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*Anna Sewall*


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# THE ANIMALS' AGENDA

MAY 1992 VOLUME XII NO.4

## 12: Until There Are None, Spay/Neuter One

BY MERRITT CLIFTON

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BY MERRITT CLIFTON

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BY CATHY CZAPLA

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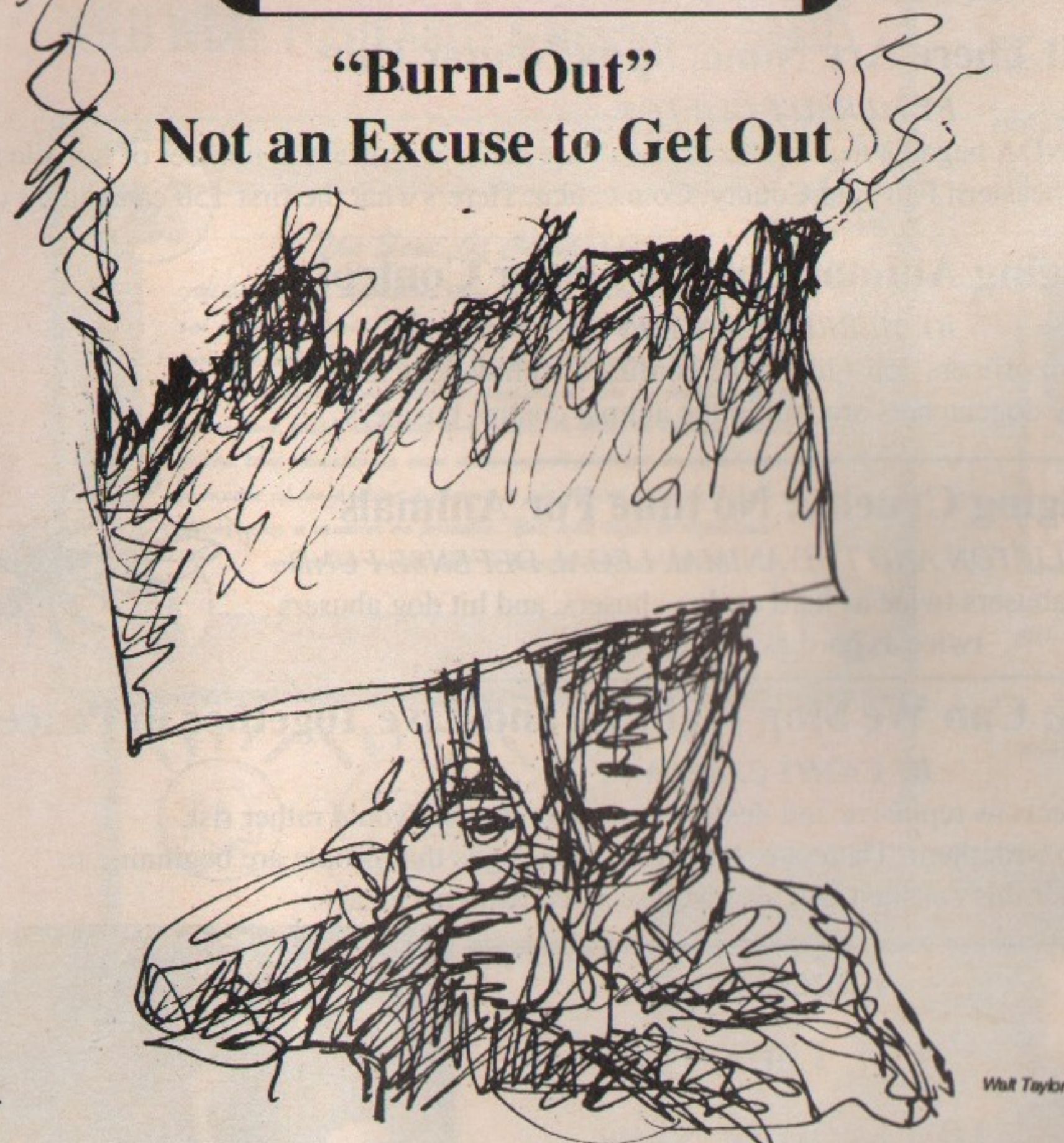
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## "Burn-Out" Not an Excuse to Get Out



Walt Taylor

In past issues, we've printed numerous articles dealing with activist "burnout": how to prevent it, how to recognize it, how to cure it, etc. Finding ways to function better, or simply continue functioning, is important to everyone fighting the uphill battle to improve the status of nonhuman animals in this human-ruled world. Though we're way up the hill (relative to where animals stood, say, a century ago, or even a decade ago), the elation that comes with making progress may not balance out the unhappy side effects of difficult, emotionally draining work. When activists feel depleted, it's time for rest and recreation, and perhaps a change of pace.

But while we understand that burned-out feeling all too well, we can't help being very disappointed when we hear of activists in positions of responsibility and leadership abandoning their posts, using burnout as an excuse. Burnout, in this context, is a luxury the movement, and the animals, can't afford.

Not long ago, I spoke about activist burnout with Lorri Bauston of Farm Sanctuary. Lorri complained about her grueling workload, and I complained about mine, but we both agreed that "burning

out" was simply not an option. "People come up to the Sanctuary to help out, and after a few days they ask how I can possibly enjoy all the work," said Lorri. "I tell them I don't enjoy it, but what's that got to do with anything? I'm not doing this because I want to, I'm doing it because I have to."

That's what commitment is all about. It's doing things not because they are fun or rewarding, but because they need to be done. And the animal rights movement is moving ahead because there are thousands of people out there just like Lorri, working seven days a week from morning until night because the animals need her to be there for them.

If you're feeling the effects of burnout, go to bed, take a vacation, try aromatherapy—whatever makes you feel better. If you've been doing your animal work behind a desk, try spending some time working with animals directly. If you've been spending your days on direct care of animals, do something cerebral for a change. But please don't abandon your important work. Please, don't even think about it.

—The Editor

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### Disillusioned and Betrayed

I was five years old when I was diagnosed diabetic. Twenty-five years later, I'm losing my sight and expect to go on dialysis in the not distant future. For over 20 years, I've been "promised" a cure by the biomedical community. During this time, millions of animals have suffered and died in labs and, thus far, any strides made in the field of diabetic research for diabetics to actually use have been through computer technology and devices. The only major breakthroughs have been the insulin pump and Humulin, neither of which owe anything to animal research.

I want animals out of the labs. I thought the National Anti-Vivisection Society was doing that. With time running out for me and millions of others, it's hard to describe how betrayed I feel when I learn that certain NAVS officials are riding around in a \$22,000 van with a TV, a double stereo system, a cellular telephone, and maybe even a wine rack, when I can no longer drive at all.

—Teri Huyck Clinton, IA

On the strength of Don Barnes' speeches and writings, I was about to join NAVS. Now I read in your pages that NAVS is rotten at the top, although not, happily, rotten to the core.

I am outraged at the antics of those individuals who, fully aware that there are millions of animals screaming in labs right now, have so cold-bloodedly abused the power they have accumulated. How could they! How dare they!

It's time for the Trapp Family Ringers to step aside and make way for someone else. Why can't Don Barnes run that group? He's committed, he's charismatic, he's creative, and, above all, he's honest.

—Marie Perry Clinton, IA

After each expose of another animal organization, I wonder how many other people feel disillusioned as I do. I was so happy when 30 years ago I first heard of a group of people devoted to bettering the lot of animals. I joined many such groups.

Over the years of reading about the many varied humane organizations, I began to realize that there are: 1) those to whom the animals' cause is just a business; 2) those who wish to preserve animals and their habitat for the use of people; 3) those groups that are anti-animal although appearing to be pro-animal; and 4) those who are truly committed to helping animals by improving their conditions and alleviating their suffering.

However, after each article I read in The ANIMALS' AGENDA by or about a person who is really altruistic, I again feel elated and happy to be part of the humane movement, and vow to continue my (small) efforts in the cause.

Thank you for giving us all aspects of the animal issues.

—M. Kramer Ridgewood, NY

### Combine Knowledge with Ethics

I would like to praise Zoe Weil's suggestions in "Teaching Animal Issues" (March '92). Zoe is a talented teacher and has a gift for sharing her commitment to animals with others. I would, however, like to add one more suggestion to those who would like to become more effective humane educators.

Biology, ethology, and psychology are not dirty words when it comes to humane education. We must acknowledge animals for who and what they are in body as well as spirit. Animals do and are many things, not all of them noble, nice, or understandable to us. Spotted hyena pups kill their siblings as a rule; chimps sometimes cannibalize their own, and cuckoos shove the offspring of their host species out of the nest, to name just a few examples. Yet regardless of what they do, animals are. They need to be accepted and met on their terms, not ours.

Too often humane education manipulates people emotionally by idealizing and obscuring animals. It is my strong belief that humane education must not only teach kindness, ethics, and politics, but must also confront people with the nature of animals of all types. "Love" does not housetrain the dog; knowledge about canine behavior and needs does.

The best way I have found to get people to care for battery hens, for example, is to introduce them to what a chicken is. Most modern people have never experienced the complex behaviors, social structures, and needs of these fascinating birds. Without an experiential background regarding chickens, a person has no reference points to base emotions on. It may "feel" cruel to stuff five hens into a tiny cage, but emotion alone does not interpret the cruelty nor offer solutions as to what would constitute humane living conditions for those

chickens. Humane education should provide the building blocks for activism based on accurate animal knowledge.

—Michael E. Kaufmann  
Coordinator of Humane Education  
American Humane Association  
P.O. Box 1266  
Denver, CO 80201-1266

### Breeding Ordinance Supported

Is the cup half empty or half full? In "San Mateo Breeding Ordinance Gutted" (March 1992), it appears you believe the former.

The San Mateo County ordinance, authored by Peninsula Humane Society, was weakened, as most pieces of legislation are, as they proceed through the public comment process. However, it was also expanded upon. I'd like to make a few points.

Continued on next page

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The breeding permit fee is \$25, plus \$25 for an unaltered license, so that someone with an unaltered dog must pay \$50 per year per animal if breeding is anticipated. Whereas this is not ideal, it is far better than what the opposition was proposing.

The one drawback to the ordinance is that if someone signs a statement assuring that they do not intend to breed their animal, they are allowed to simply purchase an unaltered animal license (\$25 for dogs and \$15 for cats). If, however, their animal is ever caught running loose or picked up, they are slapped with a stiff penalty and must pay a spay/neuter deposit. On the second impound, the dog/cat is altered before being released back to the guardian. It is hoped that this one section can be amended next year.

The aspects of the ordinance you see as problematic are, in fact, some of the more positive aspects. By requiring people to publish their breeding permit number in the newspaper when selling or giving away puppies or kittens, the animal control agency will be better able to identify those not abiding by the ordinance. How this breeds irresponsible guardians I'm not sure. I suppose one could argue that whenever you pass a law with a monetary penalty attached to its violation that you are encouraging people to break the law.

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You also believe it is problematic that people who feed strays for a 30-day period will be required to take responsibility and spay/neuter them. One of the most inhumane acts one can perform is to feed stray/feral cats and not sterilize them! If a caretaker can afford food, he/she has access to spaying/neutering. PHS has altered hundreds of feral cats for free and at low cost for people who are responsibly caring for these animals.

The law does limit pet ownership to two dogs and two cats per household, but this is already the law in most of the 20 cities in the county. In fact, the purpose of

standardizing the animal limitation law is so that the fanciers' permit could be included for just \$10 per year. This allows people to care for up to ten animals without having to worry about applying for a kennel license. This wording was included to address some of the concerns cat guardians have regarding the licensing of cats. The intent was never to limit the number of homes for animals, but to do the opposite. Animal limitation laws are typically handled by the individual city zoning department, and working with individual cities is a reality with which one must deal.

You got one thing right, though: if readers would like to receive a copy of the entire ordinance and judge for themselves whether it's a step toward limiting the number of animals killed in shelters, they can order it from our office.

—Kim Sturla,  
Western Director  
The Fund for Animals  
808 Alamo Dr., Ste. 306  
Vacaville, CA 95688

### PETA's Slaughterhouse Investigation

ANIMALS' AGENDA readers got a back-door introduction to PETA's investigation into two Pennsylvania slaughterhouses through the recent publication of Temple Grandin's strident defense of the USDA's refusal to act in this matter (*Letters*, March 1992).

PETA's investigation began as a result of complaints received from both a slaughterhouse employee and a USDA inspector. These whistleblowers shared with us chilling accounts of the manner in which animals are escorted through their violent deaths at the Pennsylvania plants. In a statement submitted to USDA regarding operations at MOPAC, an unnamed MOPAC employee stated that "[i]t happens quite often that animals kick their shackles off while they are being hoisted up on the inclined conveyor, after they are supposed-

Continued on page 7

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## Letters

Continued from page 4

ly stunned, and they actually run panic-stricken in the area of the blood pit until they are trapped and then shot with a stun gun (portable captive-bolt pistol). When I say quite often, I mean once or twice a week. The reason this doesn't happen more is because generally the animals are shackled tightly, and not because other animals aren't also conscious and struggling."

The videotapes that PETA's undercover investigators were able to obtain on the kill floors of the plants confirmed that there were indeed serious flaws in the systems designed to render animals unconscious before shackling, hoisting, and bleeding. For our complaint to the USDA, however, we chose to rely not on our own conclusions, but on those of six veterinarians who carefully reviewed the videotapes, and who expressed the consistent professional judgement that a number of the animals already shackled and hoisted were conscious and sensible to pain and distress.

The theme of Dr. Grandin's letter is that if the USDA cleared the plants of violations, then PETA must have been misguided in its complaint. Since USDA is famous not for enforcing the law, but, rather, for defying and ignoring it (to wit, APHIS's illegal refusal to regulate the care of birds, rats, and mice under the Animal Welfare Act and FSIS's insupportable plan to "streamline" inspection of the nation's already notoriously contaminated meat supply), Dr. Grandin's theory bears little weight. The USDA's "investigation" into the two Pennsylvania plants was, moreover, tardy and superficial. It was more than a month after we filed our complaint to the USDA that a USDA inspector was finally sent in to view the plants. The agency interviewed no line workers, no on-site USDA inspectors, and none of the eyewitnesses whose statements were submitted to USDA as evidence.

PETA doesn't dispute that Grandin, an animal scientist and owner of a slaughter equipment consulting business, is an acknowledged expert in the technology used to accomplish the killing of animals for food. We do dispute, however, that this particular sort of expertise qualifies her uniquely as an authority on either the veterinary medical standards by which con-

sciousness should properly be measured, or the interpretation of an animal's psychological state. The following passage in Grandin's report for the USDA only increases our skepticism: "Hogs that squeal are reacting to prodding and driving. They are not reacting to a fear of slaughter. Almost all the squealing takes place in the chute which leads to the stunning restrainer. When the hogs feel the pressure of the restrainer conveyor against their sides they usually stop squealing. Flank pressure will make pigs relax (Grandin 1989). Hogs which are left in the restrainer conveyor during lunch breaks will usually fall asleep." To suggest that pigs, while being driven to the stunning chute of a slaughterhouse, have no awareness or fear of slaughter, when the blood of hundreds of their own kind is pouring just a short distance beyond, risks grossly underestimating the high intelligence and acute olfactory sense of these animals. And it is unfairly manipulative to describe as "falling asleep" the collapse of pigs exhausted by the stressful, frequently prolonged, and sometimes fatal ordeal of transport.

Grandin's advice that activists should avoid antagonizing the meat industry in order to keep the industry open to reform is also, with all due respect, not acceptable to PETA. Our vision is for a world in which the grisly variations on how to slaughter animals fade into insignificance as educated citizens cease eating meat. While it is our public duty, and our duty to those animals being exploited today, to report what we believe to be violations of the laws that regulate animal-exploiting industries, we are not surprised to find our complaints unwelcome in the agencies that are captives of these industries. If, in the course of our work, the public gets to see for itself the horrors the animals experience, then we have moved the cause much further along than we would if we spent our time and resources keeping on the "good side" of the animals' exploiters.

—Jeanne Roush  
Dir., Research and Investigations  
PETA P.O. Box 42516  
Washington, DC 42516

As the veterinarians who reviewed the PETA slaughterhouse videotapes, we would like to respond to Temple Grandin's letter.

We watched the operator stunning the same cow two and three times as the animal desperately attempted to climb over the bodies jammed around him. We watched the electric prod applied to the sensitive skin of the head and neck. Often, the prod only caused the cow to struggle even more vigorously. We watched animals kicking with all three free legs as they swung into the next body on the conveyor

Continued on next page

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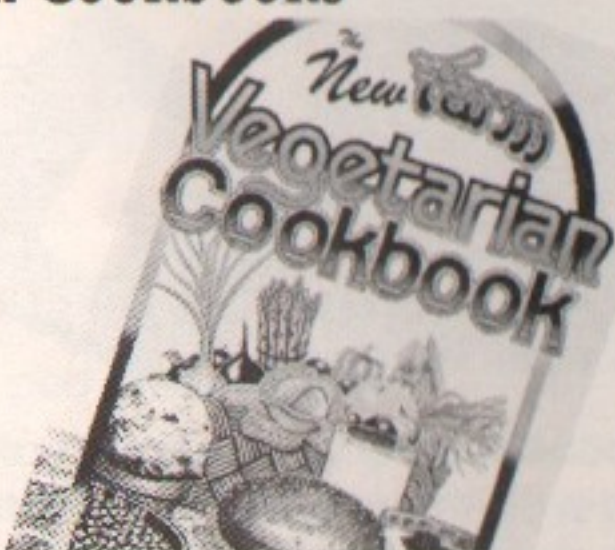
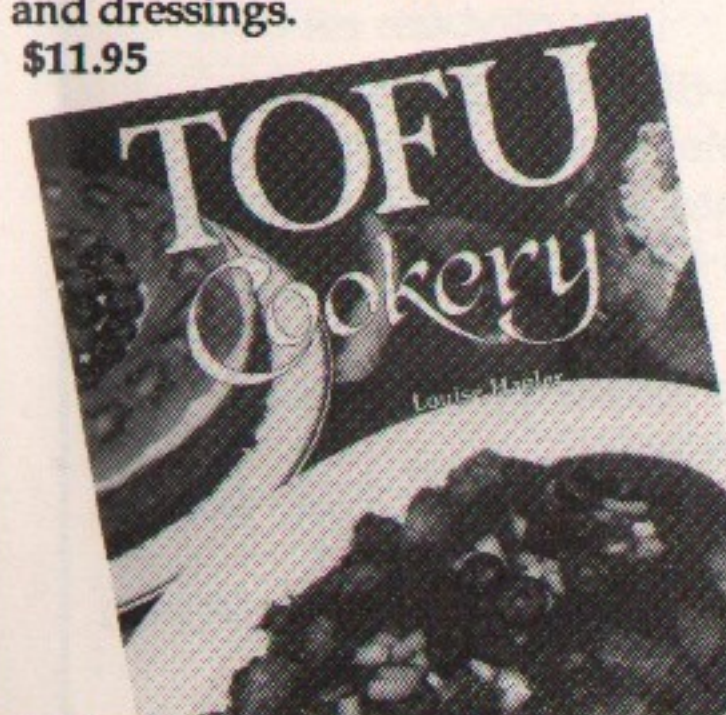
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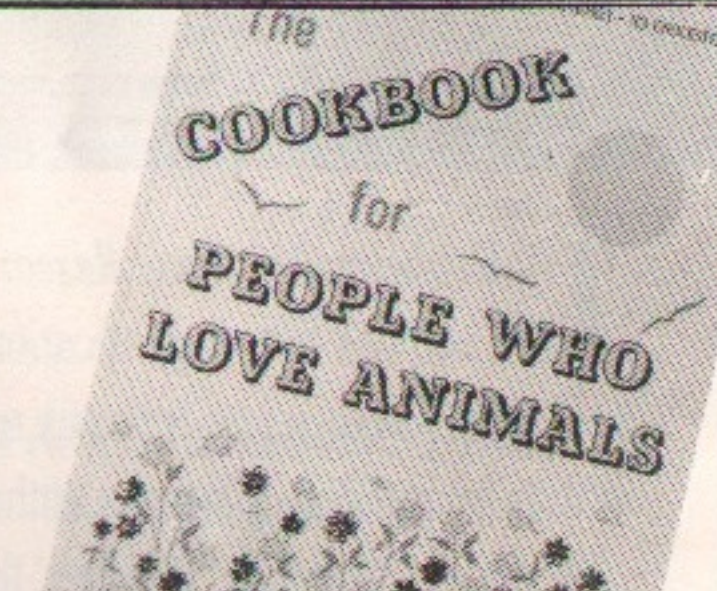
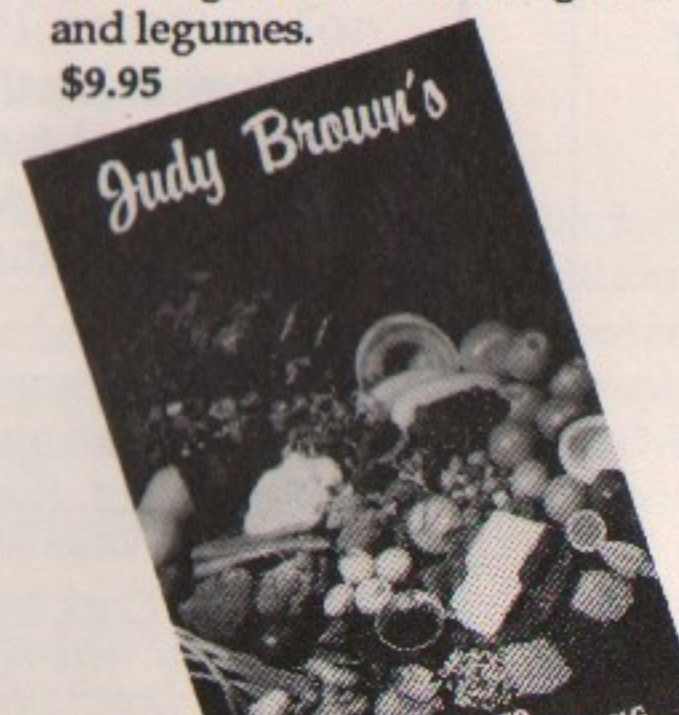
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*The Farm Vegetarian Cookbook*, edited by Louise Hagler, is a wholesome choice for any kitchen. Its recipes turn familiar dishes into vegetarian delicacies, using versatile soyfoods, grains, and legumes.  
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*Judy Brown's Guide to Natural Foods Cooking* presents over 200 healthy, delicious, and remarkably simple vegan recipes. Brown, food editor of *Whole Foods* magazine, also gives useful advice on cooking basic ingredients such as grains and legumes.  
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Continued from previous page

belt. We could imagine ligaments and muscles tearing in the leg which supported their entire weight as they struggled.

It is Dr. Grandin's own description of "some stunner placement problems" that undermines the credibility of her final assessment. By definition, humane stunning cannot be accomplished without proper use of the equipment. The suffering of conscious, kicking animals hanging by their hind legs from the conveyor line, waiting for the knife at their throat, is a direct result of "some stunner placement problems."

It was with great difficulty, horror, and sadness that we reviewed PETA's videotapes, but knowing that they are being used to educate the public about the inherent cruelty in eating meat has made the work worthwhile. Dr. Grandin's assessment that these two slaughterhouses "are two of the better ones in the industry" only reinforces the importance of disseminating this information. If these plants are above average, we can only imagine what the experience of animals entering the "real dump[s]" must be like. We only hope that Dr. Grandin will work to expose such places.

—Wendy Thacher, DVM, Olney, MD  
Eric Dunayer, VMD, Rockville, MD  
Suzanne Cliver, DVM, Reston, VA  
Kerry Levin-Smith, DVM, Ukiah, CA  
Suzanne Terrant, DVM, Columbus, OH

### The Perdue Campaign Broad-Based

Thank you ANIMALS' AGENDA for running the story of the Perdue campaign. Surely this will encourage others who now, or are about to, target Perdue and the broiler industry.

In that connection, and at the risk of appearing nitpicking, I feel the need to note that my manuscript said that "we landed on Frank Perdue." In the editing process that became "my organization, Animal Rights International, landed on Frank Perdue." The distinction is very important. We are anxious that nothing in the article suggests that this be viewed as an ARI campaign. Quite to the contrary, Perdue is currently being targeted by other groups, and it is the involvement of ever more organizations that will most rapidly place farm animal well-being on the national agenda. To that end, our ads are never copyrighted, and anybody can use or adapt them without permission or acknowledgment.

—Henry Spira  
Animal Rights International  
Box 214, Planetarium Stn.  
NY, NY 10024

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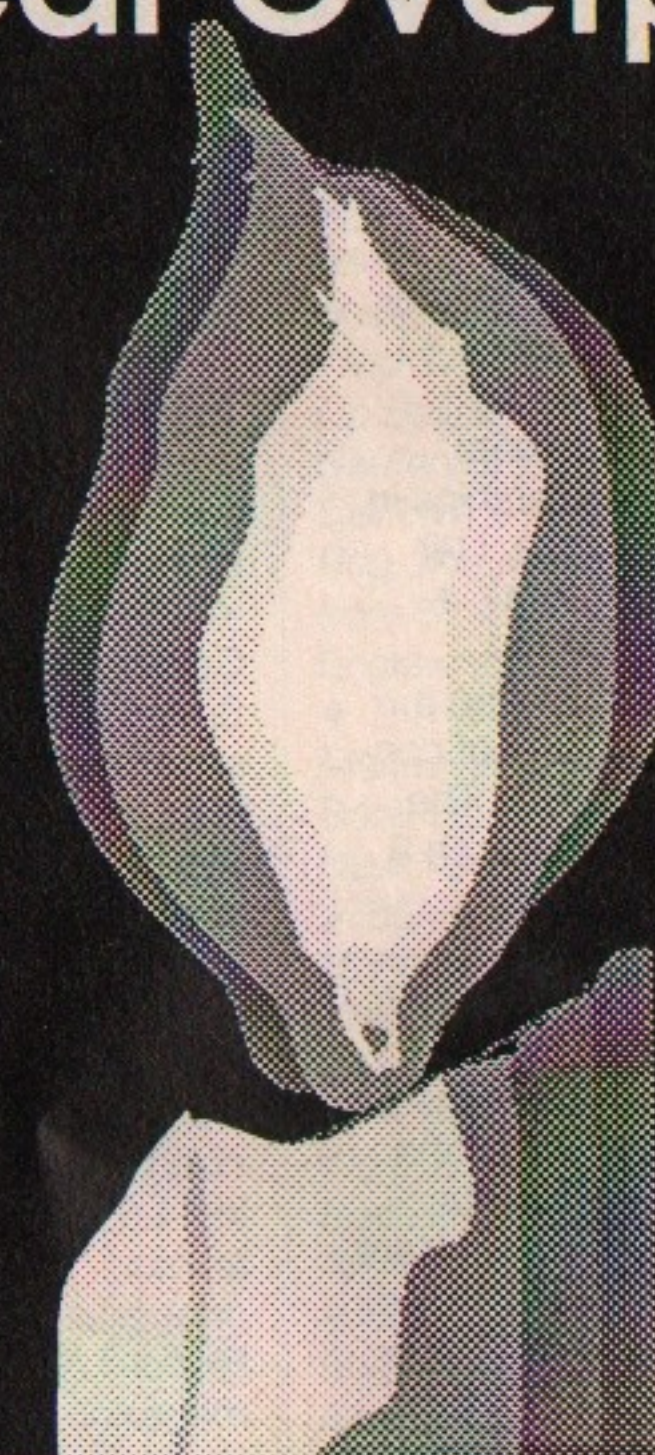
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Contact International Society for Animal Rights (ISAR) to find out which organization in your area is sponsoring a Candlelight Vigil, or to organize a Vigil in your area. Candlelight Vigil organizing materials and press information are available from ISAR.



## Corrections

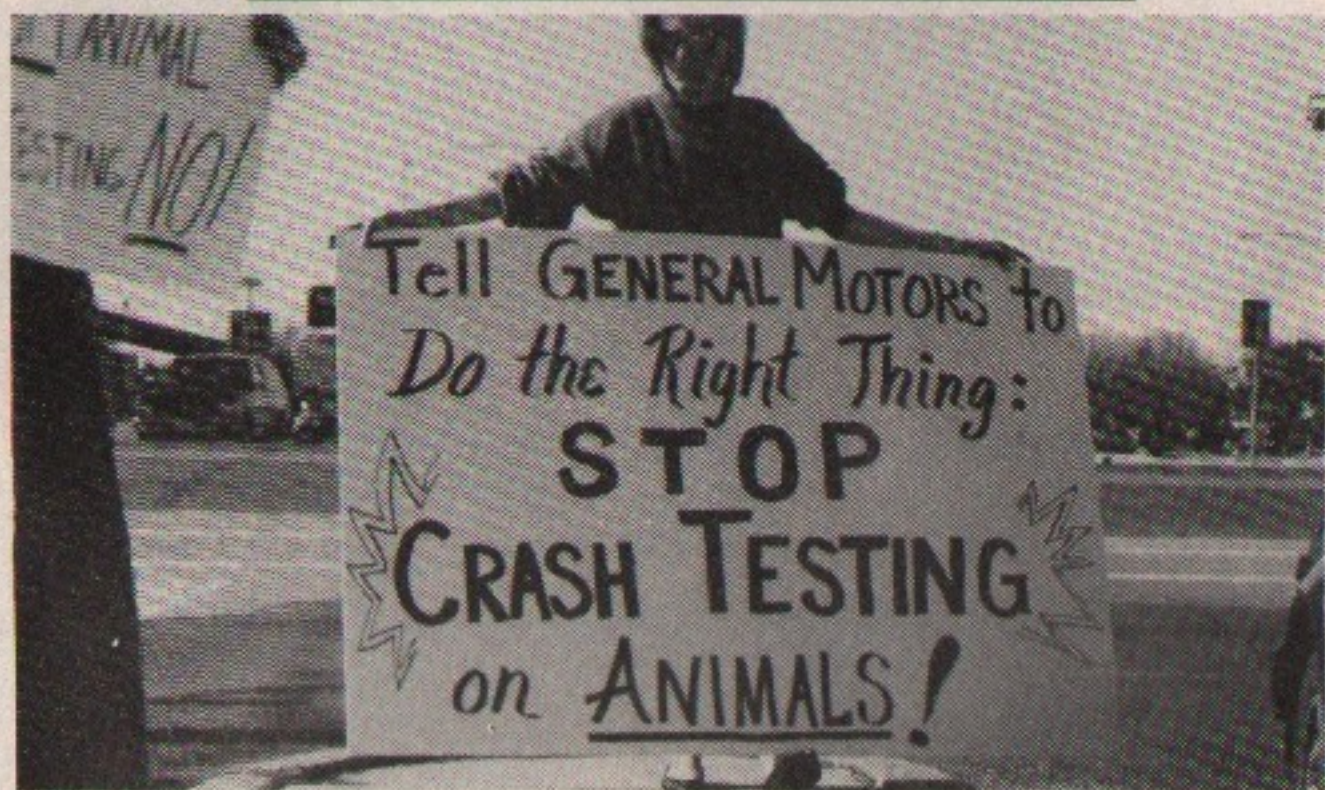
During the late stages of laying out the April 1992 feature "Who Gets The Money," a glitch in our computerized pagemaking system moved the headline *Selected Opposition Groups* from the top of the portion of Table #1 that gave the financial abstract of opposition organizations, to the top of the footnotes on animal protection groups. The ANIMALS' AGENDA had no intention of identifying any of the groups mentioned in those footnotes as belonging to the opposition. Having already repeatedly proofread the text, the editors had no opportunity to review the final layout because of the proximity of the print date to the annual Summit for the Animals. We apologize to everyone who was thus misidentified.

◆ Because of an error in reconstructing text from a damaged computer disk, the second of three projections of national pet theft statistics in the first column of page 18 in the April issue inadvertently concluded by repeating the bottom-line numbers from the first projection, in the paragraph above. The correct figures, projected from American Veterinary Medical Assn. data, are 465,600 dogs stolen, and 328,800 cats, for a combined total of 791,000—very close to the figures in the third projection, based on Marketing Research Corp. of America data, which arrived at totals of 436,800 dogs stolen and 355,200 cats, for a combined total of 799,400.

## Campaigns

The Royal SPCA and WSPA plan to present petitions opposing bullfighting to Spanish ambassadors around the world on July 22. To gather signatures, get petition forms from WSPA: 617-522-7000. ◆ Coloradans United for Bears seeks petition carriers to help place an anti-bear hunting initiative on the state ballot. Get details from 841 Front St., Louisville, CO 80027; 303-666-8211. ◆ The Northwest Animal Rights Network, of Seattle, has called a boycott of Federal Express Corp. because the firm allegedly transports live horses to Japan for slaughter.

## Edited By Merritt Clifton



Society for Texas Animal Rights

◆ The Society for Texas Animal Rights is protesting use of animals in product tests by General Motors on alternate weekends outside dealerships in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Get details from 214-821-7047. ◆ The Greenhouse Crisis Foundation on April 1 began a global campaign to cut beef consumption by at least 50%. The campaign followed the March 9 publication of GCF founder Jeremy Rifkin's new book, *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture* (Dutton, \$21.00). Campaign activities are to include public education and strategic lawsuits. ◆ Campus Animal Rights Expedition, of Kent State Univ., on Feb. 29 picketed GM at the Cleveland Auto Show.

## Coming Events

The 1992 biennial meeting of the World Society for the Protection of Animals will be held May 14-15 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, in Boston, Mass.; registration is \$85 for members, \$100 for others. Get details from 617-522-7000. ◆ The North American Vegetarian Society Summerfest, to be held Aug. 5-9 at Bryant College in Smithfield, Rhode Island, will include as speakers Kim Bartlett, Merritt Clifton, and Victoria Moran of The ANIMALS' AGENDA; also philosopher Tom Regan, and Gene and Lorri Bauston of Farm Sanctuary. Get further info from P.O. Box 72, Dolgeville, NY 13329; 518-568-7970. ◆ John Besante and Tom Delaney, the two-member Bird Club of Jersey City, have placed over 700 birdhouses during the past two years. They made 500 of the birdhouses themselves; 200 were made by inmates at Bayside State Prison.

## Dogs And Cats

The Central Kentucky Animal Care Assn. Spay-Neuter Clinic opened March 2 in Lexington, Kentucky, organized by ANIMALS' AGENDA readers Cathy Murphy and Jacquie Smith. Employing a fulltime veterinarian and assistant, the clinic will complement the anti-pet overpopulation efforts of local humane societies. ◆ Boosting adoption rates via active socialization, fostering, and groomer training programs, the San Francisco SPCA in 1991 euthanized just 24 animals, while placing 4,611. The euthanized animals "had incurable illnesses or aggressive behavior," director Richard Avanzino told *Parade* magazine recently. "We accept about 90 percent of the animals that are offered to us, and we try to have all sorts, not just the 'cute and cuddlies.' We have younger animals, older animals, three-legged dogs, elderly cats." For details, write Avanzino c/o San Francisco SPCA, Dept. P, 2500 16th St., San Francisco, CA 94103. ◆ The Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County, Fla., has published a list of local mobile home parks and retirement centers that allow pets—and a list of those that don't. A vital service to seniors with animals, similar lists covering general rentals would also be in big demand, judging by calls received here from people desperate to find tolerant landlords. ◆ Adoptions from the city animal shelter in Alexandria, Va., leaped 52% after mayor Patricia Ticer began spotlighting shelter animals on a monthly cable TV show. ◆ The 300 volunteer members of POWARS, a three-year-old group set up to help pet owners who have AIDS, delivers

3,000 pounds of pet food and supplies per month. POWARS has thus far helped place the animals of 93 AIDS fatalities.

## Good Trips

Farm Sanctuary welcomes guests three times daily, Saturdays and Sundays, May through October—and has a bed-and-breakfast room. For details, write P.O. Box 150, Watkins Glen, NY 14891; or call 607-583-2225. ◆ The Vegetarian Society of Tampa Bay, Fla., holds potlucks the last Saturday of each month. For info, call 813-576-6596. ◆ Membership in the Adventure Travel Society, the trade group for ecotour promoters, may be reached c/o 6551 S. Revere Parkway, #160, Englewood, CO 80111. ◆ The Cousteau Society offers a pair of two-week research trips to Fiji in July and August at \$4,300 per person. Get details at 804-627-1144—and ask about vegan/vegetarian meal options. ◆ Lynn Rogers of the U.S. Forest Service offers two-week bear study trips at Ely, Minnesota, for \$1,345/person. Get details at 617-926-8200—and ask about vegan/vegetarian meal options there, too. The more ecotour organizers are asked for vegan/vegetarian options, the more they'll be likely to provide them.

## Group News

Voices for Animals of Central Fla. and AnimaLiberation have merged. Contact them c/o Box 26, Winter Park, FL 32790. ◆ Students for Other Species has organized c/o John Abbott College, C.P. 2000, Ste. Anne-De-Bellevue, Quebec, Canada H9X 3L9. ◆ People for Animal Rights, of Vermont, has become Green Mountain Animal Defenders. The address remains 61 Industrial Ave., Williston, VT 05495, and the telephone is still 802-865-2443. ◆ The Western Humane and Environmental Educators' Assn., open to individuals only at \$15/yr., may be reached c/o the Marin Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94949; 415-883-3522. ◆ Help The Zoo, which helped shut down the once-notorious zoo in Watertown, N.Y., has reorganized as Animals and the

Environment, seeking amendments to the Animal Welfare Act to protect wild animals used in entertainment. Get info c/o P.O. Box 428, Watertown, NY 13601-0428. ◆ Humane Ethics for Animal Liberation seeks contact with other groups, c/o 1 Toh Heights, Singapore 1750.

## Honors

An abstract of the Sept. 1991 ANIMALS' AGENDA cover feature on canned hunts is included in *The Top 25 Censored News Stories of 1991 and 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992: Two Decades of Censored Presidential Election Year Issues*, a publication of the media research group Project Censored. The feature noted that George Bush shoots tame pheasants each year at Christmas. Project Censored annually spotlights 25 major stories that were under-reported by mass media. Stories by ANIMALS' AGENDA news editor Merritt Clifton and editor-at-large Patrice Greenville have ranked among the top 25 in three of the past four years. (Copies of the Project Censored volume are \$12, from P.O. Box 310, Cotati, CA 94931.)

