

AWI

Quarterly

Winter 2008 Volume 57 Number 1



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ABOUT THE COVER

Poncho, an Aussie-Heeler mix, was rescued from his original owner at the age of 2. As a puppy, he was beaten and kept in a tiny crate because he was not interested in herding. However, after his rescue by Darryl Armstrong of Salt Lake City, Utah, he became the perfect therapy dog. Poncho comforted and entertained clients of all ages for 12 years, visiting the Utah Cancer Specialists facility and playing Frisbee outside its picture window so patients could watch him while receiving their chemo infusions. In his spare time, Poncho won "Best Tricks" at Salt Lake's annual Strut Your Mutt event five years in a row, until he "retired" to give other dogs a chance for the title. The joy spread by animals like Poncho has a powerful effect on humans. They can also help children learn to read. See "Animal Teachings" on pages 4-7 for one teacher's experiences with Reading Education Assistance Dogs, a program of Intermountain Therapy Animals.

Cover photo by Skip Huntress.

Animals are Beings, Too

Children are naturally drawn toward animals, and non-human species frequently steal the show in books, television programs and films targeted at young audiences. From Wilbur the pig to the family dog, kids learn early on that animals have feelings and emotions just like them. Sadly, traditional classroom lessons often conflict with this natural discovery.

Recently, during a grammar lesson in his second grade class in West Hartford, Ct., budding political activist Noah S.B. Williams spoke up to correct the categorization of animals as "things." Noah felt that the classification system of "Persons, Places and Things" should be replaced by the designations of "Beings, Places and Things." To illustrate his point, he wrote the following essay.

Why Animals Should Not Be Called Things

Animals should not be called things because they are beings, not things.

Shame on the people who call animals things.

If I could I would give the person who first called animals things a talking-to. I would not call animals things.

Think about this. If you loved someone, would you call them a thing? I wish no one had ever called animals things.

Why would you call your pet a thing?

A rug or something is a thing, but not an animal. He or she is not a thing! This is not funny, it's all true. I would not lie to you about this. It's not a joke.

Do not lie to me, either.



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Top Left: The Pebble Gold and Copper Mine Project in Alaska's Bristol Bay would produce the largest open pit mine in North America and destroy the habitats of bears and other species. Photo: iStockphoto; *Top Right:* Animals at Israel's B Virus-Free Cynomolgus Monkey Breeding Farm love playing in the swimming pool and appear to be content with their surroundings. Photo: Dr. Bushmitz Mark Moshe; *Bottom Right:* Behind the closed doors of Iowa's CAFO operations, pigs are confined in crates and cannot express their natural behaviors. Photo: Diane Halverson



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” —Nelson Mandela

Animal Teachings

Educators weave awareness and respect for animals into their lessons

by TRACY BASILE,
AWI EDITORIAL CONSULTANT AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR AT PACE UNIVERSITY



READ

Last year, when New York City’s United Federation of Teachers Humane Education Committee saw the poems and drawings about farm animals created by Gail Frydkowski’s sixth graders, they honored her with an award in her first year of teaching. Now, Frydkowski teaches ninth grade special education at Murry Bergtram High School in New York City and dreams of creating a R.E.A.D. program for her entire district. R.E.A.D., which stands for Reading Education Assistance Dogs, is gaining national recognition as an innovative way to improve children’s reading and communication skills by simply reading aloud to a dog.

Literacy rates appear to be declining in our schools today. The latest results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress show that 40 percent of fourth graders read below their grade level, and more than a quarter (27 percent) of high school seniors are functionally illiterate. That’s why Frydkowski sees R.E.A.D. as being a program that can make a significant difference, and studies are proving her right. When children participate in R.E.A.D. programs, their literacy scores improve.

“A lot of self discovery comes from being outside.”

—Christine DePetrillo, fifth grade teacher



Oksana Struk/Stackphoto



courtesy of Christine DePetrillo

“Animals are non-judgmental,” explains Frydkowski, who is completing a master’s thesis on the topic. She says the experience “lowers a child’s stress and raises self-esteem,” telling the story of a handler and a dog named Molly sitting with a boy as he reads aloud. When the child came to a difficult word, such as “frighten,” the handler interjected, “Tell Molly what ‘frighten’ means; she doesn’t know that word.” The boy responded with an impromptu definition. Molly is so relaxed that on occasion her eyes gently close. At this point, the boy inquired, “Is she sleeping?” The handler replied, “Oh no, she’s just shutting her eyes so she can listen to you that much better.”

Many of the books the children select to read are about animals. “You can build a whole lot around it,” says Frydkowski, “since two hours of instruction in humane education are mandated in New York City public schools.” This mandate is, for all intents and purposes, ignored. Nevertheless, if Frydkowski one day succeeds in her dream, many New York City children will be able to do something they have never done before—read, relax and have fun interacting with animals, all at the same time.

“I hardly ever see kids on bikes anymore,” observes Christine DePetrillo, a fifth grade teacher at Old Country Road School, in Smithfield, R.I. Worried that children are spending too much time in front of computers and less time outside exploring the natural world, she sometimes assigns her students to sit in their backyards and write down what they notice. “I teach a lot about nature and science. I use it when I talk about writing. A lot of self-discovery comes from being outside.”

