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The ANIMALS' AGENDA

MAY 1991 VOLUME XI NO. 4

12 Throwaway Animals

BY MARCIA KING

Despite the success of many efforts to limit births and promote adoptions of dogs and cats, the annual surplus of "pets" remains in the tens of millions.

21 Bringing in the New

BY PHIL MAGGITT

Dogs and cats need social lives just like people. Keeping more than one companion animal solves the problem of loneliness, and reduces the number of homeless animals, too.

40 Animal Research: A Psychological Ritual

BY ROGER E. ULRICH, Ph.D.

Can society afford to assume that the current level of animal research in the study of human psychology is worthwhile? A former animal experimenter tells why animal-based psychology must be replaced by direct study of human problems.

2 Page Two

3 Letters

10 Network Notes

23 Comment

The Dog Nobody Wanted

25 Dateline: International

29 News Shorts

32 Animal Newslines:

❖ Round Three for AWA Dog, Cat, and Primate Standards ❖ HSUS In Hot Water Again ❖ Money Makes the World Go Around ❖ ADC Fiscal Recommendation Due This Month ❖ Worsening Western Drought Imperils Wildlife ❖ Energy Policy Threatens Wildlife ❖ Oldies But Goodies ❖ Give Saddam the (Perdue) Bird ❖ Court Calendar ❖ Animal Testing and the Law

46 Caring for Other Animals BY ERIC DUNAYER, V.M.D.

Benefits of Neutering

48 Compassionate Living BY VICTORIA MORAN

Spring Clean-up

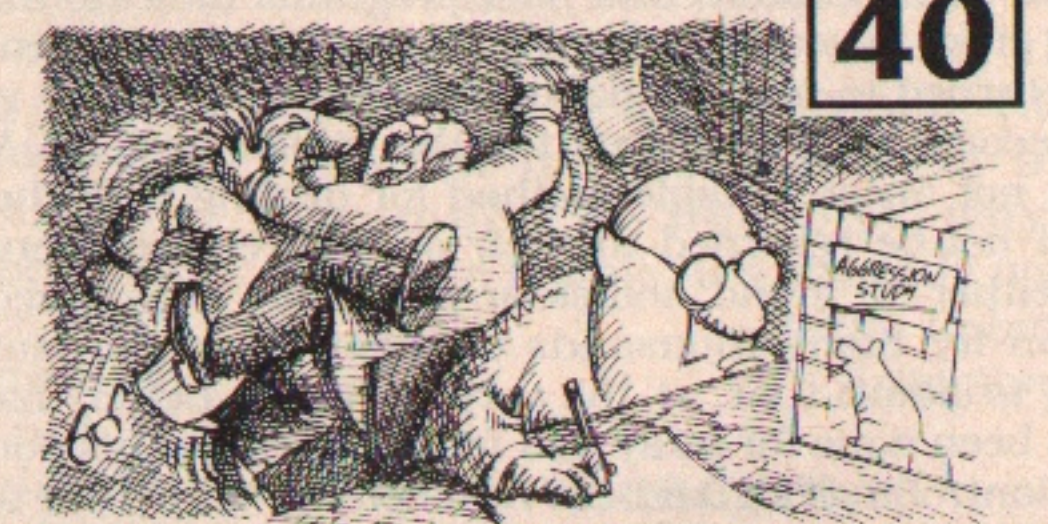
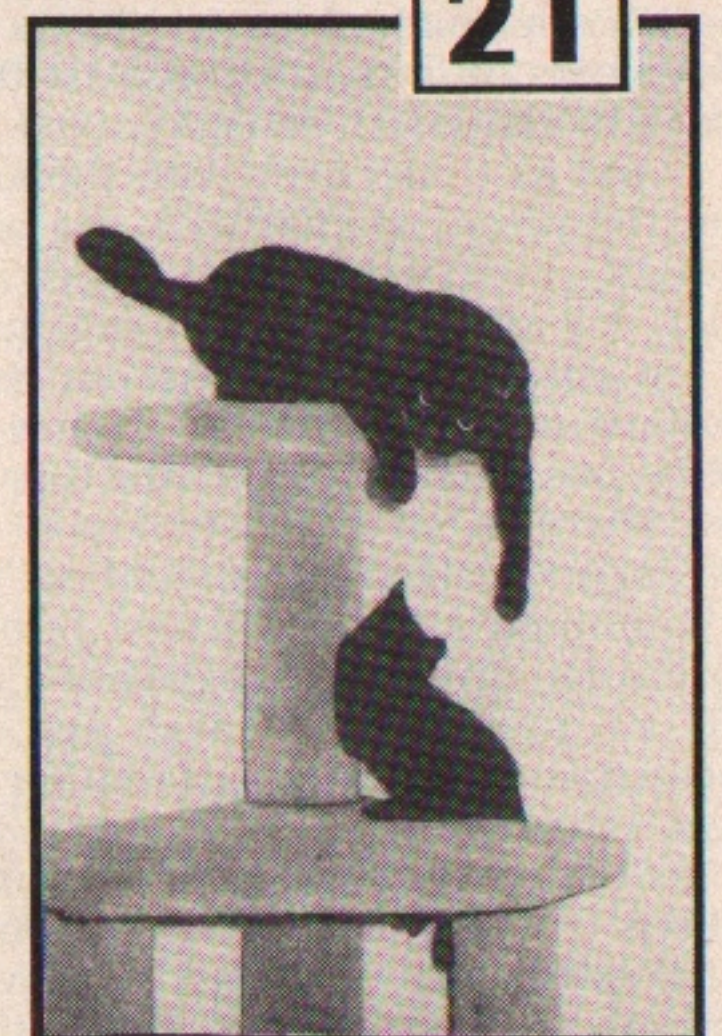
50 Medicine: In Lay Terms BY NEAL BARNARD, M.D.

Toxoplasmosis

52 Reviews:

The Company of Dogs ❖ Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs ❖ Maverick Cats

58 Classifieds



COVER Photo By: Paul McGuirk / Taken at Poster Animal Hospital

The ANIMALS' AGENDA (ISSN 0741-5044) is published monthly by the Animal Rights Network, Inc. (except for combined issues in January/February and July/August). Offices are located at 456 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468, U.S.A.; (203) 452-0446; FAX (203) 452-9543. Address for editorial material and advertising inquiries: The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 345, Monroe, CT 06468. Please indicate department. Address for newsstand inquiries: The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 902, Rochester, VT 05767; (800) 435-5003 or (802) 767-3116. Send all subscription orders and changes of address to: The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217; (800) 825-0061. Postmaster: Send address changes to The ANIMALS' AGENDA, P.O. Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217. Second-class postage rate is paid at Monroe, CT and additional mailing offices. The ANIMALS' AGENDA is printed in the U.S.A. Entire contents copyrighted. Nothing may be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from the publisher. Subscription prices are \$22.00 per year, \$39.00 for two years, and \$55.00 for three years. Canadian/Mexican prices: \$28.00/one year, \$50.00/two years, \$70.00/three years (incl. GST; #124731233). Other foreign subscriptions: \$35.00/one year, \$65.00/two years, \$94.00/three years. The ANIMALS' AGENDA assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Manuscripts or artwork not accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope cannot be returned. We do not print fiction. Please do not send poetry. Due to the volume of mail, letters from readers cannot be personally acknowledged. The ANIMALS' AGENDA is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. The ANIMALS' AGENDA makes every effort to ensure that products and services advertised herein are consistent with the humane ethic, but no representation is made or implied that such products are guaranteed to be completely "cruelty-free." For more detailed product information, concerned readers should contact Beauty Without Cruelty, USA, 175 West 12th St. #16G, New York, NY 10011, which publishes The Compassionate Shopper list. Opinions expressed in the pages of the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of The Animal Rights Network, Inc.

PAGE TWO

Dog and Cat Overpopulation Demands Action, Not Argument

Movements, like people, go through stages. There was a time, early in the '80s, when animal rights activists dismissed dog and cat overpopulation as an issue somehow unworthy of the animal rights movement. Pet problems should be left to animal "welfarist" (meaning those involved primarily in shelter work), while animal "rights" activists dealt with more exotic, glamorous, or controversial issues. Some activists even argued that it would compromise their philosophical principles to work on pet overpopulation, as spaying and neutering violated an animals' "reproductive rights." In retrospect, this position seems ludicrous, but it was articulated by prominent activists—including previous editors of *The ANIMALS' AGENDA*.

It's not unusual for neophytes in any cause to be somewhat doctrinaire in their views. After a few years of trying to reconcile the practical with the philosophical, however, dogma is often eroded by utilitarian considerations.

And so it has been with the animal protection movement. It seems to be coming full circle from the preoccupation with dog and cat issues found among animal advocates 20 years ago, through a time when these issues were largely subsumed by other concerns, to a point now at which dog and cat issues are regaining a prominent place on the animal rights agenda.

In this issue, we present our third cover story on dog and cat overpopulation, sponsored by The Summerlee Foundation. Since the previous cover story, in May of 1988, a lot of creative energy has been directed into this problem. One thing should have become clear to us all by now: there is no *one* solution to pet overpopulation. While the importance of traditional spay/neuter campaigns should not be underestimated, these alone are not sufficient. They must be combined with aggressive public education, a reduction in veterinary surgical fees for sterilization procedures, legislation aimed at the pet industry (which includes hobby breeders as well as puppy mills and pet shops), improved adoption rates, establishment of rescue/management programs for feral and stray animals, and a hundred other things we haven't thought of yet.

Feral and abandoned cats present a situation that's particularly ripe for improvement. Millions of cats live in a wild or semi-tame state in alleys, abandoned buildings, dumps, barns, and wooded areas. For the most part, they eke out a minimal existence until they either starve, succumb to illness, suffer debilitating injuries, or are deliberately killed with poison, guns, or worse. But before they die, they breed more cats—millions more, whose fate is to simply repeat the whole miserable cycle. So far, the plight of these cats has been largely overlooked by humane societies.

To be fair, most shelters have had more animals than they could handle without going out looking for more. However, a significant number of these homeless cats and their progeny have ended up at the shelters anyway—mostly to be euthanized on the spot, as they may not have acquired the social skills to make them adoptable. Concern for feral cats has come mainly from a relatively tiny number of activists who spend their days trapping and either euthanizing or "homing" the cats, and cat "feeders" (whose sterling intentions have generally backfired into an increased birthrate).

Yet a measure of success has been achieved with feral cats, despite the limited attention given to them. Studies and pilot programs indicate that at least *some* of these cats can be given decent lives in stable "colonies," after they have been humanely trapped, sterilized, inoculated, and returned to friendly habitats where they can be guaranteed perpetual care (and where they may become an essential part of the wildlife ecology). We cannot emphasize strongly enough that this is not an acceptable method for dealing with the majority of homeless cats; most of them should *not* be returned to their original environments. But while the greater number of cats must either be found homes or painlessly euthanized, sterilization and release seems a viable solution for many thousands of them. Even the most vocal critics of this process should be willing to admit that, at the very least, it's better than doing nothing. And virtually nothing is what's been done for stray and feral cats up to this point.

Controlling dog and cat numbers so that there are no homeless animals is a daunting but not impossible goal. Even if there is the massive public indifference claimed by some shelter workers, there is no real opposition to eliminating pet overpopulation such as activists face in working on other animal issues. The only real controversy on this front exists within the animal protection movement itself, as activists debate the morality of euthanasia and the effectiveness of mostly untried measures. These arguments have gotten us nowhere. Let's stop philosophizing about dogs and cats, and take some effective, practical steps to assist them.

Help dogs and cats locally

While there are a few things only national animal groups can do to help companion animals, most dog and cat work is done locally. That's where funds are most needed. All too often, however, national organizations that are not directly involved in alleviating dog and cat problems receive the lion's share of donations. Little, if any, funding goes back into local efforts.

We urge readers to support their local shelters and animal rescue groups first. *Then* contribute to national campaigns for dogs and cats.

—The Editor

May 1991
Vol. XI, No. 4

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LETTERS

Frequent Mailings

Despite the excellent job done by animal rights and environmental organizations, I sometimes wonder about how effectively they are using their funds. It seems to me that a large part of my contributions are going into more fundraising campaigns. Many groups seem to send pleas for funding more than once a month, many of them including *stamped* return envelopes. This impresses me as a wasteful use of money.

Starting this year, all the solicitations I receive will go into a box. I will go through the box every four to six months when I get ready to make contributions. If an organization has lots of mail in the box, that will lower my evaluation of them. I think this will help me more fairly allocate what funds I have available to contribute.

Frills like stickers, decals, plastic membership cards, and calendars (when not requested) also strike me as a waste of funds. Another thing I dislike is a letter with printed "handwritten" notes in the margins or colored underwriting. It's a sign of insincerity for an organization to try to make something (bulk printing) look like something it is not (a personal letter). The only thing it does is increase printing costs.

People who have already contributed to an organization are probably convinced of the value of its work. Most would probably like to be kept informed, but not receive sales pitches or dramatic pleas.

—James Brucker
Los Angeles, CA

Editor's Note: To eliminate some confusion in the minds of *ANIMALS' AGENDA* subscribers, we'd like to explain that subscription renewal notices are not fundraising appeals. They are bills for the price of the magazine. We were trying to limit our funding appeals to one per calendar year—in late November or early December—but we had no choice but to send a follow-up appeal in February of this year. How many appeals we send out in the future will depend on how generously readers respond.

However, we will do our best to limit the mailings.

If readers want to receive fewer subscription renewal notices, the best way is to renew for two or three years at a time, and to renew after receipt of the first bill. But even after renewing, subscribers may still receive another bill, as they go out in bulk mailings. Subscribers may have just received the first bill when the second is mailed (three to four weeks after the first).

On Being an Activist

An activist is defined in the *Random House Dictionary* as an especially vigorous or militant advocate of a cause. Animal rights activists have come to know all too well the picket lines, demonstrations, and civil disobediences where we raise our voices to show how we feel. At these times, we display ourselves on the world's stages, and our mood and purpose are very clear—we hope—to those observing.

But time spent in such settings usually comprises only a fraction of our days. The way we spend the rest of the time actually living our beliefs may be far more important in influencing people—not by directly discussing animals, but subconsciously, as people absorb or pick up our intentions by simply being around us.

An example of this comes to mind of a former roommate. She was sympathetic to the plight of animals, and most of her free time was spent on environmental causes. While she was not a vegetarian, she was considerate enough to keep the kitchen almost meat-free. I never spoke of animal rights to her, but I preached to her about her lifestyle once. She was preparing a tuna sandwich for lunch when I asked if she was aware of the tuna/dolphin connection. She became so defensive that I abruptly terminated my lecture, vowing never again to preach a "gospel lesson."

We remained in contact after she moved away, and several months later she telephoned to

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share with me her decision to become a vegan and acquaint herself with animal rights issues. This conversion hadn't come from my preaching; it came from her watching someone trying to live her innermost convictions.

We may have more power when we're just being ourselves than when we're being "activists." Albert Einstein may have said it best: "Example is not one way to influence people, it's the only way."

—Becky Robinson
Arlington, VA

Leaders

What are the qualities needed in animal rights movement leaders? Strength is necessary. Not the strength of domination, but rather the strength to keep going year after year without losing hope—and the strength to help others keep on going. The strength to patiently teach newcomers, answering over and over the same questions. The strength to somehow not end up being angry at people all the time

Continued on next page

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

LETTERS

Continued from page 3

for the countless ways animals are abused. The strength to share power with others, letting people assume control of their own projects.

We need leadership that enables the ranks to grow, learn, create, initiate, take responsibility, and then inspire others to do the same.

Most of all, leaders need to be cooperative—within a group and between different groups—and to foster the spirit of cooperation in others.

—Nancy C. Draper
Brooklyn, NY

We do not need leaders as much as we need organization. Your magazine lists the deeds and accomplishments of some 50 to 100 groups each month, and I respect, admire, and encourage each of

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these groups wholeheartedly. But unless we find a way to unite ourselves, their efforts will never be enough to combat the deep-pocketed PR and lobbying efforts mounted by the fur, pet, meat, and medical industries.

Much time and money is being wasted in duplicated efforts and research. It is essential that some

sort of central exchange of information be set up to list the research findings and requests for actions of all the groups. The exchange could also serve to unite groups with similar goals, maintain lists of willing volunteers in different areas, keep track of legislation, etc.

I realize this is no easy task and may take years to accomplish, but as it is, we are many voices speaking intermittently all over the country. What we need are a few loud united yells.

—Cynthia Marks
New York, NY

As I approach my fifth year as leader of a grassroots animal rights group, I'm familiar with the problems of leadership. We need as

Continued on page 7

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Continued from page 4

many "leaders" as possible. However, developing leadership qualities in others is not easy. To be effective, people must have experience and expertise. When entrusted with a membership's faith and hard-earned donations, one must keep in mind, at all times, the consequences of actions taken by the group. Leaders must make the choice sometimes to carry the burden of the workload themselves and accomplish less, or delegate and risk poor quality work or even worse consequences. I've had numerous people ask to be in charge of projects, only to be abrasive and alienate every good volunteer they talk to. I've had dozens of volunteers in charge of projects, spending considerable time and effort helping them get started, only to never hear from them again, or be informed after a month or so that they really couldn't take on the project after all.

When I began as a volunteer, no one encouraged my participation, no one led me by the hand, and no one patted my head in thanks. I was, and continue to be, simply dedicated to fighting for the rights of animals. It was just the same for our other effective activists. So I say to would-be leaders: Just do it!

—Sherry Hamilton Ziemski
Network for Ohio Animal Action
P.O. Box 21004
Cleveland, OH 44121

Looking for Animal Souls

I am searching for evidence that animals survive death, since belief that animals have souls would stimulate humane treatment. Anyone who has had a near-death experience during which animals were seen, believes s/he encountered animals while visiting "the other world" other than during an NDE, or believes a deceased pet returned, for example, is encouraged to send me details.

—Scott S. Smith
2455 Calle Roble
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Helping Homeless of All Species

It should be evident that inexpensive housing resolves the problems of the homeless only in part. They also need opportunities for generating subsistence income and for eventually achieving some

degree of economic independence.

Many people have noted that the homeless are often deeply interested in animals and will frequently sacrifice their own needs to provide for strays they take under their care. Veterinarians and social workers who help indigent people with their animals say their devotion often becomes the most meaningful aspect of their lives. Moved by these observations, I began to interview such homeless people and discovered that they almost always carried plenty of food for their animals although they did not know when they would find food for themselves. Many obviously identified with their animal companions and had adopted them not only out of compassion but as an assertion of their own capacity for responsibility. I could not help but recognize that these homeless people were indeed fulfilling a function society had failed to address responsibly or effectively.

If ANIMALS' AGENDA readers are interested in the creation of grants at municipal levels for constructing inexpensive shelters that would allow homeless people to care for stray animals in

exchange for rent and subsistence expenses, let me know. If you include a self-addressed stamped envelope, we can share some ideas about what can be done to this effect.

—Dr. Louis Verano
P.O. Box 3737
Eugene, OR 97403

Vegetarian Patriarchy

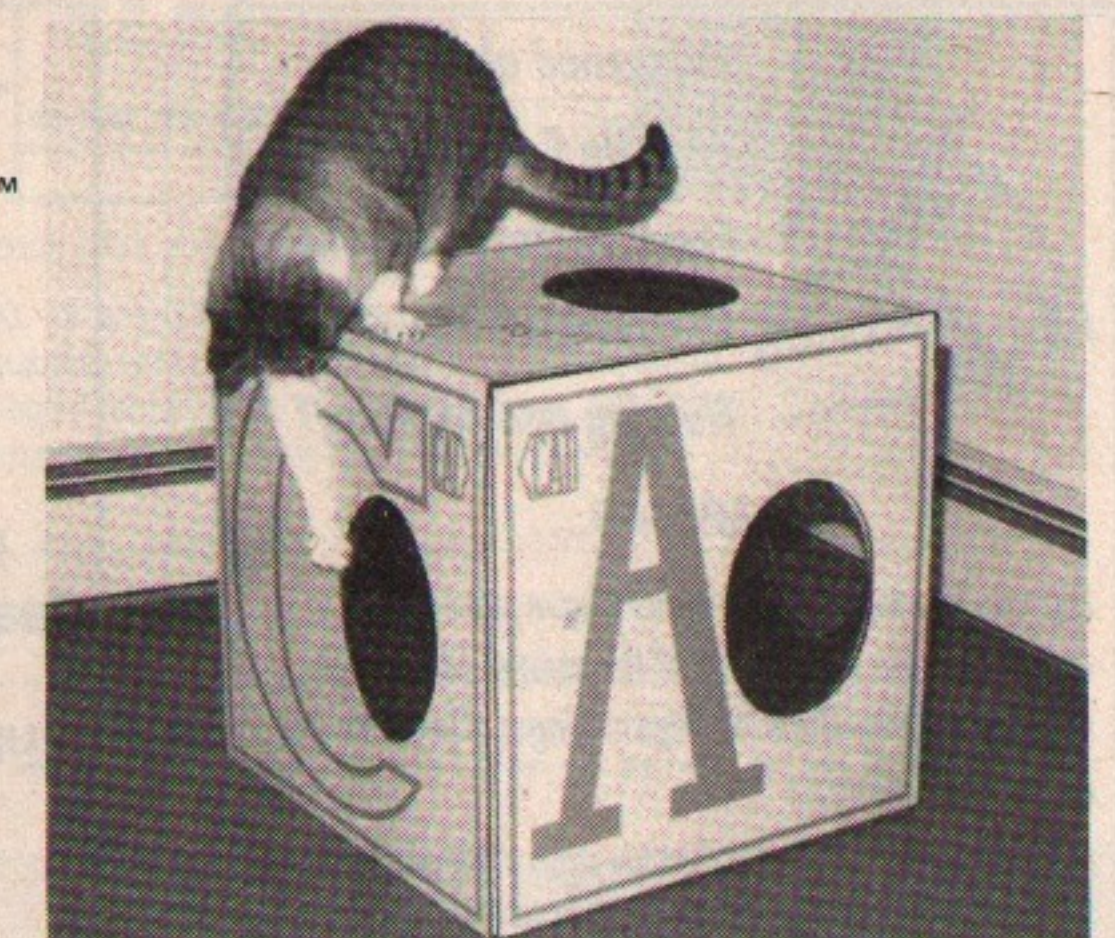
The October 1990 issue prompted more thought and questions than any other I've seen. This was the result of the pairing of your interview with Carol Adams and Steven Rosen's article, "Ahimsa: Animals and the East." I've meant to write since then, but kept postponing. Your editorial comments about patriarchal leadership in the Jan./Feb. *Page Two*, however, finally moved me to begin.

Feminist scholarship is producing some of the most original, interesting, and thought-provoking work in environmental studies. It is an essential part of any serious effort to understand the roots of

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our environmental problems and relationships with animals. I wonder, though, whether Carol Adams is too narrow in her focus, at least as it is presented in your interview.

Both you and Adams speak about "male power," "meat is equated with virility," etc., without really placing these ideas within a cultural context. Adams does frame some of her statements within references to "our society" and "our culture." But on the whole, it is easy for the reader to slip into the assumption that the sexual-political statements about our society can be generalized to all men or patriarchies. Is this the intention?

In Rosen's article about Eastern cultures and their orientation toward animals, he stated that there are "700,000,000 Hindu vegetarians in the world today," including "83 percent of India's current population." If we assume that 50 percent of them are men, here we have a population of male Hindu vegetarians that is larger than the total population of the U.S. But are there not significant patriarchal elements in Hinduism

and Indian culture? Is the lot of women significantly better in vegetarian India than it is in the U.S. or Europe? What else is going on here?

An effort to answer these questions will help to test, strengthen, and give depth to the feminist analysis.

—Ralph H. Lutts
Martinsville, VA

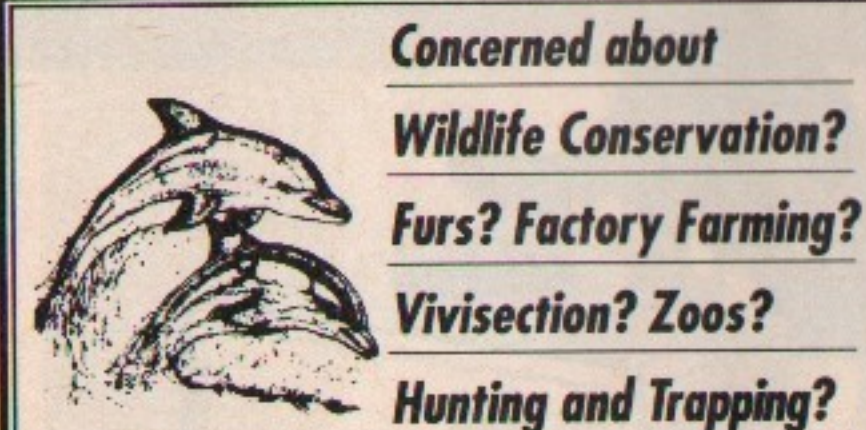
Carol Adams replies: *The Sexual Politics of Meat* represents one way of beginning to discuss what many of us see as intertwined oppressions. It offers an interpretation for what is going on in cultures in which the dominant philosophical constructs are western and patriarchal.

It is my understanding that the eating of animals and the establishment of male dominance appeared in human history at the same time, and that a causal relationship existed between them. Some anthropologists have demonstrated that nontechnological cultures in which animal economies prevail are distinguished by male dominance, the distance of the father from child raising, the conceptualization of the deity as

masculine, and male violence. Interestingly, despite the many differences between our technological society and those, there is a strong resemblance.

How then do we explain it when vegetarianism exists within a patriarchal framework? First of all, that has always been the case. Many vegetarians were and are sexist. Vegetarian beliefs fostered in authoritarian ways can be controlling and autocratic. Sometimes vegetarianism is in the best interest of the dominant society—as during wartime and food scarcity. Even if meat-eating and patriarchal control developed simultaneously and continue to be interrelated in some cultures today, notably our own, it is clear that each can now exist separately from the other: some feminists eat animals without qualms, and vegetarians—as individuals, groups, and whole societies—uphold male dominance. These manifestations of what might be called separatist politics do not undercut the necessity for developing a cultural critique that recognizes the centrality of women's oppression, and how the oppression is interrelated. I see my book

Continued on page 57



Concerned about
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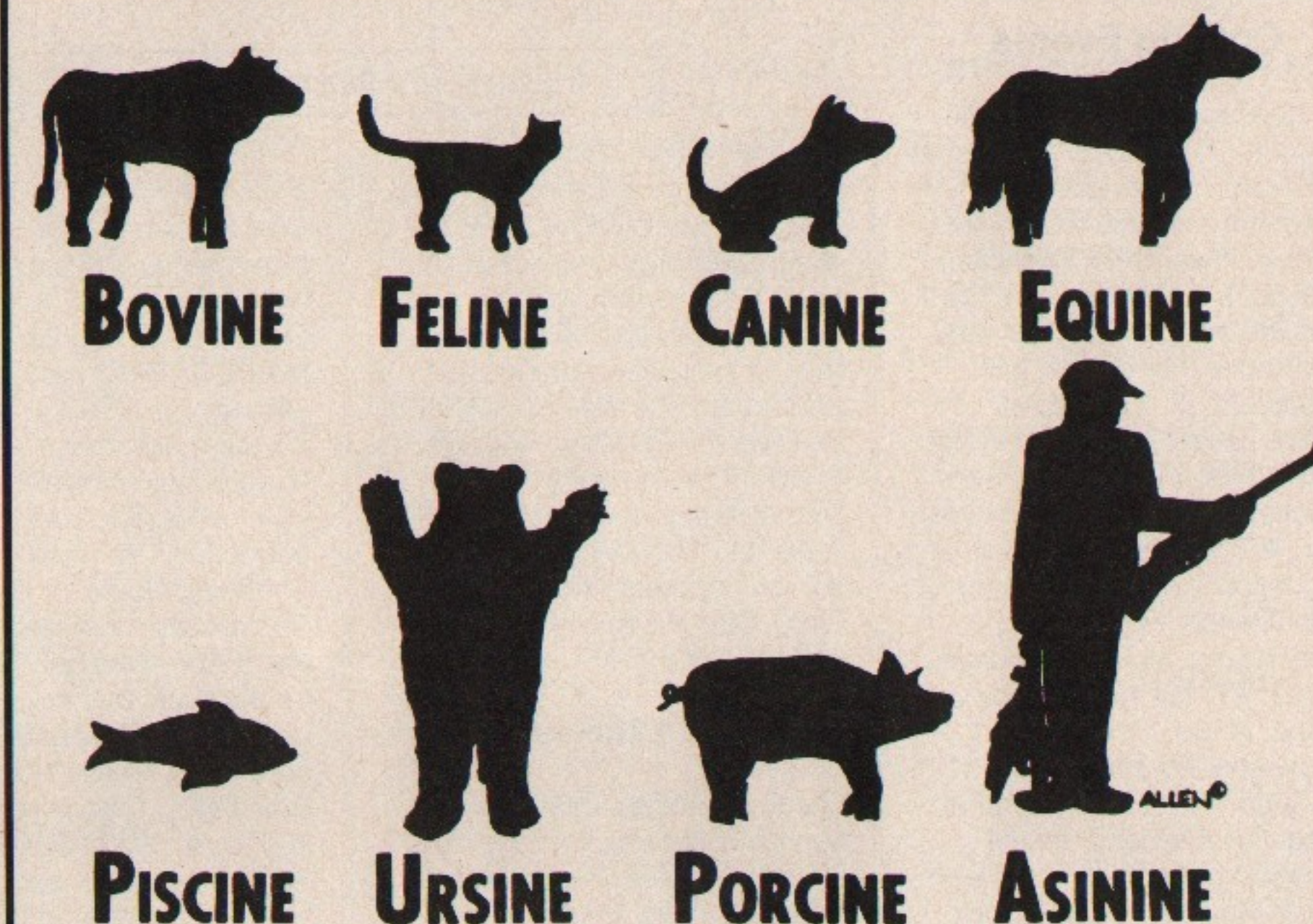
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Coming Events

Bus rides to Farm Sanctuary's Memorial Day (May 27) protest at the South St. Paul Livestock Market are available from points in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Car pools are being formed in many other states. For details, call 607-583-2225. Directed at abusive practices detailed in the April ANIMALS' AGENDA, the demonstration will begin at high noon. ♦ The Tree House Animal Foundation's 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance, with Cleveland Amory as master of ceremonies, will be held May 19 in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Tickets are \$50/person. For details, call 312-784-5605. ♦ The Assisi Animal Foundation's second annual household pet cat show will also be held May 19, in Woodstock, Ill. The entry fee is \$15 per cat. Get details from 815-455-9411. ♦ The USDA will hold a public meeting Aug. 15-16 in Ames, Iowa, to "discuss regulatory and policy issues" involving veterinary biological products. Get info from 301-436-5222 or 202-447-4026.

Actions

"By not eating beef one day a week for a month, you will save at least 10,400 gallons of water," Sunset Greens organizer Aaron Leider tells drought-plagued Los Angeles residents at weekly "Meatless Monday" demonstrations. Producing a vegetarian diet uses only seven percent as much water as producing a meat-based diet, according to John Robbins' in *Diet For A New America*. ♦ Anti-fur protests were held in 13 cities on Feb. 9, Canada's second national anti-fur day. Events last year were met by "several busloads of trappers brought in from northern Ontario. This year the fur industry couldn't afford it," reported Don Roebuck of Action Volunteers for Animals.

Letters

Thank the Boy Scouts of America for banning dove shoot fundraisers, in accordance with the Sixth Point of Scouting Law: "A Scout...does not harm or kill anything without reason." Ask, though, that this point also be honored by excising hunting instruction and a visit to a trapping museum from the itinerary of the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The Boy

Edited By Merritt Clifton

Scouts' National Office is at 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. ♦ Ask the Loyal Order of Elks to replace the mostly aging and decrepit mounted elk heads in their lodges with paintings or photographs of live elks, c/o 425 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614. ♦ Protest the name "Rodeo" for a current car to American Isuzu Motors, Advertising/Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 2480, City of Industry, CA 91746-0480.

Victories

The Sacramento, Calif. city council voted unanimously Jan. 15 to ban use of steel-jawed traps within city limits. ♦ The Hollywood, Fla., city commission resolved March 6 to oppose efforts by hunters to undermine the state's ban on the purchase or sale of black bear parts. ♦ At request of the Humane Education Committee, New York City chancellor Joseph Fernandez has issued a circular to all NYC public schools outlining alternatives to animal dissection, and acknowledging the responsibility of the schools to provide conscientious objectors "with appropriate, alternative learning opportunities without penalty." Copies of the circular are available for two first-class stamps from HEC, P.O. Box 445, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028. ♦ Lake Wales, Fla., agreed to leave a dead tree standing, at request of the Ridge Audubon Society, as habitat for woodpeckers. ♦ Harriet Carter Gifts Inc. has ceased sale of "Why I Hate Cats" t-shirts. ♦ The West End Fair in Gilbert, Pa., has declined an encore show from the Tim Rivers Diving Mule Act and Banana Derby, one of last year's headliners. Local activists picketed last year's show every night for a week. ♦ Students Concerned About Animal Rights "has succeeded in having veal removed from the residence hall cafeterias at the Univ. of Michigan," reports member Christopher Coen.

Offerings

Vegetarian Journal for March/April 1991 includes an account of vegetarian customs among Native Americans. Subscriptions are \$20/yr., from

P.O. Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203. ♦ *Personal Care With Principle* lists familiar products by brand name and explains which have been tested on animals. Copies are \$1.50 each from NAVS, 53 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3795. The 75-page directory is now being updated; NAVS welcomes comments, additions, and corrections. ♦ The 48-page *Shopping Guide for Caring Consumers*, compiled by PETA and IFAW, gives access info for products that are not tested on animals. They're \$2.95 each from PETA Merchandise, P.O. Box 42400, Washington, DC 20015. ♦ *Secret Suffering*, Sarah Kite's first-hand account of how she penetrated Britain's high-security Huntingdon Research Centre to document animal abuse, is 4.95 pounds, from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, 16-A Crane Grove, London N7 8LB, United Kingdom. ♦ NAVEL (Naturists Advocating Vegetarian and Environmental Lifestyles), "the journal of naked vegetarians," is \$8.00/year from P.O. Box 7382, Austin, TX 78713-7382. ♦ *Prayers And Poems For Felines*, by Lois Wheeler, is available from HCR 71, Box 164, Windsor, VT 05089. ♦ *Critters In The Classroom*, "a guidebook to the selection, care, and handling of small animals" in elementary schools, is available from the education dept. of the Marin Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94949. ♦ *The Vegan Voice* is "the monthly newsletter of VeganAction," a new group based at P.O. Box 2701, Madison, WI 53701-2701. ♦ Acarya Prasadnanda Avadhuta outlines the pro-animal teachings of Indian philosopher P.R. Sarkar in *Neo-Humanist Ecology*. Published in the Philippines, it is sold in the U.S. for \$10.95 by Nucleus Publications, Rt. 2, Box 49, Willow Springs, MO 65793. ♦ *Between The Species* vol. 6, #3 includes the late Mary Ann Violin on "Pythagoras: The First Animal Rights Philosopher," and a discussion of the rights of vampires in light of animal liberation theory by Sydney Singer (cast as fiction). \$4.00 for the issue or \$15 for subscription, P.O. Box 254, Berkeley, CA 94701. ♦ *Bear Net* covers bear

hunting throughout the West from a pro-bear, anti-hunting angle. Write P.O. Box 72, Hyrum, UT 84319.

People

Former Peninsula Humane Society executive director Kim Sturla has become western director for the Fund for Animals. Sturla, creator of the precedent-setting San Mateo County, Calif. ban on pet breeding, will lead a national campaign against pet overpopulation. She may be reached at 808 Alamo Ave., Suite 306, Vacaville, CA 95688; 707-451-1306.



Peninsula Humane Society

♦ Oakland Athletics manager Tony LaRussa and his wife Elaine successfully insisted on an organic vegetarian menu when invited to dine with George Bush at the White House. LaRussa recently recorded a public service announcement for HSUS, promoting spaying and neutering. ♦ Animal Welfare League rescue van driver Richard Campbell has retired after over 36 years on the job in north Chicago.