## On The Screen

Protest the misrepresentation of nature in the video *Hunting And Escaping* to Candace Carpenter, President, Time-Life Video, 1450 E. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23280-9977. Consisting almost wholly of killing and attempted killing, *Hunting And Escaping* is promoted as virtual snuff pornography, including "Shocking, explicit" footage of "heart-thumping" scenes including a "deadly bid for control of a local harem of females," together with a "wriggling blanket" of army ants "swarming over every living thing in their path...systematically butchering...Even tethered dogs..."

## Letters

Object to Gummi Sour Road Pets, candies made to resemble road kills, c/o Mederer Corp., P.O. Box 68, Creston, IA 50801. ◆ Object to Sharp Electronics Corp. sponsorship of 38 rodeos c/o Sharp Plaza, Mawwah, NJ 07495-0020.



## Offerings

*Psychology and the Student Rights Option*, an information-packed poster, is available from Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, P.O. Box 1297, Washington Grove, MD 20880; 301-963-4751. ◆ A detailed vegetarian guide to the San Francisco Bay area is \$6.50 from the S.F. Vegetarian Society, 1450 Broadway, #4, San Francisco, CA 94109-2635. ◆ The American Humane Assn. offers a set of three spay/neuter posters for \$10.00. Captions: *Who Says Neutered Dogs Have No Balls?; This Dog Has Been Neutered, But We Dare You To Call Him A Sissy; and Save A Rug...Neuter Your Cat.* Order from 63 Inverness Drive East, Englewood, CO 80112-5117. ◆ *The Wild Horse: An Adopter's Manual* is \$24.95 from Howell Book House, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022; 800-257-5755. ◆ The fifth updated edition of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society *Guide To Vegetarian Dining In The Boston Area* is free for SASE from 333 Washington St., Suite 850, Boston, MA 02108. ◆ Animal Amnesty has issued a colorful antifur booklet in Italian (with English translation sheets available); write the group c/o Galleria Passarella, 1-20122 Milano, Italy.

## Prizes

The Humane Society of the U.S. seeks nominations for the 1992 Russell and Burch Award by June 1. The \$5,000 award goes to "researchers or educators who have made outstanding contributions toward the advancement of alternative methods in the area of biomedical research, testing, or higher education." Get details from Martin Stephens, HSUS, 2100 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20037.

## Tactics

The Bungy Zone in Nanaimo, British Columbia, recently offered a day of nude bungy-jumping as a fundraiser for the local SPCA. About 400 spectators paid \$2.00 apiece to watch the 120 jumpers, including 110 men and 10 women. ◆ Birdwatchers persuaded residents of Worden, Oregon, circa 1978 that declar-

ing the surroundings an eagle sanctuary wouldn't kill economic growth, by patronizing local inns and stores and leaving behind cards reading, "I'm here because of the Bald Eagle Conference." The conference now brings the town \$160,000 a year. ◆ The 1992 Summit for the Animals adopted resolutions in support of the Downer Protection Act (see above); the right of students to opt out of dissection laboratories; and an amendment to the Endangered Species Act to protect animals used in entertainment. The Summit also passed a resolution of opposition to Spanish bullfights and other animal abuse held in fiestas. ◆ In Defense of Animals collected \$130,000 worth of furs during a local Fur Amnesty Week held late last year, and now plans to make it a national event. For details on participation, write 816 West Francisco Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901; or call 415-453-9984.

## Victories

Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals has persuaded the Vermont State Fair at Rutland and the Champlain Valley Fair in Essex Junction to bar sales of dogs, cats, and other companion animals. ◆ An ANIMALS' AGENDA reader in Queens who declines to be identified put an unlicensed storefront veterinary clinic out of business, after city and professional authorities failed to act, by walking up and down the sidewalk in front of it, distributing information on legitimate local clinics to potential customers. ◆ A Temple Univ. Institute for Continuing Studies course on hunting with beagles was cancelled from lack of enrollment. "I think it's safe to say that we will not be offering courses like this in the future," associate vice provost Barbara Jaffe said, after receiving an avalanche of letters from ANIMALS' AGENDA readers. ◆ After five years, the Asociaion Amigos de los Animales has placed almost all of the 275 animals who were left abandoned by the collapse of the Panama Horse Track Zoo. The Performing Animal Welfare Society took three lions, while Primarily Primates accepted a chimpanzee, leaving only two one-eyed crocodiles still to



# Until There Are None,

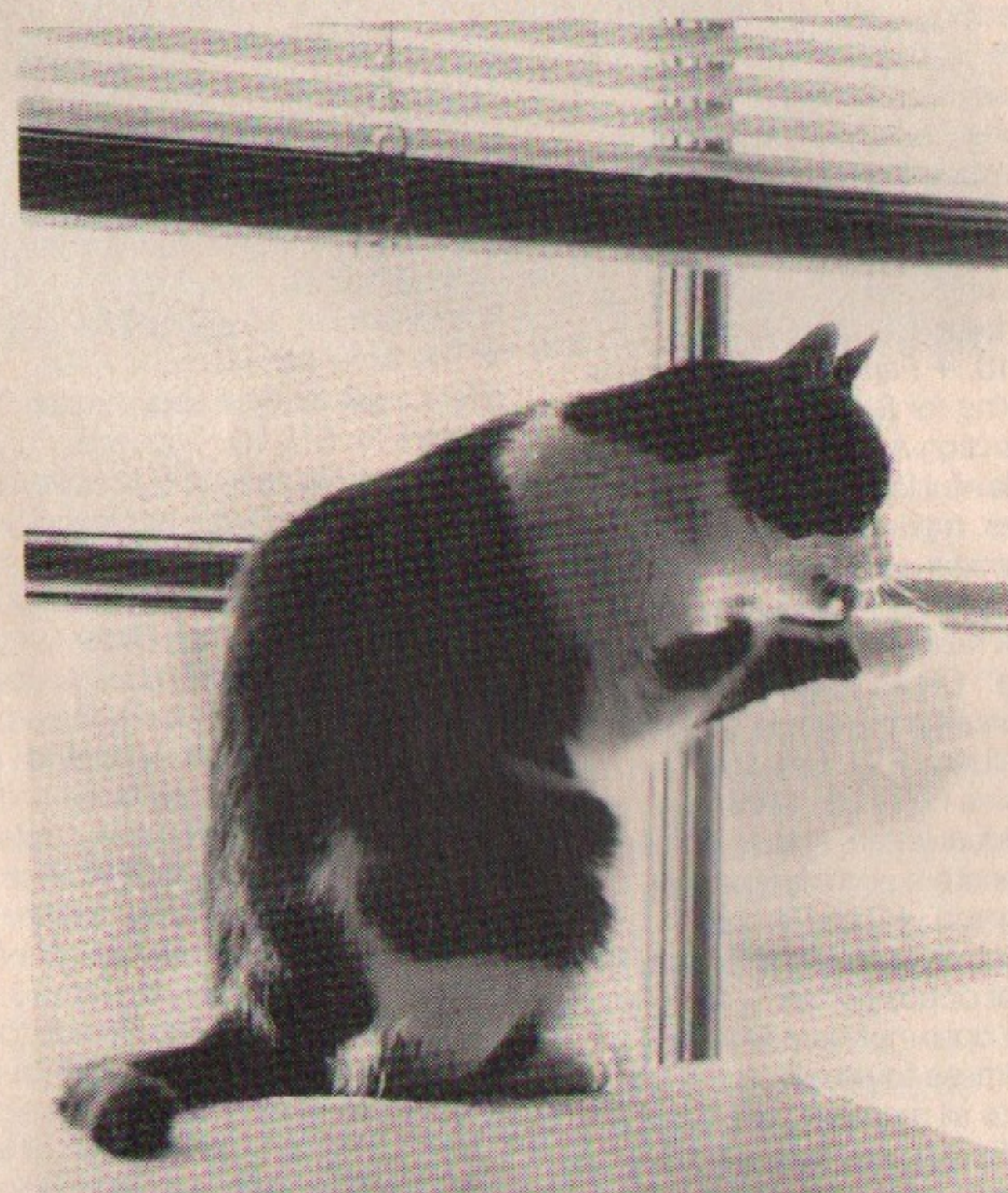
**M**ost of us had rescued homeless cats before, as individuals, but the official ANIMALS' AGENDA cat project began with Shelley. A nearly furless walking skeleton in funeral black, Shelley tottered up to Kim Bartlett during her first visit to our first homeless cat colony, as other cats scrambled for cover; reared up to be petted, rested his front feet on her leg, and purred. A sleek, fit office mascot today, Shelley may be the gentlest tomcat who ever lived—a surrogate mother to kittens, and a steadying influence on spitting, hissing, claw-slashing ferals who behave much more like hale and hearty sabre-toothed tigers than pathetic waifs.

Of the first 150 cats treated since The ANIMALS' AGENDA cat project started, Shelley is one of only four strays, former pets who were evidently dumped. These strays are conspicuous by their tentative trust of humans, their eagerness to make friends and be adopted. And they tend to be older cats. Since Shelley came in, there have also been Cleopatra II, named after the queenly Cleopatra I who once shared my home in Quebec; Derby, a jaunty black-and-white tom, slow to shed the shock of having been cast out by people he loved; and Keiko the calico, named after a Japanese friend of The ANIMALS' AGENDA, who was abandoned when her people moved, to become mother and grandmother of a 17-cat colony.

We have caught six other "owned" cats, all wandering toms, now fixed and wandering no more.

The remaining 140 cats were born in dumpsters, holes between rocks, and other outdoor hiding places. Eight kittens have been tamed and adopted out. Another 12 kittens are at this writing still in the office, getting used to humans and awaiting adoption, along with two adult ferals who had no hospitable place to return to. Socializing ferals, even young ones, can sometimes be a slow process. Two of the first five kittens Kim brought in, members of Shelley's colony, still haven't been taken. One of them has the look and mannerisms of a cornered weasel, all fight and suspicion, even now. He's slashed Kim's wrists so often that with her sleeves rolled up, she looks like a chronic would-be suicide. He isn't the only frustrating case. There's also Christmas, whom I captured after an hour-long vigil over a trap on Christmas night. Born and raised in a trash compactor, Christmas apparently never knew what daylight was. He wouldn't come out of his hiding place during daylight or when lights were on until seven weeks after he arrived. Shelley seems to have him convinced, now, that daylight is not a menacing and unnatural state of affairs; but his socialization has really only just begun.

BY MERRITT CLIFTON



Elaine Osowski

On the other hand, Barnum, Bailey, and Ringling, a brothers' circus whose antics need no coercion with whips and chairs, tamed right up in about two days—in marked contrast to their still-wild and nameless sister. These four kittens came from a colony behind a local restaurant, where a waitress fed their mother and grandmother, and a printer from the shop next door had already adopted their elder brothers. Two of the four kittens were offspring of the grandmother of the other pair, but they were raised as one litter, a family arrangement not uncommon among ferals.

Why the rambunctious boys should have taken so readily to humans, we have no idea. One thing we've learned is that when it comes to homeless cat behavior, there are no accurate generalizations. They behave as idiosyncratically as people. Just among toms, there are some who exemplify the fighting and fornicating tomcat stereotypes; toms who like to hang out with the boys; and the occasional Shelley, or Schopenhauer, a pre-cat project abandonee we rescued from behind a local supermarket, who exhibits much the same benevolent temperament. There are onetime true ferals like Alfred the Great, another pre-project rescue who came out of the Quebec woods to become an affectionate butterball, and others like Keeter, who, five years after he showed up on Kim's front porch, will still barely condescend to be touched.

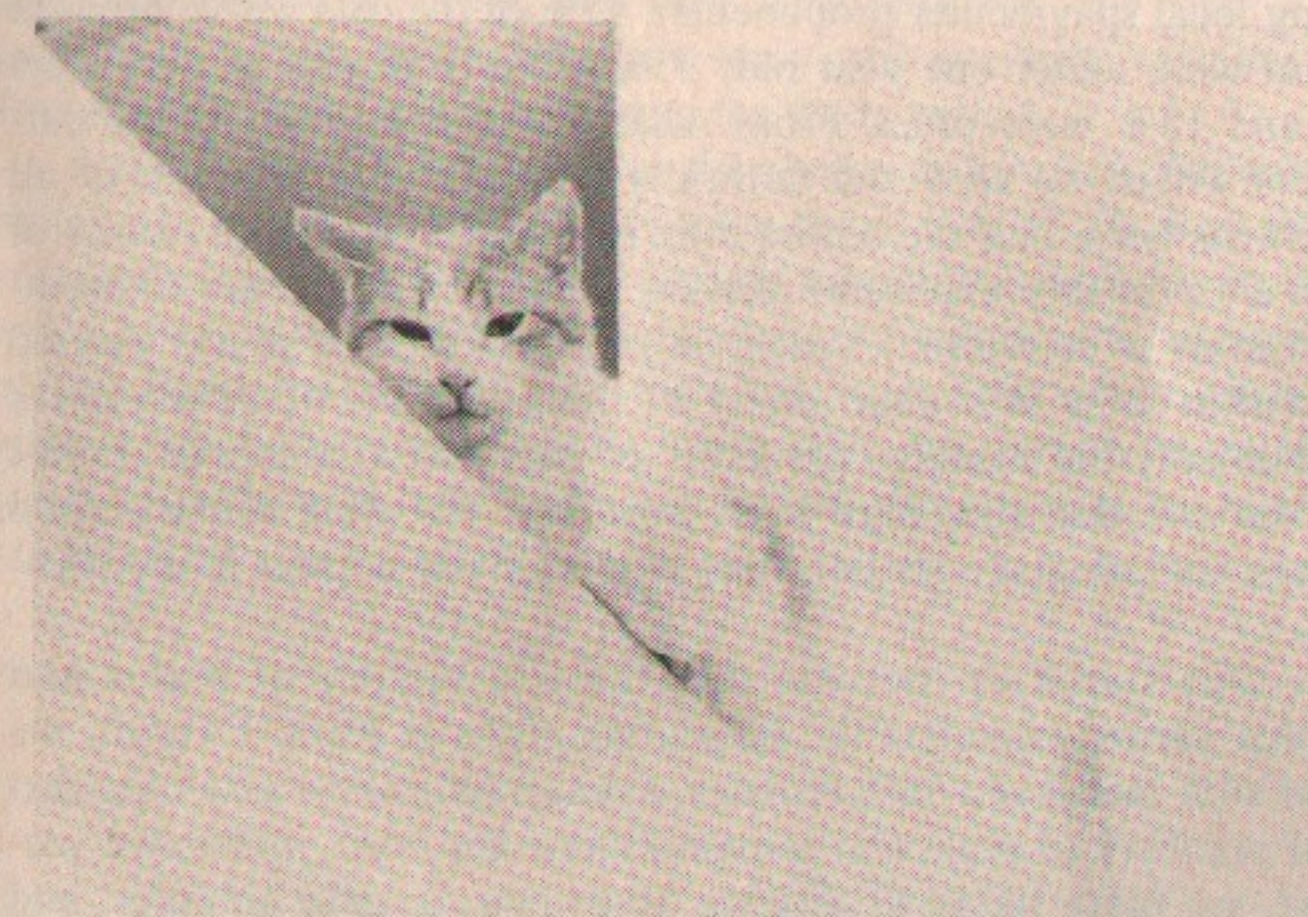
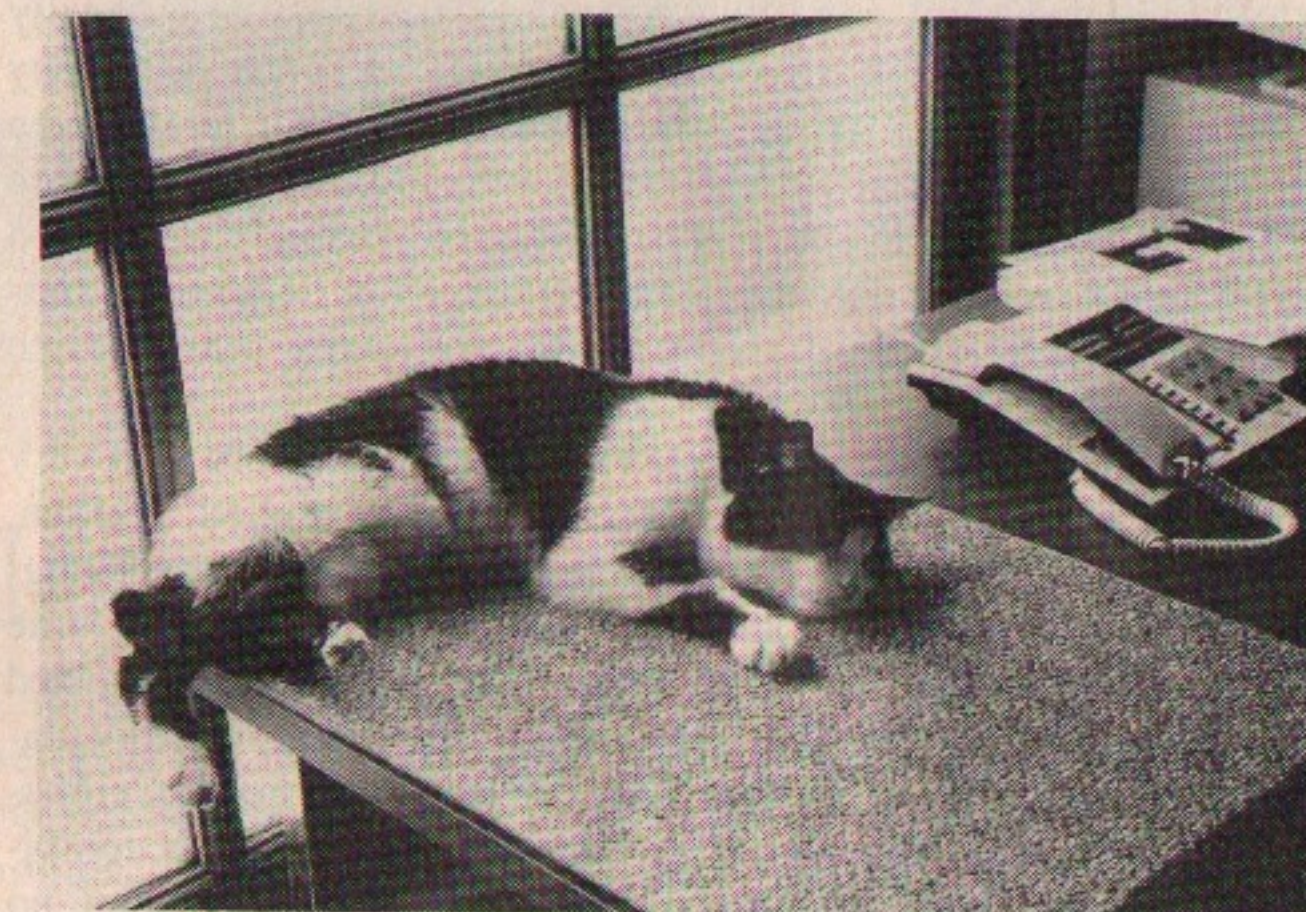
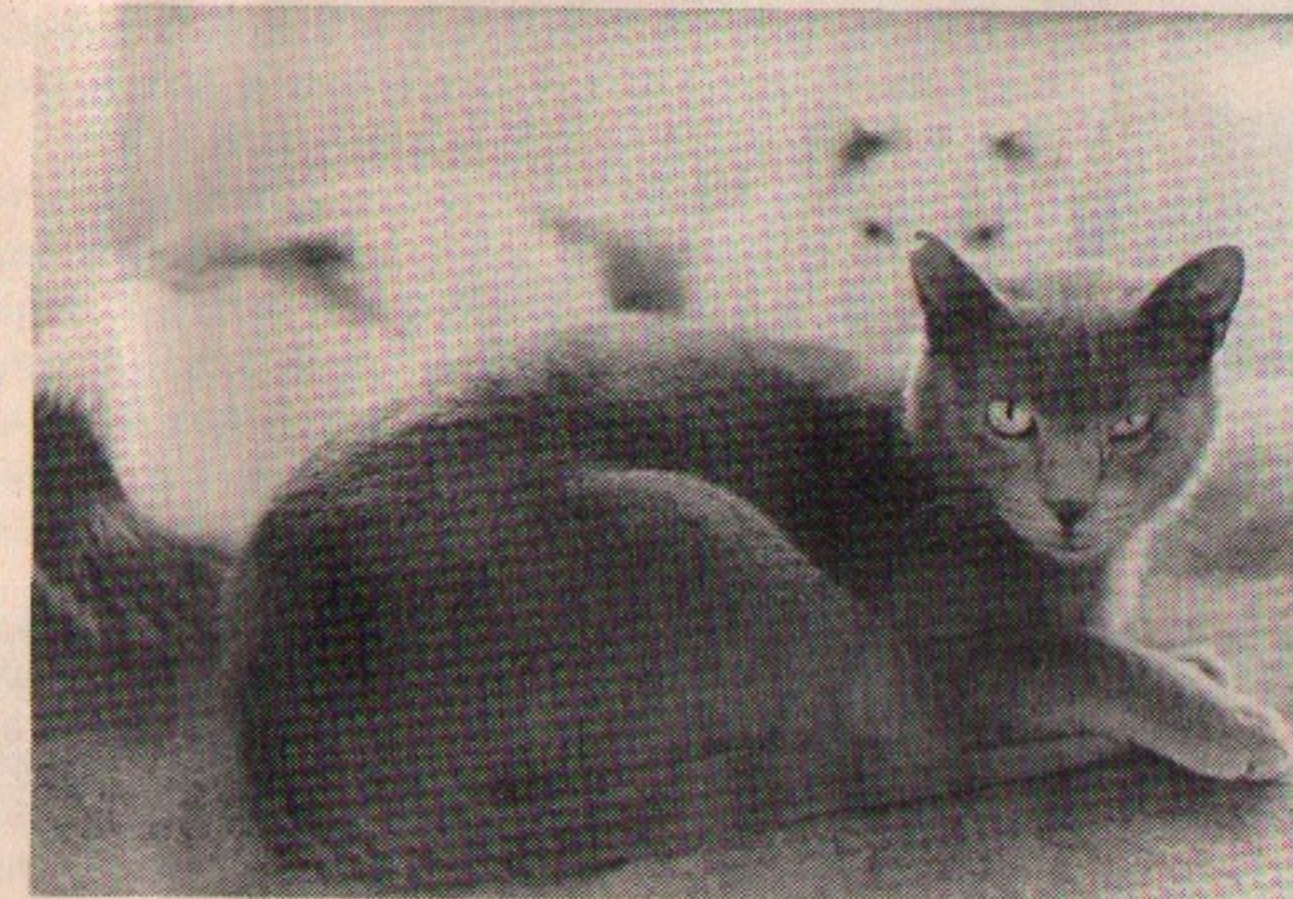
We employ a variety of cat-taming psychology. George Vedder, volunteer chief of The ANIMALS' AGENDA's cat project, croons to the cats in almost their own language. Kim soothes them in much the same way she soothes our infant son. I tell them I'm a big monster who eats cats, on the theory that if I tell them what they believe to be true, they'll decide I'm trustworthy. George and Kim get better results, as a rule, but sometimes I connect with one who suspects George and Kim are devils in disguise for having trapped them in the first place.

My mother insists that humankind created purring machinery in an effort to match the purring sounds emanated by our long-lost Cat Goddess. If there is such a deity, she must surely be confused by the contrast between the daily works of Kim and George, and the fervent prayers for their condemnation coming from the 115 ferals they have released after spay/neuter and vaccinations, almost all of whom tore out of their carrying cages as if rocket-propelled when returned to their habitat.

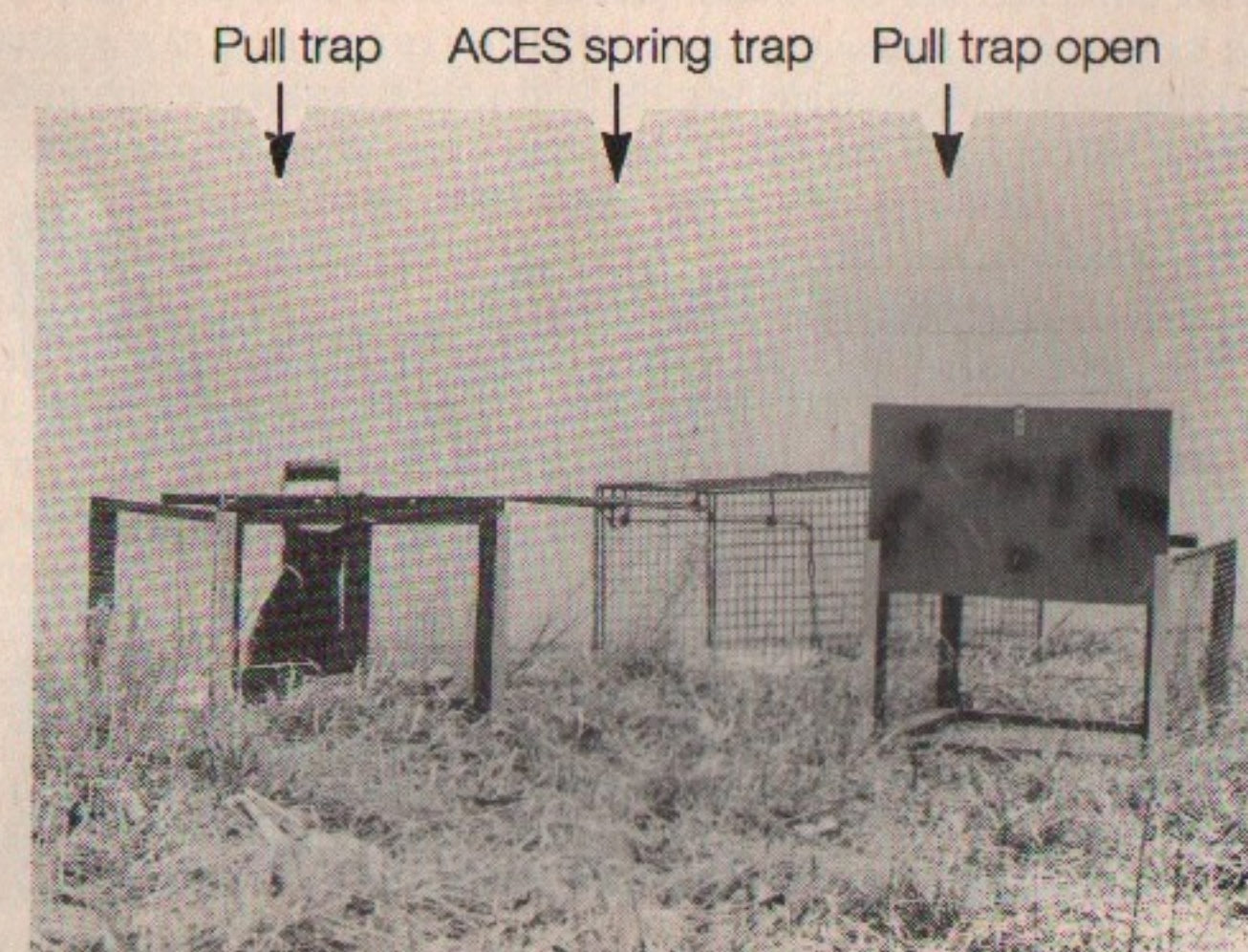
An anti-neuter/release cruelty investigator asked us recently how we could distinguish between true ferals, who may be every bit

Continued on page 14

# Spay/Neuter One



Shelley models one of George's pull traps. (True ferals are not this calm when trapped. A sheet or blanket thrown over the trap helps quiet them.)



Photos by Elaine Osowski



Continued from page 12

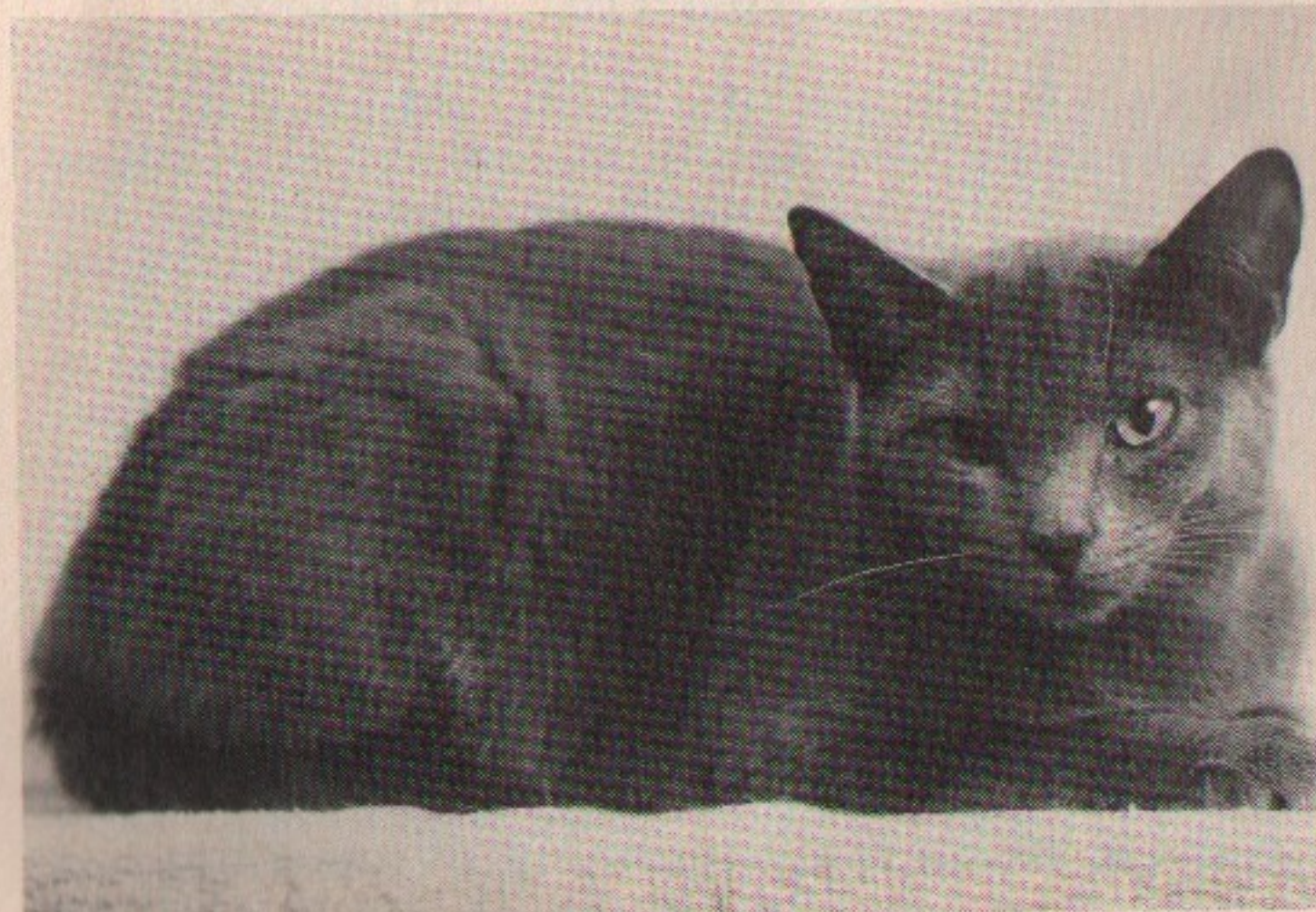
as wild and capable of outdoor survival as any raccoon or coyote, and strays, lost or abandoned pets, who usually don't fend well for themselves.

"Just stick your face in the cage," Kim responded. This particular individual had already jeopardized our project by telling at least one reporter that we might be spreading rabies—knowing full well that every cat is inoculated against rabies and distemper within 24 hours of capture and before ever being touched.

I've taken in homeless cats almost all my adult life—up to 11 at a time. I think I know cats about as well as anyone, and I'd really just as soon kick second in a two-man balls-kicking contest as let any exposed part of my body get anywhere near a lot of our ferals, even after they've had their shots. About a month into our project, Kim observed one evening that she was becoming increasingly convinced that cats aren't really a domesticated species, as is commonly supposed; rather they are wild animals who are easily tamed when young.

And in this climate, if they survive infancy, they are also very healthy wild animals. Of the first 150 cats, eight have died: a kitten, of diarrhea and dehydration; a young female, of a punctured lung, cause unknown; one kitten, suddenly, of an unknown virus; one killed for rabies testing after he bit a veterinary technician (he tested negative); a young male recaptured a month after neutering/inoculation/release, apparently at the last stages of cat flu, who was euthanized; an elderly stray tom whom we euthanized because the combination of age and malnutrition made his chances of recovery slim, no matter how much care and expense might have been devoted to him; and two distemper victims, one euthanized by the veterinarian and the other expiring before arrival at the clinic. Apart from these eight cases, the only health problems of note have been the roundworms virtually all cats (pets as well as homeless) are born with; a bout with conjunctivitis and cat flu among the cats sheltered in the office, also common among pet cats and easily cured; and four cases of ear mites. This selection of 150 cats has been at least as healthy as any 150 cats one could count in homes.

Which is not to say there isn't heavy mortality among homeless cats, or that feral cats tend to be healthy in all climates and locations. One cat-trapper we know, a 30-year veteran of cat rescue who has contributed a substantial sum to our project, has captured and euthanized literally thousands of homeless cats taken off the streets of northeastern cities and perhaps an equal or larger number from the slums of Miami, where the heat encourages parasites and where injury and abuse by humans is commonplace. Like most of rural New England, our part of Connecticut is cat-friendly habitat, heavily wooded, with lots of space between developments, relatively few cat predators, and a human population more inclined to either feed or ignore the wandering feline than to torment or kill her.



Elaine Osofski



Dr. Michael P. Reid, partner of veterinarian Arnold Brown, spays an ANIMALS' AGENDA feral.

## The cat census

According to our veterinarian, Dr. Arnold Brown (a legend among local spay/neuter proponents), 47% of the cats we've brought to him were under one year old; 35% were from one to two years old; and 18% were older. From what we've been told by the cat-feeders whom we've found faithfully tending most colonies, of all the kittens born, half die before they're weaned. The main causes of death are probably exposure; disease; predation; and death of mothers, leading to starvation. Nearly half of the kittens who are weaned die within their first year, many of them victims of automobiles (undoubtedly the leading "predator" of cats past kittenhood). Ferals who survive that first hard year, however, who find reliable food sources and adequate shelter, may enjoy almost normal feline lifespans.

Our statistics indicate that the life history of males and females varies considerably, beginning right at birth. Overall, we found 44% males and 56% females, a reasonable skew assuming that equal numbers of male and female kittens are born; males, we reasoned, are more likely to wander from their original colonies, and therefore are more likely to be killed by cars. Our supposition was supported by the discovery that in four of the five large, stable colonies we treated, females far outnumbered males, while in the fifth colony, the balance tipped toward males only because of the frequent presence of male suitors from nearby houses (we neutered them, too).

But apparently, equal numbers of males and females are not born. Comparable numbers are reached, rather, through population dynamics that include much higher first-year mortality for females. Because we trapped our first 150 cats during the winter, outside of breeding season, we didn't have the opportunity to count young kittens. However, of the cats we picked up who were under one year old, only 31% were male; 69% were female. With another year of age, the balance had shifted to 54% male; 46% female. This balance is close to what we found among the cats who were over two years old: 58% male, 42% female. It seems likely that the greater nutritional needs of mothers, the inexperience of first-time mothers, and the greater vulnerability of pregnant and nursing females combine to kill off about a third of the female ferals who reach sexual maturity before they successfully raise a litter. Tomcats, contrary to our initial assumption, seem to have relatively low mortality from sexual maturity on.

A comparison of our findings to those of previous feral cat studies is worthwhile—together with pointing out that while previous studies have focused upon either individual colonies or extremely limited and/or physically isolated habitat, The ANIMALS' AGENDA sample base includes 17 distinct cat colonies, plus two sub-colonies located in close proximity to main colonies, situated in nine different towns (Monroe, Shelton, Trumbull, Milford, Fairfield, Easton, Newtown, Derby, and Bridgeport).

The high mortality we found among young ferals confirms findings by the U.S. Navy in a 1980 study of cats who lived on San Nicholas Island, off Los Angeles; by Rudi van Aarde of the Mammal Research Institute at the University of Pretoria, South Africa; and by Tom Wolski, a veterinarian in Ithaca, New York.