Taking an interdisciplinary approach is often the only way that teachers can interweave animal topics into their curricula. To this end, DePetrillo’s students have been performing for the past few years in a play she wrote about endangered animals around the world. She has designed lessons around the play to include research, poetry and non-fiction writing, public speaking, poster art, choreography, music and science; they begin preparing months in advance for their performance in June. When the big day arrives, all 300 children in the school sit hushed in the school auditorium. “There’s not a sound!” says DePetrillo. “It’s so different from anything else the school does.”

Opposite page: A young girl practices reading aloud with the assistance of a registered therapy dog in the R.E.A.D. program. Dogs and their handlers work as teams, going to schools, libraries and other settings to serve as reading companions for children. Above: DePetrillo’s fifth grade students practice and perform a school-wide play about animals from around the world.



courtesy of Kathy Zeigenfus

Every year since 1994, Kathy Zeigenfus' students at Ocean City Primary School in Ocean City, N.J. have raised funds for the Save the Manatee Club. In fact, manatees permeate nearly every part of her second grade curriculum—math questions, puppet plays, map reading, core literature reading, science and art. Students design and sell t-shirts, canvas bags or cookbooks, and then use the money to each “adopt” a manatee. Over the years, Zeigenfus estimates that she and her students have raised nearly \$25,000 for the cause.



courtesy of Kathy Zeigenfus

“Animals are a bridge. Their presence is very calming.”

—Kris Mayerle, special education teacher

In addition to teaching reading, writing, science, math and social studies, Denise Waterman instills in her third graders lessons that draw from thousands of years of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) culture. At the Onondaga Nation School on the Onondaga Nation Territory, just south of Syracuse, N.Y., the guiding philosophy entails instructing students to use “the good mind.” Imbedded within these traditional teachings, she explains, is a respect for animals and nature.



Denise Waterman

Waterman's students learn a creation story in which all the animals lament that there is no land; everywhere there is only water. Painted Turtle suggests they swim to the floor of the lake and raise up some mud. All the animals try and fail. Then, the humble Muskrat brings back some mud in his claws, but sadly dies in the process. The animals spread the mud on Painted Turtle's back and a little island begins to grow. “All the winter tales, such as ‘How Bear Lost his Tale,’ are still taught. We still do that,” Waterman says.

The Thanksgiving Address is another integral part of Onondaga culture and education, so it figures prominently in Waterman's lessons. In reciting the address, thanks is given to the natural world—the Waters, the Fish, the Plants, the Animals, the Trees, the Birds, the Sun and the Stars. “Such stories keep alive the reality that animals and plants belong to related families and that a communication between the families is essential for a virtuous life,” said educator and author Four Arrows (Don Trent Jacobs) in a presentation he gave at the American Education Research Association Conference in 2002. “They remind us that not even love, the ultimate virtue, can flourish unless it is connected to earth.”

Above: Two girls from Waterman's class smile for the camera.



ANIMAL EARN (AAV)/Laura Duchesse

Don't worry, Ms. P. If you get put in jail, we'll come bail you out!” exclaim the students of G.W. Childs Elementary School in Philadelphia, Penn., in support of art teacher Maria Pandolfi, who often protests for human and animal rights and brings her passion for civic engagement into the school community. Her students have volunteered with Artists for Animals, signed petitions to stop testing on primates, helped host the Fab Rat Festival, and made toys for animals at the city shelter. This winter marks the completion of a large mural in a busy hallway of her school, featuring numerous animals and quotes from Gandhi and Martin Luther King. The mural was designed by one of Pandolfi's star students, Daemon Welcome, shown here during the early stages of the project.



courtesy of Magaly Madrid



courtesy of Magaly Madrid

Buddy the Chihuahua (left) and Olga the German shepherd (above) are two of the rescued and re-homed dogs who help Madrid (center, left) teach children from Citrus Grove Elementary School powerful messages about healing broken hearts.

After just a few minutes talking with Magaly Madrid, it is impossible not to notice the confidence and enthusiasm that emanate from everything she does. Now working full-time as a fourth grade teacher at the Start Young Finish Strong Children's Academy in Miami, Fla., she already has a wealth of experience in humane education. Most notably, she has created the Empathy Project, a holistic, bilingual humane education program and 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for youth in grades K-12, as well as adults.

While earning her teaching degree, Madrid volunteered at an afterschool juvenile delinquent center in Miami. There, she worked with a group of a dozen youth, many of whom were struggling with issues related to anger, violence, grief and low self-esteem. In response, she taught them ways to understand their own feelings by “exploring relationships with other people, animals and the planet.” She began by bringing rescued dogs and their guardians to class as guests. “Having rescued dogs in the classroom serves as a living example of overcoming one's past and returning nonviolent responses,” Madrid says. Sure enough, the students started opening up.

In class, she talked about gangs and dog fighting. She showed video news clips of the recent Michael Vick case and assigned her students to read Vick's court papers. “What would you tell Mike Vick if he were here right now?” she asked them, and had each respond by writing Vick a letter.

Madrid has brought her vision and determination to summer camps and elementary schools throughout Miami. Recently, she partnered with Bruce Peru, a non-profit grassroots organization in her birthplace of Lima, Peru that builds and staffs schools for children living on the streets. Madrid is also the program director of the Miami chapter of the Healing Species, a multi-state humane education program that focuses on character education and violence prevention in children, and serves as the board secretary and chair for the Education Committee of the United Nations Association, Greater Miami Chapter. 🐾

“I wait for that ‘teachable moment’ when a student brings up a hot issue, such as animal testing, prairie dogs or factory farming, then we discuss it. I like to set it up that way. I believe as educators we have to teach our students to be global thinkers.”