Dogs And Cats

The Los Angeles-based Coalition for Pet Population Control now staffs a hotline from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, to refer pet keepers to 70 local veterinarians who do low-cost spaying and neutering. For info, or to help, call 213-256-0556 or 256-0000. ♦ The Doney Memorial Pet Clinic of downtown Seattle has given free veterinary care to animals of the homeless since 1988. To help, write the clinic c/o Elliot Bay Animal Hospital, 2042 15th Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119. ♦ Spay/Neuter U.S.A., an information clearinghouse set up by the American SPCA, may be reached at P.O. Box 801, Trumbull, CT 06611; 203-377-1116. The center has produced a video on pet overpopulation, entitled *Throwaways*. ♦ Under

pressure for accumulating huge assets via sweepstakes fundraising, paying the highest salaries of any animal protection group, allegedly adopting out fertile dogs and cats, and apparently buying dogs for resale from roving broker J.J. O'Neill, the North Shore Animal League has recently made several image-boosting large grants to other shelters, including \$25,406 to the Oklahoma City Animal Shelter to finance ads promoting adoptions. Early reports said the ads weren't yet working. ♦ Animal Hotlines, "a statewide computerized animal lost and found service," registers animals at \$4.95 each. Get details from 2834 Hamner Ave., Suite #104, Norco, CA 91760. ♦ Bloat hits 60,000 dogs a year, and can kill them, says the Morris Animal Foundation. Bloat-prone dogs should be fed several small meals a day, rather than one big meal; should be kept calm for two hours after each meal; and should be kept away from water for at least an hour before and after meals. ♦ Chelsea, a Houston, Tex. golden retriever who was wounded while routing two gunmen who tried to rob her owner and a friend, won Ken-L Ration's 1990 Dog Hero of the Year Award. ♦ A grant from the Bernice Barbour Foundation has enabled the Univ. of Pa. Veterinary Hospital canine blood bank to acquire a bloodmobile. Across the U.S., canine blood drives are rapidly replacing the former standard practice of draining blood needed during operations from dogs slated for euthanasia.

Group News

The Society for Aiding Animals has formed to address a variety of wildlife and pet issues, at P.O. Box 9072, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. ♦ Helped by PETA, Idaho Voice for Animals has organized at P.O. Box 7563, Boise, ID 83707. ♦ The Slaughterhouse Work Alternatives Network "a vegetarian group, was organized to end meat production," and meanwhile tries to steer meat packers into other jobs. For info, write P.O. Box 91633, Washington, DC 20090; or call 301-474-5119. ♦ Paladin's Veterinary Welfare Unlimited provides "on-site professional veterinary medical and surgical care" to

animal defense groups. For info, write 16265 Pinion Rd., Reno, NE 89511, or call 702-852-7121. ♦ The Reptile Animal Defense Fund has moved to P.O. Box 16042, Baton Rouge, LA 70893. ♦ The Animal Rights Alliance of South Carolina has formed at 2121 Beaver Lane, W. Columbia, SC 29169. ♦ Virginians for Animal Rights may be reached at P.O. Box 17265, Richmond, VA 23226; 804-392-7646. ♦ The Xerces Society works to protect invertebrates, with projects underway in Madagascar, Jamaica, and California. Get info from 10 S.W. Ash St., Portland, OR 97204; 503-222-2788.

Campaigns

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights is protesting fetal tissue research and animal studies done by the Natl. Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. For details, write 5265 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029. ♦ The Non-Hunters Rights Alliance seeks to place a referendum proposal before Maine voters that would ban hunting on private land unless the landowner posts signs allowing it, and ban any hunting within 1,000 feet of a home; one mile of a home if rifles are used. Get info from 30 Thornton Rd., Bangor, ME 04401. ♦ Protests by the Univ. of Maryland Animal Rights Coalition against the recent appointment of chicken tycoon Frank Perdue to the university board of regents have drawn national media notice. Perdue, whose slaughtering plants have been repeatedly cited for safety violations, and who has admitted seeking Mafia help to fight union organizers, has given the university at least \$2.5 million in recent years. ♦ PETA has agreed to handle publicity for this year's protest against the annual Labor Day pigeon shoot in Hegins, Pennsylvania. Protest organizers hope to help the Penn. Legislative Animal Network get a proposed ban on bird shoots through the state assembly.

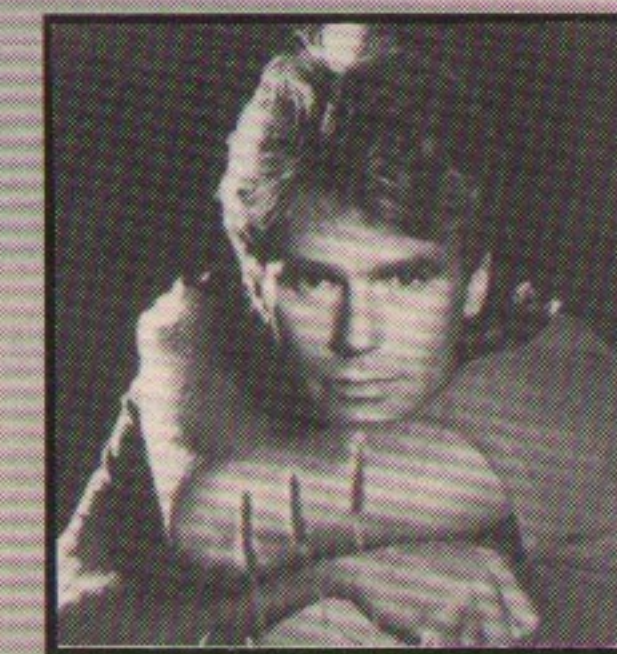
Prizes

Nominations are due June 1 for the American Veterinary Medical Assn.'s annual Humane Award, which honors "a non-veterinarian or non-veterinary organization that has demonstrated excep-

tional compassion for the welfare of animals." For nomination forms, write: Council on Public Relations, AVMA, 930 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60196.

On The Screen

The current hit film *Dances With Wolves* may have set new standards for staging spectacular animal scenes without harming the animals, including use of 23 fake bison costing over \$12,000 apiece who ran on hidden tracks and fell on cue, a trained bison who charged on cue to collect cookies, and foam latex bison carcasses. Although taxidermically mounted wolves and bison were used in some scenes, no animals were killed or injured specifically for the film, according to the American Humane Assn. ♦ The film edition of Stephen King's novel *The Dark Half* has occasioned concern, however: 4,500 birds were purchased for use on the set, and were returned to pet dealers afterward, artificially causing a boom-and-bust in the finch trade.



Paramount Pictures

♦ *The Africa Project*, a video narrated by Richard Dean Anderson, describes Friends of Animals' anti-poaching campaign in seven African nations. Get details from P.O. Box 1244, Norwalk, CT 06441; 203-866-5223.

Good Trips

The Intl. Honors Program and Bard College offer a year-long Global Ecology study cruise, worth 32 credit units at a cost of \$18,950. Get details from IHP, 19 Braddock Park, Boston, MA 02116; 617-267-8612. ♦ The Utah Wilderness Assn.'s annual River Run through Desolation Canyon will be June 20-24, at \$340/person. Get details from 455 E. 400 S. #306, Salt Lake City, UT 84111; 801-359-1337.

Informing Congress

The ANIMALS' AGENDA is currently being sent at no charge to all members of Congress. Ask your Representatives and Senators to make sure they read it, and refer them to relevant articles when you write about specific concerns. ♦ Periodic updates on all federal and state bills pertaining to animals are available c/o Lisa Lockard, NAVS, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3795; 312-427-6065, or fax 312-427-6524.

Public Opinion

A survey done by Insight Research Inc. of Salt Lake City for the Utah Wilderness Assn. has found that 72 percent of Utahns oppose use of bait by bear hunters, 75 percent oppose use of dogs by bear hunters, and 73 percent oppose use of dogs by cougar hunters. Full details are available from UWA: 801-359-1337. Bear-baiting is also opposed by the U.S. Forest Service, but is still allowed by the Utah Wildlife Board.

Tactics

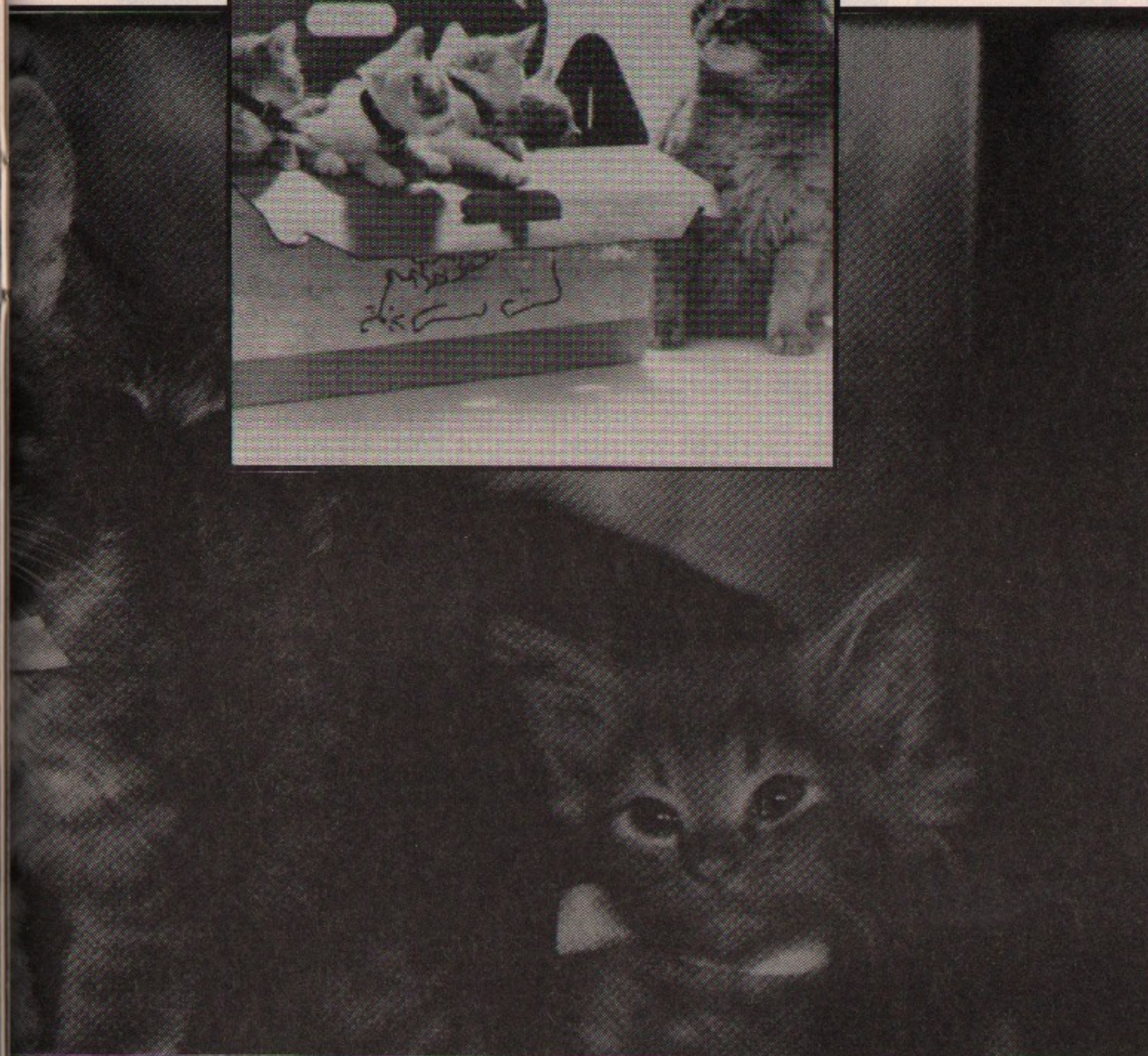
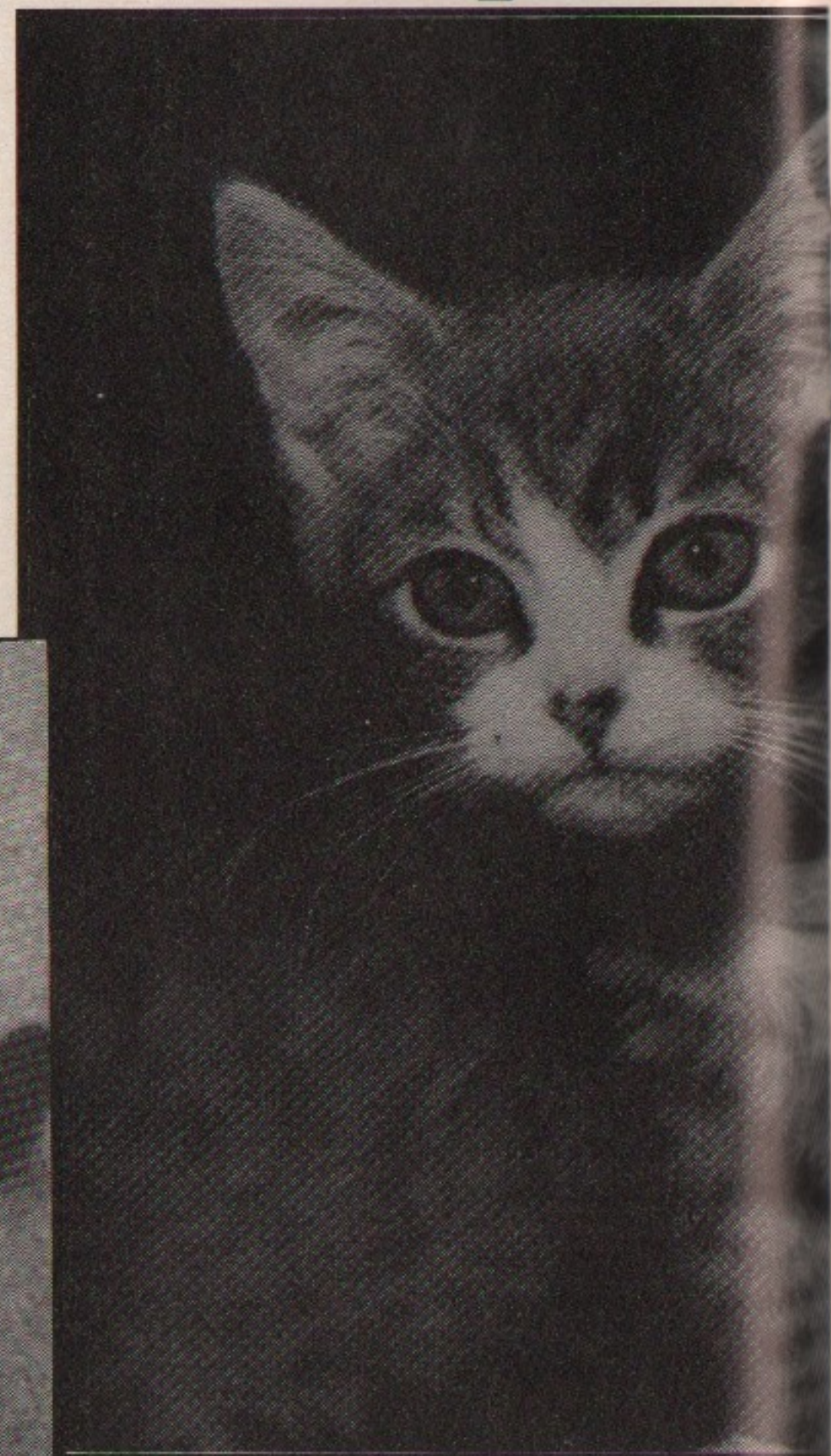
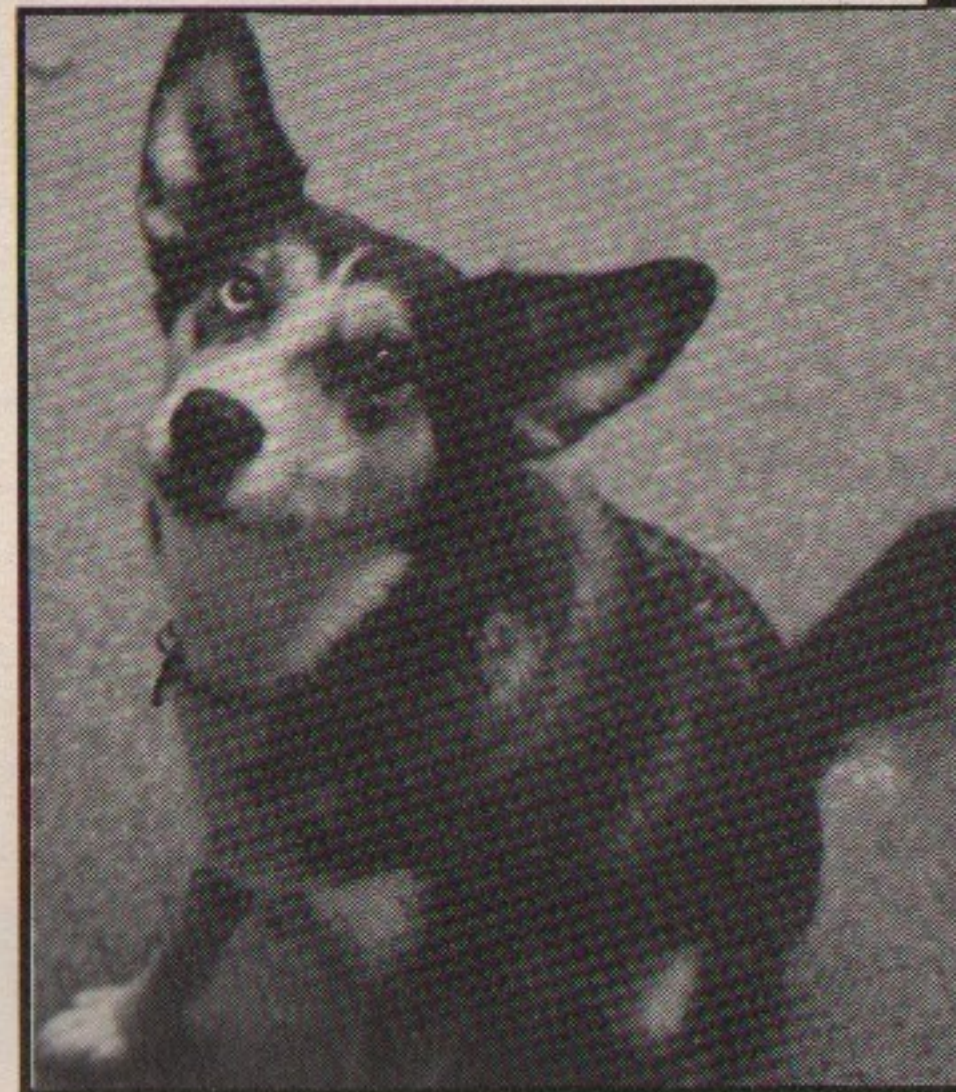
The Reptile Defense Fund suggests that groups who plan demonstrations that may lead to arrests or conflict should "appoint an Official Observer, preferably an attorney, even if you have to pay one. The Official Observer does not participate in the protest, but observes everything that goes on. An Official Observer gives you the security of having a non-involved witness in the event of police brutality or trumped-up charges...It helps if the Observer has a camera or videocam, but this is not essential."

AnimalPort

The American SPCA's unique AnimalPort care facility for animals in transit remains open at the Kennedy Intl. Airport in New York "on a month to month basis," the group says, while negotiations continue with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey regarding financing relocation, which would cost an estimated \$2.5 million. The AnimalPort has an annual operating deficit of \$200,000, ASPCA says. (See "Flying Animals," March 1991.)

Throwaway Animals

BY MARCIA KING



Peninsula Humane Society

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was a king condemned to Hades where he was doomed forever to push a huge stone up a hill only to have it roll down again as it neared the top.

Today's humane society and animal control workers must feel a lot like Sisyphus: despite the successful adoptions of millions of cats and dogs each year, these workers are often crushed by the sheer number of homeless animals—up to 27 million a year according to American Humane Association estimates. For most of these unwanted animals there will never be a home; no more than 35 percent of the dogs and 20 percent of the cats who are taken into shelters are ever adopted. It's a despairing task to provide daily care for these cast-offs—to feed them and treat their illnesses or injuries, to exercise them, and give a quick pat to the many who eagerly (sometimes desperately) vie for a little human contact—knowing that most of these animals will end up being led or carried into the euthanasia room.

Ignorance and the impulse buyer

Although stray dogs have always been around, the numbers ending up in shelters and pounds have exploded in the last two decades. Many animal advocates—including Phyllis Wright, Vice-President for Companion Animals with the Humane Society of the

U.S.—believe pet stores deserve much of the blame for the increased number of abandoned dogs.

Says Wright, "Before pet stores were in every shopping mall, in the 1950s and '60s the hobby breeder was the only resource. But along came the '70s with shopping malls in every community, and with them came the pet store industry. Someone not even thinking of getting a pet, walking by a pet store to get a pair of shoes, would see this cute puppy in the store, and the salesman would say, 'You can breed her one time or use him for stud one time and get your money back.' So people started buying pets on impulse, without thinking about what they were doing."

Often impulse buyers know little about the care and training of puppies. After several months of frustration, many rid themselves of their training problems by turning their dogs loose in an unfamiliar area or by dumping them at the nearest humane society. "It's a common reason why we get dogs in here right around six to 12 months of age," says Linda Arends, Director of Community Relations for the Capital Area Humane Society in Columbus, Ohio.

Impulse buyers also tend to buy dogs based on the looks of the breed without knowing anything about breed characteristics; about 20-25% of dogs in shelters are purebreds. "We get a lot of border collies from nine to 12 months," says Arends. "They want to work and be

active all day. Waiting in the house while the owner is at work and then maybe taking a walk around the block, that dog will go bananas. It will lose its housebreaking habits, start pacing and running back and forth and knocking things over, jumping on people, chewing and digging. They need a job to do, even if that job is lots of walks during the day or learning commands or catching things."

Besides attracting the impulse buyer, pet stores—particularly chain stores—sell animals acquired from puppy mills. These dogs are subject not only to serious health problems but severe temperament problems as well. As a result, notes Priscilla Feral, President of Friends of Animals, "a large percentage of dogs in pet shops end up in shelters and pounds, doomed from the beginning because they were so mistreated in the course of being raised and in transport. They're socially maladjusted and are probably not going to make good company for anybody. These are the dogs you hear about who bite the baby in the face, who are nervous and fearful."

But badly bred, temperamentally unsound dogs aren't limited to pet stores and puppy mills. In their ignorance of genetics, or perhaps in their eagerness to cash in on a breed's current popularity, hobbyists breed dogs possessing undesirable conformation or temperaments, passing those traits along to a new

generation and contributing to the decline of a breed. Cocker spaniels, Irish setters, golden retrievers, and German shepherds are just a few of the breeds in which hyperactivity or genetic problems were introduced by thoughtless breeding. Again, the recipients of these ill-bred dogs often give up, surrendering the animal to the shelter or the streets.

While plenty of cast-off canines are mature, truckloads of puppies are dropped off at shelters each year. Says Wright, "People walk in the door of a shelter with the cutest litter of mixed cockers and poodles and say, 'Gosh, we didn't realize how hard it was going to be to get rid of them. I'm sure you can find a home for them.' The shelter operates in the same community those people live in, and they have already tried everything they can think of. Fifty percent of the population already has a pet, so there's not a mass lineup of people wanting to adopt."

Usually of mixed breeding, the dropped-off litters are conceived mainly because of people who think it's cruel to deny sex or offspring to their pets, or those who let their females breed once to "settle her down" or to share "the miracle of birth" with the children. Equally irresponsible are those who fail to neuter their male dogs because they believe castration will alter their animals' temperament, intelligence, or machismo.

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Cats, and more cats

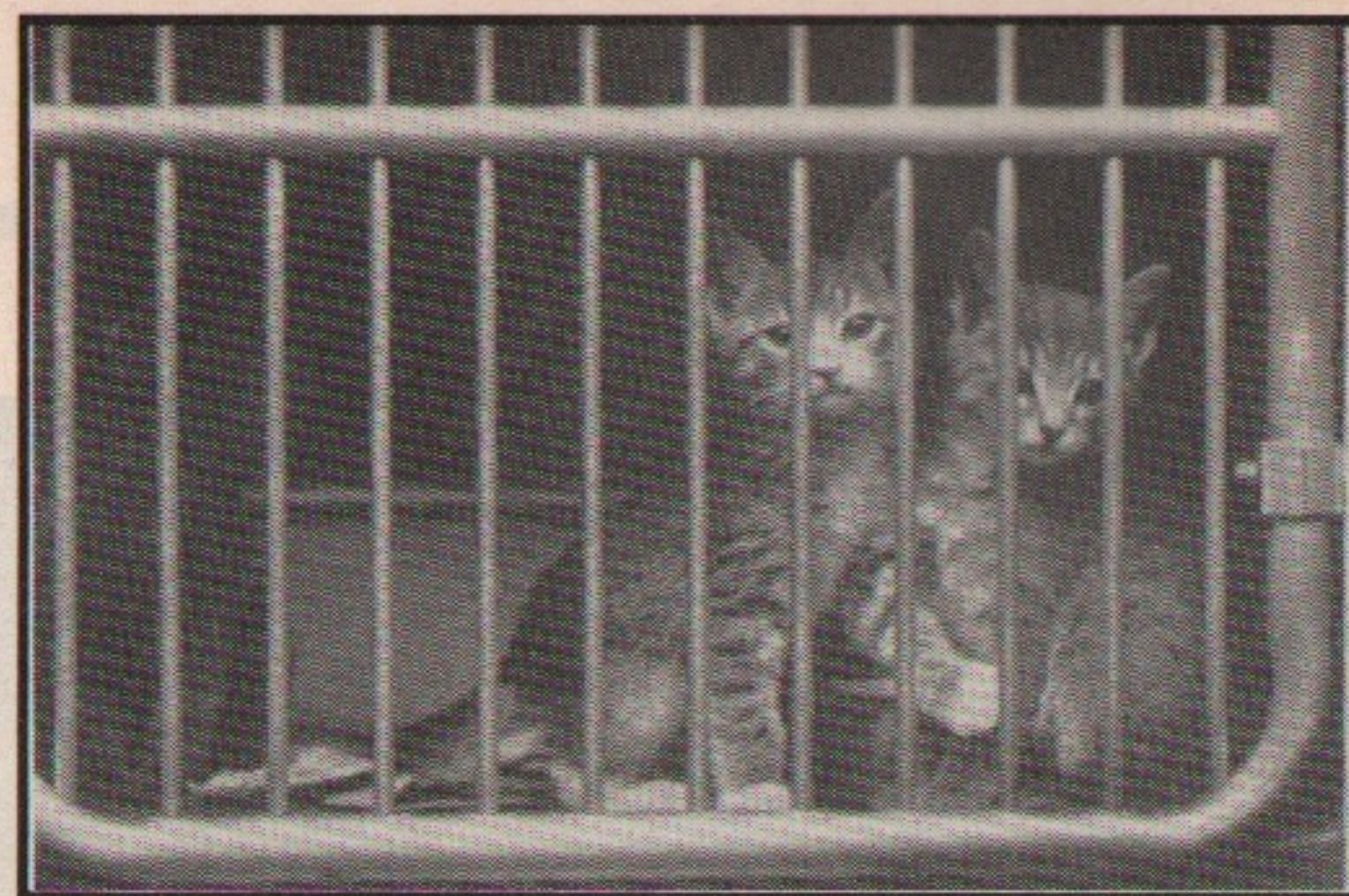
As serious as the canine problem is, felines are up against even greater odds.

Amazingly fecund, one female cat and her female progeny breeding at will can produce 4000 cats in only seven years, according to the HSUS, although that rate probably isn't achieved among feral cats because of litter mortality and a shorter lifespan.

Pet cats are more likely than dogs to be abandoned. This phenomenon is most likely due to misconceptions about the abilities of cats to fend for themselves. While in most cases their survival skills do exceed those of domestic dogs, abandoned housecats are no more capable of independent living than abandoned human children. The ability to hunt is not a true feline instinct; kittens not taught to hunt by their mothers are seldom able to feed themselves even when prey is abundant. Besides adequate food and water, cats require shelter appropriate to the climate, which may be even harder to find than food. Statistics are not available, but it's safe to say that only a tiny percentage of abandoned cats prove hardy enough to live in a feral, or wild, state.

"There is a much larger feral cat population than a feral dog population," says Carol Moulton, Associate Director of the Animal Protection Division for the American Humane Association. "People will not put up with a group of dogs roaming their neighborhoods; it's too dangerous and destructive. Groups of cats don't pose the same kinds of danger. They tend to stay out of sight, and people don't feel a gang of cats is going to attack them. They can get to be a pretty large population before people start complaining about them."

Many communities are trying to control cat populations by imposing licensing and confinement legislation similar to that aimed at dogs. Often, though, such proposals are vigorously and successfully resisted by those who believe cats are naturally free-roaming animals. To pacify that contingent, ordinances in such communities as Des Plaines, Illinois, tolerate off-



Pennsylvania Humane Society

premises cats only if they are licensed, sterilized, and immunized against rabies.

The problem is further aggravated because most communities do not have animal control agents or shelter workers who pick up or trap stray, abandoned, or feral cats.

For kittens and cats surrendered to shelters, the chances of adoption are poor. Notes Wright, "In some shelters, cats account for 60% of the animals turned in. Cats do not have the value monetarily and sentimentally that dogs have; there are more free cats and kittens in the newspaper, and you can hardly go down any rural road where there isn't a sign for free kittens. The shelters end up killing them."

Promoting responsible adoptions

The national adoption rate is discouraging: AHA figures indicate a 1988 adoption rate of about 19% for cats and dogs.

But instead of waiting for the public to come to them, some humane societies are creating active and innovative adoption programs that reach into the community.

The Capital Area Humane Society, for example, increased their adoptions by 10% through working with a local pet shop, Animal Fair Pet Center. Gerri Bain,

CAHS Executive Director, explains that they were approached by Paul Chakroff, a local activist known for his interest in environmental and humane issues, who had purchased a pet shop and wanted to offer humane society animals. "We provide Paul with the food, carriers, collars, leashes and the various things that go with our adoption kit," says Bain. "His staff cleans the animals for us, promotes the adoptions, does the interviews, takes the checks or cash, and gives that information back to our staff to put into our records." Adoptions through the Fair Pet Center are identical to those at CAHS, including a contract signed by adopters. Due to the size of his cages, Chakroff handles only puppies, small dogs, kittens, and cats. "Generally, they are all adopted," says Bain.

In Wheaton, Illinois, DuPage Animal Control has increased kitten adoptions by sheltering them in visible, mainstream locations frequented by concerned animal lovers: local veterinary clinics. "There was a limit to the number of people who would come to Animal Control and look for cats," says Dr. Daniel P. Boyle, administrator. "So we contacted veterinarians to see if they would be interested in being a foster home for surplus kittens and to adopt them out at the hospital. We provide the veterinarians with a poster to hang in their lobby that notifies people that they are participating in a foster home program."

Applicants are screened by veterinary staff and complete the same contract used by animal control. Notes Boyle, "Somebody who's already going to the veterinary hospital is probably a more responsible pet owner than someone who would walk in our door."

Introduced three years ago, the foster kitten program is so successful that no adoptable kitten has been euthanized since. In fact, the success of the program has inspired humane societies in nearby communities to initiate similar arrangements. Currently, about two dozen veterinary practices participate in the DuPage foster kitten program.

Many animal humane agencies have discovered that pet-of-the-week type promotions, where an animal is introduced via newspaper ads, or television or radio programs, almost always ensures an adoptive placement for that particular animal. But the Cocheco Valley Humane Society, in Dover, New Hampshire, has gone one step further: they have their own half-hour, bi-weekly cable TV show.

Carried by six different cable systems into 102,000 New Hampshire households, CVHS's "Humane Perspectives" features several different program segments, of which adoptable animals are just one. Along with a spay/neuter plea that opens and closes each show are veterinary tips, announcements of upcoming animal events, and a variety of features ranging from the importance of heartworm treatments to winter horse care.

Barbara Carr, CVHS Executive Director, says they always receive numerous calls for each pet of the week. And while they're unable to measure the effect of the spay/neuter messages, she notes that the society is receiving more donations.

Another college semester is ending soon, and many pets acquired by students during the school year may find themselves discarded as students graduate or head home. Many of these animals (mainly cats) will be abandoned on campus, with no provision for their future. If you live near a university, you can help these animals by reproducing this "flyer" and posting or distributing it on or around campus, or by adapting it for an ad in a campus newspaper. The name, address, and phone number of a local group may be stamped or written on the flyer, before or after copying.

The Myth of the SUPERPET



It's the end of the semester, and the cat or dog you've had all year can't go home with you. Here are some of the things you may be thinking...

"I'll leave him in my dorm room. Someone will find him and give him a home."

The truth: Animals left behind in a dorm room will be found—when it's too late. An unattended animal will quickly run out of food and water. And if you leave your windows closed in summer temperatures, the animal may die of heat exhaustion.

"I'll put my cat outside. Cats know how to survive. It's great weather, and she'll be all right."

The truth: An animal who has grown up dependent on human care will not survive for long without it. Like any other creature, cats need shelter, water, and food, and unless they have been taught to hunt as kittens by their mothers, they may not know how to feed themselves—even if enough prey is available. (How many mice have you seen around lately?) Outdoor cats are also menaced by traffic and unkind people. If your cat becomes injured or sick, there will be no one to care for her. And even if she makes it through the summer, what will happen to her next winter? Chances are you've already seen fearful abandoned cats scurrying under bushes or behind buildings on your campus.

"I'll leave him at that barn that has lots of cats. He'll be all right there."

This is almost as bad as leaving your pet outside to fend for himself. You cannot expect barn owners to feed these cats (most don't) or provide them with any medical attention. In fact, it's not uncommon for barn owners to shoot or poison cats they don't want hanging around. In many farming communities where spaying and neutering aren't practiced, unwanted litters of kittens are routinely shot or drowned. Also, viruses can become rampant in barn cat populations, delivering a painful death to the cats. And if your cat is not neutered (or spayed, if female), he will add to the already enormous number of homeless animals.

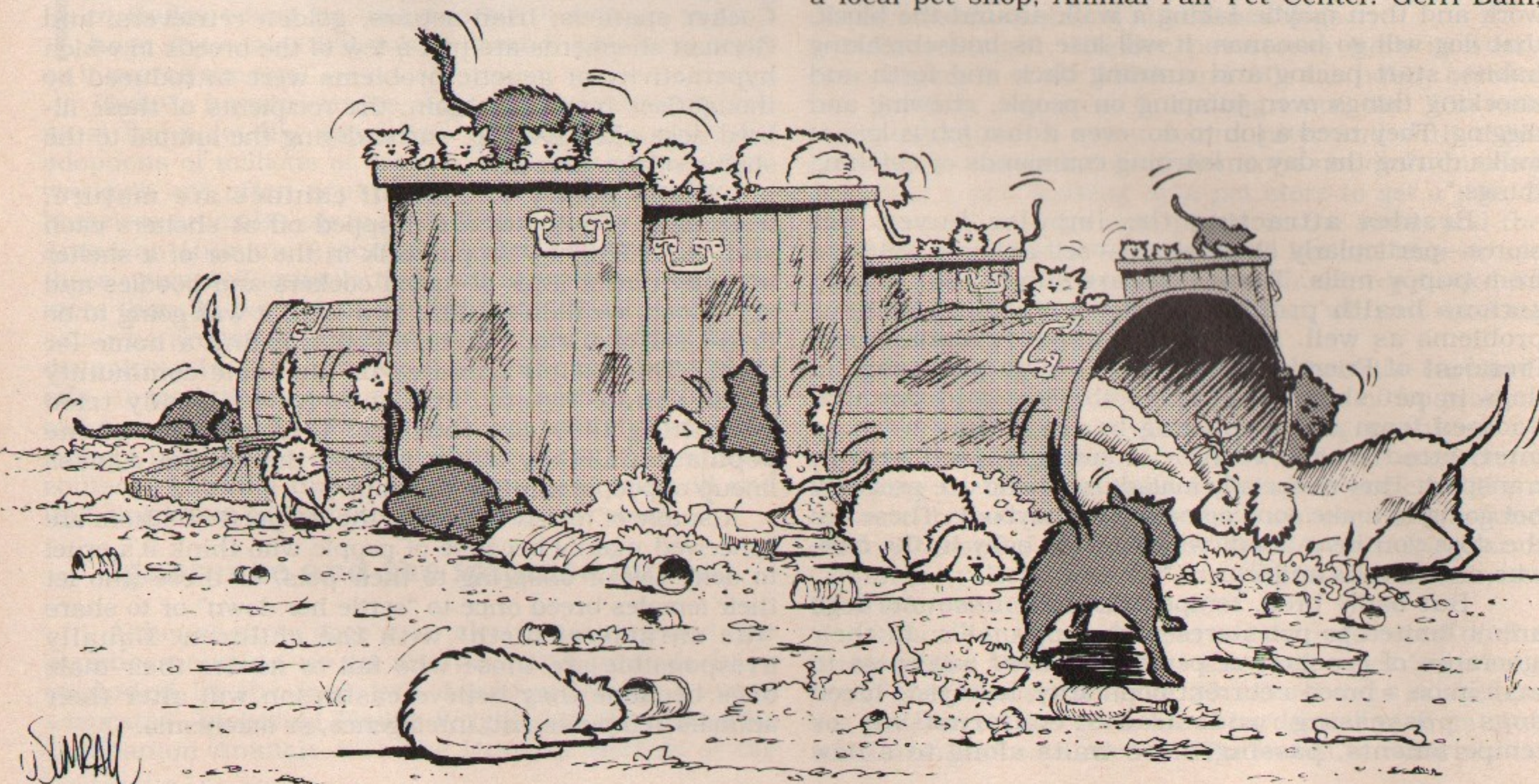
What you should do:

If you plan to return, find a friend in the area who will take care of your pet temporarily. If you're not coming back, or if you can't locate temporary quarters for your animal, either find a good permanent home or turn him or her into an animal shelter. You are not "giving the animal a chance" by releasing him or her into an unfriendly environment.