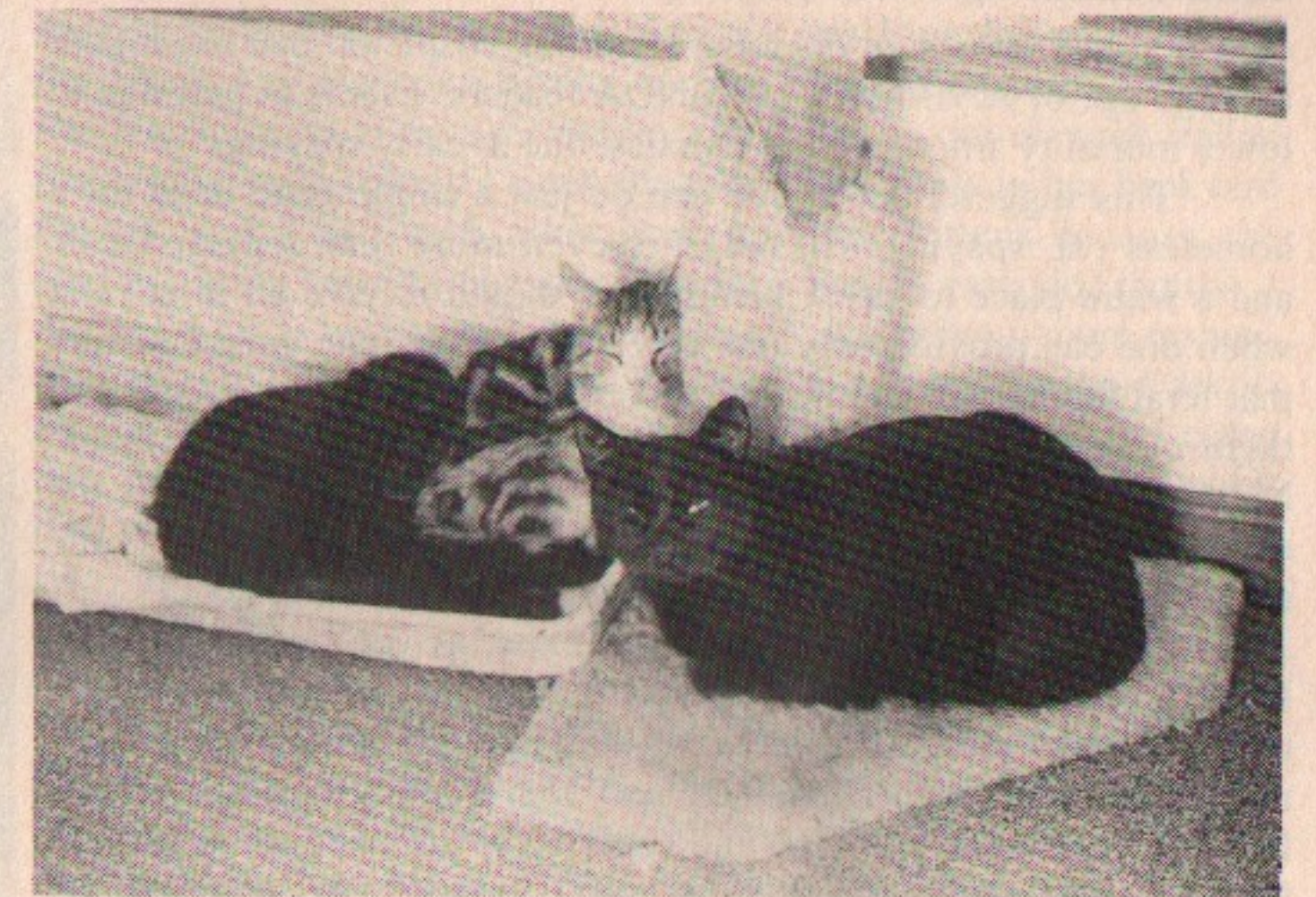
The Navy discovered that of a population of 67 cats, 31% were under one year old; 64% were from one to four years old; and just four percent were older. Further, 61% of the cats were male. The higher survival rate for post-pubescent cats in the Navy sampling probably reflects the paucity of cars on San Nicholas Island, as does the high percentage of males, while the relatively low number of older cats may indicate population growth, rather than accelerated mortality among cats still in their prime.

Van Aarde has likewise done his research on an island without cars—Marion Island, near Antarctica. Of the cats he had studied as of 1982, when Ellen Perry Berkeley summarized his findings in her book *Maverick Cats*, 42% died before weaning. The sex ratio on Marion Island is anyone's guess; as many as 2.5 males per female were found on another Antarctic island of similar characteristics, but based on skull analysis, Van Aarde reported an almost even sex ratio. Wolski, doing his investigations in habitat remarkably like that of Connecticut, found almost exactly what we did: 50% of all feral kittens died before weaning, and only 33% survived one year. Cars killed 63% of the cats in Wolski's study who survived weaning but died as adolescents or adults during the study period.

Studying 147 feral cats in the then wholly rural Willamette Valley of Oregon in 1940, Nils Nilsson found that 77.5% were male, yet another indication of heavy female mortality coupled with relatively low male mortality in the absence of significant automobile traffic. Evan Jones found that toms made up 68% of the feral cat population of Victoria, Australia, circa 1977, but since Victoria does have considerable car traffic, his findings are not as readily explained.



Elaine Osofski



Elaine Osofski

## Look twice

Contrary to immediate, obvious, and near-universal assumption, however, the extremely high death rate among young feral cats does not necessarily mean that ferals suffer earlier deaths than cats with homes. According to a 1977 survey of pet cats in Champaign County, Illinois, published in *The Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, "Almost one half of the cat population consisted of individuals in their first year of life and just short of three quarters were within the first three years of life...Either the population is expanding rapidly," at a rate far greater than the four percent per year that has been the normal cat population growth rate since circa 1960, "or many cats do not survive their first year of life."

The veterinarians maintained that the latter is the case. Kittens are fragile, no matter where they live, and while houses may provide them with better shelter, human homes may also expose them to more possibilities for fatal accidents—and perhaps, more respiratory disease, a leading kitten killer.

More recent studies of the pet cat population have excluded kitten mortality, and have otherwise turned up data indicating that early spay/neuter may influence feline longevity much more than having or not having a permanent home with humans. An American Veterinary Medical Association survey of 13,506 households during 1983 discovered that 27% of the feline population were age one and under; 38% were ages 2-5; 16% were ages 6-10; 8% were over 10; and 11% were age unknown. The survey did not correlate the ages of the cats with their sexes or sexual alteration, but since the survey sample was intended to reflect the U.S. population as closely as possible, and since spay/neuter in 1983 was much farther from universal acceptance by cat keepers than today, one can assume that a major percentage of the cats in that study had not been altered.

Similarly, the 1991 ANIMALS' AGENDA pet theft survey [see April 1992 issue for details] did not ask specifically whether cats had been spayed or neutered; but the 1990 ANIMALS' AGENDA readership survey by Rebecca Templin Richards of Utah State University found that 95% of the 844 readers who answered a question about spay/neuter very strongly believe that pets should be spayed or neutered. Thus one can reasonably assume that of the 287 living cats for whom definite ages were stated by respondents to the 1991 survey, the overwhelming majority were altered.

Certainly they were older than the cats the AVMA studied. Just 14% of ANIMALS' AGENDA readers' cats are age one and under, roughly half the percentage that the AVMA found; 37% are ages 2-5, roughly the same percentage; 29% are ages 6-10, nearly twice as many; and 20%, or 2.5 times as many, are older than 10. Unfortunately, the pet theft survey did not ask about the sexes of

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cats. If it had, we could document a strong suspicion that the higher average age of ANIMALS' AGENDA readers' cats is in part due to lower mortality among young females, due to early spaying.

This suggests that if one can do just a single good deed for a homeless cat, spaying will help her even more than regular meals and a warm place to sleep. Ideally, she should receive all three. But when one can provide only one essential service, one must consider that feral felines can and do find their own food and shelter, many of them quite successfully. They can't control their own hormones. Nature programs feral cats to reproduce early and often, to insure the survival of the species, even if the cost of the reproduction is the early demise and tragic suffering of many kittens and mothers.

A data base apparently doesn't exist, as yet, on longevity of spayed or neutered feral cats—partly because neuter-and-release is a relatively new method of feral cat population control. Neuter-and-release has also been adamantly and aggressively opposed by the Humane Society of the U.S. and other conventional animal welfare groups on this side of the Atlantic, who continue to insist against the overwhelming weight of evidence that all homeless cats are helpless, untameable creatures who must be euthanized immediately upon delivery to animal shelters.

We do have some idea how long pet cats live. Although the maximum feline lifespan is somewhere over 20, with a few cats actually reaching 30, most—even most altered cats—live less than half that long. Among the 89 deceased cats whose ages were reported on The ANIMALS' AGENDA pet theft survey forms (excluding kittens too young to have been weaned), the median age of death was eight years. Further, while 20% of the 287 living cats were older than 10, only 11% were older than 12. Thus 10 years would seem to be the normal lifespan of an altered pet cat.

It may be that spay/neuter and vaccination will enable some of the cats in The ANIMALS' AGENDA project to survive that long, or longer, given that they are at present a healthy population. In any event, having been altered, they won't need as much food, and they won't be as likely to dart out in front of cars while seeking mates. And their vaccinations have given them at least temporary protection against rabies and distemper. They will be monitored; sick or injured cats have a better chance of getting veterinary care, as long as they can be re-trapped.

We know they'll be fed. No cat in The ANIMALS' AGENDA project has been released without having a reasonably safe place to live, away from cars and possibly cruel people, with regular meals guaranteed.



Elaine Osowski



Elaine Osowski

## Cat feeders

Here in northeast Fairfield County, Connecticut, the stereotype of the starving alley cat seems to have little factual support. To our great surprise, almost every feral cat colony we discovered had at least one regular feeder. Some of the largest had several feeders. Dumpsters full of offal may attract feral cats to their haunts behind restaurants and supermarkets, and mice may draw cats to abandoned barns, but around here, kindly people soon augment the diet of trash and mice with generous helpings of the kibble and canned food that most pet cats get.

Researchers Carol Haspel and Robert Calhoun reported similar findings in a 1981-1982 study of cat-feeders in two sections of Brooklyn. There, they discovered, "The food provided by feeders alone was estimated to support 1.7 to 2.1 cats per acre, a density that is 1.35 times greater than the actual cat population...Daily feeders were devoted to their cats. They continued to feed them despite the disapproval of their neighbors, financial constraints, or social obligations. Free-ranging cats appear to be in a mutually life-enhancing relationship with their feeders," most of whom were women who were beyond their childbearing years.

Our first contact with the cat-feeders was as tentative as first contact with an undiscovered but potentially hostile tribe. We saw the paper plates of food they left early each morning where the feral cats lived. We heard rumors of cat-feeders smashing traps and refusing to share even the slightest bits of information with anyone who might take the cats for euthanasia. We speculated that cat-feeders might actually be causing the growth of feral cat colonies, by providing food without spaying or neutering, and wondered if we might be about to run into counterparts of animal collectors, people—often operators of no-kill "shelters"—who project their own fear of death to the point of refusing to euthanize even the most grievously suffering dogs and cats, but who in this instance might be stockpiling cats outdoors rather than in their homes.

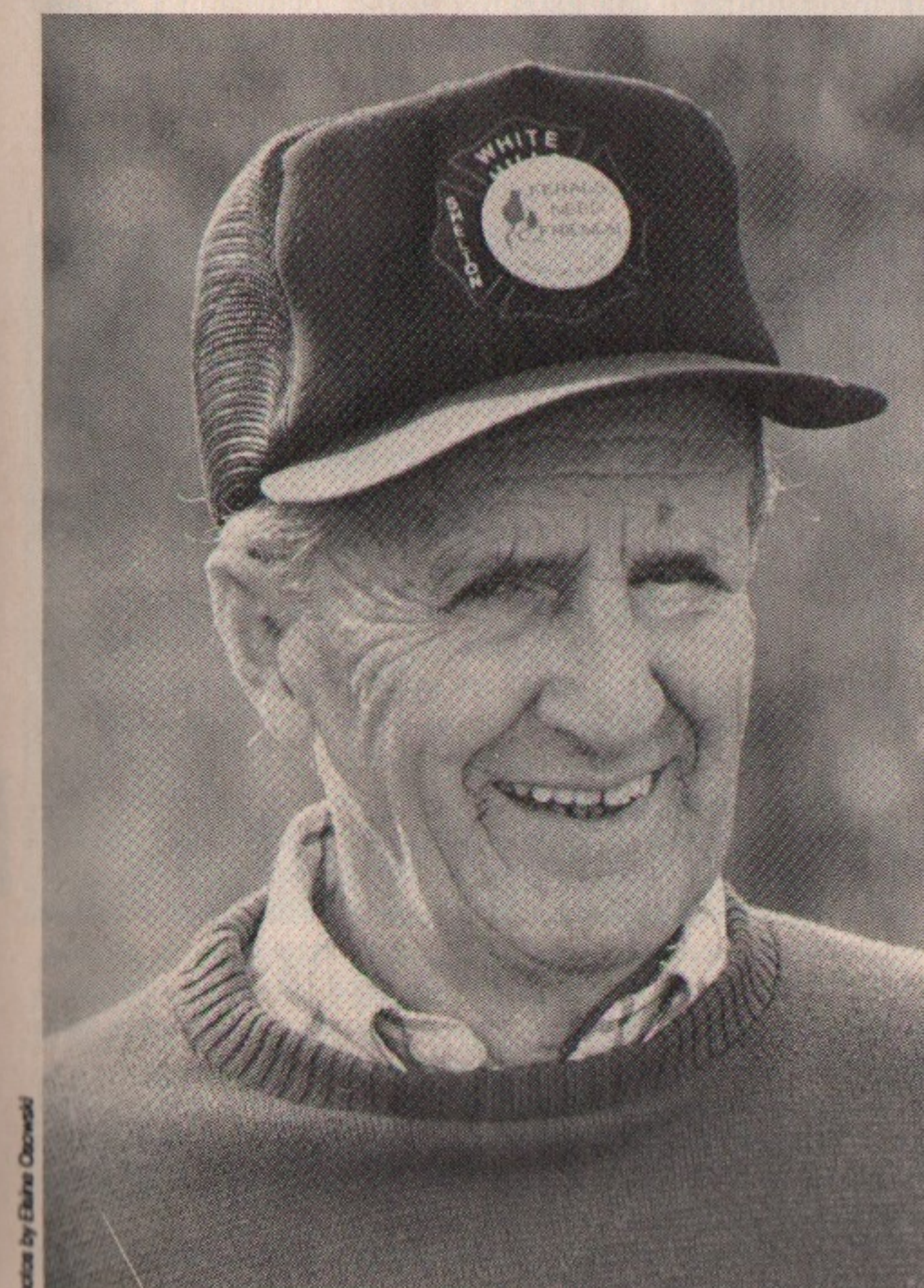
In retrospect, our ignorance and paranoia is somewhat past embarrassing. Without exception, cat-feeders have given us their wholehearted, energetic, and relieved cooperation: have helped us catch cats, transport cats, and pay for the operations; have told fellow cat-feeders about our project; have written letters to the local newspapers in support of what we're doing; and have been astounded to learn that anyone else in the world cares at all about cats they have often been helping as best they could for many years from meager household budgets, watching the cats' numbers grow while wondering how they could raise the cost of another sack of kibble a week, never mind the cost of operations. The cat-feeders we've met haven't been spaying and neutering not because they didn't want to, but because they were either unable to catch the cats or didn't have the income to pay for spay/neuter at regular veterinary rates.

## George Vedder and friends

George Vedder, 75, is both typical and exceptional. He's typical in that all the above applies to him; exceptional in his dedication to cats, even among an exceptionally dedicated lot. A retired aircraft engine assembler on Social Security, who served as engineer-gunner aboard a B-24 during World War II, George still gets up at five every morning for the dawn patrol—but his dawn patrol now consists of feeding cats at half a dozen locations, including doing the morning feeding here at The ANIMALS' AGENDA office, where some cats await placement and others convalesce after spay/neuter surgery. Though George has been doing what he could for the local homeless cats for 20 years or more, he never knew help was available before—and indeed it wasn't.

Meeting Kim one morning behind the supermarket next door, shortly after she captured Shelley, George approached us as apprehensively as we'd viewed him and his counterparts. When he discovered we were trustworthy, he not only persuaded Kim to expand The ANIMALS' AGENDA cat project to additional locations, but also put his mechanical skills to work improving our cat-traps, helped raise funds for spay/neuter, and started word about the project circulating through the grapevine. For over three years, The ANIMALS' AGENDA had been just another basement business to the residents of Monroe, Conn. Now, suddenly, we get visitors, daily, inquiring first about the cats, then about the magazine and animal issues in general.

Other memorable cat-feeders we've met include a late middle-aged lady who feeds cats the scraps from her two sandwich shops; her mildly mentally handicapped daughter, who collected cat food and litter coupons from all her neighbors to help us out; a convalescent home groundskeeper who lured 15 of his tamer feral cats into his house to hold until we could pick them up, helped catch the other



George Vedder

Photos by Elaine Osowski

16, and scrubbed the cat cages for us; a woman who's spayed/neutered a colony of at least 15 cats from her own limited resources; a jai alai court betting window clerk who battled City Hall and management to save the colony she feeds; an out-of-work Italian piano tuner who couldn't catch the fertile adult cats in her backyard colony, and didn't seek other homes for the kittens because she couldn't bring herself to break up the increasingly extended family.

So far as we can tell, cat-feeders are, if anything, more responsible toward the animals they look after than any but the most devoted conventional pet owners. They feed those cats somehow, come hell, high water, or flu, fever, and weather so cold and damp a polar bear would seek shelter.

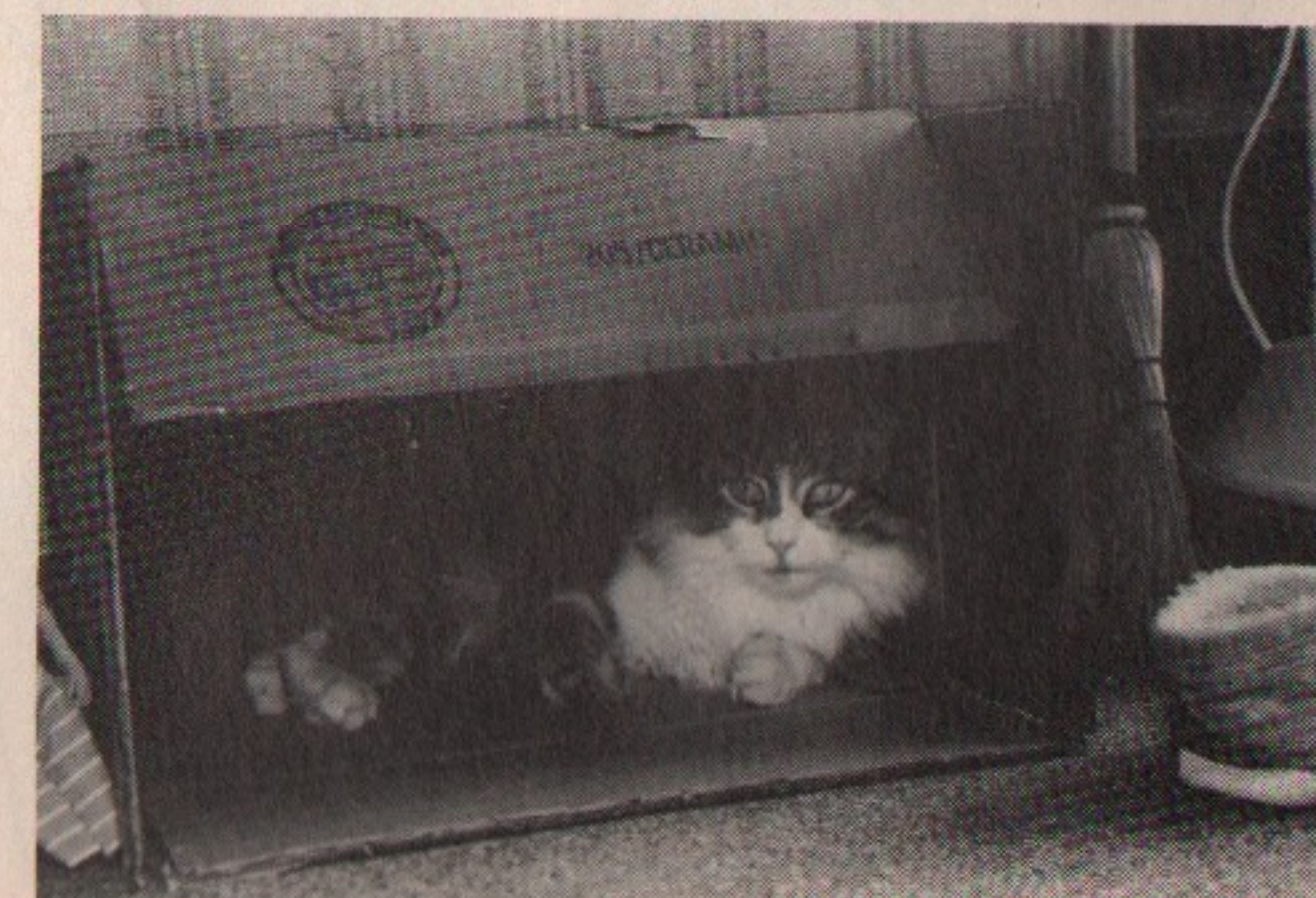
## Rabies

Kim commenced The ANIMALS' AGENDA cat project simply to reduce animal suffering. She couldn't stand to know that homeless cats were nearby having kittens, who might starve, freeze, be mauled by dogs and raccoons, or otherwise come to harm.

But there was another big, big reason for doing spay/neuter and vaccination in northern Fairfield County, Connecticut—presently the northeastern edge of the area afflicted by the mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic. Back in 1977 a group of trappers and raccoon hunters decided there weren't enough raccoons left to abuse in their corner of West Virginia, so they imported a truckload from Florida, where the local good old boys had been leaving them alone on account some had rabies. Sure enough, within weeks rabies was spreading, first into Virginia, then up the Atlantic coast, at the rate of about 25 miles per year.

The National Academy of Sciences and Centers for Disease Control warned that trying to wipe out raccoons would only spread the disease faster, as diseased and healthy raccoons met in the rush to repopulate temporarily depopulated habitat. Nonetheless, the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and

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New Jersey encouraged trappers to kill upward of 400,000 raccoons per year throughout the 1980s, along with as many feral cats as they could catch.

By mid-April 1991, raccoon rabies reached this area, along with public panic. As everywhere else, individual citizens and police have killed thousands of perfectly healthy raccoons plus numerous feral cats. Trappers have had a field day proclaiming that only exterminating wildlife can stop rabies, never mind that as Fromme Laboratories put it back in 1983, "Trapping for rabies control is an exercise in futility."

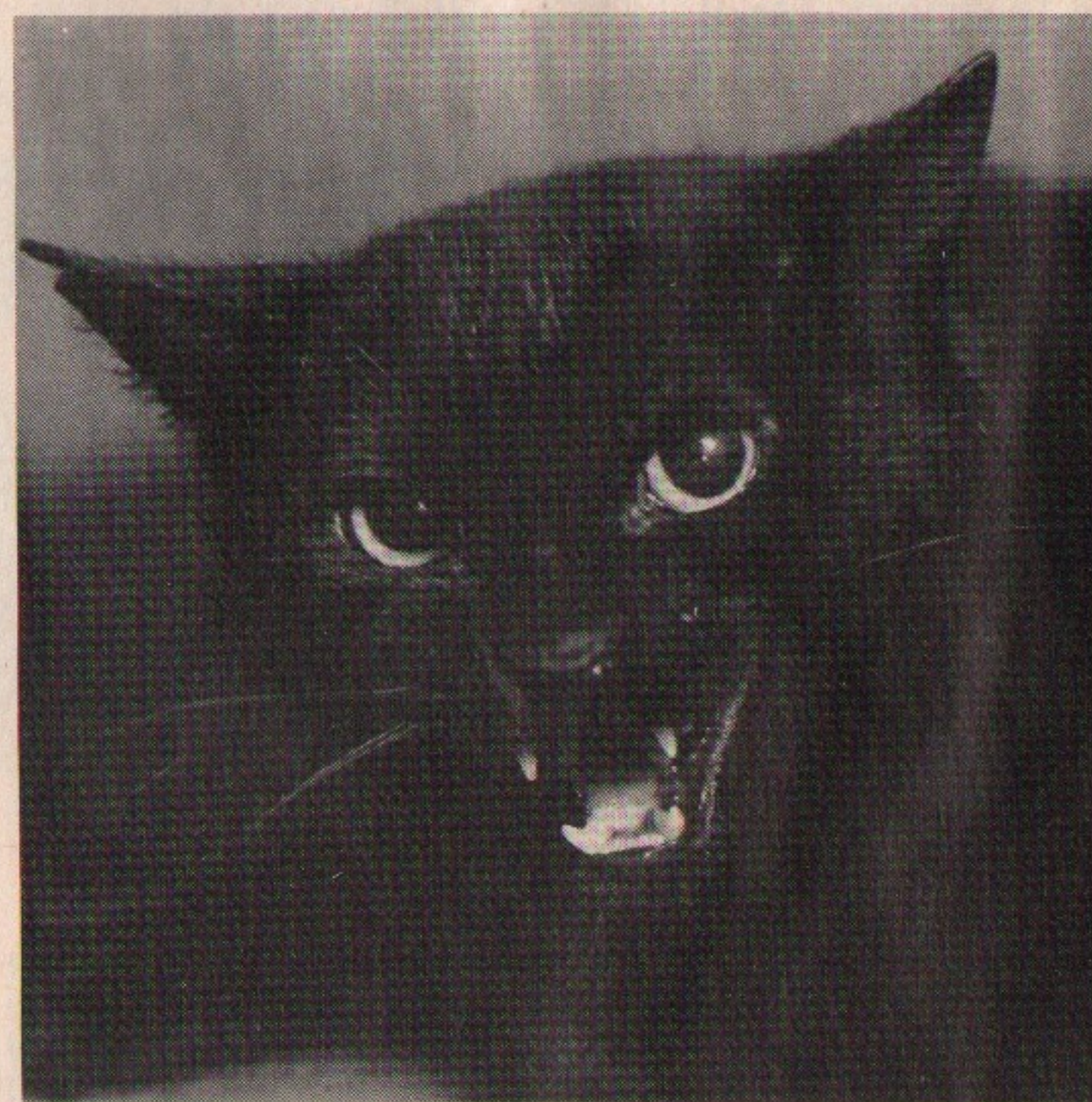
Unfortunately, vaccinating raccoons against rabies is also problematic, because of the high cost of administering Imrab, the one conventional vaccine known to work in raccoons; because raccoons are even harder to catch than feral cats and often more ferocious when they are caught; and because raccoons are far more numerous than feral cats, with a reported population density in Fairfield County of up to 300 per square mile. Until the long-awaited Wistar oral vaccine is licensed for use in the U.S., perhaps in late 1992, there is no practicable way to halt the raccoon rabies outbreak other than by letting it exhaust itself—as it nearly did in 1987, before the appearance of a few cases in New Jersey touched off a renewed frenzy of raccoon and feral cat extermination, again accelerating the migration of diseased animals and the spread of the outbreak.

The scenario most disturbing citizens, public officials, and mass media is that raccoons might pass rabies to feral cats, with whom they share habitat, and that the feral cats might then infect pets, who would infect people. And in fact, subtracting trappers who have been bitten by rabid wildlife, cats have infected about 70% of the people who have required treatment for rabies during the mid-Atlantic pandemic.

However, costly and difficult though vaccinating raccoons may be, vaccinating feral cats to form a living barrier between diseased wildlife and companion animals is a tried-and-true method. Further, spay/neuter is an essential part of the method, since this prevents the birth of kittens who might otherwise replenish the non-vaccinated feral cat population.

In short, everything Kim set out to do for humanitarian reasons also made good sense from a public health perspective. This was confirmed in January, when a rabid raccoon was found within half a block of a colony of roaming cats Kim and a neighbor had altered and inoculated before The ANIMALS' AGENDA project started, and a rabid pet cat (not vaccinated, violating state law) turned up within two blocks of the first ANIMALS' AGENDA project colony.

Clearly, rabies was present where the cats were. Equally clearly, the vaccinated feral cats were not becoming infected, nor were they going to infect other animals.



Elaine Osowski

## Ecology

The longterm effect of sterilizing and perhaps thereby gradually terminating the feral cat population of this region has not escaped our notice. Data gathered in the suburbs of London, England, by ecologists John Lawton and Peter Churcher suggests that even well-fed pet cats may kill as many as 141 rodents and four birds apiece per year, if allowed to wander outdoors. Feral cats might kill twice as many rodents and 10 times as many birds (one formerly feral cat who came to live with me in Quebec seemed to specialize in birds and insects, knocking off several birds a week during the summer months, snacking on up to 60 houseflies at a time, disdaining either canned or dry cat food until after cold weather made flying creatures scarce).

If the feral cat population is not reproducing, it will presumably diminish; if it doesn't, we may be able to establish definitively the rates of pet cat abandonment and feral cat migration to fill vacant niches.

We know already, as a general rule of ecology, that if good habitat is abruptly vacated, whether by cats, raccoons, coyotes, deer, or any other fairly common species, more of the missing species arrives in short order to reestablish the population. Transformation of niches and changes in resident species occur only if the habitat itself is modified, or if there aren't enough of an extirpated species left in surrounding territory to recolonize the vacant place.

But the habitat surrounding our feral cat colonies is not being abruptly vacated. Instead, we anticipate the number of feral cats declining rather gradually, over several years, enabling the population of rival species to proportionally expand. As cats eat fewer mice and small birds, more will be left to the owls, marsh hawks, skunks, foxes, and other native species whom the feral cats have somewhat displaced. The slow reduction in feral cat numbers could even help the survival of the few remaining bobcats hereabouts.

Alternatively, it's possible that we haven't fixed enough feral cats to have any effect on the overall population; that enough fertile ferals remain to breed up to the carrying capacity of the habitat this spring, regardless of our efforts.

Whatever happens, we'll be keeping close track, and reporting our further discoveries.

## Get started!

Questions may remain about the ecological impact of neuter-and-release as well as the quality of life issue, but the evidence is clear that the benefit to individual cats is immense, even in scenarios (perhaps the majority) in which capture and euthanasia may actually be more humane. Kim even calls her part of the project her most satisfactory work for animals to date, an antidote to burnout, hard though that may be to imagine when her average workday has stretched to more than 12 hours due to the addition of cat-related chores to her editorial workload. Even weekends, she typically spends six to eight hours on the job, mostly catching and attending the most unappreciative lot of shaggy inmates this side of Devil's Island.

But at least Shelley, Cleo II, and Derby purr.

If every individual ANIMALS' AGENDA subscriber spayed or neutered five cats this year, or donated the funds to do it to an active local neuter-and-release project, it's possible we could collectively prevent half a million homeless cat births.

Any activist can become a cat-trapper. You need only obtain a cat trap, some smelly cat food to use as bait, and a blanket or other cover for covering and thereby calming trapped cats, and have a clear idea of what you'll do with the cats you trap. Even if neuter-and-release of healthy adult ferals is a humane option in your community, there will be feral kittens and tame strays who should not be turned loose. Feral cats removed from unfriendly territory cannot be returned there; euthanasia may be the only option if there's nowhere else for them to go.

At best, neuter-and-release is an imperfect solution to the problem of cat homelessness. In a better world, there would be a home for every cat—even intractable ferals. But we'll only see that world when the feline birth rate drops dramatically.

At worst, neuter-and-release is better than doing nothing. Even if the released cats received no benefit, even if the cats would be better off euthanized than put back where they came from, at least they won't be breeding more homeless cats.

Novice cat rescuers may find it helpful to contact Alley Cat Allies: P.O. Box 397, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712. ACA maintains the most complete roster available of local neuter-and-release groups. At

that, it includes only a fraction of the number we believe are out there; we've run into four independent neuter-and-release efforts ourselves, each one unaware of any national support group or momentum in the same direction. ACA also publishes a variety of valuable information sheets on various aspects of feral cat trapping and handling.

Also recommended is the British-produced video, "The Control of Feral Cats," advertised on page 4 of this issue.

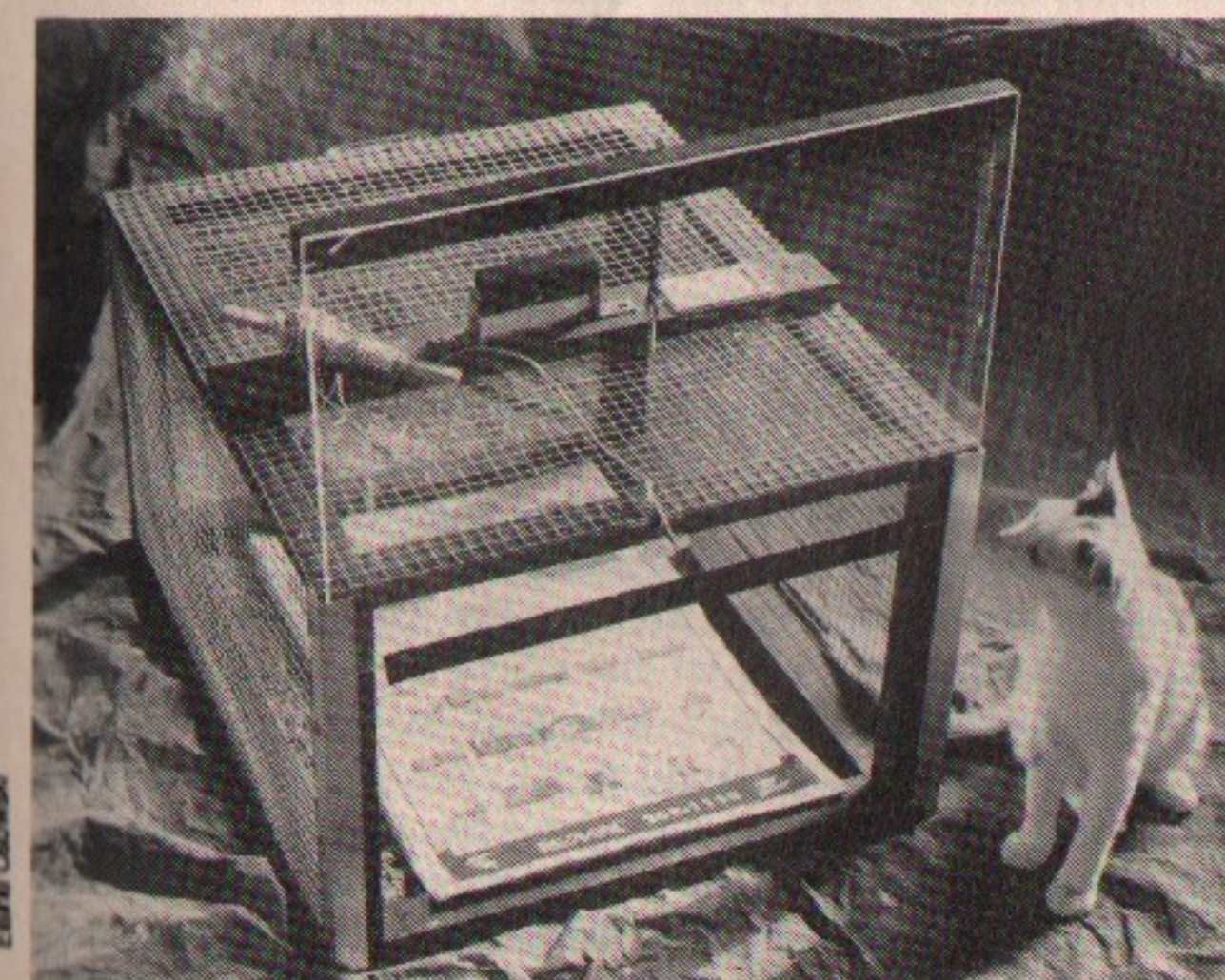
For help in finding reduced-cost spay/neuter rates, call Spay U.S.A. at 800-248-SPAY (in Connecticut, 375-6627), or write to P.O. Box 801, Trumbull, CT 06611.

To purchase discount spay/neuter certificates, call Friends of Animals: 203-866-5223. Note: the FoA certificates pay veterinarians only about half as much as they may receive from participating in the Spay U.S.A. or local programs, so some participants try to make up the difference by charging more for vaccinations. Others limit the number of cats they will treat at the FoA rates. There are, nonetheless, 2,000 veterinarians in the FoA network, the oldest of its kind, the only nationwide spay/neuter project supported by any national organization, and a mainstay of neuter/release/vaccination drives from Miami, Florida, to Palo Alto, California.

The best prefab cat traps we know of come from Animal Care Equipment & Services (800-338-ACES, in California and worldwide 1-714-338-1791; P.O. Box 3275, Crestline, CA 92325), which sells its model 30D for \$47.00. An added plus from doing business with ACES is knowing that they do not manufacture equipment for fur-trappers and hunters, unlike Havahart (owned by Woodstream) and Tomahawk.