—Lynee Zajac Beck, earth science and physics teacher

Engagement of the heart deepens engagement of the mind.”

—Parker Palmer, educator and author of *The Courage to Teach*

Smithfield Chairman Named Biggest Grinch

Agribusiness giant Smithfield Foods, notorious for causing animal suffering on a vast scale, is damaging the lives of humans as well. National Jobs with Justice has deemed Smithfield Chairman Joseph Luter III its 2007 “Grinch of the Year”—described as the national figure who does the most harm to working families—for permitting workers to be “injured, harassed, intimidated and threatened by Smithfield management.” The company’s facility in southeastern North Carolina, which is the largest pork slaughterhouse in the world, is also reportedly one of the most dangerous work sites in the United States. 🐾

Polar Bear Decision Delayed

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has delayed its decision on whether to list polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The decision, originally due on January 9, 2008, will be based on evidence presented in September 2007 reports from a US Geological Survey to answer three major questions: how much ice is melting, how fast is it melting, and how will this affect polar bears? New methodologies were used in the research, and FWS Director Dale Hall says officials need more time to make an “informed decision.” Already listed as “vulnerable” by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), polar bear have been deemed a difficult case because of poor data on the species’ population numbers, as well as difficulties in predicting the future implications of climate change. 🐾



Zoological Society of London/ZSL London Zoo

Scientists Document Rare Species in Gobi Desert

A petite nocturnal mammal with very large ears, appropriately known as the long-eared jerboa, has been caught on camera in the Gobi desert for what is likely the first time. The harsh weather of its natural habitat in the deserts of Mongolia and China, combined with the size and nocturnal nature of the “mysterious” species, has made it difficult to study. The footage shows that the long-eared jerboa prefers to spend daylight hours in underground tunnels below the sand, and it consumes mostly insects. The greatly endangered animal is on the IUCN Red List, and scientists documenting its existence are trying to determine a long-term action plan for its protection. 🐾

Dolphin Importers Charged

Dominica’s Office of the Prosecutor for the Environment has filed charges against Tropical Parks, a company that allegedly imported four bottlenose dolphins from Cuba without the required permits. “[A]ll evidence available” denouncing the company has been filed for the Environmental Prosecutor to review. Though two dolphins died while being held in captivity at the Tropical Parks facility in 2007, the company continues to insist upon the importing of more animals. 🐾

Surfer Saved from Shark... by Dolphins

In the waters of Monterey, Calif.’s Marina State Park, a great white shark attacked surfer Todd Endris on the morning of August 28. His back and right leg were badly injured after three hits from the shark—and he would have likely died if not for a pod of friendly bottlenose dolphins who formed a protective ring around Endris as he got himself to shore.

This amazing story is not the first time dolphins’ protective acts have been reported. Just last year, four New Zealand lifeguards were saved by a group of dolphins forming a similar ring, and other reports of the intelligent animals’ aid to humans go back to the days of Ancient Greece.

While Endris is still recovering from his injuries through physical therapy, he does not blame the shark for his plight. The shark is still living in those same waters, which are also a marine wildlife refuge. “I wouldn’t want to go after the shark anyway,” the surfer told reporters. “We’re in his realm, not the other way around.” 🐾

“Missing Link” Reveals Whales’ Evolution from Land-Dwelling Animal

New examination of fossil evidence discovered in the Kashmir region of India shows that whales, dolphins and porpoises are descended from the *Indohyus*—a land-based, deer-like animal that lived 48 million years ago. This “missing link” is likely to have mostly lived on land, but escaped predators by going underwater. While its outward physical appearance is nothing like that of its modern-day relatives, the species has similar skull and ear structures to early whales and other marine animals. In an effort to learn more about the whale’s evolution from land to sea creature, Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine professor and study leader Hans Thewissen obtained rock samples from the collection of the late Indian geologist A. Rango Rao. These samples contained complete fossils of the *Indohyus* species. 🐾

Smuggled Snakes Discovered in Vietnam

Sixty boxes containing rat snakes—a protected species—were seized by Vietnamese authorities at Hanoi’s Noi Bai Airport in mid-January. Falsely declared as live fish, over a ton of the non-venomous snakes were surrounded by ice water-filled plastic bags and shipped as cargo on a Vietnam Airlines flight from the international airport in Bangkok, Thailand. The smuggled animals were taken to a nearby facility called the Wild Animal Rescue Center after they were discovered, but many of them have since died.

Unfortunately, this is just the latest episode in what seems to be a trend in Southeast Asia. Just a month prior to the incident, over 1,500 lbs of dead snakes labeled as fresh fish were sent from Malaysia to Vietnam via Thai Airways. However, the package was sent to an unspecified address and not collected. Eventually, the Noi Bai Airport’s Goods Service Company opened the package to uncover the dead animals. This transport is illegal, but it continues to flourish because snake parts are prized for their use in traditional medicine. 🐾



Tom Boatwright

Dr. Shirley McGreal plays with a gibbon friend at her facility.

