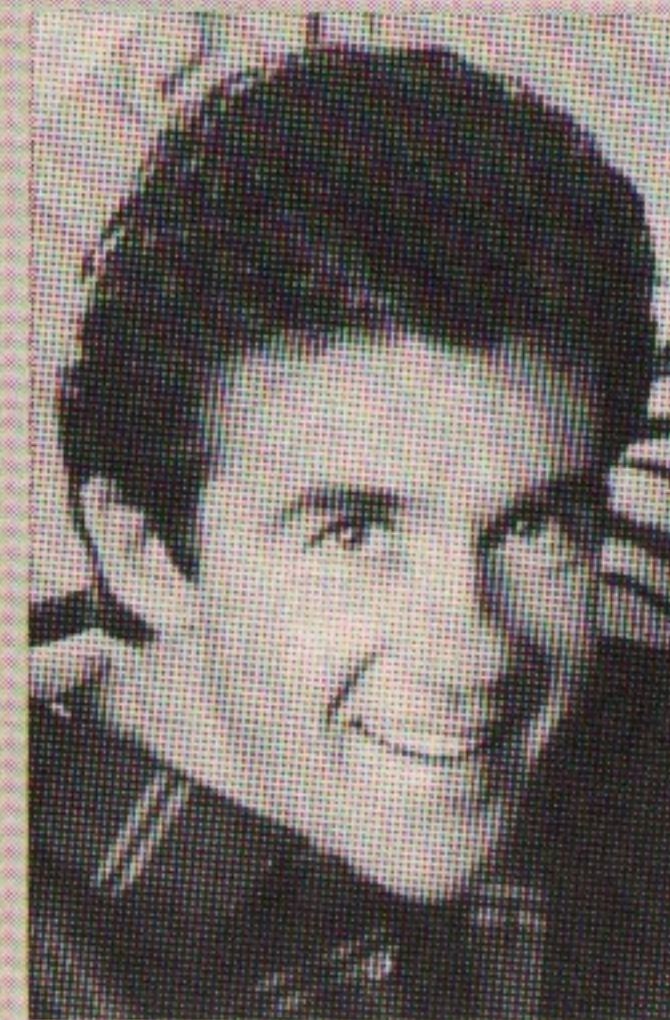
The Bronx Animal Rights Coalition (BARC), formed to address the dog and cat overpopulation and abandonment problems in the Bronx and the other boroughs of New York City, is planning a protest at Mayor Ed Koch's residence (Gracie Mansion) on Saturday, May 14 at noon. The group says Koch has demonstrated a marked lack of initiative in establishing much-needed new shelter facilities for New York's stray animal population. Letters are needed to rouse the mayor to action—write to: Ed Koch, c/o City Hall, New York, NY 10017. For more information, contact BARC at: P.O. Box 1041, Bronx, NY 10471; (212) 903-4739.

AVMA Supports Pound Seizure

In a letter to its members dated January 4, 1988, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) announced that it has "joined forces with the biomedical research community to oppose" the Pet Protection Act (H.R. 778 and S. 1457), currently before Congress. The letter urged vets to contact their Congressmembers to indicate their opposition to the bill, which would prohibit Federal funds from being used to purchase animals from animal shelters for use in research. Activists should let their Senators and Representatives know of their support for the bill, and should ask veterinarians to object to the AVMA's stance on pound seizure.

Here We Go Again

Not satisfied with complaining about game show hosts and cartoon animals, trappers and furriers are now going after ABC-TV for its quiz show *Animal Crack-Ups*, which features celebrities attempting to answer questions about animals after viewing videotaped segments. Celebrities donate their monetary winnings to various pro-animal organizations at the end of each show. Recipients have included the Humane Society of the U.S., Actors and Others for Animals, and the Humane Farming Association. Fur trade publications are calling for their supporters to send letters to ABC. Animal defenders should do likewise—write to: ABC, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Ironically, the show's host, actor Alan Thicke, recently replaced animal advocate Bob Barker as host of the Miss USA pageant. Barker quit the job when pageant officials reneged on a promise not to offer furs as prizes to contestants.



Alan Thicke.

Protesting Pork

Animal rights activists in southern Ohio were on hand on February 21 to protest the Ohio Pork Congress, an annual pork industry trade show held in Dayton. Protesters called on producers to move away from close confinement systems, use of antibiotics, and performance mutilations such as teeth-cutting and tail-docking. An interesting feature of this year's congress was a one-hour debate between Dr. Michael W. Fox, a

vice-president of the Humane Society of the United States, and Stanley Curtis, a professor of animal science at the University of Illinois and a prominent agribusiness spokesperson. Several area newspapers and TV stations provided coverage of the protest. Protesting the opposition's trade shows and events—a tactic which many animal advocacy groups are starting to employ—is an excellent way to increase public awareness and stimulate discussion of animal rights issues.

Animal Rights Directory

The vegetarian community Gentle World is producing a directory of animal rights organizations, cruelty-free product companies, and vegetarian and vegan groups. Those wishing to be included in the directory (free of charge) are encouraged to contact Gentle World at: P.O. Box 1418, Umatilla, FL 32784. Gentle World is also looking for regional sponsors and coordinators well in advance of its annual Thanksgiving airplane-trailed banner campaign.

New Groups

Disabled and Incurably Ill for Alternatives to Animal Research (DIIAAR) is a new organization formed to counter the efforts of the Incurably Ill for Animal Research, a group which assists the biomedical research community in fighting against protections for lab animals. Contact DIIAAR at: 1733 Grant St. #F, Berkeley, CA 94703. ♦ Animal advocates with musical interest and/or ability are invited to put their talents to work for animals—contact: Barbara Frinkaus, Musicians for Animals, 61 Hedgely Rd., Springfield, OH 45506; (513) 322-1624. ♦ Northern Virginia Animal Rights Volunteers is a new group working to end pound seizure and promote animal rights in Virginia. Contact them at: P.O. Box 7335, Arlington, VA 22207. ♦ The Doris Day Animal League was recently formed to promote animal protection through education and legislation. The organization may be reached at: 111 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001; (202) 842-3325.

Alabama's Animals Need Help

Alabama is the only state in the nation without a law allowing for removal of abused or neglected animals into protective custody while their "owners" are being charged under cruelty statutes. Animal advocates working to have such a law passed in the state legislature are meeting stiff opposition from the Cattlemen's Association, the Farm Bureau, and the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Alabama legislators need to know that the rest of the nation considers the protection of animal abusers a national disgrace. Write to the state's Senate and House of Representatives (Montgomery, Alabama 36106) and ask for support of Bill 389.



Certified Cruelty-Free

Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC) has come up with a "seal of approval" to designate cosmetics and household products free of animal testing and animal-derived ingredients (except for beeswax, honey, and lanolin). The group hopes that the seal will enjoy widespread use by the manufacturers of cruelty-free products. BWC also publishes the "Compassionate Shoppers' List," a comprehensive guide to humane products with detailed information about ingredients. For more information, contact BWC at: 175 W. 12th St. Suite 16G, New York, NY 10011.

What gives man the right to kill an animal, often torture it, so that he can fill his belly with its flesh?

—Isaac Bashevis Singer



Fighting fur in Texas.

Fur is for Death

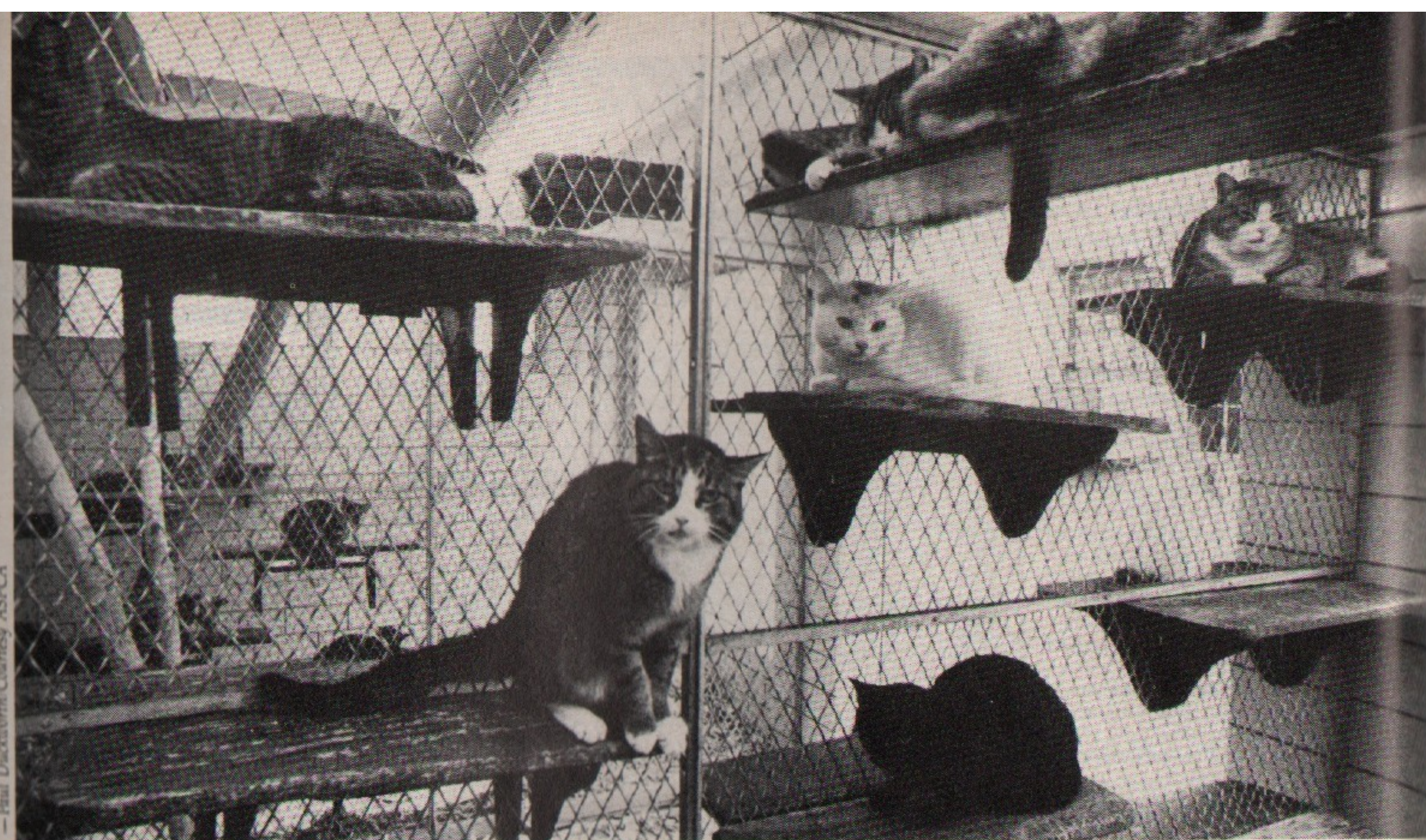
The San Antonio, Tex. group Voice for Animals unveiled the state's first anti-fur billboards in December, following their fourth annual anti-fur rally. The three billboards read "The Look That Kills—Don't Buy Fur," a message designed to counter last year's fur industry slogan, "Fur is for Life." Fifty-two people attended the rally, held between two of the city's largest malls where many furriers are located. The group plans to place additional billboards throughout the city in the coming months. Voice for Animals may be reached at: P.O. Box 120095, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Woolworth's Found Guilty of Animal Cruelty

A Woolworth's store in West Orange, N.J. was found guilty of 12 counts of animal cruelty on January 5, but the variety store chain was fined an insignificant \$250 plus \$25 court costs by Municipal Court Judge Howard Skarbnik. The charges came after an inspector from the Associated Humane Societies discovered animals in Woolworth's pet department crowded into filthy cages, some without food or water. Readers are urged to contact Woolworth's and ask them to stop selling live birds, mammals, and fish in their stores. Write to: John W. Lynn, chairperson of the board, F.W. Woolworth Co., 223 Broadway, New York, NY 10079.

If you notice newspaper articles about animal rights issues, or know of local events or actions on behalf of animals, send copies and/or details to: News Editor, *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881.

NETWORK NOTES



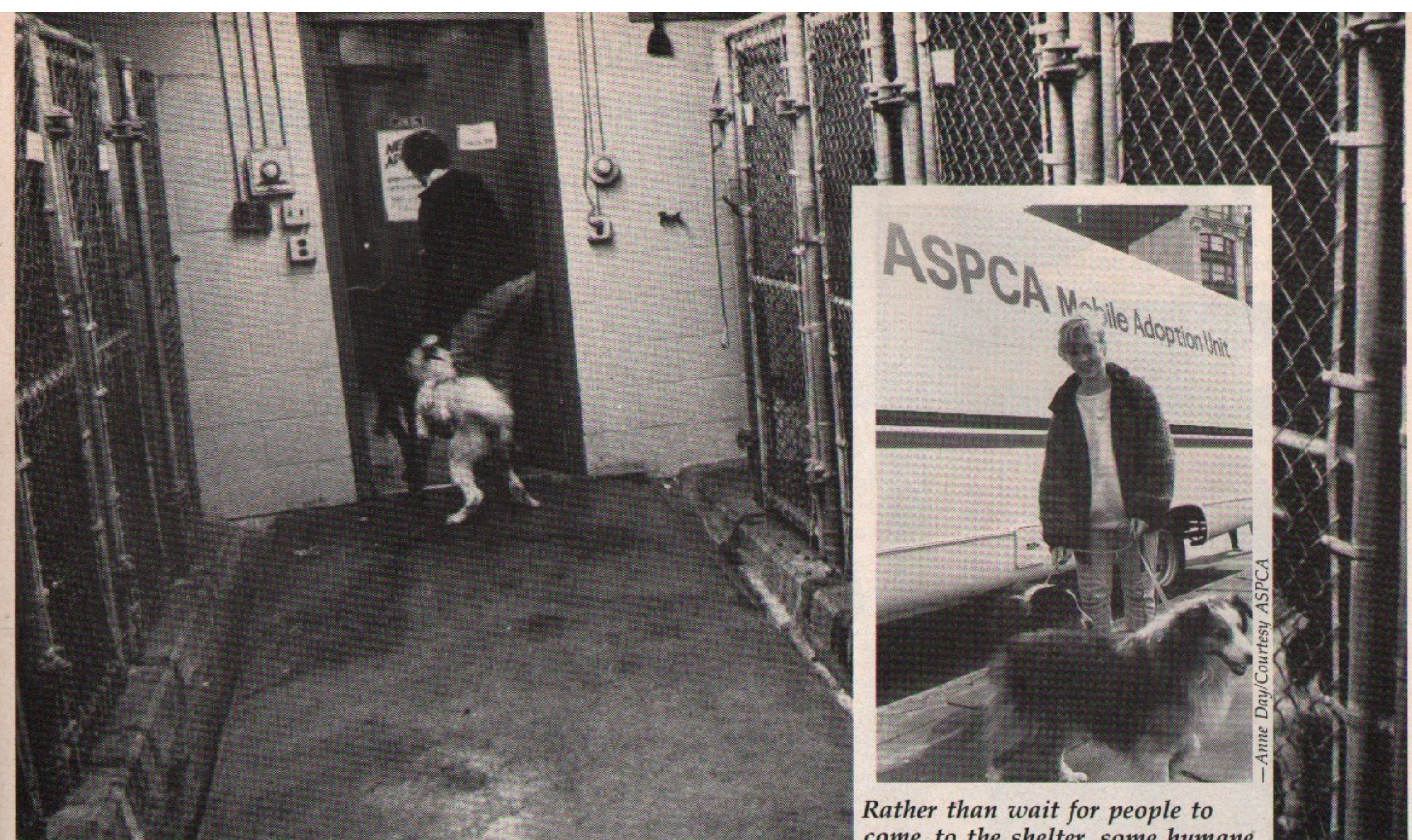
As many as 59 million cats may have homes in the U.S.; 11.7 million others enter shelters each year, and millions more struggle to survive in a wild, or "feral," state.

Animal Shelters:

Anyone out to spark a successful revolution of ideas, attitudes, and behavior in this country could find no better vehicle for change than a network of local units staffed with trained professionals and volunteers dedicated to the cause. Establishing a nationwide network like this could take years, but it already exists in the form of approximately 3,500 local animal shelters. The majority of shelters are, of course, conservative in scope and aim, restricting their activities mainly to dog and cat problems. Municipal shelters or pounds mainly exist to enforce animal control laws; many, however, have humane education and community outreach programs to promote responsible "pet ownership." But the work of these shelters—be they privately or publicly funded—represents the longest continuous attack on a specific animal problem that has ever been mounted.

That problem is dog and cat overpopulation. While dogs and cats also suffer from abuse and neglect by disturbed or insensitive individuals, or in laboratory or breeding businesses, overpopulation is currently the greatest problem they face in terms of numbers affected. Statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for 1983 estimate the number of companion animals in homes at 54 million dogs and 53 million cats, though more recent estimates place the companion cat population as high as 59 million. But no one knows how many are living in wild or semi-wild states in alleys, parks, and wooded areas.

According to figures in the American Humane Association (AHA) 1986 *Animal Shelter Reporting Study*, about 15.5 million dogs and 11.7 million cats enter shelters each



The U.S. companion dog population is about 54 million; 15.5 million less fortunate canines end up in shelters or pounds.

Rather than wait for people to come to the shelter, some humane societies are taking adoptable animals into the community.

Changing Roles

BY CAROL MOULTON

year. "Owner relinquished" animals, those turned over to the shelter by people who no longer want them, comprise 40.6 percent of the dogs and 49 percent of the cats. The most common reasons given are that the people are moving and can't take the animals with them, or that the animal has behavioral problems (i.e., not housebroken, too noisy, or destructive to furniture or carpets).

Arriving as lost or stray animals are 59.4 percent of the dogs and 51 percent of the cats. Once in the shelter, 19 percent of the stray and lost dogs and 3.3 percent of the stray and lost cats are found and claimed by their "owners." The percentage of cats reclaimed is low partly because they seldom wear tags or collars with identification.

The leftover animals are put up for adoption, and in this way 21 percent of those dogs and 19 percent of those cats are placed in new homes. The unadopted represent the tragedy: 60 percent of the dogs and 77.7 percent of the cats who enter shelters are destroyed simply because there are no homes for them. We're talking about 8.3 million dogs and 9.3 million cats—most of them young, sociable, healthy animals who are simply discarded because human society has no room for them.

A major question, then, is: "With a network of 3,500 shelters working in communities to end dog and cat overpopulation, why are we still having to kill more than 17 million a year?" Or, put another way: "What does it take to end overpopulation so we can stop practicing mass euthanasia?" The answers are just beginning to be found, and, in the past few years, some shelters have seen significant reductions in the numbers of incoming animals.

Richard Daigle
McNeese State University, 1987

"We didn't have Lumen back then . . . People used to eat real animals."

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Where did they all come from?

AHA has been around for 112 years, and the periodicals it has published and collected over that time provide a glimpse into the humane movement and its concerns over the years. Cruelty, neglect, and exploitation of animals were the focus of early animal protection activities, but the campaigns most often centered on the horse. There is very little mention of dog and cat overpopulation problems in turn-of-the-century humane literature. A booklet titled "How to Kill Animals Humanely," apparently issued around 1910 by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), was prefaced with the statement, "This essay is intended to give instruction to those who desire to terminate the existence of animals in the most speedy and humane manner, whether such animals are intended for food, or whether they have become useless through age, sickness, or other cause." Dogs and cats in the booklet are always in the category of old or disabled, with the exception of one paragraph advising that "the young of cats and dogs, when but a few days or hours old, may be humanely destroyed by drowning, if properly executed." The first issues of AHA's newsletter "The National Humane Review," published from 1913 to 1916, contain hundreds of articles about horse abuse and dozens on cruelty to dogs or cats, trapping, rabbit coursing, hunting, farm animal suffering, and other issues—but none on overpopulation as a specific problem. In light of this background, dog and cat overpopulation would seem to be a late 20th-century problem, and it can be conjectured that urbanization combined with advances in veterinary medicine is the root cause.

In rural America, a female dog or cat in estrus might find only one or two potential mates within a mile. And, since she might well be undernourished (which can affect estrus), pregnancy might occur less often with smaller litters. In urban America, there can easily be two dozen or more male animals living close enough to a female in season to pick up the scent. Any shelter worker can tell tales of male dogs breaking through screen doors or jumping six-foot fences in a frenzy to get to the female whose scent he has caught. And female cats will slither through impossibly small spaces to break out of the house to go courting. Pregnancy now is pretty much a sure thing for an unspayed

dog or cat—no matter how hard one tries to keep his or her companion animal from it.

In the early part of this century, neither humans nor nonhumans had the benefit of antibiotics and inoculations against debilitating and deadly diseases. The young of all species were particularly vulnerable. As many human parents lost children to smallpox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria, many canine and feline mothers lost puppies and kittens to distemper and upper-respiratory infections. With a lower birth rate and a higher death rate for dogs, cats, and humans, there was no widespread overpopulation problem.

*"With a network of
3,500 shelters working
in communities to end
dog and cat over-
population, why are we
still having to kill more
than 17 million a year?"*

Where do they go?

The animal sheltering system grew alongside the overpopulation problem. The shelters themselves range from small, rural-area Quonset huts with runs for five to ten dogs to state-of-the-art facilities capable of housing four to five hundred animals at a time, but there are three basic types of operations:

1. Tax funds and user fees support public shelters, which are basically animal control holding facilities. These are sometimes referred to as pounds, short for "impoundment facilities." Their basic function is to enforce animal control ordinances, and protect the health and welfare of the people in the community by minimizing the number of instances of animals damaging property, threatening humans, causing automobile accidents, disturbing the peace, and spreading disease. There is growing understanding among municipal animal control agencies that it isn't enough to simply clean up after problems occur by impounding strays. The aim now is to get to the root of the problems

(human ignorance and indiscriminate breeding), and, through education and tougher laws, eventually eliminate the problem rather than "band-aid" it.

2. Most cities have one or more private humane agencies (often called the Animal Rescue League, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or the Humane Society), that are usually nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable agencies dependent on bequests and donations from members. Private shelters that have a policy of accepting any and all animals brought to them may find that they must euthanize animals not claimed or adopted within a certain period of time, because of the continuous flow of incoming animals and the limited space and funds available. Shelters that do not euthanize (no-kill shelters) typically have long waiting lists of animals to be turned over to them, as they also may have limited space and funds. When the no-kill shelter is full, people who will not wait for an opening usually turn in their animals to the city or private shelter that takes all comers.

Private humane organizations generally have programs to educate children and adults about animal care and welfare. Counseling and educating potential adopters of shelter animals is another important function. A requirement that all adopted animals be spayed or neutered is now typical for a private shelter, as are follow-up procedures to ensure compliance with the rule. A variety of other programs like animal rescue services, animal care classes, obedience training for dogs, advice on behavior problems, and cruelty investigations may be provided by private agencies.

3. The third type of agency is a private humane society that has negotiated a contract with a city or county government to handle animal control for the community. Sometimes the shelter only houses impounded animals, while animal control officers are dispatched and supervised by the police department. In other cases, a private shelter may hire, train, and supervise animal control officers in the field, as well as house impounded animals. The private organization collects a fee from local government for its animal control service, but may seek private donations to support other programs, such as humane education and animal rescue. Most cities of any size have more than one shelter, but often they work independently with few, if any, cooperative endeavors or programs.

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What steps will end overpopulation?

National statistics show that the overall number of animals handled by shelters has increased in the last few years, but some areas have reported significant decreases in the number of incoming animals. Other shelters, while they have not decreased intake numbers, have raised adoption and reclaim rates, which has resulted in fewer animals being destroyed. How has this been accomplished?

Aggressive action to promote and/or require spaying and neutering of animals. The first step here is an enforced requirement that all animals adopted from the shelter be sexually altered. If this is not done, the shelter is simply adding to the problem of overpopulation, not solving it. People who adopt animals from the shelter can be held to a legal contract, but those who have obtained animals from other sources must be educated, coaxed, and often financially subsidized to get them to sterilize their cats and dogs. An ongoing

publicity campaign about overpopulation, availability of low-cost surgery, and differential dog and cat license fees that favor spayed and neutered animals are effective ways of decreasing the number of unwanted animals.

The Humane Society of Charlotte, North Carolina, announced in 1984 a 30 percent drop in stray, owner-relinquished, and abandoned dogs since 1980. During 1984, the number of stray, owner-relinquished, and abandoned cats dropped 16 percent. This decrease is attributed to their spay/neuter clinic that "fixed" 10,000

animals between 1980 and 1984. Clinic activity was fueled by a high license fee differential (\$20 for unsterilized dogs and cats, \$5 for sterilized animals), and by a requirement that animals adopted from the shelter be spayed or neutered. The Humane Society of Huron Valley, Michigan, reported a decrease in the number of incoming animals from 16,500 in 1975 to 8,744 in 1984. During this time period, their spay/neuter clinic (opened in 1975) performed 31,000 operations. The San Francisco SPCA handled 47,000 dogs and cats in 1966,

but only 19,000 in 1986. They attribute the decrease to strong public relations and education programs, and a spay/neuter program that has altered more than 25,000 animals since 1976.

Tough laws and strict enforcement. In the long run, education is the best way to change behavior. In the short run, laws that force a change in behavior are the best way to educate. The Atlanta Humane Society, which also performs animal control for Fulton County, Ga., handled over 50,000 animals in 1974. At that time, animal control ordinances were weak

and enforcement was poor due to judges who frequently did not take the cases seriously or impose significant fines on offenders. With strengthening and standardization of ordinances, and a deliberate effort to educate judges and prosecutors about the reality of animal problems in the community, Atlanta now has specific days and specific courts to hear animal cases—and a city judge who routinely fines first offenders \$200, suspended upon proof of fence or dog run construction expenditures. In the beginning

Continued on next page

The Crucial Role of Humane Education

BY PATTY A. FINCH

"I'm tired of other activists assuming that I'm politically unsophisticated, too moderate, or afraid of confrontation, simply because my main emphasis is humane education."