Next time, think of the animal's future before getting a pet. Don't get a pet unless you can provide a permanent, comfortable home. Pets need and deserve a big investment of time and money. And all cats and dogs should be spayed and neutered at six months of age to prevent unwanted litters. Millions of kittens, cats, puppies, and dogs are killed in shelters each year simply because there are no homes for them; each additional litter means the death of that many more of those already born and awaiting adoption in shelters. Spaying and neutering of pets can stop the tragic cycle of homelessness.

For more information about dogs and cats, or to find out where to take an unwanted animal, contact your local humane society, animal shelter, or animal rights group.

Your cat or dog depends on you just like a child. Please don't abandon your pet!



World Views

The problem with strays and the measures to deal with them vary tremendously from country to country.

"The methods for dog control in less developed countries are really cruel and harsh," says John Walsh, Assistant Director General of the World Society for the Protection of Animals. "Strychnine is put into pieces of cooked liver and teams of men go out early in the morning and throw them to the dogs. The dogs eat it and die a slow and horrendous death, taking anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours. In Peru, I followed five men who killed 277 dogs in four and a half hours."

From *Dog Population and Control in Europe*, a 1990 study conducted by Eurogroup for Animal Welfare:

Portugal has the largest number of stray dogs in Europe, about 38 percent of the total dog population. Collected strays are kept three to eight days before being destroyed; the euthanasia rate is 85 percent. Licensing is required, but not enforced. Less than 15 percent of the bitches are spayed; males are not neutered. About 38 percent of Portuguese dogs are purebreds.

Greece also has a serious stray problem, about 28 percent of the dog population. Because of the insufficient number of shelters, only sick or injured strays are collected, with 75 percent of them being destroyed. Healthy dogs are left to wander. As in Portugal, licensing is required, but not enforced. Altering is very limited. Greece has no data on the percentage of purebreds.

Norway, which has no licensing requirements and where only one to two percent of the dogs are spayed or neutered (castration is illegal except for medical reasons), has a negligible stray problem: only four tenths of one percent of healthy, unwanted dogs are destroyed. About 80 percent of Norway's dogs are pedigreed.

The Netherlands has very minor stray problems—about two percent of the dog population. Strays are held for at least 14 days; half are returned to their owners, 45 percent are adopted, and the balance either die or are destroyed. The police are employed to collect strays. Licensing is enforced, and about 22 percent of all dogs are spayed or neutered. Pedigreed dogs are tattooed and registered with the Dutch Kennel Club; about 33 percent of Dutch dogs are pedigreed. Mixed breeds may be voluntarily registered with the national government. Any dogs who go through an animal shelter, go to a boarding kennel, are traded, or have been professionally bred must be tattooed and have documentation. The Dutch Animal Welfare Society credits the introduction of tattooing and registration with increasing the rate of returning lost dogs to their people.

Sweden has "minimal" strays. Strays are collected by the police. Ninety percent of all strays are returned to their owners while the balance are either adopted or euthanized, "depending on their condition." Approximately 71 percent of the dog population is pedigreed. Licensing is required for all dogs over three months of age except for research animals, guide dogs, dogs owned by the state or diplomats, and dogs used by reindeer herders. A license holders' list is maintained and reviewed seven to eight times a year for unpaid license fees, with additional random checks by police. In areas of low human population, where the cost of license collection outweighs license revenues, dogs are identified and put on a license list without charge. The majority of license revenues are spent on dog provisions—dog toilets, exercise areas, donations to local animal hospitals, and education programs. The number of altered dogs is unknown. The limited dog population (about 700,000) is attributed to licensing, leash laws, and "poop-scoop" requirements.

From *The Ecology and Control of Feral Cats*, published in 1981 by The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Hertfordshire, England:

In Great Britain, feral cats number about 1.2 million.

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Successful adoption programs aren't always carried out solely by animal welfare organizations. In Lexington, Oklahoma, animal welfare groups, senior citizen agencies, and the inmates at the Lexington Correctional Center combine to train and place companion dogs with senior citizens and others with special needs.

Sgt. Stephen Bradley of the Correctional Center developed the "Friends for Folks" program and oversees the inmate/dog training process. "We get the dogs from local dog pounds and humane society groups and also take strays that were dumped on farmers in the country," says Bradley. "I teach classes three days a week. The dog learns at the same time the inmate learns."

A ten-week companion course ensures a dog is housebroken and obedience trained. In addition, some dogs receive more extensive training to help people who are in wheelchairs, hard of hearing, etc. After a dog is fully trained, he or she is given to one of a dozen or so area senior citizen agencies who are responsible for matching the dog with an individual or couple, and also for maintaining and re-homing the dog should his or her keeper become ill or die.

All dogs are spayed or neutered, immunized, and treated for known medical problems.

The right placement

While societies and shelters are eager to increase their adoption rate, most have become more cautious about adoptive placements. "The difficulty is making permanent, responsible adoptions," says Samantha Mullen, Public Affairs and Programs Administrator for the New York State Humane Association. "When an animal is adopted out, there is no guarantee that it is going to a lifelong home, despite the best efforts of shelter personnel to screen people and to make a good match between the prospective adopter and the animal. A significant proportion of animals adopted out are returned to the shelter or passed on to another individual."

To lessen the possibility of inappropriate placements, many shelters interview prospective adopters to make sure they understand the demands and expense of pet care—sometimes talking unsuitable adopters out of the idea. In addition, many shelters also provide pre- and post-adoption counseling, and require adopters to sign and adhere to contracts.

Mary Pat Boatfield, Vice-President of Operations for Toledo Humane Society, says, "Our adoption counsellors spend a little time with the person to find out their needs and wants, to find out the background of the animals in the facility, and to try to match that individual up with an animal who would work out well for them. We note any problems connected with the typical shelter pet—isolation deprivation or anxiety,

Stable colonies of ferals have been successfully established by means of trapping; adoption of docile cats and kittens; euthanasia of diseased cats; and medically treating, altering, and returning to the colony healthy adults.

Several methods of feral cat control have been tried in Denmark: trapping and killing with auto exhaust fumes or lethal injection, distribution of contraceptive pills, and colony management after the British model. Satisfactory results were reported with colony management and contraceptives.

—M.K.

housetraining, destructiveness, etc.—and tell the individual the animal's problems and the training techniques to correct them.

"Then we do call-backs three to six weeks after an adoption. That gives the person a chance to say if they're having trouble with the pet; primarily the problems center around health and/or behavior." Other pet keepers are also encouraged to call the society and ask for help.

Some agencies investigate adoptive homes before placement. Says Michael Burgwin, Executive Vice-President of the National Animal Control Association, "I worked in a jurisdiction that would send an officer out to an adopter's place to talk with them. Ten percent of the people gave us bum information. If they gave us bum information about their addresses, what were they going to do with that animal? You have to get them to good people."

Contracts also aid in making good placements by spelling out responsibilities concerning acceptable treatment of animals and spay/neuter obligations. "We have a hell of a contract," says CVHS's Carr. "A full-page liquidated damages clause that says if they break the contract we can reclaim the animal and then claim liquidated damages because they didn't fulfill their side of the deal."

Preventing litters

Although adoption helps save the lives of unwanted cats and dogs, it merely addresses the symptoms of pet overpopulation and not the cause.

To help stem the tide of unplanned, unwanted, and



Peninsula Humane Society

unnecessary births, most shelters now have some kind of spay/neuter program. Some alter all adult animals prior to adoption and arrange for low-cost or free operations for immature animals. Others issue free prepaid spay/neuter certificates redeemable through local veterinarians.

Many shelters require spay/neuter deposits for unaltered adoptive animals. Some give adopters a card that has to be signed by a veterinarian and mailed back to the society confirming the operation.

But studies indicate that without follow-up procedures, up to 50% of the adopters forfeit their spay/neuter deposits, failing to alter their pets.

In addition, Moulton of the AHA points out that "the number of animals in the community who come from the shelter is probably no more than 10%. So even if

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Lynn Bradak: Animal Shelterer



In 1982, Lynn Bradak was horrified when she visited her neighborhood animal shelter in Davis County, Utah. Thirty cats were housed in a pen the size of a kitchen table. As she watched, an attendant slammed the leg of one cat in the cage door, causing the cat to yowl in pain.

Enraged and unable to forget that visit, Bradak studied animal rights issues and was amazed at the numbers of homeless and abused animals. She made a commitment to help save those animals.

Starting in 1983 with an exercise run for animals that she built in her backyard, she developed a facility,

Wasatch Humane/Help Save the Animals, that currently houses up to 120 cats, dogs, and other creatures in need. Besides fostering animals, the group offers humane education in schools, and logs 200 volunteer hours each week counseling people on responsibilities, alternatives, and behavior problems. "Thousands of animals have come through our shelter for placement," says Bradak, "but I'm so grateful for the thousands more who haven't gone to any shelter because of the time we take to help people figure out how to handle the problems."

Realizing that animal problems reach far beyond the scope of Wasatch Humane, Bradak studied government regulations and began to lobby at the state level in an effort to change conditions in the Davis County shelter that she'd found so appalling on her first visit.

"I was naive to think that I could change things by walking in some doors and talking to people, but it worked," claims Bradak. Within a year, the Davis County Sheriff's department investigated the facility and fired all the animal control officers. The shelter is now a "showplace facility," says Bradak. She subsequently worked to stop the sale of shelter animals for research, winning numerous reforms of Utah

shelter inspection and record keeping regulations.

Bradak has structured her working life around her animal work, holding a weekend receptionist job at Salt Lake County Youth Services and serving as a part-time reporter for the *Davis County Clipper*. Thus she's available at 3:00 A.M. when a dog has been hit or at 6:00 A.M. when a grocery store manager finds a box of kittens at the front door.

Bradak spends 60 hours a week training volunteers, educating the public, and maintaining the shelter, and takes 10 to 60 calls daily about animals who need help. "In a very small way, I knew there were animals for whom no one cared, but I wasn't prepared for the incredible cruelties perpetrated on a huge scale because of our ignorance and indifference," she says. "I've had a lot of sleepless nights working on this problem, but I would never be able to sleep if I turned my back on the animals—I would be haunted by those eyes, those faces, those cries."

Far from feeling drained by her humane activities, Bradak says, "The part that amazes me the most is that I owe the animals so much because of their affection and because of the confidence, knowledge, and direction I've gained as the years have gone by."

—Carolyn Campbell

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you have a 100% neutering rate of animals adopted from the shelter, that's really not much compared to all the other animals who come from pet stores, neighbors, or local breeders."

Consequently, to effectively squelch breeding, programs must move beyond local shelter walls.

Some areas encourage sterilization by enacting differential licensing fees whereby fees for unaltered animals are higher than for spayed animals. An extreme differential is generally discouraged, however, because it may cause people to not license their pet.

Many cities and local animal welfare organizations operate or promote low-cost spay/neuter clinics. New Jersey operates the only state-run spay/neuter program, providing \$10 spay/neuter operations to low-income pet keepers and \$20 operations to anyone adopting a pet through a municipal pound or nonprofit animal shelter. Friends of Animals has a nationwide reduced-cost spay/neuter program with a toll-free number (1-800-631-2212), which includes subsidies for low-income people. Still, in many areas, veterinary costs are prohibitively high for many people—even when they

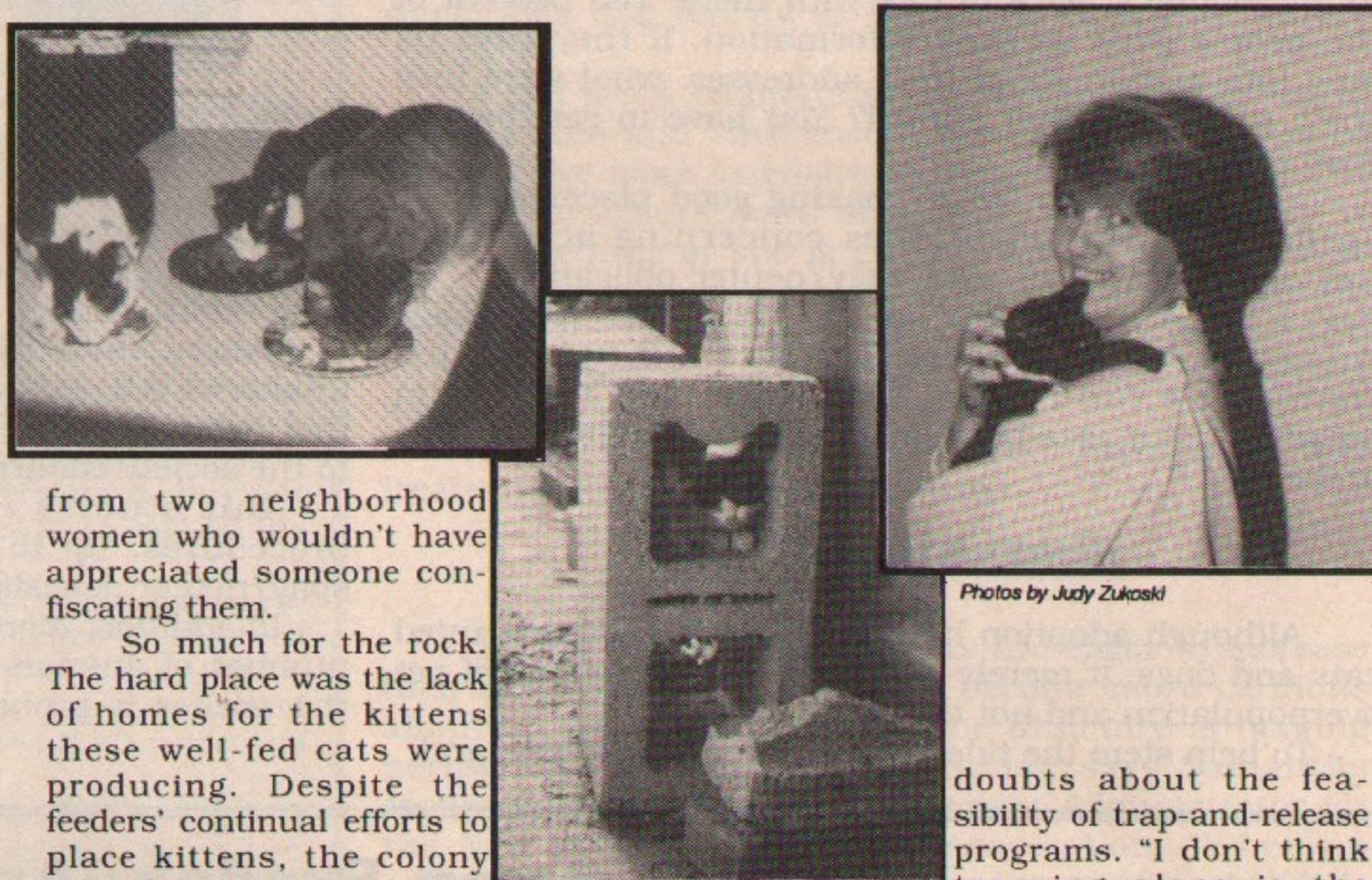
Louise Holton: Alley Cat Ally

The feral cat population has given birth to grievous hand wringing and much name calling, but few effective solutions. However, a new national network is promoting a conceivable alternative to mass extermination, demands to "Stop The Killing Now," questionable interventions, and/or ordinances that feral cats can't read. The network is Alley Cat Allies (ACA). The alternative, already practiced successfully by regional groups in California, New York, and Great Britain, is the trap-sterilize-and-return-to-site method of curtailing the growth of established feral cat colonies.

ACA was born on the fifth of July last year in Washington, D.C., when Becky Robinson, conference coordinator for the National Alliance for Animal Legislation, took her friend Louise Holton to observe a colony of feral cats living in an alley behind a restaurant. "It was still dusk," recalls Holton, business manager of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. "All I could see were silhouettes running toward us with their tails up, looking to be fed."

Before emigrating five years ago from Johannesburg, South Africa, Holton had cared for a group of feral cats in an alley behind the office where she worked. "The SPCA in Johannesburg had trapped and killed feral cats for years without making a dent in the population," she says. "Then they started using trap-and-release methods that had been developed in Great Britain and used successfully in other countries. The SPCA would trap, sterilize, inoculate, and return feral cats to site if the person(s) who had been feeding them agreed to continue doing so."

Having no experience with feral cats in this country, Holton called several humane organizations and animal-control agencies. The best offer she got was a promise to euthanize the cats if she would trap and deliver them. Trouble was, the three dozen cats in question were getting meals twice a day



Photos by Judy Zukoski

from two neighborhood women who wouldn't have appreciated someone confiscating them.

So much for the rock. The hard place was the lack of homes for the kittens these well-fed cats were producing. Despite the feeders' continual efforts to place kittens, the colony was becoming unmanageable. Therefore, Holton and Robinson offered to help trap the cats and to have them sterilized and inoculated. Realizing that there were no doubt many other people feeding feral cats who "didn't know how to stop the breeding or where to go for help," they decided to form Alley Cat Allies.

The aim, says Holton, is "to organize a national network that will provide information and assistance to individuals working with feral-cat colonies." That network will include veterinarians and other resource persons who will offer low-cost neuter-and-spay services, fact sheets, contacts, moral support, and workshops.

Holton allows that putting together a coast-to-coast network and establishing an identity through national advertising is a costly and comprehensive task, but that job will be made easier because ACA is "working under the umbrella of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights." ACA will serve as the organizational vehicle that will administer the feral cat portion of AVAR's overpopulation campaign.

The AVAR connection reflects Holton's interest in "building bridges. We're very keen to start networking and establishing coalitions. We don't want to re-create services that are already available."

For sure, she won't have to re-create

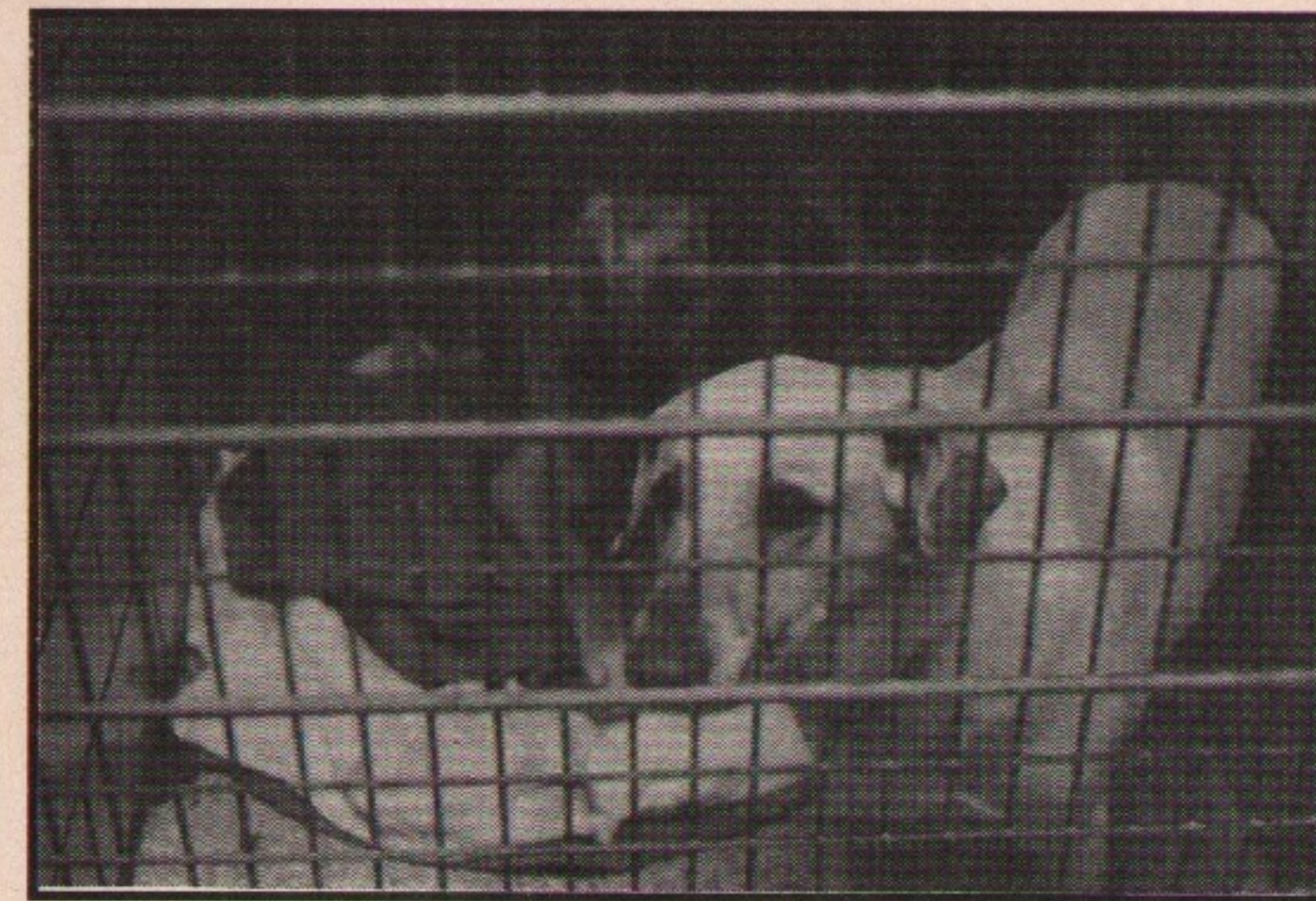
doubts about the feasibility of trap-and-release programs. "I don't think trapping alone is the answer to the feral cat problem," says Phyllis Wright, vice president/companion animals for the Humane Society of the U.S.

"After neutering and spaying, animals are still exposed to every element out there. Feeding a cat for twenty minutes a couple of times a day has little impact on its survival the rest of the day. These programs have to be carried out with some concern for the continuing welfare of the cats in a particular environment. The disease factor, the cruelty factor, and the automobile factor far surpass the wonderful stories you see here and there about trapping programs that might work."

Holton agrees that trap-and-release programs are feasible "only when the environment is beneficial for the cats and there is long-term care available. But," she adds, "it would seem impossible, let alone totally inhumane, to trap and kill twenty million feral cats. Although [trap and release] may not be the perfect solution, it is certainly worth our efforts and can only be beneficial in controlling the feral-cat population."

—Phil Maggitti

Contact Alley Cat Allies at P.O. Box 397, Mount Rainier, MD 20712; 301-699-0144 (Louise Holton); 703-243-1191 (Becky Robinson).



Tina Coffman

are subsidized or discounted.

While a measure of success has been achieved through spay/neuter programs and campaigns, these alone do not appear to be enough to eliminate the problem.

Resistance to sterilization

At a 1987 conference sponsored by the New York State Humane Association, Dr. Murry Cohen, a psychiatrist, discussed the deep-seated resistance many people have to spaying/neutering their pets. Much of it arises from identification with the animal, he says. "Human males who are unsure of their manhood can be expected to show resistance to the idea of castrating their male animals...Identification will also explain the belief, this time perhaps more common in women than men, that every female companion animal should have at least one litter."

Cohen went on to identify other psychological mechanisms contributing to spay/neuter resistance that do not depend on identification: "Rationalizing accounts for the belief that somehow humane societies and shelters will take care of the progeny...Grandiosity may account for the conviction that 'I am different; I will manage to place the babies in good homes.' Most people cannot. [Even if they can, each puppy or kitten placed in a home represents one fewer home available for other needy animals.]

"Inability to think long-range, often a sign of emotional immaturity, could explain the avoidance of consideration of the question of what happens to the progeny when they grow up...Risk-avoiders would endlessly put off finally bringing in the animal. Intolerance of negative feelings, such as doubt, anxiety and worry, would prevent some people, often dependent types or people prone to depression, from neutering their companion animal. The need for certainty on the part of some people would serve as an obstacle, both in terms of the small possibility of an unsuccessful operative result, as well as the need to feel that the indications are 100 percent without controversy."

Also making people reluctant to spay/neuter animals is the persistent belief that it makes animals fat and lazy. While an animal whose reproductive organs have been removed may indeed burn up fewer calories, the solution is simply to decrease slightly the amount of food offered.

A recent national poll commissioned by HSUS revealed that 50% of those polled felt that it is the

primary responsibility of pet keepers to solve the overpopulation problem. The survey also revealed that the most common reason pets had litters (in 27 percent of those asked) was that it "just happened." Among those households that had not spayed/neutered their dogs and cats, 17% thought it was unnecessary and 18% responded "don't know" why not, which probably means they had never considered the idea.

The veterinary connection

Emphasizing to its own membership the problems of pet overpopulation, the American Veterinary Medical Association is devoting an entire issue of its journal to the subject some time this year. Dr. Patricia N. Olson, clinician at the University of Minnesota and coordinator of the special JAVMA issue, says, "We're trying to challenge the veterinary profession to look at this issue again. The articles bring up a lot of new ideas and we hope readers will collectively get excited and design some really good methods of attack." Subjects include the economics of spaying/neutering, work on prepubertal gonadectomies (spaying/castration of sexually immature animals), and the behavioral manifestations of intact and neutered animals.

In addition, the AVMA now offers to its members "Pethood or Parenthood" client information brochures detailing the benefits of spaying or neutering a pet and "The Veterinary Profession and Animal Control" pamphlet which lists potential areas of involvement for vets on local levels.

Research is also underway on cheaper and easier birth control methods. One of the most promising studies, conducted by the University of Missouri, found that intratesticular injections of zinc tannate in dogs and cats not only yields complete sterility but can be administered to puppies as young as four months without affecting needed male growth hormones. (Kittens have not been tested yet.)

Spay/neutering procedures for infant animals also hold promise; recovery periods are shorter than for mature animals, tests have revealed no adverse effects to date, and shelters can ensure that adoptable pets of all ages are sterile.

Laws and regulations

Where voluntary efforts fail, legislation sometimes succeeds.

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Pennsylvania Humane Society

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Laws in nine states (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Oklahoma) mandate that all dogs and cats from shelters and pounds must be altered before adoption.

Recently, to stem rampant pet births, the San Mateo County (California) Board of Supervisors passed a controversial ordinance for unincorporated areas of the county initiating a six-month breeding moratorium and permanent breeding restrictions. The ordinance was sponsored by the Peninsula Humane Society.

At a press conference announcing the ordinance proposal, PHS used shock tactics to gain attention. Several healthy, homeless animals were euthanized in front of the cameras. This dramatic action received media attention nationwide, and, for the first time, made pet overpopulation a top-of-the-news issue.

Says Kim Sturla, then PHS Executive Director (now with the Fund for Animals), "Peninsula Humane is the animal control agency for the county, so we're the ones who enforce all the state anti-cruelty laws and animal control ordinances. We'll enforce the new legislation like we enforce all the other laws.

"Since we handle all the strays, before people redeem their animals they'll have to show proof that their animals are sterilized. Within two years, when a person licenses their dog, they will not only have to show proof of rabies vaccination, they'll have to show proof that their animal is spayed or neutered. When breeders advertise their animals for sale, they're going to have to be prepared to publish or display their breeding permit number."

While the ordinance affects only unincorporated areas, it's only a matter of time, Sturla says, before the ordinance becomes county-wide. "We're going to approach this ordinance like we've done with every other ordinance. The process here is to go to the Board of Supervisors and get it passed through them, and then take it to each individual city council. I'd guess it's going to take a good six to 12 months, but it can be done."

Changing attitudes

In a society so fond of dogs and cats, it's difficult to understand why the general public has failed to take pet overpopulation seriously. Shelter workers refer to public apathy, and indeed some people are indifferent to the suffering of animals. Yet most people are appalled at the idea of killing dogs and cats.

It may be that typical spay/neuter admonitions have been too cute or positive in tone to adequately impact on pervasive misconceptions about the side effects of sterilization or the ability of abandoned domesticated animals—particularly cats—to survive on their own. Many otherwise kindly people will drop unwanted puppies and kittens off at shopping centers with the idea that people will take them home; or leave them in the country, thinking that they'll find their way to some friendly farmer, or at least have a good chance of

fending for themselves. Perhaps people must be forced to confront the reality of the starvation, disease, injury, fear, and loneliness that usually await abandoned animals, and the sadness of euthanasia—however painlessly it may be administered.

A growing number of humane workers believe a large share of the blame for pet overpopulation should be placed on a "consumer mentality" promoted by the pet industry.

Wrote ANIMALS' AGENDA reader Liz Crozier-Organ of Toronto, "A major impediment to the success of anti-breeding programs is the woeful lack of values and principles evident in our society.

After interviewing a seemingly endless number of people in my search for homes for kittens, I was shocked at the lack of willingness to be responsible; the lack of caring; the lack of knowledge; and, above all, the consumer mentality most of these people demonstrated. I blame this attitude on the market place that created the 'need' for pets and the endless variety of goods and services that go hand in hand with pet 'ownership.' As a result of marketing, not only are animals reduced to mere things, but many people feel they have a right to whatever animal they want—immediately, no questions asked. If animals are things, then they can be thrown away like garbage should they become difficult to handle,

inconvenient, sick, old, or in any other way problematic to their self-centered 'owners.' After all, like a car, if you don't like what you bought, you can always buy a new one. We must all put effort into changing this consumer mentality."

But until the time arrives when education and legislation change the attitudes of all irresponsible or ignorant pet keepers, significantly reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs, the dead pile grows each day, crushing the resources and spirits of the humane society and animal control workers left to deal with the problem.

Major sources: American Humane Association; Capital Area Humane Society; Friends of Animals; Humane Society of the United States; New York State Humane Association, Inc.

Additional sources: American Veterinary Medical Association; Cochecho Valley Humane Society; "Des Plaines Not The Cat's Meow," Chicago Tribune, March 7, 1990; Dog Population and Control In Europe, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, 1990; DuPage Animal Control; Friends for Folks, Lexington Correctional Center; Handbook of Animal Welfare, edited by Robert D. Aken and William H. Westbrook, Garland Press, London, 1979; National Animal Control Association; Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs, edited by Marjorie Anchel, Fordham University Press, New York, 1990; Peninsula Humane Society; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Toledo Humane Society; Universities Federation for Animal Welfare; University of Missouri study; World Society for the Protection of Animals.

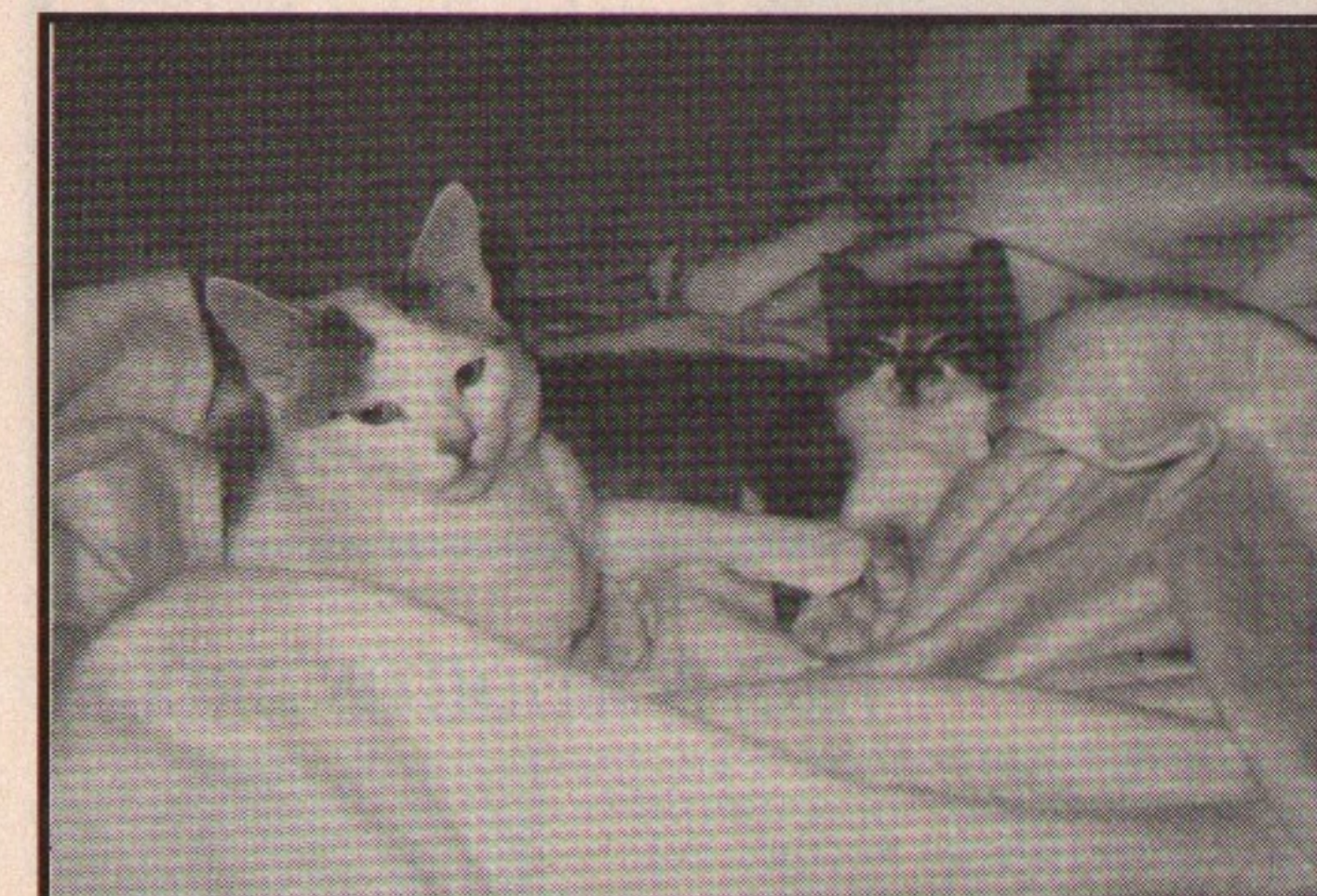


Peninsula Humane Society

Bringing in the New

Sheila Faxon of Pound Ridge, New York, writes, "I feel it is cruel to have just one cat—especially if its owner is away at work all day—when there are so many cats that need homes. Yet few people, even in the animal rights movement, seem to know anything about introducing a new cat to the other cat(s) in the household."

Although introducing one cat to another is not so challenging, say, as negotiating peace in the Middle East, there are two commandments to remember: The chances of a bloodless coup vary inversely with the age and tenure of His or Her Royal Highness (HRH) at home. The time to start planning for a new arrival—what HRH will no doubt consider The Horrible, Unwelcome Guest (THUG)—is before you find a poor shadow of a kitten hunched beneath your car in the garage or before some battered old warrior starts hanging around the back door. In short, Gentle Reader, the time to get ready is now.



We begin with the following assumptions: Your present cat is altered. Your present cat lives indoors. You own a carrier in which you transport your cat to the vet every time it sneezes. You have a spare litter pan. Your cat is currently vaccinated for distemper, rabies, feline leukemia, and any other syndrome for which there is a cc of prevention.

If there is no one home weekdays, bring THUG in on a Friday night or Saturday morning. Before you do, prepare the room where he will spend some time in quarantine. Do not choose H.R.H.'s favorite sanctuary or resting place for this setting. The idea is to fit THUG into HRH's routine, not to make HRH feel dethroned.

The solitary confinement approach is recommended for two reasons. No one should introduce a new cat without first isolating him for a while, no matter what the feleuk test said. In addition, it will allow THUG to take the measure of his new surroundings, before HRH takes the measure of him.

Until you're satisfied that THUG isn't harboring any contagions that didn't show up at the vet inspection, he should have no direct and prolonged contact with HRH. For the first few days they can exchange sniffs and resumes from either side of a closed door.

When you feel the time is right—and after you've clipped everyone's claws—put THUG into the cat carrier, open the door to his room, and allow HRH to come in and conduct a pre-screening interview for 15 or 20 minutes. (Be sure to take up THUG's water bowl,



Photo by K. Barlett

food dish, and litter pan first.)

Brief, repeated visits like this help to foster the development of social greeting behavior. More than any other kind of social interaction, they will enable the cats to share accommodations peacefully.

Do not be discomfited by hissing, growling, back arching, or big-tail displays from one or both cats at first. And don't fret if HRH goes off his feed or off to the farthest reaches of the house to sulk for a day or two.