Dr. Shirley McGreal Honored for Primate Protection Efforts

International Primate Protection League founder and director Shirley McGreal was awarded the Order of the British Empire in December 2007 for her longstanding commitment to protecting primates. As one of the highest honors that can be bestowed to an individual by the Queen of England, the Order of the British Empire observes “distinguished service to the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service and work with charitable and welfare organizations of all kinds.” Dr. McGreal, involved in primate rescue since the early 1970s, is known for uncovering illicit trade in primates and doggedly pushing for prosecution of the perpetrators. 🐾



Beth Hauptle

Rows of long, windowless buildings, each holding 2,000 to 3,000 pigs, can be seen among the cornfields of the Iowa countryside. Inside these confinement facilities, the crowded animals barely have room to move.

THE GREAT PIG DEBATE: How CAFOs Stalk the Future President

by DAVE MURPHY

Dave Murphy is a sixth generation Iowan and an advocate for sustainable agriculture. When not roaming the Iowa countryside, he spends his time in Okoboji and Des Moines.

Nixon would have thought it undignified. Agnew, a former Baltimore County executive, would have had it down pat, but Truman, a simple farm boy, got it right.

Presidents and presidential candidates have been traveling through Iowa for the past three decades, attempting to court the native vote and win trust by showing an understanding of all things Iowan. One of those, the almighty hog, happens to not only be a chief Iowa export, but also the source of its leading political controversy.

What was once told by President Harry Truman as an idle joke during the Iowa plowmen's competition in 1948,

exactly 60 years ago, now seems like sage advice.

"No man should be allowed President who does not understand hogs, or hasn't been around a manure pile," said the son of a farmer and livestock dealer, two-term Missouri Senator and 33rd President of the United States.

And coming through Iowa on the way to the White House has given plenty of candidates that opportunity in the past four races for the nation's top office.

KING CAFO

While corn is still king as a commodity crop in Iowa, especially since the rise of ethanol, hogs—specifically

hog confinement facilities—are the reigning political issue for rural voters in this Midwestern state. Known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), hog confinement is an issue that has plagued the Iowa political scene for over the past 15 years. And with each presidential election cycle, a whole new round of national candidates and their staffs are exposed to one of the hottest and most contentious issues in Iowa politics.

Years of mounting and conclusive evidence has shown that industrial animal confinement has caused serious air and water pollution, killed millions of fish across the nation, helped push small family farmers out of the business

of tending livestock, harmed the health and economic wellbeing of neighbors and nearby communities, and posed the threat of antibiotic-resistant superbugs. Unfortunately, politicians in the state of Iowa have largely taken a pass at creating meaningful legislation that seriously addresses the real economic, environmental and public health threats that factory farms pose to their constituents.

As a result, Iowans have taken to stalking presidential candidates for their position on this important local issue, asking their positions on hog confinement at town hall meetings, pressing staff members for their candidate's stance, and hoping that a strong voice from the national level would actually stiffen the spines of Iowa's elected officials.

Up to this point, however, Iowans remain disappointed.

IOWA'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Despite a number of prominent national politicians tromping through the state, professing outrage over the environmental degradation and lack of a democratic solution, both parties remain stalemated over a simple resolution. A solution proposed by the majority of Iowa's environmental, family farm and social justice groups is known as "local control." Local elected officials, namely the county board of supervisors, would have a say (or veto power) over where new confinements would be built within their boundaries, according to a set of determined criteria, i.e., proximity to wetlands, major water source, homes, schools, or the possibility of decreasing community economic development. Sixty-four percent of Iowans agree with local control, according to a 2007 poll by the *Des Moines Register*.

However, the state's leading lobby groups, led by the Des Moines-based Farm Bureau insurance company, the Iowa Pork Producers, and an industry front known as the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, have succeeded in stopping legislation with a series of well-timed political contributions, threats of running opponents against local control supporters, and millions of dollars

poured into PR and lobbying efforts that stifle any true reform of the state's laws.

Prior to the 2006 election, the issue of hog confinement and local control had typically played down party lines. In 1995, Iowans had lost local control, when Iowa House of Representatives File 519 was passed by a Republican-led House and signed into law by Republican Governor Terry Branstad.

Since then, Democrats in rural areas have run on the promises of local control. When Democrats won the House, Senate and Governorship in the 2006 election, something not done in Iowa in over 40 years, Iowans thought they had finally found relief. Sadly, Democratic leadership has fallen victim to the same lobbying tactics used by the Republicans they replaced—and Governor Culver, who ran on local control during the election, remained largely mum on the issue during his first year.

While it may seem odd to outsiders that hogs are such a heated issue, Iowa's history as the leading producer of hogs (slaughtering roughly 32.9 million in 2006 alone) and a change in production methods over the last 30 years has created a collision course at the intersection of agriculture, the environment, economics, public health and politics.

With that many hogs in Iowa, a state with a population of 2.9 million, there are over 11.3 pigs per person and over 5,000 hog confinement facilities distributed unevenly around the state. When one learns that hogs can create up to four times as much waste as humans, there is an understanding behind the growing concern over Iowa's hog waste problem. A recent article in *The New York Times* calculated that hogs in Iowa produce over 50 million tons of raw waste annually, or 16.7 tons of manure per Iowan. This is equivalent to every person in the state having 11.4 Toyota Priuses stacked on their front lawns. By concentrating more hogs in smaller and smaller areas, the CAFO industry has succeeded in creating an industrial stench and pollution problem that has outraged Iowa's normally pleasant citizenry.

For over 100 years, Iowa has been the nation's leading supplier of ham,

bacon and ribs. With its rich topsoil and abundance of corn, from the time before the Civil War until just after Vietnam, pigs were raised in what is now called "the old fashioned way," roaming freely on pastures or temporarily housed in barns during inclement weather—acting as nature intended pigs to act.