—An Anonymous Arizona Activist

While they may recognize humane education as the key to a better future for animals, animal rights activists may shelve it in favor of activities that seem to be more pressing, such as the upcoming anti-trapping demonstration or the abandoned strays on the doorstep. There simply is not enough time to do all that needs to be done.

Support for humane education, however, is not only hampered by a lack of time. Because it deals with children, it is too often perceived as just "kid stuff," not deserving of the attention of hard-core activists. This belief is fueled by several misconceptions.

Misconception No. 1: Humane education cannot be justified as a top priority. The teaching of compassion and respect via humane education is primarily perceived as only indirectly related to ending animal abuse. Those who care deeply about animals can take for granted the basic tenets of a humane ethic, forgetting that until the principles are understood and felt in the heart, one can hear all there is to know about the issues and still simply conclude, "It's regrettable, but, after all, they are only animals." Humane education is needed to cause a major shift in our cultural consciousness—a shift from viewing animals as "them" to viewing animals as part of "us."

Humane education is one of the most effective means of reaching new audiences. In each classroom in this country are 20 to 30 young learners, most of whom—while sympathetic to animals—have not been exposed to a humane ethic. Humane education can reach these children and—through them—their parents as well.

Misconception No. 2: The "balanced" presentation of issues demanded in the school setting is of little benefit to the cause. While controversial topics have a place in the school system, they must be handled differently from public interest topics. In the case of animal rights, it benefits the cause when schools insist on the presentation of both sides of the issue. An opinion or value based on arguments from one side only may crumble upon first exposure to the other side. Besides, it is often easy to counter the arguments of animal exploiters. Children are intelligent. There is nothing to fear from careful examination of the issues, but much to fear from ignorance.

Schools should serve to educate, not indoctrinate. Yet indoctrination often does take place in our schools—with values that society generally agrees upon. Humane education encompasses many such general values, such as kind-

ness and compassion, but too often such basic tenets are sadly ignored by activists when they do reach out to the schools. They may feel that humane education isn't really doing any good unless it focuses on the "hard issues." In dismissing the importance of general guiding principles and public interest topics, however, the opportunity may be missed to have humane education woven permanently into the school curriculum, as has been accomplished successfully with environmental education.

Misconception No. 3: While education is our hope for the future, it offers few benefits for animals in need today. When a community suffers an increase in the number of fires, the temptation is to buy another fire truck. Even though everyone understands the benefits that a fire prevention program can provide, it's difficult to think of anything besides fighting fires when you are engulfed in flames.

Most shelters and animal control agencies are engulfed by the dog and cat overpopulation problem. It is difficult to find resources for humane education. Yet, envision for a moment, children in elementary classrooms participating in a community campaign to urge adults to spay and neuter their animals. Picture children begging their parents not to let their dogs and cats have more puppies and kittens. Imagine them writing letters to editors and distributing posters. Think of the possible results.

Misconception No. 4: Humane education is already in our schools. Though the concept originated almost a hundred years ago, humane education is still not in the curriculum of most schools. Is it that difficult to get new educational programs into the schools? Not really. Environmental education, first initiated about 20 years ago, is included in almost every elementary classroom curriculum in the U.S., effectively reaching 22 million elementary students. In addition, virtually all junior and senior high science teachers devote a significant amount of instructional time to environmental issues.



—Donners/HSUS

Why has environmental education flourished in the room while humane education has floundered? With an overwhelming amount of teaching material to present and choose from, and little time to waste, teachers have to make hard choices. They must be sure that the subject matter they are teaching has clear benefits for their students.

The environmental movement has successfully demonstrated, not only to teachers but to the general public, that its cause ultimately benefits people. The animal rights movement, however, has not succeeded in doing so—partly because of its own ambivalence. Believing animals to be deserving of justice without reference to the implications for human welfare, it seems—to some animal advocates—a betrayal of their philosophy to try to illustrate the interconnectedness of human and animal welfare.

Nonetheless, expecting educators to embrace humane education without fully understanding the benefits it holds for children is unrealistic and inappropriate. Activists must demonstrate to the schools the significant contribution humane education can make to the development of children and the ultimate good of society. It develops children's sense of justice, compassion, empathy, and respect for all living creatures—including their fellow humans. In addition, the topic of animals can usually bring motivational power to lessons in any subject.

Prominent educator Joseph Featherstone recently observed, "It baffles me that we can live in a society in which children are starved to give." They need not be. Indeed, solving the problems animals face in today's world is a responsibility that today's children may be able to discharge more successfully than today's adults. Children are not hampered by vested interests, lifelong habits involving animal exploitation, or ingrained practices of putting economic considerations above all else. They are idealistic, full of energy and empathy, and almost irresistible in their appeals.

The time is ripe for humane education, and it's too big a job to leave solely to the overburdened animal shelters. Animals in need are waiting...and so are the children.

Patty Finch is Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, a division of the Humane Society of the United States.

Humane education materials are available from: The National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education, Box 362N, East Haddam, CT 06423; Focus on Animals, P.O. Box 150, Trumbull, CT 06611; and the Humane Education Committee, P.O. Box 445, New York, NY 10028.



—Ulrike Welsch/Courtesy MSPCA

Humane education can foster a child's natural empathy for animals.

When you let your pet
bring unwanted animals
into the world...



guess who pays.
PREVENT A LITTER. SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET.

The Humane Society of the United States

PHOTO: SPIDER MARTIN STUDIOS

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You can help spread the message about the tragedy of pet overpopulation—and what to do about it—with these dramatic posters from The Humane Society of the United States.

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To: The HSUS, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.
Please send me _____ "Prevent A Litter" posters. Enclosed is my check, payable to HSUS, in the amount of \$ _____.

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TAA

Continued from previous page

ning, there was a brief increase in the number of dogs handled, as people who would not care for them properly got rid of them. But, by 1983, the number of dogs and cats coming into the facilities was down to 25,500—almost half the number handled a decade earlier.

Other types of laws are effective as well—if enforced. Some states, including New Jersey and California, have passed laws requiring all animals adopted from shelters to be spayed and neutered. Los Angeles, Calif. and Fort Wayne, Ind., both have laws requiring anyone who advertises puppies or kittens for sale to pay for a permit. The number of the permit has to be displayed in the ad. The only way to avoid buying a permit is to release the litter to the animal shelter. The permit requirement is a deterrent to unplanned breeding, but it also diminishes the "owner's" desire to engage in deliberate breeding by cutting into his or her presumed profit. By reducing the number of "backyard breeders," those who want animals are more likely to adopt from the shelter, where they can be educated in proper care and be required to sterilize their new family member. The law also channels many young animals into the shelter, where—through the sterilization requirement—they can be prevented from adding to the overpopulation problem in the future.

Strong enforcement of licensing laws, with a significant differential favoring sterilized animals, is another force for controlling overpopulation. Not only does this encourage spaying and neutering, it increases the number of lost and stray animals who can be returned to their homes, since the license is traceable and the "owners" can be notified when their animals are found.

Perhaps the most unique animal ordinance at this time is a Santa Cruz, Calif. requirement that animals be sterilized the second time they are impounded. The rationale was that anybody's dog could get loose once, but those who repeatedly let their animals roam could at least be required to alter them so they would not be conceiving or fertilizing future litters of unwanted puppies and kittens during their travels. Since the law was enacted within the last two years, the long-term effects on population are not yet known.

Getting lost animals home. Almost half of the animals coming into shelters are lost or stray. If not found and reclaimed, these animals add to



Bonnie Smith/NA-AHE

Sixty percent of the dogs and 77.7 percent of the cats who enter shelters are destroyed simply because there is no place for them. About 40 percent of the dogs and 49 percent of the cats are abandoned by "owners" who no longer want them.

the overpopulation figures just as surely as newborn litters. There are many reasons why lost animals may not be reclaimed, even when their humans look for them (and not all do). Animals often get lost when left with a "pet sitter," and the sitter may not look for them. By the time the "owner" returns, the legal holding period observed by the shelter may be over and the animal euthanized. Since many cities have more than one shelter (Denver, for example, has 13) and a lost animal could end up in any one of them, the only way one could

be sure of finding a lost companion is to personally visit each shelter frequently. Denver is attempting to cope with this problem with a new computer lost-and-found system that will soon link all the shelters in the area. Lost-and-found reports from all shelters will be available in each of them. The Denver Dumb Friends League, which has operated its own in-house computer lost-and-found system for two years, has seen a 28.7 percent increase in the number of claimed animals. Even more promising is the number of *unsheltered* lost

animals reunited with their human guardians through the League's ability to computer-match phoned-in reports. The figure jumped 130 percent in the first year of the computer's use, and continues to show significant increases.

But with the volume of animals handled and the similarity in appearance of so many of them, just phoning in a description is not a reliable search method. The best way to ensure the return of lost animals is to keep them tagged with phone numbers and addresses. This is where strong licensing enforcement programs can make a difference.

Another reason why strong licensing and animal control programs can help reduce overpopulation is that they provide a way of holding people responsible for their animals. For example, more people than we would like to think will refuse to claim impounded animals because they don't want to pay the fees or fines. Rather than redeem their animals, they can replace them with puppies from the folks down the street. This, of course, creates an artificial market for animals who are really only replacing perfectly fine, healthy ones who have lost their homes. But when an animal is identified as belonging to an individual by a license tag, it is possible—if the laws permit it—to hold the "owner" legally responsible for fines and fees, whether or not the animal is reclaimed. Knowing the penalties are inescapable, people may either pick up their animals or, at least, decide to forego future "pet ownership" rather than risk additional penalties.

What else helps?

Increasing the number of animals adopted from shelters helps to lower the number of those euthanized. Twenty years ago, many shelters "sold" animals to anyone who wanted them. That only resulted in a recycling of the problem—a mistreated animal from one home would often end up being mistreated in another home, and was apt to conceive a litter or two along the way. The idea of screening potential adopters became popular, and those who did not meet certain criteria (i.e., fenced yard for a dog, and no puppies to people who worked) were refused. This was a good idea, but, as often happens, it was taken to extremes in some cases. Applicants were refused adoption by the rules rather than on a case-by-case basis. In the name of protecting the animals in their care, some shelter workers even bragged about how

Continued on next page

Early Neutering Begun by Some Shelters

Both the Memphis (Tenn.) Animal Shelter and the Hawaiian Humane Society have initiated programs whereby all adopted animals are spayed or neutered before they leave the shelter—even puppies and kittens as young as eight weeks. Although six months of age has always been considered the optimum time for sterilization, a dearth of scientific data suggests that reasons for selecting that age may be more arbitrary than medical. According to Dr. Leo Lieberman, writing in the September 1, 1987 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, more than 100,000 puppies and kittens have undergone neutering at eight weeks with no significant problems. In fact, it appears that early neutering may result in less stress on the animal, shorter surgery time, and quicker recovery.

Commenting on the new policy, Robert Lee, manager of the Memphis shelter, stated, "It would be totally irresponsible for us to release an animal capable of reproducing through the front door while hundreds of carcasses are leaving through the back door after euthanasia." Alex Wade, director of the Hawaiian organization, indicated that their program had been instituted on a one-year trial basis, with results to be monitored closely.

—Kim Bartlett; source: *American Humane Shoptalk*.

Continued from previous page
many people they had turned down for an adoption while holding out for only the most predictably perfect homes.

The idea of identifying the best homes and refusing the rest seemed sound, but there was one significant flaw: the shelter was only one of many sources of dogs and cats in the community, and while it was possible to keep someone from adopting a shelter animal, it was not possible to keep that person from obtaining an animal from another source. Pet stores, backyard breeders, show breeders, and people trying to get rid of their "pets" were all anxious to supply what the animal shelter would not. In fact, in one community studied in 1984, only four percent of the dogs and two percent of the cats in the general population came from shelters. Turning down an adoption application did not prevent mistreatment of an animal, it only transferred the problem from a shelter animal to a non-shelter animal. In most cases, had a shelter animal been adopted, he would at least have been sterilized. The non-shelter animal not only suffered whatever mistreatment might be in the offing, she might have produced 10 or 20 offspring in the meantime—

continuing the cycle of surplus animals whose lives are cheaply held.

The best shelters are now revising their adoption screening techniques. Instead of identifying good homes and rejecting "bad" ones, adoption counselors try to identify problem areas and educate the person—so that a "bad" home can be turned into a good one. If it appears there is no hope of improving the situation,

Some states have passed laws requiring all animals adopted from shelters to be spayed and neutered... Strong enforcement of licensing laws, with a significant differential favoring sterilized animals, is another force for controlling overpopulation.

counselors may try to convince applicants that they doesn't really want a companion animal by emphasizing the cost and trouble involved. The hope is that rejected applicants will rationalize the rejection by convincing themselves that they didn't really want an animal to begin with, instead of heading straight for the pet store determined to defy the shelter's rejection.

The Progressive Animal Welfare

Society of Lynnwood, Wash., a pioneer in this approach, asks potential adopters to take a humorous but meaningful "responsibility test" before looking over the animals. The test points out the common problems of living with an animal in hopes of educating the ignorant and discouraging the indifferent.

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) teaches its adoption counselors

that "one of the most important components of the adoption program is helping people become good pet owners regardless of whether they will be denied adoption at the shelter." The counselors are told the MHS adoption program is based on the following premises:

- Loving and responsible "pet owners" are not necessarily born that way;

Continued on page 53

Low-Cost Spaying and Neutering CALL 1-800-631-2212

Friends of Animals (FoA) presently operates the only national dog and cat breeding control program. Begun 31 years ago, the program facilitated the sterilization of 70,000 dogs and cats in 1987 through a network of approximately 800 participating veterinarians in 46 states.

People interested in low-cost spaying and/or neutering phone an FoA toll-free number. The FoA operator takes the names and addresses, and sends vet lists and applications. The applications are returned with payment for the desired surgery. Fees vary throughout the country, but prices are currently *no more than* \$33 for feline spay, \$49 for canine spay, \$20 for feline neuter, and \$34 for canine neuter. By return mail, FoA sends a coupon to be presented to a participating veterinarian. For those who cannot afford even those low prices, FoA has set up a subsidy fund so that fees can be reduced according to need.

Priscilla Feral, FoA president, believes that all the pet overpopulation literature in the world won't solve the problem as long as people can't afford the high cost of spaying and neutering. Activists can get help by publicizing the "800" number, enlisting local veterinarians, and generating funds. For more information about the program or to get involved, call coordinator Kathy Szymanski at (201) 922-2600 or (800) 631-2212, or write her at Friends of Animals, One Pine Street, Neptune, NJ 07753.

—KB



Too many people wait until they have a litter on their hands before having their female dogs and cats spayed. Many are born, but few will find homes.

Announcing The NEAVS 1988 Creative Arts Competition For Students

\$10,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Theme:

EXPRESSIONS OF ANIMAL RIGHTS



The New England Anti-Vivisection Society is offering students an opportunity to express their concepts of animal rights through three different creative mediums: writing, art and photography.

"Animal rights" suggests that animals have the right to share our planet without being harmed; that they be permitted to live out their lives in ways appropriate to their species without being oppressed or exploited by human beings. Examples of animal exploitation include the use of rabbits, dogs and monkeys in lab experiments; the confinement of cows, pigs, and chickens in "factory farms;" the killing of raccoons, foxes and lynx for their fur; or the use of animals such as bears and lions in circuses and bulls, goats and horses in rodeos.

Categories:

Creative Writing: a short story, poetry, play, or other creative writing of any length. Must be typewritten, double spaced, on 8½ x 11 white bond paper.

Art: Painting, pen and ink drawing, collage, sculpture, or any other creative art form. Submit color slides only of your work. Do not mail original artwork to NEAVS.

Photography: Black and white or color photographs or videotapes. Prints must be 5X7 or larger, unmounted glossy finish. Slides may be entered. Photographic film must be 35mm or larger format. Videotapes must be one-half inch VHS format of any length.

Rules:

1. Any entry that exploits or harms animals in any way will be disqualified.

2. To enter, you must be a student enrolled in an accredited school grades 6 through 12 or a high school equivalency program for the school year of 1987-1988. Entries will be judged on creativity and impact of the message that is conveyed. First, second and third prizes will be awarded in each category and at both levels.

First Prize — \$1,000 Scholarship

Second Prize — \$500 Scholarship

Third Prize — \$250 Scholarship

A total of \$10,500 will be awarded in cash scholarships.

3. You may submit only one entry in each category.

4. You must have completed your entry after September 1, 1987.

5. Each entry must be identified with your full name; address including zip code; telephone number including area code; social security number; the name, address, and

telephone number of the school or the program in which you are enrolled, your principal's name, and your grade.

6. Send your entry in a heavy, manila envelope or other secure packaging.

7. Mail your entry to CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS, NEW ENGLAND ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY, SUITE 850, 333 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108-5100.

8. All entries must be postmarked by June 15, 1988 and received within one week.

9. All entries become the property of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society and may be reproduced and distributed, in whole or in part, by NEAVS at no charge. NEAVS is not responsible for lost entries and no entry will be returned.

10. The decisions of the judges are final and judges may choose not to award prizes in any category if quality or number of entries is deemed insufficient.

11. Winners will be announced on September 15, 1988.

12. The New England Anti-Vivisection Society 1988 Creative Arts Competition For Students is subject to all local, state, and federal regulations.

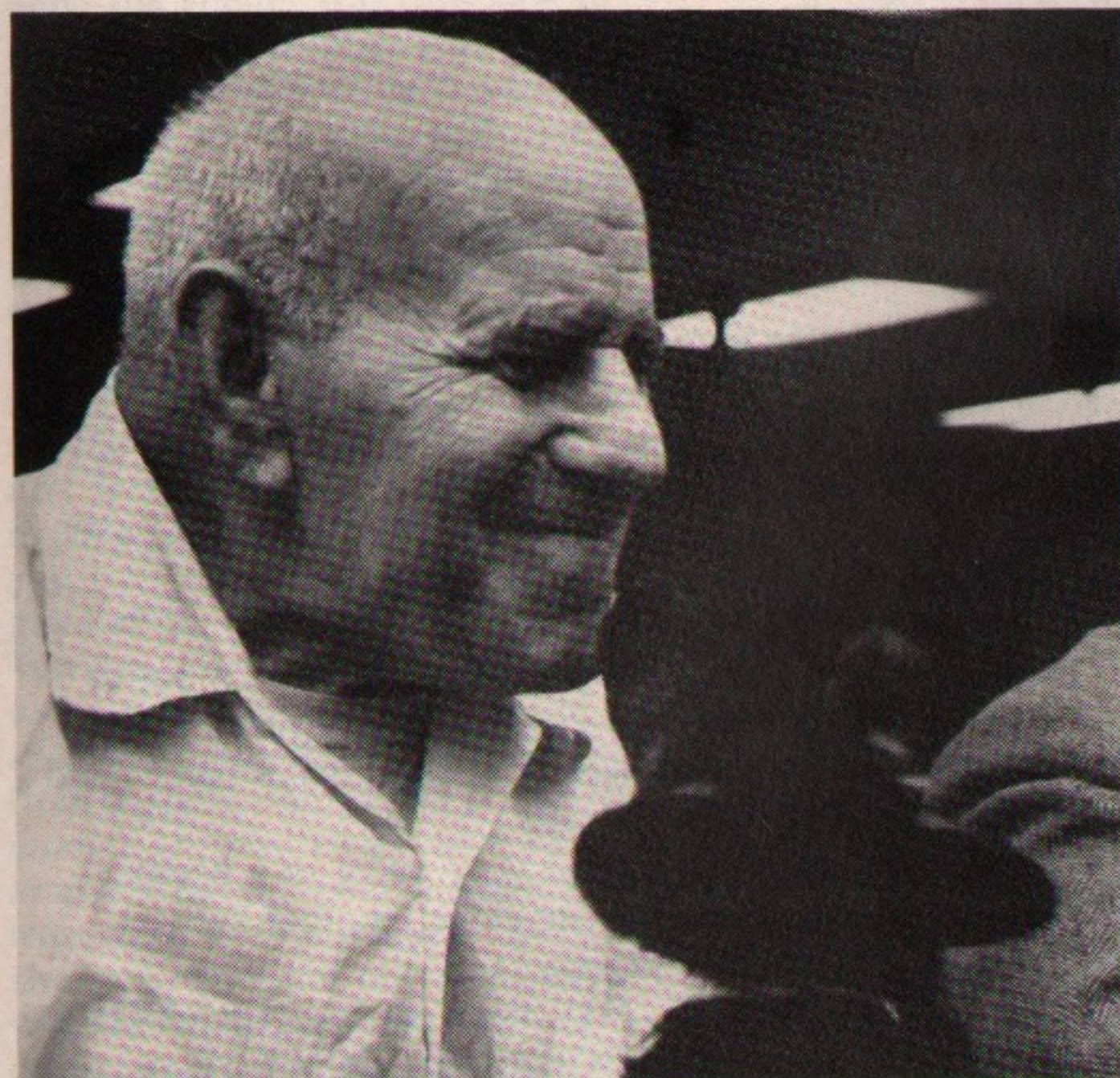
13. The immediate families of Employees, Officers, and Directors of the New England Anti-vivisection Society are not eligible.

ANIMALS' AGENDA READERS: Please photocopy this announcement and post it where students will get the message.

Pet Therapy Programs:

Can They Help People and Animals?

BY RANDALL LOCKWOOD, Ph.D.



— Mary Bloom/Courtesy ASPCA

Dogs, cats, and other animals have been part of formal programs to enhance the quality of life for institutionalized people since at least 1792. But providing a dog or cat for an hour or two isn't an adequate solution for ending chronic loneliness, and many animal advocates question the use of animals for quick psychological "fixes."

People who work closely with animals have long realized that contact with all kinds of creatures enriches human lives. Dogs, cats, and other animals have been part of formal programs to enhance the quality of life for institutionalized people since at least 1792, when England's York Retreat began using the rewards of caring for animals as a way of shaping the behavior of the mentally ill at a time when the treatment of animals and the insane was often barbaric.

Few humane societies had any structured program for bringing together animals and the elderly or handicapped until the early 1970s. In 1972, only about 15 U.S. shelters were involved in "pet facilitated therapy," or PFT. By 1982, there were more than 75 such programs run by shelters around the country. In the last few years, however, despite growing interest in the therapeutic value of companion animals, many humane societies have reduced, abandoned, or restructured their PFT activities. A major reason for these changes has been the increasing number of people who have posed the simple question, "What's in it for the animals?"

For a while, PFT programs seemed to be a growing fad. Shelter staff and humane educators were often pressured by their boards of directors to start visitation programs, despite a lack of appropriate training or adequate resources. There are a lot of people-oriented reasons why these programs seem attractive. First, outreach programs that bring animals

to institutionalized people can be a real morale booster for shelter staff who must endure the daily stresses and disappointments of shelter work. These activities can also help the public image of shelters that are often looked upon simply as places where animals are destroyed. Involvement in pet therapy gives shelter staff a chance to do something that doesn't involve killing animals. The programs are also often appealing since they may attract corporate sponsorship or other donations at a time when competition for funds among nonprofit groups is fierce.

But questions remain about the use of animals as tools to produce sometimes brief changes in the health or happiness of humans. Philosopher Bernard Rollin, for example, has commented that "nothing in the PFT movement promotes the intrinsic value of animals," adding that "humane societies that deplore the depersonalization of animals should not be treating them as disposable psychological fixes, even for people in need." Moreover, these "fixes"—while quick—are only temporary. Providing a dog or cat for an hour or two isn't an adequate solution for ending the chronic loneliness of America's disenfranchised elderly population. Other critics believe that limited humane society resources should be directed towards solving animal problems, with human-service agencies shouldering the burden of PFT.

In response, proponents of the programs point out some of the potential benefits to the animals. Dogs and cats get an opportunity for a change of scene and human contact—perhaps the only such contact they will ever know. Some of them have even been adopted by hospital or nursing home staff as a result of their visits. Unfortunately, the negatives for the animals cannot be ignored. Travel can be very stressful, particularly for young animals of uncertain health. And even an animal who is accustomed to meeting strangers might be frightened by the new sights and smells of an institution. In addition, there is always the risk of injury. Also, an animal who is away from the shelter might miss his or her chance for adoption.

Many humane societies, including the Massachusetts SPCA (MSPCA), the Women's SPCA in Philadelphia, and New York's Bide-A-Wee Home Association, began reassessing their PFT programs when sensitive staff raised concerns about tired or frightened animals returning from nursing home visits. Furthermore, many groups have realized that simple visitation programs—especially those that utilize a different animal each time—fail to fulfill a basic humane goal: to establish a bond and a lasting commitment between people and animals. The bond that emerges from therapeutic interactions should be a partnership, a two-way affair. Ideally, the animal will be perceived as important as an individual, and the human will become special in the animal's eyes.

PFT guidelines are essential

How can organizations insure that therapy programs will be beneficial for animals as well as people? Here are a few suggestions:

1) Assess the needs. No PFT program should be undertaken without careful consideration of its objectives. Is the group doing it because "everyone else is," or is there a



— Mary Bloom/Courtesy ASPCA

Unfortunately, simple visitation programs—especially those that utilize a different animal each time—may fail to fulfill a basic humane goal: to establish a bond and a lasting commitment between people and animals.

real need in the community? What is to be provided to the people: education, recreation, exercise, therapy? Are animals a necessary part of this plan? For instance, when the MSPCA wanted to provide a program at a hospital for crippled children, it was apparent that there might be problems in bringing animals into this setting. Instead, a staff member dressed up in a fuzzy dog costume was able to get the same message across with no risk to kids or animals.

2) Establish written rules. Effective PFT needs good planning and clearly defined, written guidance for staff and volunteers. Although many states have laws regulating animal therapy, most of them are public health and safety rules which do not consider the needs of the animals. Several groups have distilled years of experience into useful manuals for responsible programs. *Guidelines: Animals in Nursing Homes* (available for \$7.50 from the Delta Society, P.O. Box 1080, Renton, WA 98057-1080) gives detailed instructions for insuring the welfare of people and animals involved in therapy programs for the elderly. Guidelines for aiding the elderly in adopting animals are outlined in *The PACT Manual* (available for \$12 from People and Animals

Coming Together, P.O. Box 10653, State College, PA 16805). Both of these documents would be valuable in planning any kind of PFT program.