After no more than a fortnight HRH and THUG should be ready to try unfettered (but not unsupervised) contact. Bring HRH into the isolation ward for a visit, but this time do not confine THUG beforehand. Put HRH on the floor, retire to a neutral corner, and—just in case—have a blanket handy to throw over them, or some water in a glass, squirt bottle, or water pistol. All should go well, but should a serious fight erupt, break it up with the blanket or water; then grab the nearest participant and return him to his accustomed place. Reestablish the brief visitations in a day or so, and then attempt the free-range introduction several days after that. And don't expect miracles.

"It may well be," writes Peter Neville, BSc., and Claire Bessant, BSc., in the January 1991 *Cat World*, "that you can only hope for a slightly distant but tolerant relationship between your two [cats], not a loving, curl-up-by-the-fire-in-a-heap one." Slightly distant, however, is better than heaping fire on one another.

"I think it would be helpful," Sheila Faxon writes, "to promote the idea that people who have just one cat should adopt another one if they can."

We agree. So why not slip into your vinyl loafers,

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K. Barber

Continued from previous page

shuffle on down to the local shelter, and ask to adopt the next cat that's slated for the employees-only room. HRH will eventually get used to the idea. And think of all the good you'll be doing.

At the end of 1987 there were 27.7 million cat-keeping households in the United States. Of those, 57.4 percent or 15,903,900 had just one cat. If each of those households signed up for a healthy

homeless cat, there wouldn't be any homeless cats left.

If that sounds simplistic, it's only because the best solutions usually are.

—Phil and Mary Ann Maggitti

Editor's Note: Contrary to popular opinion, dogs and cats often get along better than cats and cats. The difficulty, or ease, of the introduction has more to do with the personality of the dog than anything else. The mellower the dog, the more tolerant will be the cat. Overly exuberant dogs may require some restraint during the introductory period, which may last anywhere from a few hours to a few weeks. But unless the dog is truly aggressive, or the cat has been previously traumatized by a dog, they should reach some sort of understanding or accommodation within a reasonable period of time, and many become fast friends. In addition, where dominance becomes an issue, the cat will almost always dominate the dog—especially if the cat is older.

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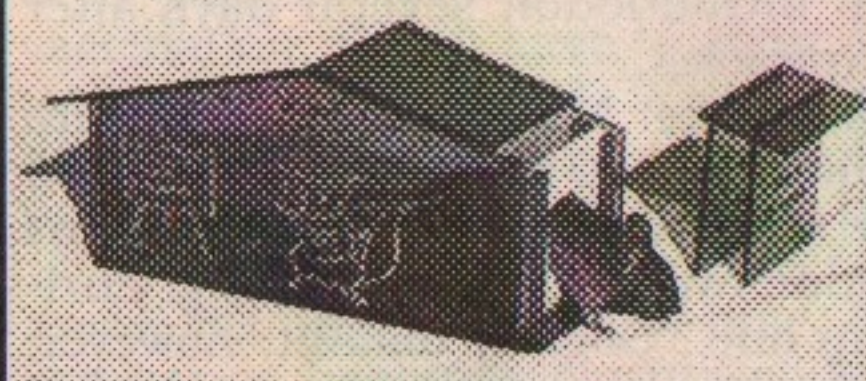


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THIS IS A DOG.



Thousands of primates, dogs, cats, mice and other animals are deliberately addicted to drugs in U.S. laboratories each year—even though addiction is a complex tragedy of human society. The allocation of millions of dollars for animal experiments simply means that more people are dying for want of desperately needed, grossly underfunded treatment centers.

Consider some examples of tax-funded findings in drug research:

- *Morphine increases heart rate in dogs genetically bred to be fearful of humans.*
- *Tail-burned mice injected with heroin are equally sensitive to pain whether they were previously addicted to morphine or not.*
- *Naloxone raises blood pressure in cats whose brains are crushed by an impact-driven piston.*

Let's wage war on drugs, not on animals.
It's time for animal experimenters to kick the habit.

ANY QUESTIONS?

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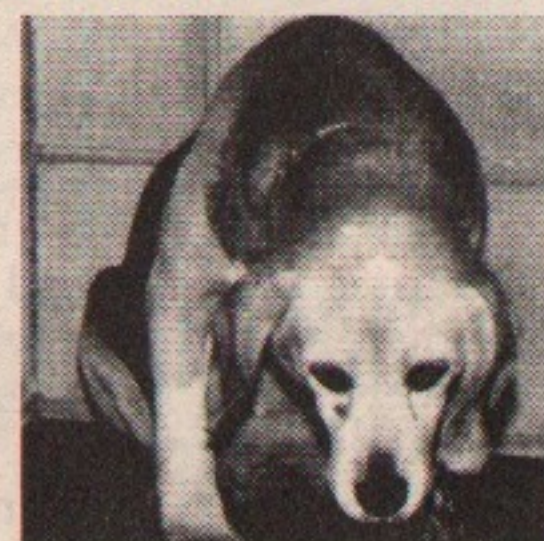
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THIS IS A DOG ON DRUGS.



COMMENTARY

The Dog Nobody Wanted

BY JOSEPH CERQUONE



One year ago I walked Opie, a yellow Labrador mix, along the drive of Friends of Homeless Animals in Northern Virginia. Our stroll was a test. Opie and I had just met, and the walk was supposed to help determine whether I would adopt him.

I had my doubts. Opie was a "surrendered" pet—one of those dogs left at shelters after their owners give up on them. But that was not all. He had been at the shelter for an extraordinary length of time—for five of his six or seven years.

Opie's difficulty getting placed with a family spoke to a sad fact: finding new homes for unwanted animals is hard. Desperate to place Opie, the organization finally dubbed him "Pet of the Week," and featured his picture in a newspaper ad that I happened to notice.

Opie looked okay in the ad, but in real life he was not exactly perfect. An old scar marred the top of his head. Part of his left ear was gone. His coat needed a washing, and he had a kennel smell. Hesitant about taking him, I made up my mind only after I was coaxed to "give the ol' boy a chance."

I'm glad I listened. Today, Opie is very wanted—by me, by my family, by neighborhood kids who utter his name like a prayer. As reports about vicious canine attacks proliferate, Opie, a dog with reason to bare his teeth at the world, stands as a model of gentleness, kindness, and obedience. Despite his years among the forgotten, on the hard floor of unwantedness, his good nature survives, even grows.

Where did Opie come from? How did he get his name? Why didn't anyone want him? These questions arose in me as I completed his adoption papers at the shelter. His name could be explained: I like to think it's short for "open" and reflects Opie's knack for using his muzzle to lift gate latches. But a lot of information lay buried like bones. The dog's history had dissolved during his long years alone. The people at the shelter

aren't even sure how they got Opie, except that an owner probably dropped him off.

Surrendering a pet can be understandable and unavoidable, but that is usually not the case. "The problem would be nonexistent if people thought more about what they are doing when they get an animal," says Jean Johnson, executive director of the Washington Humane Society. "Typically, they decide later they don't have time for a pet."

But there are other reasons. "One of the more famous surrenders involved a woman who turned in her cat because it didn't match her furniture," says Geoff Handy of *Shelter Sense* magazine.

Such thoughtlessness is not easy to reverse. Animal advocates encourage spaying and neutering, and ask people to think about the responsibilities of keeping a pet—to assess beforehand, "How a pet will fit into your lifestyle," as Anne Lewis of Friends says.

Yet surrendered dogs like Opie keep showing up. If they're lucky, they'll be adopted, though that's a distinct longshot given the huge number of surplus dogs and cats. Or they'll stay sheltered for a while, but without the attention a loving guardian would give. Ultimately, most are euthanized. Opie had it tougher than many. Big, older, male dogs like him are less likely to be adopted, Lewis says. Some are victimized by their quiet personalities when they meet prospective adopters.

There are a couple of ways to consider the year I've had with Opie. I can pull my folder of vet bills and related expenses. Or I can look at what he has built in my heart.

The folder thickened quickly as the responsibilities of having a dependent, vulnerable creature took hold. Although the shelter did the best it could to care for Opie, some bad teeth needed removal; a nasty urinary problem demanded constant care; two sudden attacks of bronchitis required emergency attention. I used to take the vet bills from the folder and calculate the mounting

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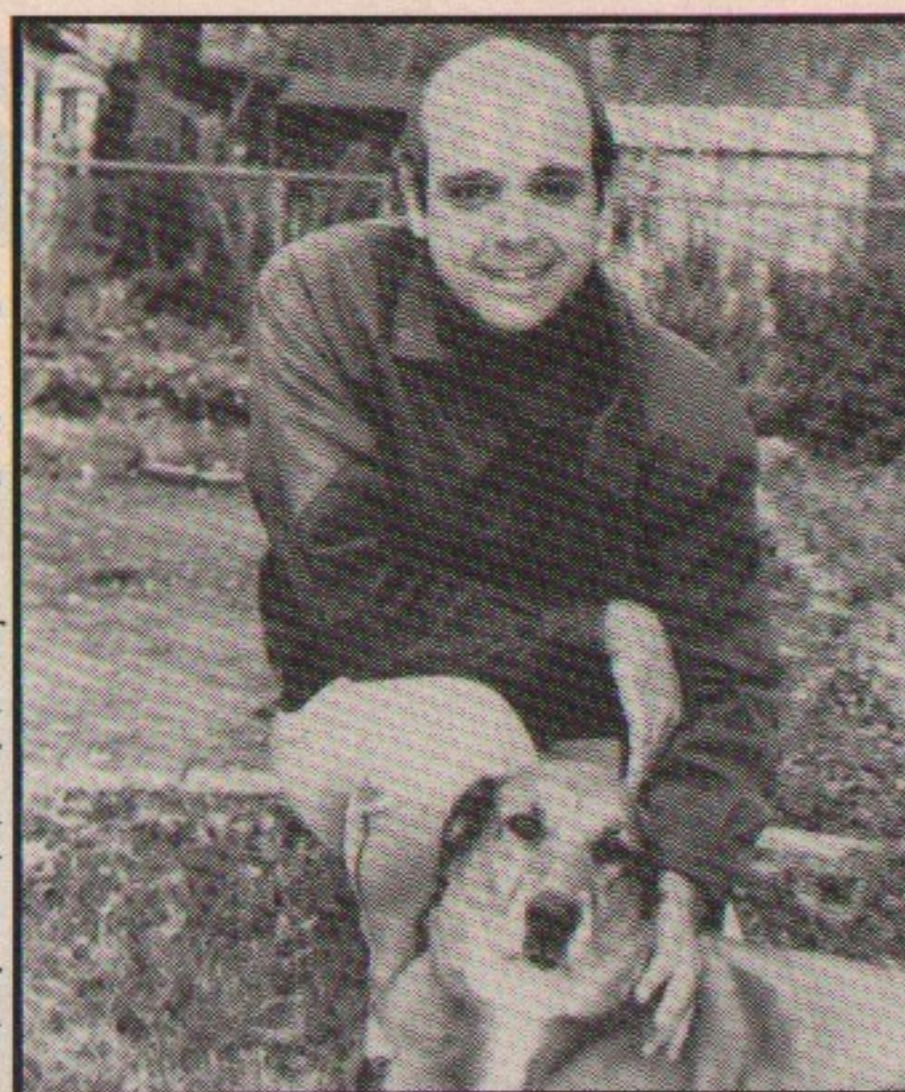
cost. But I don't do that any longer. I dropped my thick, human blinders and began to appreciate the simple nose-to-tail goodness in Opie.

Whoever surrendered him gave up a lot. Opie is not Hollywood material—he has not rescued anyone from a burning building. Yet he has made people feel better in quiet, wonderful ways since I have had him.

He restored the spirits of Alzheimer's patients during a visit at a northern Virginia care facility, for instance. "You're a good dog," a patient told him lovingly as he calmly lay at her feet. He never flinched when the woman, confused by her illness, turned on him and took away his biscuit.

Opie's basic behavior is remarkable. Ask him to heel, he heels; ask him to stay, he stays; ask him to sit, he sits. When Opie and my father's dog tangled, it suddenly became clear why the Pet of the Week ad described Opie as "noble." At 91 pounds, he towered over the terrier, an aged, confused animal prone to misadventure. But instead of biting, Opie held back. "You can go," his eyes seemed to say as he released his small agitator, "but be more careful."

If an ad about Opie appeared tomorrow, it would have to run on for pages to do him justice. It would tell how he summoned his courage this past year and learned to stop peeing uncontrollably in thunderstorms,



his worst fear. It would talk about how Opie gets excited when people raise their voices to each other: he stops whatever he's doing and boldly steps into the middle of things, wearing the anxious look of a canine referee.

I remember my first call to Friends after I saw their ad. I didn't want a noisy animal, so I asked whether Opie barked.

"Bark?" one of the volunteers said, shocked by the question.

"Yes, bark."

"Ummm, I haven't heard him bark," she replied. "But I'll ask my husband."

She returned in seconds. "No, he hasn't heard Opie bark either. Nobody has."

"How could he not bark for five

years!"

I used to laugh whenever I told this anecdote. But that was before I learned to appreciate Opie's goodness. Now I think I understand. I can imagine Opie getting quiet simply because somebody he loved left him off one day and never returned.

Happily, Opie shows no offense at my past ignorance as he and I head into our second year together. Instead, he is rolling around on his blue towel, animated because I have walked in.

"Talk to me, Opster!" I urge as I squat to pet him. "Say something, buddy. Speak!" Again and again, Opie barks. And when I rise, I feel good... and forgiven.

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DATELINE INTERNATIONAL

With cattle ranching gobbling up vast portions of the Central American rain forest, the Sandinistas chose to emphasize fruit and vegetable crops instead of beef production.



CENTRAL AMERICA—

Nicaragua's environmental crisis: The hidden political roots

Despite its appearance from the air as a tropical paradise, Nicaragua's reality on the ground, like that of its sister republics in Central America, tells a different story. For here is a region where ecological devastation—characterized by unusually high pesticide pollution, deforestation, wildlife exploitation, and industrial contamination—has reached shocking proportions.

The Sandinistas inherited from the Somoza years a social and environmental crisis of extraordinary gravity. By the time of the insurrection in 1979, large landholders, representing 1 percent or less of the population, controlled half the land in Nicaragua. Somoza himself owned a full fifth of the nation's prime farmland, and export crops ("cash crops") consisting of cotton, sugar, coffee, and cattle, dominated agricultural production. What's more, much of Nicaragua's Pacific coastal plain suffered from an alarming level of pesticide contamination. In fact, throughout the Somoza period, the country held the unenviable distinction of being—with Guatemala and El Salvador—a world leader in pesticide poisonings.

The cycle of pesticide abuse began in the 1950s when, after pushing the peasants off the Pacific plain, rich growers started planting cotton—a leading cash crop—and saturating the land with a broad array of insecticides. The reckless use of pesticides was encouraged by

Somoza's heavy-handed suppression of workers' rights and his administration's unrelenting hostility to any form of environmental regulation. In this climate, Nicaragua soon found itself among the heaviest users not only of pesticides but of compounds banned in the U.S. and Western Europe such as DDT, endrin, dieldrin, and lindane. In fact, during the 1960s and 1970s, 40 percent of all U.S. pesticide exports went to Central America alone, as growers, trying to counteract increased insect resistance, administered up to 30 sprayings per season.

The progressively high cost of chemicals eventually forced the agribusiness sector to curtail its extravagant reliance on these substances, but by then the damage was done. Pesticides had drenched the entire area along the Pacific coast and severely contaminated the region's water table and food chain. Not surprisingly, a United Nations 1977 study found that mothers in the city of León had 45 times more DDT in their breast milk than what the World Health Organization regarded as safe. And in a related survey commissioned in 1981 by IRENA—the Sandinista-created environmental protection agency—investigators found that 50 percent of all water sources sampled were seriously polluted by sewage, 75 percent by agricultural residues, and 25 percent by highly toxic industrial wastes. Seeking to redress these conditions, between 1979 and 1981 the Sandinista

government banned DDT, BHC, endrin, dieldrin, Phosvel, and DBCP, while ordering their replacement with more expensive but less harmful synthetic pyrethroids. In addition, and besides issuing strict pesticide-use guidelines, the Sandinistas sought to reduce the number of insecticide sprayings per season, while also experimenting with non-chemical pest management solutions.

So far, the single biggest pollution casualty may be Lake Managua, which has been virtually killed by agricultural pesticide runoff, chemical pollution from lakeside industries, and, in a practice common to many poor countries, the dumping of untreated sewage (70,000 lbs a day) from the capital city. One industrial concern alone—the U.S.-owned Penwalt Corporation—may have dumped more than 40 tons of mercury into the lake between 1968 and 1981. (Soon after coming to power the Sandinistas persuaded Penwalt to reduce its effluents by more than two-thirds, but contaminated water from Lake Managua had already penetrated the Asososca Lagoon, the capital's main source of drinking water. This forced the Sandinistas to institute water rationing to minimize the possibilities of mercury poisoning. Meanwhile, plans for the construction of sewage treatment plants had to be shelved indefinitely on account of the country's economic crisis, rendered acute by the Contra war.)

The freewheeling contamin-

ation of soil and water resources has been more than matched by the extensive deforestation observed in the nation's pristine woodlands and tropical rainforests. Unrestricted clear-cutting of the country's pine barrens by foreign timber companies, the widespread use of firewood as fuel, forest fires, and the combined pressure of slash-and-burn agriculture and development projects, have denuded tens of thousands of square kilometers every year. Not surprisingly, Nicaragua has become a country in which soil erosion, flash floods, and acute shortages of firewood are commonplace. Until the Sandinistas, commercial forestry operations were literally unregulated, as domestic and foreign companies enjoyed unlimited access to the nation's resources, provided, of course, they paid the necessary "concessions" to the government or Somoza himself. Thus, from 1945 to 1960 the U.S.-owned Nicaraguan Long Leaf Pine Company (NIPCO) paid the Somoza clan a straight percentage of the firm's multimillion-dollar timber business in exchange for a free hand in its operations. Essentially, this allowed the firm to avoid reforestation clearcut areas. By 1961, after cutting down all the commercially valuable coastal pines found in Northeast Nicaragua, NIPCO withdrew from the region leaving behind 3,000 square kilometers worth of wasteland.

The cycle of destruction of Nicaragua's rain forests—one-third of which vanished in the 1970s—has followed a slightly different path. Here cattle

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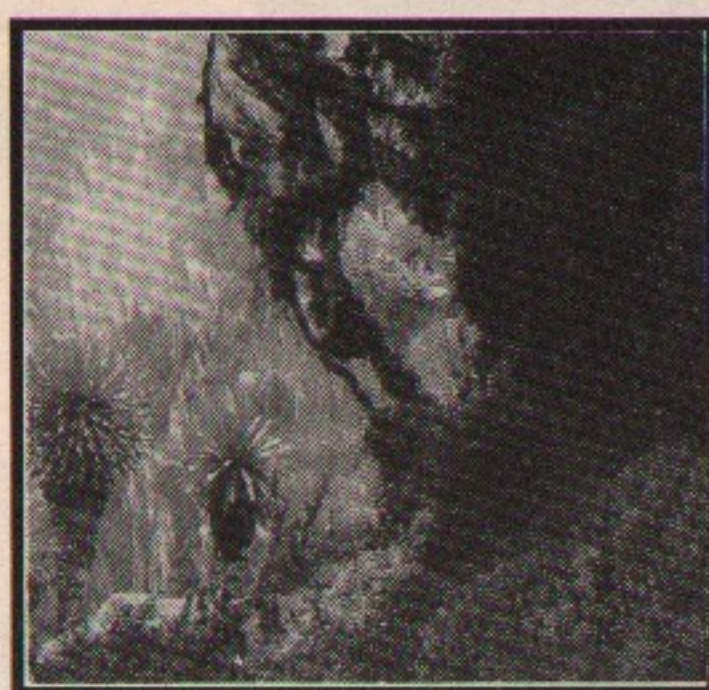
DATELINE: INTERNATIONAL

Continued from previous page

ranching is rightly mentioned as one of the main villains, but this obscures much of the story. The real culprit is a centuries-old system of acute inequality in land-ownership, and the unspeakable poverty and powerlessness this unjust regime has created for most of the population.

The assault on the rain forests began in the 1950s, when cotton growers, and later cattle ranchers, seeking to expand their operations, forced peasant families from the fertile Pacific plains they had farmed for decades into the eastern forests and hills. As in Brazil, some of the displaced peasants were lured to the region by government "colonization projects"; others were forcibly relocated to such areas by the National Guard. The rain forest terrain, however, is ill suited for agriculture, and clearcutting can easily trigger soil erosion. Facing this situation after just one or two crops, most of the settlers chose to move deeper into the forest, where they repeated the process. Their abandoned land was then taken over by cattle ranchers. Without meaning to, the peasants had cleared the land for the cattle industry free of charge.

The use of this resource proved lucrative. By 1970, with Nicaraguan beef exports totalling \$26.6 million, the country became the leading Latin



American beef supplier to the U.S. (Somoza, never one to miss out on a good deal, owned outright six Miami meat-packing plants and the largest slaughterhouse in Central America.)

The fate of wildlife was equally bleak under the Somoza regime. Devoid of any protective regulations, Nicaragua was a world leader in the export of rare and endangered species, including white-lipped peccaries, white-tailed deer, crocodiles, hawksbill turtles, caimans, freshwater otters, jaguars, ocelots, margays, and lobsters. Most of these species were either depleted or exterminated throughout Nicaragua. Others saw their habitats substantially reduced or obliterated, with equally lethal results. And more common species, including the iguana, the armadillo, cats, dogs, and a wide assortment of birds, received little or no protection from humane legislation.

During their tenure the Sandinistas moved vigorously to

correct these abuses. The nationalization of export/import banks allowed IRENA to impose a strict ban on the export of endangered species, and by 1982 the environmental agency instituted seasonal hunting bans on 26 endangered species of mammals, 19 of birds, and four of reptiles. And the wildlife protection effort was buttressed by extensive educational campaigns and a system of market-place and roadside inspection. Nicaragua's economic crisis, however, aggravated by the Contra war and Washington's embargo, forced the Sandinistas to lift some of the bans and resume wildlife exports.

From an environmental viewpoint, however, the most valuable policy adopted by the Sandinistas was their far-reaching agrarian reform. By simply redistributing land to peasant families so they could grow their own food, the Ministry of Agriculture halted migrations into the rain forest. And by 1983 the Sandinistas had discontinued all colonization projects. The same year, IRENA targeted 18 percent of Nicaragua's territory for national park lands, many of which would protect delicate rain forest areas. In addition, in an effort to alleviate the effects of deforestation, IRENA initiated ambitious tree-planting projects around the nation. This program, in which nurseries grew up to 2 million trees a year for reforestation, had to be suspen-

ded in 1986 as a result of the Contra war (IRENA's reforestation projects had become targets for the Contras, who kidnapped and assassinated environmental workers) and the nation's desperate financial situation.

Energy conservation, which in many poor countries is intimately linked to forest conservation, also received preferential attention. Deforestation for firewood is prevalent in Nicaragua, where 90 percent of all fuel used in households and 25 percent of industrial fuel is wood. Accordingly, the Nicaraguan Energy Ministry (INE) moved early to develop an ambitious program of renewable energy resources based on eolian, geothermal and hydroelectric units that would not only slow down deforestation and promote habitat preservation, but also permit the country to cut back on expensive oil imports.

Washington's hostility and the Contra war didn't allow many of these programs to bear fruit, so the question today is whether the new Chamorro government, which is currently being approached with debt-for-nature swaps, will want—or be able—to pursue equally enlightened policies in time to keep a major ecocide from happening.

Main sources: Joshua N. Karlner, Daniel Faber (Earth Island Institute/EPOCA), John Vandermeer, and The ANIMALS' AGENDA correspondents.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

World Society for the Protection of Animals

representative John Walsh entered Kuwait with allied troops March 3 to find a scene from hell. Over 550 well fires set by fleeing Iraqis burned 4.5 to 5 million barrels of oil per day, equal to half of annual U.S. oil production, throwing up black smoke so thick that vehicles needed headlights at high noon. Lack of sunlight kept temperatures 10 degrees below normal. Low oxygen meant that an estimated 10 percent of the emissions fell back to earth as soot. Scores of children and old

people were hospitalized, scarcely able to breathe. Experts estimated that nine billion barrels of oil, 10 percent of Kuwait's known reserves, would burn before the last of the fires could be put out—and that putting out the worst fires, in the heavily mined oil fields, could take five to seven years. The good news, if there was any, was that the smoke was not rising into the stratosphere, where it could do climatic harm, and that about 490 of the fires either could be

blown out with explosives or would burn out by themselves.

In the Kuwait Zoo, Walsh discovered "wounded animals still alive and living among rotting corpses and unspeakable filth." Many cages held animals that Walsh learned were shot by Iraqis during the early days of the occupation. "Some animals were killed immediately," Walsh said. "Others were merely wounded and died slowly," from the combination of injuries, infection, starvation, and dehydration.



WSPA

Survivors included a wounded Indian elephant, three Syrian brown bears (one of them wounded), five African lions, seven rhesus monkeys (one wounded), two water buffalo, two hippos, a Highland steer, a

giraffe, and a camel. That any survived at all was probably due to brothers Ali Mubarak and Suleiman al-Hohti, a sanitation inspector and a policeman, who bribed Iraqi troops to be allowed to feed the animals scavenged refuse and donkeys they bought with their life's savings. WSPA put the brothers on the payroll and immediately began trucking in food, water, and equipment to begin clean-up and rescue work.

A similar situation was reportedly developing at the Baghdad Zoo, which had received many animals hauled from Kuwait during the occupation by troops who knew neither what species they had nor how to care for them. Head keeper Mohammed Ibrahim Al Janaby said most of his staff fled during the war to avoid bombing, leaving hundreds of animals unattended, amid critical meat, water, and fodder shortages.

Distressing as zoo conditions were, prospects for wildlife in the region were as bad or worse. Thousands of cranes, red-breasted geese, mute swans, cormorants, and white storks fled the oil fires to Cyprus, where bird-shooting is a mania among Greeks and Turks alike. Satellite photos found traces of carbon from the fires throughout the northern hemisphere, with strong acid rain afflicting a swath from Bulgaria to Pakistan. Turks living in Adana state, along the Iraq border, were told to avoid drinking rainwater and to keep farm animals away from it. Fortunately the oil slick loosed by Iraq from a Kuwaiti pumping station circa Jan. 19 proved to be "only" four times larger than the Exxon Valdez spill, rather than 12 times larger, as first believed. That was still enough, together with two smaller slicks and leftover damage from the Iran/Iraq war and other accidents, to imperil at least 450 species native to the Persian Gulf, including 50 endangered species. Three types of whales, five types of dolphin, sea turtles, dugongs, and the shrimp that form the base of the food chain were most in danger. Cleanup work was hindered because the war effort had exhausted Saudi cash reserves.

Greenpeace called a conference to be held in London in June to discuss the ecological impact of the Persian Gulf war, and to seek a Geneva convention to outlaw use of war tactics that target the environment. The North American Wildlife Assn. followed WSPA in offering rehabilitation expertise to nations whose wildlife was affected by the oil slick. Only 198 of the first 745 birds cleansed by Saudi volunteers survived.

Heavy damage to aquatic environments spotlighted a coming water crisis throughout the Middle East. Both Israel and Jordan are draining underground aquifers to support farming. Jordan claims Israeli diversions from the Sea of Galilee to supply Tel Aviv have turned the Jordan River brackish and lowered the level of the Dead Sea. Shoreline aquifers from Libya to the Gaza Strip are reportedly also becoming brackish, as sea water seeps in to replace fresh water pumped out through wells. Only Turkey, whose dams control the Euphrates River, and Egypt, with the Nile, have water to export.

Animal defenders and environmentalists were also alarmed by growing U.S. support of Syria. Like Iraq, Syria is a dictatorship whose oil income mostly goes for weapons, where torture and animal abuse are routine, wildlife has been virtually extirpated, and environmental protection gets short shrift. (Israeli sources insist female Syrian militia members are taught to kill snakes with their teeth, while militiamen learn to strangle puppies.)

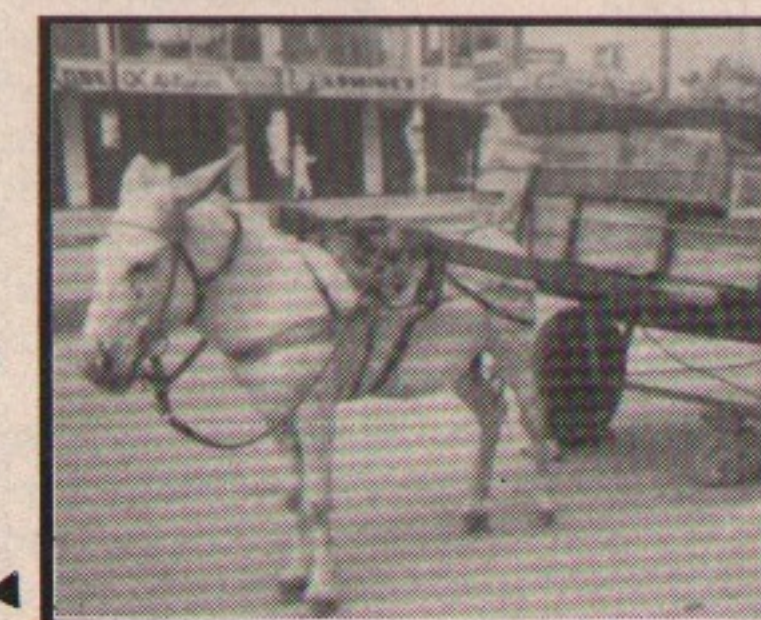
Among the animal mascots adopted by allied troops were jerboas, gerbil-like creatures carried by many tank crews of the "Desert Rats," a.k.a. the British 7th Armored Brigade. But the animal who survived the most action was probably a mouse who hid in the cockpit of a Harrier jump-jet. "Prince" was captured only after flying numerous missions over Kuwait.

The outbreak of the Persian Gulf war forced Feroze Golwalla of the Animal Connection of Texas to return early from a winter mission to Pakistan, his birthplace. "To you I have a Pakistani accent," Golwalla explained, "but to Pakistanis I

now have an American accent," which made him suspect to those of Pakistan's Islamic majority who sided with Saddam Hussein. Supporters of Saddam Hussein reportedly also menaced Swiss citizen Constantine Hunt, 83, of Karachi, who heads Pakistan's only animal protection group. Despite the hostilities, Golwalla distributed copies of the Student Action Corps For Animals handbook on alternatives to dissection at 20 high schools, distributed copies of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine *Guide To Healthy Eating* to prominent doctors and to two community meetings, and persuaded a top Pakistani advertising agency to donate its services "to produce newspaper and magazine advertisements and television spots that promote respect for animals. I insisted that the ads focus on respect," Golwalla emphasized, "rather than on sympathy." Golwalla welcomes donations of animal protection information to be sent to Pakistan, at P.O. Box 679008, Dallas, TX 75367.

The March issue of Lab

Animal ran a report by Dr. Alfred Prince of the New York Blood Center asserting that the organization's Vilab II chimpanzee research and breeding facility near Robertsville, Liberia, had come through the recent Liberian civil war with no loss of chimps from a colony of about 75 at Vilab II itself, and that 31 of 90 chimps who had been "retired" to nearby islands after experimental use had also survived. But Friends of Animals head Priscilla Feral got a different story from the U.S. State Department last August, confirmed by



Mrs. Ruti Sami Ahmad

employees of the former FoA wildlife orphanage in Liberia, who fled the fighting whenever they could throughout the fall and early winter. The State Dept. told Feral that starving Liberians "ate every last animal in the Monrovia zoo, cleared out the FoA orphanage, and poached the Vilab II chimps," as staff sought sanctuary at various consulates. Feral said that given the famine that accompanied the war, in which thousands of humans starved to death, "It's a very remote possibility that Vilab II could have hoarded or imported enough food for any chimps" who weren't poached. She noted that even the island chimps needed supplemental feeding. "All 49 of the chimps who disappeared," Feral added, "carried hepatitis-B. That's why they were kept on islands. My suspicion is that an American institution may have triggered an epidemic, because starving people ate these infected chimps." The truth may never be known: hepatitis is often epidemic among malnourished people in war zones, but outbreaks are hard to trace even in developed nations during peacetime.

Vancouver voters have refused to fund the first phase of a proposed \$40 million expansion of the Stanley Park Zoo, part of which would be to expand a collection of beluga whales.

Orca trainer Keltie Byrne, 20, was drowned Feb. 20 at Sealand of the Pacific in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Byrne fell into the orcas' pool at the end of a show for Sealand visitors; the three orcas played with her for 10 minutes as they would with a ball, and pulled her back in when she briefly escaped. LifeForce director Peter Hamilton accused Sealand of numerous safety violations, including failure to fence the pool, failure to use a non-slip surface on the surrounding deck, and excessively long close confinement of the orcas, producing boredom and aggressive behavior. "Imprisoned wildlife are a threat to human safety," Hamilton said.

Continued on next page

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Continued from previous page

Three baby dolphins and a prematurely born orca died of various causes at the Antibes Marineland between Feb. 12 and March 16—and a mother dolphin who defended her baby against another recently bereaved mother was critically injured.

Conoco is planning "an environmental showcase" cluster of oil wells for the Huaoroni Indigenous Reserve and Yasuni Natl. Park in eastern Ecuador. Opponents argue that Conoco safeguards are likely to fall to the same social and economic pressures that turned half the 934-square-mile Cuyabeno Wildlife Production Reserve into a maze of access roads, toxic waste sites, and settlements after Petroecuador found oil there in 1967.

Pathologists at Sydney University have confirmed that a dead night parrot recently found by Australian Museum curator Walter Boles was alive no more than one year ago. Night parrots have been believed extinct since 1912.

A team from the American Museum of Natural History has rediscovered a fish believed extinct since 1970, the *Opal allotoca*, in a Mexican pond. The fish was native to Lake Magdalena, which was drained for irrigation faster than it could be replenished.

The Natl. Audubon Society is trying to persuade the USSR to join in creating a Berengia Heritage International Park, to link Alaska and Siberia across the Bering Strait. Conservation Intl. president Russell Mittermeier warns that rapid sale of timber, mainly to Japan, could jeopardize Siberian wildlife.

All but 1,000 of the wildebeests who roamed Botswana circa 1980 have been killed by 960 miles of newly built cattle fences in the Okavango Delta—either getting caught in the wire or dehydrating because they were cut off from water holes. Giraffes, springboks, zebras, and elands have also died by the 10,000. Greenpeace

has threatened an international boycott of Botswana's growing beef export industry.

The Mexican Navy sent an escort to the tuna boat *Tungui* Feb. 18 after it was rammed by the Sea Shepherd II while allegedly trying to set nets on dolphin.

South African environment minister Louis Pienaar on Feb. 14 announced an indefinite suspension of commercial sealing pending further study. The Seal Action Group anticipated this would mean at least a two-year moratorium on seal-killing.

The Ontario fur trade has formed a new sales arm, Fur Harvesters Auction Inc., to replace the bankrupt Ontario Trappers' Assn. and its sales arm, Northbay Fur Sales.

Hydro Quebec's environmental impact study of access roads it wants to build to serve James Bay II hydroelectric development sites is "fundamentally flawed," says Kativik Environmental Quality Commission head Peter Jacobs. The commission, consisting of five Quebecois and four Inuit, has power to reject the whole scheme. Hydro Quebec said the roads had to be started by April for the James Bay II project to be done by 1998.

Quebec agriculture minister Yvon Picotte has indefinitely delayed a bill proposed by the Montreal SPCA that would give humane inspectors limited police powers and set animal care standards. Quebec has the oldest and weakest animal protection laws in Canada—and the most animal abuse of any province.

Canadian lake trout could be extirpated from much of their present habitat if global warming continues at the rate of the past 20 years, says Univ. of Alberta ecologist David Schindler. The mean temperature at Kenora, Ontario, has risen two degrees Celsius since 1969, and could rise another nine degrees over the next several decades.

Canada has delayed plans to poison seagulls on Sable Island, 170 miles off Nova Scotia, to prevent them from competing with the endangered roseate tern.

Agriculture Canada researchers in Brandon, Manitoba, have found that Yorkshire sows bred for leanness kill four times as many of their own piglets as standard Yorkshires.

The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies has asked the Carleton Board of Education to stop trapping and skinning demonstrations by a teacher at the D. Aubrey Moody Elementary School in Nepean, Ontario.

Alberta, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland have all declared that Ottawa has no authority to review Alberta's Oldman River dam, bitterly opposed by native groups and environmentalists. The five provinces joining Alberta in opposing a scheduled federal review also have projects in planning that could be held up if Ottawa gets involved.