In the 1970s, however, the rise of enclosed buildings with crowded stalls, slatted concrete floors, and massive open cesspools of feces and urine began to steadily outpace the old method of raising hogs. Today, one can drive across the entire state on back roads without seeing a single pig, something Iowa's ancestors would have thought virtually impossible.

In place of the old pigpen, "modern" confinement systems raise hogs using industrial feeding formulas, genetic standardization, and millions of tons of antibiotics. For rural Iowans and those driving through the state, this has meant getting used to a gag-inducing stench as they drive down its roads and highways.

For politicians, it has meant dealing with an ever-increasing vocal population that has become tired of Iowa's political class dragging its feet on what is seen as an issue of environmental concern, economic justice, democratic fairness, and growing public health concerns.

PIGS AND PRESIDENTS

Like clockwork, every four years, Iowans become tired of their voices not being heard by local politicians and try to bend the ear of someone who could, in very short order, become the most powerful person in the nation.

In 1996, former Nixon speechwriter and longtime political columnist Pat Buchanan found religion on the hog issue and was considered "a defender of small farmers against hog confinement units." In 1998, when asked what he would do to solve the problem, then New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani artfully dodged the question on his second trip through the state, saying, "It's something that I would have to spend a lot of time looking at and studying."

By 1999, then-Vice President Al Gore promised to create "national



standards” for industrial animal confinements and took to listening seriously to the concerns of sustainable farm advocates if elected President. However, challenger and New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley countered Gore by saying he had failed to do enough to help family farmers during the Clinton Administration. Bradley himself promised to reduce concentration in the meatpacking and hog confinement industries.

During the 2004 election cycle, rural advocates took a host of Democratic candidates, including Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich and John Kerry, on “CAFO tours” during their separate visits. When the convoy of trucks and SUVs stopped near a bin of dead hogs rotting in the hot summer sun and its doors were opened, several of the candidates, their staff and press members

nearly vomited from the stench. Kucinich’s clothes smelled so horrible afterward that he had to change his suit before attending his next political event.

That same year, Democratic candidate and Missouri Representative Dick Gephardt included the hog confinement issue in a television ad, saying, “I’ve always opposed corporate hog lots and supported a ban on packer ownership of cattle... As president, I’ll fight for America’s family farmers.”

THE LATEST POSITIONS

The 2008 election cycle has not been any different than its predecessors, with plenty of conversations taking place on the hog issue by out-of-state politicians. Just as in past elections, all Democratic candidates—including Biden, Clinton, Dodd, Edwards, Kucinich and Obama—came out in

favor of local control. Democrats are doing most of the talking regarding concerns over the environment and the plight of the family farmer. Republicans, on the other hand, have kept their focus on the war, immigration and that eternal pig-in-a-poke: taxes. Of those Democratic candidates remaining in the field, their positions and past deeds are summarized below.

HILLARY CLINTON: Starts early, finishes last

As a native of Illinois, former First Lady of Arkansas, and current New York Senator, there is no doubt that Hillary Clinton has a solid understanding of agricultural issues, as well as the threat industrial hog confinement poses to the environment, rural communities and small family farmers.

Having had a good voting record on agricultural issues as a New York Senator, Clinton came to the confinement issue with a bit of a mixed political history. Executives from Tyson Foods, the world’s largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork, contributed heavily to her husband’s gubernatorial and presidential campaigns. She also had her own connection to Tyson through a \$100,000 commodity trade on cattle futures, with a Tyson lawyer acting as her commodities broker—a fact that worried some environmental activists from the start.

When Clinton showed up to the Iowa State Fair and donned an apron while flipping pork chops at the Iowa Pork Producers’ tent, attempting to win a place in the conservative hearts of the state’s 8,700 pork producers, it rankled the ire of rural activists even further.

Iowa’s dedicated rural base was further irritated in the weeks before the January 3 caucuses when Clinton appointed Joy Philippi, a recent former head of the National Pork Producers Council who is seen as a cheerleader for corporate agriculture, as co-chair of “Rural Americans for Hillary.”

Two days after that debacle, Clinton finally came out in favor of local control over CAFO-siting decisions in an interview with the *Des Moines Register*, saying she believes large livestock operations can be hazardous to public health and the environment. “This is an issue I care deeply about,” she said, describing her feelings as “long-standing” and saying the topic had not been one that Iowans had mentioned during her many visits.

While many Iowans were glad to hear Clinton had come out in favor of local control, few believed it was a topic that was never mentioned to her, especially since her campaign had issued a policy brief in October that said, “In order to protect our health, particularly children’s health, the environment, and the livelihood of small farmers, Hillary is deeply concerned about hog lots...[s]he also strongly supports federal rules to control air and water pollution from corporate factory farms.”

Clinton has also been fortunate enough to garner the support of Bobby Kennedy Jr., a stalwart environmental defender and a champion on the CAFO issue. But even with the Kennedy blessing, Iowa’s rural voters were too skittish to throw their support behind a worthy candidate whose campaign could not quite get their message on CAFOs straight.

JOHN EDWARDS: Starts behind, finishes strong

John Edwards, former Senator of North Carolina—the nation’s second leading hog producing state—knew a thing or two about CAFOs before coming to Iowa. In fact, much of his second campaign through the state hinged on his populist rhetoric and his promise to take on “corporate interests,” especially those of industrial hog confinement. This gained him a loyal following of rural Democrats, family farmers and environmentalists demanding change.