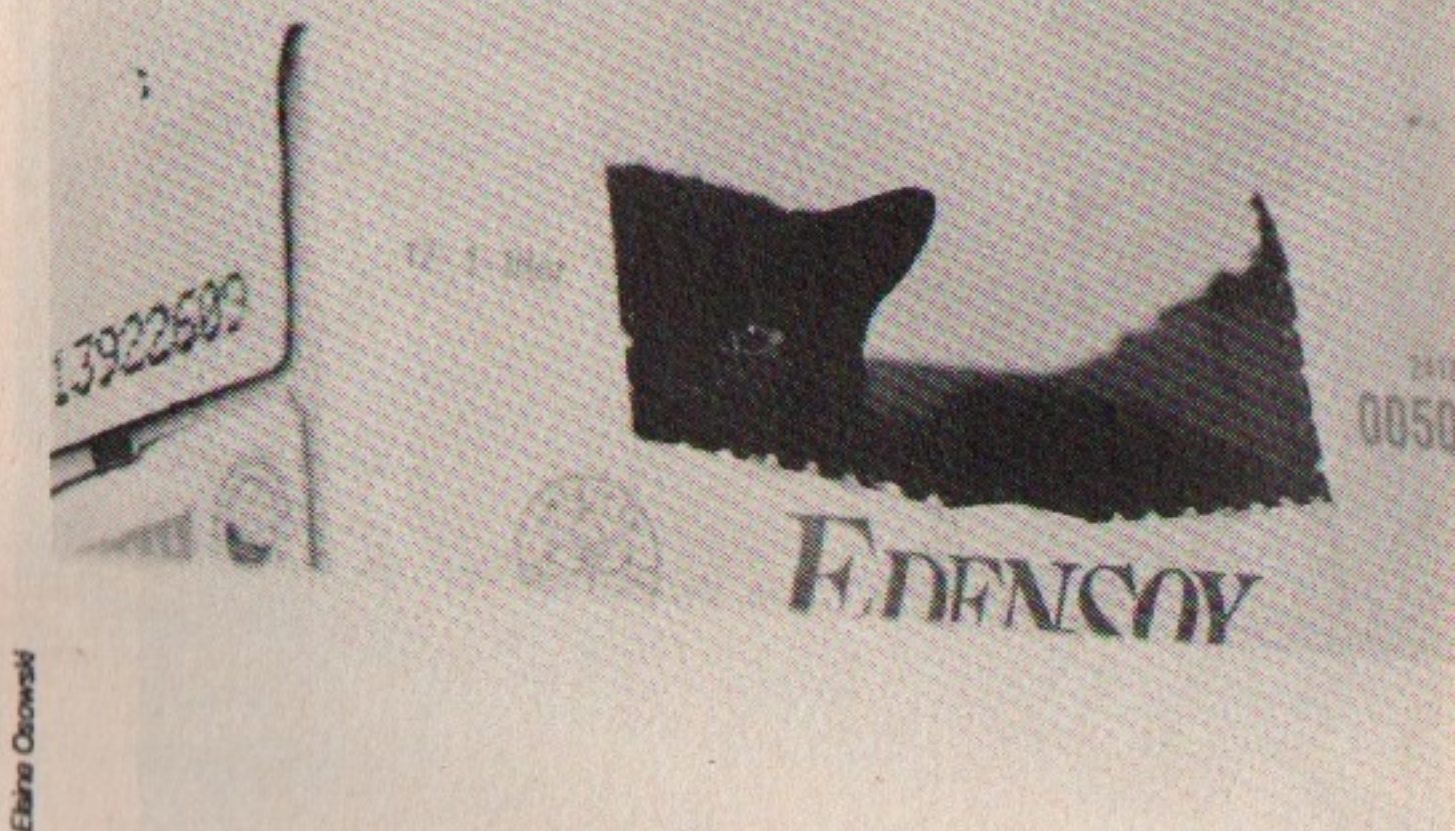
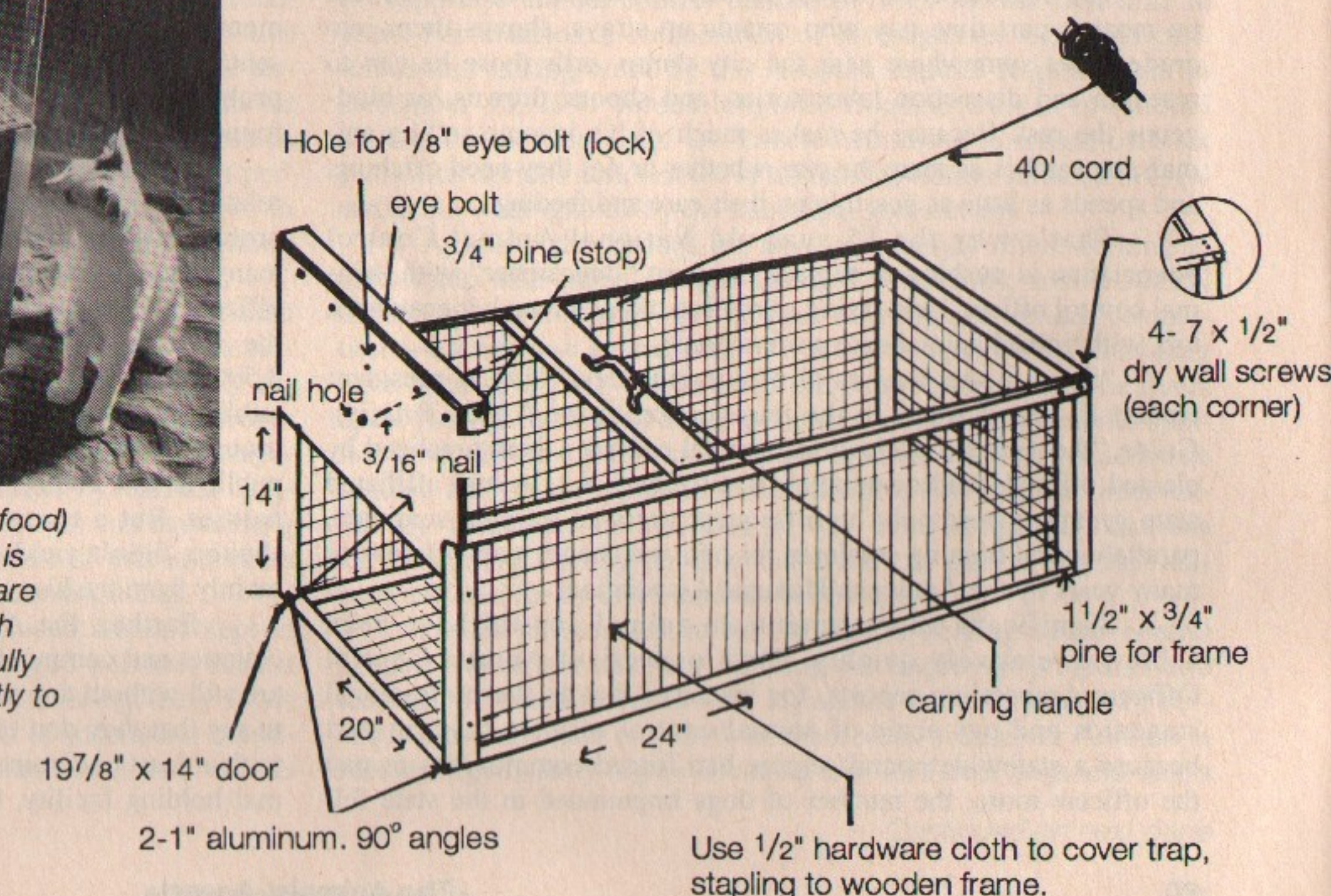
To build your own multi-cat pull-trap, consult the plans accompanying this article. You'll need only about \$25 for materials, a table saw, a screwdriver, some white glue, and a staple gun. With a molded plastic cat carrier or two and a roomy holding cage for any cats you may put up for adoption, you too will be ready to spend long days and nights trying to outwit wily ferals by edging a food tray back, back, back, into your trap an inch at a time for weeks.

Most ferals aren't really that hard to catch. But imagine yourself becoming able to top any blood-spattered outdoorsman's wildest trapping and hunting stories with true tales of how you helped cats. If that's not motivation enough, send \$5.00 for an autographed photo of Shelley and George.



The finished product. The bait (canned cat food) is placed at the very back of the trap. Cord is pulled to release trap door only when cats are all the way in, eating the food. Throw a cloth over the trap to calm cats, and either carefully transfer them to carriers or take them directly to the veterinarian in the trap.

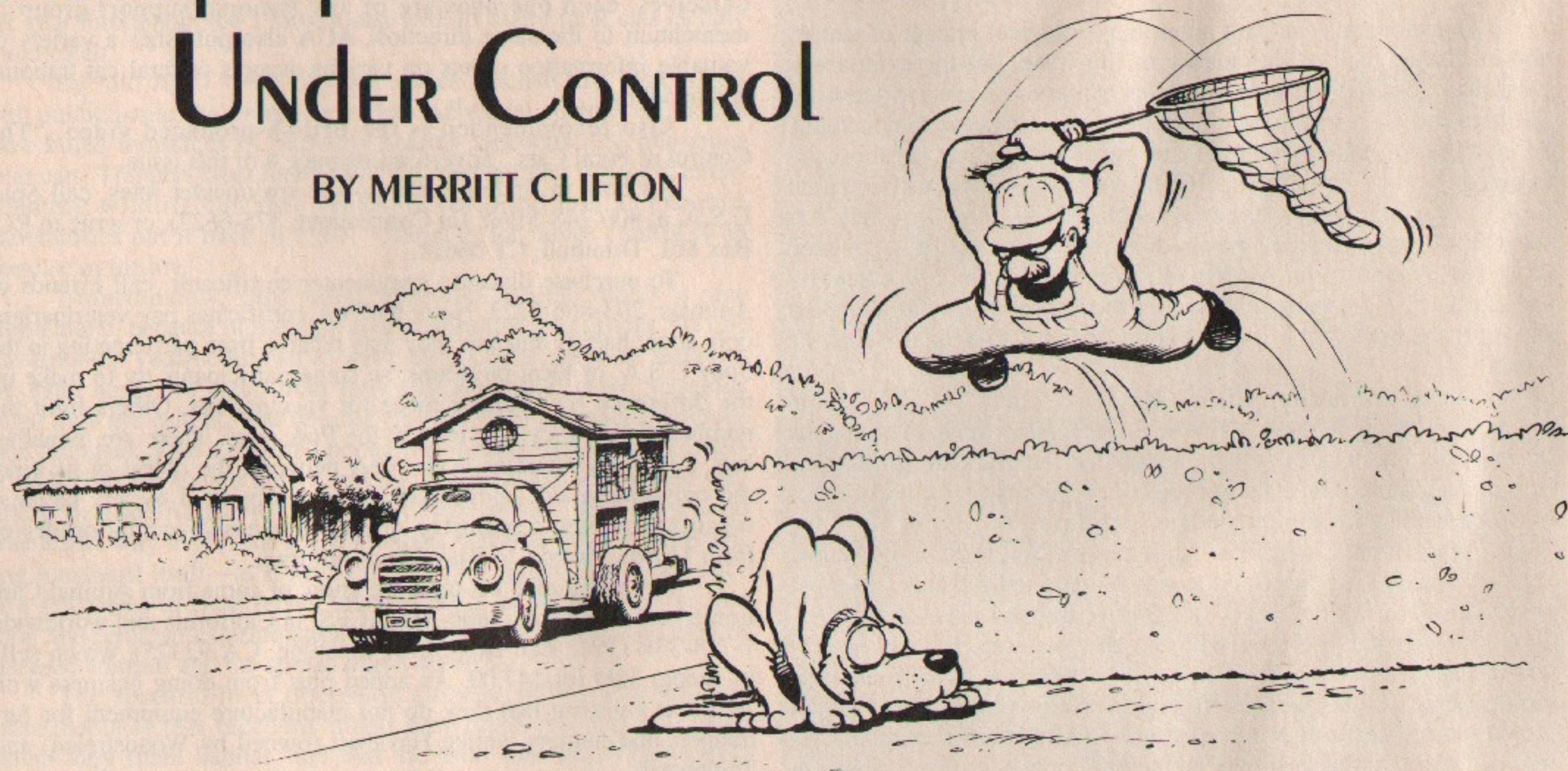
## The Multi-Cat Pull-Trap





# BRINGING ANIMAL CONTROL UNDER CONTROL

BY MERRITT CLIFTON



Joe Sumail

Nobody likes the dogcatcher, a staple foil of cartoon animals from Sylvester, who debuted in the late 1940s, to Garfield, who ducked the butterfly net on television just this morning. Unpop-

ular public figures are commonly advised to run for dogcatcher, a suggestion so old that even Mark Twain commented upon it as a cub reporter in Virginia City, Nevada, circa 1866.

The dogcatcher is, stereotypically, a brutal undereducated lout on meager part-time pay who rounds up strays, shoves them into crude cages somewhere near the city dump, sells those he can to research and dissection laboratories, and shoots, drowns, or bludgeons the rest. Because he makes much of his income selling animals, he catches as many he can, whether or not they need catching, and spends as little as possible on their care and feeding.

That's why the 15-year-old National Animal Control Association is pushing to replace the term "dogcatcher" with "animal control officer," and trying to replace old-fashioned dogcatchers, too, with trained animal care professionals.

"Even in the most rural of communities," NACA president Robert E. Lee II wrote in the introduction to the *NACA Training Guide*, "the need for professional animal control is being realized by elected officials and demanded by citizens." NACA and affiliated state groups accordingly hold frequent regional training seminars, paralleling the training seminars for humane shelter staff offered for many years by the American Humane Association.

Significant improvements in animal control have been achieved relatively quickly. The Connecticut Animal Control Officers Association reports, for instance, that as the professional standards and pay scale of animal control officers rose, in part because a statewide pound seizure ban forced communities to pay the officers more, the number of dogs impounded in the state fell

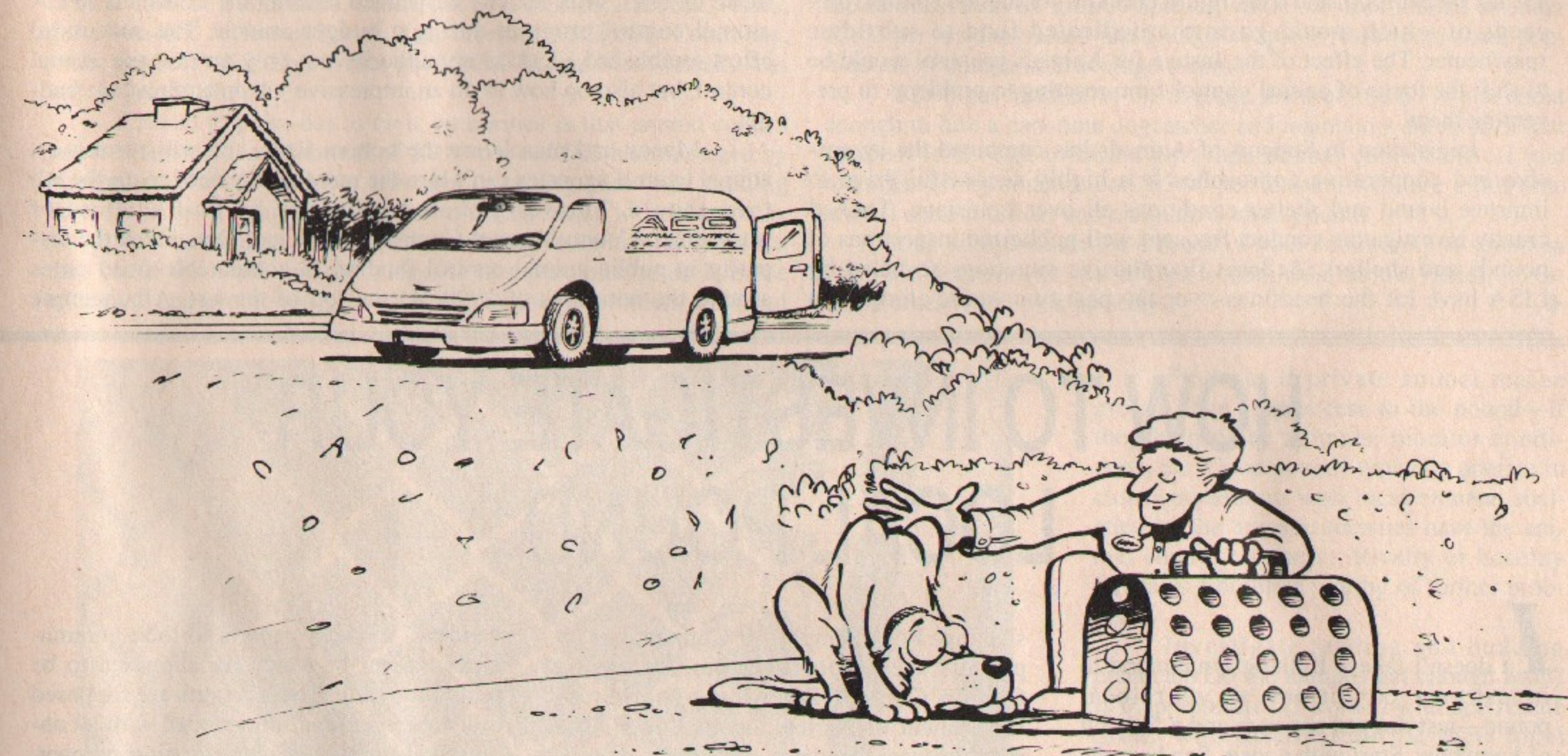
32%; the number of humans bitten by dogs dropped 26%; the number of dogs euthanized plummeted 71%; and the percentage of dogs either returned to homes or placed in new homes rose from 68% to 85%.

But there are still a lot of dogcatchers out there, even in Connecticut, where animal control agencies are supervised by the state Department of Agriculture under some of the most stringent regulations on the books anywhere. Part of the problem is the growing gap between what regulations require and what the state is able to enforce during a period of major budget slashing.

"Many or most pounds are vastly far behind in filing their monthly reports with the state," says Julie Lewin, Connecticut representative of the Fund for Animals. Devoting much of her time to probing complaints about pounds and shelters, Lewin has often found both financial irregularities and outright abuse.

The situation in most other states is undoubtedly worse, but relatively light regulation and record-keeping makes detecting the problems more difficult. In fact, no one even knows exactly how many pounds and shelters exist, let alone how many animal control officers and/or dogcatchers are out on the beat. Statistics gathered by the American Humane Association indicate that there are about 3,500 accredited pounds and shelters, including 1,428 operated by public animal control agencies, 1,119 operated by private humane groups, and 952 facilities run by private humane groups who provide public animal control services under contract to counties and municipalities. But a recent AHA survey of 200 accredited pounds and shelters didn't yield useful staffing data because responses came mainly from the biggest and best-staffed facilities.

Further, the AHA numbers suggest that at least 500 U.S. counties and communities with human populations exceeding 10,000 are still without any sort of accredited pound or shelter. Which is not to say that they don't have animal control. For every county or town with at least one trained animal control officer and an accredited animal holding facility, there may still be two with just a dogcatcher



and a shed full of cages. The accredited facilities handled as many as 17.5 million animals in 1991, euthanizing from 3.3 to 5.8 million. The unaccredited facilities probably handled and euthanized only a few million animals, but "only" isn't really a word that should be coupled with "million" in a description of probable suffering.

And animals do suffer in substandard animal control facilities, sometimes along with staff. Over the past five years The ANIMALS' AGENDA has received documentation of abusive conditions at 46 municipal or regional animal control facilities, including 39 public pounds and seven private shelters that provided pound service. The facilities were located in 19 states. Many of the facilities were small and rural, but abuses were also reported in the city pounds of Los Angeles, Oakland, Minneapolis, and even Houston, whose three private humane shelters (Houston Humane Society, Citizens for Animal Protection, and the Houston SPCA) are among the best reputed in the nation. Exactly half (23) of the facilities were charged with performing cruel euthanasia. Chronic overcrowding was a problem in 12; 10 were reportedly filthy; eight suffered from poor building maintenance.

Other problems found in at least 10% of the facilities included rough animal handling; animals either allowed to fight or encouraged to fight by staffers; lack of veterinary care; animals cruelly exposed to the elements; improper disposal of dead animals; improper disposal of excrement; insufficient food and water; failure to separate sick animals from healthy ones; animal thefts by staffers; euthanasia before the end of mandatory holding periods; and embezzling by staffers. Three facilities each had high numbers of staff injured on the job and were caught concealing evidence of wrongdoing.

Less frequently reported problems included animals kept in crowded conditions aboard trucks for prolonged periods; rodent infestations; dead animals left in cages with the living; dirty food; racial and/or sexual harassment of staff; lack of insurance; nonresponse to calls about missing animals or animal abuse; and vicious animals being released for adoption.

Only one of the 45 facilities reportedly encouraged staff to round up as many animals as possible so that they could be sold to laboratories. Two facilities, however, were closed not because of abuses, but simply to save money. And understaffing for budgetary reasons was clearly the cause of abuse in two instances; probably a contributing cause in many others.

While AHA and NACA encourage pounds and shelters to voluntarily improve facilities and personnel standards, offering the rewards of accreditation and professional status, animal rights groups strengthen the incentive by forcing reluctant civic authorities to reappraise animal control measures, often for the first time in years. For instance, a combination of investigative, legal, and consciousness-raising work by the Houston Animal Rights Team on December 18, 1991 forced longtime Houston Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care chief Dr. Robert Armstrong to resign, over six years after serious deficiencies in his administration surfaced in local media but went ignored by the municipal government.

Animal rights groups are also increasingly often working in partnership with animal control agencies. Frequently, animal control officers and pound staff are the first to recognize deficient conditions—but because animal control is a low budget priority, they may have been struggling just to keep the poop scooped and the doors open. Animal rights activists, experienced at influencing public opinion, have the clout the animal control agencies need to get adequate funding and legal support to make changes. For instance, intervention by Volunteers for Animals in May 1990 obligated Oklahoma City to replace a faulty gas chamber at the city pound, in which animals suffered for up to 45 minutes before death.

Justice for Animals, in No Carolina, is helping animal control agencies to obtain adequate funding for improved programs and facilities by pointing out to state legislators that animal agency revenues presently meet only 21% of their costs. Justice for Animals is seeking significantly higher licensing fees for fertile dogs and cats, a

Continued on next page



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1% tax on pet food, and a tax return checkoff for animal control, proceeds of which would go into a dedicated fund to subsidize spay/neuter. The effect of the Justice for Animals proposal would be to shift the focus of animal control from reacting to problems to preventing them.

Legislation In Support of Animals has combined the aggressive and cooperative approaches in a highly successful drive to improve pound and shelter conditions all over Louisiana. Trained cruelty investigators conduct frequent well-publicized inspections of pounds and shelters. At least five abusive situations revealed by LISA have hit the headlines over the past two years, along with

awards presented to the best pounds and shelters. LISA also stepped in to supply emergency animal rescue service to New Orleans for much of 1991, after the city suspended funding the Louisiana SPCA animal control program during a budget crunch. The successful effort established LISA as an authority not only on humane animal control, but also on how to do an impressive job on a minuscule budget.

Money and muscle are the bottom lines, and without money, animal control agencies can't hire the muscle they need to do the job they should. Figures gathered primarily by Phil Clifford of Multnomah County Animal Control in Portland, Ore., show the disparity in public animal control funding in comparable-sized cities around the nation as of 1990. At the top of the list, Albuquerque

received \$2.2 million and Minneapolis got \$2 million. Charlotte, N.C., got \$1.4 million, as did Portland, Ore., while Tucson came in at \$1.3 million. Bakersfield, Calif., got \$1.1 million; Tacoma, Wash., got \$946,405; Jefferson Parish, La., received \$862,665; Columbus, Ohio, got \$660,000; Fort Worth got \$586,000; and New Orleans was last, at just \$187,500.

Critical to point out to civic authorities is that animal control services funded at a minimum of \$2.50 per resident and managed by humane societies were most effective at raising additional funding on their own—having credibility as agencies set up to help animals, not just to catch dogs and collect licensing fees; having facilities they could show off; and the budget to hire personnel to do humane education and promotion as well as responding to problem calls and

cleaning cages. Services in this category raised an average of \$767,000 apiece (and services funded at over \$3.00 per resident raised more than \$1 million apiece), while services funded at under \$2.00 per resident raised just \$400,000 apiece from same-sized populations of comparable average income.

\$2.00 per resident in the average town of 10,000 is just about enough to hire a part-time dogcatcher and maintain a shed. \$2.50 per resident is enough to hire a part-time animal control officer and maintain a very small pound. \$3.00 per resident will hire a full-time animal control officer and maintain a small pound.

Can you persuade the citizens of your community to spend an extra \$1.00 apiece per year to find lost animals, control rabies, investigate cruelty, and pick up strays? ♦

## HOW TO INVESTIGATE YOUR LOCAL POUND

**I**t doesn't take a Bulldog Drummond to investigate conditions at your local pound—just dogged patience and a little bit of knowhow. Start with a visit. See how the animals are kept, and talk with the warden. See how he or she treats the animals. See how they respond. Ask how long various animals have been held. Get a feel for the warden's attitude toward the job. Inquire about any problems you observe. Some wardens will be defensive; they may have something to hide. Others will welcome all the help they can get to rectify situations that may be the result of years of underfunding and neglect by administrative agencies for whom animal control may be the lowest priority.

Once you have established familiarity with the pound and the warden, look into the circumstances under which it operates. Get copies of all state statutes and regulations and all county and local ordinances pertaining to animals and pounds—even barking and roaming dog ordinances, and kennel and anti-cruelty laws. Study them. Find out exactly how animals come to be in the pound, what's supposed to be done while they're there, and under what circumstances they are supposed to leave.

As your investigation continues, you'll find knowledge of laws and regulations increasingly important. Your ability to cite laws and regulations, moreover, will be essential in obtaining reforms. Copies of state statutes and regulations should be available through the state bureau or bureaus responsible for animal control; your elected state representatives; and/or major libraries. Copies of county and local ordinances are usually available only at the county and municipal offices.

Find out from your police department or mayor's office what agency or agencies oversee pound management and

staffing. For example, in Connecticut all pounds are inspected annually by the Canine Control Division of the state Department of Agriculture for compliance with physical standards prescribed by law. Management of daily operations is usually controlled at the local level; wardens are hired by and report to police departments. Some towns have police commissions, which receive periodic reports on pound operations, and can receive suggestions or complaints. In smaller towns, pound operations may be overseen by a designated member of the board of selectmen (the Connecticut term for a town council).

Find out how the pound is staffed. Is there one part-time, on-call warden, or are there several full-time or part-time people, insuring that service is available on evenings, weekends, and holidays as well as during regular business hours? Get copies of employment contracts and job descriptions from town hall. Most pound problems result from understaffing, someone not fulfilling a job description, or a job description omitting an essential duty. For instance, a frequent and extremely serious complaint in Connecticut is that wardens either don't return telephone calls or don't return them promptly. This can result in lost animals never being picked up, and in animals being euthanized who could have been recovered by their owners. The underlying cause is typically either that a warden is overworked, or that a warden is taking a shortcut in fulfilling his or her duties.

There isn't any substitute for learning how to follow paper trails. Identify the paper trails that your local pound should be creating, and monitor them carefully. In Connecticut, and probably your own state, there are two main paper trails that can be used to document pound problems. First, there are the annual state inspection reports. Second, of utmost importance, there are

wardens' monthly reports to their communities, copies of which are supposed to be sent to the state. These reports are supposed to list every animal impounded with a consecutively assigned identification number. Listings are to include the date of pickup, the complainant, a general description of the animal, the length of the animal's stay in custody, the date the dog was advertised in the "found" column of the local newspaper, and the disposition of the dog, with the date of adoption if any and name and address of the adopter, or the date of euthanasia.

By pursuing the paper trails, I found that many wardens were not filing reports, that some reports did not list dogs known to have been impounded, and that some wardens did not advertise lost dogs, as required by law. In several towns wardens were found to have sold or given dogs to friends, despite receiving calls from the dogs' owners asking if their pets had been picked up.

Find out how transactions are recorded. Make sure each animal impounded receives an identification number immediately, and that the numbers are recorded, to make it more difficult for the animal to disappear later. Receipts should be issued for all transactions, even when no money changes hands, the receipts should record the identification numbers of the animals, and the receipts should be consecutively numbered, with a carbon copy given to each party.

I uncovered problems at one pound by calling randomly chosen names on the monthly reports. Brief interviews disclosed that some people who were said to have recovered animals without charge on the reports had in fact paid to adopt or redeem them—and the warden had apparently pocketed the money.

Connecticut, like all other northeastern states, prohibits pound seizure. Else-



where, additional paper trails exist, including the reports mandated by the Animal Welfare Act, kept by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Get copies of those reports, and cross-check the information to make sure that the authorities at each level are getting the same story. If you find discrepancies, find out why they exist.

If the monthly reports or the equivalent for your locale are unavailable, that in itself indicates a management problem worthy of further investigation: anything from a lazy warden to someone using a pound to pick up animals for resale. (Anecdotal evidence indicates that in some areas the most active animal thieves are actually wardens who somehow never pursue paperwork with the same zeal they apply to catching dogs and cats, most of whom are promptly sold for dissection purposes.)

Find out what the pound's budget is for food, veterinary care, euthanasia, and general upkeep, and find out who the providers are. Occasionally a pound supply and/or maintenance contract will turn out to be a bonanza for a warden's friends and relatives, not necessarily to the advantage of the animals. In Connecticut, some pounds have failed to provide veterinary care, violating state law and causing some impounded animals to suffer for weeks. The admin-

istration of euthanasia is often a problem, especially when the method of euthanasia is not mandated, and each warden is left to determine for himself or herself what should be done.

All budget records, invoices, bills, and receipts should be available to you via freedom of information statutes.

Find out what your local pound's adoption policies are. Are they available in writing? Have they been codified through town bylaws or a county ordinance? How selective do laws and regulations allow the warden to be? Are there follow-up checks after adoptions? Is there an adoption contract, similar to the contracts used by humane societies? Are adopted animals accompanied by printed information on the care of their species? Does the warden have an arrangement with local media to advertise adoptable animals? Are adopters required to present identification? Are all animals spayed/neutered before release? Is information on how and where to find low-cost sterilization available at the pound?

If the answer to any of these questions is "No," find out why. Policy and/or procedural changes would seem to be in order. (Some Connecticut wardens knowingly adopt fertile purebreds to breeding kennels, also a common practice in other parts of the U.S. and Canada.)

Find out if private animal rescue groups have easy access to the pound—if they help place animals, monitor conditions, etc. Good pounds typically operate in close cooperation with local humane societies (or the humane societies have the animal control contracts). Rivalry or hostility indicates a problem worthy of further probing.

Investigate feeding and bedding practices. Do the animals get enough food? Is it appropriate? (I worked with one rescue group who discovered that their local pound was giving cats and puppies a diet of large-kibble dog food the animals couldn't ingest.) Do the animals have something other than bare, cold concrete to sleep on? Is the bedding kept clean? Are animals removed from cages during hose-downs and disinfectant applications, or are they doused with cold water and chemicals (which may also contaminate food and drinking water)? Are gates to outside runs closed during cold, windy weather? Could manually operated gates be replaced with animal-operated flaps? Are there comfortable, quiet, darkened whelping areas for mothers and litters? Are alternates assigned to look after the animals whenever the warden is away, e.g. weekends and holidays? Is the work schedule clearly posted? (Dead animals were found in another pound I investigated due to a misunderstanding over who was responsible for caring for them during a five-day period.)

Pounds are typically located on the piece of municipal property that no other agency wants: next to the dump, the sewage treatment plant, the corporation yard. But the grounds should still be attractively maintained, and the location well publicized, to attract redemptions and adoptions.

Rectifying shortcomings at your local pound may require a variety of approaches: amendments to ordinances, organization of a community support group, volunteer work details, perhaps even bidding on the pound contract. Wardens may be either resistant to change or eager to get your help. Find out the situation at your local pound. Then do what you can.

—Julie Lewin



# Judging Cruelty: No Time For Animals

By Merritt Clifton and The Animal Legal Defense Fund

**O**n March 29, 1991, Judge Warren Litynski of Nicollet County, Minnesota, fined Drew Schmidt of St. Peter just \$1.00 for dumping five puppies into a trash bin on a day when the temperature was 20 degrees below zero.

Only days earlier, for substantially the same offense—burying an unwanted litter of puppies alive—a man in Detroit, Michigan, was fined \$1,800 plus court costs; was ordered to pay \$1,440 to the Michigan Humane Society plus \$110 to a veterinarian; was obliged to seek psychological treatment; was required to do 100 hours worth of community service; and will spend five years on probation.

That was scarcely the first such discrepancy in cruelty sentencing noted by The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Back in 1990, a pet shop in Augusta, Maine, was fined just \$5.50 for keeping animals under inhumane conditions. A similar conviction of a kennel in San Diego, California, brought the owner a fine of \$5,000 plus a year in jail.

Almost every day The ANIMALS' AGENDA gets letters from readers protesting lenient sentences for animal abuse, or celebrating stiff sentences. Not infrequently, the sentence one reader protests, another will applaud, happy that the judge in question saw fit to impose any penalty at all for offenses traditionally placed at the very bottom of court calendars.

As attorney Steven Wise recently put it, rule number one in the courtroom is that animals don't count. For rule number two, refer back to rule number one.

Seeking to establish just what "normal" sentences for various common abuses are, The ANIMALS' AGENDA and the Animal

Legal Defense Fund in September 1991 surveyed the recent cruelty prosecution and sentencing experience of 51 humane societies, selected from a list provided by the American Humane Association to represent the U.S. population distribution. Joyce Tischler of ALDF made the initial contacts by mail. ALDF volunteers Todd Davis, Jim Rockenbach, Suzan Porto, and Susan Pottenger made follow-up contacts one month later by telephone. Twenty humane societies eventually provided useful sentencing information.

While the low sampling from some parts of the country thwarted hopes of definitively detecting regional sentencing patterns, if any, enough data was received about sentencing for seven common offenses to produce meaningful national averages.

And sure enough, animals don't count. In all parts of the U.S., animal abuse sentences seem to be directly proportional to the market value of the animals, rather than to the nature of the offense or the impact of the crime upon the animals' human companions. For killing or violently abusing animals, offenders were fined, on average, just 32% of the possible maximum, and spent of 14% of the maximum amount of time in jail. People who killed or tortured dogs were fined 49% of the maximum, and did 17% of the maximum jail time. The average restitution to the owner of killed or injured dogs was exactly \$100—about the average price of a dog. People who killed or tortured cats were fined 36% of the maximum and spent only 10% of the maximum time in jail. Restitution averaged \$33, approximately the average price of a cat.

But perhaps the greater horror is that while dog-killers and abusers were typically sentenced for committing mayhem against a single animal, cat-killers and abusers had typically killed or maimed

five animals, not counting the deeds of serial killers of cats, who killed as many as 100 apiece. Small wonder that data collected by the recent ANIMALS' AGENDA pet theft survey indicated that cats are eight times more likely to be stolen for cruelty and abuse than dogs. And small wonder, too, that the increasingly well recognized link between abuse of cats and abuse of women went virtually undetected until the past few years, when animal rights activists began campaigning for more rigorous prosecution of cat abusers, thereby bringing the patterns of cat abuse to the attention of vastly more judges and criminologists.

Animals other than dogs and cats fared worse still, in one respect: an average fine of \$39, just five percent of the maximum. But abusers of animals other than dogs and cats surprisingly drew 36 days in jail, on average, 20% more than cat abusers, if also 36% less than dog abusers. It is tempting to speculate that judges, being predominately male and used to exercising authority, are inherently unfavorably disposed toward cats, who are frequently identified with feminine behavior and independence.

Starvation, neglect, and abandonment cases also showed striking stratification by species. Horse starvation brought an average fine more than seven times greater than the average fine for starving a dog; 20 times more days in jail; and three times as long a probationary period. There were no successful prosecutions for starving a single cat. Even more appalling, animal collector prosecutions typi-

cally involving the deaths of dozens of cats and some dogs drew an average fine of only a fourth as much as the penalty for starving a single horse, and only twice as much as the penalty for starving a single dog. Animal collectors also got 20% less jail time than people who starved a single dog.

Possibly the light sentences to animal collectors reflect the popular illusion that their menageries are just well-intended no-kill shelters that got out of hand; and/or that the collectors tend to be senior citizens. However, it is unlikely that a convalescent home administrator who starved the guests would get off lightly for having supposedly had good intentions and/or being old himself.

One encouraging trend in sentencing for starvation and neglect is that neglectful pet shop and kennel owners are penalized much more severely than either people who starve or neglect single animals, or animal collectors—if still much less severely than people who starve horses. There is obvious room for improvement, but the situation seems to be moving the right way.

Meaningful average sentencing data for inspecific cruelty misdemeanor and felony convictions was unavailable from much of the U.S., but some regional patterns did appear. For instance, San Francisco judges tend to assign twice as much jail time on cruelty charges as San Diego judges (75% and 37% of the maximum, respectively), yet rarely impose fines. San Diego judges fine 71% of the maximum. Since San Francisco and San Diego are demographically comparable communities, the difference may reflect profound differences in how sentencing recommendations are presented to the courts. Judges in Miami, Florida, fine 34% of the maximum; jail time is so widely varied as to indicate extremely varied judicial attitudes or a tendency to assign extended jail sentences in lieu of a

fine to lower-income defendants. Judges in Nashville, Tennessee, fine less than 10% of the maximum, but at that, still impose penalties twice as stringent as their counterparts a few hours' drive away in Knoxville.

Noteworthy efforts have recently been made to change the Miami and Tennessee sentencing patterns. Unfortunately, the Miami city commissioners on March 3 killed an anti-cruelty ordinance proposed by the Miami Animal Cruelty Citizens' Advisory Group, including Nanci Alexander of the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida. The ordinance would have replaced criminal prosecutions for cruelty with summary convictions, similar to the penalties for parking tickets. This would have encouraged cruelty law enforcement by markedly reducing the amount of court time and paperwork involved, and would also have involved substantially increased penalties—up to \$500 per day per offense.

In Tennessee, meanwhile, where cockfighters succeeded last year in demoting cockfighting from a felony to a misdemeanor, state senator Carl Koella Jr. and state representative W. Townsend Anderson are trying to reverse the negative political momentum with companion bills that would double the maximum fine for cruelty to \$2,000 and direct the revenues from successful prosecutions to local humane societies. Like the proposed Miami ordinance, the Koella/Anderson bills are widely seen as models for other jurisdictions.

CRIME/(CASES)	FINE	RESTITUT.	JAIL/SUSP.	PROBATION	SERVICE
<b>Average U.S. maximum penalty*</b>					
	\$853		9 mos. 16 days		
*Excludes fine data from Wisconsin, max. fine \$10,000 (twice as high as the next highest states) and Minnesota and Illinois (no fine prescribed); jail data from Oklahoma, max. time five years (two years longer than next highest state) and Ohio and Virginia, where cruelty convictions carry no jail time.					
<b>Violent abuse or killing</b>					
All cases (73)	\$271	n/a	40/15 days	11 months	(rare)
Dogs (32)	\$416	\$100	49/20 days	14 months	19 hours
Cats (18)*	\$310	\$33	29/6 days	18 months	(rare)
*95 total feline victims. In the two serial killing cases, which are not included in the averages, the offenders drew a total of 10 years in jail plus 15 on probation; no fines; no restitution; no community service.					
<b>Cockfighting</b>					
(9)	\$461	\$431	27/122 days	25 months	2 days
<b>Starvation, neglect, abandonment of animals other than horses</b>					
All cases (70)	\$154	\$139	one week	253 days	(rare)
Dogs (14)*	\$87	\$158	one week	316 days	23 hours
*Single-dog cases only. The 56 remaining cases involved multiple animals, usually including both dogs and cats, with more cats than dogs.					
<b>Starvation, neglect, abandonment of horses</b>					
(33)	\$605	\$553	139 days	18 months	(rare)
<b>Inhumane conditions, pet shop or kennel</b>					
(17)	\$347*	\$54	24 days	64 days	n/a
*Plus average of \$249 conditionally discharged.					
<b>Cruelty Misdemeanor (inspecific)</b>					
San Francisco, CA			135 days	3 years	
San Diego, CA	\$354		67 days	4 years	40 hours
Miami, FL	\$337		(too much variance to average)		
Augusta, ME	\$330		0/60 days	6 months	
Nashville, TN	\$90		no time	10 months	50 hours
Knoxville, TN	\$42		no time	no prob.	no time
Juneau, AK	\$50		no time	2 months	no time
<b>Cruelty Felony (inspecific)</b>					
San Diego, CA	\$430		30 days	2 years	
Augusta, ME	\$440		no time	no prob.	