K. Bartlett

World livestock production is at an all-time peak, doubling along with the human population since 1960. There are now 1,264 million cattle, two-thirds in the Third World; 1,173 million sheep, about equally divided between developing and developed nations; 823 million pigs, 485 million in the Third World; 520 million goats, all but 28 million in the Third World; 122 million horses, mules, and asses, 98 million in the Third World; and 10,967 million chickens, ducks, and turkeys, almost

equally divided between developed and developing nations.

The William Holden Wildlife Foundation's Education Center in Kenya serves about 4,000 students a year, says foundation figurehead Stefanie Powers.

Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori went on TV to urge citizens to keep eating raw fish, as the death toll from a cholera epidemic apparently caused by the practice rose to 258. Over 55,000 cases have been reported since Feb. 1. Japan, a major importer of Peruvian fish and logs, sent \$271,000 worth of medical aid.

Over 250,000 Pacific Ridley turtles laid an estimated 25 million eggs in Mexico last winter, from which about eight million young turtles hatched and 1.2 million are expected to reach maturity. Only 170,000 of the turtles nested in 1989. Mexican officials attributed the difference to a ban on turtle killing imposed in early 1990.

Mexico has agreed to a \$4 million debt-for-nature swap with Conservation Intl. that will protect portions of the Lancandona rain forest along the Guatemalan border. Lancandona, which has shrunk by half since 1940, shelters 3,000 plant species, 306 bird species, 84 reptile species, and 700 species of butterfly.

Malaysia has asked the World Wildlife Fund for help to combat foreign turtle egg poachers, believed to be coming from the Philippines.

Gilberto Mestrinho, newly inaugurated governor of Amazon state, Brazil, has announced plans to open hunting parks in the region. Mestrinho, an avowed anti-environmentalist, earlier vowed to jail any federal officials who tried to enforce logging restrictions.

A Natl. Science Foundation team has discovered dinosaur bones near the South Pole, confirming theories that dinosaurs roved every continent. Remains of four species of

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

dinosaur have been found in various parts of Antarctica since 1969.

France on March 1 reported its first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the "mad cow disease" that has killed over 16,000 British cattle since 1986 and led to bans on British beef by both France and Canada.

Eighty-nine golden lion tamarins returned to coastal Brazilian rain forests from the

National Zoo in Washington D.C. are becoming one of the few successful reintroductions of an endangered species to its former habitat—at cost of \$23,000 per monkey. Two-thirds of 135 attempted reintroductions have failed or are struggling, says Natl. Zoo associate director Ben Beck.

International Notes: The Czecho-Slovak Union of Vegetarians seeks donations of literature at Drabikova 3, 85101

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. ♦ The Asociacion Latino Americana en Defensa de los Animales is collecting letters protesting cruelty to animals in Spanish religious festivals, to be sent on to Pope John Paul II. Send letters c/o P.O. Box 20081 Cathedral St., New York, NY 10025-1510. ♦ Former *Rolling Stone* editor Bob Chorus plans to open Animal-Free Trade, an "animal rights store," at 2177 W. 4th Ave., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on May 15. ♦ Saanich, B.C., Canada, has

banned all animal acts but rodeos. ♦ The Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation has published a detailed critique of Alberta grizzly bear "management," which is driving the bears toward extinction. Write P.O. Box 506, Station G, Calgary, Alberta T3A 2G4, Canada. ♦ South Africans for the Abolition of Vivisection seeks donations of literature and audio/visual material at P.O. Box 784796, Sandton, 2146, Republic of South Africa.

NEWS SHORTS

Edited By MERRITT CLIFTON



The Univ. of Pennsylvania has cleared researcher Jorge Ferrer of misconduct in connection with the accidental exposure of 20 students and staffers and 100 visiting school children to a leukemia virus in April 1990, during an experiment on sheep. But Ferrer remains barred from doing animal research and research involving disease-causing agents. None of the 31 people who were exposed who have been tested had actually acquired the virus, and the other 89 are believed to be at lower risk.

An East Asian insect new to the continental U.S., *thrips palmi*, has reportedly devastated all crops but tomatoes in the area of Homestead, Fla. The insect invaded Hawaii and Puerto Rico circa 1982.

The Texas Senate has unanimously passed bills to up the penalties for breaking into animal research labs, and to let ranchers kill dogs who attack livestock. However, bills to give humane officers limited law enforcement powers and to allow humane societies to adopt out abused animals they have seized remain in committee. Texas law now requires that confiscated animals must be sold at public auction.

A Minnesota bill would finance spay/neuter work by taxing pet food at the wholesale level. A similar proposal failed in California several years ago due to opposition from the pet food industry.

Citing animal abuse and questionable betting practices, the Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering shut the Key West Dog Track on Feb. 26 in

midseason, a first. Liquefied dog excrement flooded the parking lot after management cut off sewer service to save money; 73 dogs from the Hinsdale Raceway in New Hampshire were found competing at Key West with forged papers; 141 starved and dehydrated dogs had been abandoned in kennels at the Key West track in three separate incidents since Halloween, 1990; and 15 dogs who were supposed to be at the track were found dead of unknown causes in a nearby landfill.

U.S. Surgical Corp. is sponsoring a calendar promoting the Connecticut Dept. of Motor Vehicles organ donor program—and animal-based biomedical research. Distribution of the calendar coincides with U.S. Surgical's ongoing \$2 million media blitz against the animal defense movement.

Dead and dying pigeons, starlings, and sparrows littered downtown Burlington, Vermont, on March 7, after USDA wildlife biologist Alan May spread poisoned bait at the Univ. of Vt. study farm, where the birds were accused of

stealing \$350 worth of grain a month and covering equipment with droppings. The Discovery Museum wildlife rehabilitation center in nearby Shelburne took in many of the poisoned birds, expressing hope that some would survive.

Alarmed at stockyard protests led by Farm Sanctuary (see *Network Notes*), meat industry leaders have called for reform. "Having downed and dying animals in your market leaves you vulnerable to protestors and lawsuits," the Livestock Marketing Assn. warned members in a Jan. 25 bulletin. The same day, the LMA's Minnesota chapter recommended that all livestock markets in the state should adopt a policy of refusing "downers." Editorialized *Country Today's* Feb. 27 issue, "If the fledgling Farm Sanctuary had sufficient funds to buy thousands of copies of its 18-minute video, *The Down Side Of Livestock Marketing*, for sure it would generate just the type of publicity and/or attitudes among the consuming public that agriculture does not need at this time." Added Lancaster Stockyards president Bill McCoy—an old Farm Sanctuary foe—in a March 13 speech to Pennsylvania farmers, "I think it's good we recognize that maybe there is a problem out there, and look at ourselves and clean up our operations and our industry."

The Natl. Institutes of Health in early March barred Natl. Cancer Institute AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo and staff from further collaboration with French immunologist Dr. Daniel Zagury. Zagury allegedly injected 10 children in Zaire with an experimental

Continued on next page

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vaccine made from samples of the AIDS virus isolated in Gallo's lab, after stating the vaccine would be used on monkeys. Zagury apparently tested another possible AIDS vaccine on himself in March, 1987. Gallo is also involved in heated controversy over allegations that he stole credit for having been first to isolate the AIDS virus from Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. An investigation by the Los Alamos Natl. Laboratory on March 12 reported that the virus Gallo supposedly isolated in 1985 could have been the same one that Montagnier isolated in 1983.

The Food and Drug Administration reportedly plans a crackdown against drug makers who promote prescription products directly to patients. The firms claim such ads are necessary to inform patients about their alternatives. The FDA argues that they may encourage patients to delay necessary surgery and other treatments, in hopes a drug can effect an easier, cheaper cure.

Louisiana-Pacific announced March 6 it would quit clear-cut logging in California. The firm owns about 500,000 acres of redwood and Douglas fir in northern Calif., but has recently shifted to emphasizing chipboard production from younger, smaller trees.

Spartina, a salt marsh cordgrass native to the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, took over only 430 acres of Washington state wetlands from 1894 to 1984, but now occupies 1,200 acres, and has spread up and down the west coast, as well as to 28 sites in Britain and others in New Zealand. Some researchers blame spartina for harming oyster and salmon habitat, by trapping sediment to turn marsh into meadows.

Conservation land purchases have been halted in New York by the state budget deficit. The largest forest left in the New York City area and hundreds of thousands of acres in the Adirondacks and Catskills may now be subdivided for development. The Adirondack Land Trust was left struggling to make payments on a \$2.5 million parcel near Lake George that it bought in the belief the state would take it over. The budget crisis also forced the N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Conservation to cease raising 60,000 pheasants a year as live targets for hunters.

Experimental hormone therapy has helped induce pregnancy in four captive female gorillas since 1988. Development

of the method has been slow, however, because the gorillas won't accept progesterone suppositories. Introduced to zoos in 1855, no gorilla gave birth in captivity before 1956, and at present only 48 percent of females conceive, while just 15 percent conceive more than once.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing its policy of excluding hybrids from endangered species status. The Farm Bureaus of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho contend that wolves should be removed from the endangered species list because some have cross-bred with dogs and coyotes, while hybridization may be the only way to save the Florida panther and other animals with a severely diminished gene pool.

The Mexican spotted owl should be added to the endangered species list, says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A cousin of the northern spotted owl, the Mexican spotted owl also dwells mainly in old-growth forest slated for logging. A USFWS study blames logging for 79 percent of Mexican spotted owl habitat loss.



Sandra / Mark Butkovsky

Of 12,811 deer known to have died in Connecticut during 1989, 68.4 percent were killed by hunters; 14 percent were killed under a crop protection program; 16.5 percent were roadkills; and only 1.1 percent died from other causes, including alleged predation by coyotes and domestic dogs.

The U.S. livestock inventory for 1990 showed a national population of 99.4 million cattle and 11.2 million sheep. Beef cattle breeding stock numbered 33.6 million; dairy cattle breeding stock, 10.2 million; and sheep breeding stock, 9.47 million.

Livestock sales accounted for \$2.7 billion in Colorado during 1990, 72 percent of the state's farm income.

U.S. milk production rose 16 percent from 1980 to 1990, but milk prices have fallen 28 percent in the past two years due to oversupply, and are now at their lowest level since 1978.

The economical topbar hive, invented in Kenya (but resembling homemade hives many beekeepers have used for decades), has reportedly given small U.S. honey producers an edge over big ones who still use traditional Langstroth hives. While small producers usually feed their bees through the winter, rather than lose productive stock, big producers typically gas 60 percent or more to save the cost of feeding.

The Univ. of Minnesota expects to have pigs bred to provide hearts for transplant into humans ready for testing by 1992.

The Food and Drug Administration has given Upjohn Co. the go-ahead to begin clinical trials of a blood substitute for humans made from cow's blood, made by Biopure Corp. of Boston. Limited testing on humans has already been done in Guatemala.

Baltimore Orioles pitcher Ben McDonald illegally hooked a 30-inch baby alligator during spring training and used her to scare teammates before releasing her into a nearby pond. Protest c/o Memorial Stadium, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Sheriff's deputies and game wardens spent most of a night shooting tranquilizer darts at a supposedly treed black bear near Keithville, Louisiana, recently—until sunrise revealed the "bear" was actually a dart-riddled trash bag.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources killed 31 elk near Vernal recently to keep them out of ranchers' hay. Another 18 drowned after fleeing to the thin ice of Lapoint Reservoir.

After killing a record number of javelinas in 1990, Texas hunters complained they couldn't find any this year.

The Univ. of Iowa has been ordered by the state Dept. of Health to either get a radioactive waste incinerator going by May 7, or stop making the waste. Since 1984, Univ. of Iowa experiments have produced over 2,000 barrels of radioactive dog corpses—more than twice as many as first acknowledged, and all of them still in storage.

Of 33,695 comments the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received on its 1988 draft environmental impact statement concerning National Wildlife Refuge System management, over 33,000 favored continued hunting and trapping within the refuges, including 18,712 comments from Georgia and 11,797 petition signatures that were obtained by pro-hunting groups. Approximately 300 comments opposed hunting and trapping in refuges. To join the comment process, write Refuges 2003 Planning Team, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, USFWS, Mail Stop 670 ARLSQ, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240.

The Oklahoma City Animal Shelter has been forced to suspend spaying and neutering animals under six months old because of protest from Choctaw, Okla. veterinarian Jim Lumbers, who pointed out that the practice appears to violate city law. Shelter supervisor Rick Johnson said the shelter began early spaying and neutering because records showed only 51 percent of the people who adopted younger animals ever presented proof of spaying or neutering to reclaim a \$25 deposit.

Overgrazing and cultivation have destroyed 85 percent of native bunchgrass communities and 70 percent of native shrub grasslands in the Columbia Basin and Rocky Mountain foothills of the northwestern U.S., the Nature Conservancy reports. The Bureau of Land Management has begun a 10-year study to see if native habitat can be restored to eight military bases and/or nuclear weapons test sites, located in six western states.

Police in Unalakleet, Alaska, shot at least four stray dogs March 8 to keep them from fighting with teams in the 1,163-mile Anchorage-to-Nome Iditarod sled race. Starting with up to 20 dogs apiece, sled teams average about 15 dogs each when they get to Unalakleet, 894 miles from the start, with 269 miles yet to run. Injured or exhausted dogs must be taken to checkpoints; abandoning them is not allowed. At deadline, four-time Iditarod champion Susan Butcher maintained a one-minute edge over two pursuers, with 18 dogs still running.

Univ. of Maryland researcher Thomas Chen has discovered he can make rancher rainbow trout grow faster by dipping them in a solution of water and growth hormone. Chen is also working on speeding trout growth through gene splicing. He expects to perfect the first method in two to four years, and the second in five to eight years.

The EPA is probing allegations that Craven Laboratories Inc. of Dallas, Tex., falsified reports done for chemical makers on the levels of pesticides absorbed by produce. The reports were used to set exposure limits. While animal testing was apparently not involved, the false information may have led to pesticide use at levels harmful to non-target wildlife.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service claims that "a task force of 12 trained investigators" found "no evidence to support allegations of stolen pets being sold into research" during a recent "intense three-month investigation." At least four documented instances of stolen pets being sold into research have come before U.S. courts in the past seven years, but a greater number of stolen pets are believed to be used to whet the bloodlust of fighting dogs.

To save \$187,500, New Orleans has quit paying the Louisiana SPCA to pick up stray animals. Nearby Jefferson Parish budgets \$862,665 for animal control, and on a per capita basis, the New Orleans pick-up budget was among the lowest in the U.S.

Rural renderers (knackers), who formerly picked up dead and down animals from farms, have virtually disappeared, as the combination of unpleasant hard work and low demand for hides, fat, and offal has made the once-common occupation economically unviable.

The FDA has ordered C.R. Eggs Inc. of King of Prussia, Pa., to stop selling eggs from hens who have been fed iodine-

rich kelp supplements, because the resulting iodine levels in the eggs do not reduce blood cholesterol, as the firm claimed, and could endanger public health.

Despite a year of effort, would-be rescuers in Malibu, Calif., still haven't caught a sea lion with a plastic gill net cutting into his neck.

Days after Parade magazine named the Knowland Park Zoo in Oakland one of the nation's 10 most improved, a resident bull elephant in musth killed keeper Lorne Jackson, 55, and trashed the year-old \$850,000 elephant habitat.

A refueling discharge at Jersey Central Power and Light Co.'s Forked River nuclear reactor killed 680 fish Feb. 19—but reactor staff were happy the toll wasn't in the thousands, as during previous refuelings.

Stellwagen Bank, lying between Cape Cod and Cape Ann, has been nominated to become the 10th National Marine Sanctuary. The site is bordered by the dumping area for heavily polluted sediment dredged from Boston Harbor.

California has allocated \$390,000 to build four fish ladders needed to restore the steelhead run to Malibu Creek, the species' southernmost spawning site.

The Natl. Wildlife Federation and the Great Bear Foundation have asked the Burlington Northern Railroad to reroute and reschedule winter grain trains in the vicinity of Glacier Natl. Park. Over the past three years, 106 grain cars have derailed nearby; seven grizzlies have been killed in bear/train collisions while feasting on the spillage.

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NEWS SHORTS

Continued from previous page

If Americans ate according to USDA guidelines, reports Univ. of Minnesota economist Jean Kinsey, wheat consumption would jump 17 percent, rice consumption would climb 30 percent, egg consumption would drop by half, and pork consumption would fall 40 percent. The per capita weekly food bill would be \$1.00 less.

A Conference Board survey of consumer attitudes toward 50 goods and services found that chicken, (red) meat, pet food, and fish were among the perceived six best buys, almost the reverse of the view of leading resource economists. Century Research Corp. meanwhile found that 600 New Yorkers named McDonald's most often as a company that "cares about the environment," again the reverse of much expert opinion, and named the ice cream maker Ben and Jerry's second. Exxon, whose environmental record is generally good despite the 1989 Valdez oil spill, was most often named as a corporate polluter.

Louisiana and the Nature Conservancy have agreed to protect 12,000 acres of prime eagle and water bird habitat in Terrebonne, Lafourche, and St. Charles parishes.

Despite legal restrictions or bans in all states but Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana, cockfighting "has never been bigger," according to HSUS investigator Eric Sakach. An estimated 1,000 people breed fighting cocks in San Diego County, Calif., alone. Ten thousand Californians belong to the Assn. for the Preservation of Gamecocks, while Hawaii has as many as 50,000 cockfighters.

Redbook's March issue featured nine celebrities speaking out against fur and modeling fake fur garments.

To protect declining fish stocks, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has voted to ban commercial fish-trapping from North Carolina to

Key West, Florida. The ban, which must be ratified by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Robt. Mosbacher, would take effect Jan. 1, 1992. About 70 fishing vessels presently deploy an estimated 2,500 fish traps.

The U.S. Customs Service has issued a set of 81 trading cards depicting all-star drug-sniffing dogs, as an aid to classroom anti-drug education. The 103 drug dogs now on duty have seized over 170 tons of marijuana and 100 pounds of cocaine since their work was spotlighted in the Oct. 1990 ANIMALS' AGENDA.

Cornell Univ. chemist Terry Acree has discovered that the molecule that provides the aroma of Labrusca grape-based wines also occurs in the anal sac of the Japanese weasel.

Columbian ramshorn snails have reportedly devastated native eelgrass in Landa Lake, at New Braunfels, Tex., upsetting the entire lake ecosystem. Observers fear that the non-native snails could spread to other lakes across the southwest with similar effect. Like Eurasian watermilfoil, a weed infesting northern lakes since the 1950s, the snails were introduced by pet stores as an aquarium accessory.

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

Round Three For AWA Dog, Cat, and Primate Standards

New Animal Welfare Act care standards for dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates took effect March 18, but were likely to be challenged in court by animal defenders.

"Some parts of the revised standards are very good," said attorney Valerie Stanley, who had been involved in litigation intended to expedite publication of the standards, "but on the issues of adequate opportunity for dogs to exercise and the psychological well-being of primates, they just rolled over and left it up to the researchers." Instead of issuing detailed regulations, the new standards merely state goals.

"USDA inspectors will no longer be able to measure humane care with an objective set of standards," explained Humane Society of the U.S. vice president of laboratory animals Dr. Martin Stephens. "Now they will have to

subjectively decide whether a facility's proposed plan meets the physical and psychological needs of the animals."

Christine Stevens of the Animal Welfare Institute directed her major criticisms at the lack of budget support for AWA enforcement in general. The USDA requested \$9.3 million for AWA enforcement in the next fiscal year; Stevens told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies that \$20 million would be minimal, and that the AWA enforcement staff should be doubled so that inspectors don't spend 50 to 70 percent of their working time traveling from point to point.

Published Feb. 14, the new AWA standards were required by the Dole-Brown amendments to the AWA passed by Congress in 1985. However, they were not even presented in draft form

until March 1989, and appeared then under threat of action by AWI and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. A second set of standards appeared in August 1990, as researchers argued that the cost of compliance could run up to \$1.75 billion. The USDA estimated the cost of complying with the present standards at \$537 million.

As the standards took effect, primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall began a detailed nationwide study of captive chimpanzee behavior, called Chimpanzee, that may determine for the first time exactly what is necessary to insure the psychological health of at least some primates. Teams of accredited observers at zoos across the U.S. are to note exactly what chimps are doing at each moment of the day on laptop computers.

—M.C.

ANIMAL NEWSLINE

HSUS In Hot Water Again

The Humane Society of the U.S. has "engaged in a course of conduct" that "violated the charity trust laws of California," the state attorney general's office has advised the group. Syndicated investigative columnists Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta reported on Feb. 20 that in consequence, HSUS funds raised in California could be seized by the state and redirected to other animal-related projects.

According to Anderson and Van Atta, specific concerns of the Calif. attorney general are that president John Hoyt "lives in a \$310,000 house bought by HSUS, using money that donors gave for prevention of cruelty to animals"; "the hiring of David Wills as vice president for investigations," two years after Wills "left the Michigan Humane Society in a financial condition that is still under investigation"; "money the society paid to Paul Irwin, the treasurer, to help fix up oceanfront property in Maine"; and "trips Hoyt's wife made on the charity's tab and other perks for Hoyt and Irwin," whose salaries are respectively \$146,927 and \$123,301 a year.

Asked for response, Hoyt told The ANIMALS' AGENDA, "No comment."

Most of the charges were published in 1988 by both Anderson and Van Atta and The ANIMALS' AGENDA, after which Hoyt cancelled an annual HSUS contribution to The ANIMALS' AGENDA of \$5,000 a year (and apparently also cancelled publication of a 300-page economic study of the fur trade authored by ANIMALS' AGENDA news editor Merritt Clifton just before Clifton joined the ANIMALS' AGENDA staff).

Wills, who said he made \$100,000 a year as director of Michigan Humane, was reportedly cleared of wrongdoing in connection with an MHS deficit of as much as \$250,000, but former bookkeeper Denise Hopkins was charged with embezzling about \$60,000.

Hoyt, American SPCA president John Kullberg, and Massachusetts SPCA president Gus Thornton were already under fire for a joint statement of "Resolutions for the 1990s" they co-authored and published as an advertisement in the Jan. 29 *New York Times*. Intended to counter criticism of animal rights militancy, the statement was endorsed by 104 of several thousand animal protection groups who were invited to sign on. It backfired somewhat when, five days later, it was also partially endorsed by the Fur Information Council of America, the leading fur industry defense organization.

The statement clearly noted that

"trapping, hunting and raising of animals for their fur are unjustifiable, cruel practices," and affirmed that all signatories intend to continue to "urge the public not to purchase or wear fur."

However, the first listed resolution, a declaration of nonviolent principle, included the words "threats and acts of violence against people and willful destruction and theft of property have been associated with the animal protection movement." That enabled FICA to welcome what it called "long overdue pronouncements" and "a new approach," refocusing attention on the militant tactics of a minuscule few, rather than the suffering of animals.

Hoyt had prominently used the same phrase in a Sept. 1990 letter to *Science* magazine—and had already caught flak for months from animal advocates who felt he should have made plain that most have neither used nor accepted any violent tactics.

Hoyt was more clear in an Oct. 27 address to HSUS membership, distinguishing between the animal rights and animal welfare philosophies, expressing concern that confrontational tactics perhaps useful a decade ago have become counterproductive, acknowledging the value of appropriately focused civil disobedience, further acknowledging the contributions of animal rights groups to advancing animal welfare, and explaining why HSUS prefers to avoid alienating the societal mainstream by encouraging incremental change, rather than demanding overnight turnaround.

Hoyt's analysis of the position of the animal cause was not new or unique. Sociologist Bill Moyer offered similar impressions at the Sept. 1989 movement planning workshop co-hosted by The ANIMALS' AGENDA and Friends of Animals, and numerous groups have reassessed campaign strategies in light of Moyer's advice that activists must strive to uphold an image as good citizens. As a whole, though Hoyt criticized PETA and Mobilization for Animals by name, his speech was apparently designed to close rifts, rather than open them.

But Hoyt's tone had been much less conciliatory in a Sept. 13 memo to former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, disavowing any association with a heavily rhetorical and rather undiplomatic request for a meeting with Yeutter from Farm Animal Reform Movement president Alex Hershaft. Hershaft's letter had opened with the assertion that "The several million members of our nation's animal



John Hoyt

protection movement and millions of other compassionate Americans are deeply disturbed by the rapidly deteriorating conditions...in U.S. factory farms," followed by a two-paragraph recitation of common abuses, a paragraph stating there could be no debate about such "immorality," and the charge that "Federal farm animal protection statutes are non-existent or not enforced," all preceding the request itself, which was made on behalf of "several key leaders of the U.S. animal protection movement." Hoyt's name had been appended (without permission), along with those of several other animal protection group heads.

Hershaft, Hoyt charged, "in no way speaks for the U.S. animal protection movement. He is, rather, associated with the animal rights movement through and through. He has...chosen to utilize the term 'animal protection' in an attempt to co-opt the kind of respectability that HSUS and a few other organizations have worked hard to achieve in order to distinguish the legitimate animal protection movement from the more radical elements."

Obtaining a copy of the memo, Hershaft made it public on November 24. HSUS vice president for companion animals Phyllis Wright meanwhile blasted neuter-and-release programs for feral cats at length in *Cat Fancy*, naming PETA (though the tactic has been developed and advanced by mainstream humane groups); and on Nov. 14, according to John Hollrah of Voice for Animals, HSUS board member Amy Freeman Lee told an audience at the University of Texas Health Science Center that "Animal rights...is a pejorative term," "Animal rights groups are a fanatical fringe," and defended vivisection without anesthesia "if it were necessary to advance medical science."

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Like Hershaft, Hollrah widely circulated a letter of protest. Hershaft then suggested HSUS might be "actively engaged in a national campaign

to discredit the animal rights movement," and asked that the purported "disinformation campaign" be discussed at the Summit for Animals, an annual gathering of animal defense group

leaders, which HSUS has not attended since 1988. The Summit, however, declined to take up the issue. —M.C.

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND

Guard Your Wallet

The direct-mail fundraising firm Watson and Hughey is at it again, trying to rent animal protection groups' mailing lists for use by Citizens for Humane Scientific Research, "a program of Project Cure." Project Cure and another Watson and Hughey charity purporting to aid animals, the National Animal Protection Fund a.k.a. Adopt-A-Pet, were among eight of the fundraiser's clients who joined Watson and Hughey in agreeing last January to pay \$2.1 million to settle prosecutions by 10 states for deceptive solicitation. Both groups were also on a list of allegedly fraudulent fund-seekers published by Ann Landers in 1989.

Pro-Fur and Pro-Hunting Groups in Trouble

Admittedly as much as \$400,000 in debt, the Fur Information Council of America has denied published claims that it owes as much as \$500,000 to the public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, \$300,000 to the Fur Farm Animal Welfare Coalition and/or Fur America, and \$120,000 to \$150,000 to consumer

publications for pro-fur ads placed in late 1990. *Fur Age Weekly* reported Feb. 25 that retail contributions to FICA fell by half in 1990.

The pro-hunting National Wildlife Federation and Wilderness Society are also in financial trouble due to low donations during the 1990 Christmas season. While anxiety over the impending Persian Gulf war and recession brought an estimated 40 percent drop in donations to charities across the spectrum, from animal shelters to symphonies, NWF and WS were the first in the areas of animal and habitat protection to lay off staff. NWF president Jay Hair dismissed 56 of his 780 employees, while delaying a scheduled increase in his own salary of \$220,000. The Wilderness Society laid off seven of 135 employees.

Sex v. Pay

Of the 44 animal and habitat protection group heads whose 1989 compensation was listed in the April ANIMALS' AGENDA, the 27 men who drew a salary averaged \$85,830. The nine women who drew a salary averaged \$57,318. Six men and two women did



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not accept any financial compensation. Of the 158 highest paid group staffers, 120 were men. Only three of the 18 best-paid staffers were women; eight of the 18 lowest-paid staffers were. Survey data indicates that the contributor base of the groups listed is approximately 80 percent female.

—M.C.

ADC Fiscal Recommendation Due This Month

Animal defenders have only days to oppose renewed funding of wildlife massacres under the federal Animal Damage Control Program. The Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies are expected to recommend an ADC budget for the coming fiscal year in mid-May.

As discussion of the ADC appropriation began, the ADC resumed shooting coyotes from the air at the Prescott National Forest in Arizona, purportedly to protect pronghorn antelope fawns, over protest from Prescott National Forest Friends. Last year the ADC spent \$22,000 to kill 108 coyotes at and around the Prescott forest. Even so, no pronghorn fawns survived. PNFF argues that



the real reasons for the failure of pronghorn reproduction are overgrazing by ranchers who lease National Forest grazing rights, destruction of brush

cover by cattle, and obstruction of pronghorn trails by five-strand barbed wire fences, which the small antelope often are unable to leap.

Formed in 1931, as dustbowl-stricken ranchers blamed predators for Great Depression economic woes rather than their own overgrazing and destruction of watershed, the ADC spends approximately \$30 million a year with a mandate to conduct "campaigns for the destruction or control of animals injurious to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, wild game animals, furbearing animals, and birds."

The ADC now operates in 14 states, killing an average of about 4.6 million birds and 250,000 mammals a year.

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according to the Fund for Animals. The toll typically includes 75,000 to 100,000 coyotes, as well as 9,000 to 30,000 beavers, 5,000 raccoons, over a thousand bobcats, and several hundred wolves and mountain lions. Coyotes have been killed with particular malice—trapped, poisoned, shot from the air, burned alive with napalm hosed into their dens, dragged from their dens with hooks and stomped. Ironically it was the ADC attempt to wipe out coyotes that drove them from their native southwest to all parts of North America during the 1940s. Studies have proved that coyote fertility quadruples under intense hunting pressure. But the ADC has disregarded scientific fact, pressing the body count.

"It's purely a numbers game, how many you can kill," ADC trapper Bill Austin told *High Country News* recently. "They have simply wanted to kill

coyotes, lots of coyotes. And that is the only thing they have ever wanted to do."

Added University of Idaho predator ecologist Robert Crabtree, "What they're doing makes absolutely no sense. Killing coyotes like they do is like arresting every kid in town because someone stole a candy bar," except that suspected human shoplifters aren't summarily given the death penalty. As many as two dozen coyotes are killed for every rancher's complaint about the loss of calf or lamb. The cost of ADC killing is more than five times the estimated value of livestock lost to predation. And U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data indicates that ranchers routinely blame coyotes and other predators for killing animals who actually died of disease or exposure. Use of sheepdogs and burros (who terrify coyotes) to protect livestock is known to be much more effective

than killing predators. But politically powerful ranchers want blood—coyote blood—and Congress, to date, has shown no inclination to promote any alternative.

[Senate subcommittee members are Burdick (D-ND), Bumpers (D-AR), Harkin (D-IA), Adams (D-WA), Fowler (D-GA), Kerry (D-NE), Cochran (R-MS), Kasten (R-WI), Specter (R-PA), Nickles (R-OK), and Bond (R-MO). Their address is c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. House subcommittee members are Whitten (D-MS), Traxler (D-MI), McHugh (D-NY), Natcher (D-KY), Durbin (D-IL), Kaptur (D-OH), Price (D-NC), Smith (D-IA), Obey (D-WI), Skeen (R-NM), Myers (R-IN), Weber (R-MN), and Vucanovich (R-NV). Their address is c/o House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.]

—M.C.

Worsening Western Drought Imperils Wildlife

The five-year drought afflicting seven western states obliged California's biggest water wholesaler, the Metropolitan Water District (of the greater Los Angeles/San Diego area) to impose water rationing on March 4. The district followed the lead of the state of California and the federal government in cutting water sales to farms by 90 percent. Animal-based agriculture uses 9.5 million acre feet of water per year in California, about a third of the total supply available for human use.

A March 6 water pipeline rupture near Bishop, Calif., refilled the dry Owens River Gorge and threatened Los Angeles with loss of yet another water source—if trout swam into the gorge from the Pleasant Valley Reservoir, downstream. Calif. law prohibits draining a trout stream. Los Angeles lost access to Rush Creek, near Lake Mono, about a decade back in a similar incident.

Farm groups were expected to fight water releases intended to aid the endangered Sacramento River winter chinook salmon run—but experts feared the releases, intended to help adult salmon get through shallows, might also scald their eggs, since the water could only come from sun-heated low reservoirs. The species is in rapid decline, as just 450 spawned in 1990, down from 500 in 1989.

The combination of drought and a 75,000-gallon oil spill into the Santa

Clara River threatened another fish with extinction—the unarmored three-spined stickleback. Orange County and the Army Corps of Engineers found a way to save both six billion gallons of storm runoff and the least Bell's vireo, however, by releasing the water from behind Prado Dam at a rate that kept the level below the nesting sites of the last 400 breeding pairs of the endangered songbird.

Firefighters feared perhaps the worst forest-and-brushfire season ever, especially in California, where heavy March rains stimulated the growth of grass without significantly replenishing lakes, streams, and reservoirs. By summer the grass will be tinder-dry, just a spark away from igniting trees killed by the combination of prolonged drought with an unusual December freeze. With many military aircraft and National Guard units still overseas in connection with the late winter Persian Gulf war, fire crews are short-handed and have little help in sight. Faced with protecting whole cities in canyons where the notorious Santa Ana desert winds can drive flames at up to 40 miles an hour, the Calif. Dept. of Forestry was expected to write off uninhabited areas. The department also advised fire crews against trying to put out eucalyptus fires, as burning eucalyptus trees emit a highly toxic resin that can endanger anyone nearby. At the same time, most western fire departments

stepped up vigilance, dispatching personnel and equipment in advance to areas where lightning was forecast, hoping to put out even the smallest fires before they spread.

Hot, dry weather encouraged insect reproduction. Thirsty ants invaded homes in unprecedented numbers, gathering wherever moisture could be found, while the Nevada Dept. of Agriculture sought \$300,000 in emergency funds to combat an anticipated 200-fold increase in Mormon crickets—whose numbers had already multiplied exponentially in May and June of 1990. Beetles, however, were declining due to crop failures. Hungry birds who normally eat beetles had reportedly turned to strawberries, eating an estimated 30 percent of the winter crop in Ventura County.

American Water Development Inc. of Colorado took advantage of the drought to press ahead with a four-year-old scheme to tap subterranean aquifers beneath the Great Sand Dunes National Monument. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District recently countered by borrowing \$472,000 toward legal fees expected to result from contesting the plan. The loan was authorized by a local referendum, 8,700 to 136. The case, which could dictate the future of the unique inland dunes habitat, is due to reach court in October.

—M.C.

Energy Policy Threatens Wildlife

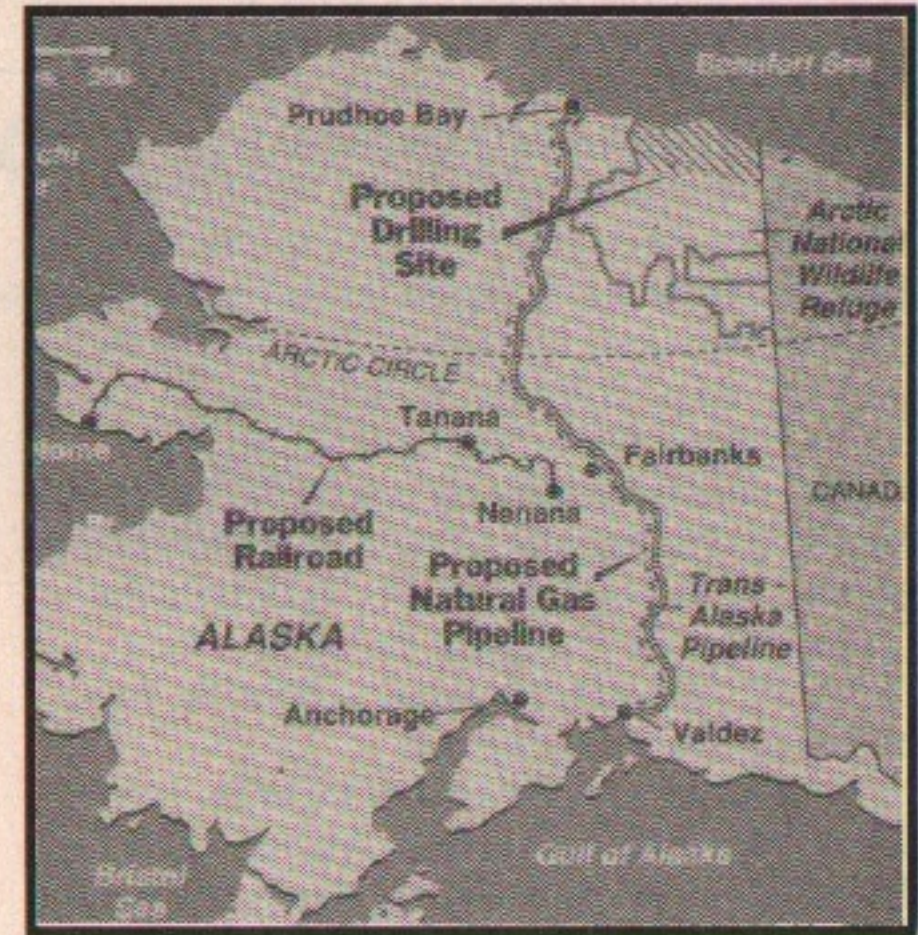
A new U.S. energy strategy proposed by President George Bush calls for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and reviving the nuclear power industry by easing safety requirements.