3) Provide appropriate training. There are few formal programs providing training, but well-run PFT groups often provide internships or workshops to acquaint newcomers with the special skills that are needed.

4) Select animals carefully. Health and sound temperament are obvious requirements for good therapy animals, but also look for that special spark that shows they are enjoying their interactions at least as much as the people are. Some of the most effective animals in the history of PFT, such as Boris Levinson's dog Jingles, seem to have "volunteered" for their therapeutic role through their enthusiasm for such contact. In many ways, the animals in PFT are the most sensitive link in the chain. Their fatigue, distress, or frustration may be the first sign that it's time to reassess methods or objectives.

If the concerns are addressed, therapy programs can benefit everyone involved. PFT programs that use animals from shelters have the potential to help animals if the organization has good guidelines, an experienced staff, carefully selected animals, special equipment (such as comfortable vans for transporting therapy animals), and a constant awareness of the needs of the participants. Some larger groups, such as the San Francisco SPCA and the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, have longstanding programs that meet these needs.

For smaller or newer groups with limited resources, the best solution is often to use well-trained volunteers who bring their own carefully screened companion animals to institutions on a regular basis. Such programs frequently pool the resources of a wide variety of animal and human-oriented service groups. Two excellent examples of such projects are Baltimore's Pets on Wheels and the Pinellas County (Fla.) Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People). Both involve local veterinarians, trainers, humane societies, dog clubs, and health and human service agencies.

With constant evaluation, PFT can evolve from a potentially exploitative fad to an important force in helping the public recognize the special debt we owe to our animal companions, and the powerful beneficial influence people and animals can have on one another.

Dr. Lockwood is Director of Higher Education Programs at the Humane Society of the United States.

Beware of "Pet Therapy" Scams

In the last several weeks, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has received complaints from local humane societies, legitimate pet therapy programs, and members of the general public about fundraising practices of previously unknown pet therapy programs. Typically, these take the form of phone calls asking for a donation that will help an organization adopt animals from the local

shelter to use in visiting the elderly or some other institutionalized group. Several people have been told that if the solicitor is unable to get the money to use the animals in this way, they will be "put to sleep." This kind of emotional blackmail has offended many humane groups.

In all cases so far, the local shelter has no connection with the soliciting organization. In fact, most shelters will not allow

organizations to adopt animals. In one case, the humane society whose name was being used was a nonsheltering organization with no animals available for adoption.

If you receive such a request for funds, there are a few simple steps you can take:

- Ask the caller for specific information about the programs. If you are suspicious, call the hospital or nursing home mentioned to confirm

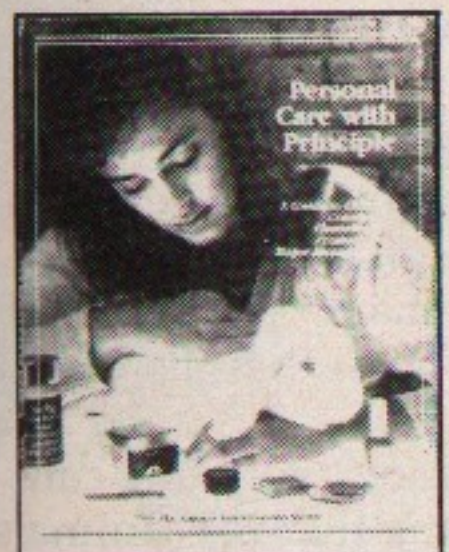
that such a program actually exists.

- Ask for a copy of the program's guidelines for the use of animals.
- Call your local humane society or animal shelter to ask about the program.
- Get the name of the organization doing the fundraising, as well as the group for which they are soliciting. Check them out with the Better Business Bureau or a solicitation review board.

—RL

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ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Beauty in the Eyes of Rabbits?

Phasing Out the Draize

Though questions linger in the minds of many about the morality of using animals in medical experiments, very few find it ethically acceptable for animals to suffer and die in the development of cosmetics and toiletries. A good case can be made that the consumer should bear whatever risks may be associated with the use of makeups and moisturizers, but manufacturers facing the far more likely risk of consumer liability suits are reluctant to phase out tests that have become industry standards. One such test is the Draize.

Named after a Federal toxicologist who first described it in 1944, the Draize test is typically performed on a group of albino rabbits restrained in stocks. A test substance is placed into the lower eyelid of one eye of each rabbit. After a set period of time, the extent of eye damage is measured and the irritancy of the substance supposedly determined. The use of anesthetics and analgesics is not required or recommended.

The test was deemed acceptable by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the authority provided by the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938, which was passed after a flurry of incidents involving harmful cosmetics. While the Act gives no authority to the FDA to require a *specific* test, it imposes on manufacturers the burden of demonstrating that their products meet the safety requirements of law.

Today, the Draize test—like its internal toxicity counterpart, the LD50 (Lethal Dose 50 Percent) test—is regarded by many scientists as crude, outdated, and highly subjective. Its technical shortcomings include a lack of fine discrimination, questionable reproducibility, and uncertain applicability to the human condition. But despite its dubious scientific status and the existence of at least 19 alternatives, as many as 100,000 rabbits will be subjected to the Draize this year in the U.S. alone.

Since 1980, when veteran activist Henry Spira launched his campaign against Revlon, the Draize test has been a major animal rights target. Under pressure from humane groups, manufacturers have contributed financially to the search for non-animal alternatives—usually in the form of grants to the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) at Johns Hopkins University. The grants, which appear

significant but are actually minuscule when compared to other corporate expenditures (the advertising budget, for example), have proven more useful as a public relations tool than as a solution to the Draize dilemma. Answering letters of protest from consumers, manufacturers like Christian Dior can point to their monetary support of CAAT as proof that they are fulfilling their "moral obligation toward finding alternatives to the present test procedure." Increasingly, they are also pointing to government regulatory agencies as obstacles to real progress in eliminating animal tests.

Manufacturers are not alone in blaming the government. Members of the scientific community also claim that Federal regulatory agencies are failing to provide the leadership and incentives needed for a shift to non-animal alternatives. While agencies like the FDA publicly proclaim support for new *in vitro* procedures, the important work of developing new standards for safety test data is entangled in a bureaucratic web. Dr. Keith Booman, technical director of the Soap and Detergent Association (SDA), has suggested that Federal agencies may present an "unnecessary obstacle to progress" by establishing "unrealistic and open-ended requirements for acceptance of *in vitro* alternatives to Draize testing." He believes that the usefulness of alternatives will remain in question until there is agreement between industry, science, and the regulatory agencies on the validity of the new methods.

In addition to the FDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission are responsible for toxicity testing regulations. Each agency has its own *in vitro* validation committee, but none of them has set standards for evaluating non-animal tests. Moreover, agencies may state that they need more scientific evidence before they can accept new tests, but they will not say exactly what evidence they require. This confusion allows manufacturers to skirt the issue while waiting for some kind of government directive. Many believe no less than an act of Congress is needed to stimulate change among the regulatory agencies. In fact, such an act has been introduced, and hearings have been scheduled for May 16th.

In vitro tests can be far more precise than animal tests, but there are limitations to specific measures of toxicity in that they fail to mimic the complexity of the whole organism. According to Dr. John Frazier, associate director of CAAT, "Any

ANIMAL NEWSLINE



—Courtesy AFAAR

Technician performing the chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) test which utilizes the non-sensitive membrane of an egg instead of a rabbit's eye.

risk assessment of human ocular irritation or any other type of toxicity is going to have to be based on a spectrum of data generated from a battery of tests." Ultimately, such a battery of tests will be pared down to the minimum number of procedures needed to provide adequate information.

There is a critical need for non-animal tests to be officially accepted, but they must also be scientifically validated. The validation process is supposed to prove that a new test will consistently and accurately assess the safety of a chemical, compound, or product; however, there is presently no consensus on exactly what will "validate" a non-animal test. The tests must predict the likelihood and severity of eye damage, but *whose* eye damage? Against what is the method being validated—rabbit eye irritancy or human exposure? Unfortunately, there is more chemical irritancy data on rabbit eyes than for human accidental exposure. Can less than perfect correlation be made up for by using a battery of tests rather than a single method? Different formulations

will require different test methods: liquids will test differently from granules, solids, or powders. And different labs must consistently get the same results for a test to be considered reliable.

The validation criteria will probably vary from industry to industry, as it is certain there will not be a single Draize replacement battery useful for all industries. The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) has already begun a Draize alternative validation project, and the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association (CTFA) signed a contract with Battelle Memorial Institution to begin evaluating ten non-animal tests in March 1988. The initial phase of the CTFA project should be completed at the end of a year, at which time information on the best tests will be released to CTFA members. It is expected that cosmetics and toiletries manufacturers will then begin to use the recommended alternatives as screening methods, with animal tests used only at the end stage just prior to human testing.

The pharmaceutical industry may have

already dropped the Draize. Because of the quantity of human data available on pharmaceuticals, the perceived need for animal eye studies would be much less than for non-medical compounds. What tests may still be conducted would be limited to non-corrosive ophthalmic preparations unlikely to cause an acute irritation reaction.

One far from ideal alternative to the classic Draize test is the modified Draize. Although rabbits are still used, smaller volumes and greater dilutions of possible irritants are applied to the animals' eyes, resulting in far less pain. Procter & Gamble has argued for years that solutions ten times more diluted than those commonly used in the test correlate better with the known impact of irritants on humans. Federal regulators, however, continue to demand more evidence before sanctioning the modified version.

At the present rate of progress, it will probably be years before Draize testing is completely eliminated, but legislative remedies are being sought to quicken the pace. Already, the city of Cambridge, Mass., has prohibited LD50 and Draize testing, and the state legislatures of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Maryland are presently considering similar bans. On the Federal level, the Consumer Products Safe Testing Act (H.R. 1635) needs a push to get through Congress. Letters urging cosponsorship should be sent to Representatives (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515), and Senators should be asked to sponsor a Senate companion bill (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510). Rep. Henry Waxman, chair of the House committee to which the bill is assigned, also needs letters asking him to vote the bill favorably out of committee. The proposed legislation would provide a mandate for the evaluation of Federal agency regulations and guidelines concerning industry use of animal toxicity tests.

In the meantime, while archaic animal tests continue, conscientious consumers have no recourse but to purchase the "cruelty-free" products made by some 150 relatively small manufacturers. These products, not tested on animals, are formulated from ingredients whose safety is already established.

For more information on non-animal testing, contact the American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research (AFAAR), 175 West 12th St., Suite 16G, New York, NY 10011. AFAAR can also provide a list of cruelty-free brands of cosmetics, toiletries, and household products. For the list, send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

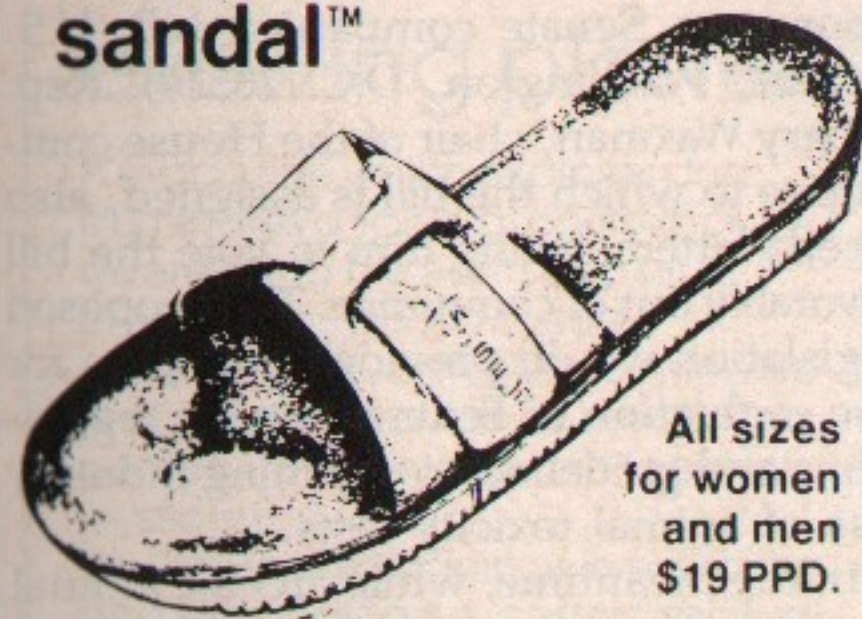
—Kim Bartlett

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ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Europe Moves to Defend Farm Animals

Last year ended with two resounding cheers from European farm animal welfare groups. The first round of applause went to the Swedish government, which announced its decision to ban factory farming, saying "animal rearing in the future will be geared towards keeping animals healthy and happy." The government plans to phase out battery cages and the tethering of pigs, and to guarantee cows the right to graze outdoors. The second cheer came as a result of the passage of legislation by the Parliament of the United Kingdom (U.K.) to ban the veal crate. Starting in 1990, it will be a punishable offense in the U.K. to keep a calf in a single pen unless the calf is able to turn around without difficulty and is provided with adequate dietary iron and fiber.

The U.K. veal crate ban came just before the 21st birthday of the organization Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), a group headquartered in Britain which seeks to address farm animal issues on an international level. The ban was the result of many years of campaigning by CIWF, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), and Animal Aid. The campaign focussed on winning over public opinion by showing the cruelty of the veal crate. CIWF had a life-sized model calf and crate made which toured the U.K., creating interest and enlisting support. Veal fast became a dirty word in the minds of consumers.

The final nail in the veal crate's coffin was CIWF's prosecution of Gerston Farm, a 650-calf intensive confinement veal farm run by a religious order in Storrington, a small Sussex village. On the farm, calves were chained by their necks in crates measuring less than 24 inches wide. Although the battle was lost and the farm manager was found not guilty of causing unnecessary distress and suffering to the calves, the war was won. The case proved that the U.K. Ministry of Agriculture's "Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Cattle" were not worth the paper they were printed on, and the farm closed down after widespread publicity and protests from Storrington villagers, many of whom stopped going to the monks' church. When the U.K. Minister of Agriculture announced the veal crate ban in 1986, he said that the crate was being banned because "it did not comply with the Codes." The court



— Courtesy CIWF

The U.K. has banned the veal crate, and the European Economic Community may not be far behind.

case, which cost over £13,000 of generously donated funds, had been well worth it.

Farm animal welfare is now very much on the agenda of the European Economic Community (EEC—composed of the twelve member states of Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and West Germany). Richard Simmonds, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from the U.K., led the effort to pass the Simmonds Report on Farm Animal Welfare in the EP. Passed on February 20, 1987, the report and its 22 far-reaching amendments call on the EEC's Commission (the body which makes binding decisions) to introduce legislation to: 1) ban the practice of keeping veal calves in individual crates; 2) phase out the battery cage system for egg-layers within ten years; 3) discontinue the close confinement of pregnant sows using either individual stalls or tethers; 4) ban the routine performance of mutilations such as tail-docking and castration of piglets; and 5) establish a regulation setting down 24 hours as the maximum length of time animals may be transported without food, water, and rest. A year to the day of the issuance of the Simmonds Report, a document entitled "Draft Proposals for a Directive Concerning Minimal Standards for the Protection of Calves Kept in Intensive Veal Production Systems,"

issued by the EEC Commission, arrived at CIWF headquarters.

The veal calf proposals are a good start for negotiation. As they stand, they would stop farmers from keeping calves in solitary confinement after eight weeks of age and would ensure that calves are given roughage and sufficient iron to maintain health and well-being. Farmers would also be prohibited from keeping calves in perpetual darkness.

CIWF has been asked by the U.K. Ministry of Agriculture to comment on these proposals. Two of their suggestions will be a complete ban on solitary confinement of calves and a requirement that bedding be provided. The U.K. Ministry is itself anxious to promote an EEC ban. Member of the U.K. Parliament and the public are concerned that, while veal crates are banned in the U.K., British calves are still exported to the Continent to be incarcerated in crates upon arrival. In 1987, U.K. calf exports increased by 81 percent.

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Informed sources state that the French and Italian governments are already making strong statements against the Draft Proposals. A lot of lobbying, campaigning, and cooperation between European animal protection organizations lies ahead. Fortunately, all the groundwork has already been done—the animal welfare lobby at the EP is one of the most effective, if not the most effective, in existence there.

In 1980, several European animal protection organizations banded together to form "Eurogroup," which includes the World Society for the Protection of Animals and animal welfare organizations in each of the 12 EEC member states. The member organizations act as liaisons with other animal protection groups in their own countries. The founding of Eurogroup, and the increasing volume of mail received by MEPs from their constituents about animal welfare issues led to a group of MEPs founding the all-party Intergroup for

Animal Welfare, which now meets each month in Strasbourg. The Intergroup discusses animal welfare issues and puts forward resolutions to the European Parliament. Eurogroup, which acts as the Intergroup Secretariat, is able to recover 50 percent of its total operating costs from the Commission. In effect, the animal welfare lobby is so well-organized that it has arranged for the Commission to pay for it to lobby!

CIWF's aim over the coming months is to awaken greater interest in farm animal welfare in member states where there is not yet an effective animal protection lobby—most notably in France. Without French support, it is very difficult to get anything done at all in the EEC. If a ban on veal crates throughout the EEC is to succeed, the French and Italian governments must be won over.

—Carol Long

Carol Long is the campaign director for Compassion in World Farming.

Hunter Harassment Law Declared Unconstitutional

On February 1, 1988, in a 20-page decision that Connecticut animal rights activists hailed as "precedent setting," U.S. District Court Judge Alan Nevas struck down Connecticut's "Act Concerning the Harassment of Hunters, Trappers and Anglers" as unconstitutional. The plaintiff in the case, Francelle Dorman of East Lyme, Conn., filed a declaratory and injunctive release (a motion to judge the law's constitutionality and "enjoin the defendants from enforcing and prosecuting under the Act") soon after a state's attorney dropped a hunter harassment charge against her in January 1986.

In all, 27 states have enacted some form of hunter harassment legislation, but Connecticut's law is the first to be struck down. Prior to that decision, the only official legal word on the constitutionality of hunter harassment legislation came in May 1986. Queried by the state legislature which was considering hunter harassment legislation, the New Hampshire Supreme Court offered the opinion that such legislation would be unconstitutional.

The controversial Connecticut law, under which 11 people have been arrested since the state legislature passed it with near unanimity in May 1985, reads: "No person shall interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife by another person, or acts in preparation for such taking, with the intent to prevent such

taking; or harass another person who is engaged in the lawful taking of wildlife or acts in preparation of such taking." Calling the law "unconstitutionally vague and overbroad," Nevas essentially ruled that it does not specify what conduct is prohibited and that it threatens protected conduct. Singling out specific wording, Nevas declared, "the acts of preparation clause can be reasonably read to encompass buying supplies long before the actual hunt takes place . . . but could also include the purchase of food and clothing to be used on the hunting trip; consulting a road map on a public road; . . . or even getting a good night's sleep before embarking on a hunting trip." Though he maintained the state was capable of passing a constitutional law to protect hunters while hunting, Nevas went on to say "the Act as written 'criminalizes a substantial amount of constitutionally protected speech' " and that "the propriety of hunting and taking wildlife is a fair subject for spirited debate."

Nevas' decision, though, has not resulted in the anticipated dismissal of pending hunter harassment charges against six animal rights activists. The state's attorney, it seems, will attempt to prosecute them under a disorderly conduct statute, a reduced charge. What's more, the state is appealing Nevas' decision, and that appeal still allows the state to prosecute the activists under the

hunter harassment statute.

Perhaps more important, Nevas' decision may influence the application of existing statutes and the future of similar legislation under consideration in other states and at the Federal level, where U.S. Representative Ron Marlenee (R-MT) has introduced H.R. 3834, the "Hunter Protection Act." Francelle Dorman's attorney, Kathleen Eldergill, maintains, "Having a precedent that recognizes the unconstitutionality of the statute will help those making similar arguments in other states. Specifically, it will help them to the degree that a particular statute is similar to Connecticut's." In his decision, however, Nevas noted that "None of these other statutes contains the specific language at issue in this challenge to Connecticut's Act."

In Connecticut, several state legislators supportive of hunter harassment legislation have already vowed to introduce a modified version. Eldergill notes that "By the time proponents of such legislation design a constitutional statute, it will be so precise that it's not going to prohibit conduct that isn't already illegal by some other existing statute." Whatever happens, the movement to pass hunter harassment laws—inspired by the National Rifle Association and the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America—has been dealt a serious blow.

—Wayne Pacelle

OUTREACH CAMPAIGN '88

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS MAGAZINE

May 1988

Dear Reader,

As we approach the end of the 1980s we can look back with some pride on a decade that has seen a great increase in public understanding and acceptance of animal rights ideas. But while it's certainly healthy to reflect positively on the groundwork that we've set down, we must realize that we have a monumental set of problems—affecting both animals and people—profoundly—to tackle.

Despite a growing public anti-fur sentiment in the United States and elsewhere, for example, the fur industry still kills nearly 300 million animals per year to make fur coats. In addition, 70 million wild animals will be killed and maimed by hunters this year, mostly in the name of sport. In spite of the existence of humane societies and animal welfare groups in virtually every community in the country, we will routinely kill 20 million homeless cats and dogs for lack of better life-affirming solutions. Sixty million animals will die in laboratories this year, many to test new shampoos and cosmetics; many the victims of a public policy which almost totally ignores prevention as a means to human health. And of course there's the "forgotten ninety-five per cent," the five billion "farm" animals who will live lives of misery and deprivation to produce meat. But perhaps our relationship with animals can be best summed up by one particularly unnecessary tragedy—that of the one million animals per day killed by automobiles on our nation's highways.

Just a few years ago the Global 2000 Report issued some dire warnings about the rapid depletion of the ozone level, the systematic destruction of the world's rainforests, the extinction of many species of animals, and the possibility of a mass extinction of all species—including humans—in a nuclear war. Though not "animal issues," per se, they, too, impact on animals and nature significantly.

Yes, we still have a lot of work to do.

Of course, as a reader of **The ANIMALS' AGENDA**, you know all that. You know the issues, the social forces involved, and what real alternatives exist. And you know some of the things that we need to do to force a reevaluation of our attitudes towards animals and nature.

That's why we feel an informative tool such as **The ANIMALS' AGENDA** is so crucial to people who really care about the world. Since our beginning in 1979 we have been an indispensable aid to the development and growth of an animal rights movement. Not just a reflection, merely reporting what goes on and saying what people want to hear, but a conscience, a stimulant to the dialectic we need to employ to change the world, and to improve our intramovement dynamics so we can work effectively and in a unified way to change current conditions.

A great opportunity exists for us today. Animal rights has gained enough credibility to be now amongst the serious issues being discussed. And other trends—a growing popularity of "cruelty-free" non-animal products, and even **The ANIMALS' AGENDA's** modest success on newsstands—point to a rooting of animal rights into mainstream culture.

These are harbingers of hope, but the animal rights movement today is still fragmented, still groping for a collective identity, and a clear, unified message. That's understandable. All of the animal issues, and the related environmental and moral issues we regularly deal with, amount to a rather complicated set of concerns making up what we call "animal rights" today. Animal advocates, and potential ones, desperately need to be informed with a coherent world view. And they need a publication to serve as a means of communications, and to reach out to others who share our concerns.

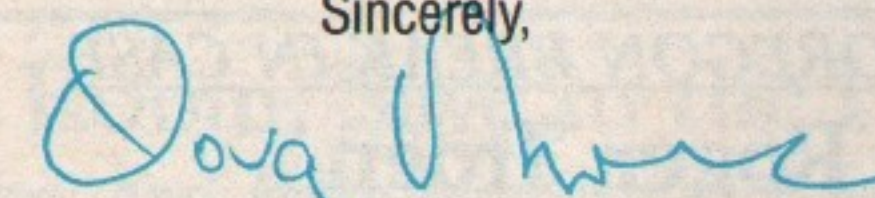
The ANIMALS' AGENDA is in a good position to do this. But even with an estimated readership of 75 - 100,000, we're still touching too few people. The main impediment, of course, is a lack of funds. Sure, we're "sustaining," while providing good coverage and good analysis, but we need to *grow*. We need funds to pay for direct mail appeals, newsstand solicitations, paid ads in major magazines, and to break into the long overlooked medium of *television* to reach mass audiences with **The ANIMALS' AGENDA** and animal rights.

Ordinarily, we appeal to our readers just a few set times during the year—at Christmas time and then again after the holidays. All in all, we brought in about \$20,000 from our appeals around the holidays, and we're bringing in that much again on a yearly basis through our sustainer program.* Donations also trickle in via contributions over and above subscription and renewal orders, and we're receiving some grants to pay for free institutional subscriptions.

This year we want to start raising funds early so we can get to work early on some aggressive circulation promotion. Aside from the obvious benefits of a larger circulation, building the subscriber base also makes the fundraising, and hence *further* circulation-building, easier. As I write this, 220,000 subscription appeals are going in the mail at a phenomenal cost. And our ambitious plans call for several of these appeals per year in addition to other worthwhile—but expensive—campaigns like the ones mentioned above.

So this letter kicks off **OUTREACH CAMPAIGN '88** and we hope you'll help us by sending a check today for any amount, \$5 or \$1000, whatever you can reasonably manage. Contributions to **The ANIMALS' AGENDA** are always tax-deductible. Or, if you're not a subscriber (yet) and you've picked us up off the newsstand or are reading this in a library, please see the subscription cards on pages 7 and 55 and join us in our vision for a more sane, sensible and humane world—for everyone.

Sincerely,



Doug Moss
Publisher

*P.S. Some 125 of our readers are now **ANIMALS' AGENDA Sustainers**. Sustainers pledge \$250 or more per year towards our publishing effort (paid in quarterly 'installments') and receive a special PUBLISHER'S REPORT newsletter. Please consider joining our Sustainer program by checking the appropriate spaces on the coupon.