Walt Taylor



# Animal Control & Rescue

## ♦ Rising unemployment hits animals, too.

As recession reached New York this past winter, the Bide-A-Wee Home Association's three shelters on Manhattan and Long Island noted a 31% rise in animal turn-ins. In Canada, where recession struck harder and earlier, the Toronto Humane Society reported a 33% increase in abandonments and a 65% increase in cruelty cases during 1991. The humane society in Windsor, Ontario, had a 10% increase in turn-ins, while turn-ins were up 30% at the municipal shelter in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

♦ **Fearing that recession** could cause low income people to postpone dog sterilizations, Pet Assistance/South Bay, a branch of the Pet Assistance Foundation, offered free dog sterilizations to residents of the South Bay district of Los Angeles throughout the month of March.

♦ **The Los Angeles City Council** on Feb. 26 asked the county grand jury to probe allegations of mismanagement by Animal Control Dept. head Robert Rush. Feb. 13, Los Angeles administrative officer Keith Comrie recommended closing the 35-year-old San Pedro shelter, one of six the city operates, because it would need \$1.6 million worth of repairs to stay open. Replacing it would cost \$1.9 million.

♦ **The number of animals handled** by the Los Angeles city shelters has fallen from 132,254 in 1971 to 89,595 in 1991, largely due to the work of the city's three spay clinics. In 1971, only 11% of the dogs received at the shelters had been sterilized; in 1991, 58.6% had been.

♦ **Inmates from the Dona Ana County Detention Facility** may be assigned to clean the animal shelter in Las Cruces, N.M., to help the Dona Ana Humane Society keep the shelter open despite major losses of funding from the city and county. County manager Don Brooks said the humane society should try to make up the losses by seeking support from the Humane Society of the U.S.—which does not fund shelter operations.

♦ **Poultry farmer Herb Hern** of Chaparral, N.M. (in Dona Ana County) leaves roosters unpenned as prey for feral dogs who might otherwise raid his chickens, says the Las Cruces *Sun-News*. A growing feral dog population is a reported menace throughout the region.

♦ **Watch out for this:** a Los Angeles city council committee on Feb. 23 refused a plea from the Calif. Wildlife Defenders to ban steel-jawed leghold traps after city coyote trapper Louis Dedeaux snapped a trap on his hand at the hearing. What onlookers rarely know is that the closing speed of most

leghold traps is controlled by the screw at the bottom of the pan. Trappers typically tighten the screw to retard the closing speed before pulling this stunt. Just loosen the screw and dare any trapper to try it again.

♦ **Just Cats**, a five-year-old no-kill shelter in Woodbury, Conn., closed Feb. 29 after creditors forced the sale of the property to pay medical bills incurred by founder Helen Brown, who is now in a nursing home. More than 60 cats were displaced.

♦ **The Animal Rights Alliance of South Carolina** has asked the state House Ethics Committee to investigate possible violations of state anti-cruelty laws by Bamberg representative Tom Rhoad. Opposing a bill that would bring the penalties for cruelty in South Carolina into line with the national norms, Rhoad obtained amendments that specifically exempt from the cruelty statutes any activity connected with hunting and/or birds, including poultry. "If my bird dog goes into a covey two or three times, a few shots of number nine won't hurt him," Rhoad told the legislature, describing how he deliberately shoots dogs to enforce obedience.



♦ **The mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies pandemic** reached Staten Island on March 12, the closest advance yet to New York City. The pandemic, begun in 1977 by hunters and trappers who released rabid raccoons from Florida in an attempt to restock their neighborhood in Virginia, has already spread past New York into southern Connecticut, and has gone as far north as Ithaca and Watkins Glen, N.Y.

♦ **New York City police emergency vehicles** now routinely carry two tranquilizer guns and a catch pole.

♦ **Pittsburgh, Pa., is considering** differential licensing for cats, as well as dogs, to fight pet overpopulation. The fees for both dogs

and cats would increase to \$5.00 for neutered animals; \$12 for those sexually intact.

♦ **St. Lambert, Quebec**, on Jan. 20 set a license fee of \$25 for cats and required that all cats carry identification at all times—with a fine of \$20 for violations plus \$10 for each day an impounded cat remains in custody. Much of the money thus raised will go to the Montregie SPCA.

♦ **The Colorado Dept. of Health** ceased licensing and regulating pet stores on March 1 due to lack of funds. Local animal control officers can obtain authority to enforce the state licensing and regulation requirements by applying to the Dept. of Health.

♦ **Police in Oakland County, Mich.**, are trying to capture an apparent black panther photographed March 7 in West Bloomfield Township.

♦ **Rat infestations in Bangladesh** have gotten worse since the government set a bounty on rat tails. Bounty hunters have attacked the rats with pesticides that have virtually annihilated rat predators such as snakes, owls, and cats, without visibly depressing the rat population at all.

♦ **Norwegian health officials** recently gassed over 1,000 rats who overran the home of an Oslo man who bred rats for sale to pet shops.

♦ **Spay U.S.A., HSUS, and the Fund for Animals**, are promoting a Connecticut bill, modeled after similar legislation in New Jersey, that would require a spay/neuter deposit on all animals adopted from pounds and shelters. The deposit would be refunded upon presentation of proof that an animal had been spayed or neutered. Unclaimed deposits would subsidize spaying/neutering at \$10/animal for people receiving Social Security, disability or unemployment compensation, or welfare. About 50,000 animals have been spayed/neutered under the New Jersey law.

♦ **Noach Dear**, newly appointed chair of the New York City council's transportation committee, immediately began a drive to weaken or repeal the city's two-year-old Carriage Horse Protection Act. Discussion at the Feb. 13 first hearing on the proposed weakening was limited to the economic impact upon the carriage operators; discussion of public safety and effects upon horses was barred. Although the carriage operators claim the law is hurting their incomes, there are now 325 licensed carriage drivers, up from 320 when the act was passed. In addition, the number of legal parking spaces for carriage horses is up from 11 to 56. A total of 202 summonses have been issued to carriage drivers and owners under the act, most of them for ordinary traffic offenses. Letters of support for keeping the act as it stands may be sent to Peter Vallone, Speaker of the City Council, City Hall, New York, NY 10007.

## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH Testing and Teaching

**F**ourteen guards employed by the Free University of Barranquilla, Colombia, were arrested March 5 on suspicion of murdering countless homeless people to supply the university medical school with cadavers. University security chief Pedro Vilorio confessed to killing at least 50 people himself to collect a bounty of \$200 per corpse, paid by the medical school director.

him for dead, and escaped from a tub of formaldehyde. Hernandez said the guards had invited him to the medical school to collect a cardboard carton. Police investigators found the remains of 23 victims in the university morgue. The remains of another seven victims turned up a few days later.

"I have clubbed some 50 people," Vilorio confirmed after unsuccessfully trying to kill himself by swallowing insecti-

## Meet The New Lab Animal

The case came to light when street scavenger Oscar Hernandez survived an attempted bludgeoning by two security guards, who mistook

cide. "But I received orders from the director of the university. I'm not the only guilty party."

University director Ramon Navarro denied the charges, claiming that all cadavers used at the medical school were properly purchased from the Barranquilla Legal Medical Institute. But the medical institute said it hadn't sold any cadavers to the university lately.

Health Minister Camilo Gonzalez suspended use of the medical school dissection room pending completion of the investigation.

## AIDS From Polio Vaccination?

**W**istar Institute director Giovanni Rovera has appointed a committee to investigate allegations that the AIDS virus reached humans about 30 years ago through orally administered anti-polio vaccines that were cultivated in green monkey kidneys by Rovera's predecessor, Hilary Koprowski. The possibility surfaced in the March 19 issue of *Rolling Stone*, in which freelance writer Tom Curtis traced the history of other viruses that jumped to humans from nonhuman primates as result of vaccine cultivation, and pointed out that AIDS seems to have hit first and hardest in the same parts of equatorial Africa where Koprowski tested his vaccines on at least 640,000 people between 1957 and 1960. The earliest known appearance of the HIV virus, associated with AIDS, was in

Leopoldville, the Congo, in 1959, about one year after Koprowski vaccinated 75,000 Leopoldville school children.

Koprowski's vaccine was already known to have been contaminated by at least one other unidentified monkey virus, discovered by his longtime rival in the race to perfect a polio vaccine, Albert Sabin. But tracing the spread of HIV and AIDS through the people Koprowski treated via demographic means may be difficult if not impossible because most demographic and medical records for the region were destroyed during civil strife in the early 1960s. Instead, the Wistar investigators are likely to seek traces of HIV in the tiny amount of Koprowski's original monkey kidney culture that still exists in storage.

The case is complicated not only by the history of rivalry between Koprowski

and Sabin, but also by open feuding between Koprowski and Rovera. Koprowski in mid-February sued Rovera and Wistar for alleged age discrimination and harassment, in connection with his dismissal and replacement. The dispute erupted as the renowned Wistar rabies research team announced that it will soon relocate to Thomas Jefferson University, while noted AIDS researcher E. Premkumar Reddy is leaving to become director of the Fels Institute at Temple University.

Although the Koprowski anti-polio vaccine was widely used in Africa, and in similar trials in Poland, the Sabin vaccine had by 1962 become the worldwide vaccine of choice. The Koprowski vaccine apparently hasn't been used since the end of the African experiments. The batches used in Poland are not believed to have been contaminated with HIV/AIDS, as they were apparently cultivated in macaque rather than green monkey kidney cultures.

♦ **Richard Crawford**, director of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service animal care staff, told *The Scientist* in February that biomedical research laboratories will be inspected a lot less often as result of the Jan. 8 U.S. District Court decision that extended Animal Welfare Act protection to rats, mice, and birds. Crawford suggested that the APHIS budget of \$9.6 million and staff of 65 veterinarians might have to be doubled to continue inspections at the present frequency.

♦ **Charging a "seven-year pattern of maliciousness,"** In Defense of Animals on Feb. 29 asked the Board of Regents of the Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley for the release of documents describing the deaths of animals used in research, plus \$250,000 in

punitive damages. IDA also demanded punitive damages of \$250,000 from researcher Charles Nicholl and Office of Laboratory Animal Care head Roy Henrickson. The request is the first step in advancing a lawsuit that could be filed in Superior Court as early as April 15.

♦ **Procter & Gamble, under boycott** by In Defense of Animals for continued animal-based research, has since 1989 awarded \$50,000 a year for three years to each of three scientists who are working to perfect non-animal product safety tests. 1992 winners include Jurgen Steinmeyer of the Univ. of Bonn, Germany, who is seeking a nonanimal model for osteoarthritis; Andrew Parkinson of the Univ. of Kansas Medical Center, who is working on liver cell and

enzyme-based alternatives to animal testing; and Cynthia McMurray of the Mayo Foundation, who is trying to establish cell cultures with infinite lifespans for use in testing. Procter & Gamble claims to have spent \$4.6 million in 1991 alone on developing alternatives to animal-based research and testing procedures.

♦ **Sixty-four physicians and scientists** assembled by the consumer protection group Food and Water have asked the Natl. Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society to redirect their budgets away from the costly and largely fruitless search for cures (a major use of animals by laboratories), toward prevention of exposure to carcinogens at home and in workplaces. Food

*Continued on next page*



and Water spokesman Samuel Epstein said cancer researchers especially need to pay more attention to the influence of pesticide and hormone residues, which consumers absorb mainly from animal products.

♦ **Swiss voters on Feb. 16 rejected** a ballot measure that would have abolished vivisection except for essential medical research. Fifty-seven percent said no; 44% of the electorate voted. However, the initiative did oblige the Swiss parliament to strengthen the national animal protection law. New clauses narrow the definitions of acceptable research and require the bodies that license animal use in research to include representatives from the Swiss Animal Protection League. The margin of defeat for the ballot proposal was much narrower than for a similar measure in 1985, which got only 30% of the vote.

♦ **Three researchers who claimed** in December 1991 to have created genetically engineered mice who got something resembling Alzheimer's Disease in late February withdrew the claim. Thus there is still no valid animal model for Alzheimer's. The trio included Gerald Higgins of the Natl. Institute of Aging in Baltimore; Jon Gordon of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center Dept. of Geriatrics in New York; and Shigeki Kawabata of the Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co. in Tokyo, Japan.

♦ **The Bush administration on Feb. 24** eased federal regulation of biotechnology, in an attempt to speed the approval process for bioengineered products. The action might accelerate the availability of the

Wistar oral anti-raccoon rabies vaccine, which could be air-dropped into wooded areas to inoculate populations at risk in the U.S., much as a closely related anti-fox rabies vaccine has been deployed in Europe for almost a decade. Bush's motivation, however, was economic: "This \$4 billion industry should grow to \$50 billion by the end of the decade—if we let it." The Bush move came just days after the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the Natl. Institutes of Health voted to disband its human gene therapy subcommittee, reducing the number of approvals that researchers must obtain for federally funded genetic experiments to five, from six.

♦ **France has reportedly offered** Charles River Laboratories an isolated site near Marseilles for use as a primate breeding facility. France now imports about 2,000 monkeys a year for use in biomedical research, at a cost of about \$3,000 apiece.

♦ **Philippine wild monkey exports** dropped from 8,000 in 1990, worth \$4.5 million, to 6,400 in 1991, worth \$2.8 million. Despite the decline in sales, the monkeys still made up 94.4% of the value of the Philippine wildlife export market, upon which the Philippine government collects a 10% royalty.

♦ **A survey of 5,600 Japanese laboratory animal handlers** published in the Feb. issue of the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* discovered that 31% have allergic reactions to guinea pigs, 30% react to cats and rabbits, 26% react to mice, and 25% react to rats.

♦ **Concerned Citizens for Ethical Research**, of Evanston, Ill., has published a 50-page report detailing how vocalization experiments on cats and monkeys done by Charles Larson of Northwestern Univ. cause extensive animal suffering, allegedly waste tax money, and are "on the brink of scientific malfeasance," according to some informed critics. The Larson work has cost \$472,370 to date. Contact CCER for details c/o P.O. Box 1334, Evanston, IL 60204-1334; 312-792-7117.

♦ **Gamma, the oldest known chimpanzee**, died Feb. 20 at age 59. A captive-born female, Gamma spent her whole life at the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, originally located at Orange Park, Florida, relocated to Emory Univ. in Atlanta in 1965. Gamma was extensively used in many different kinds of research.

♦ **The ANIMALS' AGENDA and numerous antivivisection groups** have recently received anonymously mailed packets of photographs purporting to document abuse of primates at the Univ. of Wisconsin's Madison Primate Research Laboratory—but the photographs cannot be used by any of the recipients without confirmation of what, exactly, is in each photo, and when the photos were taken. While we can protect the identity of sources in published accounts, we must know ourselves who the sources are, to be certain of the veracity of the information they provide. (Such photos could even have been mailed by opponents of animal rights, in an effort to entrap activist groups and publications in libel suits.)

tained from the beginning that the trial judge should have disqualified himself because he had accepted \$25,000 in political campaign contributions from the Stardust Hotel, Berosini's employer. PETA posted an appeal bond of \$800,000, obtained via a special grant from the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, but PAWS was unable to raise an appeal bond, and a California judge in September 1991 at Berosini's request raised to \$80,000 the amount of the bond that the group would have to obtain to stay execution of the \$100,000 judgement. Berosini is seeking to seize the PAWS sanctuary for retired performing animals in satisfaction of his claim. Seizure could be accomplished 60 days after Berosini files the last requisite papers. However, if PETA wins the appeal (arguments were tentatively set to begin in late April), his whole judgement could be set aside.

♦ **The FBI is investigating a Feb. 28 fire** at the Michigan State University animal research facility in Lansing that destroyed 32 years worth of records on mink breeding and care experiments by Richard Aulerich, a leading consultant to the fur farming industry. Purportedly set by the Animal Liberation Front, the fire also destroyed 10 years worth of data gathered by Karen

Chou, whose focus is finding alternatives to animal-based toxicity testing. The raiders opened cages housing about 350 mink; but conditioned to close confinement, the animals remained where they were. Hours after the raid, the FBI confiscated animal rights literature and animal handling equipment from Mason, Mich., humane activist Cecelia Lash—who at the time of the raid was caring for an abandoned puppy brought to her by the Mason police. Lash's possessions were returned to her without explanation several days later.

♦ **An anonymous caller** claiming to be part of the ALF has asserted responsibility for having injected an unidentified blue chemical into milk cartons in Milan, Italy, during early January. The caller said the action was to protest the killing of 4,000 dairy cows, who were made superfluous by a recent European Community order that Italy must reduce milk production to avoid undercutting the EC price support quotas.

♦ **Advocates for Animals** (Britain), the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, and Animal Aid have condemned recent firebombing attacks on institutions whose animal abuses were revealed by the groups' investigative reports. "When the public sees idiots plant-

ing fire bombs, every animal rights organization in Britain is tarnished," said Advocates for Animals director Les Ward, who added that future reports on cruelty may not be released to the press to avoid inciting further violence.

♦ **PETA staffer Jenny Woods** and three accomplices were charged with disorderly conduct Feb. 28 in Baltimore, after Woods hit chicken baron Frank Perdue in the face with a pie at a meeting of the University of Maryland Board of Regents.

♦ **Barbara Mauck of Catlin, Ill.**, has sued Blue Needles Golf Course operator Gary Carter for wrongful dismissal. Carter fired Mauck after she turned him in for illegally killing a redtailed hawk—which cost Carter a fine of \$250.

♦ **Kathleen Markovich, a gradeschool teacher** for the past 21 years in Poland, Ohio, was indefinitely suspended on March 17 for allegedly reading pro-animal rights magazine stories to her fifth grade class and assigning members to write essays criticizing rodeo.

## Offenses Against Humans

♦ **When Jonathon Christopher Williams, 7**, found a stray Rottweiler running loose in Mauldin, S.C., on Feb. 27, he caught the dog, leashed him, and set out with the Rottweiler and his own dog, a Rottweiler-chow mix, on a door-to-door search for the lost dog's residence. Unsuccessful, Williams was within 15 feet of his home when the stray abruptly tore his throat out. Williams' own dog, a nine-year-old witness, and adults who responded to his cries were unable to save him. Willie Curry Jr., 38, was charged the next day with allowing a dangerous dog to roam without a muzzle or chain—an offense carrying a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail or a fine of \$200. Curry recently got the dog, police said, from a man who warned him that the dog had already bitten children.

♦ **Rio Branco, Brazil, state appeals court judge Eliezer Matos Sherer** on Feb. 28 annulled the 1990 conviction of rancher Darly Alves da Silva for killing rainforest protection advocate Chico Mendes, because the primary witness was "heavily biased." The decision barred the witness from testifying again if the case is brought to a new trial. Brazilian legal experts called Sherer's ruling highly irregular. The prosecutors immediately vowed to appeal it to the Brazilian Supreme Court.

♦ **Imperial Food Products owner Emmett Roe**, his son Brad Roe, and Hamlet, N.C., plant manager James Hair were charged March 9 with 25 counts apiece of involuntary manslaughter in connection with a fire on Sept. 3, 1991, which killed 25 workers.

Imperial, a poultry processing firm, has already been fined \$952,650 for extensive safety violations at Hamlet and a second facility in Cumming, Ga., both now closed.

♦ **A rock concert held to benefit** the Student Action Corps for Animals and Intl. Society for Cow Protection erupted into a riot March 1 in Lower Pottsgrove Township, Pennsylvania—but no animal rights activists were involved in the violence, which began when a skinhead gang Band follower Jeremy Cosgrove, 19, of Royersford, Pa., was charged with attempted homicide, aggravated assault, and possession of instruments of crime for allegedly stabbing a skinhead. A second band follower, Michael DeLisle, 18, of Danbury, Conn., was charged with simple assault and disorderly conduct. Charges against other individuals were still pending at deadline.

♦ **Mark Masters, 29, of Plainfield, N.J.**, was charged March 4 with strangling and dismembering his mother-in-law, seven counts of aggravated assault, and a variety of firearms offenses after an 18-hour standoff and shoot-out with police that ended in an unsuccessful suicide attempt. Masters had a record for having shot a cat with a bow and arrow in June 1990, and had a history of clubbing cats and squirrels to death. The home where the murder took place had been used as a set in the horror film *Basketcase II*.



## Fraud

♦ **A class action suit** filed Feb. 8 in federal court at Wichita, Kansas, alleges that Bass Anglers' Sportsman Society founder Ray Scott has bilked society members of more than \$75 million since 1970. Scott has allegedly diverted revenues from BASS dues and *Bassmaster* magazine into a separate organization with "a deceptively similar name," BASS Inc.—and has awarded himself 99.8% of the Bass Inc. stock. BASS is the world's leading promoter of fishing tournaments.

♦ **All assets of Dart Anthony's U.S. Wild Horse and Burro Foundation** were frozen March 2 by court order, at the request of the direct mail fundraiser Grizzard Advertising Inc., of Atlanta, Georgia. Grizzard in 1988 won a judgement for unpaid debts of \$104,461 against another of Anthony's organizations, the Humane Society of Southern Nevada, but has been unable to collect, allegedly because Anthony has transferred the HSSN's major assets to the Wild Horse and Burro Foundation. HSSN owes at least \$55,594 to 17 other creditors, according to court records—and apparently spent nothing at all on animal care in 1991, after spending less than 2% of receipts on animal care in 1990. HSSN meanwhile paid Anthony salaries under two different names (see Court Calendar, April 1990).

## Humane Enforcement

♦ **A federal grand jury** in Miami, Fla., on Feb. 20 indicted Worldwide Primates president Matthew Block on four counts of violating the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act by trafficking in highly endangered infant orangutans. Block is charged with having set up the infamous "Bangkok Six" transaction, exposed by the Intl. Primate Protection League in Feb. 1990. The six orangs, smuggled out of Indonesia in a case marked "Birds," were intercepted in Thailand while being loaded aboard a plane to be relayed to a zoo in Yugoslavia, which had apparently arranged to resell them to the Soviet Union. Four of the six orangs died of hunger, thirst, fright, and in three instances, the effects of having being kept upside down for a prolonged period. If convicted on all counts, Block could get 12 years in federal prison plus a fine of \$700,000. Despite the indictment, Block continues to pursue a lawsuit against IPPL president Shirley McGreal, charging that she interfered in his business dealings by correctly informing Peter Gerone of the Delta Primate Center that the Centers for Disease Control had suspended his permit to import primates in 1990, and by sending Gerone copies of USDA inspection reports on Block's facilities.

♦ **Truck driver Stephen England of Wheaton, Mo.**, was fined \$8,900 on Feb. 28 after being convicted on 28 cruelty counts in connection with a load of over 100 animals that police in Pittsburgh, Pa., intercepted just before they were to be delivered to a Petland pet store franchise. The animals came from the Do-Bo TriCounty Kennel in Purdy, Mo.

♦ **Jerry Tackett of Springfield, Ohio**, was convicted of abandoning two horses on March 6 in the first cruelty case ever taken

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## COURT CALENDAR

### Activism

♦ **Las Vegas orangutan trainer Bobby Berosini** has moved to collect a preliminary judgement of \$100,000 from the Performing Animal Welfare Society—before the Nevada Supreme Court even begins hearing the appeal of the case filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Berosini won a \$4.2 million libel award, later reduced to \$3.1 million, from PAWS, PETA, and individual activists Jeanne Roush and Linda Devine in August 1990, ten months after they distributed a clandestinely made video that purportedly showed Berosini beating his trained orangutans with a metal rod just before they were to go on stage. Berosini claimed the videotape had been altered. The jury verdict was viewed as an aberration by many libel experts, and the defendants main-



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to a jury in that region. Tackett was fined the maximum \$750 on one count, with a fine of \$750 on the second count suspended. The horses were seized by the Clark County Humane Society.

♦ **The Maryland Attorney Grievance Commission** has asked the state Court of Appeals to disbar attorney Stanley E. Protokowicz Jr. of Bel Air for having killed a kitten in a microwave oven. Protokowicz pleaded guilty on Jan. 17, and was sentenced to 15 months in jail, suspended; 18 months on probation; 40 hours of community service; treatment for alcoholism; and a fine of \$1,500.

♦ **Six pit bull terriers and a cat** were stolen from the Bridgeport, Conn., animal shelter on March 3 by burglars who also

released 24 other dogs from their cages, ransacked the shelter office, took \$150 in petty cash, and took the shelter's records on complaints against dog owners. The same night, two pit bulls were stolen from the Bridgeport Veterinary Hospital.

♦ **Eighteen people who were arrested at a dogfight** in Avery County, N.C. on Nov. 16, 1991, paid fines totaling \$1,700 to the Avery County Humane Society. Fight organizers Ed and Rachel Mullins and Bruce King, Jr. were also obliged to give the humane society 50 hours of work apiece.

♦ **Eighteen people were charged with cockfighting** after a Feb. 9 sheriff's raid in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

♦ **The Conn. Dept. of Animal Control** is probing allegations that 17 retired racing greyhounds were starved and abused at the

racing industry-funded Plainfield Greyhound Training Facility. The dogs were rescued March 1 after a volunteer from Retired Greyhounds as Pets accused the training center of cruelty.

♦ **Philadelphia veterinarian** Jordan Miller, who has been picketed by local activists since July 1990, was acquitted of a single cruelty charge on March 13. Miller was accused by two former employees of having killed a dog in a fit of rage. Miller claims the dog died from complications of oral surgery; was obese; elderly, at age 10; overweight; anemic; and suffered from a rapid heartbeat. The case pivoted on the lack of an autopsy report on the carcass. Civil suits and countersuits among Miller, his former staffers, and the dog's owners continue.



## Dogs & Cats

♦ **The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council**, the pet store trade association, lost 10% of its membership during 1991. Of the 186 stores who dropped out, 160 went out of business, while the other 26 said they couldn't afford the PIJAC dues.



♦ **New York Univ. dept. of nutrition chairwoman** Dr. Marion Nestle on Feb. 26 resoundingly rebutted recent reports that consumption of cholesterol-laden foie gras (goose liver) may help prevent heart attacks. The reports have been based on a French study that found a relatively low rate of heart disease in the province of Burgundy, France, where foie gras consumption is high. Nestle pointed out, however, that the French diet was traditionally much lower in animal fat than the U.S. diet, catching up only circa 1965. The longtime French reliance upon bicycles rather than cars for transportation could also have played a part in maintaining cardiac fitness until recent

♦ **Connecticut has begun requiring** doctors to report cases of "cat scratch fever" to the state health department, to help facilitate an investigation of the previously rare and rarely serious illness being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. Over 100 cases have surfaced since two students at the same elementary school in Windsor Locks went into brief comas because of the disease in late 1991.

♦ **Iditarod sled race veterinarians** cleared driver Raymie Redington of wrongdoing in the sudden death of one of his dogs from heart failure on March 2, as

Redington sprinted to victory in the "Dodge Dash," a segment of the race in which contestants try to win a \$25,000 pickup truck. Overall Iditarod winner Martin Buser, known for singing to his dogs, finished the 1,159-mile journey on March 11 in a record 10 days, 19 hours, and 17 minutes, six hours ahead of runner-up Susan Butcher, a four-time winner. Both Buser and Butcher are leaders of a movement among top contestants to halt dog abuse, pointing out through their own examples that breeding and culling huge numbers of dogs and driving dogs to collapse is not the way to win the big prizes.

years. Since cholesterol can build up in arteries for as long as 30 years before causing heart disease, Nestle argued, French heart disease rates "just haven't had time to catch up." Meanwhile, U.S. foie gras sales nearly doubled last winter, while sales of most other luxury food items plunged.

♦ **Broccoli contains** the most potent cancer-fighting agent yet detected, a Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine research team reported on March 13.

♦ **"After decades of gross neglect**, the government has neither the authority nor the political will to regulate the safety of the seafood supply," Ellen Haas of Public Voice for Food and Health Policy charged in *The New York Times* on Feb. 27. "The Food and Drug Administration inspects seafood processors no more than once every four years," Haas continued, "and has no program to detect chemical and microbiological contamination...Tuna, salmon, and other fin fish account for 96% of all cases of illness from naturally occurring poisons...Because most seafood illnesses are difficult to diagnose, 95% to 99% go undetected, according to the Centers for Disease Control."

♦ **Heart disease fatalities**, accounting for a third of all U.S. deaths, fell an unprece-

dented 6.3% in 1991, as the overall national death rate dropped 2.3%. Stroke deaths, recorded in a separate category, dropped 5.7%. Stroke is the third leading cause of death, ranking after heart disease and cancer. The heart disease and stroke death rates have fallen steadily for approximately a decade, paralleling declines in red meat consumption and the growing popularity of vegetarian meals.

♦ **The General Accounting Office** on Feb. 27 published a study documenting major failures in the FDA's system of approving and monitoring over-the-counter drugs. The makers of the estimated 300,000 over-the-counter and/or nonprescription drugs are not required to report adverse human health effects they may encounter to the FDA. Thus the approval system relies almost entirely upon outmoded animal tests, overlooking severe impacts that often turn up only after drugs are taken by humans.

♦ **FDA commissioner David Kessler**, who pledged to end misleading product labeling when he took office in Nov. 1991, backed away from strict definitions of terms used in describing the fat, calorie, and sodium content of food in February, under pressure from the presidential Office

of Management and Budget. Simultaneously, the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons asked Health and Human Services secretary Louis Sullivan to fire Kessler, after an FDA panel recommended that silicon breast implants be used only on an experimental basis.

♦ **Vegetarian historian Rynn Berry** has refuted the myth that Adolf Hitler was a vegetarian by documenting Hitler's taste for Bavarian sausages, ham, liver, and game, and his banishment of vegetarian organ-

izations from all territories occupied by the Nazis. Noted chef Dione Lucas, who often cooked for Hitler, mentioned his liking for stuffed squab on page 83 of her volume *The Gourmet Cooking School Cookbook*.

♦ **Fairchild Air Force Base** staffer Sue Hughes is trying to organize a network of vegetarians in the military, to work for vegetarian mess options. Write her c/o P.O. Box 4262, Spokane, WA 99202.

♦ **Three restaurant chains**—TGI Friday's, Red Robin Burger Emporium,

and Lyon's—now sell vegetarian Gardenburgers, according to *Vegetarian Journal*.

♦ **Sixty percent of the beef** eaten in Juarez, Mexico, is of dubious quality, charged Regional Alliance of Importers of Cattle and Beef Products president Raul Mendiola in a recent newspaper interview. Apparently much of the beef sold in the Juarez area is slaughtered there because shippers believe the animals won't pass inspection at the U.S. border.

# NAVS Head Escapes Censure

Despite well-substantiated allegations of serious financial mismanagement brought to The ANIMALS' AGENDA by numerous current and former National Anti-Vivisection Society staffers, the NAVS board of directors has rewarded president Mary Margaret Cunniff with a significant pay raise.

Cunniff is now making in excess of \$95,000 a year for a three-to-four-day work week, according to the dissident staffers, while tax documents indicate that her husband Kenneth is paid at least \$52,000 a year for legal services the dissidents describe as invisible. Among other perks, the Cunniffs have use of a TV-equipped van purchased, licensed, and insured by NAVS, and a NAVS-purchased cellular telephone apparently used mainly on the family sailboat. Numerous other relatives are on the NAVS payroll for purposes not clearly identified.

The inaction of the NAVS board regarding the allegations, raised in the March ANIMALS' AGENDA, was not unexpected, inasmuch as the six-member board includes Cunniff's uncle Robert Mahoney; her sister Catherine Curran; and her brother-in-law, Patrick Rocks. Another board member, John Hughes, is publisher of *The Columbian*, a local Knights of Columbus newsletter whose circulation list is kept on the NAVS computer system and printed out each month by a NAVS employee on mailing labels purchased by NAVS. Although *The Columbian* purportedly pays for the service, the payment is apparently recouped through an advertisement NAVS places in the paper at approximately \$400 a month—well above the going rate for the size of the ad and the paper's circulation. Expense-paid annual board meetings have been held at Pompano Beach, Florida, for several years, purportedly in deference to the age and health of the seventh board member, Louis Rosky, late of Hollandale, Florida, who apparently died prior to the 1991 meeting. The 1992 meeting did agree to appoint a replacement, whom sources allege will be nominated by Kenneth Cunniff.

## Ethics

All NAVS board members are paid an honorarium for participation in meetings, coming to about \$500 per convocation, according to the dissident staffers. Payment of the honorarium violates the ethical guidelines of the National Charities Information Bureau; and the exact amount of the honorarium has not been disclosed, as required by law, on NAVS filings with the Internal Revenue Service.

Cunniff refused to either confirm or deny that at least one board member, Helen Miller, has been paid \$500 for signing off on the minutes of meetings she "attended" only through a telephone call from her home in Knoxville, Tennessee. The minutes are prepared by Kenneth Cunniff, who apparently sits in on the meetings, along with Cunniff's father George Trapp, who preceded her as NAVS president.

If the NAVS board's position was no surprise, the failure of the Summit for the Animals to squarely address the situation was another matter. The Summit, an annual convocation of national animal protection group leaders, resolved in 1987 that, "In matters of governance, fundraising, use of funds, and public accountability, all groups shall conduct their business properly and in accordance with the highest ethical standards."

However, the 1992 Summit—held in Tampa, Florida, two weeks after the NAVS board meeting—avoided any serious discussion of NAVS. Instead, Cunniff distributed copies of NAVS attorney Reed Millsaps' official response to the first 17 of 35 questions The ANIMALS' AGENDA directed to her, after receiving the dossier

from the dissident insiders. The response, largely a defense of NAVS as a whole, failed to directly answer most of the 17 questions that it purported to address, and made no reference to the 18 questions asked after publication of the initial charges brought considerable additional information to light.

Although Summit delegates didn't ask Cunniff hard questions, The ANIMALS' AGENDA was blasted at length for having exposed the NAVS situation. Arguing that The ANIMALS' AGENDA should not publish unfavorable reports on animal groups were Kim Stallwood of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (no longer with PETA) and Holly Hazard of the Doris Day Animal League, whose own fundraising practices and high salary have also received attention here. Nedim Buyukhmici of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights and Bradley Miller of the Humane Farming Association argued that Millsaps' response should have been published in full, although it was three times longer than the expose itself, was extensively quoted, and was almost wholly discredited by some of the evidence in possession of The ANIMALS' AGENDA. Belton Mouras of United Animal Nations then nominated Cunniff for election to the Summit executive committee, but Cunniff declined the nomination because she is pregnant.

Among the information received by The ANIMALS' AGENDA following publication of the March expose are copies of several memos pertaining to the formation of a new anti-vivisection coalition by heiress Doris Duke. As of October 1991, Cunniff had been appointed chair of the as yet unnamed coalition's finance committee, while Hazard had also been placed on the steering committee. The coalition would apparently use seed money from Duke to solicit funds from the general public via direct mail.

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The ANIMALS' AGENDA also received confirmation that another of Cuniff's uncles, Al Lamier, is paid approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year to lobby in Indiana, although NAVS has never either officially endorsed or opposed an Indiana bill during Cuniff's administration. NAVS employees further charged, among a laundry list of relatively petty instances of apparent misuse of funds, that the organization picked up the full tab for a trip Kenneth Cuniff took to Ireland in 1989 on almost entirely unrelated business,

# Farming

♦ **A job creation project** in the severely depressed asbestos mining region of Quebec has already spent \$80,000 to develop a 145-acre exotic animal breeding center, to supply bison, boars, and ostriches for slaughter and draw tourism, and is scheduled to receive \$450,000 in subsidies from the Canadian and provincial governments, says project head Rene Marchand. The heavy investment has come despite the recent failure of private initiatives along similar lines elsewhere in Quebec.

♦ **Hangland Farm in Oxfordshire, England**, recently hatched the first 26 ostriches to be reared in the British Isles by private investors. The ostriches are to become breeding stock for ostrich-ranching ventures in England, Ireland, France, and Denmark. Ostrich-ranching has boomed in the U.S. for about five years—but very few ostriches are sold for slaughter, as yet. Most of the trade involves speculation in breeding stock.

♦ **Sussex, England, poultry farmer** Christopher Turton recently opened his facilities to the press to exemplify practices he says are "beyond the legitimate exploitation of animals in welfare terms," according to *AgScene*, the magazine of the group Compassion in World Farming. Turton's concerns are that chicken producing conglomerates require farmers to overcrowd their flocks; that chickens are made to gain weight so fast that 42-day-old skeletons are now forced to carry the same weight that 84-day-old skeletons did 25 years ago; and that the fast-growing chickens have very little resistance to heat stress.

♦ **AgriView** columnist Joel McNair recently warned Illinois farmers to take a more conciliatory view of animal rights activists and environmentalists, pointing out growing public concern over pollution, health issues, and animal confinement practices.

and that a used car was sold to another member of the Cuniff family for \$1,200, well below list value, \$800 of which was reimbursed by NAVS.

Four witnesses vouched that they had seen a letter Mary Margaret Cuniff wrote to former New England Anti-Vivisection Society president Robert Ford circa 1988, thanking him for a gift of live lobsters and describing the fun several of her children had racing them up and down the hall before they were boiled alive to be eaten.

Ford, formerly probate judge of Norfolk, Mass., was fined \$75,000 and suspended from administrative judicial duties

"A lot of farm organizations have made these animal rights and environmental trends to be

'threats' to the livelihoods of all farmers," McNair wrote. "They want you to give them money for an all-out battle against our enemies, the consumer. This is insane."

♦ **Chicken baron Frank Perdue's wife Mitzi** writes an environmental column for the *Daily Times* in Salisbury, Maryland. "If she really wants to do something for the environment," comments Henry Spira of Animal Rights International, who has published numerous newspaper ads attacking Perdue's environmental record, "she could pitch Frank out of bed."

♦ **IBP cattle killer Leroy Tafoya, 33**, of Holcomb, Kansas, died Feb. 15 when a rearing steer pushed Tafoya's stun-gun into his chest.

♦ **No charges were filed** in connection with a March 17 incident at the Sandusky Beef Co. near Sandusky, Ohio, in which Rabbi Avronhom Greenberg, of Cleveland Heights, accidentally shot a stun-gun into fellow rabbi Samuel Eidelman, of University Heights. Greenberg denied that the rabbis were using the stun-gun to slaughter cattle, acknowledging that slaughtering by this means would violate kosher law.