Edwards’ commitment to the issue went so far that his campaigners even took to handing out bumper stickers that said “Hogs for Edwards” and walked in a parade to the Iowa State Fair grounds with a trailer full of hogs and a banner that read, “Be Kind to Swine.”

Of all the candidates, Edwards has proposed the most progressive solution to the CAFO issue. If elected, he pledges to impose a moratorium on the construction of any new confinement facilities. In addition, Edwards promised strict enforcement of anti-monopoly laws, especially those aimed at mergers of packinghouses and unfair price discrimination against independent hog producers.

The problem with Edwards’ promises is that they stand in stark contrast to his voting record in the US Senate. He twice voted against a ban on packer ownership of livestock. Edwards also voted against an amendment by Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone to eliminate subsidies to giant hog confinements, as well as a bill to eliminate caps on subsidies for confinement operators. Despite this terrible voting record, Iowa voters appreciated Edwards’ admission of past mistakes and the newfound conviction he showed in addressing the issue.

BARACK OBAMA: From nowhere to the top of his class

Walking into Iowa from the Land of Lincoln, Senator Barack Obama faced an uncertain future in his neighboring state, as Iowans are more likely to be skeptical of the folks who live across the river. Despite having been born in Hawaii and serving as an urban State Senator from Chicago, the relative national politics newcomer quickly proved to be a deft study on agricultural issues.

While Obama had taken some Illinois State Senate votes regarding confinement, including supporting legislation that set tougher pollution limits on nitrogen, phosphorous, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, his true education on confinement came from the nearly 50 rural town hall meetings that his campaign held in Iowa over the summer and fall months. Obama and his staff got together and listened to the concerns of family farmers from all around the state.

The CAFO problem in Iowa is one that Obama thinks needs action. After meeting with farm and environmental leaders, he came out in favor of local control and called for the strict enforcement of the Clean Air Act and Superfund “in exchange for simply reporting air emissions.” Obama also supports limiting the amount of subsidies that industrial CAFOs receive and believes that large corporate hog polluters should be required to pay for their own pollution—and not be bailed out at the taxpayer’s expense. These policies helped him secure his historic victory on that cold night in January.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

There is little doubt that the candidates’ respective journeys through Iowa may finally deliver us a leader who has gained the wisdom to live up to Harry Truman’s maxim on hogs. If so, on that first day after taking the oath of office, the next President of the United States may think twice before eating a piece of bacon inside the White House kitchen. And hopefully during these intervening months, Iowans will finally convince their local politicians to act wisely on this issue as well. 🐾

OPEN PIT MINING: The Growing Threat to Alaska's Bristol Bay Ecosystem



Photos: Erin McStrick



Threats to Alaska's wilderness—such as global warming, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and destructive logging—have made news headlines in recent years, but there is another dangerous situation that has mostly been kept under wraps. Currently in the exploration phase, the Pebble Gold and Copper Mine Project plans to create the biggest open pit mine in North America, as well as the largest dam in the world.

The plan has been mounting since it was first presented in 2001 by the Canadian company Northern Dynasty Minerals. In 2007, Northern Dynasty formed a 50:50 partnership with London-based Anglo American, the global mining leader. While they prepare to apply for development permits in 2009, these companies plan to spend \$100 million on exploratory drilling in 2008.

"Open pit mining" refers to the extraction of minerals close to the surface of the earth through an open pit—as opposed to underground mining, which requires tunneling into the earth for minerals. The pebble mine would be two miles wide, several thousand feet deep, and require 58,000 one-ton blasts every year. The proposal also includes the

building of an underground mine, the removal of massive amounts of water from Upper Talarik Creek and the Koktuli River (both important fish habitats), and the construction of the world's largest dam to hold all of the associated waste. Less than 1 percent of the extracted material resulting from this destruction will hold any value.

Over 99 percent of rock in the giant dam will end up as "tailings," nothing but leftover material. Tailings dams contain toxic ponds full of pollutants including cyanide, sulfuric acid, arsenic, and a slew of heavy metals. The risk of toxic spills and leakages from these unconventionally sized dams is enormous, particularly because this area is an earthquake-prone zone and in close proximity to the active volcano, Mt. Iliamna.

The proposed site for Pebble Mine is in beautiful Southwest Alaska, near Lake Iliamna and Lake Clark, at the headwaters of the Mulchatna/Nushagak River and Newhalen/Kvichak River drainages—which both feed into Bristol Bay. The area is currently undeveloped, with no roads, no cars, and no telephone poles. There are simply