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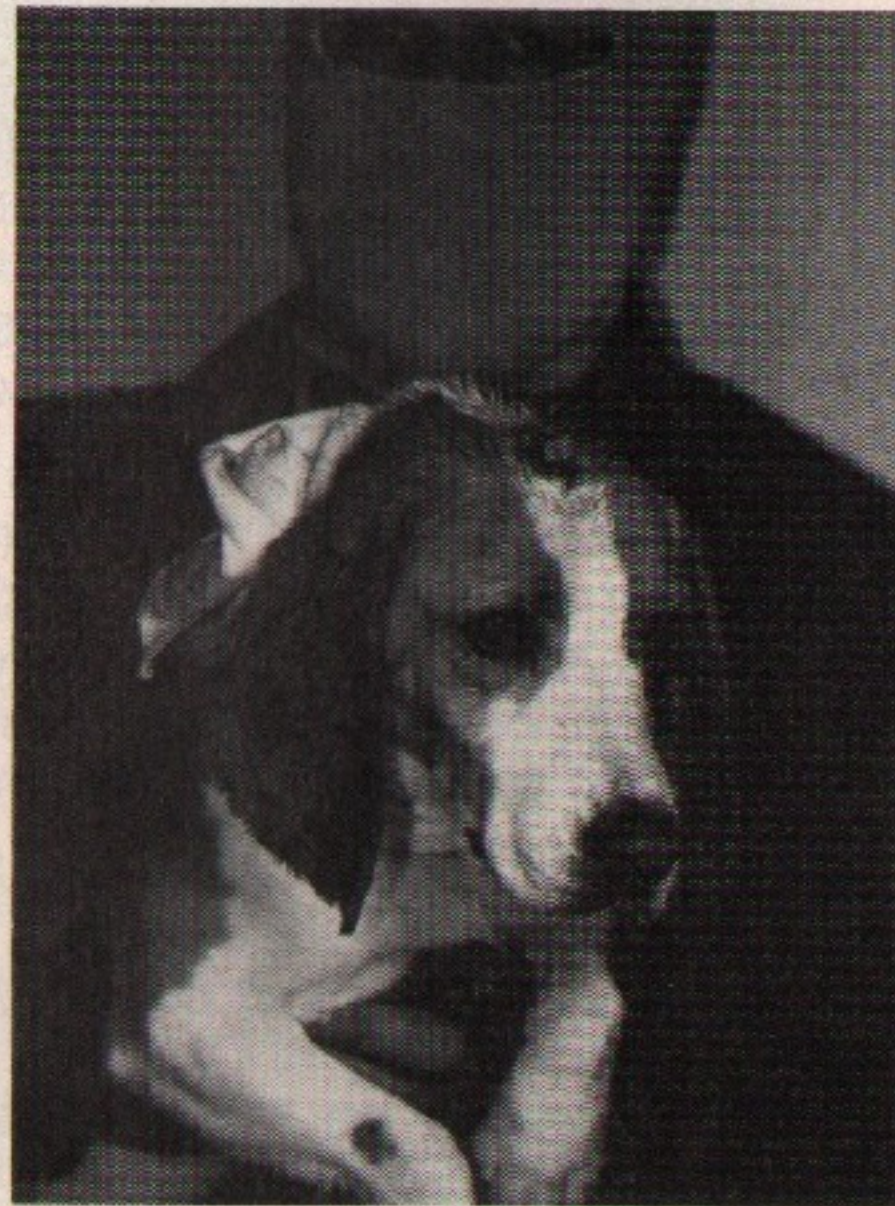
—Van Valkenburg/NEAVS

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

ALF RAIDS UNIVERSITY LAB Illegal Beagles

On the night of Friday, January 29, 13 beagles were taken from their outdoor cages at the University of California at Irvine (UCI) by members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), who apparently cut through two padlocks to gain entrance to the kennels. The absence of the animals was not discovered until the following afternoon, when local news outlets received notes from the ALF claiming responsibility for the action. Eleven of the dogs were being used by UCI researchers to study the effects of smog on the lungs; the other two were part of a research project studying complications in tracheotomy surgery (a procedure whereby an alternate airway is created by cutting a hole in the trachea).

Dr. Robert F. Phalen, director of UCI's Air Pollution Health Effects Laboratory,



ALF member and Clyde, one of the beagles used in UCI's tracheotomy studies.

—Courtesy ALF

heads a team of researchers which, for the past 13 years, has been forcing beagles to breathe various levels of smog while running on treadmills—to the tune of some \$900,000 a year. Following the liberation, the ALF announced that the dogs had been examined by a veterinarian and, contrary to the researchers' claims, showed evidence of abuse as a result of the experiments.

The ALF reported that the mouths of the dogs used in the smog studies were damaged by the pressure of the tight-fitting masks they were made to wear. The dogs also suffered discoloration of the teeth and gums from the toxic fumes they were forced to breathe, and the top center teeth of many of the dogs had been removed, apparently to ensure a tight fit for the masks. The two beagles used in the tracheotomy studies had electrodes surgically implanted in their heads in order to monitor their sleeping patterns. According to the ALF, another dog had electrodes implanted in the abdomen;

another suffered from severely infected anal glands; and still another had a large tumor-like growth behind one ear, into which researchers had inserted a plastic drain. The feet of the dogs used in the smog studies were enlarged, reddened, and calloused—a condition apparently caused by running on the treadmills and having blood samples repeatedly taken from their feet.

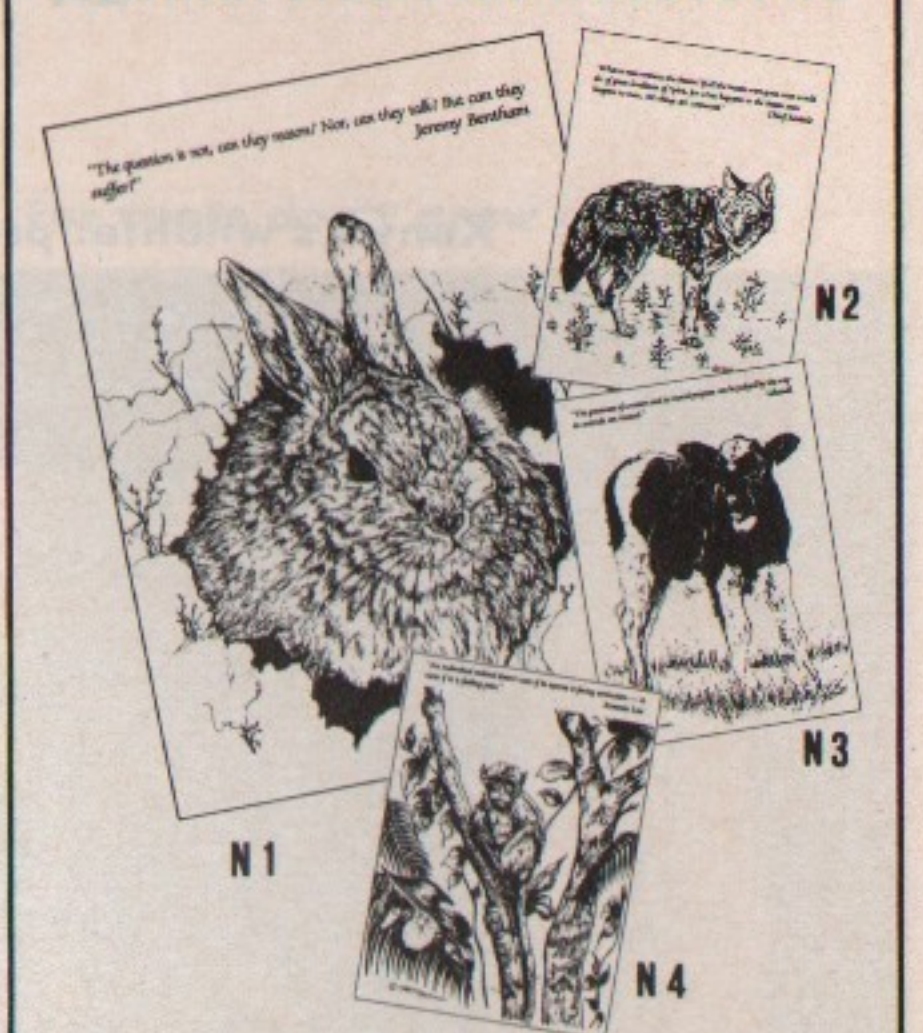
Phalen claims that the dogs weren't suffering in the smog studies. "The exposures are not destructive to the dogs... I think they enjoy it," he told reporters. Yet, he admitted that the smog levels were comparable to those in the Los Angeles Basin at its worst—levels which everyone already knows are not good for humans. Responded activist Bob Barker in *The Los Angeles Times*, "Would you believe for one moment that an animal would enjoy breathing smog and running on a treadmill? That is utterly ridiculous. It is also ridiculous to be wasting taxpayers' money with those experiments when there are many people with respiratory problems who would welcome [participation in the

studies]." UCI spokesperson Kathy Jones claimed that "UCI only uses animals when there's no other model," yet she admitted that she didn't know whether humans could have been used in the "harmless" smog research project.

The crime-fighting organization "We Tip" has offered a \$23,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the liberators, to which Phalen has added \$5,000 of his own money. The project is likely to continue—seven dogs who were inside a locked building undergoing preparation for experimentation at the time of the raid remain, and the university may replace the dogs who were taken (at a cost of some \$20,000). Despite her initial pronouncement that tightening security at the facility "would run counter to our mission as an education and research institution," Jones later admitted that researchers were consulting with campus police, and would probably implement stricter security measures at the facility.

—Leslie Pardue

Animal Activist Notecards



Original pen and ink drawings of rabbit, coyote, calf, and monkey, accompanied by a humane quotation. On back is an overview of current forms of abuse of each animal. Blank inside. 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" white 100% recycled quality card stock. Please specify Assorted (2 of each design) or 8 of any ONE design. \$6.00/pkg. of 8 PLUS \$1.00 p/h PER PKG. PA res. add 6% sales tax. Send check or money order to: Debra J. Hartman, Finely Crafted Gifts, RD2, Box 197, Dept A, Troy, PA 16947.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BREAK-IN CASE

The Trial of Roger Troen

On October 26, 1986, members of the clandestine Animal Liberation Front (ALF) freed some 264 animals (including cats, rabbits, pigeons, rats and hamsters) from a University of Oregon (UO) research lab (see our coverage of the raid in the January/February 1987 issue). The raiders caused an estimated \$50,000 worth of damage to the facility during the break-in. Nine months of investigation by local, state and Federal authorities yielded the July 1987 arrest of Roger Troen, a 57-year-old self-employed graphic designer from Portland. Police were tipped off to Troen's participation in the action by a local veterinarian who said that Nanette Benson of Nehalem brought three former UO lab rabbits to him for examination. The vet told police that Benson said she had obtained the rabbits from Troen.

Troen's trial began on January 12, 1988. His attorney, Stephen Houze, told the court during pre-trial proceedings that Troen would not dispute the facts of the case (that he transported and later found homes for some of the animals taken during the raid, but did not directly participate in the break-in itself). Rather, Troen's defense would be based on the "choice-of-evils" premise: that his actions were taken to prevent a greater harm from

taking place—namely, the continued experimentation on the animals by UO researchers. Assistant District Attorney Frank Papagni asked the court to refuse to allow evidence to be presented before a jury in support of the choice-of-evils defense, arguing that Troen's case did not meet the legal requirements of that defense.

During the pre-trial proceedings, Houze spent six days presenting testimony and documents before Lane County Circuit Court Judge Edwin E. Allen, in the hopes of later presenting them to a jury. On January 21, Allen ruled out the use of the choice-of-evils defense, preventing a jury from hearing evidence which would attempt to show that Troen's actions were necessary and reasonable steps to take to prevent harm being caused to the animals. Houze plans to appeal the ruling, saying that "The premise of our presentation is that every person is entitled to a defense. In this case, the defense was 'choice of evils.' The judge's ruling deprives us of our right, in effect, to a jury trial... We believe the ruling is incorrect." Once Allen disqualified the use of the defense, Troen waived his right to a jury trial under those circumstances and was found guilty of first-degree theft,



Roger Troen and friend.

—Linda Wright

second-degree burglary, and conspiracy to commit second-degree burglary (all Class C felonies carrying maximum sentences of five years in jail and a \$100,000 fine). At press time, Troen's sentence had not yet been determined; his sentencing is set for March 23.

During the pre-trial proceedings,

numerous witnesses were called to testify on Troen's behalf—including primatologist Roger Fouts, Neal Barnard of the Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine, and Dr. Nedim Buyukmihci of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) provided legal and moral support for Troen throughout the proceedings. Three UO researchers—Greg Stickrod, Richard Marrocco, and Barbara Gordon-Lickey—were also questioned on the witness stand by Houze. At one point, Houze asked Stickrod why monkeys were made available for repeated testing by Marrocco, whose research involves surgically implanting electrodes, metal bolts, and plastic caps into the animals' brains and recording their brain activity. Stickrod replied that researchers could "do it eight times on one animal or do it on eight animals." "There's another choice, isn't there?" asked Houze. "And what is that?" said the researcher. Houze replied, "Don't do it at all."

—Leslie Pardue

Those wishing to contribute to Troen's legal defense may contact Attorney Stephen Houze, 1215 Orbanco Bldg., 1001 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97204; (503) 241-8601.

No Room, Save in the Heart

Poetry and Prose on Reverence for Life

by

Ann Cottrell Free

"Its power lies in the stark contrast between the beauty of the natural world and the often grim results of our human stewardship."

—Jane Goodall,

Gombe Stream Research Center, Tanzania

"Those who feel a kinship and tenderness for all living things will not read her words without tears."

—Lois Stevenson,
Newark Star-Ledger

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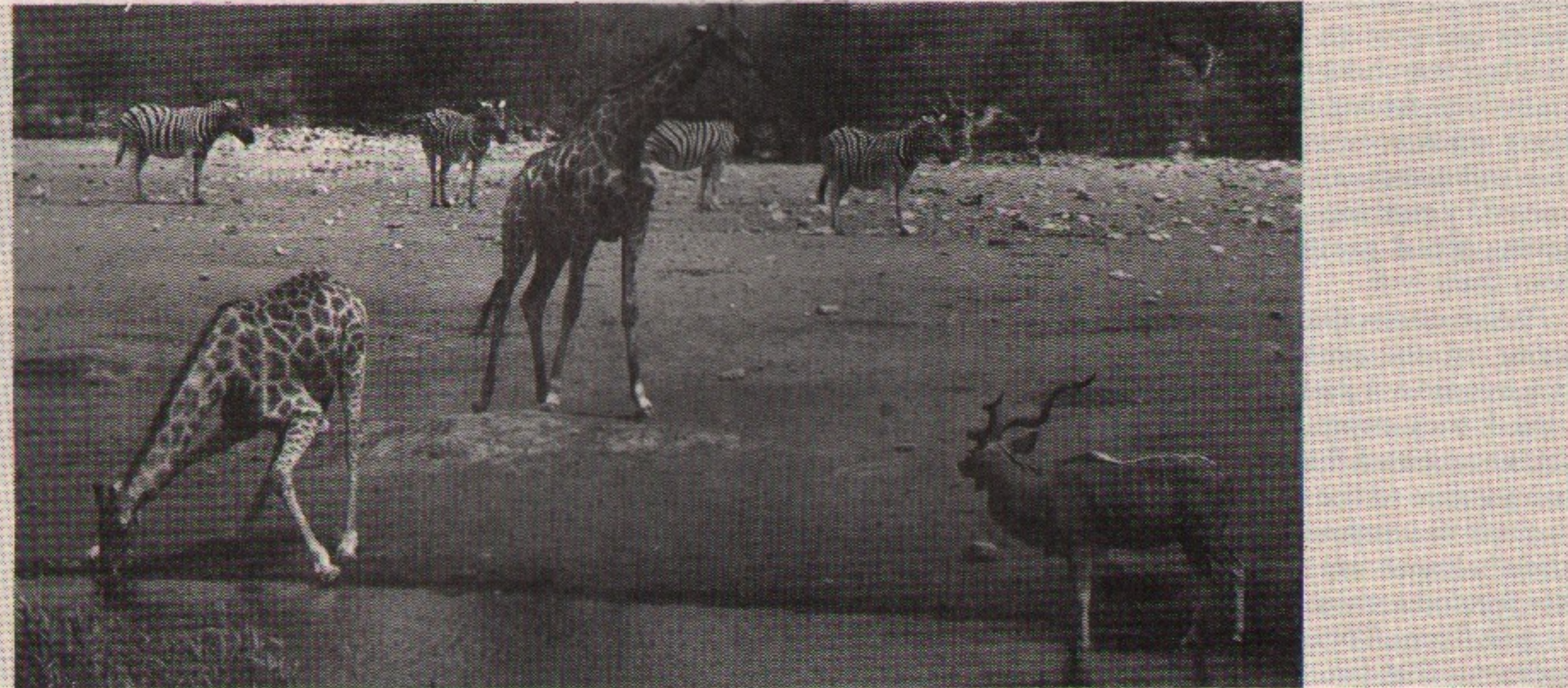
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Kenya's wildlife: prey to poachers and population expanse.



KENYA— Game Parks Threatened by Corruption

Although game hunting has been technically outlawed in Kenya for more than a decade, illegal hunting and poaching continue unabated. Last year, in an incident that focused public attention on the precarious situation of this nation's wildlife parks, nine Arab sheiks jetted to Kenya for a hunting safari organized by, of all people, senior government officials charged with protecting park animals. The Arabs wasted no time in gunning down more than 200 wild animals, including lions, water buffalos, and cheetahs.

The sheiks' hunting spree is merely the latest symptom of the mismanagement and widespread corruption afflicting Kenya's once-envied wildlife park system, which is also the cornerstone of its tourism industry and the nation's No. 1 foreign exchange earner. It's been established, for example, that besides abetting the poaching of rhinos, who are now nearly extinct, Kenyan officials, relying on cronies in the wildlife department, often grazed their own herds of cattle in restricted game-park areas.

In 1987, prompted by conservationists, President Moi removed the head of the wildlife department (who also operated a safari tour business on the side), and replaced him with Perez Olindo, a respected wildlife manager. Olindo promptly fired a slew of senior

EDITED BY PATRICE GREANVILLE

officials, including those responsible for the Arab caper.

The problems with the parks may not be easily resolved by firing corrupt officials, however. Wracked by chronic poverty, and saddled, like most young African nations, with a top-heavy bureaucracy where embezzlement and bribery are a way of life, Kenya faces tough economic and political choices. The country has the world's highest population growth rate, but only about 17 percent of the land is arable. As a result, there's mounting pressure to plant crops or run cattle on the open range abutting most game parks, or even to eliminate them altogether. In addition, gross underfunding, compounded by an attitude that conservation and wildlife management are simply white men's hobbies, has weakened the parks system's infrastructure to the point of collapse. At any given time, scores of park vehicles, crucial for the war against poachers, lie idle due to lack of spare parts and minimum maintenance. Most roads, too, are in serious disrepair.

Ironically, Kenya's economic troubles may offer a glimmer of hope. With the economy squeezed by plummeting prices in coffee and tea and a massive foreign debt, the conservationists' argument that wildlife tourism offers a far more profitable long-term use for marginal lands than farming or ranching is now beginning to fall on receptive ears. International in-

terest in the matter remains crucial, however, if policies are to be adopted in time to stem the destruction of yet another major animal habitat. *Main source:* *The Washington Post* and *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* correspondents.

PUERTO RICO— Vieques, Hell in Paradise

Conditions for animals (and many people) are wretched throughout Puerto Rico, long one of the U.S.'s most embarrassing examples of chronic poverty and underdevelopment in its own backyard. But in few spots of the commonwealth are animal problems as clear and pressing as on the small island of Vieques, just a few miles off the main island.

Vieques, which measures 21 miles by five miles, is home to about 8,000 human beings, most of whom are on welfare. It is also home to at least 6,000 stray cats and dogs, and a comparable number of horses—since just about everyone on the island seems to "own" a horse, even if little or no attention is given to their well-being. To complicate matters further, there's no resident veterinarian on the island, a fact which has compelled Dr. Cesar Gonzalez, a well-known Puerto Rican vet, to travel often to Vieques in order to lend a hand with some of the most urgent cases.

For people coming from the

States (or Europe), Vieques can conjure up a Dantesque image of an animal hell. Hundreds of skeleton-like dogs prowl the island's roads, streets, and fields searching for scraps of food or merely a resting place safe from human interference. Many animals seek refuge or end up abandoned at the municipal garbage dump, where there is no water, and rotten carcasses crawling with maggots constitute one of the few possible avenues of sustenance. There, among burned out cars, sheets of rusting metal, and mounds of trash, mange-ridden dogs in advanced stages of disease and starvation eke out a painful existence. Quite often, bitches give birth in the rusted ruins, but their milk soon dries up and the puppies starve to death. Meanwhile, all over the island, dogs are hung, poisoned, bludgeoned and macheted to death, especially by cattle owners who place strychnine and ground glass bait in the fields to deter attacks by starving dogs. (Poisoning of animals is widespread in Vieques, with hundreds of incidents reported.)

Other animals don't fare much better. Hundreds of horses and cows wander all over at will, walking skeletons often dropping to their deaths. Horses alone are said to cause ten vehicular accidents a week, but when injuries result, there's no one to euthanize the animals.

Stories of wanton cruelty abound. Rebecca Kitterman, a long-time resident of Vieques, provides the following examples:

- A horse wandering loose was set

Human and nonhuman animal misery in Vieques.



on fire by kids with gasoline. He didn't die, but the burns left him blind.

- Another horse with no owner was ridden by kids until he dropped. He was left on the side of the road for several days until police shot him.

- Kittens were thrown into the ocean by boys while the mother cat ran frantically back and forth on the beach trying to save them.

- A dog was taken to the beach by two kids and set on fire with gasoline. The dog ran into town on fire and died a horrible death. No one put him out of his misery.

- A U.S. Marine, at the local Navy installation, is reported to have set cats on fire and to have thrown them, "for fun," against the wall. One cat's eye was knocked out of its socket. The same Marine is said to have put cats on live electric wire, and in deep pits, to see how long they'd live.

Can anything be done to rectify this atrocious situation? The Vieques Animal Emergency Fund has been set up by concerned individuals in Vieques and the U.S. to carry out a two-part program. In the first phase, funds are being sought to collect unwanted puppies and strays for humane euthanizing, rental of a holding place, and possibly a free spay-and-neuter facility. Eventually the group hopes to assist the municipal government in applying to the Defense Department for a sizeable grant for an adequate animal control and protection program (the U.S. Navy owns two-thirds of the island). The measure is also likely to help the island's

prospective tourist business, since the animal problem could prove a public health threat and a potential visitor "turn off." Readers wishing to help can send checks payable to the "Vieques Animal Emergency Fund," 4700 Jamestown Road, Bethesda, MD 20816. For further details phone Ann Cottrell Free, one of the main organizers of this fund, at (301) 229-8160. *Main sources:* Ann Cottrell Free, Terry Morris (*The San Juan Star*).

UNITED KINGDOM (I)— Disposing of Unwanted Chicks

Britain's Ministry of Agriculture is circulating a leaflet that aptly reflects our species' matter-of-fact attitude toward factory-farmed birds. Entitled, "Disposal of unwanted day-old chicks, turkey poult and hatchery waste," the leaflet points out that chicks and poult are disposed of because, in the case of layers, the male chicks are unwanted (only a small percentage is used for breeding purposes), and, in the case of poultry birds, the crime is showing "signs of poor quality or disease."

The pamphlet advises against relying on "smothering in a polythene bag, drowning, or by using irritant liquids." Instead, the authorities recommend 100% carbon dioxide gas, which, it is claimed, "depresses nervous activity and causes little or no distress to the birds, which rapidly lose consciousness and die within five

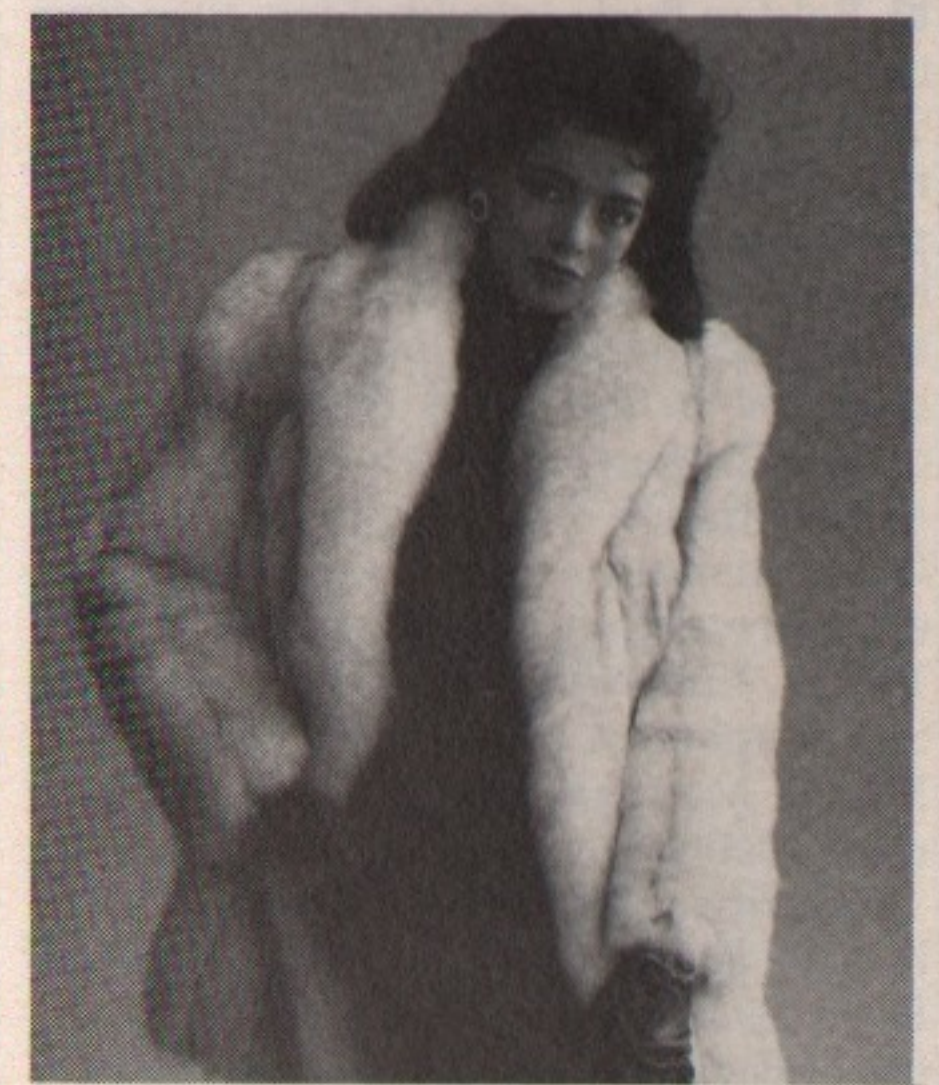
to ten minutes."