♦ **"Six hundred U.S. beef producers** have signed up to supply Europe with hormone-free beef," in accordance with European Community rules, *Farm Journal* reported in March. "But they can't find packing houses to slaughter the meat the way Europe wants," the item continued, "so trade is nil." EC agriculture authority Lars Hoelgaard suggested that U.S. packing houses won't slaughter animals according to European requirements because this would undercut the U.S. government's push to have foreign health, safety, and environmental regulations repealed as alleged illegal trade barriers.

♦ **The federal Food Safety and Inspection Service** has announced a year-long survey of U.S. slaughterhouses in an effort

in 1989, after a two-year Judicial Conduct Commission probe. He was forced from office at NEAVS in 1988 during a takeover of the organization by dissident activists led by PETA national director Ingrid Newkirk. While running NEAVS on a part-time basis, Ford established a pattern of self-aggrandizement and cronyism comparable to the pattern evident at NAVS. NAVS, however, is so structured as to preclude a takeover by any other organization using the tactics PETA used against NEAVS. Cuniff refused to say whether NAVS had taken tactical advice from Ford.

to identify the usual amounts of "significant pathogens" found in meat products. Contamination of meat products is widely believed to be rising.

♦ **About 8.5% of rams are homosexual**, research by the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho indicates.

♦ **American food relief authorities** directed tons of pork to largely Moslem regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former USSR) during the winter. Reluctant to decline any food, officials in Central Asia relabeled some of the pork "white sheep."

♦ **Three barnfires** during the third week of February killed 87 racing greyhounds at Lynn, Mass.; 77 animals backbred to resemble the first colonists' livestock at Plymouth Plantation in Plymouth, Mass.; and three horses, a pony, and a calf in a barn at Dedham, Mass. Before the week was over, 25 show horses were killed in a stable fire at DeSoto, Mo., bringing the known total of horse deaths in blazes this year to 181. The rash of fires prompted 25 greyhound owners to ask the Massachusetts Racing Commission and the Wonderland Dog Track to regulate fire safety precautions in kennels—and inspired Luz Delgado of *The Boston Globe* to produce the first expose of barnfires published in the U.S. since The ANIMALS' AGENDA raised the topic in January 1988. MSPCA director of law enforcement Walter Kilroy called the series of fires "unprecedented," asserting that, "Until now, people have not stopped to consider the extent of the danger to animals from fires." However, The ANIMALS' AGENDA documented eight barnfires in 16 months within a 50-mile radius along the Quebec/Vermont border in 1986-1987, killing over 10,000 animals. Fire insurance statistics indicated the loss rate was normal. British statistics gathered by the Royal SPCA show that fire strikes anywhere from one farm in 300 to one in 2,000 per year, killing approximately 70,000 chickens and 5,000 hooved animals in a typical year.

♦ **As many as 1,000 of the 3,000 known livestock breeds** are in jeopardy due to increasingly standardized intensive husbandry, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warned in a report published Jan. 29. The FAO intends to spend \$18 million over the next five years to inventory and help preserve the vanishing breeds.



♦ **PETA members Dan Matthews and Julia Sloane** paraded through downtown Tokyo, Japan, nearly nude in 46-degree weather on Feb. 18, bearing a banner reading "We'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur." The action was in support of Japan's No Fur Fund, who picketed all four days of the Fur and Fashion Tokyo Messe Intl. fur exhibition.

♦ **Fund for Animals staffer Heidi Prescott** led a group of activists in chaining themselves to the fur racks at Bloomingdale's store in Rockville, Maryland, on Feb. 20. While Bloomingdale's has vowed

# HABITAT

♦ **Preliminary talks indicate** that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, set for June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, may break down due to conflict over project funding. The underdeveloped southern hemisphere nations plan to seek money for protecting rainforest and endangered species, while rejecting strict accountability to the wealthier northern hemisphere nations. An attempt to draft a rainforest protection treaty has already been scrapped because Brazil demanded that it cover all forests. North and south are also in opposition over a proposed declaration, favored by the underdeveloped contingent, that biological resources (such as gene pools and wildlife) "are under a nation's sovereignty," not "to be considered as a common heritage of humankind."

♦ **The National Parks and Conservation Association** has issued an urgent appeal for letters to U.S. Senators in support of S. 21, the Senate version of the Calif. Desert Protection Act—without the amendment added to the House version, already passed,

♦ **Wisconsin state rep. Heron Van Gorden**, supported by the Wisconsin Veal Growers Assn., has introduced a bill to reduce speculation in veal calves by requiring auction rings to shave a stripe on their flanks each time they are sold. Vealers complain that stock speculators often buy calves for resale at other auctions, and that the increased stress on the calves from being

## ♦ Tel Aviv (Israel) chief rabbi Haim David

ruled March 15 that since Jewish law forbids causing pain to animals, Jews may not wear or manufacture fur garments. David's ruling stunned the many Jews who are prominent in the fur trade, some of whom, most notably *Fur Age Weekly* publisher Marc Rubman, have repeatedly claimed that anti-Semitism underlies the antifur movement. Prominent Jewish antifur activists, however, have contended all along that the fur trade is antithetical to Judaism, among them Steve Siegel, who founded Fur Free Friday, and Sandra Lewis, who coordinates antifur campaigns for Friends of Animals. David issued his verdict after being asked to arbitrate a dispute between anti-fur protesters and fur-wearing attendees at a religious music festival.

it won't discontinue fur sales due to protest, the firm did pool furs from all other outlets for a "grand finale" sale at the New York City flagship store in mid-March.

♦ **Tecnica Intl. discontinued sales of dog fur-lined ski boots** imported from China on Feb. 29, days after *Northern Exposure* star Janine Turner led the cast in a boycott of the boots, which were to be worn on the set. Numerous retailers returned consignments of the boots to Tecnica, unopened. Said Susan Rich of In Defense of Animals, "Consumers have spoken...We urge Tecnica to extend its decision to all fur-

repeatedly transported tends to bring on diseases that race through whole herds once the animals enter barns. The measure is opposed by the leading auction organizations.

♦ **Canadian hog prices** are now at their lowest level since 1977. A 200-pound hog now earns farmers about \$80, \$40 less than the cost of raising the animal.

bearing animals, and to end the use of fur in all its products."

♦ **The Community of All Beings**, formed with help from the World Society for the Protection of Animals, drew headlines worldwide by holding the first-ever antifur protest in Poland on Feb. 8.

♦ **Students and faculty at the privately financed Kansas City Academy of Learning** have voted almost unanimously to refuse donations of furs for resale at the school's annual auction. The lone dissident said the furs should be accepted only if necessary to keep the school running.

which opened the proposed 1.5 million acre Mojave Natl. Park to hunting. (See "Natl. Park Opened To Hunting," March 1992.)

♦ **A United Nations panel warned** in February that global warming could erase the accomplishments of decades of conservation work, and exterminate the monarch butterfly and the polar bear, among countless other species, by destroying their limited habitat more rapidly than they can adapt. The ANIMALS' AGENDA predicted as much in November 1988.

♦ **Svend Robinson, a New Democratic Party member** of the Canadian parliament, has accused Malaysia of carrying out "genocidal policies, in the massive overcutting of the rainforest and the threat to the survival of the Penan Indians." Malaysian primary industries minister Lim Keng Yaik countered by accusing Robinson of urging the Penan to attack government authorities with their blowpipes.

♦ **Progress toward establishing** the Bering Strait international nature park that George Bush and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev pledged to form in June 1990 has been delayed by growing Russian interest in oil reserves that may lie below

the Chukotski Peninsula, most of which was designated for preservation.

♦ **The Bureau of Land Management** in early February ordered southern Nevada ranchers to pull 1.7 million cattle off of public range between March 1 and June 14, to protect forage for endangered desert tortoises.

♦ **The Nature Conservancy will permit cattle grazing** to continue on the Grey Ranch, 502 acres of land lying along the Mexican border in southern New Mexico that according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has greater diversity of native wildlife than any of the U.S. national parks and refuges. The Nature Conservancy bought the ranch early in 1991.

♦ **A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade report** published Feb. 12 charged that, "Existing agricultural protection," especially in the U.S. and Europe, "not only fails to help the environment, but almost certainly is an important source of degradation," and warned environmental groups to steer clear of alliances with trade protectionists. The GATT report said that nations with large forest areas should be paid to

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keep the trees standing, to provide "carbon absorption services" that combat global warming, instead of being hit with trade sanctions when they try to cash in on some of the only significant natural resources many of them have. The report finally declared that GATT will not interfere in national regulation of internal environmental matters, but added that, "A country may not restrict imports of a product [e.g. tuna netted 'on dolphin'] solely because it originates in a country whose environmental policies are different."

♦ **Three weeks after the Bureau of Reclamation** suspended or reduced water deliveries to 25,000 California farms, due to drought and the need to divert water to protect the endangered Sacramento River winter run chinook salmon, the Interior Dept. restored 15% of the normal flow to 7,000 farms that had been cut off completely, and increased the flow to the rest.

♦ **The worst drought to hit southern Africa** in over a century, now two years old, has caused the collapse of the Zimbabwean dairy industry and brought about widespread livestock starvation in Kenya. Food economists fear that chronic famine will spread south from Ethiopia and

the Sudan, and up from Mozambique, to imperil people in at least 12 nations. South Africa, usually the world's sixth leading grain exporter, will have to import grain this year. The effects on wildlife could be mixed, as mass human migration out of areas devastated by overgrazing and lack of water could reopen habitat to species capable of survival in drought conditions.

♦ **The New York State Appellate Court** on March 11 barred development of the 200-square-mile Pine Barrens district of Long Island pending completion of environmental impact studies. The only potable water supply on Long Island lies beneath the Pine Barrens, which are also a major wildlife habitat. Many species found there have long been isolated from other populations by the presence of New York City where the island meets the mainland.

♦ **Mexican spotted owl protection** in the Lincoln Natl. Forest of New Mexico has reduced timber sales by 85%, putting about 35 loggers out of business, according to the *El Paso Times*. The situation parallels, in microcosm, the ongoing controversy over spotted owl protection in the Pacific Northwest, where as many as 35,000 jobs may be at risk.

♦ **Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan** on March 12 declared a forest emergency in Washington and Oregon due to infestation of gypsy moths. Madigan allocated \$14.4 million to exterminating the gypsy moths, an accidental import from Asia.

♦ **The Senate passed the Energy Bill** on Feb. 19—after deleting the clause that would have allowed oil drilling in the Arctic Natl. Wildlife Refuge.

♦ **Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari** on Feb. 16 declared a 136,000-acre ecological preserve in the Lancandon rainforest, thus protecting about 18% of the remaining trees from logging. March 14, however, Salinas de Gortari's government announced that it would proceed with a hydroelectric project in the Lancandon that had been suspended in 1989 due to concern over rainforest damage and the preservation of nearby archaeological sites.

♦ **A panel commissioned** by Environmental Protection Agency head William Reilly recommended March 19 that the agency should improve its research by setting up investigative teams to concentrate upon areas of concern in advance of crises. Among the areas of concern that the panel singled out were climate change and biodiversity.

## Horses

# Wild Horses To Be Slaughtered Abroad?

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan has proposed trucking surplus wild horses to Mexico and possibly other Latin American nations—ostensibly for use as draft animals, but a bill drafted to allow wild horses to be sent abroad refers only to "agricultural purposes," which could include slaughter.

Sent to House speaker Thomas Foley on Oct. 8, 1991, the bill is still awaiting numbering and introduction. Because wild horses are notoriously hard to break to harness, don't have the placid draft horse tem-

perament, and aren't usually of the heavy draft horse build, horse protection groups fear the effect of the bill will be to permit a revival of the former practice of selling wild horses to slaughter. But since the slaughtering, this time, would be done in other nations, the U.S. would have no regulatory authority over it, especially since the General Agreement On Trade and Tariffs prohibits official trade boycotts to protest the internal policies of other nations. Ursula Liakos of the Horse Welfare Committee has asked national animal protection groups

to try to stop the wild horse exports by lobbying against U.S. ratification of the Uruguay Final Round GATT agreement on trade rules.

"The idea of sending wild horses to Mexico or Latin America is not new," commented Russ Gaspar of the American Horse Protection Association. "It surfaced several times during the Reagan administration, but was not pursued. At one point, about 1985, AHPA threatened to sue the Bureau of Land Management if it attempted to put an export program in place by administrative fiat."

♦ **Noted horse veterinarian Mitch Benson** flew to Croatia courtesy of British Airways on March 25 to aid horses injured in the Yugoslavian civil war. Along with 10,000 people, mostly Croats, an estimated 14,000 horses have died in the fighting, many of them allegedly napalmed or shot on purpose by Serbian troops and irregulars, as living symbols of Croatian nationalism. Cargo Lux Airlines flew medical supplies for the horses *gratis*, while the Horse Welfare Committee made the various arrangements.

♦ **Horsemeat dealers** have formed a lobbying arm in California to seek passage of a bill, AB 3429, that would essentially repeal AB 1900, passed in late 1991 to combat horse theft by establishing a paper trail on horses sold for slaughter. Misleadingly named the California Equine Protection Coalition, the group has hired lobbyist Jack Gualco, who has also represented the San Diego Zoological Society, the Calif. Aquarium and Zoo Assn., and the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

♦ **The BLM has postponed terminating** the wild horse training program at the New Mexico state prison in Las Cruces until at least Sept. 30, to further evaluate the "human resources benefits" of having prisoners work with the horses. Similar programs at the New Mexico state prisons in Santa Fe and Los Lunas were terminated March 31, due to the high cost of running the programs and low demand for the horses, once trained.



♦ **The Montana Shooting Sports Association's** attempt to enshrine a "right to hunt" in the state constitution failed to qualify for the June ballot because only 15,261 of the required 36,702 voters had signed the initiative petitions by the Feb. 21 deadline. MSSA head and proposed "right to hunt" amendment author Gary Marlbut charged that the state Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks sabotaged the amendment by pointing out that it could have interfered with enforcement of hunting laws.

♦ **The National Shooting Sports Foundation** claims that taking a bath is twice as dangerous as hunting because 350 people per year drown in their bathtubs, while "only" 146 people were killed by hunters. However, the 16 million licensed hunters hunt fewer than 10 days a year on average. Thus if the 251 million Americans bathe on average once a day, 83,665 people per year would drown in bathtubs if bathing and hunting really were equally dangerous—or hunters would kill only one person every four years.

♦ **A mob of 2,500 bird hunters** attacked an estimated 100 anti-hunting protesters Feb. 16 near Privas, France. The mob dis-

persed after a squadron of riot police, several dozen gendarmes, and other security units called in a helicopter to evacuate the protesters, who want the government to ban hunting thrush and wood pigeons in the Ardeche region.

♦ **The House Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials** concluded March 3 after hearing a day of testimony that the Smithsonian Institution improperly paid \$477,000 in legal costs for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Richard Mitchell, who spent much of the 1980s trophy hunting while on loan to the Smithsonian. (See "Gutting Fish And Wildlife," June 1991.) Mitchell also used his post to help other trophy hunters to import the heads and hides of endangered species under museum permits, evading the intent of the Convention on Intl. Trade in Endangered Species.

♦ **Vermont house speaker Ralph Wright** (D-Bennington) pledged March 10 to prevent a bill authorizing moose hunting from reaching the floor. "I don't want to shoot moose," Wright commented. "Shooting moose is like shooting a parked car." Thank Wright c/o State House, Montpelier, VT 05602.

♦ **Hunters in Connecticut and Massachusetts** are pushing bills to legalize Sunday hunting. Mass. rep. William Reinstein (D-Revere), who sponsors three different Sunday hunting bills, told *The Boston Sunday Globe* on March 14 that Sunday hunting should be legal so that teenagers can "learn to respect a firearm and learn to live off the land," never mind that the last person to live off the land in



♦ **Canada will resume promoting harp seal hunting**, fisheries minister John Crosbie announced Feb. 24. Admitting that the "predator/prey relationship between seals and cod is not fully understood," Crosbie nonetheless blamed the recovering seal population for declining cod stocks. He backed a plan to kill 210,000 to 510,000 harp seals annually—the numbers killed each year prior to 1985, when international boycotts of Canadian exports brought traditional clubbing of baby harp seals to a halt. Seal hunting with rifles continues, howev-

er; 62,000 were killed in 1991, from a quota of up to 186,000. The harp seal population is estimated at 3.5 million, up from two million in 1985.

♦ **Representatives of the Bush White House** on March 19 told the ruling council of the General Administration of Trade and Tariffs, the world trade regulation body, that the U.S. may soon lift a ban imposed by Congress upon imports of tuna netted by means that kill dolphins. This would presumably be in response to moves by Mexico to phase out netting tuna "on dolphin" over a five-year period. However, in 1991 a majority of the Senate informed Bush by letter that they would not support any attempt to either repeal or weaken the import ban. The ban was further supported Feb. 14 when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Bush administration's request for a stay of U.S.

Massachusetts other than by farming was probably the vegetarian Henry David Thoreau, in 1845-1847.

♦ **Seeking to preserve uncontested authority** to "manage" wildlife, the Colorado Division of Wildlife is opposing state ballot initiatives that would ban wildlife killing contests, spring bear hunting, and bear hunting through use of bait and hounds. The agency officially opposes both killing contests and spring bear hunting, but hasn't yet acted to block events such as the annual Nucla, Colo. prairie dog killing contest, and has thus far only gotten the state Wildlife Commission to phase out spring bear hunting over a three-year period. The anti-killing contest bill is also opposed by the National Western Stock Show, a rodeo, because rodeo executives believe it could "prohibit contests involving livestock raised to be food."

♦ **A major poll of British voters** commissioned by the Intl. Fund for Animal Welfare discovered in February that the pro-hunting Conservatives could lose the next Parliamentary election "if anti-hunting Conservative voters switch their votes to Labour." IFAW argues that the present Conservative majority depends upon retaining a margin of under 5% in numerous districts; that 3% of voters who supported Conservatives in the 1987 election already say they will support Labour this year; and that enough Conservatives say they will switch to Labour, in opposition to hunting, to account for at least another 2% of the electorate. The poll was taken just after Conservative opposition defeated a proposed ban on fox hunting, 187-175. The defeated bill also would have banned hunting deer and rabbits with dogs, and all forms of commercial and recreational trapping.

District Court Judge Thelton Henderson's Jan. 31 order that the import ban be enforced. The ban was attacked, however, by a National Academy of Sciences study released Feb. 28, which argued that "dolphin-safe" tuna fishing may not be saving dolphins even though the number of dolphins killed by U.S. fishing crews is down from 130,000 in 1986 to 25,000 in 1991.

♦ **Responding to protesters** demanding that an orca named Yaka be rehabilitated for release into the ocean, Marine World's theme park in Vallejo, Calif., recently posted a sign claiming that the firm had funded research to "develop a tuna net safe for dolphin." Responded Mark Berman of Earth Island Institute's Save the Dolphins Project, "There is no such thing as a dolphin-safe net." After the *Vallejo Herald* published an

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attack on animal rights activists authored by Marine World president Mike Demetrios, then cut off publication of letters written by non-residents of the community. Action for Animals responded with a half-page advertisement—and published the addresses of 12 marine mammal protection groups from which readers could get further info.

## Oceans

◆ **Tons of non-native Pacific white shrimp** escaped from one or more of the numerous Taiwanese-owned shrimp farms near Arroyo City, Texas, last November, and may be establishing themselves in the Gulf of Mexico, where some were caught in February. Biologists fear that the shrimp

◆ **Iceland will quit membership** in the Intl. Whaling Commission on June 30, officials announced in February, unless IWC rules are amended to permit the resumption of commercial whaling. Iceland, Norway, and Japan have been trying to liberalize whaling rules ever since the IWC was formed. Already, Norway and Japan kill 100 to 300

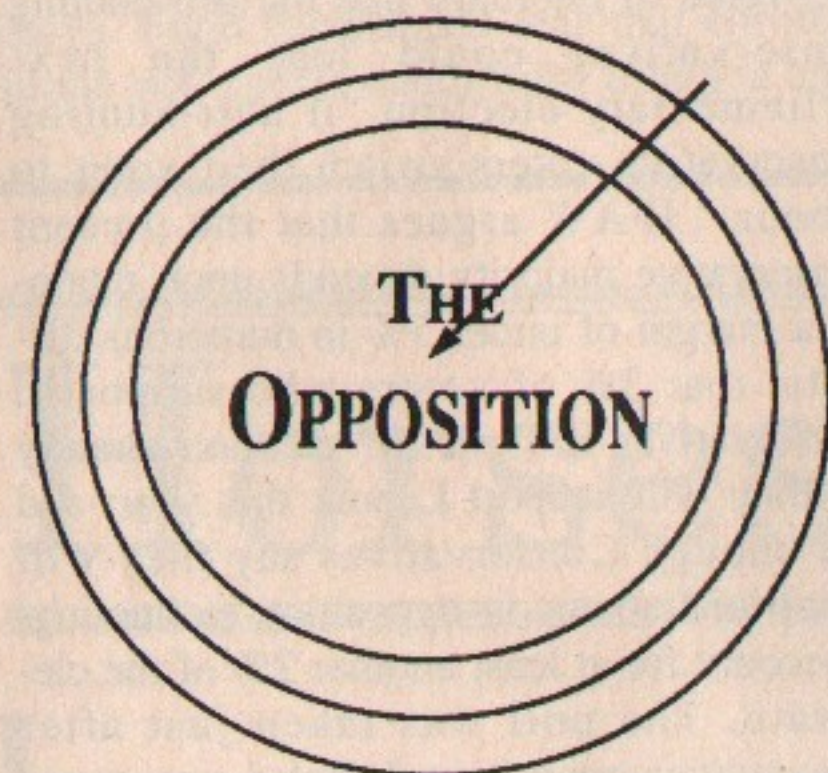
whales a year, ostensibly for research, although the meat is sold at lucrative prices. ◆ **Earth Island Institute** on Feb. 24 asked the U.S. 9th District Court to follow up the import ban on tuna netted "on dolphin" by imposing a ban on imports of shrimp netted by methods that jeopardize sea turtles. A verdict is expected within the next several weeks.

will spread disease to native shrimp species, and/or outcompete them, damaging the habitat.

◆ **The Coast Guard reported** March 15 that the shipping firm Empress Naviera of Lima had refused orders to participate in recovering 441 drums of arsenic trioxide that washed overboard Jan. 4 as the container ship *Santa Clara* pushed through a gale off New Jersey. The Environmental Protection Agency has sued the firm for \$4.3 million in damages, including search and recovery costs. The area is off limits to fishing until May 12.

◆ **The Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior II*** improperly abandoned about 50 gallons of toxic photographic chemicals, the Los Angeles Fire Dept. charged in early February. Greenpeace admitted the incident, but said it occurred because of muddled communications with a licensed toxic waste disposal firm.

◆ **The Cousteau Society and Center for Marine Conservation** held a benefit banquet Feb. 26 at the French ambassador's residence in Washington D.C., whose menu included at least 15 varieties of dead fish, mollusks, and marine crustaceans.



## NRA Claims Friends It Doesn't Have

**T**hree of four firms who were contacted by ANIMALS' AGENDA readers after the National Rifle Association distributed coupons for their products as premiums to attract membership have denied intentionally associating themselves with the organization.

The coupons, for Dunkin' Donuts, Precision Tune, Travelodge, and Kampgrounds of America, were enclosed with a recent NRA mailing, and another \$1,000 worth of coupons were promised if recipients paid the \$25 NRA dues. Dunkin Donuts, Precision Tune, and Travelodge all immediately denied having knowingly participated in the promotional scheme, blaming an advertising agency. Each disavowed endorsing the NRA in any way.

Only KOA defended the association. The mailing came as the NRA struggled to reestablish itself as a political force prior to this year's elections. The NRA was favored by 27% of U.S. adults and disfavored by just 20% in a *New York Times/CBS News* poll taken during the third week of January.



However, women, blacks, and urban residents all disfavored the NRA, and Democrats were equally divided between favor and disfavor. Except among gun owners, most people polled either said they were undecided, said they hadn't heard enough to judge, or refused to answer the questions.

Concerned about possibly losing the battle for public opinion, the NRA has asked members to demand coverage of shooting events in the NBC telecasts of the 1992 Olympics; the NRA is the official sanctioning body for the U.S. shooting team. (Counter the letters c/o NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10012.) In addition, the NRA has begun a monthly "Letters to the Editor" contest to generate more favorable print coverage of itself. The NRA claims that 86% of editorial coverage, 55% of news coverage, and 65% of opinion columns published by print media during the first 10 months of 1991 were negative.

Despite the alleged bad press, NRA membership has climbed from 2.3 million to 2.6 million over the past two years. The roster may, however, include recipients of unsolicited gift memberships; two non-gun-owning members of The ANIMALS' AGENDA staff have received membership certificates in recent years without ever having paid dues or asked to join.

## Goodwin In Trouble

**A**vowed enemy of animal rights Frederick Goodwin resigned as head of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration on Feb. 27, 16 days after apparently likening inner city youths to monkeys—and significantly misrepresenting the behavior of most monkey species, as well.

"If you look, for example, at male monkeys," Goodwin said at a Feb. 11 meeting of the Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health, "roughly half of them survive to adulthood. The other half die by

violence. That is the natural way for males, to knock each other off, and in fact there are some interesting evolutionary implications of that because the same hyperaggressive monkeys who kill each other are also hypersexual, so they copulate more and therefore they reproduce more to offset the fact that half of them are dying.

"Now, one could say that if some of the loss of social structure in this society, and particularly within the high impact inner city areas, has removed some of the civilizing evolutionary things that we have built up...maybe it isn't just careless use of

◆ **The Federation of American Societies of Food Animal Sciences** has set up response teams to promote the livestock industry position to mass media on the topics of animal well-being, biotechnology, diet and health, food safety, and sustainable agriculture. The response team rosters were circulated with aid of the Natl. Live Stock and Meat Board. (Send SASE to The ANIMALS' AGENDA for copies.)

◆ **Members of the Animal Industry Foundation** sent actress Candace Bergen dozens of coffee cups and letters of protest after Bergen drank from a PETA mug on a recent episode of the TV program *Murphy Brown*.

◆ **Illinois hog farmers** have decided to quit electing a Pork Industry Queen each year. Instead, both male and female "ambassadors" will be named to push pork.

◆ **New Mexico state land commissioner** Jim Baca has demanded an apology from the New Mexico Cattle Growers Assn. magazine *New Mexico Stockman*, which in February published a column likening

Baca's environmental philosophy, as a member of the governing board of the Wilderness Society, to Adolf Hitler's manifesto *Mein Kampf*. The column, by freelance writer Bill Previtti, was published under the pseudonym Sam Vincent Fargo.

◆ **After Tanya Keough Singer** appeared on radio KFYI in Arizona to promote the book *A Declaration of War*, widely regarded as a hoax intended to inflame public opinion against animal rights, two of the first four callers to the open line segment of the program threatened to shoot any animal rights activists who might attack them in the woods. "I've got 8,000 rounds I'd be glad to instill in any one of them," one stated. The other two of the first four callers identified the book as a hoax. (See "A Late April Fool," June 1991, and "Reader Beware," Oct. 1991.)

◆ **The American Assn. of Meat Processors** has issued a brochure claiming that animal rights activists want to abolish baseball and football because the balls are made of leather. In fact, non-leather baseballs

the word when people call certain areas of certain cities jungles."

The Congressional Black Caucus immediately demanded clarification. Goodwin denied having intended any racial insult, but his denial might have been more convincing if he hadn't been part of the advisory board to the National Alliance for Research of Schizophrenia and Depression, which last fall attempted to rehabilitate key theories of "psychiatric genetics" advanced by Nazi holocaust architect Ernst Rudin.

Accepting Goodwin's resignation, Health and Human Services Secretary and fellow foe of animal rights Louis Sullivan—who is black—excused Goodwin's remarks as "an unfortunate lapse," and named Goodwin to head the National Institute of Mental Health, a subdivision of ADAMHA.

have been used at batting ranges and on asphalt inner-city diamonds for nearly 50 years, while rubber footballs are used in most recreational play—and both the major league baseball manager with the highest winning percentage over the past four years, Tony LaRussa, and the pro football coach with the best percentage over the same period, Marv Levy, are animal rights activists.

◆ **Educators for Responsible Science**, an anti-animal rights group, has obtained extensive good press recently, including half a page in *The New York Times*, by cloaking their crusade as a drive to improve science education. When they come to your community, ask what they're doing for science education in the many fields that normally don't involve either dissection or keeping captive animals in the classroom, the group's two main focuses: physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, paleontology, oceanography, meteorology, ecology, and natural history.

By contrast, Democratic frontrunner Bill Clinton's only apparent involvement in animal issues was his apparently inability, as governor of Arkansas, to halt the practice of dropping flightless live turkeys from a helicopter each Thanksgiving at Yell, Ark. Clinton did ask the town to quit dropping turkeys, but was rebuffed. The turkey drops were subsequently stopped by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Incumbent president George Bush and vice president Dan Quayle, who almost certainly will again represent the Republicans, are both honorary members of the trophy hunting organization Safari Club International—and of the National Rifle Association. Bush celebrates each Christmas by shooting captive-reared pheasants at a Texas ranch. In 1989 Bush asserted that the birds are "not animals."

## Politics

**A**nimal rights, not yet raised as a campaign issue, could yet surface in the U.S. presidential race this fall—if former California governor Jerry Brown gets the Democratic party nomination.

Shortly after Brown announced his candidacy, a member of his volunteer campaign staff asked The ANIMALS' AGENDA for background on animal-related political issues; soon afterward, Brown issued a position statement favoring a ban on veal crates, steel-jawed leghold traps, and the use of animals in cosmetic testing.

"I have always believed that people who care about animals also care deeply about other people," Brown said. "In the United States, abusive and cruel treatment of animals is out of control." He cited as evidence of his commitment to animal protection his record as governor of California, when he approved spending \$3.5 million to acquire wildlife habitats during a period of major cutbacks, endorsed legislation stiffening the penalties for trafficking in bear parts, and extended a moratorium on hunting mountain lions.

A longtime vegetarian, Brown campaigned, according to *New York Times* reporter Karen DeWitt, on a diet of "fruit salad, baked potatoes, or bean burritos," the only meatless food available to him at fast-food franchises near the sites of speaking appearances.



# SPECTACLES

◆ **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** officials said Feb. 20 that they won't put on a rodeo for the Republican convention Aug. 17-20, because performing at a political event could jeopardize their tax-exempt status. The organization did stage a command performance at George Bush's request in 1990, to entertain the World Economic Summit. A private rodeo is to be held for the 1,200-member California delegation, and other delegations are expected to attend private rodeo events, as well.

◆ **The collapse of the Soviet Union** left a Moscow Circus touring unit stranded in Mexico City with a hippopotamus, eight monkeys, and two dogs. Neither the circus nor the Mexican promoter who brought it to Mexico City can afford the airfare to send the troupe home, leaving them to perform and pass the hat to raise their living costs.

◆ **Hawaii state House Judiciary Chair** Wayne Metcalf on Feb. 18 killed a bill to legalize cockfighting, which is openly practiced throughout the islands. Metcalf said his committee was concerned both with cruelty and with links between cockfighting and organized crime.

◆ **Polocrosse, or lacrosse on horseback**, is gaining favor in the northeast. Dartmouth and St. Lawrence universities have polocrosse clubs, while the American Polocrosse Assn. claims membership grew from 600 to 1,000 last year.

◆ **HSUS on Feb. 25 asked Louisiana**, one of the four states that permits cockfighting, to ban an annual variant on polocrosse in which live chickens substitute for balls. Explained HSUS field representative James Noe, "The Mamou ritual," practiced in and around the town of Mamou, "is part of the

traditional Mardi Gras celebration. A convoy of men rides across the countryside, soliciting ingredients for a communal feast. Live chickens are the most popular donation, and the practice is for the animal to be thrown into the air and chased by upward of 100 riders."

◆ **The Gay Men's Health Crisis group** in New York City has promised Feminists for Animal Rights that their March 27 fundraising performance of the Ringling Bros. circus will be their last fundraiser involving animal exploitation.

◆ **The Smithsonian Institution** is distributing a video in which author Carlos Fuentes reportedly describes bullfighting as the most important Spanish cultural legacy to Latin America. Protest to the Smithsonian c/o 1000 Jefferson Drive S.W., Washington, DC 20560.



## Ivory Trade Ban Holds; Bears Protected

bers of Safari Club International—despite opposition from 30 Senators, including five fellow Republicans.

The CITES meeting, held in Kyoto, Japan, also rebuffed U.S. opposition to regulating the international traffic in American black bear parts, adding both American black bears and Asian brown bears from the former Soviet Union to Appendix II. They had been the last bears left unprotected by CITES. An Appendix II amounts to an international "threatened" listing; traffic in animals listed on Appendix II is strictly regulated. An Appendix I listing means the species is internationally endangered; traffic in animals on Appendix I is prohibited.

Obtaining the Appendix II listing for American black bears culminated a long push by numerous wildlife protection groups,

including the World Society for the Protection of Animals, which gave CITES a petition on behalf of the bears signed by 250,000 people; The ANIMALS' AGENDA, which supported a 1989 proposal to protect bears with a special issue on the plight of bears worldwide; and the International Wildlife Coalition, which distributed the ANIMALS' AGENDA feature to CITES delegates at the previous meeting.

CITES refused to impose a near-total ban on bluefin tuna fishing in the north Atlantic, due to opposition from the U.S., Japan, Morocco, and Canada, who did, however, pledge to reduce their catches by 50%. The proposed ban would have been the first ever imposed on a species commercially hunted for food.

recourse," attorney Michael Winikoff warned the Dept. of the Interior.

The HSUS case concerns a female grizzly, Bear 134, whom Servheen transferred from Yellowstone National Park to his own custody at Washington State Univ. in Pullman, Wash., failing to reveal his long-

time professional association with the listed recipient of the bear, Charles Robbins.

"Servheen and Robbins' experiments were in need of a female adult grizzly with breeding ability before Bear 134's capture," Winikoff stated. The grizzly was to be bred for observation of her behavior during pregnancy and lactation; the cubs were then to be sent to zoos—tentatively, Northwest Trek and the St. Louis Zoo. "The evidence seems to indicate," Winikoff continued, "that Bear 134 was taken from Yellowstone not for her own safety or the safety of humans, but rather because she was a perfect specimen." Servheen told his superiors that there was nowhere other than the Pullman research facility willing to take Bear 134, but he declined an offer to take the bear from the Shoshone National

◆ **BWIA Intl. Airways**, of Trinidad, on Feb. 23 became the latest airline to join the international boycott of traffic in wild-caught birds. A BWIA spokesperson credited information supplied by the Environmental Investigative Agency and the Animal Welfare Institute with having influenced the airline's decision.

◆ **Victoria, Australia**, is offering lottery tickets as a bounty on feral foxes.

◆ **Bald eagles, widely touted** as a "recovered" once-endangered species, are again in decline in New Mexico and around Lake Erie. New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish counts found a record 512 bald eagles in Jan. 1990, but only 368 in Jan. 1991 and just 308 this past January. The proportion of immature eagles has fallen from a high of 54% in 1988 to just 41% in 1992, close to the 38% found in the early 1980s, when the species was in serious trouble. Around Lake Erie, meanwhile, eight of the 12 eagle fledglings hatched in 1991 died within a month from eating fish whose flesh was contaminated by toxic chemicals.

◆ **The Peregrine Fund** has recommended that peregrine falcons be removed from the Endangered Species List in California and the southwest, and be reclassified as "threatened" in five other states. Peregrines were down to just 19 nesting pairs, all west of the Mississippi, when in 1973 they became one of the first species to be added to the then newly created ESL. There are now 890 breeding pairs, distributed throughout the continental U.S., most of them descended from 3,400 captive-bred peregrines who were raised by the Peregrine Fund—along with 160,000 quail, raised as peregrine food.

◆ **The newly formed** National Urban Wildlife Management Association is "devoted to the promotion of environmentally responsible management of urban wildlife and to the development of public awareness and respect for animal wildlife," according to a release received from vice president Robert Boone

Forest. The transaction was arranged without a written transfer agreement—and other researchers are being allowed to experiment on Bear 134 without completing any paperwork, Winikoff charged.

Although Servheen claimed in December 1991 that no experiments had been performed on the bear, Winikoff told Hayden that, "We have documents showing that research began on Bear 134 as early as April 1991, under Servheen's auspices." Bear 134 was in fact brought into a nutritional study that Servheen began in January 1986, claimed was only 10% complete in 1989, and again said was only 10% complete in 1990. Servheen's partner, Robbins, has claimed Bear 134 gets a diet of fresh fish imported from Yellowstone, but HSUS investigators have taken statements from the people who

◆ **Missouri has completed** an otter reintroduction program, releasing 825 otters imported from Louisiana over the past decade to restore a population extirpated by fur trappers early in the century.

◆ **The Intl. Society for Animal Rights** has threatened to call an international tourism boycott if the Yukon Territories (in Canada) adopts a plan to shoot wolves from aircraft so as to leave caribou for trophy hunters.

◆ **The first baby cougar conceived** by artificial insemination was born Feb. 10 at the Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary in Florida. The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has been trying to breed cougars from artificial insemination as a step toward accelerating the captive breeding of highly endangered Florida panthers.

◆ **Commercial perch-fishing** and sales of perch caught by recreational anglers have boomed around Lake Champlain since New York shut down commercial perch-fishing on Lake Erie in 1986. An estimated 50% to 75% of the perch caught through ice-fishing on northern Lake Champlain last winter were sold, according to *The Burlington Free Press*—but the increased fishing pressure has brought an apparent steep decline in the size and age of the perch remaining. In 1955, 80% of the perch catch measured eight inches or longer; only 27% did in 1991.

◆ **Elephants near an army barracks** in West Bengal, India, have reportedly learned to steal the soldiers' rum rations, even smashing fences with logs and putting out barricade fires by squirting water from their trunks to get at the stuff. In Assam, India, elephants killed 31 people during 1991, some of them while raiding stores of rice beer.