Both measures would menace wildlife. The proposed Arctic drilling would affect the 180,000-strong Porcupine caribou herd, which ranges into the refuge from Canada's Yukon Territory, along with grizzly bears, wolves, Dall sheep, musk oxen, polar bears, walrus, and numerous other rare animals who inhabit either the refuge or adjacent waters. But nuclear deregulation could have an even greater longterm impact on wildlife, at hundreds of locations. Routine cooling and refueling water discharges from nuclear plants kill fish and disrupt aquatic ecosystems; birds and small mammals are much more sensitive than humans to accidental radiation releases; and nuclear waste storage sites around the U.S. have already been penetrated by burrowing mammals, turtles, birds, and snakes, who have spread radioactive contamination into nearby habitat. (See "Taking Power From The Animals," July/August 1990.)

As the energy policy was announced, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft report

documenting incompatible or harmful uses at 63 percent of the 450 U.S. wildlife refuges. Oil and gas drilling affect 10 of the 15 refuges in Texas. The findings mirrored those of a 1989 study done by the General Accounting office.

State and federal negotiators meanwhile said Exxon Corp. had agreed to pay a fine of \$100 million as part of a \$1.1 billion settlement of government actions resulting from the 10.9-million-gallon Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, off Alaska, on March 24, 1989. The deal would also permit the eventual release of thus far secret damage studies done by the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dept. of the Interior. Studies done by the state of Alaska and the Coast Guard would remain secret pending the outcome of further litigation in which they are involved. Exxon, which could have been fined up to \$1.6 billion and assessed \$600 million more in related penalties, still faces at least 330 private damage suits over the spill. Tens of thousands of seabirds, hundreds of marine mammals, raptors, and shore-dwelling mammals, and countless fish perished during the spill. In addition, salmon runs have been damaged, and some sea bird colonies in the area who survived the spill itself have not reproduced



successfully since, amounting to the loss of several hundred thousand chicks—a major longterm blow to species survival.

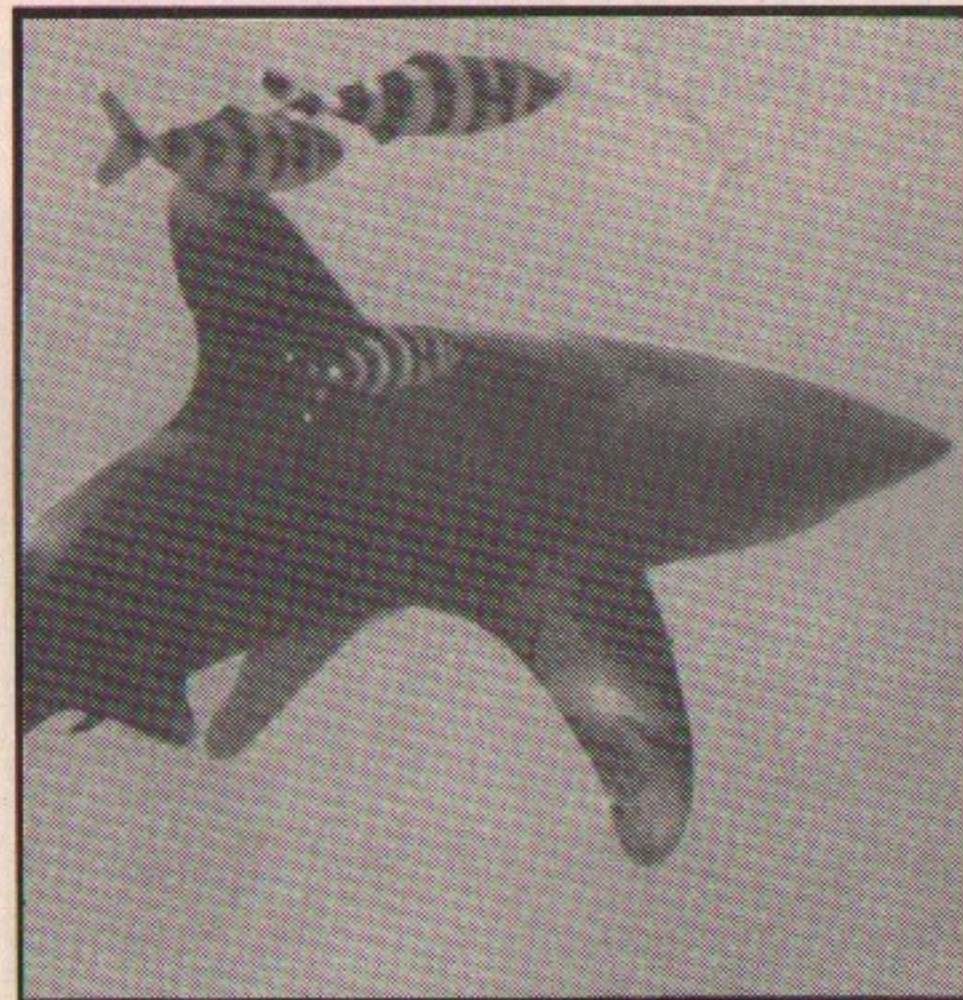
Days after the Exxon Valdez settlement was announced, Exxon also agreed to spend \$10 to \$15 million on conservation land acquisition and wetlands restoration around New York Harbor, to avoid claims resulting from the Jan. 1990 leak of 567,000 gallons of oil into Arthur Kill, an inlet off the Long Island Sound.

—M.C.

Oldies But Goodies

Long despised, sharks and cockroaches—two of the most ancient species alive—are astounding researchers with their levels of intelligence, sensory perception, and social interaction.

University of Nebraska shark specialist Scott Michael argues that some shark "behaviors are more reminiscent of birds and mammals" than of other fish. Many sharks and rays (a closely related species) have good vision and see in color; some can "see" light through transparent patches of skin on the tops of their heads, of aid in deep diving; most use four separate sensory systems to detect chemicals in the water at levels as low as one part amino acid per billion; and they use exceptionally keen sensitivity to electrical fields both to find prey and find mates. Female sharks and rays apparently congregate in self-defense



against aggressive males, but separate from groups of 40 or 50 to mate. Cockroaches too "do quite a few

things that we normally associate more with mammals than with insects," says Rutgers entomologist Coby Schal. Some species nurse their young; males sometimes help in feeding young; some mate for up to five or six years; nest members maintain group identity and social behavior; and in one species, mothers carry the young in a pouch.

Cockroaches have also become popular research subjects, partly because their heads can live up to 12 hours after decapitation. "People get all worked up over using kittens and puppies for medical experiments," explains entomologist May Berenbaum of the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign, "but nobody is going to shed any tears if you kill a few thousand cockroaches."

—M.C.

Give Saddam The (Perdue) Bird, Urges Spira

"As U.S. citizens we all oppose chemical and biological weapons," Henry Spira of the Coalition for Non-Violent Food wrote to George Bush as the land war against Iraq got started. "But," asked Spira, quoting USDA findings that up to 40 percent of all processed poultry carries salmonella, "why spend billions on cruise missiles and 'smart bombs' when we can wipe out the Iraqi army with a few plane loads of chicken parts? ...We can do the whole thing under the guise of a humanitarian food lift."

"Not just any chicken parts, Mr. President," Spira continued. "The Pentagon likes to pay top dollar for specialty items like screwdrivers and

toilet seats. So it makes sense to use premium chickens like the Perdue brand. As Mr. Perdue's celebrated yellow chickens come raining out of the sky, Saddam's heart will miss a beat and the Iraqi soldiers will tremble. But moments later, hungry Iraqis will be thankfully scooping up toxic birds. They may die before they eat the birds if they forget to wash their hands before handling them...We could probably throw in a few French fries to make this look like an international coalition effort...

"You may not like the idea of awarding a major government contract to a guy like Frank Perdue," Spira acknowledged, citing Perdue's admitted involvement with the Mafia, the record

fines his plants have drawn for safety violations, and his intimidation of female workers who reportedly urinate at their work stations rather than incur penalties for leaving to use a bathroom.

"But," Spira concluded, "Perdue chickens are fighting chickens. We know this because Mr. Perdue dismembers their beaks with a hot knife so they won't kill each other when 25,000 birds are stuffed into a single shed with less than a square foot apiece...Let's get a Perdue chicken in every Iraqi pot and out of our supermarkets."

Spira also asked Barbara Bush to stop serving chicken in the White House.

—M.C.

COURT CALENDAR

Civil Disobedience

With constitutional appeals of hunter harassment convictions pending in at least three states, Wyoming on Feb. 15 adopted the toughest hunter harassment bill yet, providing a fine of \$10,000 for any organization that urges activists to disturb hunters and a fine of \$50,000 for the second offense. Hunter harassment laws have already been found unconstitutional in Wisconsin and Connecticut, but Connecticut has adopted a new law to similar effect. At least 39 states now have hunter harassment laws.

The Maryland Senate Judiciary on Feb. 26 rejected a bill to repeal that state's hunter harassment law. Thirteen activists convicted of hunter harassment in Maryland last year are planning an appeal, supported by the Fund for Animals. The Virginia law also faces an imminent court test, as charges have been reinstated against 10 activists who were arrested at the Mason's Neck Wildlife Refuge last year. The charges had been dropped on technical grounds.

Voice for Animals members Kay Lair and Nancy Patterson were charged with blocking a public access Feb. 17, after chaining themselves to the gate at the Northwest Gun Club, near San Antonio, Tex., hoping to stop a pigeon shoot. The three-day shoot was delayed for about four hours. The



Herman Schwartz

protest made statewide headlines.

Fourteen members of Voices for Animals—a different group with almost the same name—were arrested for criminal trespass and disorderly conduct for waving banners and chanting Feb. 24 at a Tucson rodeo. Three of the group tried unsuccessfully to lock themselves to the gate from which animals were driven into the arena. Four Voices for Animals members were charged with disorderly conduct four days earlier for chanting "Procter and Gamble kills animals" outside a seminar held by the Collegiate Leadership Conference, which a P&G representative was attending.

Lab Raid Conviction

Former Univ. of Buffalo student James Como, 19, of Bronxville, N.Y., pleaded guilty Feb. 26 to third-degree attempted burglary and gave police the names of four other current and former

SUNY-Buffalo students who allegedly joined him in releasing 750 rats, mice, hamsters, and chickens from cages at the campus medical school animal laboratory on Oct. 27, 1990. Their motives remain undisclosed, but police said an anonymous caller who said the raid was the work of a nonexistent animal rights group had actually been Como's girlfriend, trying to confuse the investigation. Como will sentenced on May 7.

Humane Enforcement

New York City moved March 11 to lift a two-year-old ban on pit bull terriers. The ban will be replaced by a requirement that all owners of dogs found to be dangerous after a hearing must carry \$100,000 worth of liability insurance; register and muzzle or confine the dog; and take an obedience course along with the dog. Dogs who cause death or severe injury will be killed. Of 395 dog bites reported in New York City during January, 27 were by German shepherds, 24 by mutts, 23 by pit bulls, six by chihuahuas, and the rest by other breeds.

Pit bull trainer Guy Phillip Walker of Golden, Colo., pleaded guilty March 6 to one count of felony dogfighting, in a deal with prosecutors that is expected to secure his testimony against former Denver TV news reporter Wendy Bergen and cameramen Jim Stair and Scott Wright. Bergen, Stair, and Wright go to trial June 17 for allegedly hiring Walker to stage a dogfight as part of a purportedly faked expose.

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Seventeen gamecocks captured in a Feb. 2 raid on an East Camden, Pa., cockpit were adopted out by the Animal Welfare Assn., after Superior Court Judge Paul Poreca rejected the local SPCA's contention that they should be euthanized, as too dangerous to release. Philadelphia SPCA official Sy Goldberg testified that he knew of no case where a cock trained to fight had been successfully redomesticated. The AWA contended the cocks would be dangerous only to other cocks.

Kentucky rabbit farmer Andrew Henkleman was charged in absentia with misdemeanor cruelty Feb. 15, after the Campbell County Animal Protective Assn. found 75 to 100 rabbits dead in his barn, apparently of starvation even though plenty of food was stored nearby. Hungry dogs had broken into some of the cages to eat the corpses. Henkleman's whereabouts were unknown.

Albuquerque officials seized 62 cats and 13 dogs Feb. 20 from a rental van driven by Gayle Brinnehl, 49, who said she was seeking a home for them all after running into trouble with humane authorities in Indianapolis. The animals were reportedly malnourished and dehydrated.

Keven Goodwin, 19, Tim Daniels, 18, and William Norris, 18, all of Key West, Fla., were indicted March 6 for beating a lactating Key deer to death with a baseball bat. The size of a big dog, Key deer are highly endangered, with only 250 to 300 left. Wardens were unable to find the orphaned fawn.

Animal dealer Orville Britt of Bowling Green, Kentucky, has been fined \$10,000 and ordered to refrain from any business requiring USDA permits, for allegedly selling at least 449 dogs and 18 cats in 42 separate transactions without having the requisite Class B dealer's license. Vaunda Parker of Carl Junction, Mo., was fined \$5,000 and ordered to close her kennel for selling 58 dogs without a wholesaler's permit. Charles and Lonnie Doyle of Rockford, Ill., were fined \$4,000 and barred from obtaining dealers' licenses for 10 years on similar charges, while John Hays of Lyons, Neb., was fined \$6,000 and given a 60-day license suspension for slow response to a USDA order to "correct deficiencies" at his kennels.

A four-hour search for a lost dog held up 75,000 New York subway riders aboard 63 trains on March 15. A motorman finally spotted the dog, but was ordered not to stop. Damage resulting when the train killed the dog delayed traffic for another hour, after which the American SPCA charged both

the motorman and the New York Transit Authority with criminal cruelty.

Richard Gonzalez, 21, of Florence-Firestone, Calif., drew 110 days in jail Feb. 19 for killing a puppy in front of children last Christmas Day. March 15, former Hollywood, Fla., city worker Floyd McSwain got 18 months on probation, a \$200 fine, and was ordered to spend 100 hours working in local animal shelters, for kicking a kitten to death.

Biloxi, Mississippi fishermen Anh Cong Le, Dung Van Bui, An Ngoc Nguyen, and Giau Ming Vo will be sentenced May 1 for egg poaching that virtually wiped out the laughing gull and pelican populations of Mud Lumps Island near the mouth of the Mississippi River. The four pleaded guilty in Federal District Court at New Orleans on Feb. 19.

Organ grinder Joseph Anthony Rotondo, 20, was charged with murder Feb. 27 for allegedly shooting his employer, Todd Tucker, also 20, near Las Cruces, New Mexico. Tucker's two ringtailed monkeys, whose care had concerned animal defenders for several years, were taken into police custody.

Former Santa Fe, N.M., County Animal Shelter director Julie Padilla has been charged with embezzling about \$123,000 in shelter funds, from Feb. 1988 through Sept. 1990. In Oct. 1990, the shelter directors sued Padilla, seeking the return of \$49,000. Padilla countersued, charging breach of contract.

Carson, Calif. passed an ordinance at an emergency meeting March 10 to allow a pet alligator to remain in the yard where he has lived since 1967—20 years before a statewide ban on alligators took effect, one year before Carson was incorporated. The alligator had been temporarily seized by state wildlife officials, outraging much of the neighborhood as well as owner Nevola Collins.



Associated Press/LA Times

Other Actions

Seeking to halt cattle and sheep grazing at the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge in southern Oregon, the Wilderness Society and Oregon

Natural Desert Assn. on Feb. 8 sued Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The groups contend that most of the refuge budget is spent to benefit ranchers rather than antelope, and that erosion and plant loss due to overgrazing have severely damaged the habitat.

Two General Accounting Office investigators told Congress on March 6 that former Natl. Cancer Institute Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology administrator Prem Sabin accepted at least \$33,000 in illegal payments from Pfizer Laboratories, ASTA Pharma, and Reposif for private drug research done at public facilities with public funds. An account Sabin set up with the same initials as the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences actually belonged to the Family Account for the Education of the Sarin children, the investigators said.

Responding to a petition from Earth Island Institute, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Feb. 19 reimposed a ban on imports of Mexican tuna that had been lifted last October by U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson. The ban is to remain in effect until Mexican fishermen give up tuna netting methods that also kill endangered dolphins.

South Carolina state representatives B.J. Gordon and Larry Blanding were convicted March 9 in Columbia, S.C., of taking bribes to support bills that would have legalized horse and dog racing. A total of 14 S.C. legislators and six lobbyists were indicted in the case; most of the others pleaded guilty. State representative Luther Taylor was convicted in the only previous trial, drawing a six-and-a-half-year prison term.

Justice Carol Arber of the New York State Supreme Court in early February rejected the Natl. Audubon Society's attempt to bar the Audubon Society of the State of New York from using the word "Audubon." The latter group was founded in 1987 by Ronald Dodson, former New York regional director for the Natl. Audubon Society, after budget cuts by the national group threatened to close his office. At least five other states also have independent Audubon Societies.

The cosmetics firm Mary Kay Corp. sued Avon Products Inc. in Dallas on March 13 for \$10 million in punitive damages, alleging Avon had searched trash bins to get Mary Kay trade secrets. Whether any of the purportedly purloined data pertained to animal testing or protests thereof was not disclosed. Both firms have observed a moratorium on animal testing since 1989.

—M.C.

Animal Testing and the Law

Researchers and manufacturers insist that animal testing is an essential part of screening new products and drugs. Animal defenders respond that testing may be done merely to reduce the legal risk of product liability. While both positions have elements of truth to them, neither is entirely correct. Either way, determining "cause" is the issue, but the scientific and legal definitions of "cause" are substantially different. While science admits different degrees of certainty for different purposes, courtrooms demand absolutes: guilty or not guilty.

Typically, science seeks general replicability of results, whereas the law seeks the specific cause of one particular event. Even if the cause of that event was a fluke, whose outcome was contrary to scientific probability, that it happened at all may expose the person or firm responsible for the cause to legal liability—especially if the risk such a fluke might occur could demonstrably have been foreseen.

Frye v. United States in 1923 established the potential admissibility of animal test data in cases involving human beings. The case held that since the findings of animal research were generally recognized as applicable to humans by medical experts, the results of such research could be accepted as expert testimony; that, in effect, the applicability of the results rather than of the method of deriving them would be the issue under debate. Elam v. Alcolac Inc. in 1988 reaffirmed Frye: "Finding of carcinogenicity in rodents is proof that the chemical is carcinogenic in a mammalian species...In the absence of adequate data of humans, it is reasonable for practical purposes to regard chemicals for which there is sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals as if they presented a carcinogenic risk to humans."

However, courts have also recognized that test data often appears to prove a proposition (especially to the uninitiated) when the logical links do not hold. Thus, even though animal test data may be the principal source of information regarding response levels to a particular substance, and may be the basis for minimum safe-level exposure standards, courts have occasionally rejected such data as evidence of a substance causing certain specific toxic

effects in particular individuals.

This has produced conflicting trends in jurisprudence. Courts exercising what is called "passive judicial control" tend to accept animal test data as generally reliable, in line with Frye. Others, applying "active judicial review," reject the Frye standard as inadequate, and rely more heavily on the applicable Federal Rules of Evidence, established in 1975 and 1987. The active judicial review approach seems to be gathering momentum, as recent cases have demonstrated significant failures of animal test data. In Wells v. Ortho Pharmaceutical, for instance, a 1986 case where the Frye precedent was followed, the court ultimately found conflicting "studies to be inconclusive on the ultimate issue of whether the product caused Katie Wells' birth defects." The jury was left to decide which party had greater credibility, essentially on the basis of intuition.

Two cases involving Johnson Controls exemplify the conflicting judicial interpretations. In the first case, International Union, UAW v. Johnson Controls, the court rejected UAW's animal research evidence, stating that it

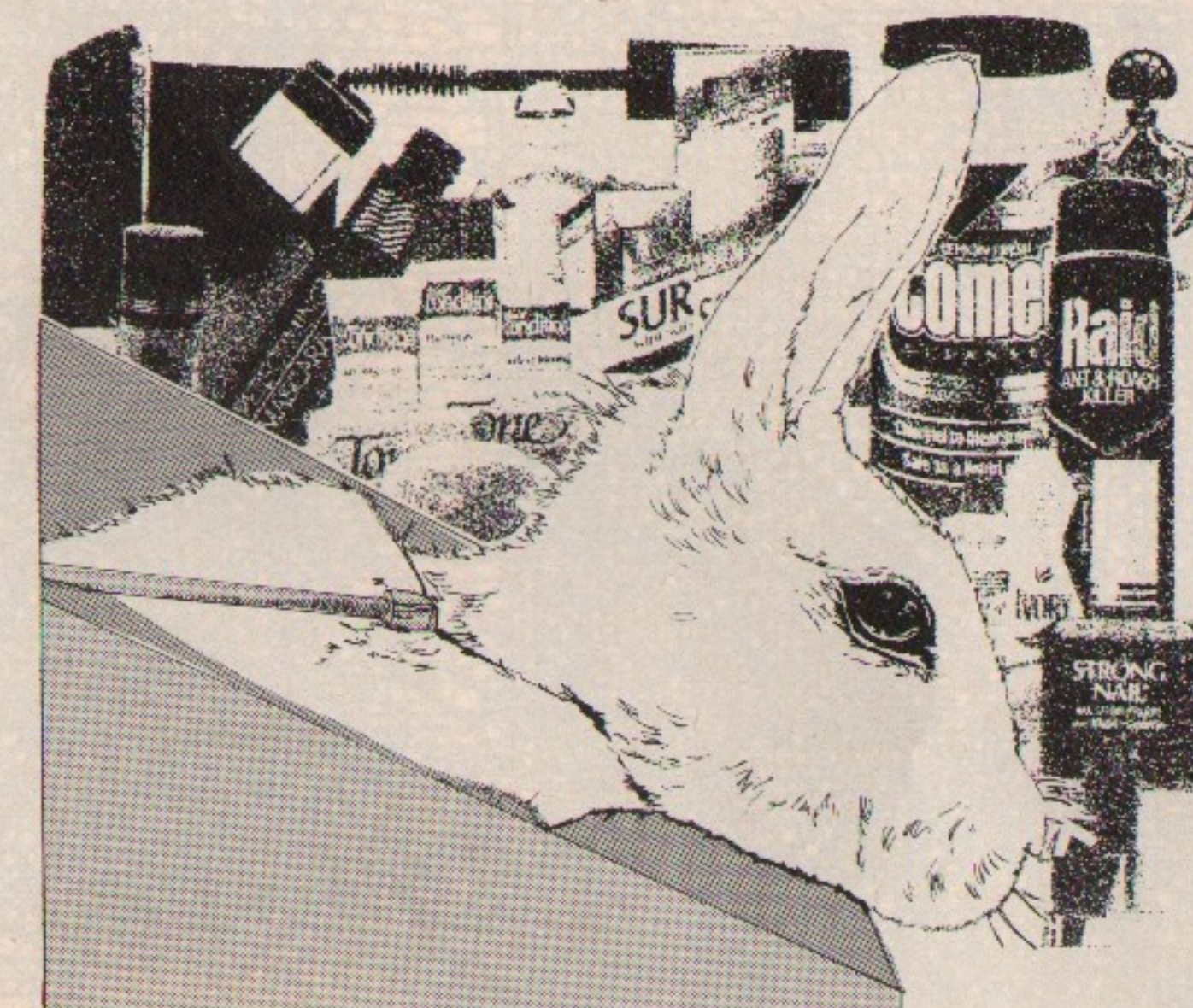
was "speculative," "unconvincing," and not "solid scientific data." But in Johnson Controls v. Fair Employment and Housing (1990), the court argued: "Commission investigators should not reject animal studies in such a wholesale manner...The medical profession...will be stunned to discover that animal studies are too 'speculative'...to be the basis of conclusions about risks. These studies may in some cases provide the best available evidence to evaluate fetal or other human health hazards in the workplace."

Legal problems are intrinsic to the most commonly cited forms of animal testing.

◆ The LD-50 test, in which animals are subjected to a toxic substance until half of them die, may indicate under judicial standards only that half of the animals have died, not that the substance in question was necessarily the cause. It also does not establish toxic effects that do not culminate in death.

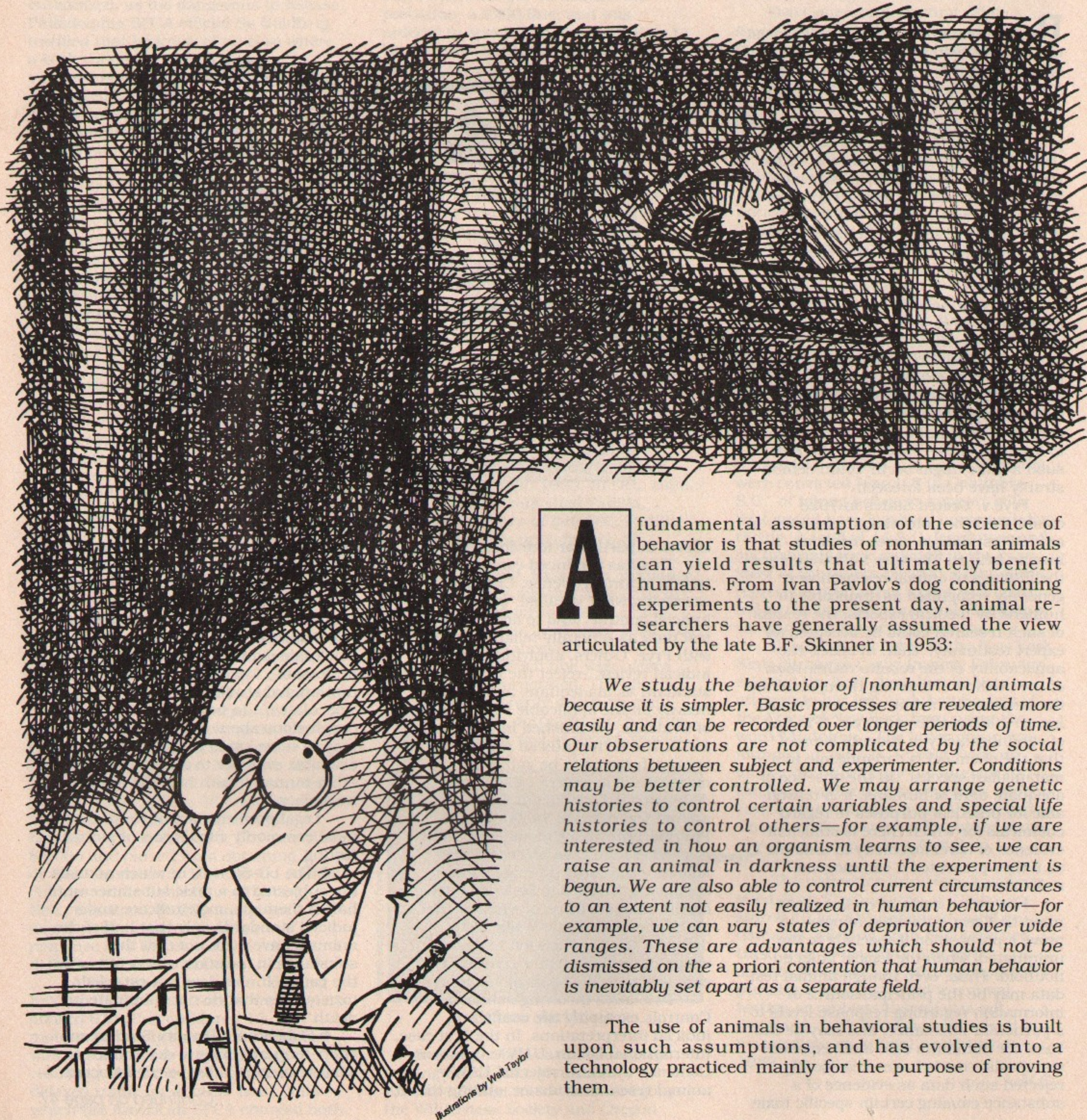
◆ Subchronic Toxicity Studies are short-term attempts to determine at what level some adverse effects occur. A

Continued on page 47



Animal Research: A Psychological Ritual

BY ROGER E. ULRICH, Ph.D.



A fundamental assumption of the science of behavior is that studies of nonhuman animals can yield results that ultimately benefit humans. From Ivan Pavlov's dog conditioning experiments to the present day, animal researchers have generally assumed the view articulated by the late B.F. Skinner in 1953:

We study the behavior of [nonhuman] animals because it is simpler. Basic processes are revealed more easily and can be recorded over longer periods of time. Our observations are not complicated by the social relations between subject and experimenter. Conditions may be better controlled. We may arrange genetic histories to control certain variables and special life histories to control others—for example, if we are interested in how an organism learns to see, we can raise an animal in darkness until the experiment is begun. We are also able to control current circumstances to an extent not easily realized in human behavior—for example, we can vary states of deprivation over wide ranges. These are advantages which should not be dismissed on the a priori contention that human behavior is inevitably set apart as a separate field.

The use of animals in behavioral studies is built upon such assumptions, and has evolved into a technology practiced mainly for the purpose of proving them.

A conflicting assumption, again skillfully articulated by Skinner in the novel *Walden Two*, is that ultimately there is no experiment other than a real situation:

"Some of us feel that we can eventually find the answer in teaching and research," said Professor Burris.

"In teaching, no. It's all right to stir people up, get them interested. That's better than nothing. But in the long run you're only passing the buck—if you see what I mean, sir." Rogers, the former student paused in embarrassment.

"For heavens sake, don't apologize," replied Professor Burris. "You can't hurt me there, that's not my Achilles heel."

"What I mean, sir, is you've got to do the job yourself if it's ever going to be done, not just whip somebody else up to it. Maybe in your research you are getting close to the answer. I wouldn't know."

"I'm afraid the answer is still a long way off," Burris demurred.

"Well, that's what I mean, sir. It's a job for research, but not the kind you can do in a university, or a laboratory anywhere. I mean you've got to experiment and experiment with your own life, not just sit back in an ivory tower somewhere—as if your own life weren't all mixed up in it." Rogers stopped again.

"Perhaps this was my Achilles heel," said Burris.

The contrived basic experimental laboratory that has evolved from Pavlov's work and the real-life application of knowledge are in fundamental conflict, a conflict increasingly evident from the failure of behavioral science to effectively respond to challenges including urban alienation, violent crime, child abuse, substance abuse, the continuing proliferation of age-old forms of mental illness, and what often seems to be a complete collapse of the elementary and secondary levels of our educational infrastructure. Effective responses in many cases have long since evolved, mainly at the clinical, police beat, or gradeschool classroom level; but at the academic level, where most of the federal mental health budget is spent, the emphasis is on research—mainly animal research—and the best minds in the behavioral field are continually directed into research, away from actual prevention and cure.

The contrived basic experimental laboratory

In June of 1961 I completed my doctoral dissertation entitled "Reflexive Fighting in Response to Aversive Stimulation." The study, which involved shocking rats, showed that stereotyped fighting would occur between paired animals as a reflex-type reaction to pain prior to any specific conditioning. My paper was later published in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

I was close to obtaining a Ph.D. in clinical/counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University, which was at that time trying to win American Psychological Association recognition for producing clinicians who were also scientists. Behind that effort was the inferiority complex felt by many clinical psychologists in the face of the American Medical Association and its psychiatrists. Only research with "quantifiable" data was acceptable to dissertation committees, whose basic behavioristic assumptions

didn't allow for the contemplation of such variables as emotions, feelings, disgust, etc., nor for questioning why one was shocking rats in the first place.

Simultaneous with various animal research projects, I was also conducting studies with mental patients. My research with patients, however, was often looked upon by those who held radical behaviorist views as being too complex to allow for "clean data."

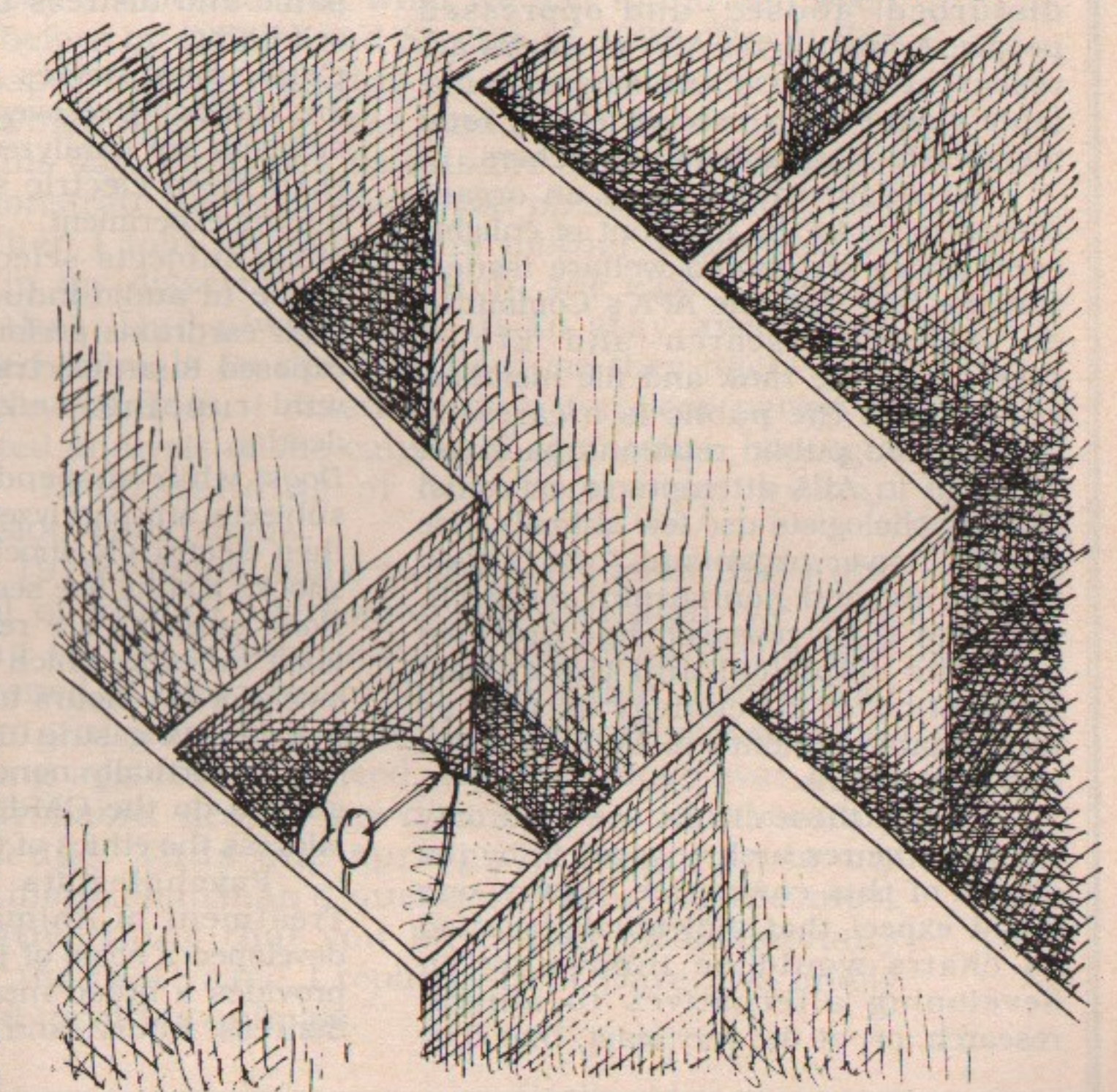
For me, the scientific attraction to animal research had, in the final analysis, little to do with a demonstrable relationship of research findings to the goal of "helping humans." In retrospect, I would say the main attraction to working with animals was, as Skinner proclaimed, "that we are able to control current circumstances to an extent not easily realized in human behavior." At any rate, after I earned my Ph.D., I joined the army of animal researchers who contended that we must conduct further experiments.

Laboratory aggression experiments provide a perfect example of basic research, in which the sequence of events leads from one animal experiment to the next, with each project following the preceding one as a direct consequence, and with each being essentially as irrelevant to solving real human problems as the one before. The fact that I have often sat behind closed doors with numerous colleagues who have agreed with this analysis is of little consequence to the animals still confined in laboratory cages around the world, because the true feelings of these professionals remain unexpressed.

Let us look beyond closed doors, however, at some additional data from the "contrived" research situation.