The publication gives detailed guidelines on how to proceed with this grim task, specifically placing the chicks inside a polythene bag attached to a metal and plastic tube through which the gas is piped for up to a minute. Pointing out that "recovery is possible," the pamphlet warns farmers against removing the chicks too soon. It suggests that the moribund birds be given an extra dose of dioxide before final disposal through incineration or sterilization.

As pointed out by the animal rights magazine *Agscene*, one's natural revulsion to the premature slaughter of young animals may have to be "balanced by a recognition that such slaughter is an intrinsic part of the egg and poultry meat industries," and that this method, though ostensibly callous, is better than most currently employed. In the U.S., only a fraction of the egg-producing companies utilize gas to dispose of chicks with no commercial value. Most operators prefer the old trusted method of simply tossing the little birds—to the tune of 250 million a year—into garbage bags where they are crushed or suffocate under the weight of other chicks dumped on top. *Main sources:* *Agscene*, *Humane Farming Association*.

International news items should be directed to:
Patrice Greanville
The ANIMALS' AGENDA
P.O. Box 5234
Westport, CT 06881 USA

Fur coats don't grow on trees.



UNITED KINGDOM (II)— Cruelty Labels for Fur Coats

In a move that already has caused both consternation and fury throughout the fur industry, the British government is preparing to impose new labelling rules designed to discourage commerce in imported furs from animals caught in steel traps.

The new regulations call for prominent warning labels—such as those carried by cigarette packages—to be stitched to the linings of many fashionable coats. The labels stipulate clearly that the coats were made with furs from animals caught in "steel-jaw leghold traps," thereby helping to deter prospective buyers.

The labelling initiative follows a behind-the-scenes campaign by Alan Clark, Trade Minister, who has long supported action against imports of furs from animals caught in cruel circumstances. Letters telling fur traders and retailers of the new rule were recently issued. The labelling rule covers eight species caught only with leghold traps: bobcat, coyote, cross fox, grey fox, red fox, white fox, lynx, and wolf. The leghold trap, banned in 66 nations including Britain, is still widely used in the U.S., Canada, and the Soviet Union. So far, only Canada has officially criticized the British proposal. *Main sources:* *The Daily Telegraph* (London), *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* correspondents.

NEWS SHORTS

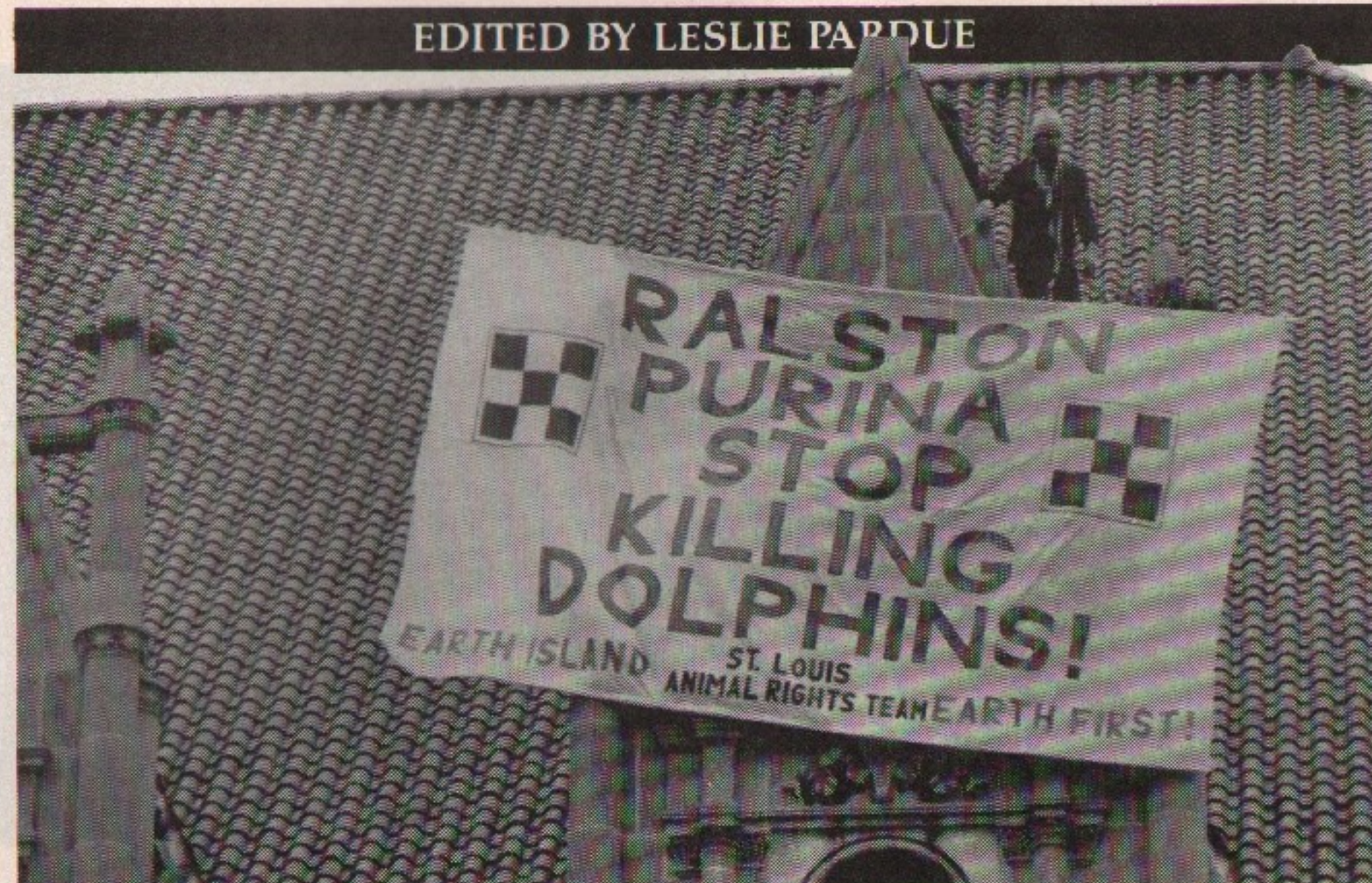
■ **Ralston Purina stockholders** attending the company's January 21 convention in St. Louis, Mo. were greeted by protesters from several environmental and animal protection organizations, who were on hand to call attention to the continued killing of hundreds of thousands of dolphins in tuna nets (Ralston Purina owns Chicken of the Sea tuna). The demonstration was organized by Earth Island Institute's Save the Dolphin Project, and was co-sponsored by Earth First!, The St. Louis Animal Rights Team, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, the Marine Mammal Fund, and the Grass-roots Institute.

Security personnel stood by helplessly as a lone climber—Lee Desseaux of Earth First! Santa Cruz (Calif.)—scaled the outside of the historic Union Station conference hall and unfurled a giant banner reading, "Ralston Purina: Stop Killing Dolphins!" Fire trucks roared to the scene with sirens wailing, and police closed off the roadway in front of the conference center. Desseaux eventually descended and was arrested for trespassing. Meanwhile, protesters handed out leaflets while singing an updated version of Ralston's well-known jingle: "Ask any mermaid you happen to see. Who kills dolphins? Chicken of the Sea!" The Earth Island Institute's dolphin education coordinator, Carrie Stewart, characterized Ralston Purina as "one of the chief offenders in the dolphin slaughter. Ralston Purina could easily stop buying tuna caught by killing dolphins. Unfortunately, they are more interested in profits than dolphins." The extensive media coverage of the protest forced Ralston Purina chairperson William P. Stiritz to address the 1,500 assembled stockholders on the issue. In a press release issued after the annual meeting, the company admitted that seven percent of its tuna was caught in the eastern tropical Pacific, the region where most dolphin killings occur. "This proves our point," Stewart remarked. "Why kill hundreds of thousands of dolphins to produce this insignificant amount of tuna?"

Readers are encouraged to write to Ralston Purina, asking them to announce a moratorium on using *any* tuna caught by methods and in locations which jeopardize dolphins. Write to: William Stiritz, Ralston Purina, Checkerboard Square, St. Louis, MO 63164. For more information on how to fight the dolphin slaughter, contact: Save the Dolphin Project, Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133.

—Thanks to Todd Steiner

EDITED BY LESLIE PARDUE



Climber Lee Desseaux helped fellow activists make a highly visible statement against dolphin killings.

■ **Actions against the British Columbia government's** wolf killing programs over the past few months have seen some results. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee recently obtained a court order stopping all aerial wolf hunting in the province—at least temporarily. The ruling came after the group presented evidence showing that the program, as designed, forced hunters to commit violations of both provincial Fish and Wildlife regulations and the Firearms Act. However, if the government works out the glitches, the aerial hunts could start again next year. Numerous environmental and animal rights groups in the U.S. and Canada have staged protests against the B.C. government's continued killing of wolves by such means as ground-shooting, trapping, and poisoning. In one protest, seven activists in wolf costumes were arrested after chaining themselves to the door of the office of the Canadian consul in Los Angeles. Activists have staged other protests in Seattle, San Francisco, Hollywood, and at a U.S./Canadian border crossing. Paradoxically, while wolf reintroduction programs are underway in several areas in the U.S., wolf extermination projects continue virtually unabated across the border in Canada.

Strong pressure is needed to convince the B.C. government to stop killing wolves. Tourism is B.C.'s second biggest industry, and the government spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year trying to lure American tourists into visiting the province. Wolf defenders

are asking Americans to deluge B.C. officials with mail, announcing that they will no longer vacation in British Columbia or purchase products that originate there. Write to: Bill Vander Zlam, Premier of British Columbia, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X5 Canada; and to: Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 Canada.



A living target.

—Jim Wuepper

NEWS SHORTS

■ **Wild horses continue to suffer and die** at the hands of officials of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Some 70 mustangs have died in the past few months as a result of incompetent handling of a \$1 million taxpayer-funded experimental birth control project, carried out by BLM officials and researchers from the University of Minnesota. In November of 1987, the BLM rounded up a group of horses from an unauthorized area (because they were unable to find any in the authorized area) and herded them at breakneck speed with helicopters some 15 miles (three times the maximum distance the horses were supposed to be herded). After fitting some with radio collars and giving others birth control implants, the researchers abandoned the herd in a fenced area, expecting them to find a fence break which would lead them to water. Instead, the horses attempted to

return to their former range, became disoriented, and were blocked by the fence and unable to escape. In the 90-degree temperatures and drought conditions which followed, 48 horses died of thirst—before the BLM even figured out there was a problem. Then, in January, more horses were discovered dead—killed by infection and slow strangulation caused by too-tight radio collars.

Animal protection groups are being joined by a growing number of private citizens and newspapers in the West in calling for a full investigation of the BLM's handling of the incidents and immediate suspension of the birth control project. The agency has also come under scrutiny for its unwritten policy of turning a blind eye to ranchers who "adopt" mustangs, only to have them slaughtered. The ranchers then sell the horsemeat for human consumption in Europe or for pet food in the U.S.

More SHORTS on next page.

■ **Over the past two years**, the organization Farm Sanctuary has investigated and documented the conditions for farm animals at Lancaster Stockyard in Lancaster, Penn. The activists report that the animals at Lancaster are whipped, shocked, beaten, and routinely kept without adequate food, water, or shelter. Sick and injured animals are deprived of veterinary care, and often die slow and painful deaths. Still-living animals are tossed onto the "dead pile" and left to suffer amid the corpses of others. After observing these conditions, Farm Sanctuary representatives met with stockyard president Bill McCoy and other officials to discuss their concerns. The activists offered to provide necessary veterinary care for sick and injured animals, and presented stockyard officials with a set of veterinarian-approved standards for animal care. Lancaster officials agreed that problems existed, but did nothing to improve conditions.

An incident which occurred in January typified the stockyard's indifference to animal suffering: Farm Sanctuary received a report from a citizen about a living female sheep who had been thrown onto the dead pile. McCoy refused to provide veterinary care for the animal, and said he'd rather kill her than turn her over to Farm Sanctuary. An official from the Humane League of Lancaster County, empowered by the state to enforce anti-cruelty laws, eventually took the sheep to a veterinarian—but by that time, her condition had deteriorated to the point where she had to be euthanized. Frustrated by Lancaster's continued negligence, Farm Sanctuary is planning a demonstration at the stockyard for Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day) from noon until 4 P.M. For further details, contact: Farm Sanctuary, P.O. Box 37, Rockland, DE 19732; (302) 654-9026.



One of Lancaster's "dead piles."

—Courtesy Farm Sanctuary

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* A column on interspecies communication.

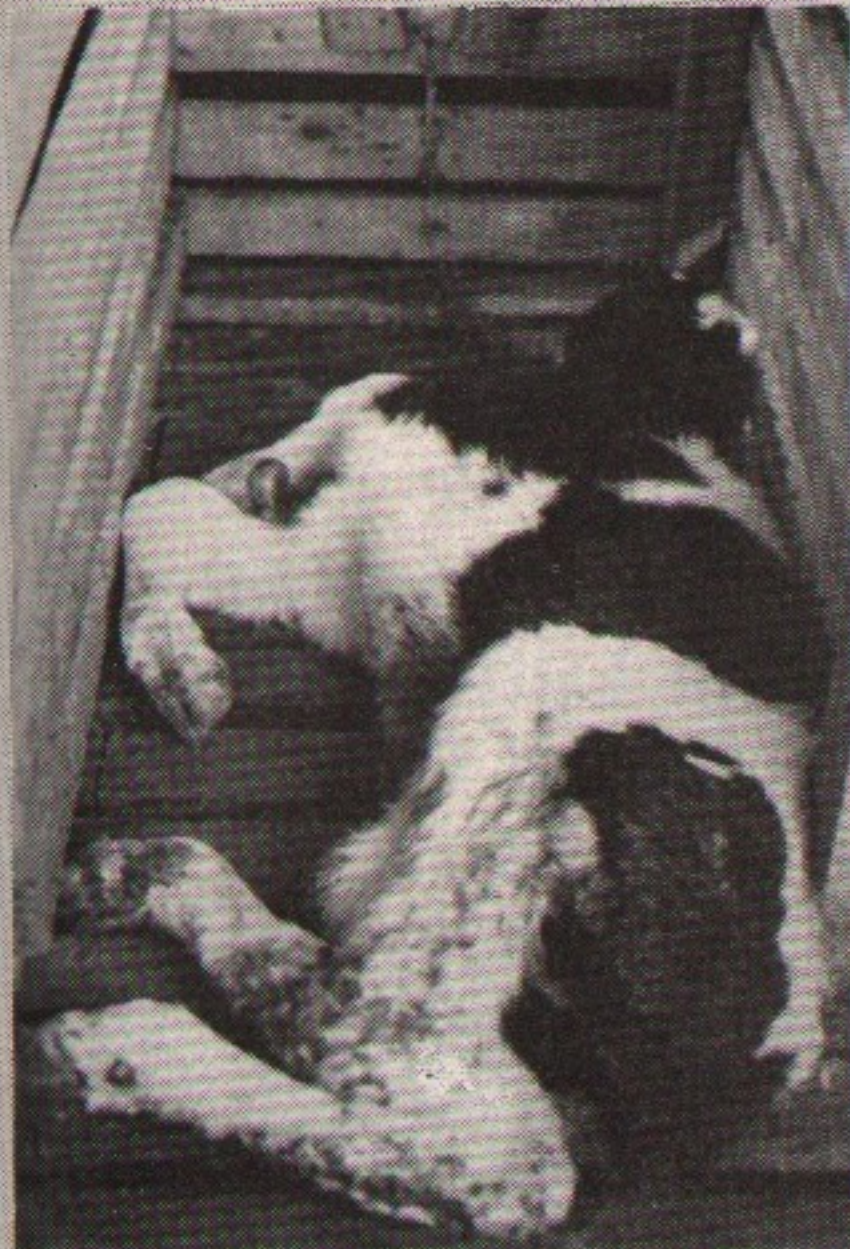
* Issue 16 will feature the animal art of Dan Gilbert and the landscape photographs of Geir Jordahl.

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NEWS SHORTS

■ **Tyler State Park in Bucks County, Penn.** (a suburban county outside Philadelphia) was the site of a hotly-disputed six-day deer hunt in December and January. The park, located in a densely populated area surrounded by houses and schools, sustains a herd of an estimated 475 deer who had never before been subjected to hunting — the tame, approachable deer were thus easy prey for hunters who converged on the park after outcry by local citizens failed to stop the hunt. A local group — the Tyler Committee Against Park Hunts — was joined by representatives of the Humane Society of the U.S., Bucks County SPCA, Friends of Animals, Trans-Species Unlimited, and elected officials of Northampton and Newtown Townships in calling for the hunt to be stopped. A lawsuit filed by the Committee and the two townships in Commonwealth Court failed to produce a preliminary injunction barring the hunt, and hunters proceeded to blast way at deer — including fawns as young as five months of age — at close range. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Department of Environmental Resources sanctioned the hunt in the name of "population control," despite evidence that the Tyler herd's members were sturdy and healthy — indications that the deer had ample food available and were not "starving" as hunt proponents claimed. The Committee is concerned that the Tyler hunt may pave the way for other Pennsylvania parks to be opened to hunters, and the group is collecting signatures on petitions from persons opposed to park hunts (more than 7,000

signatures have been collected so far). For copies of the petition, or for more information, contact: Tyler Committee Against Park Hunts, P.O. Box 754, Richboro, PA 18954; (215) 322-5547.

—Thanks to Dot Cellini and Lynn Glassman

■ **An effort last year to bring back mountain lion hunting** in California backfired on the state Fish and Game Commission when the decision to renew the trophy hunt was overturned in court. Now the agency is at it again, proposing a hunting season for 1988 just two weeks after a judge signed an order stopping the 1987 hunt in its tracks. The court ruling was based on the failure of the Fish and Game Commission to provide an adequate environmental impact report, sufficient data to justify the hunt, or a response to public testimony. The majority of Californians oppose mountain lion hunting — but the pro-gun lobby, led by the National Rifle Association, exerts a powerful influence on the Fish and Game Commission and the Governor. The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is asking animal advocates, especially Californians, to write letters in opposition to a renewed trophy hunt to the following: Governor George Deukmejian, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; the California Fish and Game Commission, 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814; and individual California Representatives and Senators. For more information, contact the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95809; (916) 442-2666.



State parks are no haven for Pennsylvania's deer.

—Courtesy of Donald S. Heintzelman/Wildlife Information Center, Inc.

NEWS SHORTS

■ **The March 1988 issue of *Reader's Digest*** carried an article by Robert J. White, M.D., director of neurological surgery at Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital and professor of neurosurgery at Case Western Reserve University Medical School. The article, entitled "The Facts About Animal Research," portrays animal rights activists as "terrorists," "fanatics," "radicals," and "extremists" who are out to undermine medical progress and human welfare. At the end of the article, readers are exhorted to write their legislators in opposition to the Pet Protection Act (the national anti-pound seizure bills — H.R. 778 and S. 1457); the Standing Bill (which would give animal advocacy groups legal



Dr. White's next experiment?

standing to sue for the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act — H.R. 1770); and "bureaucratic regulations that already have added far too much to the cost of medical research."

Animal advocates are outraged that *Reader's Digest* (a reactionary publication that likes to portray itself as unbiased) would print such an article and offer reprints to readers. Moreover, the animal research community has no spokesperson more offensive than White, whose gruesome research consists of keeping decapitated monkeys' heads "alive" on machines, and transplanting heads from one animal to another. White, an advisor to the Pope on medical ethics, has stated repeatedly that he would like to perform head transplants on human beings. White's research is regarded with con-

siderable skepticism by many of his fellow neurosurgeons.

Readers are *strongly* urged to write letters of protest to the editor of *Reader's Digest*, asking him to allow space for a rebuttal of White's article. Write to: Kenneth Gilmore, editor-in-chief, Reader's Digest Association, Pleasantville, NY 10570, or call toll-free: (800) 431-1246. Also, write to your Senators and Representatives in support of the above-mentioned bills, even if you have already done so.

■ **Recent pound release battles** in Pima County, Ariz. and Yolo County, Calif. had good outcomes for animals. Yolo County Supervisors asked Sheriff Rod Graham to take over responsibility for the county's animal control program, which had come under fire in recent years by local activists and private humane societies for its practice of selling unwanted dogs and cats to the University of California at Davis (UCD) and a local biological company. Graham announced in February that the county would no longer provide animals for research, much to the dismay of UCD researchers. UCD offered to help the county with the reorganization of its animal control program and said it would provide spay/neuter surgery and euthanasia services in exchange for a supply of dogs and cats for use as research subjects. When Graham refused, the university backed down on its offer of help. Graham said his decision became certain after the Sacramento Board of Supervisors voted on February 16 to continue selling about 850 dogs and cats a year to UCD, thus meeting the university's stated "need" for animal subjects. Meanwhile, the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Ariz. has decided to continue its ban on the sale of animals from the county pound for research, despite entreaties from experimenters at the University of Arizona who claim their sources for dogs and cats are drying up. Since the county banned pound release in 1981, the university has obtained most of its 1,000 dogs and cats used annually from the nearby city of Sierra Vista. But researchers are becoming frustrated with the actions of local activists, who have been rescuing dogs and cats slated for research from the Sierra Vista pound and finding homes for them. Upset with the board's decision, university researchers and members of the Tucson-based provivisection organization Incurably Ill for Animal Research have threatened to take the issue before Yolo County voters if the board doesn't change its position.

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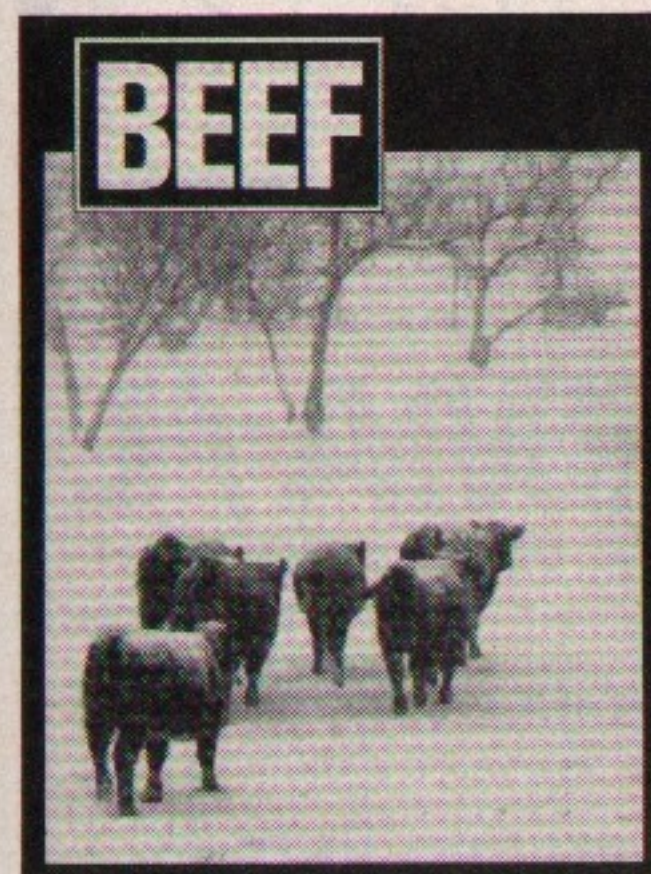
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The Media Connection (IV)

Agrijournals:
News from
the
Superfarm

BY PATRICE GREANVILLE



The irony of the situation is that the decline in the number of family farms is precisely the result of what most economists extoll as desirable: a high level of competition and a remarkable output.

The agricultural colossus

With gross receipts exceeding \$350 billion a year, agriculture and its related industries represent today the largest area of specialized activity in the U.S. economy. Often called "agribusiness" because of the field's increasing penetration by large conglomerates and the ever-larger sums of capital required to remain competitive, this macrosector comprises today a broad array of industries. These include:

- Farming operations (tilling the land and primary food production);
- Animal husbandry systems and operations (i.e., beef production, dairy production, artificial environments for egglayers);
- Farming technologies (i.e., irrigation systems);
- Food processing and distribution (i.e., canned and frozen foods, retail distribution);
- Bioengineering (i.e., research into new plant and animal variants to insure less spoilage and more profitability); and
- Plant and equipment manufacturing (i.e., silos, tractors, storage facilities, harvesting combines).

Each of these industrial clusters is also of gigantic dimensions. "Farming operations," for example, accounts for no less than \$75 billion a year, while the category "animal husbandry" encompasses the veal, beef, dairy, poultry, egg, pork, and exotic meats industries—a multibillion-dollar sector in its own right. Moreover, as a result of agribusiness's increasing reliance on large doses of antibiotics and fertilizers to maintain its productivity margins, the pharmaceutical and chemical industries are now an integral part of all "modern" agricultural operations. In the U.S. alone, in a practice that has fallen under increasing attack for its potential to spawn drug-resistant microbial strains, more antibiotics are fed every year to livestock in order to stave off disease and promote fast growth than are consumed by humans for medicinal purposes.

Historically, U.S. agriculture has been a bastion of competition, personal independence, and price fluidity, but that may not last much longer. At the close of World War II the U.S. had approximately 6 million farms and a labor force of nearly 11 million. Four decades later, the field has shrunk to barely one-third of its former size, with only 2.2 million farms surviving, and only a fraction of its former labor pool. Besides, with more and more farmers "contracting out" their land and labor to large-scale food processors and speculators—an arrangement redolent of old-fashioned peonage—many are finding out that although they managed to hang on to the land, their freedom has become more nominal than real.