◆ **A troop of monkeys** recently roused government officials from their office in Tezpur, India, then systematically destroyed documents for almost half an hour.

◆ **Alleged wildlife parts trafficker** Ki Won Kim was freed on \$50,000 bail Feb. 21, hours after state and federal agents raided his K.S. Trading Co. store in Rowland Heights, Calif., terming it "the most sophis-

feed her, who agree that her usual diet is dog chow and an occasional apple.

Fund national director Wayne Pacelle meanwhile alleges that Servheen "deliberately miscalculated the ratio of reported to unreported grizzly bear deaths" in Montana in 1986, "thus dramatically increasing the number of bears who could be legally killed by sport hunters," also "knowingly set the female mortality quota too high," failed to correct his calculations even after acknowledging serious errors in 1988, and violated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations by endorsing a spring grizzly bear hunt in 1991.

No response to the HSUS and Fund allegations had been received by deadline.

ticated commercialization in animal parts uncovered in southern California." Kim ran a similar business for three years in Texas before relocating to Calif. in 1990.

◆ **An internal review of \$37 million worth** of salmon habitat restoration efforts by the Bonneville Power Administration of the Pacific Northwest has concluded that most of the money was wasted. Cattle grazing alongside salmon streams damages the habitat faster than humans can fix it, so long as the grazing goes on, the review explained. The review authors recommended eliminating all livestock grazing near streams, either by cancelling grazing allotments on public lands or by fencing the streams off.

◆ **The BPA is studying a plan** advanced by farm groups to build a pair of canals parallel with the Columbia River, to provide irrigation water without causing the river level to drop so low as to imperil endangered salmon runs.

◆ **The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study**, based at the Univ. of Ga., says state wildlife officials estimate that there are now 32 million cloven-hooved wild animals in the U.S., including 19.6 million whitetailed deer; 5.6 million mule deer; 2.5 million caribou; 1.5 million wild swine; 832,000 moose; 771,500 elk; 596,000 pronghorn antelope; 183,600 to 191,100 wild sheep (of all varieties); 75,000 to 88,000 mountain goats; 102,100 musk oxen; 97,500 to 107,500 bison; 50,000 javelinas; and 300,000 to 500,000 African exotic hooved animals, of whom 25-30% are free-ranging.

◆ **Between hunting accidents and traffic accidents**, white-tailed deer either caused or contributed to 131 human deaths in 1991. Other animals who directly or indirectly killed people, in order of the number of deaths caused, were bees; dogs; wild turkeys (who caused eight hunters to kill each other

News continued on  
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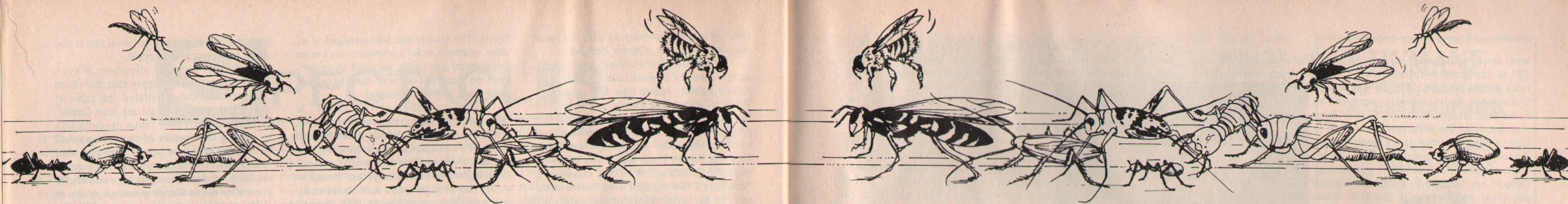
## BEAR RESEARCHER'S WORK DUBIOUS, SAYS HSUS, FUND

Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator Chris Servheen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has significantly misrepresented data in grizzly bear studies, the

Humane Society of the U.S. and Fund for Animals charge in a pair of briefs recently forwarded to higher-ups in the Department of the Interior.

Both HSUS and the Fund are calling for investigation and disciplinary action. Failing that, "HSUS is considering legal





Belinda Chipman

# The Battle of the Bugs: Can We Stop Fighting and Live Together in Peace?

BY CATHY CZAPLA

**A** Jain in India draws a gauze veil over his face to avoid inhaling a gnat, and detours around a beetle in his path. But because insects annually destroy anywhere from five to 20 percent of India's food supply, the Indian government still permits the use of DDT and numerous other insecticides long since banned in the United States.

Such paradoxical behavior is less obvious in the U.S., but still evident. A Zoroastrian immigrant makes pets of cockroaches, rather than kill them. One of his neighbors spends hours watching the inhabitants of an ant farm; another patiently tends bees. Yet both of those neighbors also swat flies, poison aphids on their daisies, and curse termites; and all three Americans eat food produced in plentiful quantities at low cost largely through the use of sophisticated methods of insect control.

With as many as 30 million insect species sharing our world, it's no wonder people find some of them, especially the most obvious ones, not only annoying but often threatening. Zoologist Desmond Morris opined in *The Naked Ape* that human antipathy toward insects may date to when humans first lived in permanent shelters, attracting fleas and other personal parasites. But nomadic peoples probably cursed their share of insects, as well, after being stung while raiding honey trees or falling ill from the bite of tse tse flies, or after any of myriad other encounters; it's difficult to go through ten minutes outdoors without interacting with an insect somehow. Written records of insect damage to agriculture go back as far as the plague of locusts that Moses summoned to afflict ancient Egypt. At the same time, the Egyptians worshipped another insect—the dung-rolling scarab beetle—as a symbol of resurrection and immortality.

As late as the Middle Ages, few insects achieved note in Western culture, though the fly through its association with carrion often symbolized spiritual evil, and Aesop's fable of the grasshopper and the ant was widely recited. There were exceptions. The Council of Worms condemned a beehive to death in 864 for having stung a man to death. Pope Stephen VI exorcised a plague of locusts from Rome in 880. (See "The Fur, Feathers, and Scales of Justice," Dec.

1990.) But by the time of the crusades, pest extermination efforts focused upon burning cats, witches, and heretics. The resultant paucity of cats helped bring on the Great Plague of 1334-1354, which wiped out three-fourths of the human population of Europe and Asia. The value of cats was belatedly appreciated, by at least some of the survivors, but even then the primary carriers of the plague were wrongly believed to be proliferating rats and mice, rather than the fleas who lived on the rodents, hopping freely to people, who took them so much as a fact of life that they were scarcely noticed.

Medieval herbalists did record several methods of repelling flies and fleas with pungent herbs, but recipes for dealing with other insects are notably absent until the late 16th century, when exorcisms of flies and weevils were recorded in Germany and France.

Teresa McLean, author of *Medieval English Gardens*, quotes from one exception. A 14th century Parisian, writing down housekeeping tips for his young wife, included some suggestions for controlling garden insects. "To get rid of ants," he instructed her to "put the sawdust of oak plants over their heap, and they will die as soon as it rains, for the sawdust retains the moisture." To protect her cabbages from caterpillars, he told her to spread cinders around the plants.

Similar methods were probably handed down through generations and never recorded. Yet historical accounts of crops destroyed by insects invariably convey an attitude of resignation. For the pretechnological farmer, insects were as unpredictable and inevitable as bad weather. Insect-caused crop failures were also comparatively rare, in part because agricultural practices then prevented widespread damage. Locally adapted crops, grown in narrow fields between woodlots and pastures, would have attracted fewer pests. Birds, beneficial insects, and other creatures helped keep the insect population in balance.

When medieval writers mentioned insects at all, it was usually to celebrate the products of the silkworm or the bee. Bees, domesticated as well as wild, provided sweetening for food and drink. Silk was a coveted luxury produced by caterpillars domesticated in China since at least 2,000 B.C. Over time, the silkworms had lost their abil-

ity to survive in the wild: the caterpillars could scarcely crawl, and adult moths could no longer fly.

In *A Long Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England*, Howard Russell recorded that European honeybees were introduced to North America by 1639. The settlers also brought crop pests to the New World. One of their earliest imports was the codling moth, whose larvae feed on apples. A farmer in New London recorded their presence in his orchard as early as 1712. By 1750, he noticed that passenger pigeons (then plentiful, now extinct due to hunting) had developed a taste for them. Another arrival, the Hessian fly—so-called because the insect was believed to have been imported in bedding used by mercenaries during the Revolution—decimated New England wheat fields after 1787.

Meanwhile, several native insects, provided with new plants to feed on, were doing serious damage to crops. By 1646, armyworms (the larvae of small moths) were attacking European grains on Cape Cod. Swedish naturalist Peter Kalm, on his travels through the Colonies, attributed invasions of worms and grubs to a reward offered in 1748 of three pence per dozen for dead red-winged and common blackbirds. A major plague of armyworms occurred in the upper Connecticut valley in 1770. Only the arrival of huge flocks of migrating passenger pigeons put an end to the destruction.

In *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson noted, "Nearly half of the 180 or so major insect enemies of plants in the U.S. are accidental imports from abroad." Included in this list are the gypsy moth, escaped from an experiment in Medford, Mass., in 1868; the imported cabbageworm, first noticed near Quebec in the 1860s; the Japanese beetle, suspected of arriving in New Jersey on imported nursery stock shortly before 1916; and the European corn borer, discovered near Boston in 1917, from where it soon spread to become a pest of cotton as well as of corn.

Like any creatures introduced into new environments, these imports spread to colonize as many available niches as possible. Given sufficient time, native birds and other predators would have brought their burgeoning populations under control. But these

insects had arrived in the midst of an escalation in hostilities. The war against pests was being fought now with chemical weapons.

## The losing battle

The first target of the new pesticides was a native insect, a beetle discovered in 1824 feeding peacefully on wild solanaceous plants in parts of the Rocky Mountains. Shortly after the Civil War, railroads provided improved access to settlements in that area. The new settlers' broad fields of potato plants were irresistible to the Colorado potato beetle. According to plant pathologist Cynthia Westcott in *The Gardener's Bug Book*, they "migrated eastward at the rate of about 85 miles per year." From 1870 to 1880, they spread to New England, drastically reducing even Maine's potato harvest after 1890. To combat this invasion, American scientists developed the highly toxic copper-arsenic compound called Paris green. By 1900, this and similar concoctions were used against all kinds of insect pests.

A list of common insecticides in *Henley's Twentieth Century Formulas, Recipes and Processes of 1907* includes pyrethrum, whale oil and fish oil soaps, Paris green, white lead, sulphur, cayenne pepper, tobacco, white hellebore, quassia, and borax. Lead arsenate (white lead) had been used against the gypsy moth as early as 1892. In the twenties, calcium arsenate replaced Paris green as the approved crop dust for potatoes. My grandfather grew potatoes commercially in Vermont then, and my father recalled that one of his chores was to dust the plants, by hand, with "arsenic."

Fortunately the toxicity of these materials was obvious, and they were handled with a certain amount of respect. In fact, by the thirties, many farmers were abandoning arsenic in favor of rotenone, which like pyrethrum is plant-derived. But after World War II, as American agriculture moved toward mechanized single-crop farms after World War II, broad-spectrum synthetic products became the pesticides of choice. The first of these was DDT, synthesized in 1874 but not known to be lethal to insects until 1939.

Subsequent environmental and human health effects of DDT

*Continued on next page*



Robert L. Harrison



Continued from previous page

were amply documented in *Silent Spring*. Meanwhile, by 1960, over 137 insect species—including the Colorado potato beetle—developed genetic resistance to DDT and related chlorinated hydrocarbons, compared to fewer than 20 species known to have been resistant to earlier pesticides. According to Lewis Regenstein in *America The Poisoned*, by 1975 more than 300 species were resistant to chemical pesticides. Despite an increase in synthetic organic pesticide production in the U.S. from 464,000 pounds in 1951 to 1.4 billion pounds in 1977, crop losses attributed to insects nearly doubled. Plus, an estimated 100,000 people were being seriously poisoned by pesticides each year as recently as 1980.

It's safe to say that the use of chemical weapons against insects has irreversibly damaged the environment. Entire populations of birds, harmless insects, and other animals may never recover. Residues of chlorinated hydrocarbons banned three decades ago remain in soil, in water, and in the bodies of living creatures. Still, insect "pests" have survived and even flourished.

## New tactics

Gradually, concern for the environment and human health have led to renewed interest in alternative methods of damage control. The method most in vogue at present is called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Unlike traditional organic farming, which uses no pesticides at all, IPM calls for chemicals to be used as a last resort when other controls fail.

Research into alternative methods has been conducted for decades although, as Robert van den Bosch demonstrated in *The Pesticide Conspiracy*, until recently the chemical industry has been reluctant to support it. However, as the cost of chemical insecticides increased by nearly 2000 percent over the past 30 years, even the federal government began to take IPM seriously. In its 1989 *Yearbook*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture admitted that an "evaluation of IPM programs in 15 states documented that IPM users overwhelmingly showed a profit while reducing their use of pesticides."

IPM uses a combination of techniques, including the release of beneficial insects timed to coincide with emerging pest populations. Foremost among beneficial species is the lady beetle, or ladybug, a predator of aphids and other small sapsucking insects. Its popularity in the U.S. dates to the turn of the century when Vedalia lady beetles were imported from Australia to control scale insects in California citrus groves. Two years after their arrival, the cottony cushion scale had all but disappeared. But when growers began using chemicals to control other insects (destroying ladybugs in the process), the scale reemerged as a greater problem than before.

Today millions of ladybugs are collected each year as they hibernate in the California mountains. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the nation's largest distributor annually ships about 3,000 gallons of ladybugs, at an average of 72,000 beetles per gallon.

Around 50 beneficial insects are presently sold in the U.S.; research continues on many more. Of the hundreds of beneficials

existing in the wild, the most popular subjects of scientific scrutiny have been small wasps that parasitize insects ranging from caterpillars and Japanese beetle grubs to fire ants and deer ticks. One mail-order catalogue routinely offers three strains of parasitic wasps along with ladybugs, green lacewings, spined soldier beetles, and praying mantids.

When IPM growers can't count on beneficial insects to provide complete control, they may turn to traps designed to smell and look like the insects' favorite food, but which are coated with sticky substances which entangle them on contact. However, traps—especially those baited with pheromones—may lure insects from miles around, worsening pest problems. As an alternative, some IPM growers protect their plants with expensive, fragile polypropylene row covers that exclude all insects, even those needed to pollinate the crops.

IPM's most potent weapons are biological controls: bacteria, viruses, and fungi which are supposed to afflict specific insects without harming other lifeforms. According to *The New York Times*, almost half the manufacturers applying for permission to conduct field tests are planning to test biological controls. Taking the lead in biogenetic insect control, Monsanto is introducing pest-repellent genes into nearly three dozen vegetable crops. The potential of biological controls to mutate and eventually wreak havoc on ecosystems is a matter of considerable debate.

If bacteria, beneficial insects, traps, and the rest don't work, IPM may call for plant-based insecticides. The least toxic is insecticidal soap made, not from whales or fish, but from olive oil. None of these botanicals persist long in the environment, but all are poisonous in some degree to other animals.

## War and peace

No one seems to question whether this constant war against insects is necessary. Even entomologists are divided, wrote Roger Tory Peterson in his introduction to *A Field Guide to the Insects*, "into two categories: those who find insects endlessly fascinating and those who would like to get rid of them." Research grants usually tend to support scientists searching for ways to destroy them. The traditional scientific attitude was summed up by Cynthia Westcott: "The much-quoted 'balance of nature' is merely a continuing struggle to the death, and if man does not use all resources at his command, including chemicals, the insects will surely come out on top."

Supposing farmers could be convinced to tolerate losses from insect damage, and that food production would remain equal to demand, humans would still have to deal with insects on themselves and in their homes. Fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes, while they can be repelled somewhat with natural herbal oils, may carry life-threatening diseases. Termites and some ants literally digest our buildings, and other insects contaminate stored food.

People pay professional exterminators billions of dollars every year to rid their homes of insects. Their most frequent targets are cockroaches.

This one insect alone is worth \$500 million a year to exterminators—and is a prime example of the futility of human attempts at pest control. Virtually unchanged for 350 million years, the roach

can withstand 100 times more radiation than humans and can retain enough poison to kill kittens or puppies who happen to swallow one in a frequently sprayed house. Indeed, in Baltimore, where some homes have been repeatedly sprayed with organophosphate insecticides for 30 years, roaches have been discovered who could detoxify chemicals they had never encountered before.

People are slow to conclude that having a few roaches around may be healthier than constant pesticide spraying. Even a recent report that roach carcasses and feces have been implicated in 40 percent of American asthma cases didn't take into account the known immunosuppressant effects of common insecticides.

From boric acid to hydropene (a juvenile growth hormone), roaches have managed to survive all attempts to kill them off. As William Jordan wrote in *Divorce Among the Gulls* [see *Reviews*, this issue], "The cockroach is as near to perfection as Evolution has ever come." Some scientists believe that their nerves, so similar to our own, make them ideal subjects for biomedical research (*Omni*, 9/90).

The insect world is full of mysteries modern science has yet to unravel. We still don't know the extent of their sentience or their intelligence. Some insects use tools—for example, a species of solitary wasp who smooths the ground over her nest with a pebble, or weaver ants who stitch leaves together using their own silk-producing larvae. In his *Introduction to Insect Behavior*, M.D. Atkins also noted experiments with bees which showed their ability to learn by association. Mosquitoes survive Arctic winters frozen in ice, and some caterpillars produce their own antifreeze, enabling them to survive temperatures way below zero.

Many insect species have never been studied. Yet even if we learn nothing from them, insects are intrinsically valuable to the biosphere. An ecosystem that supports a wide variety of insect life is a healthy place for other living beings. In fact, as May Berenbaum noted in *Ninety-Nine Gnats, Nits and Nibblers*, an insect as common as the mayfly can alert us to environmental problems: "Their disappearance from a lake or stream is an indication that the water quality is changing."

Insects can fascinate us, too, if we take the time to watch them. William Jordan evokes that wonder in "Alfalfa Communion," a chapter from *Divorce Among the Gulls*, when he describes a ground-level view in a California field: "It is a parallel universe, and it swarms with living things. Everywhere we look, creatures stare back, little gargoyles and griffins and goblins."

Except perhaps for butterflies, all insects may appear to us grotesque and fantastic, with too many legs and their skeletons on the outside. But even butterflies evoke ambivalence in us. While we love the

insects at one stage of their life, we loathe them at another. It amazes us that a swallowtail caterpillar, looking so suspiciously like an ambulatory bird dropping, can metamorphose into a creature so lovely. More than ducklings to swans or frogs into princes, this transformation embodies our own hopes for perfection. It's a metaphor so deeply embedded in our consciousness that we may never be able to reconcile our perceptions of the beauty and the beast into one ordinary insect.

But, here and there, we can find a few signs that attitudes are changing. In December 1990, *Flower and Garden* reviewed a device for capturing indoor bugs that "gently traps the unsuspecting creature so you can move it outdoors." And Burlington *Free Press* columnist Frank Lowenstein urges people living near Lake Champlain "to try to accept the mosquito as one more sign of spring."

Acceptance and tolerance may be the most insects can hope for from us. Few people would probably go so far as to recreate a scene J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur described in the 18th century in his *Letters from an American Farmer* to friends in France. He had carried home a paper wasp's nest, installed it near his parlor ceiling and removed a window pane so the hornets could fly in and out of the house. "By this kind usage," he declared, "they are become quite harmless. They live on flies, which are very troublesome to us throughout the summer." ♦

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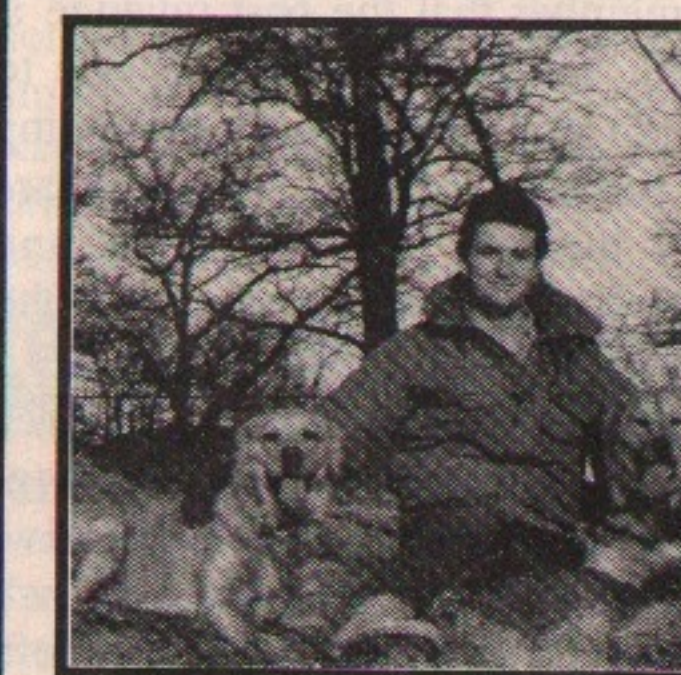


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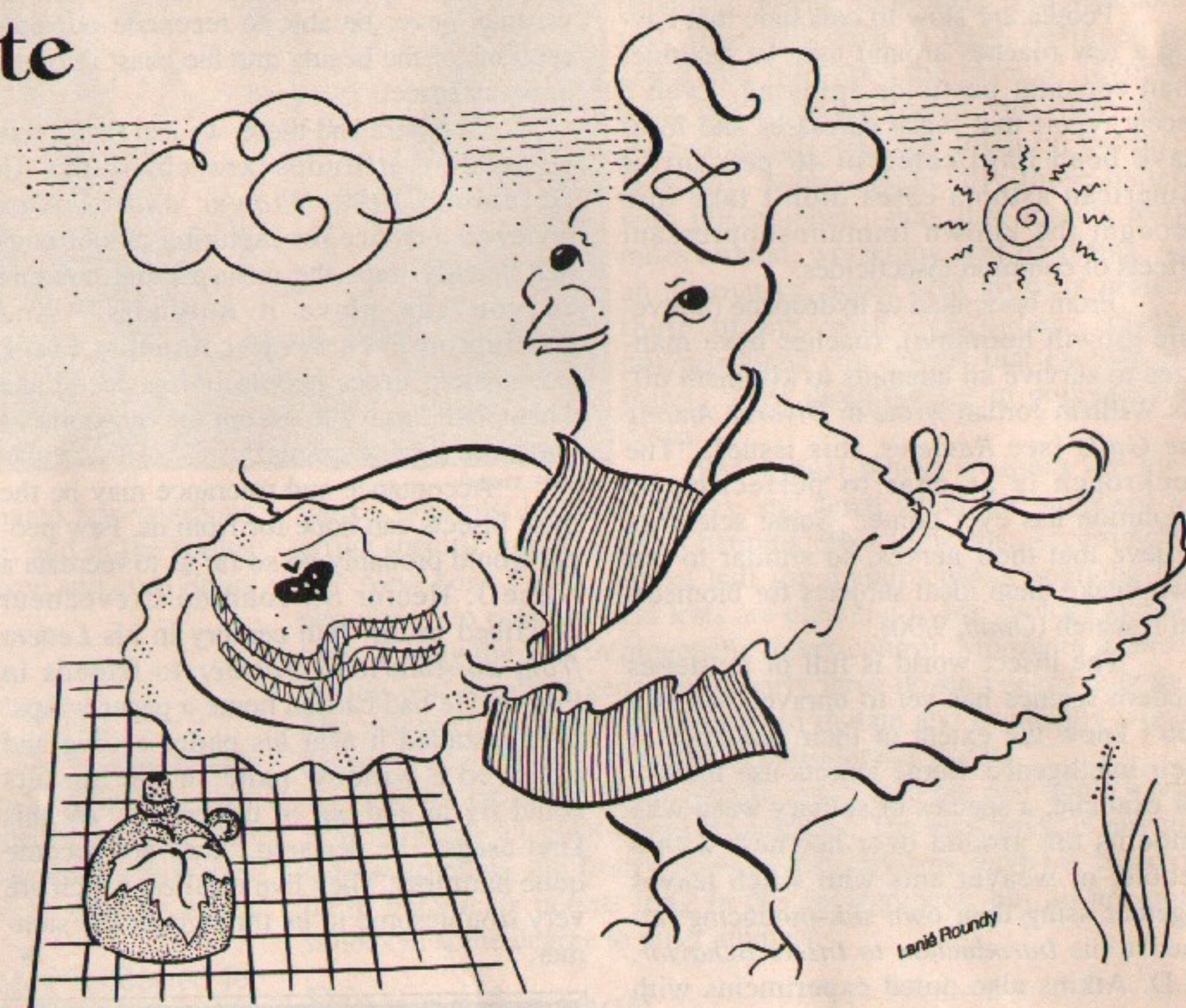
## Compassionate Cooking Continues

Several months ago this column was devoted to cookbooks from various animal rights organizations (Nov. 1991). There was quite a positive response, including more cookbooks. (You'd be amazed at how well I'm eating these days.) Here are three more guides to compassionate cooking from fellow animal rights people.

**The Compassionate Cookbook** By the Manitoba Animal Alliance, P.O. Box 3193, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0K2, Canada; 204-772-4105. Ringbound, 50 pages, \$5.00 plus \$3.00 s/h (write "Cookbook" on order envelope).

This is a lovely little book, both visually and gastronomically. There's not a page without a line drawing of some attractive dish or other by illustrator Barb Groberman; the italic type is both attractive and easy to read; and the pages are charmingly bordered. In spite of its small size, all the basic information for successful vegan cooking is given here: substitutions for animal products; the basic reasons for an animal-free diet (animal rights, health, world hunger, environment); and a brief how and why on tofu. Recipes include exotic but easy ethnic dishes (Szechuan Pasta Salad, Indian Chick Peas, and Japanese Onieri—rice balls) and lots of good North American basics: Sweet Potato Pie, BBQ Tofu Burgers, Mock Ribs, and Chocolate Cake with Fudge Frosting. All this and chocolate, too...

**Instead of Chicken, Instead of Turkey: A Poultryless "Poultry" Potpourri** By Karen Davis, United Poultry Concerns, Inc., P.O. Box 59367, Potomac, MD 20859; 301-948-2406. Cardbound, 144 pages, \$9.00 postpaid.



For anyone who's heard, "But you eat chicken, don't you?" one time too many, remember that the best revenge is living well, and this cookbook is one to help you do that. Eloquently explaining the need for a poultryless cookbook are photos of humans with chickens and quotes from chicken-respecting people: "I can never *not* know that the chicken I absolutely *saw* is a sister..."—Alice Walker. The recipes are fowl-free, egg-free versions of otherwise exploitive dishes: Chicken Little's Favorite French Toast, Shepherd's Omelet, Oil-Free Tofu Mayonnaise, Basic "Chicken" Broth & Gravy, Chickenless "Chicken" Stew, and Stuff Squash (Not Turkeys!). Finish off with Thanksgiving Tofu-Pumpkin Pie or Chick Chick's Orange-Vanilla Custard. There are also a helpful glossary and guides to cooking with tofu and without eggs. A wonderful gift for an ovo-vegetarian—it could lead to leaving the ovo behind.

**Society for Texas Animal Rights Favorite Vegetarian Recipes** Society for Texas Animal Rights, P.O. Box 595547,

Dallas, TX 75359. Ringbound, 212 pages, \$9.50 plus \$2.50 postage.

Its exquisitely photographed cover, substantial size, and celebrity recipes belie that this is a self-published, organizational cookbook. It could take its place beside the slickest cookery books from the big publishers. Contributors include Cleveland Amory, Dr. Neal Barnard, Elvira, Heloise (as in "Hints from"), Casey Kasem, Alex Pacheco, Ingrid Newkirk, and dozens of animal activists from Texas and elsewhere. There's even an appendix including exclusive vegan recipes from a variety of restaurants in the Lone Star State plus explanatory materials about veganism, quotable statistics from EarthSave on the health and environmental impact of dietary change, and guides for substituting animal foods and ingredients. And there are recipes for everything—Tofu Whipped Cream, No-Cook Fresh Fruit Jam, Sausage Patties (from tempeh), a Reuben Sandwich, and Fishless Ragout. There's so much here!—but then, Texas is a big state.

## REVIEWS

### A World of Alternative Perspectives

#### Divorce Among the Gulls: An Uncommon Look at Human Nature

By William Jordan; North Point Press (850 Talbot Ave., Berkeley, CA 94706), 1991; 205 pages, hardcover, \$19.95.

*Divorce Among the Gulls* is a rare bird: a book of essays describing animal behavior with knowledge and sensitivity—a synthesis of science and poetry. From the "parallel universe" of insects in an alfalfa field to the vast rhythm of geological time in which human civilization is "like a subatomic flash," William Jordan lures us into a world of alternative perspectives.

He has a knack for turning a revelatory phrase, such as describing mockingbird song as "the avian equivalent of heavy metal." Lulled by his lucid prose, we only gradually become aware that he's leading us to radical conclusions about humanity's role in nature. "What if," he asks, "instead of imputing human thought to the animal mind, we should impute animal workings to the human mind?"

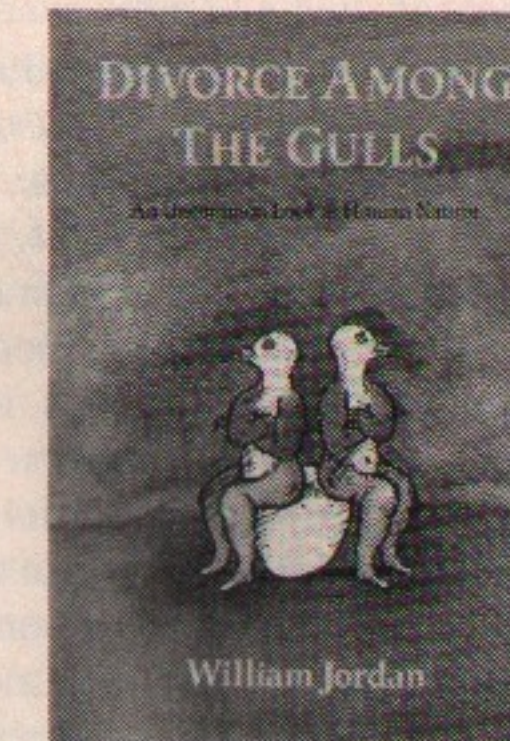
Each essay invites us to participate in the process of discovery. Watching a fruit bat colony in Australia leads to an understanding of controlled aggression in social groups. Less obvious but more intriguing is the theory expressed in "Distracting the Snake." When a friend demonstrates how to handle a snake by directing its attention away from the handler, Jordan intuitively a correlation between

this and human marriage. A snake, with no perceived threat to distract it, may turn on its handler. If a pair of bonded humans (evolution's mechanism for defending the family from danger) meets no challenges in today's artificially nonthreatening environment, it may turn its aggressive energies on itself.

Nor does Jordan credit intelligence with any capacity to overcome our essential nature. He has come to believe that "the human mind is an extension of the animal mind—a variation on a theme—not a celestial novelty." It's just another of evolution's little experiments, complete with its share of "design flaws." The human being, he avers, "will always be the ultimate in the sophisticated monkey."

Our intellect merely allows us to rationalize our illusions, as Jordan demonstrates in two essays on the scientific establishment. In "The Strange Case of the Electric Ray," he describes one graduate student's introduction to "the process by which revelation is reduced to fact." Despite the establishment's resistance, discoveries are made that change our concept of reality, and he recognizes that "if the new inevitably overturns the old, then much of what we embrace today is false."

In "Pictures at a Scientific Exhibition," he castigates modern science education for fostering false attitudes toward living creatures. At the end of a physiology course (described in lurid detail), he discloses, "what we have learned, aside from



the basics of experimental methodology, are two lessons that are fundamental to Western biological science. First, we have learned to distance ourselves from feeling... Second, and most fundamental...that animals deemed appropriate for experimentation have no value at all. That is why their lives can be so blithely discarded." Though treatment of lab animals has supposedly improved in recent years, he warns that "the attitude toward nonhuman life has not changed among experimental biologists."

Yet Jordan seems to have survived the process with his soul intact. Though he may depict humanity as "the instrument of extinction," his own ability to relate to natural systems bodes well for our species. Perhaps, beginning with the strange ecosystem he describes in "New Eden, City of Beasts," humanity is evolving a new relationship with other animals. Resonant with our unique potential for destruction and salvation, *Divorce Among the Gulls* is itself "a small prayer for the souls of us all."

—Cathy Czapla

### "Wild" West No Longer

#### Waste of the West: Public Lands Ranching

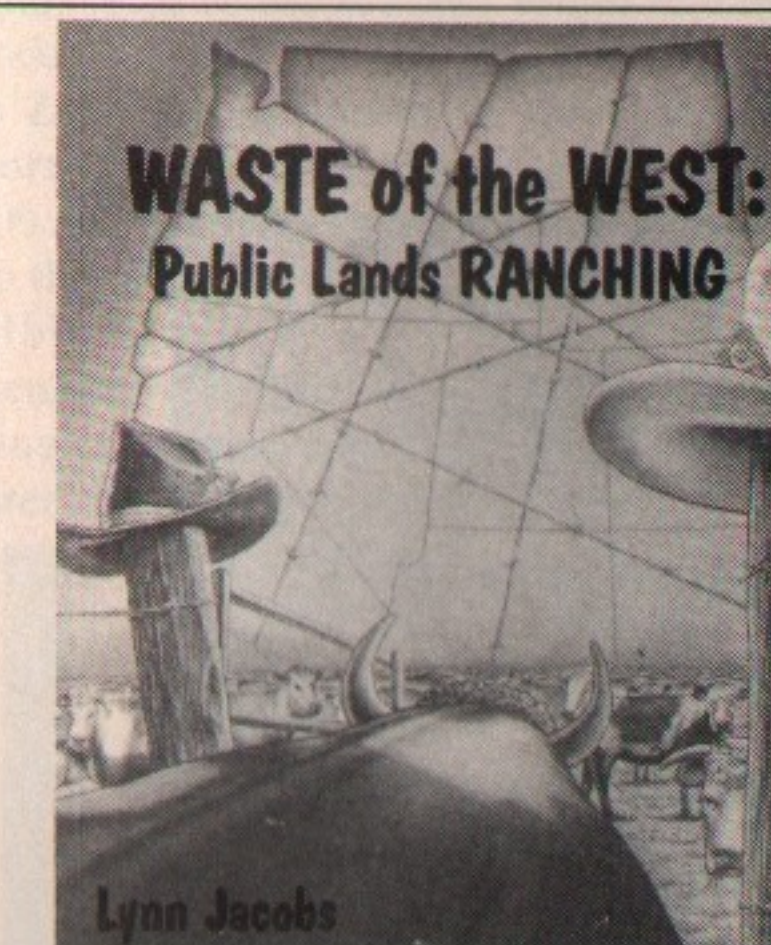
By Lynn Jacobs; Self-published (P.O. Box 5784, Tucson, AZ 85703; 602-578-3173), 1991; 362 pages, softcover, \$28.00 postpaid.

Before reading this book, I had no idea of the extent of damage cows could do to an ecosystem. Certainly I was aware of the destruction of tropical forests for cattle ranching and the desertification of parts of northern Africa. But, as Jacobs makes abundantly clear, the destruction of large portions of the western U.S. is equally serious and urgent.

Jacobs demonstrates in meticulous detail the effects of stock raising on soil, water, plants, and wildlife. Cattle in partic-

ular he calls "roving topsoil terminators," and he estimates that "Western rangeland is losing topsoil, mostly due to ranching, at least four to five times faster than it is being replaced." Overgrazed watersheds then literally wash away into rivers and reservoirs. By contrasting pioneers' descriptions of deep, clear rivers with photographs and descriptions of their sterile remnants, Jacobs reminds us of how much we have already lost.

Photographs of fence lines are interspersed throughout the text to demonstrate the differences between grazed and ungrazed areas. In the East, where rocky, weed-filled pastures contrast with surrounding woodland, it is difficult to imagine the deterioration of overgrazed pastures in arid climates. Yet the loss of native



Western vegetation is even more severe than these photographs reveal. According to Jacobs, "livestock grazing has forced more Western [plant] species to become

Continued on next page



## REVIEWS

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Rare, Threatened or Endangered than any other factor," with a potential loss of over 600 plant species in California alone.

In such a degraded habitat, native animals are deprived of their natural food and shelter. *Waste of the West* documents the sad fates of elk, mountain lions, rabbits, and tortoises, among many others. "As a general rule," he writes, "when livestock are placed in an area, they eliminate at least roughly their weight in elk, raccoons, spiders, pronghorns, worms, badgers, moles..." Ranchers, through ignorance or greed, then kill virtually any remaining wildlife as pests, as predators, or as "competition" for forage. As Jacobs reveals, "during the first year of James Watts' administration, ADC [USDA's division of Animal Damage Control] spent more money killing predators than the federal government spent protecting all Endangered species." His documentation includes some heartbreaking photos of "controlled" animals. Jacobs also devotes a chapter to the abuses domestic animals suffer under such a brutal regime.

All this for the 3 percent of U.S. beef produced on leased public land! Jacobs

proves, through the government's own statistics, that our public land leasing system is irredeemably corrupt. The taxpayer spends more for fencing, "pest control," and other range "improvements" than the sale of leases brings in. Not counting other costs, "if the livestock industry as a whole had to pay all expenses for the water it uses, common hamburger meat would cost \$35.00 per pound," according to one economist.

Why do we allow this system to continue? In part, Jacobs concludes, it's due to the entrenched power of the ranching lobby. His descriptions of the ostracizing in store for those who would protest these abuses is chilling. From the "closed shop" of government bureaucracy to the tightly knit social life of small Western towns, the pressure is intense to conform to the status quo—even though "only 16 percent of Western stockmen" lease public lands. Referring to a statistic from a 1987 USDA handbook, Jacobs informs us, "far more cattle are raised on the two million private pasture acres in Vermont than on the 55 million public acres in Nevada."

Nevertheless, we perceive the stockman as the heart of the free and wild West.

Indeed, Jacobs blames the continuance of ranching abuse on the deeply-rooted myth of the American cowboy. Despite the fact that most public grazing allotments are leased by corporations or wealthy individuals as tax write-offs, we're encouraged to view their operations as part of a hardscrabble Western tradition. Every time we watch a cowboy movie or buy products advertised with "Wild West" imagery, we're buying into the mythos that wreaks havoc on ecosystems. Before we can dismantle the bureaucratic framework that supports Western "welfare ranching," Jacobs writes, "we must dismember the Marlboro man."