In 1948, a study was published by Neal E. Miller under the title, "Theory and experiment relating psychoanalytic displacement to stimulus-response generalization." It is a report of how Miller and his assistants trained rats to fight by removing the shock each time the animals approximated the fighting position. Fighting, they presumed, was an escape reaction, reinforced by the termination of electric shock.

Continued on page 43



The Politics of Psychology

BY KENNETH SHAPIRO AND JOHN CARR



Behavioral science has figured prominently in painful and harmful animal research. To stop such research, we need to understand the politics as well as the science and ethics of its proponents.

The American Psychological Association currently has over 100,000 members and affiliates. It is a relatively progressive organization as large professional societies go, providing representation for ethnic minorities, women, gays, and the handicapped within its ranks. Further, the great majority of APA members are primarily practitioners who work directly to help disturbed, abused, and oppressed people. A minority of APA members are researchers, and a minority of those (only eight to ten percent of the total membership) are animal researchers.

We might expect such an organization to be in the forefront of enlightened policy on animal welfare issues. But the fact that the APA's Committee on Animal Research and Ethics presents to the rank and file membership and to the public is a carefully constructed public relations package. Through it, APA attempts to establish that psychologists use few animals, use mostly "lower organisms," do largely nonpainful and nonharmful research, and that their research has provided both the empirical and theoretical foundation of psychology as well as incalculable benefits to both humans and nonhumans.

To test these claims, we need only examine the research engaged in by the chairs of this committee. Again, one might expect that individuals selected as chairs would be innovators in developing alternatives to animal research, or, at the very least, that they

would assiduously address ethical issues in their own research involving animals.

Instead, we find that CARE chairs all conduct painful and harmful research on animals. Here are a few examples of highly invasive procedures found in a sample of studies conducted by CARE members from 1970 to 1989: *Monkeys*: subjects reared in socially deprived conditions are injected with a drug that induces anxiety, resulting in panic and distress behaviors such as self-biting.

Cats: spinal nerves are cut surgically and, following recovery from anesthesia, subjects are paralyzed with a drug and then given electric shock in a conditioning experiment.

Mice: subjects selectively bred to be prone to audio-induced seizures have their eardrums perforated and are then exposed to an electric bell, resulting in wild running, seizures, and some deaths.

Dogs: while suspended in hammocks, subjects are paralyzed with curare and then electrically shocked 64 times, with shocks lasting five seconds each.

Rats: subjects are restrained in water-filled tubes in which they are forced to swim for two hours to survive, resulting in extensive gastric ulceration.

In virtually none of the numerous studies do the CARE researchers even address the ethics of their research.

Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PsyETA) has developed a scale of invasiveness which provides a broad measure of the pain, distress, injury, and harm suffered by

animal subjects in experiments. The level of invasiveness of a study locates it within a broad spectrum of psychological research ranging from the least invasive observational studies in naturalistic settings to laboratory research involving intensive manipulation of an animal's environment, behavior, and physiology.

Application of the invasiveness scale to a random sample of 135 studies conducted by CARE researchers from 1970-89 demonstrates that the research is, on average, moderately invasive.

But this is only the beginning of the story. When we compare the sample of CARE researchers' studies to others within the same specialty area of research published in leading journals, the CARE chair studies are more invasive.

And when we then compare these studies to research regularly cited in popular introductory psychology textbooks—the research the field chooses to present to students—we find, again, that those of the CARE chairs are statistically significantly more invasive. Moreover, this discrepancy is increasing. The average invasiveness of studies by individuals who were CARE chairs in the '80s are reliably more invasive than their counterparts in the '70s. This while public consciousness of the excesses of animal research has been raised.

Why is APA, through its "animal welfare" committee, swimming against the slowly changing tide of public and professional opinion?

One explanation is historical. CARE's predecessor committee was founded in 1925 to defend animal research against efforts outside psychology to regulate it through legislation. The original instructions to

the committee were to "combat attempts to prevent or restrict" animal experimentation. There was no mention of animal welfare or ethics. This remained the case until the '80s.

Current intraprofessional politics provide an additional explanation. Perennial tension between applied and academic or research psychologists within APA has increased in recent years, culminating in the formation of a break-off professional society: the American Psychological Society. As both APA and APS vie for a disaffected research constituency, neither organization is willing to risk support of any restrictions on research.

Given this vulnerable position, further complicated by financial misadventures undertaken in the early '80s, the arrival of the animal rights movement caught APA off guard. It then responded very defensively to the revelations of the Silver Spring monkeys' case and, subsequently, to other instances of abuse involving psychologists.

The complex process of APA committee chair selection may also tend to obscure any progressive sentiments among the general membership. Chairs are elected by members of each committee; members of each committee are elected by the Council of Representatives; the Council of Representatives includes representatives from 45 APA academic and professional interest divisions, each of the state psychological associations, and all of the APA officers and board members; and the interest division representatives are elected by APA members who must divide their votes into fractions, allocated as they wish among their fields of interest.

For all of these reasons, APA selects as CARE chairs individuals who, because of their own highly invasive research, have an intrinsic vested interest in the conduct of unrestricted animal research. In so doing, APA positions itself defensively, at times even provocatively, against progressive animal welfare policies and regulations.

Recently a CARE chair took the position that "further research is needed" before new regulations can be written to ensure the "psychological well-being" of nonhuman primates, as mandated by the 1985 federal Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act. After three decades of research inducing psychological ill-being in primates, one might think the field would be ready to provide a more constructive and enlightened contribution to the treatment of these animals.

A full report of the study discussed in this article appears in the fall 1990 PsyETA Bulletin. It and a copy of the invasiveness scale are available through PsyETA, P.O. Box 87, New Gloucester, ME 04260.

Continued from page 41

Our laboratory at Anna State Hospital was very much involved at the time in escape and avoidance research, and was especially concerned with the area of punishment. An attempt to replicate Miller's procedures, however, showed that fighting behavior could be elicited from paired rats with no training whatsoever. Here, now, was a perfect example showing not only that the Miller interpretation of results was incorrect, but also that a wrong-headed analysis was being used by people dedicated to using only "observable data."

This, by the way, is the same Miller who later offered an extensive defense of animal research in psychology in a 1985 article whose abstract cites the following list of animal research benefits:

...Treatment of human urinary and fecal incontinence; psychotherapy and especially behavior therapy and behavior medicine; rehabilitation of neuromuscular disorders; understanding and alleviating effects of stress and pain; discovery and testing of drugs for treatment of anxiety, psychosis, and Parkinson's disease; new knowledge about mechanisms of drug addiction, relapse, and damage to the fetus; treatment enabling extremely premature infants to gain 47% more weight and save \$6000 per child in hospital care; and understanding mechanisms and probable future alleviation of some deficits of memory that occur with aging.

I am essentially unimpressed with Miller's "faith list" defense of animal research benefits. This is especially true of his last point, concerning memory loss with aging. In a conversation with Dr. Miller in 1963 regarding his earlier experiment in which he allegedly taught rats to fight by removing shock, I remember that he recalled almost nothing about it.

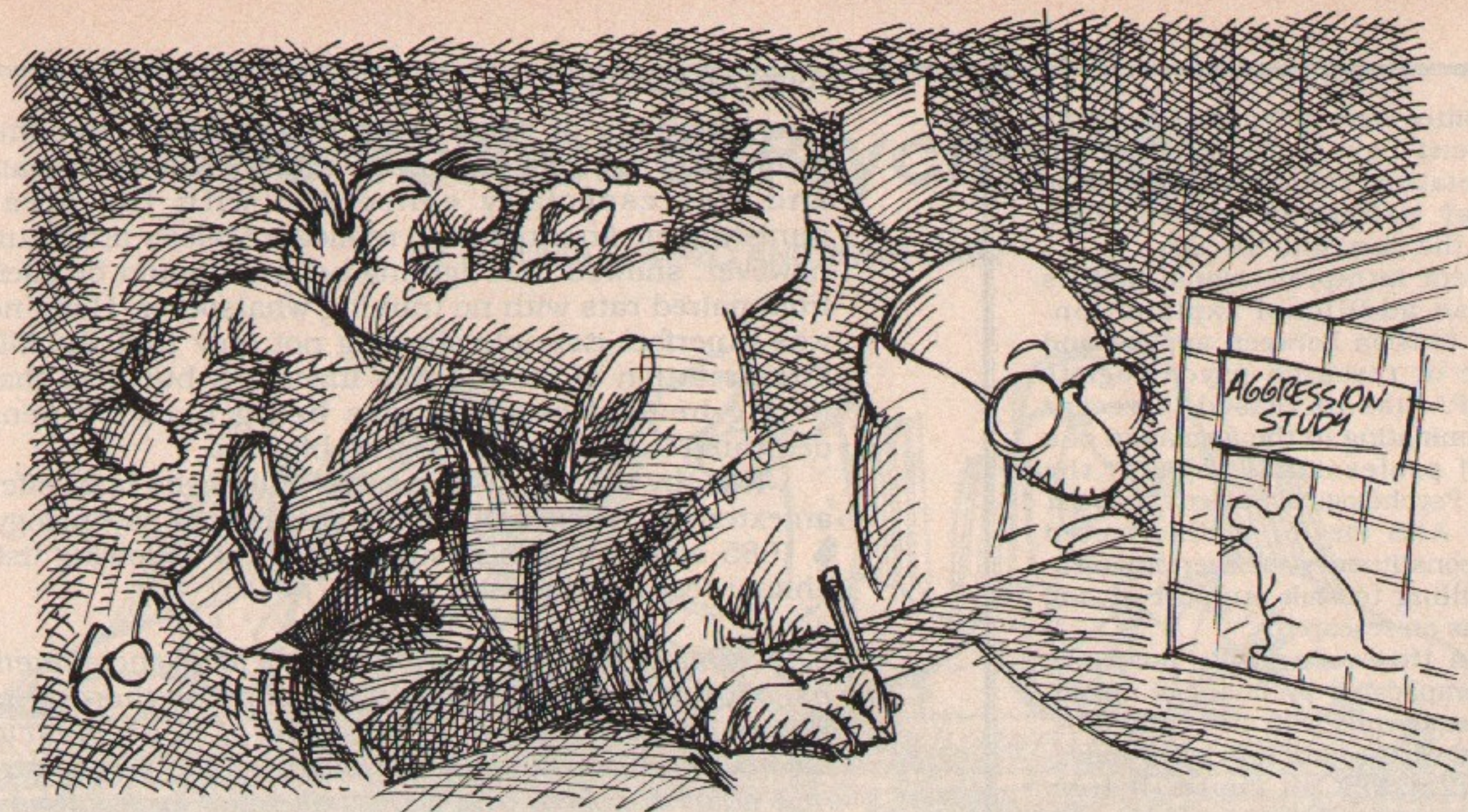
So it was that a trivial experiment (albeit not so to the rats), done by a well-known apologist for animal research, who had wrongly interpreted the results of his experiment, led to our shocking still more animals.

We, of course, went to the literature and somewhat unhappily discovered that what we had found had been found before by O'Kelly and Steckle in 1939. They titled their paper "A long enduring emotional response in the rat..." which no doubt it was, and which it continues to be to this day, inasmuch as rats are still being shocked to demonstrate the pain-aggression phenomenon.

When I told my Mennonite mother what we had found in my dissertation research, she said, "Well, we know that. Dad always told us to stay away from wounded animals on the farm because they might hurt you." Nevertheless, I entered into a ten-year period of dedicated analysis of the causes of aggression, hoping a better understanding of how to control human aggression would follow.

In 1973 I finally came to the conclusion that if the control of human aggression was our goal, we were looking in the wrong place. I still was in no way enlightened in that area to the extent that I could offer meaningful advice to people who questioned me regarding aggression. Indeed, my own anger was often uncontrollable, despite my discoveries and laboratory knowledge. Thus one spring, in response to my department chairman's question, "What is the most innovative thing that you have done professionally during the past year?" I replied, "Dear Dave, I've finally stopped torturing animals."

Continued on next page



As early as 1972 I had already stopped conducting traditional basic animal research, having demonstrated over and over in countless different ways what my grandpa had taught his children: when animals are hurt, they are more likely to be aggressive. Without fully realizing it at the time, I was divorcing myself from the vast armada of behavioral scientists who daily illustrate how animal research has become for them a self-reinforcing activity.

For ten years I had written on the topic of aggression; did research; traveled through Europe, Asia, Central and South America, and the U.S. talking on the topic; made movies about it; wrote grant requests to every local, state, and federal agency, private and public, that held even the remotest hope of giving money for my research. I helped design new strategies and new equipment for shocking anything that moved, and even observed children whom I had convinced to shock some rats and "watch what happens." More and more allegedly new discoveries were added to a voluminous literature, reprints of which I was collecting for a book and which now weigh close to 50 pounds. Studies leading to new studies, all involving countless animals, with the findings essentially irrelevant to people in that at no time did the conditions under which the animals were studied equal the existing human conditions to which the generalizations were being "theoretically" transposed. These permutations upon permutations conducted in the world's scientific laboratories with different species under countless different research conditions are nearly infinite.

The real-life laboratory

Skinnerites, perhaps more than any other group of scientists, have called for the generalization of animal research findings into building a better tomorrow. Their persistent claim is that experimental analysis of animal behavior has enabled us to redesign human culture to enhance our chances of survival. But for me, as for Skinner's hero in *Walden Two*, faith in the ability of animal research to guarantee the continuance of humankind on earth is nothing less than pure superstition. Indeed, we are faced with a situation in which over 100 years of animal research may have left

our culture further behind in the search for wisdom than when the research started.

In his book *Nature, Man and Woman*, Alan Watts summarizes:

Based on the assumption that we had done wisely, and were still here and likely to remain, the human race had survived and seemed likely to go on surviving for perhaps more than a million years before the arrival of modern technology. We must on this premise assume that it had acted wisely thus far. We may argue that its life was not highly pleasant, but it is difficult to know what that means. The race was certainly pleased to go on living, for it did so.

On the other hand, after a bare two centuries of industrial technology the prospects of human survival are being quite seriously questioned. It is not unlikely that we may propagate, eat and possibly blow ourselves off the planet.

As is the tradition in science, I will now call for further research. But this is the question we must explore: Can human society afford the assumption that the current level of animal research and sacrifice is worthy of our continued support?

My conclusion is no. The atrocities we persist in perpetrating within our laboratories, where scientists are paid to perform painful rituals on other lifeforms based on blind faith that human suffering might be driven away, should increasingly be questioned and discontinued. They are not reducing the suffering we so often feel and see around us in the real-life laboratory.

Our scientific addiction to animal research must be given up and replaced with the observation of natural phenomena. What B.F. Skinner said in his novel *Walden Two* about "the need for us to experiment with our own lives and not just sit back in an ivory tower somewhere—as if your own life weren't all mixed up in it," overshadows in importance every other point he ever made. If Skinner is to be remembered as an important voice in the history of science, it will be for his call to reconnect research with that which is relevant. 🐾

Dr. Ulrich is a research professor at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

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"Caring for Other Animals" By Eric Dunayer, V.M.D.

Benefits of Neutering

The nine-month-old cat was in surgery for a routine spay. The uterus I removed, however, was swollen and severely infected. Without the surgery, the cat would have sickened and died; because she was spayed, she regained her health.

At the spay/neuter clinic where I practice veterinary medicine, I have seen many animals with disorders that were cured by neutering. While neutering's health benefits aren't ordinarily immediate and dramatic, they tend to be substantial.

Still, many people fail to have their companion animals neutered. Some fear that the surgery will hurt them. As with all major surgery, neutering involves some risk. Anesthesia, for example, can injure or kill an animal, even a young, healthy one. The overwhelming majority of animals, however, experience no harm.

Also, some people mistakenly believe that neutering disadvantages a dog or cat in the long-term. Neutering doesn't rob animals of vigor; it simply frees them of reproduction's hormonal demands. And neutered animals needn't become overweight. They do require fewer calories than unneutered animals, but their calorie intake can be reduced accordingly—or their exercise increased. A female dog or cat gains no health advantage from having a litter or heat. To the contrary, spaying before the first heat offers special health benefits.

Early spaying helps protect female dogs against mammary tumors—the tumors from which they most commonly suffer. Dogs spayed before their first heat develop mammary tumors only five percent as often as unsplayed animals. Those spayed between their first and second heat have eight percent the mammary tumor rate. In sharp contrast, those spayed after a second heat have as high a chance of developing these



Meritt Clifton

tumors as unsplayed dogs. About half of all canine mammary tumors are malignant. Neutering before the first heat can significantly prolong a dog's life.

Similar benefits can be seen in felines. Unsplayed cats develop mammary tumors at seven times the rate that spayed cats do. Nearly always, these tumors are malignant. Clearly, spaying is an important preventive measure.

Because spaying (ovariohysterectomy) removes the ovaries and uterus, it eliminates the possibility of ovarian and uterine disorders, such as infection and cancer. Uterine infection, known as pyometra, occurs in females of all ages but is most common in older animals. This life-threatening disorder requires emergency spaying. Debilitated, the animal now runs a high risk of failing to survive the operation. Animals should be spayed when young and healthy.

Like females, male dogs and cats benefit from neutering. In dogs, castration substantially reduces the chance of getting infection or cancer of the prostate gland. Without the hormones secreted by the testicles, the prostate becomes inactive and, ordinarily, shrinks away. Neutering can also cure dogs of prostatic disease, or reduce symptoms such as difficult or painful urination. Plus, castration eliminates the possibility of testicular tumors. This is particularly important in animals with undescended testicles (cryptorchidism). In these males, both testicles are more likely to

become tumorous, even if one testicle has descended normally.

Besides improving health, neutering eliminates behaviors that can be problematic in a human home—and can result in an animal's becoming homeless. In heat, female dogs often become irritable and snappish. Unneutered male dogs frequently assert dominance with aggression, particularly towards other male dogs. Commonly, they urine-mark their territory, even inside the house. Sexual drive may prompt an unneutered male dog to run away—say, by jumping a fence or racing out the door. He will then be vulnerable to fights, disease, dog-nappers, and cars.

Unneutered cats also show problematic behavior. Both males and females may spray urine to mark territory or bolt out of the house looking for a mate. Most cats in heat call loudly and incessantly. Some of my clients have been threatened with eviction because of a feline companion's caterwauling. A number of times, clients have phoned me and frantically described their cat's writhing and yowling. The cat, they believed, had been poisoned and was dying in agony. She was, instead, in her first heat.

Occasionally, people ask me why veterinarians don't perform vasectomies or tubal ligations. Unlike castration and ovariohysterectomy, these surgeries (while rendering animals sterile) leave sexual drive intact. Also, vasectomy and tubal ligation fail to eliminate health and behavior problems prevented or cured by neutering.

Dogs and cats should be neutered. Both the animals who have the surgery and their human keepers benefit. Other animals indirectly benefit as well: When fewer dogs and cats are born, those already living stand a much better chance of finding a good home.

Dr. Dunayer practices veterinary medicine at People for Animals, a low-cost spay/neuter clinic in Hillside, New Jersey.

Newsline continued from page 39

"no observed effect level" (NOEL) is determined for a particular species. The test is repeated on other species, and the NOEL level is finally multiplied by a "safety factor" of 100 to produce the safe human level. Actual causation of effects in humans is never established.

◆ Chronic Toxicity Studies are most often used to determine the cancer risk from a substance. High doses are given to animals, usually the highest they can tolerate without dying. However, these levels would rarely, if ever, be found in humans, and courts are accordingly skeptical of CTS information.

In each test, information purportedly relevant to humans is extrapolated from animal data, rather than proved by it. Extrapolated data is often rejected as evidence, even when it comes from human epidemiological studies, which, like the LD-50, show probability without legally establishing cause. Moreover, even if forensic or other data can be produced to show that a specific substance caused a specific effect in a specific animal, or general population, the successful plaintiff must still prove that this information is directly applicable to his or her own situation.

Courts are increasingly aware that different species and cultivated substrains within species have different tolerances for chemicals, and that significant fluctuations in tolerance occur even among humans, depending upon ethnicity, sex, age, and occupational history, among a host of other variables. In addition, while the living conditions of laboratory animals are strictly controlled, smoking, drinking, and taking certain medicines or illegal drugs can mask, enhance, or confuse evidence of toxicity in humans.

Accordingly, in *Agent Orange Product Liability* (1985, 1987), an actively critical court held that, "The animal studies are not helpful in the instant case because they involve different biological species. They are of so little probative force and are so potentially misleading as to be inadmissible." The court found the animal studies to be misleading partly because the plaintiffs' own experts were concerned that the studies were inconclusive or of dubious value.

Likewise, in *Lynch v. Merrell National Laboratories* (1986), the court decided, "There is no evidence here that Margaret Lynch was exposed to the types of doses involved in the animal studies relied upon by the plaintiff's expert, and the studies conducted on rats, rabbits, and monkeys are not helpful and are of little probative value in this case. The animal studies...are therefore inadmissible in this action and neither form a basis for expert opinion nor create a genuine issue for trial."

In two related cases, *Richardsdon v. Richardson-Merrell Inc.* (1986, 1988),

and *Bernhardt v. Richardson-Merrell Inc.* (1988), the court, as in *Agent Orange*, held that extrapolating animal data to explain human effects was too theoretical to meet the requirements of legal proof. This principle was also affirmed in *Viterbo v. Dow Chemical* (1986, 1987); *Paoli R.R. Yard PCB Litigation* (1988); and in *Rubanick v. Witco Chemical* (1988).

Yet the trend is not uniform. In *Sterling v. Velsicol Chemical* (1986), animal studies extrapolated to humans were accepted as evidence in a toxic tort case. The court in *Villari v. Terminix* (1988) attempted to clarify precedents, stating that neither *Agent Orange* nor *Lynch v. Merrell*, "purported to establish a general rule that animal studies are inadmissible. As with all questions of admissibility, the court must look closely at the type of evidence presented and the purpose for which it is introduced."

Companies who opt to continue animal testing do so, therefore, not because any one type of test is preferable to establish risk or lack thereof, but rather because the inherent problems with all types of testing developed to date may suggest to worried executives that it is safer to have a lot of possibly erroneous data than a lack of data that courts could interpret as evidence of

negligence.

Wells v. Ortho most clearly stated the legal value of having data from all available forms of testing: "The court must view the evidence as a whole, not in fragments. Like the pieces of a mosaic, the individual studies showed little or nothing when viewed separately...but they combined to produce a whole that was greater than the sum of its parts."

The most recent major ruling on animal test evidence came in *Brock v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals* (1989). Declared the court, "Confronted, as we now are, with difficult medical questions, courts must critically evaluate the reasoning process by which the experts connect data to their conclusions in order to consistently and rationally resolve the disputes before them." The plaintiffs apparently had sufficient data from the three standard forms of animal testing to establish possible cause, but lacked conclusive epidemiological proof that this cause could be found in human beings. Thus it is clear that animal test data, at least in a legal setting, can be viewed only as one link in a chain of proof. With all of the problems concerning the reliability of animal test data, it must be concluded that it is not indispensable.

—Marilyn Grey

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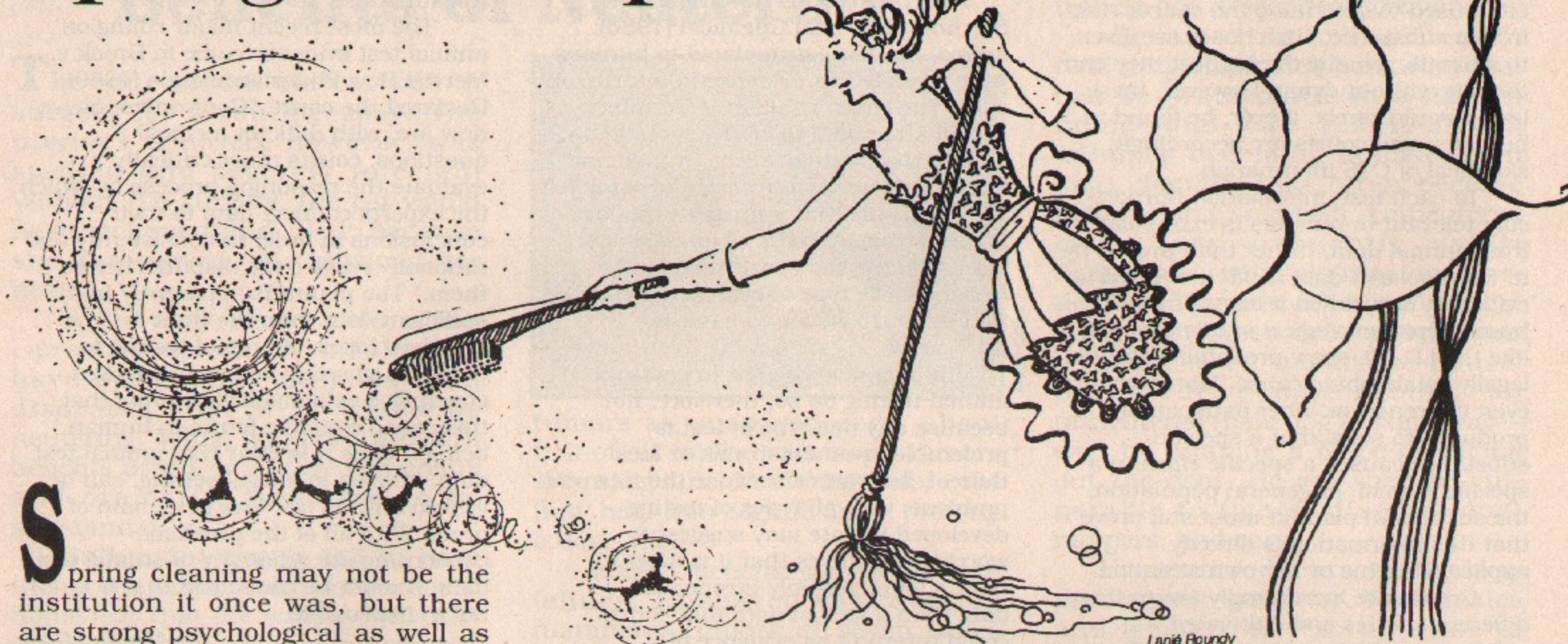


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Spring Clean-Up



Spring cleaning may not be the institution it once was, but there are strong psychological as well as traditional reasons for making this the season of spiff and polish. When nature fancies up with leaves and flowers, anyone in tune wants to spruce some, too.

The way most people clean does no favors, however, to animals or to the earth. Most conventional cleaning products are still tested on animals. Moreover, the chemicals found in most bottles and boxes beneath America's kitchen sinks can contaminate groundwater.

There are, nevertheless, a pair of viable alternatives: 1) purchase cleaning products that are cruelty-free and environmentally benign; or 2) make your own simple cleaners. The selection of more natural products that are safety-tested without using animals has grown tremendously in the past few years. A few (like Sparkle glass cleaner and Bon Ami cleanser) can be picked up at the supermarket, and the Magic line—with everything from furniture polish to tile and grout cleaner—is available at hardware stores. Most of the items you'll need must be purchased at a natural foods store or through a mail-order distributor. Brands such as Allen's Naturally and Ecover are non-animal-tested planet pleasers, but check labels; an occasional animal-derived ingredient can even slip into the natural lines. Expect to

pay more for these products, but remember that most of them are extremely concentrated and can prove to be economical. Any extra cost might be considered a contribution toward a better world.

The way to make such a contribution and save money is to make cleansers yourself. Home-made cleaners can be surprisingly effective, easy to concoct, and using your own creations might even undrudge housework a bit. Oven cleaner can be made from hot water and baking soda (Note: ovens that don't cook meat stay cleaner), and glass can be cleaned with a mix of one quart of water and a cup of white vinegar. Toilets can be cleaned by pouring two cups of white vinegar into the bowl, brushing, and flushing after 10 minutes. An all-purpose cleaner can be made with a gallon of hot water, a quarter-cup each of ammonia and white vinegar, and a tablespoon of baking soda. Just remember, *never* mix ammonia with chlorine bleach; the fumes that result can be deadly.

Stains and odors can be part and parcel of sharing a home with companion animals. Annie Berthold-Bond, author of *Clean and Green*, suggests baking soda to neutralize odors. For cleaning tough stains,

she recommends washing soda with a vinegar rinse. My favorite commercial product for the purpose (and with three geriatric cats in my family, I get to use this from time to time) is Nature's Miracle Stain & Odor Remover. It's a cruelty-free product that uses enzymes to eliminate odors and return carpets, floors, and upholstery to their original colors. The company is so sure of its product that it carries a money-back guarantee. Look for it in pet supply stores or contact Pets 'N People, Inc., 5312 Ironwood St., Palos Verdes, CA 90274; 213-373-1559.

At first it may seem strange to use only three or four cleaners instead of dozens, but as you unclutter that cabinet, you may feel your life uncluttering just a little bit, too. If you start to let go of extraneous objects, there'll be less to dust. Old clothes that turn into cleaning rags will mean using fewer paper towels. And if there's such a thing as the Zen of mopping, you're bound to discover it.

For more household hints, see *Clean & Green: The Complete Guide to Nontoxic & Environmentally Safe Housekeeping* by Annie Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, P.O. Box 87, Woodstock, NJ 12498).

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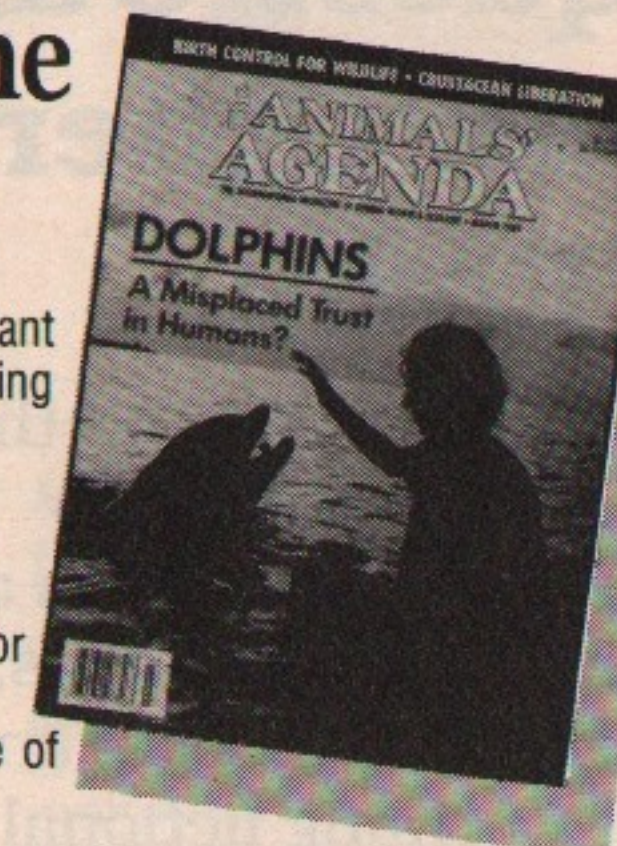
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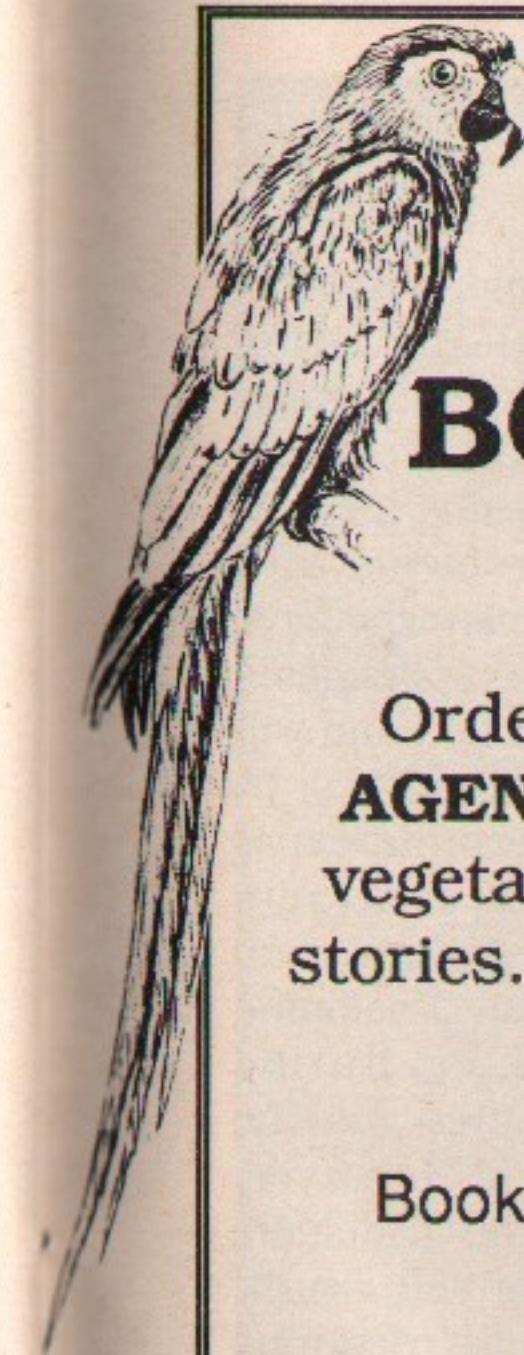
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M E D I C I N E:

By far, the most common source of toxoplasma is raw and undercooked meat. The risk of contracting toxoplasmosis from cats is virtually eliminated if cats are prevented from hunting, and if litter boxes are cleaned daily. Indoor cats confined to a rodent-free home should present no risk.



Facts about TOXOPLASMOSIS

A young woman arrived at the shelter, tearfully turning in the old male cat who had shared her home for many years. She explained that when she discovered that she was pregnant, her doctor counseled her that cats spread toxoplasmosis, an infection which can cause serious birth defects. As painful as the decision was, she felt she had no choice.

This story is repeated over and over again. Pregnant women are told that cats can spread a disease that is dangerous to the developing baby. It is indeed true that toxoplasmosis can be a serious problem, but the fact is that cats have gotten a bum rap.

First, what is toxoplasmosis? *Toxoplasma gondii* is a protozoan that lives inside the cells of many humans and nonhuman animals. It can live in virtually any cell in the body. Toxoplasma infection is common. By age 19, five to 30 percent of people have been exposed to toxoplasma, and as many as two-thirds of the population are eventually infected. It lives in the body and generally causes no symptoms whatsoever.

Some people do have trouble with

toxoplasma, however. Those with impaired immune systems—including cancer patients receiving chemotherapy, AIDS patients, and transplant recipients who are on rejection-suppressing medications—can have serious problems with toxoplasmosis. Pregnant women who have already been exposed to toxoplasmosis are not at risk for a new infection and will not transmit the bug to their babies. (A simple blood test can determine exposure.) A woman who first contracts toxoplasmosis during pregnancy may transmit the infection to her developing baby. Most women infected during pregnancy give birth to children with no ill effects. Not infrequently, however, miscarriage, stillbirth, or birth defects affecting the brain and eye will result. This is particularly true for infections occurring early in pregnancy.

Although cats are blamed for shedding toxoplasma in their feces, they rarely do so. If a cat eats an animal infected with the protozoan, the cat will begin to shed an inactive form of toxoplasma (termed oocysts), starting within three to 24 days, and will continue to do so for one to three weeks. If the litter from an indoor cat's box is not

IN LAY TERMS

By Neal D. Barnard, M. D.

discarded within two to three days after oocysts are shed, these oocysts can change to a form that can infect humans. A cat who has once become infected and has shed oocysts will not do so again after the three-week period has passed (unless the cat becomes re-infected). Risk from cats is virtually eliminated if cats do not hunt and if litter is promptly removed. As a precaution, litter trays should be cleaned by someone other than a pregnant woman. Some suggest that gloves should be used. In any case, hand-washing should be routine after any contact with litter trays.