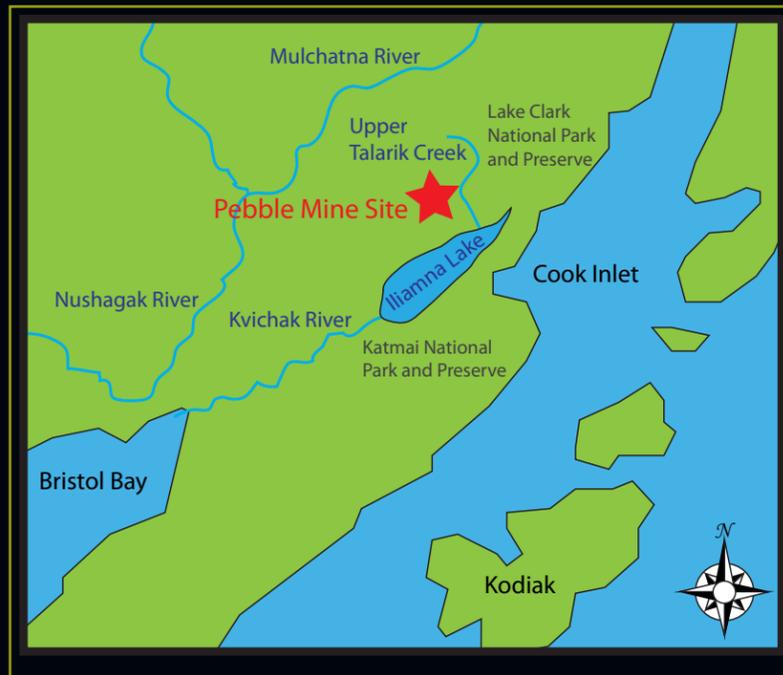
miles of rolling tundra, lush forests and rivers; pure wilderness surrounded by a handful of native communities. Northern Dynasty says it will construct an open pit mine in the Pebble Valley and dam and reroute nearby rivers to contain all of the toxic waste.

Because the site is so remote, simply providing power and access to the unfettered area could have significant negative ecological effects. The current plans to power the project involve a submarine cable stretching across the Cook Inlet. The construction of a 104-mile access road is also planned. The road would fragment aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats, connecting the mine to the port site in the Cook Inlet and intersecting roughly 100 streams along the way. It is estimated that the road will have a footprint of 12.5 square miles; however, the long-term effect will be significantly greater because it will open the inaccessible areas to human traffic.

*"Less than 1 percent of
the extracted material ...
will hold any value."*

The unique Bristol Bay region is renowned for possessing the largest salmon runs on the planet, and for housing hearty populations of rainbow trout, grizzly bears, moose, caribou, myriad migratory birds, and one of only two colonies of freshwater seals in the world. The planned water removal, habitat destruction, and the huge risk of water pollution could be disastrous for the entire ecosystem.

Above, from left: A moose grazes along the bank of Alaska's Mulchata River. In this pristine ecosystem, labrador tea flowers grow on the tundra. A bald eagle rests on a log near the Nushagak River.



Below, left to right: Caribou habitats would be put at stake if the Pebble Mine project is realized. The Nushagak River and its surrounding landscapes are home to myriad diverse species. A Bonaparte's gull takes off from the top of a spruce tree near the Mulchatna River.

mining activities have polluted over 40 percent of the headwaters in the Western United States. Although most of the lower 48 have been overdeveloped, Alaska stands as a wildlife haven, drawing almost 2 million tourists a year. A large number of Alaskans are against the plans, though many are lured in by talk of short-term profits that overshadow the unsustainable nature of the mine. Fortunately, a diverse group of stakeholders including local Alaskan natives, environmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishing groups, and Members of Congress (including the typically pro-development Republican Senator Ted Stevens) are vocal opponents of the plan.

The fight for Alaska's wild places has forged on for years, and neither side seems to be faltering. If the Pebble Mine project moves forward, the door would be opened for other similar mining projects in Bristol Bay. This outcome would not only threaten Alaska's wildlife and its unadulterated landscape, but it would also contribute to the rapid disappearance of true wilderness in the United States. 🐾

Copper is one of the most toxic heavy metals to fish, and it can limit the production of algae—an essential food source for aquatic organisms, whose decline would affect other species higher up the food chain. Even small amounts of copper can destroy a salmon's olfactory sense, which can leave a fish dangerously disoriented because of its role in navigating streams and distinguishing predators from prey. Copper can also impair the fish immune response.

Decreased fish productivity due to habitat loss is another worrisome outcome. The removal of 70 million gallons of water a day from the Koktuli River and the Upper Talarik Creek threaten the salmon and other fish species that use the creeks for spawning, rearing and overwintering. Since salmon are andronomous and characteristically return to their birth place to spawn, any destruction of their habitat could halt reproduction. Habitat loss is a major concern for the Bristol Bay's native wildlife, with the likely destruction of denning sites for grizzly bears, nesting and feeding sites for migratory birds, and feeding and calving sites for the Mulchatna caribou herd population.

Even if precautions are taken, it is inevitable that fine material such as dust will wash into the waterways and begin to accumulate, introducing toxins and degrading water quality. The Environmental Protection Agency has found that

“The planned water removal, habitat destruction, and the huge risk of water pollution could be disastrous for the entire ecosystem.”



photos: Erin McKittrick

MAN'S FOLLY MAGNIFIES NATURE'S POWER



Steve Ringman

by TIM HERMACH,
PRESIDENT, NATIVE FOREST COUNCIL

This winter, the seasonal storms came as they always do to the Northwestern region of the United States. In early December 2007, heavy rains and wind buffeted the fragmented forest landscapes and clear-cuts that now make up our public and private lands, snapping off the weak, fast growing, genetically altered trees that have replaced our once-great forests. Landslides and debris flows cascaded down the steep, barren slopes.

Further downstream, the mud, trees, stumps and other debris plowed into bridges and plugged culverts—creating temporary dams, which then burst, wiping out houses and roads. Some of the debris dams did not break, and those remaining held back millions of cubic yards of mud and debris, choking streambeds, flooding farmlands, killing livestock, and destroying infrastructure, businesses, houses and barns.