But the irony of the situation is that the decline in the number of family farms is the result,

among other things, of precisely the very things most economists extoll as desirable: a high level of competition (and therefore an inability to "fix" prices in monopolistic fashion), and a remarkable output—which, in this case, has frequently "swamped" markets, pushed down prices, and depressed farm income across the board.

This recurring situation of "ruin in the midst of plenty," often necessitating government subsidy to allow small landholders to survive, is one of the most baffling contradictions of capitalist agriculture. Yet, the crazy logic behind it is as inexorable as the larger deliberate forces buffeting the family farm. Competition, as most economics teachers fail to point out, is not a static virtue, but a very dynamic situation carrying in its bosom the seeds of self-destruction. As an unrelenting game of "winners" and "losers," it thins the ranks of competitors over time, opening the road for a tremendous concentration of financial and marketing clout in just a few surviving firms. From that point on, the accelerating plunge into monopolistic behavior is only a matter of time.

That this is happening in the agricultural field is plain for everyone to see. Currently only 1.2 percent of the 2.2 million farmers in the U.S. have sales of \$500,000 or more, but they account for nearly one-third of all production, and more than half of all the profits. And the entire field is now dominated by pacesetting corporate-owned "superfarms." With \$1.5 billion in gross annual sales, Tyson Foods Inc. of Springdale, Ark., is the nation's largest farming organization, followed by Perdue Farms Inc., currently the largest poultry producer and processor, with gross receipts of \$840 million. Meanwhile, ConAgra, Inc., one of the largest food processors, is also one of the largest and fastest growing farmers. In 1987 it acquired Monfort of Colorado Inc., a company with enough pens to fatten half a million steers for its own slaughterhouses, and E.A. Miller, a feedlot operator. The moves brought ConAgra's sales to about \$11 billion in 1987, placing the company among the country's 30 largest corporations.

Choirboys for agribusiness

But the idyllic family farm is not the only casualty of agribusiness and its obsession with profits, constant expansion, and "space and input optimization." The animals, too, have increasingly paid a higher price as the "bigness is better" gospel has conquered the agricultural landscape and turned them—by the billions—into mere commodities. Yet every religion needs its proselytizers, and few quarters are more eager to sing the praises of agribusiness than the scores of agrijournals now dotting the land. As noted by Jim Mason in his landmark book on factory farming, *Animal Factories*,

Most pervasive of all is the bias toward agribusiness by farming magazines, agricultural

college extension agents, and salespeople from the companies that supply products to agriculture. Together, these elements put forth an ideal of farming that represents their view of profitable or successful farming. The progressive farmer, the "pork all-American" or milk production champion, is the one who goes all out for production and uses anything and everything to get it. Implicit in this ideal is the notion that the farmer should go into debt to acquire the latest in factory building or equipment. To help farmers make expensive land pay, one farm magazine advises: "Consider intensification . . . At the present time, you can put in improvements and expand livestock cheaper than you can buy more land." The magazines, of course, are loaded with advertisements from manufacturers of buildings, equipment, drugs, and supplies used in factory systems. (p. 99.)

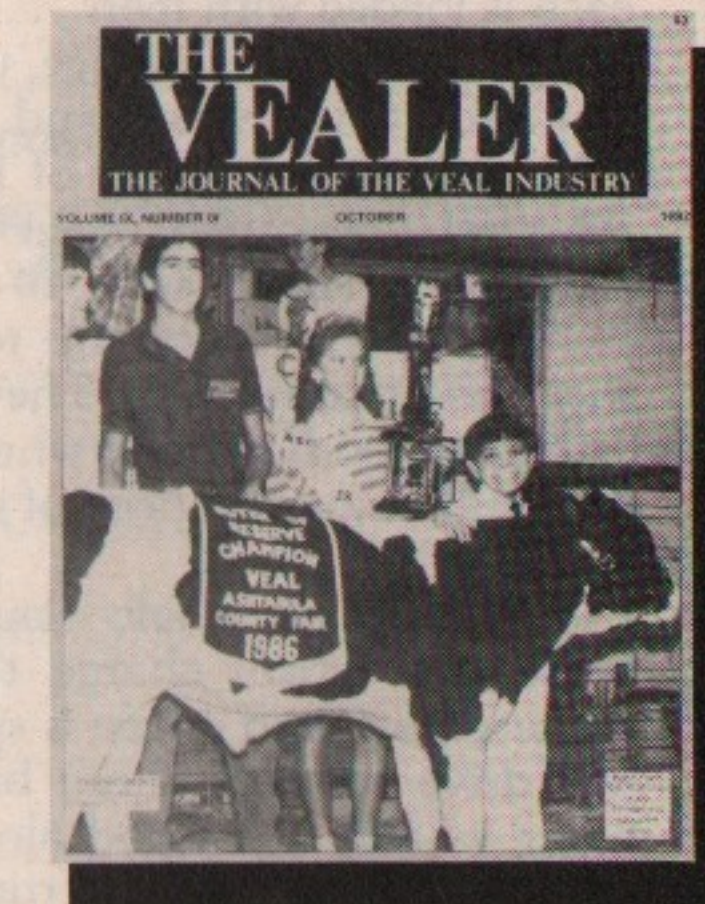
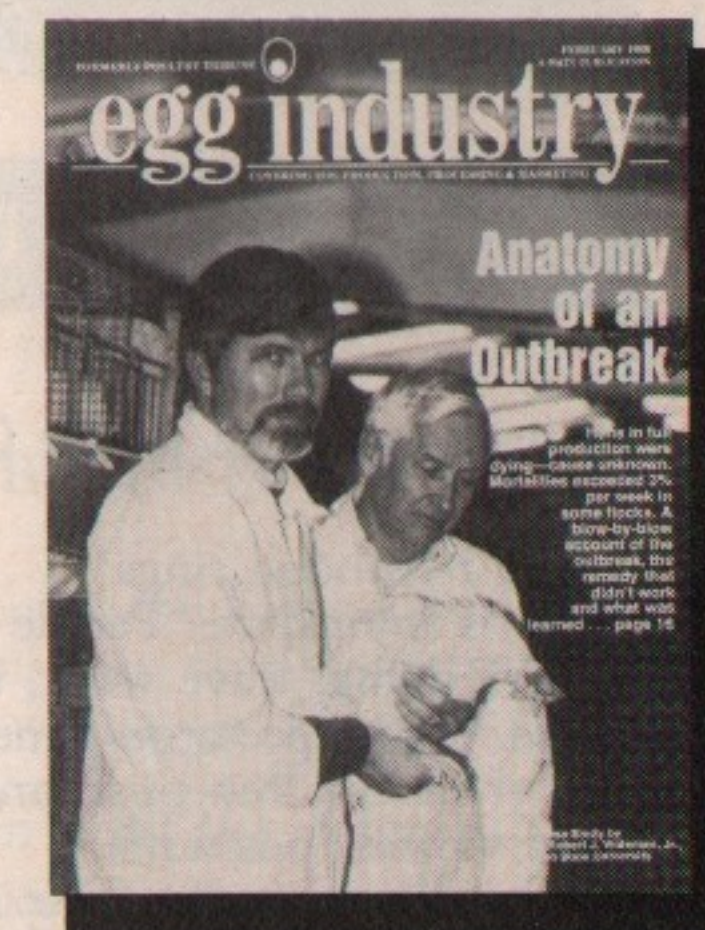
Mason is quite right. Even a cursory glance at the "agrijournals" confirms that boosterism for agribusiness's technologies and products seems to be their main reason for being. Still, considering how "extreme" animal rights views may appear to stodgy agribusinessmen, it is a measure of some of these publications' professionalism that from time to time animal rights views are actually presented in depth and without distortion. A case in point is the February 1987 issue of *Poultry Tribune*, the leading publication in its field, which chose to run a complete transcript of Dr.

Michael W. Fox's presentation before the United Egg Producers management conference at Scottsdale, Ariz. Fox is a vice president of the Humane Society of the U.S.

More often, however, feeling menaced in their pocketbooks and way of life, the agrijournals reflect the livestock industry's fears, anger, and gloomy predictions about the future of animal agriculture should animal rights people get their way. Thus articles with headlines such as "Those gentle vegetarians are scary folks" (*Michigan Farmer*); "Wake Up and Battle Back! Beef Industry Prosperity Depends on Our Willingness to Fight" (*BEEF*); "The Animal Rights Movement—A Time Bomb That Keeps on Ticking" (*PORK '87*); and "Animal Rights Group Writes Text for Terrorists" (*National Hog Farmer*), are fairly common these days.

There seems to be few illusions on either side. Asked the editors of *BEEF* magazine some time ago, incorporating the views of most of their colleagues: "Ever wonder what animal welfarists are really after? They'd like to see the U.S. cattleman as an extinct species by the year 2000." ("Animal Welfarists Seek Your Demise," *BEEF*, July 1986.) Whether or not that prediction will come true in the foreseeable future is anyone's guess, but there's no doubt that in the meantime agribusiness and its press are taking no chances.

Currently only 1.2 percent of the 2.2 million farmers in the U.S. have sales of \$500,000 or more, but they account for nearly one-third of all production, and more than half of all the profits.



The "Indispensable" Agrijournals.

Information value to activists: Latest industry statistics and developments, technology news, reaction to a/r campaigns, and spokespeople pronouncements.

- *Successful Farming*. Est. 1902, 15 separate state and regional editions and 3 demographic editions (beef, hog, dairy). The nation's leading agribusiness magazine. Circ.: Approx. 1 million. Sub.: \$10.00. 1716 Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50336. (515) 284-3000.
- *Drovers Journal* ("The business of beef is our business"). Est. 1873. Circ.: 75,000. Sub.: \$20.00 for six issues. P.O. Box 417, Prairie View, IL 60069. (312) 634-2600. Livestock & agricultural issues.
- *The Vealer*. Independent publication dedicated to the veal industry. Monthly. Sub.: \$20.00. P.O. Box 404, Berea, KY 40403. (606) 986-1495.
- *Feedstuffs*. "The weekly newspaper for agribusiness." Circ.: 25,000. Sub.: \$18.50. Covers most agribusiness branches. P.O. Box 67, 2501 Wayzata Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55440.
- *Egg Industry*. (Formerly *Poultry Tribune*). "Covering egg production, processing & marketing." Monthly. Sub.: \$24.00. Watt Publishing, Mount Morris, IL 61054. (815) 734-4171. The best publication on the subject.
- *PORK '88*. Monthly. Sub.: \$10.00 (pork producers get it free). P.O. Box 2939, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201. (913) 451-2200. Hog management with executive boardroom flavor.
- *National Hog Farmer*. Monthly. *PORK*'s main competitor. Circ.: 130,000. Looks at hog industry from producers' perspective. Sub.: \$17.00 (free to qualified hog farmers). NHF, 1999 Shepard Road, St. Paul, MN 55116. (612) 633-1214.
- *BEEF*. "The Business Paper of the Cattle Industry." Published by Webb Publishing, the same folks who bring us *National Hog Farmer*. Monthly. Sub.: \$15.00 (free to beef producers). Circ.: 70,000. BEEF, 1999 Shepard Road, St. Paul, MN 55116. (612) 690-7257. Absolutely essential.
- *Farm Journal*. "Published for families who own or operate farms/ranches." Est. 1877. Circ.: 1,417,030. Dean of the agricultural press. Topics: Beef, hog, dairy, cotton. Sub.: \$12.00. FJ, 230 West Washington Sq., Philadelphia, PA 19105. (215) 574-1200.
- *Hoard's Dairyman*. "The national dairy farm magazine." Est. 1885. Dean of the dairy press. Fortnightly. Circ.: 250,000. Sub.: \$8.00 a year; \$20 for three years. HD, 28 Milwaukee Ave., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (414) 563-5551.
- *Meat Processing*. Est. 1962. Monthly. Meat, poultry & seafood. Circ.: 20,000. Free to qualified producers. Otherwise, \$12.00. MP, 136 Shore Dr., Hinsdale, IL 60521. (312) 325-2930. As the Chicago area has been a historically important hub for the slaughtering and "packing" of animals, MP enjoys a unique perspective to report on this field.

Faroese Pilot Whale Slaughter Continues



Still alive, a pilot whale with a gaff stuck into its neck and another in its abdomen struggles in agony to escape the Faroese fishermen.

By
Daniel Morast
President
International Wildlife Coalition

The telephone rings . . . the excitement is immediate. People drop what they're doing, leave work, rush to the shore. The spectators, men, women and their children push and jostle for good viewing positions.

"Grind! Grind! (The Whales!)" someone yells and frantically points out to sea. Boats of every kind head out from shore. There are 40 or more and each is loaded with men . . . some carry spears . . . all have a large, ugly, single-pronged gaff close at hand.

It's a typical day out of hell for the pilot whales caught near the Faroe Islands (located north of Scotland). Fishermen there scramble to get in on the "traditional" fun. They stab and gaff entire pods of pilot whales because they still enjoy the taste of whale meat and blubber.

As the pilot whale slaughter proceeds, the boats charge the whales. Sometimes a lead whale is speared so it will drive towards shore bringing the other whales of its pod along with it. It's the result of a social structure where one whale will try to help another in trouble.

And then the mass horror begins. The men begin to raise the gaffs high and swing them down hard into the nearest whale.

The men standing in water red with blood stumble and fall as the whales twist and thrash out of pain.

Many times the gruesome metal hook doesn't hold. A glancing blow leaves a bleeding gash. Other times, a gaff will pull out completely leaving a hideous gaping wound.

"We shall continue . . . I wouldn't feel Faroese any longer if I couldn't eat whale meat and blubber once a week."

Atle P. Dam
Prime Minister
Faroe Islands

The men in the boats gaff whales and try to haul them along side. Bobbing and bouncing in the frantic thrashing, a whale with a gaff in its side has often been seen to actually tow a boat through the water in its attempt to escape.

And this wildlife atrocity gets worse! When the whale has been pulled ashore (or into waist-deep water) the grind knife is waived and deep cuts are made into the whale just behind the blowhole.

The primary target is the spinal cord. If it can be cut, then the whale will stop thrashing. Sometimes the knife-man will continue to cut down along the side of the whale so as to sever the whale's major arteries causing it to finally bleed to death.

The knife-man in the boat has a tougher time. In the water-born mayhem he has to cut at a 3/4-ton pilot whale while bouncing through the waves of blood and sea water.

Is this some aboriginal culture, native people scratching out a living in some remote jungle? Definitely not!

Because of their fishing industry, the Faroese enjoy one of the highest standards of living in Europe.

I know. I've been to the Faroe Islands. I also have been to two meetings of the International Whaling Commission where the Faroese pilot whaling was widely condemned.

The Whaling Commission, however, hasn't established the precedent of regulating the take of pilot whales (which some countries claim are small cetaceans and, therefore, can't be regulated by the Commission).

The result of all this is that the Faroese are willing to suffer the criticism from abroad. What do they care if they get a bad name? The Faroe Islands (though politically a "Home Rule" government) are actually part of Denmark. The Islands are remote enough that international protest is ignored.

The International Wildlife Coalition has worked on this issue for almost three years now, and I am convinced the few changes that have been made in the way the slaughter is conducted is insignificant compared to the pain and suffering involved.

We have to do more. And our Wildlife Coalition will do more. We have



Whales lay dead and dying. Somehow, the cries of the whales fail to touch the hearts of the fishermen and their children.



Young boys and girls are given knives and are encouraged to practice carving on pilot whale remains.

A youngster proudly stands on a dead whale. What civilized country would invite their children to play in a slaughterhouse?



URGENT UPDATE

Sunday Mirror, December 13, 1987

Headline:

THE DAY A DOLPHIN DIED FOR A BIT OF SPORT . . .

Byline: Steve Double

Not content with limiting their butchery to pilot whales, the Faroese fishermen have included dolphins in the list of marine mammals they now slaughter. An eyewitness reports on the recent attack by the Faroese on a pod of ten dolphin.

"The boatmen had a massive net and drew it in until the dolphins were forced ashore, then the gaff — a vicious iron hook — went in. Even the children were holding their own gaffs. This dolphin was then attacked by two very drunk men. One of them tried to cut its throat with a pen knife."



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Euthanasia is a Euphemism

BY LESLIE PARDUE

Euthanasia, as we apply the term to human beings, is a mercy killing. It is bringing a painless end to lives which have been reduced to either a permanent unconscious state or an ordeal of endless suffering. Even under these circumstances, euthanasia is frequently encumbered by conflicting legal, medical, and familial considerations—with the result that many terminally ill individuals who would prefer a quick and painless death are forced to languish for years in hospital beds, waiting to win the legal right to put an end to their own suffering. There is still no clear consensus in our society about when and how euthanasia on humans should be carried out—if at all.

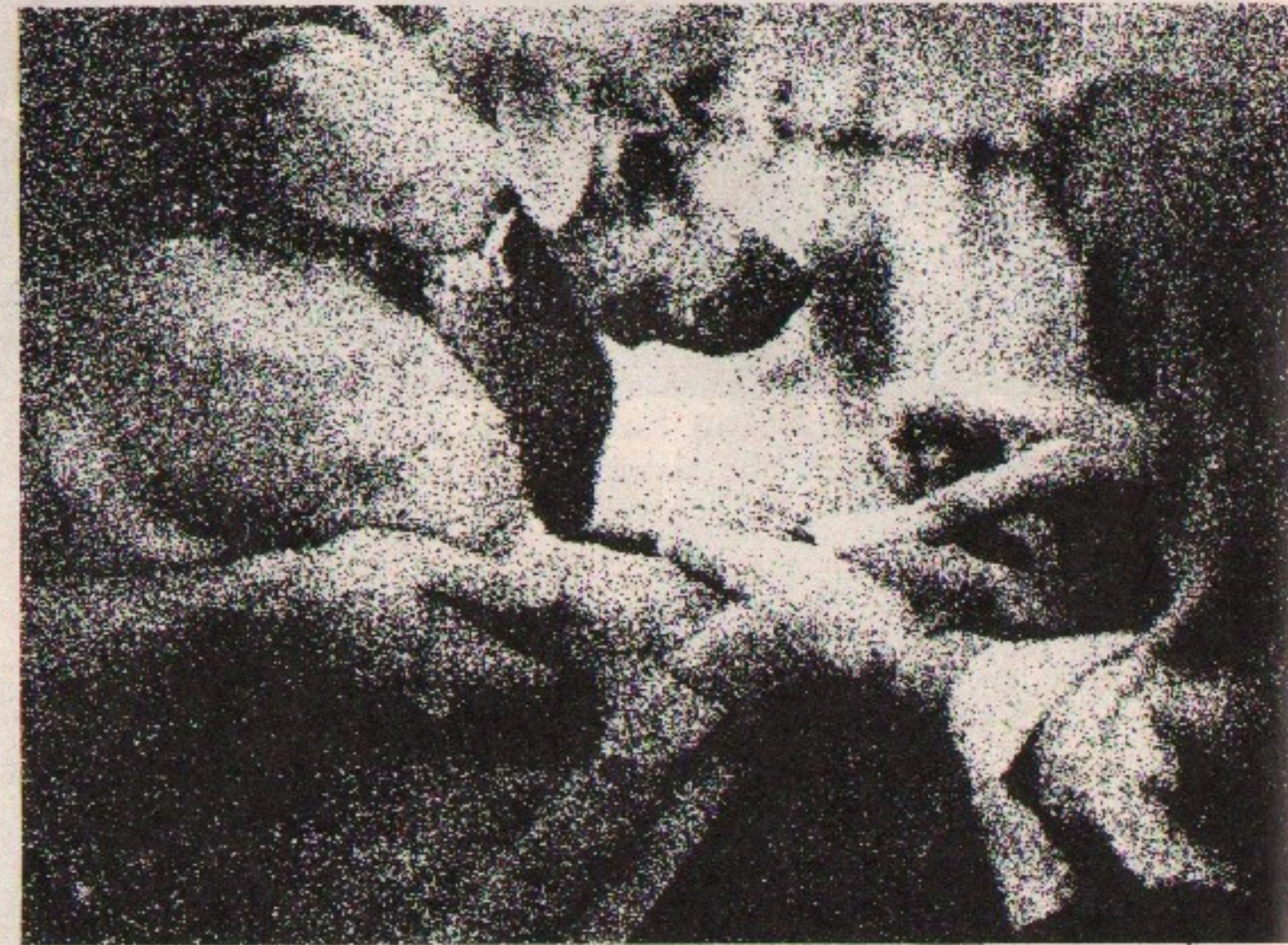
By contrast, public and private animal shelters in the U.S. kill some 20 million dogs and cats each year. The vast majority of these animals *are not* suffering from any painful or terminal affliction when they are killed—hence, such killing cannot be thought of as “euthanasia” in the way that we apply that term to humans. Their lives are taken not out of mercy, but out of convenience.

Most of the people who do this work are caring individuals who deplore killing healthy animals, and consequently suffer considerable stress and anxiety about this aspect of their jobs. Most work hard to educate the public about dog and cat overpopulation and sterilization surgery, hoping to stem the tide of animals born into a world which has no room for them. A growing number of shelter workers are animal rights advocates, and may suffer even greater anguish than their less-enlightened co-workers, in part because they have to deal with the added burden of criticism from their fellow activists.

Animal shelter work is strenuous, chaotic, and stressful—and carries little in the way of monetary reward or status. I respect those who place themselves in this pressure cooker environment out of a desire to make a meaningful difference in animals' lives. I realize that if all the killing stopped tomorrow, we'd have a huge problem on our hands. Nevertheless, I'm concerned that the sheer numbers of animals killed and the repetitious nature of the process numbs many shelter workers into a kind of complacency which, in the end, only helps to perpetuate the problem.

The majority of animals killed in shelters are relinquished by “owners” who complain that they already have too many animals, or that their apartment complexes won't allow dogs, or that the animals make messes or bark too much. All of these are solvable problems if a little thought is applied, yet they are deemed acceptable reasons for abandoning dogs or cats to near-certain death. Someone who abandoned a child for similar reasons would likely be locked up—yet shelters readily accept these animals, in most cases making little or no attempt to help the people giving up the animals find solutions to whatever problems they may be having.

People who relinquish animals are, on the whole, probably not heartless individuals. They have problems they don't know how to deal with, and they firmly believe that animal shelters will be able to find happy new homes for their dogs and cats. These two factors, along with unchecked reproduction, are the chief reasons why shelters are deluged with animals. Efforts aimed at promoting spaying and neutering are laudable—but the misconceptions people have about relinquishing their animals must be directly and forcefully addressed, or the killing will undoubtedly continue.



—David Cupp

Employees who staff the counters where animals are brought to be relinquished should be individuals who are outgoing, helpful, persuasive, and knowledgeable about animal behavior. They should be eager to teach people how to deal with barking, chewing, clawing, biting, housebreaking, integrating dogs and cats with other family members, getting around allergy prob-

In Defense of Animal Shelters

BY MITCHELL FOX

Though they may be polarized on the issue of animal rights, some animal researchers and animal activists do share common ground. Both groups freely cast aspersions at animal shelters. This is apparent to me in my tasks as an animal rights campaigner for an animal shelter and as the community representative on the Animal Care and Use Committee at a near-by research institution.

In my role as committee member, I have often sparred with a researcher who directs cardiovascular prostheses experiments on dogs. He finds it unfathomable that, while working for a facility that kills so many animals, I would object to his use of dogs. As he sees it, at least something good comes from his killing.

I also hear grumblings about shelter work from the other direction—from respected and effective animal rights activists. For instance, a month ago, an activist friend mentioned that his eight-month-old, unspayed, unidentified dog was missing. Our computerized lost and found system located his dog. Though appreciative that we provided such services, he just can't understand why we have to euthanize animals. This week, he wanted to bring legal action against another humane society which refused to return a dog (who had run away from the family repeatedly) to his “owners.” He hated the fact that the shelter was making death decisions.

Without doubt, animal shelters do control the lives of many animals. But unlike other institutions—such as the research



—David Cupp

lems, and so on. They should be able to recommend rental housing where the animals would be welcome. They should try *as hard as possible* to persuade people to try proven solutions before ditching their animals. And, most importantly, they *should not* gloss over animals' chances of finding new homes. How many people would still give Fido or Fluffy to the shelter, if told point-

establishment or agribusiness—that have power over animals, shelters assume control for the benefit of animals. And also different from those institutions, shelters allow immediate access to people who'd like to offer help. The fact is, many activists want to wrest power from some institutions with power over animals, but are unwilling to assume power from others which *offer it*.

If they did assume power, activists would be forced to take responsibility. With the crush of reality, perfectionism and idealism become unworkable. In animal shelters, the reality is having to deal with thousands of dogs and cats—some mangled from being run over and others who have just opened their eyes along with their newly-born brothers and sisters.

Animal rights, so easily defined in the abstract, loses clarity in the context of the shelter. While wild animals have a right to live free from human intrusion, companion animals, bred over centuries, are dependent on some form of intervention. In fact, the primary task of shelters is to match animals with responsible human guardians. For the animals, perhaps the most important question is not the matter of life and death, but of the quality of life.

That means adopting out animals and returning them to human families, but not if that will imperil the animals. Does it seem like this pit bull is about to become somebody's manifestation of a macho self? Should we give this cat to someone who doesn't intend to keep her, but promises to find someone else who will? Animal shelters must decide whether they want to alleviate and prevent suffering, or prolong life even if it may entail suffering. If the number of animals coming in to a shelter exceeds the number going out, then the shelter must either start killing animals or restrict animals from coming in.

By having a restrictive admission policy—for instance, by admitting only those animals who seem adoptable—shelters can avoid euthanasia. Yet, by avoiding euthanasia, they've merely

blank that there is a 90 percent chance (that's roughly the national average) that the animal will be killed?