So, if cats are not usually to blame for toxoplasmosis, what is? By far, the most common source of toxoplasma is raw and undercooked meat. Toxoplasma is present in 25 percent of pork products and 10 percent of lamb. It is also present in beef and in many other meats. Thorough cooking destroys the organism, but, like salmonella, campylobacter, and other uninvited guests frequently found in

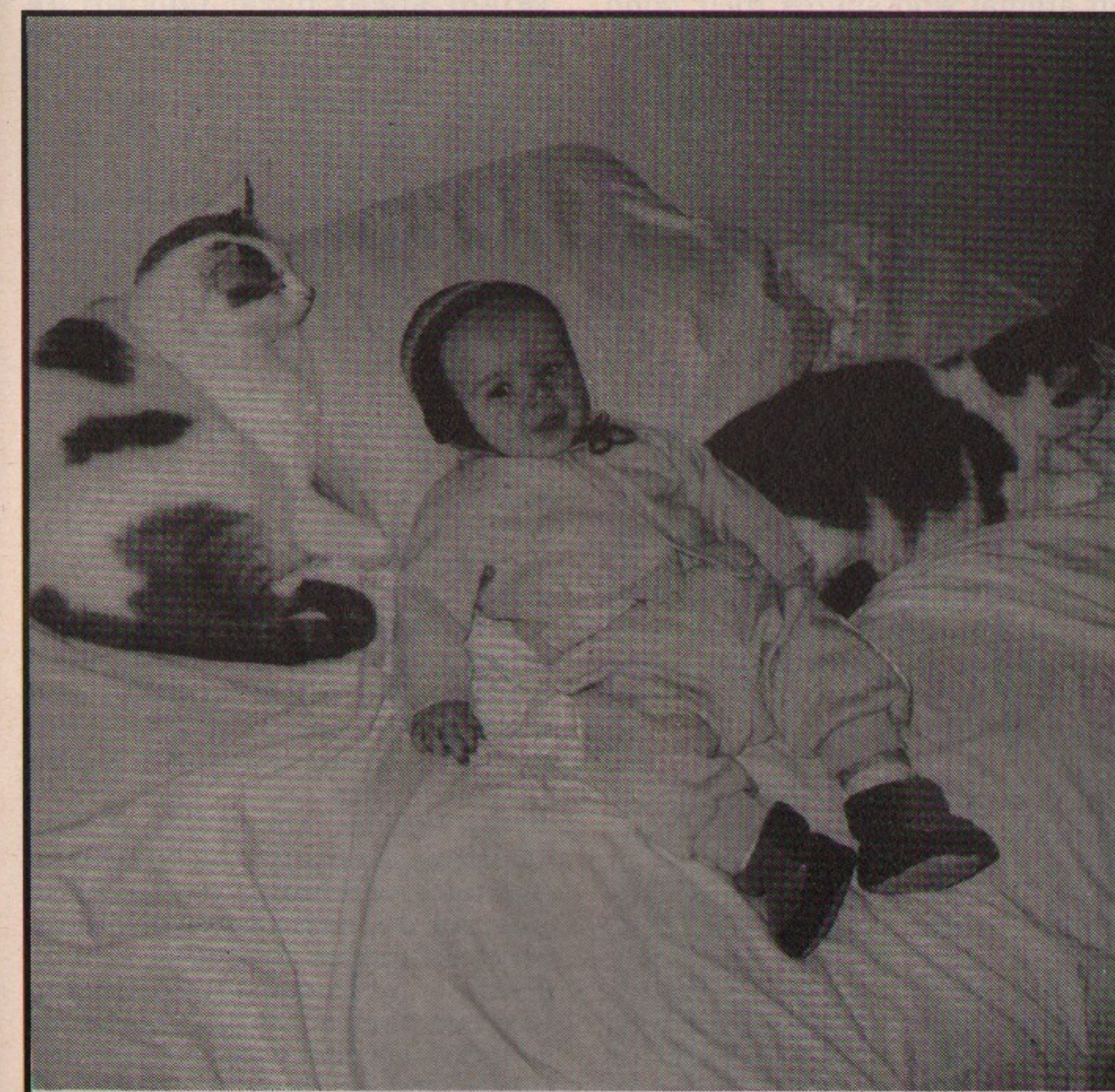
meats, the problem is cross-contamination. When raw meat touches the kitchen counter or the carving knife, some of the microbes can be transferred to the new surface, where they can survive, waiting to contaminate other foods. Toxoplasma can also be transmitted from soil.

Ironically, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted numerous experiments on toxoplasma in cats. Yet the most common source of infection is the meat the USDA is so busy promoting.

The moral for pregnant women is this: Have your husband clean the litter box; and, more importantly, when either of you shop for groceries, skip the meat counter.

But don't get rid of the cat.

Dr. Barnard is president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (P.O. Box 6322, Washington, DC 20015; 202-686-2210).



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REVIEWS

Dog Tales

The Company of Dogs

Edited by Michael J. Rosen; Doubleday (666 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10103), 1990; 323 pages, hard-cover, \$19.95 U.S., \$24.95 Canadian.

As the 35-page introduction warns us, "There isn't a single story here about a dog." Instead, this anthology of short fiction, designed to benefit dog welfare agencies, defines humans as they interact with dogs in the periphery of their lives. Each story, however, does have at least one dog, if not as the central character, at least in a supporting role. There is the dog as a hunting tool, in the story "Flight" by Thomas McGuane, which is about a terminally ill hunter's suicide. There is the dog as burden, in the story "Victrola" by Wright Morris, and, less obviously, in several other selections. And there

is the dog as sexual object, in "A Story of a Girl and Her Dog" by Alix Kates Shulman.

Most frequently, the dog is used to represent a crucial element in the protagonist's relationship with a beloved human companion: with an uncommunicative father ("The Complete Death of a Clown Dog" by Ethan Mordden, and "Shooting Tookey" by Barbara J. Dimmick), an abandoned or dying husband ("Keats" by Elizabeth Tallent, and "The Death of the Dog and Other Rescues" by Susan Kenney). In "Lying Doggo" by Bobbie Ann Mason, the character Nancy equates the family's canine companion with the success of her marriage: "Nancy has been feeling that the dying of Grover marks a milestone in her marriage to Jack...She is seized with an irrational dread—that when the dog is gone, Jack will be gone, too."

It is as if the characters can only deal with such powerful emotions as grief, anger, or bitterness by transferring them to an animal who shares their bond with the other person. When Ann Beattie's character Sharon breaks off her relationship with a lover in "Distant Music," it is their shared canine companion, "the scrawny, wormy Sam," who bears the brunt of rejection by becoming ever more hostile to strangers, until at last "something had to be done about the dog." In Antonya Nelson's story, "Dog Problems," a husband inadvertently causes the death of his wife's aged companion while she is away at work. Yet he reacts, not with grief as the dog is dying, but with poorly concealed jealousy. "David laughed involuntarily. It occurred to him that if Blanche died he would have a chance, a real chance, at becoming the thing Adrienne loved most. The thought raced through his blood."

In all but a few of the selections, the dogs are old or dying. It's as though we can only appreciate them when they're leaving us, or gone. Yet in a few stories, the theme works magic. In "The Immortal Dog" by Jack Matthews, the death of an aging man's companion is truly heart-rending, not only because of the suffering dog, but because of the old man,

who is forced by uncaring neighbors to destroy his friend. "Reach for the Sky" by Jim Shepard allows us a glimpse of the frustration and anguish experienced by a shelter worker.

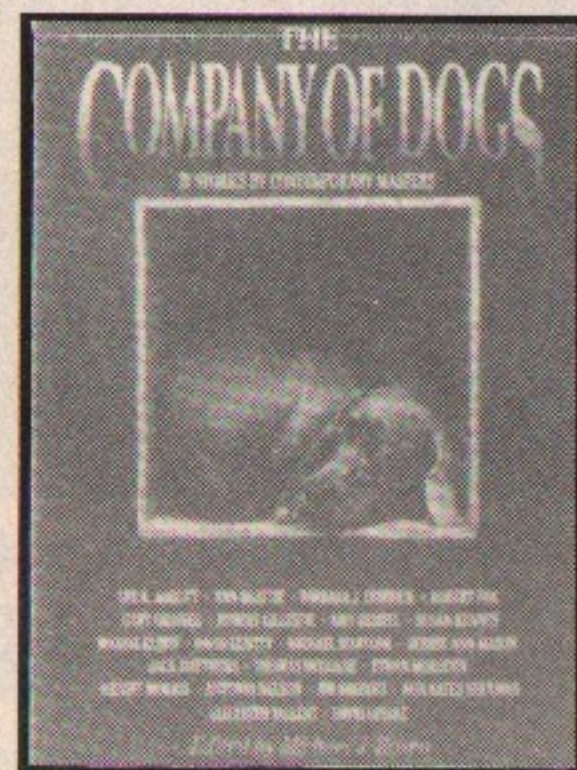
Two of the stories are remarkably original. "At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom" by Amy Hempel is a tale both whimsical and pathetic of a woman tormented past the brink of sanity by humanity's inhumanity. Robert Fox's "The Year of the Dog" is hauntingly surreal.

"Going to the Dogs" by Robert Gillespie shines like the Dog Star in this firmament of fiction, standing out due to its depiction of a healthier human/canine bond. If Gillespie seems to imply that the man, Stoker, suffers a corresponding inability to bond with other humans, it may be because the humans in the story cannot compare with the personality of the husky, Kite. With Kite alone, Stoker can share an unspoken awareness of the universe: "He smiles in the bright silent dark, looking up through bare hardwoods for the Big Dipper and the pole star, thinking. Maybe aloofness is the medicine she inherited from the north, who knows? Maybe she keeps her distance not because she knew all along that fear is so much more corrosively painful than the absence of affection and love could ever be, but because she came out of the earth of the pasture and the blue air and the white water of the stream and the snow and the fire of the sun, came forth, out of all creation just like creation, only to be beheld and rejoiced in, a dog simply, simply to be loved by a man."

For the most part, *The Company of Dogs* forces us to consider how we fail to appreciate the devotion of dogs.

—Cathy Czapla

Profits from the sale of *The Company of Dogs* will be donated to agencies providing direct care to dogs in distress. Applications to receive funding should be sent to Michael J. Rosen, 1623 Clifton Ave., Columbus, OH 43203; include a 1990 annual report or equivalent and a very specific request letter.



REVIEWS

A Pound Of Cure

Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs: Causes, Prevention, and Cures

Proceedings of a conference sponsored by the New York State Humane Assn., Sept. 11-12, 1987, New York City. Edited by Marjorie Anchel, Ph.D.; Fordham University Press (P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850), 1990; 260 pages, hard-bound, \$25.00 (plus \$2.00 shipping/handling for first copy, \$.50 for each additional).

No single issue has consumed more time, energy, and money in the history of the animal protection movement in the U.S. than the frustrating, maddening, sickening, tragic problem of pet overpopulation. Yet despite the tremendous resources that have been committed to it for the past 20 years and more, it continues to defy resolution.

One reason is that pet overpopulation is not one issue but many complex and interrelated ones. Therein lies the beauty of *Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs*, a compilation of presentations made by 23 speakers at the New York State Humane Association's 1987 conference. These talks, including a keynote address by Christine Stevens of the Animal Welfare Institute, shed light on many of the problems and offer new insights into what we can do about them.

Many of the speakers are recognized internationally; others are known only in their own communities. As Phyllis Wright of the Humane Society of the U.S. says in her foreword to the book, they are people in the trenches, dealing directly with the problems of surplus animals, telling about solutions that have worked for them. You may not agree with everything they say—and, of course, 23 people cannot say it all—but it would be impossible to read this book without coming away with at least one new idea.

In *Overpopulation of Cats and Dogs*, we learn about successful spay/neuter programs and programs that have sterilized whole colonies of "bush cats" on the island of Virgin Gorda and feral

cats on Martha's Vineyard. We catch a glimpse of "hell in paradise," where puppies abandoned at garbage dumps on a Puerto Rican island search for food and water until bulldozers end their miserable lives. We're reminded that pound seizure is a "pet issue...not a research animal issue." Dr. Leo Lieberman presents his case for neutering sexually immature animals, followed at the end of the book by an interesting update on progress made since 1987.

We are invited to take a long look at euthanasia, described by Samantha Mullen of NYSHA as "the most pervasive, the most repugnant, method of controlling the numbers of animals that find their way into many of our animal shelters." Due to the lack of acceptable alternatives to the painless killing of unadoptable animals, however, Mullen and the conference speakers acknowledge not only that euthanasia is necessary, but that it is the most responsible and humane approach currently available at the majority of shelters.

Ingrid Newkirk of PETA presents an eloquent talk on euthanasia criteria. "I have the luxury of not euthanizing animals any more," she says. "But I would say that those of us who don't owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those of you who do...Sometimes we have to remind people in the animal rights movement that very immediate solutions to very horrible problems

❖ OVERPOPULATION OF CATS AND DOGS
❖ CAUSES, EFFECTS, AND PREVENTION

NEW YORK STATE
HUMANE ASSOCIATION

in a very unnatural world are necessary..."

A psychiatrist addresses the mechanism of denial which prevents many people from coping with the reality of mass euthanasia: "Unless directly and experientially confronted with the reality and horror of companion animal overpopulation, many people can blind themselves to this reality despite ample information input. They have a need not to know."

The book should be helpful to everyone who longs to stop the endless killing of unwanted dogs and cats. Whether you learn a little or a lot from reading it, a copy belongs on your bookshelf.

—Elaine L. Birkholz

Elaine Birkholz is Special Projects Manager for the Massachusetts SPCA.

Walking on the Wild Side

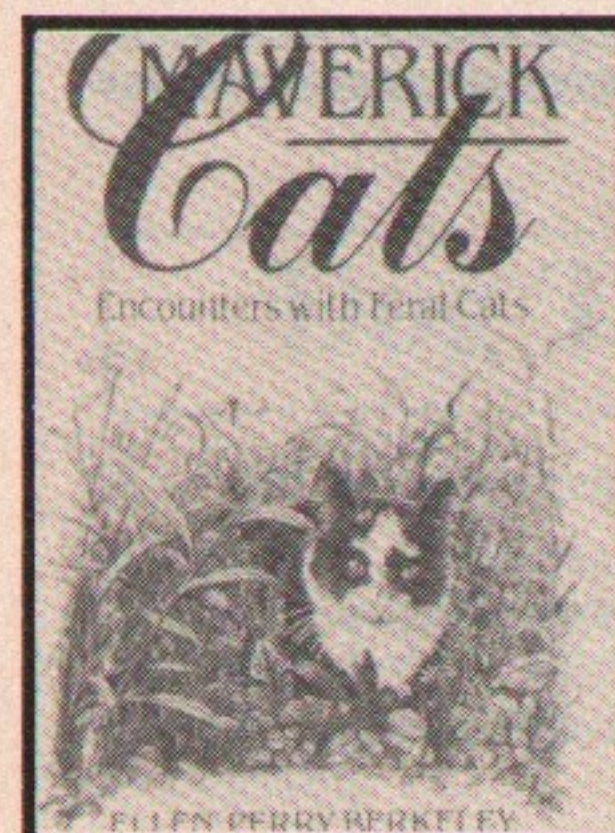
Maverick Cats: Encounters with Feral Cats

By Ellen Perry Berkeley; Walker & Co. (NY), 1982; reprinted by New England Press (Shelburne, VT), 1987; 142 pages, softcover, \$8.95. Available by mail from the author at P.O. Box 311, Shaftsbury, VT 05262 (add \$1.00 for postage); \$2.50 of the purchase price from each book will be donated to Alley Cat Allies if the group is mentioned when ordering.

If much remains unknown about cats as a species, even less

understood are the ferals—the once-domesticated cats, or their descendants, who can be found living in a wild or semi-wild state almost everywhere on earth. I've seen them loitering about the ruins of Rome and Ephesus, have glimpsed them dashing across country roads everywhere from Texas to Quebec, and now share my home with two former ferals—one, Alfred, who has completely reverted to domesticity and the other, Keeter, who is only half tame

Continued on next page



REVIEWS

Continued from previous page

despite a four-year friendship. These two cats share—more or less peacefully—a two-room house with six other cats, a half-husky mongrel dog, two adult humans and a baby. While Keeter fits the stereotype of the “homed” feral (he spends most of his time behind the sofa), Alfred’s personality refutes all the myths. Emphatically not shy, Alfred craves center stage; he is insatiably affectionate, yet bold—perhaps reckless—enough to be found at the bottom of every altercation.

In *Maverick Cats*, Ellen Perry Berkeley describes similar experiences with the feral cats who live around her home in rural Vermont. Some of the cats who stop off at her back porch for a meal are every bit as wild as skunks and raccoons and other forest dwellers; they live in the woods. Others become quite tame, needing or preferring a degree of dependency. Yet for the purposes of animal welfare, it is vitally important that we make a clear distinction between the true feral cat and the abandoned or stray housecat—who is not in any way capable of living without

human assistance. And we must keep in mind that even the real feral must have an ideal environment to survive.

Formerly an editor of *Architectural Forum*, Berkeley’s encounters with these creatures over a period of years sparked an interest in researching the origins and natural history of feral cats, which led to an impressive compilation of research data, and, ultimately, the publication of *Maverick Cats*. Printed eight years ago, *Maverick Cats* is, as far as we know, the only book ever written about feral cats, and, as such, is an invaluable resource. Yet because there has been so little study of feral cats, data from different studies often conflicts and cannot be reconciled. For example, some researchers have reported a preponderance of male animals among ferals, while others find an even sex ratio. Much of the data tends to leave one hungry for more, such as Paul Leyhausen’s 1965 report of cats observed in all-night social gatherings on neutral territory.

Still, the data does fit together enough to present an intriguing picture of feral cats who have been fully integrated into a variety of ecosystems around the world, from deserts to forests. There is no denying that in some cases, the cats endanger indigenous fauna; however, in most habitats where feral cats flourish, they have merely taken over the niche vacated by another small predator—such as the bobcat, lynx, or fox—whose demise is likely to have been a

result of fur trapping or predator control.

Berkeley weaves the scientific data into anecdotes about individual felines, resulting in a very readable book. Most of the stories are upbeat, but a few are troubling. One tells of Sylvester, a rather pushy cat with a skin disorder who was eventually exiled some miles away after trying to intimidate Turtle, Berkeley’s favorite cat. I can’t help feeling that a more compassionate solution could have been found: simply having Sylvester neutered would probably have lessened his aggressive tendencies. Unfortunately, of all the cats, only Turtle was sterilized, an omission Berkeley now recognizes. Since publication of the book, she has written extensively on sterilization and release projects for ferals.

Though *Maverick Cats* does a great service to the feral cat as a subspecies, it is not an “animal rights” book. The animal welfarist may find Ellen Perry Berkeley a bit lacking in empathy for animals. She seemed to me rather detached from the suffering of some of the cats as well as the animals they preyed upon—even for a mortally wounded but still conscious rabbit. In addition, Berkeley endorses the concept of hunting (by humans) as an effective tool for controlling wildlife populations.

Even so, *Maverick Cats* should be required reading for everyone involved in cat rescuing, animal sheltering, and wildlife management.

—Kim Bartlett

Responsibility Wanted

Stray: The True Story of America's Love Affair With Pets

Video; Produced and distributed by United Action for Animals (205 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017), 1991; 20 minutes running time, \$19.95.

Stray: The True Story of America's Love Affair With Pets is a 20-minute expose that you probably won't see as a segment of 60

Minutes. But much of the rather softly narrated and underspoken footage is every bit as shocking and dramatic as anything that is shown there. If and when serious treatments of pet overpopulation make prime time, *Stray* will be an important model and resource for the networks.

Focusing on the work of the ASPCA shelter in New York City, *Stray* includes interviews with the staff and directors of numerous

Continued on page 57

THROWAWAYS



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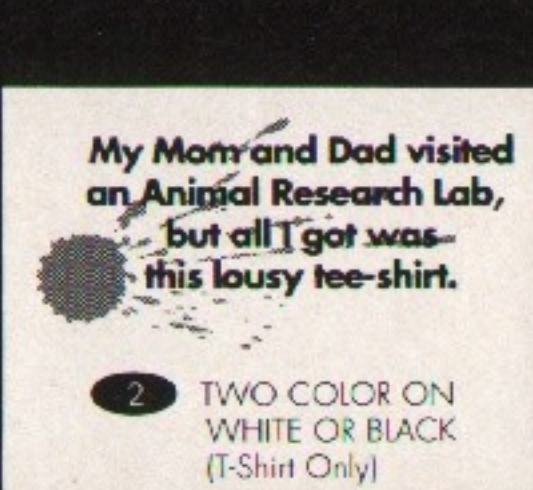
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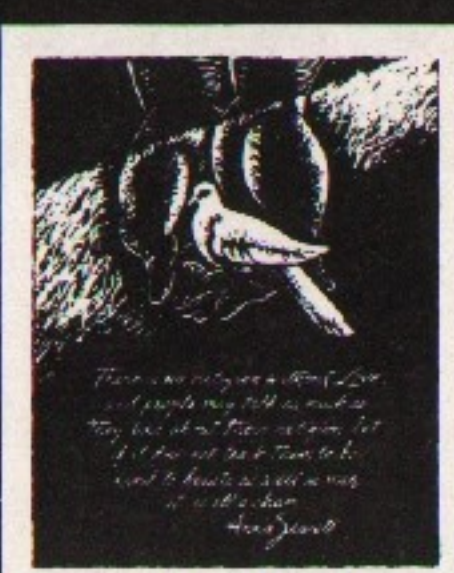
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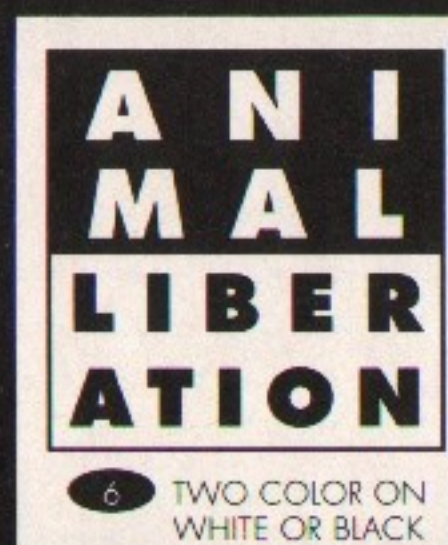
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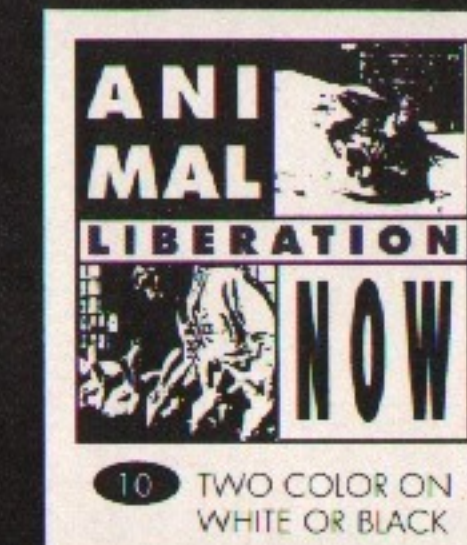
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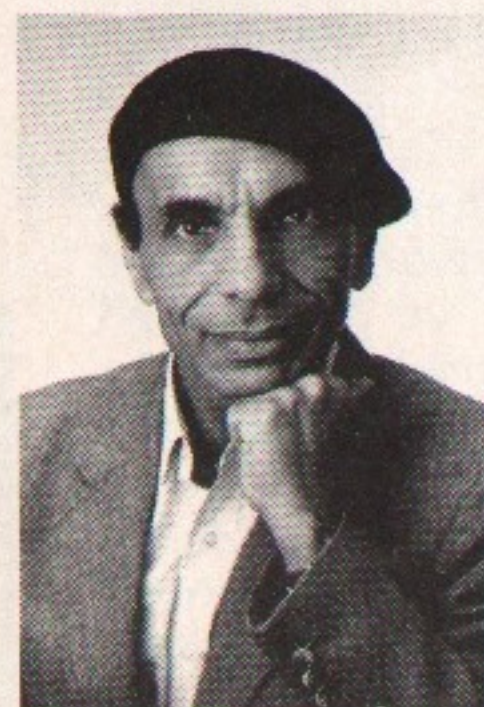


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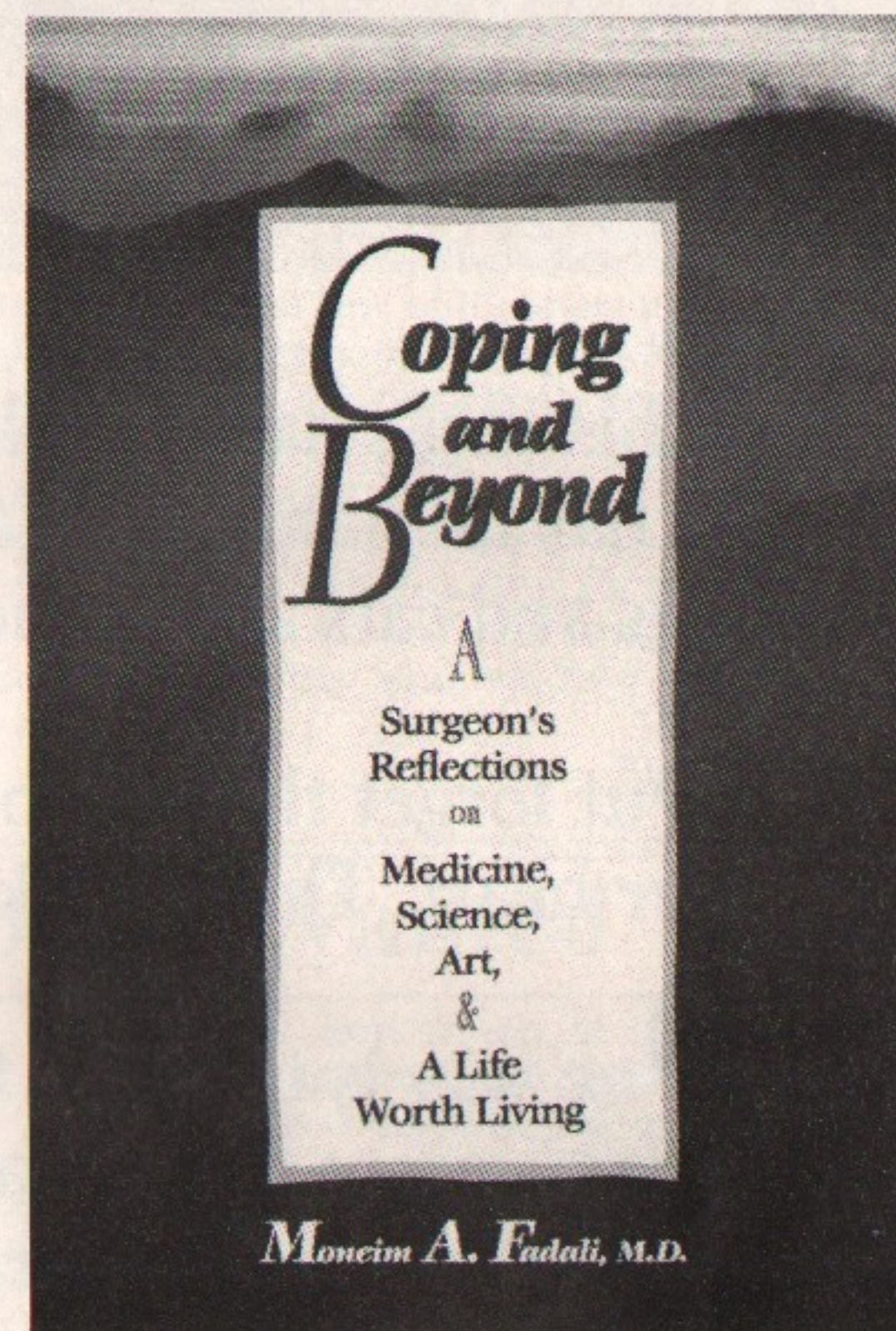
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Letters Continued from page 8

as an initial foray into such theory. I wanted to make it obvious that a feminist analysis is necessary to understand how a meat-eating culture functions when it is part of a patriarchal culture.

Two issues would have to be addressed to satisfactorily answer the question of the existence of vegetarianism as a substantial part of any patriarchal culture. First, in what ways have definitions of masculinity accommodated the strictures against eating animals, so that some aspect of masculine self-definition is achieved in a way parallel to yet different from cultures in which meat bestows certain meanings on masculinity? For instance, some religious orders that forbid eating animals also emphasize celibacy, thus the masculinity of the men in these orders is constructed differently. This, I suspect, will always be the case. In patriarchal cultures, one is not tolerated as a vegetarian man and thus a member of the dominant group in that culture without some other aspect of oneself also being redefined. Whatever the other part of the masculine definition is, it will probably give a clue to the patriarchal meaning of meat in that culture.

The second issue that needs exploring is the question, "How are women and animals viewed? What is thought to be the essential nature of their being?"

When these two questions are examined, then we will begin to answer Ralph Lutts' question, "What else is going on here?"

It was beyond the scope of my book to identify the functioning of the sexual politics of meat outside of Euro-American cultural practices. Initial theoretical forays such as mine do not pretend to be definitive; instead they are invitations for further explorations that take seriously the issue of women's oppression when discussing the problem of animals' exploitation. In my current work, I am exploring just how Euro-American culture ontologizes animals and women, and the ways in which animal rights theory is reconstructing the meaning of masculinity. It is obvious that much more work by many different people is necessary for us to adequately assess the multicultural ways in which animals are given meaning.

Reviews Continued from page 54

other shelters in the greater New York metropolitan area, who deliver the messages about the fate of strays and the urgent need to spay and neuter that are by now all too familiar to anyone who pays any attention whatever to the long-developing and just as long ignored pet overpopulation crisis. But this occupies very little of the running time. People bringing their animals to the ASPCA for euthanasia are interviewed at almost equal length. They seem to be good, honest, kindly, and decent people. They profess noble motives—they hate to leave pets alone all day, they travel on the job and can't take the pets, the pets were given to them by people who didn't understand that they didn't have the time or the space for another creature in their lives. But the high-minded words ring hollow against the close-ups of the young, healthy, life-loving animals they pass to the shelter workers, who receive over 80,000 animals a year with cage space for 750. The truth is simply that each of these people assumed a responsibility, and failed it.

At that, they fail less abysmally than the growing numbers who simply abandon animals—on streets, in parks, in vacant build-

ings, in the nearest patches of woods or countryside—assuming they can fend for themselves, or simply evading the truth of personal negligence. Almost half of *Stray* follows two ASPCA workers as they round up such abandoned animals by the truckload. One worker notes that he's been on the job 17 years, and the stray population is still there.

Ultimately *Stray* is more than just a video about pet overpopulation: it's a video about one particularly flagrant symptom of a growing moral crisis, the widespread loss of the intimate sense of relationship to other living beings that is also both a cause and effect of the breakdown of neighborhoods and families, rising drug abuse and street crime. There is the strong surface message that we need to stop pet breeding, now. And there is the deeper message that the animal lives discarded by "throw-away society" attitudes may foreshadow the trashing of everything else we hold sacred if we cannot, through humane education and other remedial measures, restore an ethic of caring, connectedness, and above all, personal responsibility for what becomes of the lives around us.

—Merritt Clifton

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- If you don't see this magazine in your local health food store or special interest bookstore, ask the manager to call **1-800-435-5003** to find out how to carry it.
- **STUDENTS!** Make sure The ANIMALS' AGENDA is available to other students in your school or college library and bookstore.
- Call or write us at our Connecticut address for subscription flyers. Tuck them into correspondence, into boxes as you fulfill mail-orders, pass them out at rallies, when tabling, etc.
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Thank you!

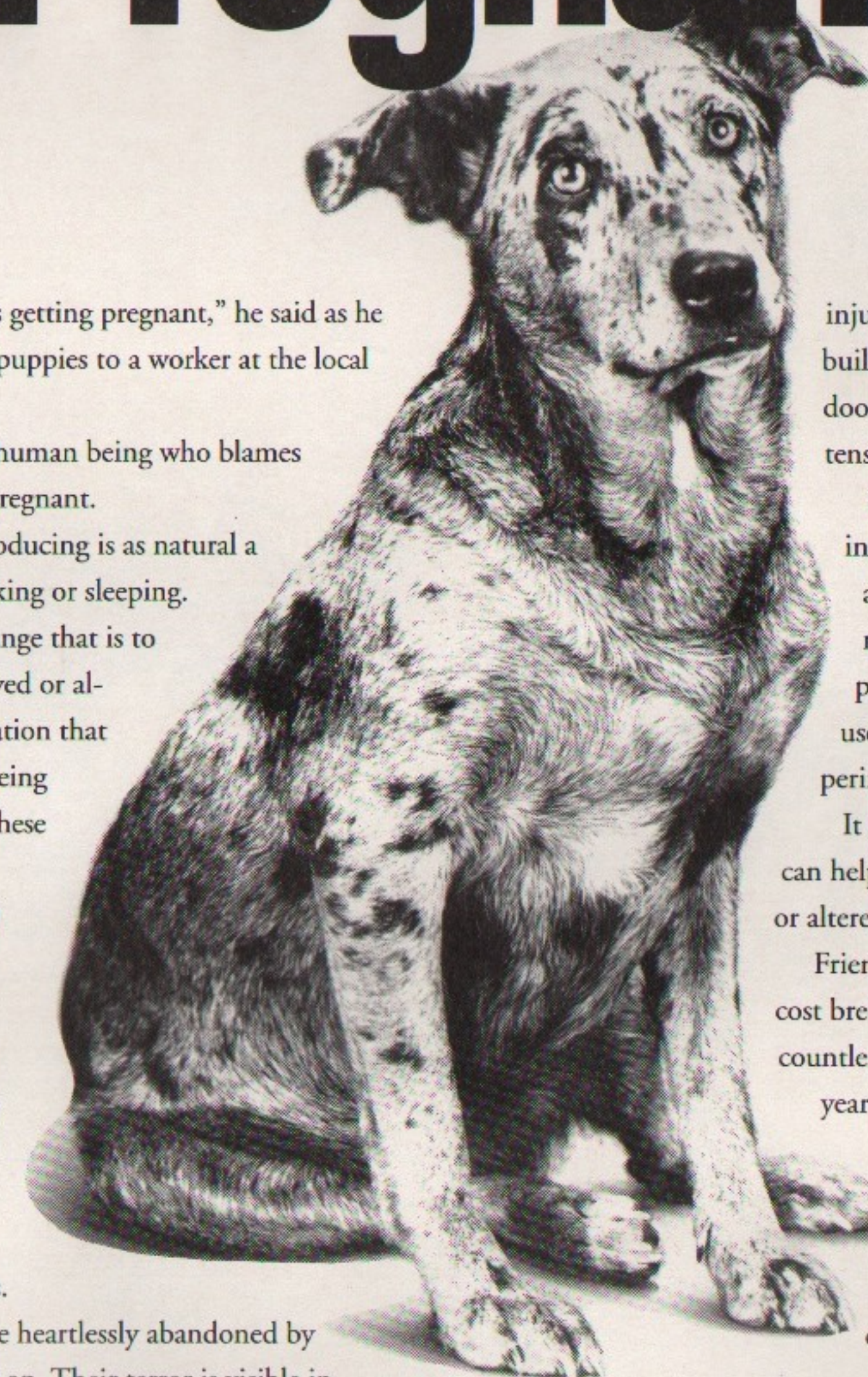
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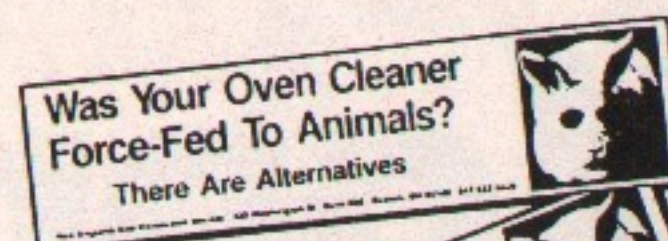
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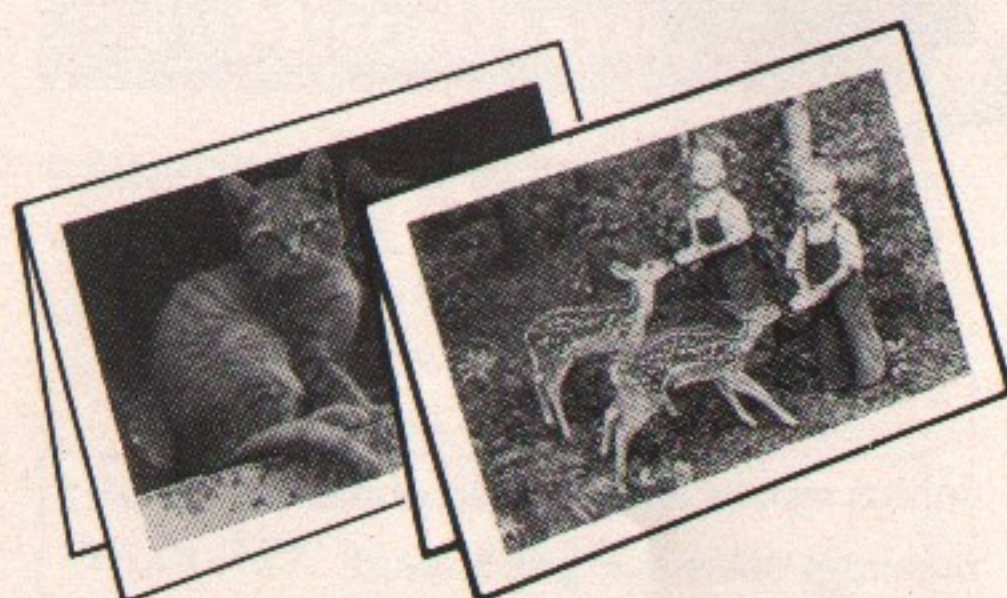


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