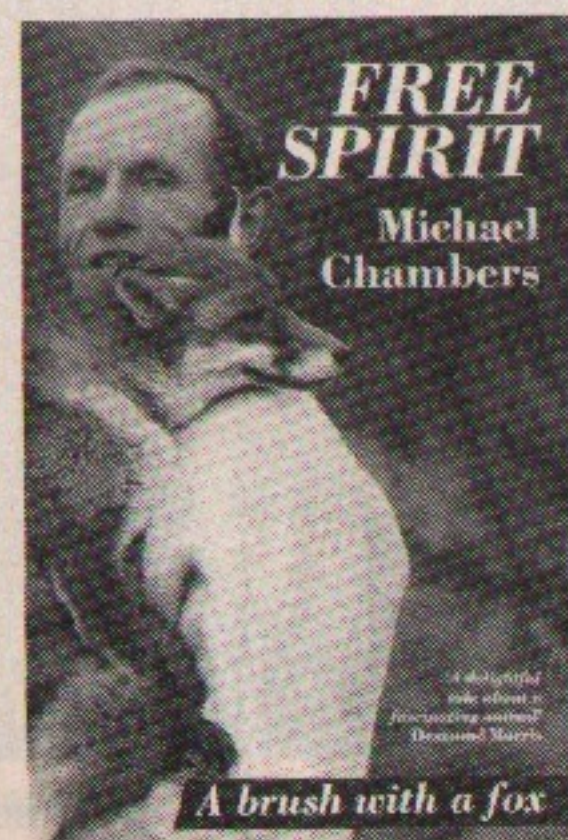
Lynn Jacobs has written a very thorough expose of public lands abuse in the West. While the extraordinary amount of material may seem overwhelming at first, the book remains very readable. The facts are well documented; the myriad quotations are invariably apt; the photos and illustrations add a real depth and immediacy to the text. He suggests various methods of combatting the status quo, and, best of all, he offers a glimpse of the impressive habitats we could recover if Western public lands were left ungazed.

—Cathy Czapla

### To Know a Fox

#### Free Spirit: A Brush with a Fox

By Michael Chambers; Methuen London (Michelin House, 81 Fulham Rd., London SW3 6RB, U.K.; distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, Sharon Rd., North Pomfret, VT 05053, 1-800-423-4525), 1990; 241 pages, hardcover, \$29.95.



*Free Spirit* is a true love story about a rather ordinary Englishman's relationship with an orphaned fox, a simple and honest record of their time together from the night he found her in the road until she returned to the wild.

Though a caring person, Michael Chambers had no experience to guide him when he decided to rear the fox cub. From the beginning, he determined to condition her "for as full and normal a foxy life as possible." Like any parent, he found his resolve tested when she grew old enough to run without a lead. "I was about to relinquish the control," he remembers, "to hand her all the options; there would only be whatever bond had been established between us to hold her."

Indeed, their mutual affection proved an enduring bond. What followed was a life of adventure: the fox, Ferdi, exploring the fields and hedgerows in the company of her human companion, a cat or two, and several dogs. Each scene is described in vivid detail as they wrestle in snowbanks and romp after hares. Every sentence rings with Chambers' own joy. "It was contagious—after an hour in the presence of such unbounded zest and mischief I was invariably in a laughing mood, no matter how gloomily I may have started." Grown

strong and supple with such exercise, Ferdi soon learned to hunt successfully for mice in the long grass and rabbits among the thistles.

Ferdi's forays into human habitation also provided opportunities for mischief. Like the dogs, she had only to scratch at the door to be let in the house. Muddy fox prints on the wall above the sofa became permanent souvenirs of one boisterous visit. Another time she swiped an entire package of cookies and hid them, two by two, beneath the stairs carpet. She had become part of a wonderfully integrated multispecies family, as Chambers describes in the following scene:

"In the dark winter evenings it was quite probable that all five had been stretched across each other on the studio couch for the last hour or so before feeding time arrived, and they would tangle in a confusion of heads, tails and legs, all apparently quite contented, like some fabulous multi-colored composite creature escaped from the verses of 'Jabberwocky.' Then when I said 'grub time,' there would be one furry eruption as all those interlocking pieces attempted to get up at once, dived into the kitchen and waited facing the door ready to pile out into the garden."

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while ostensibly shooting at turkeys); rattlesnakes; spiders; sharks; captive elephants; scorpions; rats; goats; captive leopards; jellyfish; coral snakes; alligators; grizzly bears; mountain lions; captive monkeys; signoras; vultures; and orcas. Despite the number of species involved, the total human death toll was approximately 200.

♦ **Only about 600 Simien jackals** survive, an estimated 450 of them in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia—where at least 30 adults and eight cubs have been massacred in recent months, along with an untold number of equally endangered nyala antelope. Although the current Ethiopian government is eager to protect the animals, and wants them to be included in an international captive breeding program set up to preserve endangered species, they were symbols of the recently deposed Marxist regime—which did little or nothing to protect them—and apparently are being killed in acts of symbolic vengeance.

♦ **The Utah Wilderness Assn.** has charged the U.S. Forest Service of "voluntarily abrogating its multiple-use responsibilities," by ordering field staff to cooperate fully with the Animal Damage Control

branch of the USDA in predator extermination programs—including allowing ADC to use lethal agents at will, anywhere it wants. C. Booth Wallentine of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation immediately circulated copies of the Forest Service order to members, gloating that it will "slow down some of the intrusions upon ADC by forest supervisors, district rangers, and regional foresters." Responded Dick Carter of UWA, "The content of these memos contradict broad established Forest Service policy and raise fundamental questions as to the integrity of Forest Service management of public lands."

♦ **Capybaras, 50-pound relatives of guinea pigs**, were called "fish" by 16th century Spanish missionaries who found them living on South American riverbanks—so to this day, up to a third of the Venezuelan capybara population is massacred each February, to be eaten by the pious over Lent.

♦ **Preserving Cougar Country, A Guide to Protecting Mountain Lion and Deer Habitat in California**, by Susan West, is a 95-page handbook documenting almost everything known about cougars and efforts to save them, including maps of known cougar and prey habitat. Copies are

\$10, from the Mountain Lion Foundation, P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95812.

♦ **The Pacific Gas and Electric Co.**, Save Burrowing Owls and Their Habitat, the Shoreline at Mountain View recreation area, and local Audubon and humane groups have formed a new organization, the Burrowing Owl Alliance, to create burrowing owl habitat in power line corridors and landfills around the Santa Clara Valley of California (better known as the Silicon Valley). PG&E provides the heavy equipment and some of the potential nesting sites; the other organizations provide volunteers and expertise.

♦ **Seven residents of northwestern Connecticut** claim to have seen a mountain lion—in one case with a cub—since 1990. Eastern mountain lions, called catamounts, have officially been extinct since one was killed in Vermont in 1907, but sightings have persisted in the Green Mountains and parts of the Appalachians.

♦ **The colony of 40 Barbary apes** inhabiting Gibraltar survived World War II by order of Winston Churchill, who upon learning in 1944 that the colony had dropped to fewer than 10, established regular feedings by the British army and appointed a sergeant-at-arms to protect them.

## Zoos & Aquariums

The American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums is doing a national survey of animal protection groups' views of zoos and zoo practices in preparation for discussion at its 1992 annual conference. The ANIMALS' AGENDA responded by asking AAZPA to respect the expertise of informed critics; include representatives from animal protection groups on accrediting panels; and enforce policies opposing breeding animals simply to keep babies on display, the sale of "surplus" animals to hunting ranches, and killing of healthy animals as "genetic surplus."

♦ **The London Zoo** announced in March that it will remain open indefinitely, despite having imposed a 35% budget cut last September, laying off 90 staffers and sending 1,200 to 1,300 animals of the 8,000 it then had to other facilities. The zoo directors in January voted down proposals to turn the zoo into a theme park and/or scale it down. Instead, it plans to expand a captive breeding program for endangered species and continue vigorously seeking public support.

♦ **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** on Feb. 19 cleared the San Diego Wild Animal Park of wrongdoing in killing a rare

Sumatran tiger who escaped from his cage when a portion of it was undermined by heavy rains two days earlier, and went wandering about the grounds.

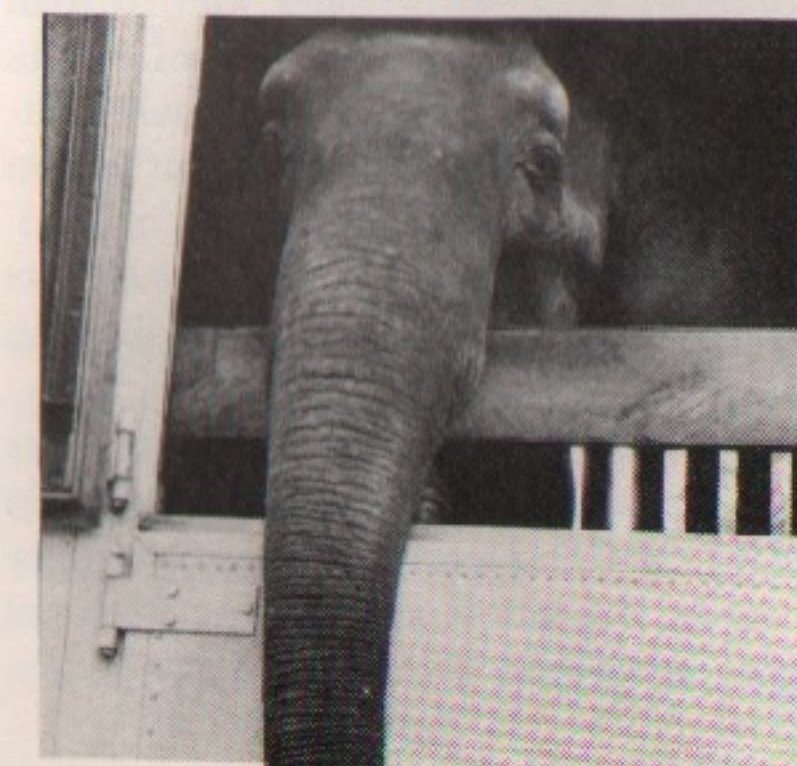
♦ **The San Francisco Zoo** celebrated Valentine's Day by offering a guided sex tour. Participants learned that Violet the orangutan is on human birth control pills and can copulate upside down; that rhinos take an hour to do it; lions can do it 50 times within 24 hours; koalas settle for 40-second encounters about three times a year; two lesbian swans on the grounds have laid over 40 eggs for each other and are inseparable; the dominant male bison, King Lear, has had a vasectomy; and Maxine the cougar has a Norplant-type contraceptive implant between her shoulderblades. Asked to comment, El Paso Zoo executive director laughed, "This isn't California," but acknowledged that the zoo's male jaguar and lion have had vasectomies, while the golden lion tamarins use Norplant-type contraception.

♦ **The Pawtucket, Rhode Island** city council is to decide by July 1 whether to close the 51-year-old Slater Park Zoo, scale it down, or spend money the city doesn't have to meet AAZPA accreditation

standards. The zoo draws about 100,000 visitors a year, who feed the animals chips and candy from the concession stands that provide most of its \$300,000 annual budget. Ten of the 80 to 100 Slater Zoo animals have died over the past year, many of them due to overcrowding. And Fanny, a 40-year-old elephant, has spent 32 years without the company of other elephants; she last had an elephant companion—briefly—in 1985.

♦ **An orca and her calf** died March 15 at Sea World in San Antonio, Texas, during attempted birth. They were the eighth and ninth orcas to die at a Sea World facility in under four years.

♦ **Zoo Check, known in the U.S. as the Born Free Foundation**, is trying to save 400 animals left stranded by the bankruptcy of the Rioleón Zoo and Theme Park in Albinan, Spain (near Barcelona). The menagerie included 38 lions, three dolphins (one of them pregnant), two elephants, three rhinos, and four bears.



Le Crozier-Organ



## REVIEWS

Continued from page 46

Life together was not always so perfect, as Chambers freely admits. When the half-grown cub disappeared for a week, he tramped miles through the countryside searching for her. Fearing encounters with strange dogs, poison or worse, he kept her penned during the day. "I knew this fascinating relationship could end in the time it takes to squeeze a trigger."

Throughout his narrative, Chambers shows little sympathy for humans who are cruel or destructive of nature. His lament for a nearby wild meadow "sprayed into

submission" will be read with sympathy by everyone who mourns lost natural places. Poachers, trappers, a gamekeeper who classified any species but pheasants as vermin all provoke his ire. "When man monopolizes vast tracts of land that should support a properly proportioned balance of wildlife, then he should be prepared to pay the rent without being vengeful about it," he believes, and suggests as fair payment "a few cabbages and lettuce for the rabbits, grain for the birds, and a few chicken dinners for the foxes."

When after four years Ferdi chose to return to the wild, Chambers writes, "the gap she left took a long time to close." This end to their relationship was perhaps inevitable, like the freedom her cubs found despite Chambers' efforts to find them appropriate homes. Ironically, her departure was proof of his success in rearing her—a success made possible only by his great respect and love for wild creatures.

—Cathy Czapla

## Of Cats and Their People

### The Company of Cats

Edited and with an introduction by Michael J. Rosen; Doubleday (666 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10103; 1-800-223-6834, 212-492-9199), 1992; 269 pages, hardcover; \$20.00 US, \$25.00 Canadian.

Cats, it is true, relate to humans in ways that dogs do not. In this companion volume to *The Company of Dogs* (reviewed May 1991), 20 modern authors celebrate the uniqueness of human/cat relationships. A character in Wright Morris's "The Cat in the Picture" expresses it in the simplest possible terms: "Dogs made slaves of the people who owned them," he muses. "Cats do not. A cat led his own life, and you were free to lead yours."

Yet this character soon discovers that, while dogs with their unreserved devotion tend to mirror human emotions, cats often act as catalysts in human lives. In most of these tales, a cat's presence brings out the best—and worst—human behavior. The result may be subtly gruesome, as in Morris's story of unfulfilled expectations. Or it may be horrifying, as when the protagonist in Susan Fromberg Schaeffer's "Chicago and the Cat" comes to terms with grief by watching his cat starve to death. Fortunately the majority of the selections are more positive, particularly Merrill Joan Gerber's domestic idyll, "Touching Is Good for Living Creatures," in which a kitten reawakens a human couple's affection for each other. But whether bleak or optimistic, each story demonstrates that cats and humans interact more profoundly than we might imagine.

Some authors even intimate that cats can influence human psychology. In "Edward the Conqueror," a typically quirky offering by the late Roald Dahl, a stray cat triggers a woman's repressed fantasies.

Penelope Lively, in "The Emasculation of Ted Roper," postulates that a cat's persona may motivate his human companion's behavior. Indeed, our bond with cats can be so strong that, like the woman in Bobbie Ann Mason's "Residents and Transients," we admit, "one day I was counting the cats and I absentmindedly counted myself."

Confused by the changes in her life, Mason's character identifies with the cats' attachment to one place. Her dilemma is echoed in other selections: her connection to the cats' conflicts with other (human) alliances. The stories in this volume tend toward a single resolution, as typified in Robley Wilson Jr.'s story "Cats," when Kate chooses a life with cats over an uncertain future with her human lover. We sense that the choice is more than a mere resistance to change; it involves a need to determine one's own destiny.

Such commitment to personal freedom—a trait cats seem to personify—can have devastating consequences. In "An Old Woman and Her Cat," Doris Lessing follows their quest for freedom to its ultimate, tragic end. And though we praise their independent spirit, we suffer when cats spurn our attention. Cornelia Nixon, in "Affection," sympathetically explores one such unrequited love, while the widow in Amy Hempel's "Nashville Gone to Ashes" remarks, "They move in next door where the food is better and meet you in the street and don't know your name..."

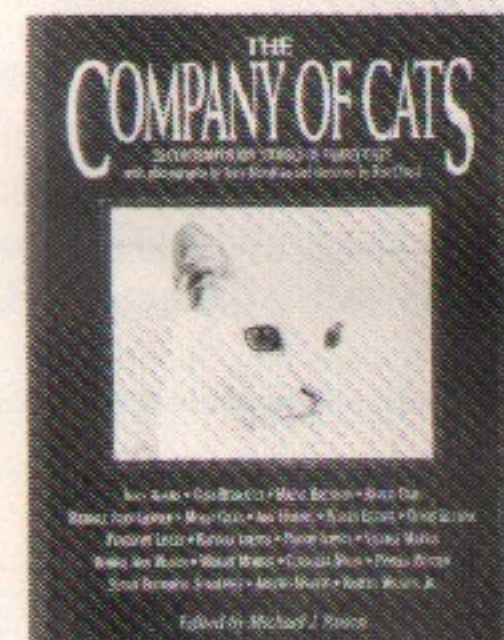
This unpredictability is part of what attracts us to cats. Their reserve surpasses human dignity, yet their playfulness is totally uninhibited. Preternaturally alert to their surroundings, they direct our attention to small, often wonderful things we'd otherwise overlook. Katinka Loeser describes such a moment in "Taking Care" when two cats discover a small toad among her

houseplants. "And so we all, we four things together, paused in a tenuous awareness of each other that had nothing to do with friends or enemies or kinds or species but only the sharing of living and differences, the pulsating veins, the unreliable heart..."

Throughout this book the common thread is a deep and abiding affection for cats, their sensitivity and their sensuousness. Again and again we find detailed descriptions of their beauty, the color and texture of their fur, the light in the eyes. We find it in Cornelia Nixon's portrait of a kitten: "Impossibly small and light, at first he was no more than the idea of a cat, a loud purr in electrified fur, a dandelion with claws." And, with Phillip Lopate in "Getting a Cat," we discover anew the fascinating and frustrating range of cat behavior. Those who enjoy the companionship of cats will find this book—like their feline friends—sometimes disturbing, but always irresistible.

—Cathy Czapla

Profits from *The Company of Cats* will be donated to animal protection agencies aiding cats.



## SHORT TAKES

### Manatees and Dugongs

By John E. Reynolds III and Daniel K. Odell; *Facts on File* (460 Park Ave. South, NY, NY 10016), 1991; 192 pages, hardcover; \$24.95 US, \$31.95 Canadian.

Every known fact of the biology and behavior of the marine mammals collectively known as sirenians is collected here. From the manatees of the American tropics and Africa to the dugongs of the Indian and Pacific oceans, the book traces the natural history, habits, and decline of these unappreciated creatures. The chapter on the recently extinct Steller's sea cow, in particular, illustrates how sensitive these mammals are to human interference. While the information presented here is technically accurate and extensive, the authors admit there is still much we don't know about sirenians, and they recognize that these species "depletion can occur so quickly that science and management cannot react in time." Current threats to their survival, from oil spills in the Persian Gulf to motorboats in Florida, are noted, along with recent protective efforts in legislation and public education. Above all, this work documents the need for immediate efforts to preserve these unique and harmless beings.

to anyone brave enough to assume responsibility for saving an untamed creature. At the very least this book should inspire us to be more cognizant of the effects of our activities on our wild neighbors.

### Cows are Vegetarians: A Book for Vegetarian Kids

By Ann Bradley with illustrations by Elise Huffman; *Healthways Press* (P.O. Box 1945, Aptos, CA 95001); 1992, unpagged, paper, \$9.95.

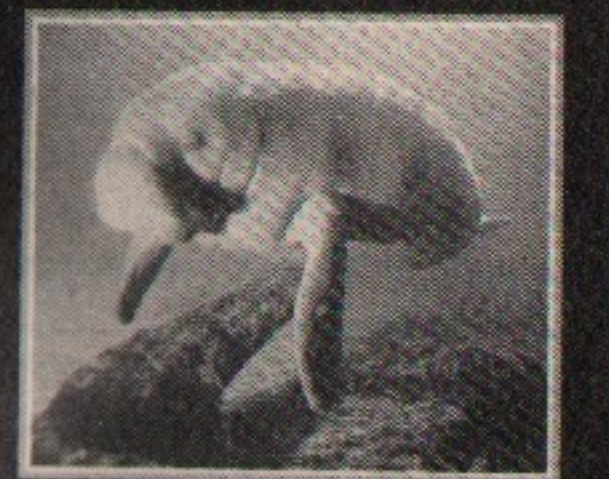
This very slender volume is a heartfelt attempt to reassure children who are already vegetarian, and to prepare them with simple explanations of vegetarian philosophy to answer questions from peers, teachers, and relatives. Diet's impact on the environment (especially rainforests), food production, and health are emphasized. Suggestions for coping with pressure from nonvegetarians are positive and nurturing. However, the text may raise many more questions about the environment and human responsibility than are dealt with.

### The Book of the Toad: A Natural and Magical History of Toad-Human Relationships

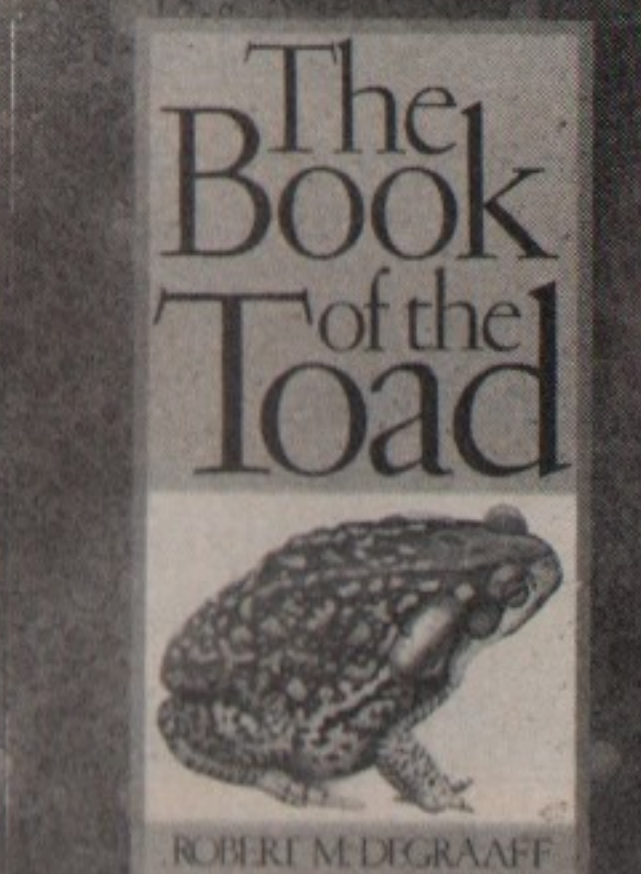
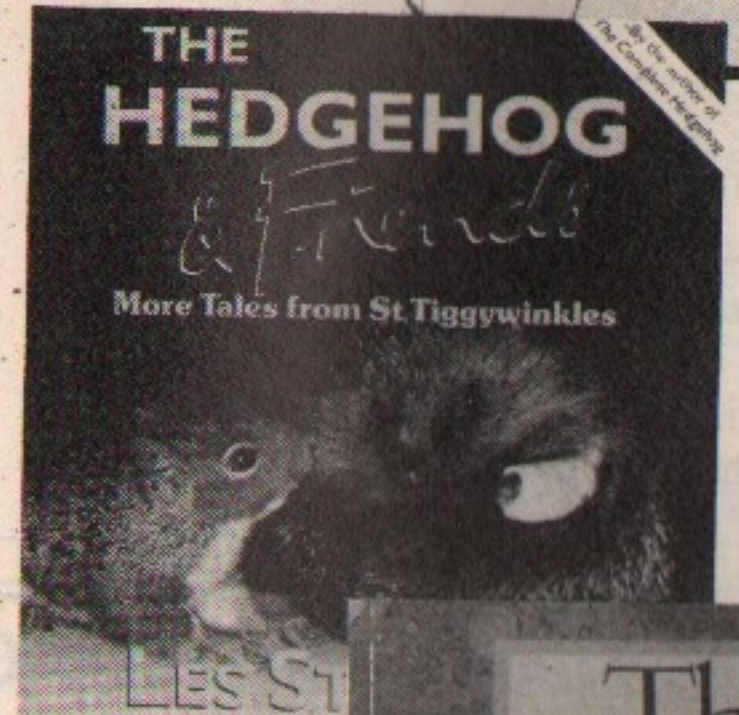
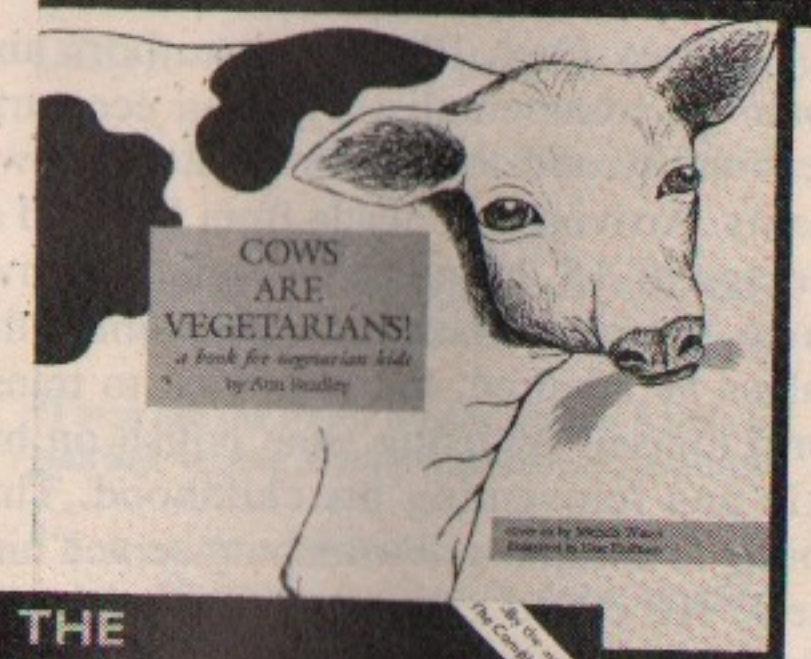
By Robert H. DeGraaff; *Park Street Press* (One Park St., Rochester, VT 05767), 1991; 208 pages, softcover, \$19.95.

Today, though toads are generally recognized as indicators of a balanced ecosystem, remnants remain of their reputation as purveyors of warts and disease. While this book will certainly educate the uninformed, it's designed more to explore the evolution of our attitudes toward these harmless creatures. DeGraaff begins with a detailed natural history, against which we can measure the symbolism of toads in the myths, legends and literature collected in the second half of the book. From the toad's role in Aztec rituals, to its association with magic and medicine in China, to its transformation into a witches' familiar in medieval Europe, each stage in the human/toad relationship is lavishly illustrated with historical accounts and artistic representations from many cultures. Historical associations of toads with earthiness and fertility are represented here in graphic detail. The author also traces the toad through fairy tales and children's literature to our modern

### MANATEES AND DUGONGS



John E. Reynolds III  
Daniel K. Odell



conception of the beast as beauty in disguise. In all cases, the choice of tales, poetry, and art flawlessly illustrates the text. This volume is a rare treasure for anyone who appreciates the toad.

—Cathy Czapla



## REVIEWS

# Classics Revisited

### *Pilgrims of the Wild*

By Grey Owl; Originally published in 1935, latest edition Charles Scribner's 1971.

Grey Owl (1888-1938) is proof not only that writers are born and not made, but that the human animal can, through self-examination and experience, change in a very positive manner. Grey Owl began his backwoods life as a trapper. By the close of his eventful life in the wilderness of northern Canada, he had written four books and achieved his lifetime goal of establishing protected beaver colonies.

Grey Owl, like many authors and some environmentalists, had an eccentric personality and a wish to create his own reality. Arriving in Canada from England at the age of 15, he not only took a Native name, married a Native, and assumed the values he admired, but also tried to transform himself by using shoe polish on his skin and reinventing his childhood. This ability to assume a new identity served him well. He could communicate with the beavers because he almost became one of them, living out the winters alone, hibernating in the far North. Grey Owl was not a fraud, he was an original.

In *Pilgrims of the Wild*, the reader encounters a man of great endurance and patience. His first story (intended to inform people of the plight of the beavers and the

loss of wild places) was written in long-hand, and Grey Owl walked 40 miles to the closest mailbox to post it to England. Although he realized the horrors of trapping, he continued to trap because he felt it was the only way he could continue his lifestyle.

After killing a mother beaver, Grey Owl was about to club to death her two remaining kittens (who would be otherwise be left to die of starvation and exposure), but instead decided to take them back to the cabin he shared with his wife, Anahareo.

Anahareo, a strong Native woman who leaves Grey Owl to care for the beaver kittens for a year while she goes prospecting, was repulsed by trapping: "The sight of the frozen twisted forms contorted in shapes of agony, and the spectacle of submissive despairful beasts being knocked senseless with an axe handle, and hung up in a noose to choke out any remaining spark of life while the set was being made ready for a fresh victim, moved her to deep compassion: And worse, to her mind, were the great numbers of harmless birds and squirrels caught accidentally and to no good purpose, and often still alive, some screaming, others wailing feebly in their torment."

The heroes of *Pilgrims of the Wild* are the two beaver kittens. No one could live with them and deny the value of wildlife and wilderness. Grey Owl calls

them "little people." He is not only devoted to them but in awe of their intelligence and abilities. It did not take Grey Owl long to recognize the beavers' qualities in other animals, and he took a vow to stop trapping and devote his life to reestablishing the beaver colonies that were on the verge of extinction due to trapping promoted by the Hudson Bay Company.

This is a story of hardship and triumph. Happily, the book also contains a great deal of humor. There is a wonderful scene where Grey Owl waits outside in the cold while a young beaver attempts to maneuver a sapling inside. When his books were published and he had grown into an eloquent public speaker, Grey Owl and his beavers received considerable fan mail. The beavers capture the mailbag, remove it to their underground tunnel, and have horrendous quarrels over the distribution of the mail for bedding.

Not only is *Pilgrims of the Wild* a classic, Grey Owl is himself one of those rare and gifted people who set far-reaching goals and actually follow through to achieve them. Under the auspices of the Canadian federal government, Grey Owl was able to establish his beaver refuge. He continued to live with his ever-expanding beaver family, studying them while they studied him.

—Naomi Rachel

## The ANIMALS' AGENDA CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FORM

Rates: \$1.00 per word, 20 word minimum. All ads must be pre-paid. DEADLINE: 15th day of the month, 2 months preceding issue date. (Example: Ads for December issue should arrive by Oct. 15.) P.O. Box counts as two words. Visa or MasterCard payments are acceptable. Prepay for 6 months and get the 7th month FREE.

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RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: The ANIMALS' AGENDA  
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### Merchandise

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Environmental slogans/facts/designs on rubber stamps. Great for outgoing mail! Free catalog. MP Enterprises, P.O. Box 90450, Rochester, NY 14609.

**NEW WILDLIFE T-SHIRTS! PANDA, ZEBRA, Polar Bear.** Unique designs. Free Information. Havelock Enterprises, Dept. 48, 4 Parkside, Kincheloe, MI 49788.

**WEAR NON LEATHER SHOES.** Be kind to animals, don't wear them. Send \$1 for catalog which will be credited toward your purchase. Heartland Products, Ltd. Box 218, Dakota City, IA 50529.

**FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR WORLD AND THE ANIMALS IN IT.** A liquid laundry detergent free of perfumes, dyes, and alcohols. Many other products. All cruelty-free. Send for free catalog: Allens Naturally, P.O. Box 339, Dept. A Farmington, MI 48332-0514.

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## CLASSIFIED

### Publications

**WORKING FOR THE ANIMALS?** Then you can't afford to miss another issue of Bunny Huggers' Gazette. Each edition is packed with information about what to boycott, where to protest and where letters of support for the animals are needed. \$13/year; sample=\$2. Bunny Huggers' Gazette - A5, P.O. Box 601 Temple, Texas 76503.



**A.I.D.S. (Animals In Digestive System)** by Michael Joseph; new THIRD Edition (1992). Read the shocking facts of a carnivorous diet in this fascinating and provocative book. Send \$11.95 postpaid to: innerpeace books 12062 SW 117th Court #AA Miami, FL 33186.

**1992-1993 ANIMAL ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES DIRECTORY.** National directory includes over 600 U.S. and foreign organizations, free brochure available. \$24.95 + \$2.25 shipping (CA residents + \$2.06 tax). Write for free listing of your organization/service. Free brochure available. Animal Stories 3004 Maple Avenue Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

### Campaigns

**YOU HELPED CLOSE BAD WATERTOWN ZOO.** Now fighting for zoo & circus law. For cards to distribute contact P.O. Box 428, Watertown, NY 13601-0428. Please specify amount.

**HATE GREYHOUND RACING?** Don't agonize, organize! For information on protests and factsheets write to: F.A.C.T. P.O. Box 327 Ludlow, VT 05149.

### Events

**AFAAR WALKATHON TO SAVE LABORATORY ANIMALS** Saturday, May 2, 10am, Riverside Park, New York City. Join our efforts to develop alternatives to animal research and reduce the number of suffering animals. To register or sponsor a walker call 212-242-0390, 663-1820 or 628-0959.

### Travel

**UNFORGETTABLE 24 DAY TOUR** in Kenya and Tanzania, organized by Assisi Animal Foundation. Considerable savings. A few spaces left. Deadline for limited space; May 10th. Departure date; July 31st. Call (815)455-9411 or write for information: A.A.F., P.O. Box 143, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

### Wanted

**NEEDED:** Low-light 8x cam recorder for undercover documentation of stockyard abuses and standard procedures. Please call 717-285-2851.

**WANTED:** Living accommodations for vegetarian male, 26, and spayed feline in exchange for personal, child, animal care and yard, household services. Many excellent references; experienced in all areas. I'm very mature, educated, personable, conscientious. John Cole 973 Kingston Ave. Piedmont, CA 94611 (510) 655-8755.

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### Personals

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- 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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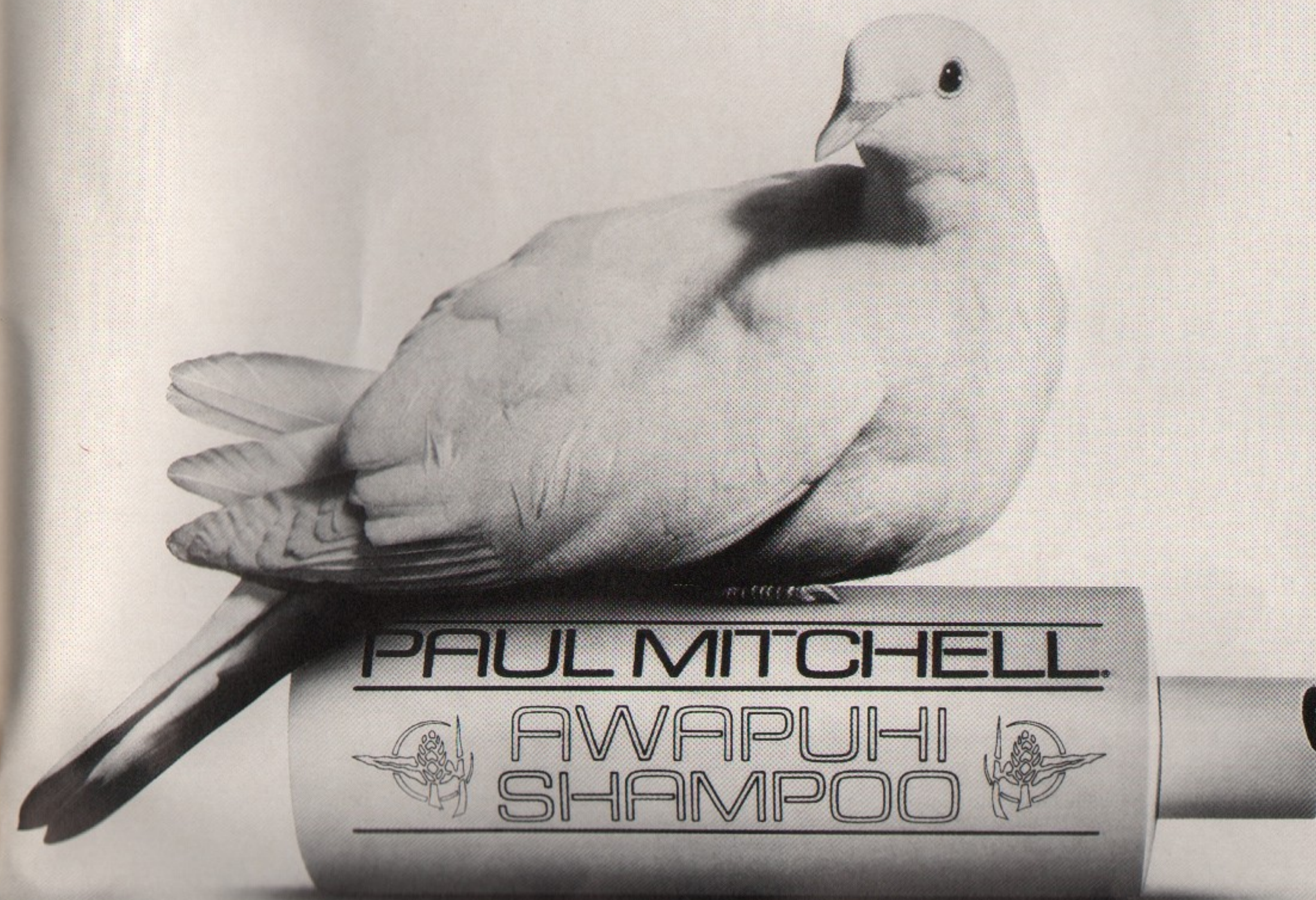
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- \* **BULLETIN:** The **Fund for Animals** publishes a bulletin addressing specifically the dog and cat overpopulation crisis (*free*).
- \* **WORKSHOPS:** The **Fund for Animals** is scheduling spay/neuter ordinance workshops in cities across the U.S. The all-day workshop covers the how-tos of initiating and passing a mandatory spay/neuter law. The workshop, led by Kim Sturla, the Fund's western director, is designed to give participants the information needed to tackle the companion animal tragedy legislatively. (*Inquire about how to schedule a workshop in your area*).

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