The way things are now, it's just too easy to go into an animal shelter and dump off one's animal(s), making the problem someone else's without having to take any responsibility whatsoever. People have to be made to see that once they decide to keep an animal, it's *their* responsibility to see the commitment through. Moving, getting new carpet, having a baby, etc., simply aren't justifications for taking a life. There are ways to solve virtually every problem someone might have in living with a dog or cat. By taking these animals, no (or few) questions asked, animal shelters are saying it's okay to dump a dog or cat for convenience's sake. The result is that the overpopulation and abandonment problems, rather than being *directly* addressed, are kept hidden by the ongoing killing—leaving the public with the impression that the problems don't exist.

The millions of animals killed in shelters are fuel for the propaganda mills of animal rights opponents. Hunters and trappers say that animal rights advocates are inconsistent: we oppose killing wild animals for purposes of population control, yet support such action for dogs and cats. Researchers who would like to have an unlimited supply of animal subjects argue that the shelter animal doomed to die for lack of a home could instead be used for research, thus saving the life of a purpose-bred lab animal. It doesn't do the animal rights movement any good for our opponents to be able to score philosophical points against us.

Continued on page 51

displaced the problem, and probably allowed it to increase in degree.

Inoculations tested on animals, food made of animals, and invasive surgical procedures like spaying and neutering are some other animal rights dilemmas at shelters. In such cases, shelter workers make and implement real-life decisions that will tangibly affect many animals. If people want things pure and simple, they should stick with protests.

Shelters do many positive things—rescue abandoned animals, house lost animals, conduct cruelty investigations, educate, spay and neuter animals—that few people have problems with. But other practices such as euthanasia and adoption screening seldom receive enthusiastic responses. Activists need not view these things as acceptable, only as necessary the lack of a better option.

The animal rights movement will continue to lack credibility until it is able to confront the pet overpopulation mess and halt the needless (yet necessary) destruction of so many animals. In fact, the movement has done little to solve this problem. And, ironically, it may be the easiest of all forms of animal exploitation to eliminate. In combatting dog and cat overpopulation, the movement faces the fewest obstacles, no engrained societal traditions, no “experts” challenging us on TV, and no high-powered lobbies trying to defeat us.

But whatever the ultimate solution may be, to animals in a shelter, the pro-animal forces are those people who have abandoned their arrogant purity, rolled up their sleeves, and pitched in to relieve their plight. To animals in shelters and to the generations who will follow them, the detached activist tossing insults is no more help than the cynical animal researcher.

Mitchell Fox is director of animal rights issues for The Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

PART II

The Media: Making the News

BY RENEE BLAKE

Your first chance to work with the news director arrives with a demonstration planned at a local animal research laboratory.

Before you contact anyone with your story, try to determine the best angle. Is this a story of bureaucracy and red tape, a story of cruelty, of infiltration and intrigue, of wasted tax money, or one of animals betrayed by a system that does not value life? There are many ways to present the same story. Tell it the way you think it will have the most impact on the audience. For example, the story of the Silver Spring Monkeys could be told to a financial editor in this way: "No wonder the United States can't balance its budget. And it can't hope to in the future if it keeps sinking thousands of dollars a year into housing monkeys for no particular reason, when there is an organization ready and willing to care for them more humanely at no cost to the taxpayer."

If it's intrigue you're after: "The Institute of Behavioral Research hired Alex Pacheco to help out with laboratory experiments in 1981. Although Pacheco had no prior training in the field, it was only a short time before he was left alone in the lab with the animals to conduct experiments by himself. Instead, he took pictures and documented the treatment of the monkeys in the experiments. In four months, he took his material to the police, who raided the laboratory and removed the monkeys."

If the desired angle is medicine: "Conditions in the laboratory were unsanitary. Food for the monkeys was simply thrown into the cages where it fell amidst fecal matter. Because the animals did not have feeling in some parts of their limbs after surgery, they had accidents that caused severe wounds. Once wounds were bandaged, they were never checked again. No cleaning or changing of dressing was performed."

While such publications as *The ANIMALS' AGENDA* will respond to the humane issues, other publications and broadcasters will be looking for a different approach—one that doesn't portray them as softhearted, reporting a "no-news story."

An example of a weak news angle would be something like: "A German Shepherd living on Maple Street is starv-



—Walt Taylor

ing." The same story can be made "newsworthy" with some descriptive details—perhaps information about the animal's relationship to people: "The German Shepherd who always greets the children at a bus stop appears to be starving." Or: "The Wellingtons, a prominent family in our town, are being accused of neglecting the German Shepherd often seen wandering on Maple Street." Some of the elements that make a story newsworthy to the general press are: sex, violence, corruption, money, politics, human interest, celebrity connection, health, controversy, intrigue, crime, humor, or paradox.

News releases

Gather all the necessary information into a brief news release which will make clear the problem—the present situation as well as any background information. If time is short, first call your contact with the story, and then offer to drop off additional written material (the news release). Try to familiarize yourself with the news format of the station you're

contacting so that you don't call at a particularly busy time. Calls between 9:15 and 9:45 A.M. should reach your contact person just after the morning rush and before their staff meeting. If that doesn't work for a particular station, find out what does and keep that information handy.

If you have the time, you may mail or deliver the news release and then follow-up a few days later with a phone call to confirm receipt of the release and to ask if additional information is needed. Normally, a release has no more than two double-spaced typed pages (the first page should be on letterhead). The release should tell who, what, when, and where—and possibly how and why. It should be written so that a reporter can practically lift it straight into a story without having to obtain additional information. A name and phone number should appear at the bottom of the release for verification.

Television news

Getting your story on television depends on the content of the story and whether you have good visual imagery for the camera. Stories without good visuals get edited out, or squeezed in between other stories. Make an event colorful and interesting to look at. If you have photographs or tapes, make them available, but be sure that no copyright prevents their use. Tape for radio is generally most useful on cassette or taped at 7½ ips. Tape for television is most useful on video at ¾ inch. If what you have is at some other speed, mention this before dropping it off. Some facilities can make the transfer for you; others may need you to have it transferred. In any case, don't give your master tape away. If the station borrows it, be sure you get it back.

Local angles for national stories

How can you draw attention to a national story that your local media isn't planning to cover? By creating a local angle. For example, if the story concerns the national trade in lost and stray companion animals, or those who "disappear" only to be sold into laboratories for experimentation, you might try locating someone whose dog or cat may have been stolen—perhaps through a local "lost pet" service or humane society.

Practically everything that happens in Washington, D.C. has some local application. A story about what's happening legislatively on a particular issue can be localized by researching how that issue is being handled in your area. Does the legislation have the support of the local animal defense community? Would group leaders like to talk about the issue on the air or to the newspaper? If so, perhaps you can appoint yourself their press agent and try scheduling some appearances for them on community programs.

Ongoing and extended stories

Stories that extend over a long period of time need new angles and new information in order to remain newsworthy in a reporter's eyes. The same information won't get you a new write-up. One way to renew an old story is to present it in two basically different ways. You may have begun with the ethical question that surrounds the issue. That question doesn't disappear, but since it won't bring you fresh coverage, focus on current activities surrounding the ethical question.

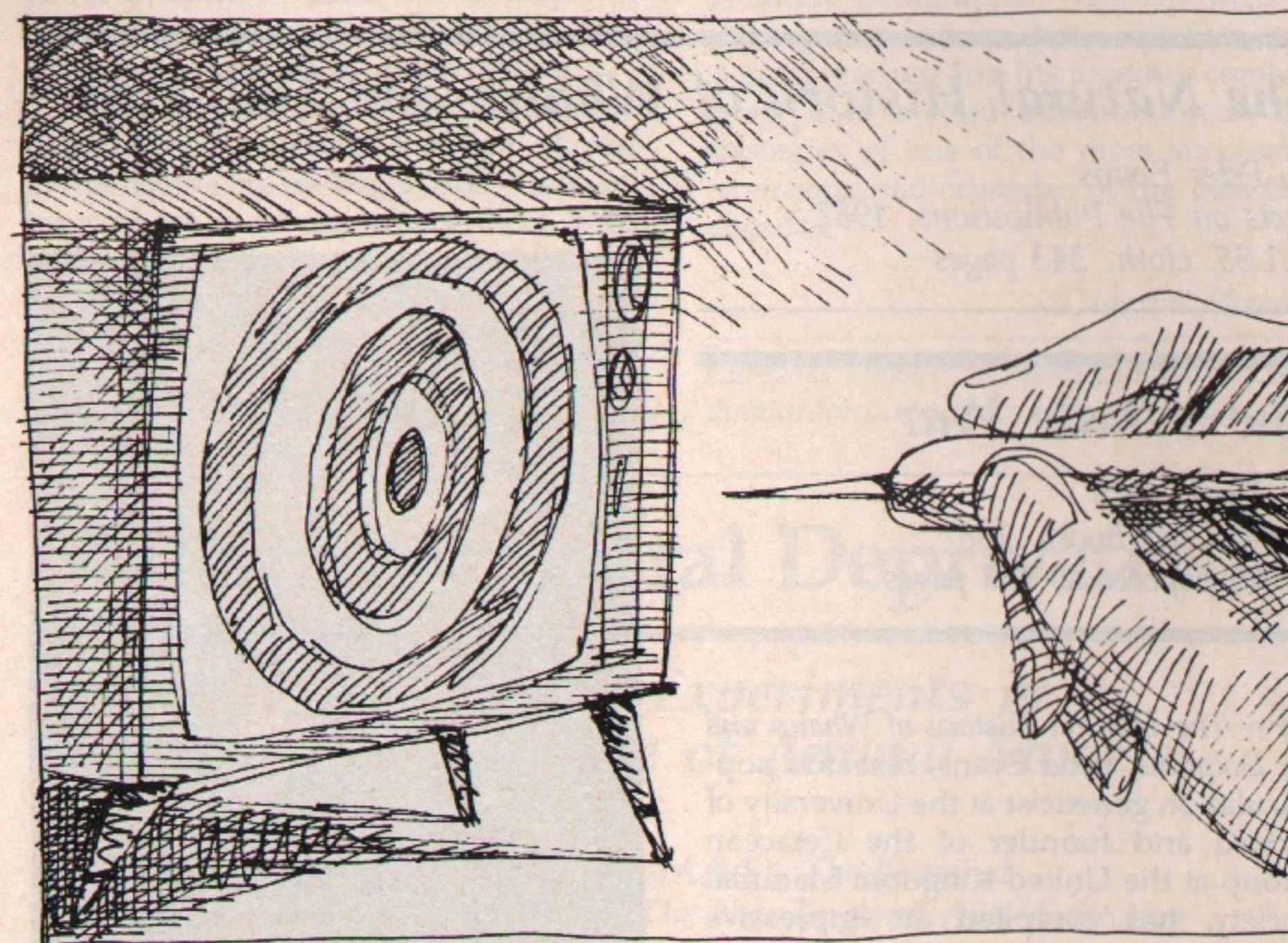
If you begin with the pound seizure controversy, for instance, and two months later you want more coverage because the issue isn't resolved, report a recent demonstration, the comments of a Congressperson, a new legislative bill targeting this practice, or freshly stirred-up activity at your local animal shelter. And remember, hard facts make news stories.

You may choose to update the story monthly until the issue is resolved. Each time you write it up or call it in, offer something new—not a more in depth study of the ethical question, but a new community response to the issue.

Timing makes a difference

For television coverage, contact the assignment editor far enough ahead of time so that he or she can put the story on the schedule for reporters in the field. In staging an event, time it so that it can be filmed and edited in time for that day's news. For the 6:00 P.M. news, hold the event no later than 3:00 P.M. Prime news time is during the early morning news programs (6:00 to 9:00 A.M.), and during the evening news hours (6:00 and 7:00 P.M., and again from 9:00 to 11:00 P.M.). It's generally better to make the 6:00 P.M. news than the later broadcasts.

The best time to get a story aired on radio is between 6:00 and 9:00 A.M. or between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 P.M. That is "prime time" because it's rush hour and people in cars have their radios on.



—Walt Taylor

The slowest newsworld of the work week is generally Monday. This is a boon for animal welfare advocates, because newsworlds are scratching for good stories. News picks up on Tuesday and keeps increasing until Friday afternoon, when the pace slows, but Wednesday is usually the toughest day of all to try for media coverage.

Some places don't even staff their offices on weekends, and those that do often run on a shoestring staff. Determine which stations and publications cover news on Saturdays and Sundays, and find out the names of the key weekend staffers. Approach them in the same manner as the other contact people, and see if they are responsive to animal issues. If so, feed them with good stories. If the switchboard is closed on weekends and there is no direct line to the newsroom, you may need to phone in the stories on Friday afternoon.

Exclusives

An "exclusive" is when you give a media contact information with the understanding that you will not share it with anyone else. It can be for a news report or story, or the exclusive right to promote an event to benefit your organization.

Pros and cons of exclusives on anything must be weighed in each circumstance. The positive side is that many times when a media outlet gets an exclusive on

something good, they give it extra attention and promotion. The negative side is that the story is shared with only one media audience. In addition, if the outlet to which you grant the exclusive decides to "sit on it," you may find out too late that the story was squelched—too late to pass it along to someone else (and if the outlet paid for the story, you won't get it back at all). Or you may find that after all your trouble, the story wasn't handled the way you thought it should have been and now there's nowhere else to turn without violating the agreement. Never tell anyone that he or she has an exclusive and then proceed to give the story to someone else. If you do, you aren't likely to get a friendly reception the next time you call.

Exclusives can be wonderful with the right outlet, but deadly with the wrong one. The first consideration is the size and composition of the audience you will reach. But even with a major network or newspaper, the story can be dropped or "buried." Don't consider granting an exclusive unless you feel certain your contact will promote it.

Renee Blake has been a professional radio broadcaster since 1974. She is presently Program Director of WKXL-FM in Concord, N.H. Specific questions may be directed to her at P.O. Box 6574, Penacook, NH 03303. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for reply.

On Whales and Humans

The Natural History of Whales and Dolphins

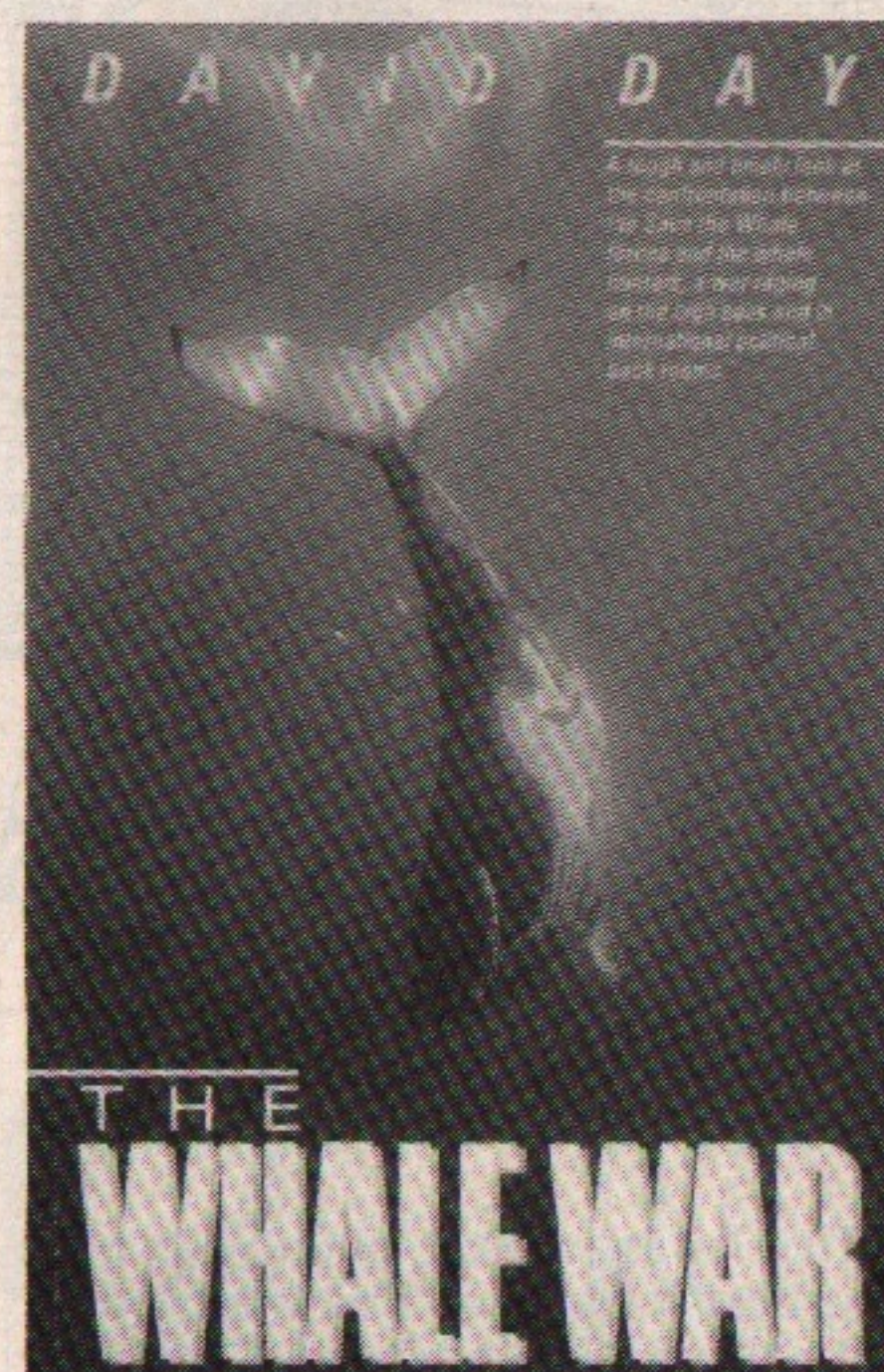
By Peter Evans
Facts on File Publications, 1987
\$21.95, cloth, 343 pages

The Whale War

By David Day
Sierra Club Books, 1987
\$9.95, paperback, 168 pages

In *The Natural History of Whales and Dolphins*, Peter Evans, research population geneticist at the University of Oxford and founder of the Cetacean Group at the United Kingdom Mammal Society, has compiled an impressive dossier on the ecology of the world's cetaceans. Offering a description of all members of the order cetacea, the volume includes information on their size, feeding habits, appearance, and diving behavior. Even the enigmatic beaked whales, who are so poorly understood and usually ignored in other books on the subject, have a place in Evans' natural history.

Evans does not omit detail in his analysis of these complex mammals. He gradually details how a blue whale uses its tongue, baleen, and expendable throat to capture krill. Grey whales scrape the



ocean bottom one to five meters deep for their food and in so doing may effectively be "plowing" the bottom and increasing a region's productivity. These sections are so thorough that the author rightly suggests that they are intended more as references than passages to be read in

their entirety. It touched my fantasy to learn that the first cetaceans lived "fifty million years ago in a world of tropical vegetation, swamp and advancing seas."

After scanning through many of the academic fine points in previous chapters, I turned my full attention to chapters covering social organization and life histories. The current status of communication research is concisely presented. It is now generally accepted that the "songs" of the humpback whale are usually produced by lone males in search of a mate. Some odontocetes (toothed whales) produce sounds beamed out as a sonic laser powerful enough to stun their fish and squid prey. Each pod (family group) of orcas living in the Pacific northwest has a distinct vocal dialect. One study of dolphins has shown they can comprehend "sentences" with up to five words or visual symbols in a particular syntax. Though Evans has deep appreciation for cetaceans, he does not offer support for any of the controversial hypotheses on the intelligence and communication abilities of cetaceans.

Evans' concluding chapters on the past and present relationships between humans and whales are well done summaries on the subjects, but the author's dependence on academic sources leaves these particular sections somewhat impoverished. For avid whale-savers, however, it is important to read the concise analyses of how the current management regime used by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) operates. Such information is not normally accessible to nonscientists. Bearing in mind that the best available figures are

still estimates, readers should compare (by studying Evans' valuable chart) the populations of the great whales prior to their exploitation with their numbers today. It is frightening to note that blue, humpback, and right whales have all been hunted to less than ten percent of their original levels. The "Save the Whales" movement began none to soon.

While *The Natural History of Whales and Dolphins* depicts the rich diversity of cetaceans, *The Whale War* by David Day is a unique chronicle of the diverse groups of people who have devoted themselves to stopping the whale slaughter. Day, a Canadian poet and naturalist, aptly charts the genesis of the "Save the Whales" movement from 1972, when the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment first called for a ten-year moratorium on whaling. Weaving together many of the complimentary facets of the movement since then, Day mentions the nonviolent direct actions of Greenpeace, the documentation and sinking of rogue pirate whalers, the new wave of scientists who "broke the back" of the old management models, and the political machinations that finally led the IWC to pass a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982. What's more, Day describes the legal and illegal actions that conservationists have mounted to try to make the moratorium a reality. As readers of this magazine may know, the whale war is not yet won because several countries continue to hunt hundreds of whales under the guise of "scientific research."

In an illuminating passage, Day presents an interesting analysis of how and why the political powerbrokers in Japan have gone all out to defend a dwindling

and economically insignificant industry. Unfortunately, I found his attempts to counter the arguments of those Japanese apologists somewhat unconvincing.

The book is fast-paced, and the thumb-nail sketches of some of the main players in this drama are on target. Still, I was left hungry for more than this short book could convey, perhaps because this book encapsulates a story that I and so many of my friends have lived since 1977. It was difficult to read about the toils and stresses of two-month undercover in-

vestigations and direct actions condensed to single paragraphs. With the help of some poetic license, however, the story is good reading and fits together comfortably. It is a solid introduction to the strategies of one of the most successful environmental crusades of the past two decades.

—Campbell Plowden

Campbell Plowden is Whale Campaign Coordinator for Greenpeace in Washington, D.C.

Maternal or Moral Deprivation?

Maternal Deprivation Experiments in Psychology: A Critique of Animal Models

By Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D.
The American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS), The National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS), and The New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS); 1986
softcover, 95 pages

Dr. Stephen's monograph is a critical review of maternal deprivation research that has been conducted in this country since the late 1950s. Explicitly, the critique points out the empirical and rational problems that underlie this research; implicitly, it shows an embarrassing depravity of human nature for which we are all responsible—not just the scientists.

Every person concerned with animal

welfare in research should consult this monograph—a well-documented study of basic research run amok. With over 450 references, Stephens examines a research area that has, for over thirty years, used over 7000 animals and cost our society over \$57 million (primarily in Federal grants). Out of the 250 experiments on the topic, Stephens found only one study that had any relevancy to human welfare.

continued on next page



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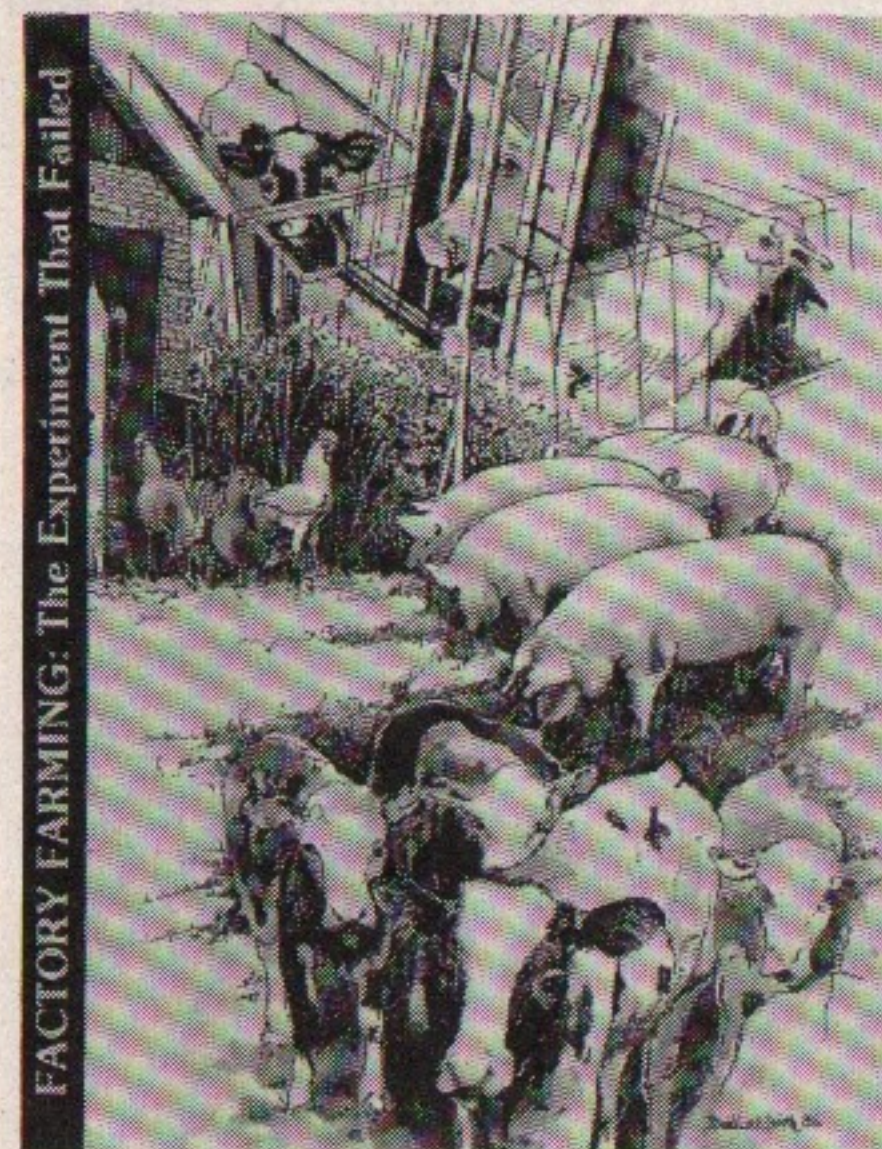
Meat Machines

Factory Farming: The Experiment That Failed

Animal Welfare Institute, (P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007), 1987
\$3.00, paperback, 86 pages

Well designed and organized, *Factory Farming: The Experiment That Failed* presents a comprehensive survey of the grave cruelties in rearing animals in intensive husbandry systems. It is a compilation of articles reprinted from *The Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly*, beginning with a succinct analysis of the historic, social, and economic factors that led to the advent of factory farming.

Written in styles that allow those unfamiliar with present-day animal husbandry methods to understand, chapters deal with species-specific husbandry techniques such as the raising of calves, pigs, and hens. Rather than offer simple generalities, the authors focus on specific abuses, such as poor quality flooring that damages animals' feet, and caging so constraining that animals cannot even make normal postural adjustments. Of par-



continued from previous page

Some scientists say that we should not judge every instance of basic research by its immediate benefit to human welfare. Instead they claim that a considerable amount of scientific knowledge is derived from serendipitous results. However, as we can see from Stephens' monograph, the outcomes of the repetitive deprivation experiments, justified by only slight changes in method, had already been well established. And upon understanding the dim hope of new discovery, the harm done to so many animals seems all the more senseless.

Stephens may miss the point here and there in terms of individual scientists' pedigrees, but by and large he is on target. Certainly all of the scientists who did this sort of research were not students of Harry Harlow, but it could be argued that most of them were his epigones.

Also, Stephens may not have been completely correct when he assumes that deprivation experiments began with Harlow. Indeed, they have a historical origin in other pre-Harlow disciplines. For example, ethology has used the deprivation experiment to distinguish between instinctual and learned behavior. What is ironic is that ethology has a list of very

specific prerequisites for doing any deprivation experiments correctly; and much of the cited research violates these prerequisites. For example, in a deprivation experiment the researcher must only disrupt the adaptation being studied. In much of this research, scientists wiped out huge chunks of experimental stimuli. A monkey locked in a small cage is deprived of much more than just a mother. As one of his peers pointed out, Harlow, in his experiments, used sledgehammer blows when a few taps would have been sufficient. Had Harlow and others paid better attention to ethology much of the harm could have been avoided.

Finally, Stephens' careful work is a warning to us all. We must carefully re-examine the place and power our culture assigns to scientists. To paraphrase from a novel I recently read, our modern scientists are the most overweening, pompous priesthood in the history of humankind. We must be careful of the arrogant attitude that seems to come with the attainment of an academic degree—particularly when that is interpreted as a license to stand above morality.

The economist E.F. Schumaker in his "A Guide for the Perplexed" adds to those

ticular note, Brian Klug's "Language, Science, and the Abuse of Farm Animals" exposes agribusiness's desperate attempt to argue that economic measures of productivity are closely correlated with individual animal welfare. His criticism is particularly astute in analyzing the 1981 Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) report, an egregious example of circular and defensive arguments masquerading as objective science.

The thorough but easily understood presentation of factory farming and related issues is consistently accompanied throughout the book by a generous collection of excellent photographs and drawings. The congruency of text and illustration is the book's most potent attribute. The words are supplemented by images of extreme suffering that should elicit nothing but a sympathetic response. What's more, other images of animals housed humanely accentuate the stark deprivation endured by many "farm animal" species, whose rich and complex social and behavioral needs are routinely frustrated in factory environments. This publication can become a landmark publication for reforming the dire conditions that farm animals endure in "advanced" Western nations.

—Lawrence Carnis

ideas very well:

Faith in modern man's omnipotence is wearing thin... More and more people are beginning to realize that "the modern experiment" has failed... Man closed the gates of Heaven against himself and tried, with immense energy and ingenuity, to confine himself to the Earth. He is now discovering that... a refusal to reach for Heaven means an involuntary descent into Hell.

Since we have brought this descent into Hell upon ourselves, it may be fitting that we should suffer the consequences. But to think we have the right to drag unwitting animals into Hell with us is an entirely different matter.

—Roger Fouts, Ph.D.

Dr. Fouts is professor of psychology at Central Washington University, where he specializes in chimpanzee language research.

A single copy of this publication is available for \$1.00 from the AAVS as a public educational service. Write to - American Anti-Vivisection Society, Suite 204, Noble Plaza, 801 Old York Rd., Jenkintown, PA, 19046-1685.

EUTHANASIA

Continued from page 45

Those who accept the killing of 20 million dogs and cats a year as a sad necessity carried out solely to prevent those animals from suffering lingering deaths on the streets might, for the sake of analogy, try applying that logic to our own species. However bad the dog and cat overpopulation problems are, the human population problem is unquestionably much worse. But, would we favor a policy of going into particularly overpopulated areas of the world (where people are clearly not enjoying a good quality of life) and doing away with all the "excess" people? The fact that no human rights advocate would even entertain such an idea should give us pause. Since the idea of killing mass numbers of humans to achieve population control is so reprehensible, why then are we so quick to apply this method to nonhumans?

Survival instincts run strong. Most people (and animals) will suffer extraordinary agony and deprivation before choosing death over life. When we see humans suffering from starvation, we don't kill them. Even though our present aid programs do little to address the root causes of poverty and malnutrition, people of conscience still send emergency food and medical supplies, stage telethons, and advocate measures designed to improve the lives of suffering people. We need to apply a similar ethic in dealing with dog and cat overpopulation—not one which values length of life over quality of life, but one which fights for both over premature death. It's tragic that 20 million deliberate killings of dogs and cats each year are accepted as a given—not only by society at large, but by the humane community itself. Lacking unified support from local communities, governments, veterinarians, and owners of rental housing, many organizations set up to help animals have degenerated into little more than incinerators. A radical new approach, one with the clear goal in mind of *eliminating once and for all* the killing of healthy dogs and cats, is sorely needed. Towards this end, animal shelters should draw up specific plans (including sterilization, public relations, education and individual problem-solving programs) to phase out the killing—and should begin to devote a substantial portion of their time, energy, and resources to achieving a truly life-affirming solution to this tragedy.



—Courtesy NAAHE

The Final Wait

Eyes peering through steel bars

Waiting Waiting Waiting

Fingers poke through giving a caress on the forehead

Waiting Waiting Waiting

The cage door opens offering a sign of hope

Waiting

Feeling the prick of the needle

—Veronica De Maggio

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— Mary Bloom/Courtesy ASPCA

Ferals are Friendless

Their mother did her best to provide a warm, comfortable nest. But even if these kittens survive to adulthood, life on the streets will be short and arduous. If they live long enough to breed, the tragedy will be compounded.

Feral cats are fearful, elusive, and virtually impossible to catch without the use of a box trap—thus, few humane societies have cat rescue programs. Individual activists and shelter volunteers could make a major impact in their communities by investing in a humane trap and capturing feral felines for adoption (if the animals can be socialized), sterilization and release (if they're completely wild and an appropriate environment can be found), or—if there is no better solution—euthanasia.

Animal Care Equipment & Services (800/338-2237 or 714/338-6056) has a large selection of box traps and other humane handling devices.

—KB

ANIMAL SHELTERS:

Continued from page 22

given the right information in the right way, most people can become good guardians to their companion animals.

- Once people decide to get a companion animal, they are liable to get one somewhere else if they are denied at the shelter.

- Anyone taking the time to come to an animal shelter to adopt, when so many animals are available free in the community, deserves to be given every consideration.

More and more shelters are providing post-adoption services, too. Group events, like obedience training for dogs or classes in animal care, are made available to adopters at discount prices—sometimes for free. Individual attention is given by adoption counselors who make follow-up phone calls to adopters every week or two until the success of the adoption seems assured. Post-adoption services make it possible to approve adoption applications with negative factors that would have to be rejected if there were no way to follow up.

But even these measures aren't likely to position the shelter as the main source of companion animals in town. In the future, shelters must expand their scope beyond shelter animals, and find a way to play a role in every "pet" acquisition in the community. This may mean getting pet store owners to agree to give an adoption



— Aaron Steinback/Courtesy ASPCA

Shelters with an "upbeat" appearance may attract more adopters for their animals.

package from the shelter to every purchaser, and offering people who are advertising dogs or cats for sale in the newspaper adoption packages to give away with the animals. The adoption package should contain information on animal care and sterilization, along with the message that the shelter is

available to counsel the "owner" on problems whether or not the animal came from the shelter. Optimally, the package might include a certificate for a free health exam and a free or low-cost spay or neuter.

Humane education for children is
Continued on next page

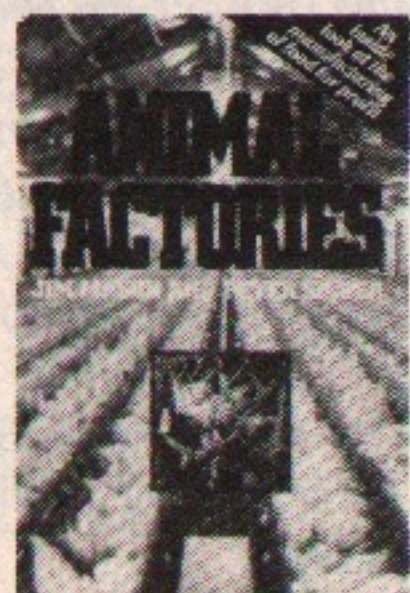
Setting Up Spay-Neuter Clinics

The Peoples Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has published a handbook on all facets of spay-neuter programs. *The Politics of Animal Control* examines and answers the arguments used by the veterinary establishment and some humane societies to oppose low-cost sterilization clinics. PAWS recommends an animal control "package" including a municipally operated clinic with modest fees, a licensing fee differential, pet store regulation, and an aggressive public education program. The book is available for \$5 (U.S.) or \$6 (Can.) postpaid from PAWS, Box 127, Station D, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1R 4Y7.

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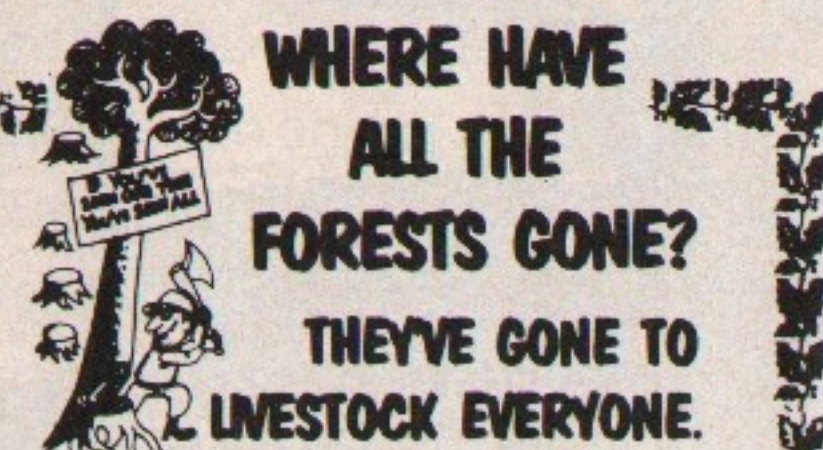
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ANIMAL SHELTERS

Continued from previous page

the source of much hope for long-term results in ending overpopulation. In fact, the scope of humane education goes beyond any one issue—the goal being nothing less than a basic society-wide change in attitudes towards animals. If respect for all life were truly felt and held as a cultural value, it would not be too optimistic to believe that all types of animal abuse would end.

Getting it together

A line from the song "Putting It Together" says, "The art of making art is putting it together, bit by bit..." That also goes for the art of making progress. We know some of the methods to reduce overpopulation, but we need a plan that synthesizes all the approaches so that all can be used in each community. Again, there is a pioneer program. In central Ohio, 19 organizations have joined forces with a goal of reducing by half the number of homeless, unwanted, and abandoned dogs and cats in their part of the country by 1992. As reported in the August/September 1987 issue of the *NACA News*, the group includes humane societies, health departments, veterinary associations, animal rights groups, and animal control agencies. Used to working independently, these organizations are combining forces in this cooperative endeavor.

The group plans to put all the resources of the community to work on the overpopulation problem—from municipal and county governments, to the media, to marketing and advertising experts. The goal-oriented group even has a "historian" to record its progress, both for evaluation purposes and so that other groups around the country can learn from its experience.

Ending dog and cat overpopulation is not only a desirable goal in itself, it would also have the effect of releasing the talent, energy, and much of the funding of the shelters to concentrate on all the other animal abuse—from farm animals to laboratory animals to wildlife. As it is now, just dealing with the results of overpopulation ties up an enormous amount of pro-animal resources.

Our biggest enemy may be ourselves. There are those in the field who feel that dog and cat overpopulation—like the poor—will always be with us. They accept the



—April Jackson/Atlanta Humane Society

Ending dog and cat overpopulation is not only a desirable goal in itself, it would release the talent and energy of shelter personnel to concentrate on other animal problems.

need to euthanize as a fact of life, not as a temporary necessity. They do not believe it will ever be possible to reduce the number of unwanted animals to the point where mass killing is not a daily task at most animal shelters. Though it is likely that there will always be some human-caused animal suffering, dog and cat overpopulation—as we experience it today—is a finite problem. It has a beginning, it has identifiable causes, and now it is starting to have identifiable solutions. The challenge is to recognize the solutions, refine and improve them, and put them to work all over the country.

Carol Moulton is Associate Director of the Animal Protection Division of AHA.

Sources: Animal Management and Population Control, What Progress Have We Made?, report from the Center for Animals, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, August 1985; Management Information Service Report on Local Animal Control Management, Vol. 18, No. 7, July 1986, International City Management Association; American Humane Animal Shelter Reporting Study, 1985 and 1986, American Humane Association; The *NACA News*, Vol. 10, No. 4, August/September 1987, National Animal Control Association.

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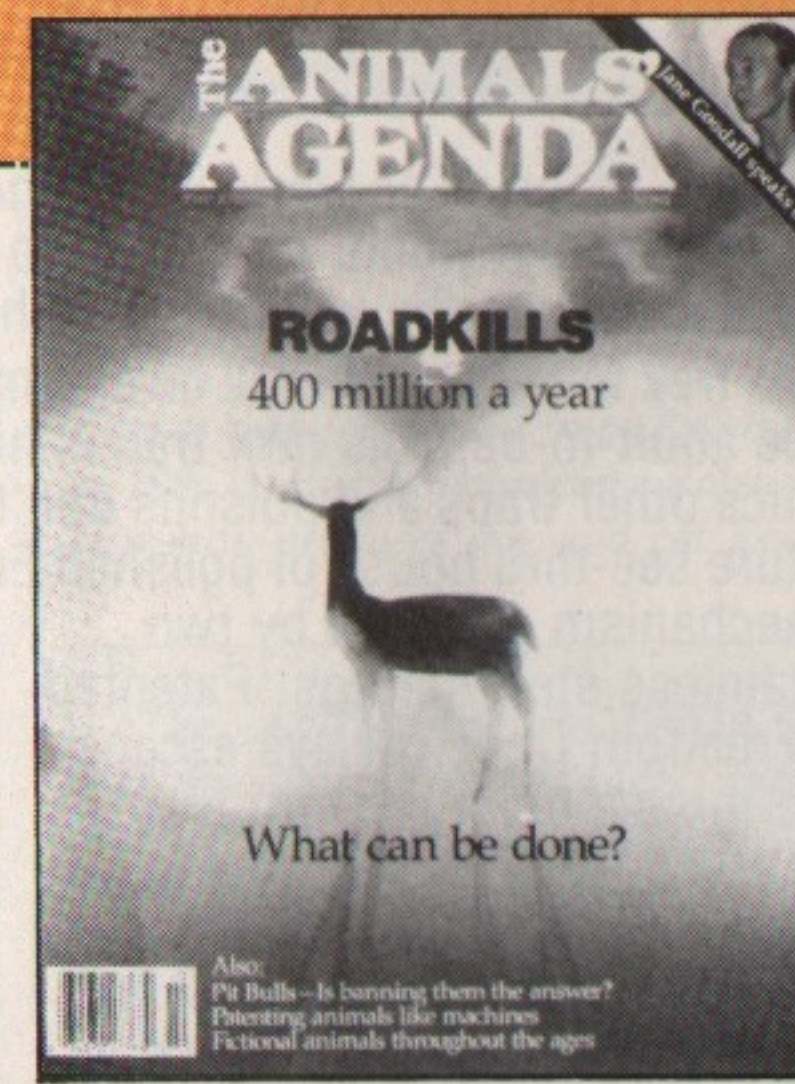
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Continued from page 6

destruction of habitats (thus the lives) of other animals to create living space for the excess human population has been compounded in industrialized societies by pollution, massacre on roadways, etc. The numbers of animals suffering and dying because of the impact of humanity on the environment is, quite possibly, far greater than the numbers tortured and killed through other forms of persecution.

Therefore, it is not enough for animal liberationists merely to campaign for an end to the more obvious forms of animal persecution. We must also demand a massive reduction in the human population (through humane methods such as birth control, obviously), the protection of all wild places, and an end to industrialized society.

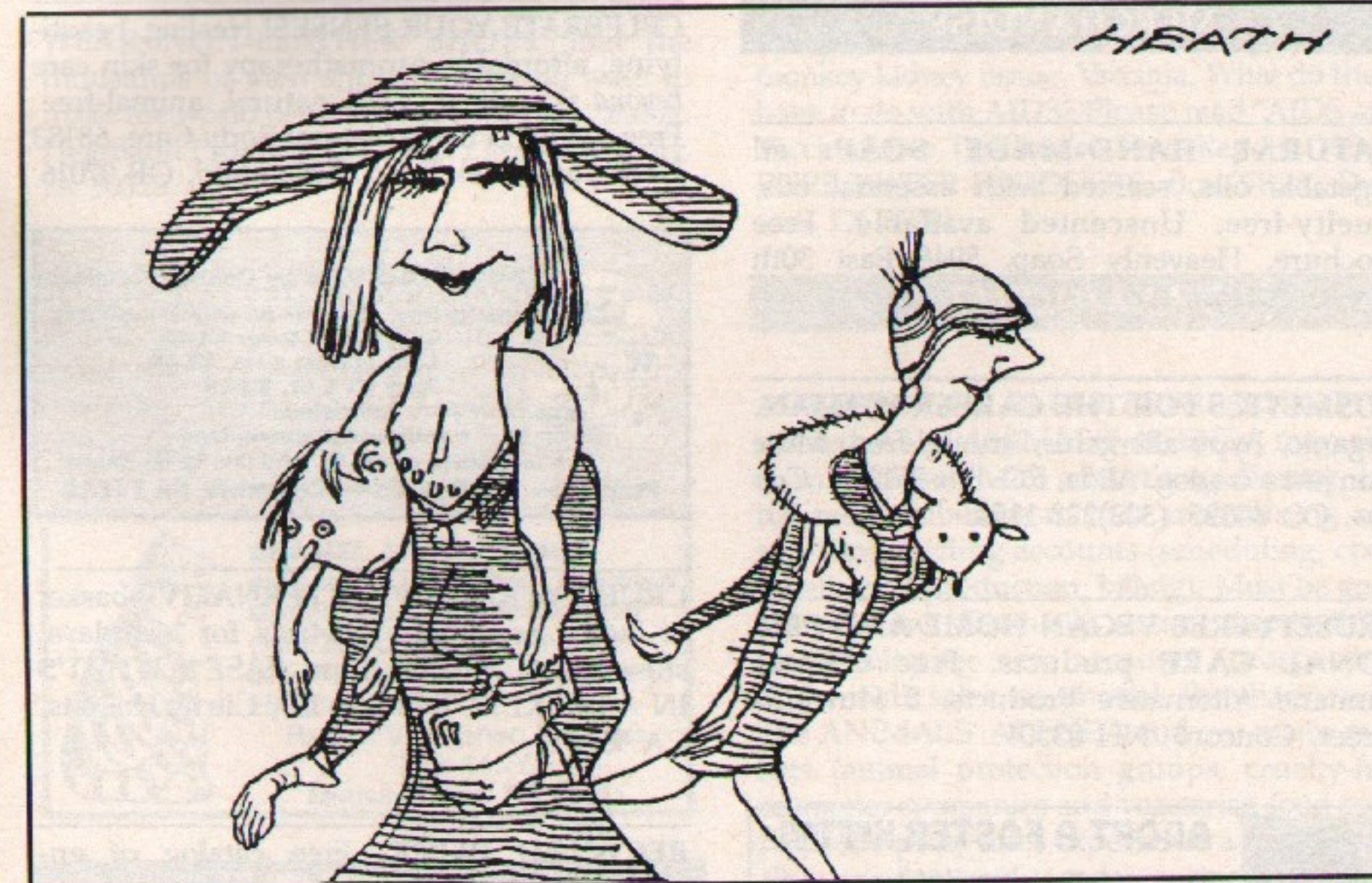
—Ronnie Lee

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Milk and Honey

I'd like to raise a couple of points of information regarding the article by Victoria Moran (*Compassionate Living*) in the March 1988 issue. Moran argues that to avoid exploiting bees, we should switch from eating honey to eating such other natural sugars as rice syrup, molasses, sorghum, barley malt, pure maple syrup, date sugar, dried fruits, and fruit juice concentrate. She admits that honey production without exploitation is possible, but seems to think feeding bees a syrup substitute for their own honey over the winter is exploitation. First of all, it's not: it's simply a means of extending the bees' sugar-gathering season, which in warmer climates goes on year-round anyway. Bees aren't particularly interested in using their own honey when they can be bringing in sugar from an outside source, as any beekeeper can show you with a five-minute demonstration. Second, the pesticide applications used in growing rice, sugar cane, sorghum, barley, dates, and other fruits are all infinitely more harmful to bees—as well as to birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other insects—than any practice of beekeepers, large or small. I've witnessed pesticide applications that wiped out every bee within a radius of several miles. I don't know of any harm that comes to animals as a result of maple sugaring, but with 71 percent of the Quebec and northern New England sugarbush now dead or dying as a result of acid rain, and 87 percent of trees showing symptoms, that alternative might not be around much longer.

LETTERS



Reproduced by courtesy of Punch

Moran's analysis of the dairy industry also contains questionable statements. The advantage of automatic milking machines over hand milking isn't just that they cost less than milkmaids; it's also that the machines completely drain the teats, if properly used, thus preventing mastitis. That's a double-edged argument, of course. In the old days, mastitis was typically caused by weary and distracted milkers. Today mastitis is typically caused by farmers who don't use their milking machines properly, who don't carefully inspect each cow's teats before and after milking, or who give each cow much less attention because their herds are much larger with far fewer people looking after them. Teat irritation from milking machines with cold or worn-out rubber cups is common; however, in fairness to the machines, at least as many actual teat injuries come from other causes: teats accidentally dragged over rough concrete barn floors, bitten by insects, even stepped upon (much more common in this era of cows bred for super-large bags than any city dweller might suspect).

Then there's the disposal of surplus male calves. No doubt about it, the veal industry is growing—displacing the old "baby beef" market—and it is a horror. However, contrary to popular belief, not all surplus males become veal, either through immediate slaughter or confinement in veal crates. A great many, if a dwindling percentage, are still castrated and put out to pasture, for slaughter as adults at age two or three. The determining factor is breeding. A Holstein heifer joining a milk herd is typically bred first

with Hereford semen, yielding a smaller, easily birthed calf. Herefords and Hereford crosses always go for beef, usually mature beef, regardless of sex. Depending on the farmer's need for replacement stock, the Holstein may or may not be bred with Holstein semen in the future. Veal calves from her will be Holstein males, whose beef value relative to a Hereford declines as they age.

Most milk herds in the U.S., Canada, and northern Europe are now Holsteins, and most beef herds Herefords. Other milking varieties include Jerseys, Guernseys, Ayrshires, and Brown Swiss. I believe their breeding and disposal protocol is similar, except that Jerseys, being smaller than the others, are more likely to be bred exclusively with their own kind.

—Merritt Clifton
Brigham, Quebec, Canada

ALF Communique

We invite all those willing and able to join the battle to free the planet and all animals, human and nonhuman, from the tyranny of humans. There are few of us, but we know there are many more waiting for the call. This is that call. We have liberated thousands of animals and destroyed their torture chambers—with your help we can further slow the human cancer.

In the end, the letters, legislation, and compromises will work. But, like all other struggles against oppression, it may take decades—if not centuries. Something must be done now to lessen the suffering, to somehow cause the oppressors to

negotiate in good faith. Direct action is the answer. For all those who wonder, we abhor violence. Our actions do not harm humans or nonhumans—they are designed to stop the violence. Destruction of property or instruments of torture is not violence.

The animal oppressors know how to combat attempts at political change and even the will of the people. They do not, however, know how to stop our forces—they cannot buy us off, or slow us down through promises.

Continue your other efforts to save our planet, but join us. Trust only your closest friends, take as few chances as possible, and hit the oppressors whenever and wherever you can. People have asked how to become members of the animal liberation forces. The simple answer is that you become a member when you act to stop the oppression.

—Animal Liberation Forces
U.S.A.

Purina Poison

Purina Mills, an animal food company, is producing a pesticide to kill starlings and blackbirds who eat grain intended for cattle in feedlots. Made of toluidine, a broad-spectrum, painful, and slow poison, the compound will also kill the pigeons, jays, magpies, crows, and ravens who eat poisoned feed intended for starlings. Non-target predatory birds (hawks, falcons, eagles) may accumulate the lethal compound, and mammalian scavengers will also be killed. Purina has a good name in animal feed production, and will surely feel no major drop in profit by ceasing production of *Starlicide*. If this requires a boycott of Purina products, so be it.

—Jean Kay Lisle
Wildlife Rehabilitator
Denver, CO

Editor's Note: Purina Mills, manufacturer of agricultural animal feed and lab animal chows, was purchased from Ralston Purina in 1986 by British Petroleum. Ralston Purina currently produces dog and cat food.

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I'M TRYING TO FIND SOME OLD ISSUES OF "AGENDA" when it was newsprint. Specifically need: Sept/Oct 1982, Nov/Dec 1982, Jan/Feb 1983, July/Aug 1983. Will trade for other issues or will give a free subscription. Trying to complete a set of all issues. Doug Moss, Publisher, The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881.

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ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARIANS FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS. Veterinarians addressing ethical issues surrounding the use of nonhuman animals. Contact Nedim Buyukmihci, VMD, Route 1, Box 170, Winters, CA 95694

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Please consider The ANIMALS' AGENDA when you make out your will. Make bequests payable to "Animal Rights Network, Inc." (ARN), our publisher. The address is: Box 5234, Westport, CT 06881. If you need more information about ARN, please contact our office.

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