Over the last century, logging has been an ongoing activity on the heavily forested lands that make up the Pacific Northwest rainforests and the dryer inter-mountain regions. Logging interests, in an endless pursuit of money, and with

“Nature has a way of sculpting our lives and forcing the growth of our compassion and empathy toward others.”

a callous disregard for the harm to others, have engaged in extreme logging practices and a form of asset stripping. This practice has left the land looking like a war zone and has stripped its protections from both the sun and rains that regularly fall in the Northwest. Strip-mine logging, when combined with the steep slopes common in the region, causes the number and severity of landslides and mudflows to skyrocket.

The clear-cutting also disturbs and compacts the soils, and the water runs off into the streams and rivers much faster and muddier than if the forest canopy was still in place. Erosion of roadbeds and logged areas sends millions of cubic yards

Above: Clear-cutting hillsides near the Chehalis River caused tons of earth and vegetation to wash into the Stillman Creek tributary.



Steve Ringman

Only the top of a Home Depot is visible due to devastating flooding last year in the Pacific Northwest.

of mud and sediment into our streams and rivers, wrecking drinking water sources, choking spawning beds, and filling reservoirs while reducing their mitigation and flood control capacity. This acceleration of the runoff creates a rapid spiking of river levels and hence does not allow much time for the farmers, residents and businesses in its path to prepare or evacuate.

Some preliminary estimates of monetary damages in five western Washington counties this year exceed \$175 million. However, the figure is

just a fraction of the total dollar value of damages done by the most recent storm alone. Estimates of the damage just to the Tillamook railroad bed, located in northwest Oregon, were thought to be as much as \$30 million. Losses included hundreds of farm animals and family pets. One dairy lost over 50 of its specially bred milking goats. The tragedy of a situation like this is surreal.

Nature has a way of sculpting our lives and forcing the growth of our compassion and empathy toward others. There are many stories of tragic

situations in which no amount of valor could stand in the face of the destructive torrents washing downstream. Numerous acts of heroism were successful. Many people, some holding small children in their arms, were rescued from their rooftops by helicopters and boats during the rapid rise of the floodwater.

But there was something other than the force of nature at work during the tragic events that unfolded during that storm in December. The destructive aspects of logging have been well-known for centuries. We have known that clear-cuts dramatically increase the number and severity of landslides. No one should be surprised that areas downstream from heavily logged lands will be adversely impacted in a storm event like this. These forest practices have been destroying complex ecosystems and creating huge swaths of semi-sterile forest ever since they were implemented.

In the 1990s, the near-extinction of wildlife and fish stocks finally resulted in enough litigation to slow down the process on the public lands. Unfortunately, the private logging interests bribed politicians, mounted enormous advertising and propaganda campaigns, and provided anti-environmental “science” curriculum to

“These forest practices have been destroying complex ecosystems and creating huge swaths of semi-sterile forest ever since they were implemented.”

our public schools, then continued to strip their lands of trees much faster than they are able to grow back—setting the stage for events like the ones that wreaked havoc in Washington and Oregon. The logging industry counts on communities pulling together with goodwill and faith in these times of disaster. It tries to deflect its culpability by saying that these are natural events, and the public should not overstate the impact of corporate practices.

The question is how can we possibly overstate the damage that the logging companies have done and continue to do? They have slashed and burned hundreds of millions of acres of land, public and private, nationwide. They are putting humanity’s survival at risk and driving many species to the brink of extinction. They have devastated the commercial salmon fishing industry by wiping out the spawning beds where the salmon lay their eggs. They have raked in billions, if not trillions, of our tax dollars and wealth as hidden subsidies while they strip our country of its assets.

And they want more. The Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service both have plans in the works that would increase logging on our public lands by 200 to 300 percent. At a time when our forests are more important than ever for their life support system attributes, the corporate interests and their political lackeys are pushing hard to clear-cut the last of our irreplaceable ancient rainforests into “genetically improved” monoculture fiber farms that amount to nothing more than row crops in a form of soil mining.

The time has come to say “enough.” As we begin the New Year, we can take

a stand for our public forests and the wild beings that live inside of them. Our forests are the lungs of the planet, supporting all terrestrial life. It is time to stop all logging on our public lands and create strict rules banning export and regulating the practice on private lands, eliminating the damage that it does to our forests and watersheds. By doing this now, we will also lessen the damage to our farms and cities when the inevitable winter storms roll across these landscapes. We will never stop all the damage done by extreme weather, but we can be responsible for and minimize the self-inflicted part of the destruction.

No corporation or person has the right to make money by stripping the commons and putting others in harm’s way—downhill, downstream, downwind or even downtime. The loggers have known for hundreds of years about the tragic damages they inflict. But with 95 percent of the native forests strip-mined and clear-cut, it is obvious that not many of them care. Teddy Roosevelt gave them an earful when he set up the Forest Reserves, saying that there is no more deadly, destructive or dishonest industry in America. Loggers lie, cheat, steal and worse—and they will take our very last tree if we let them. 🐾



John Volpe/University of Alberta

Salmon Farming Threatens Wild Populations

As the federal government and the aquaculture industry push for expanded fish farming along coastal areas, a new study reports that the intensive farming of salmon is putting several wild salmon populations at risk of extinction. It is the most detailed report ever to be done on the issue—pointing out a direct connection between the aquaculture industry’s rapid growth in the Broughton Archipelago off British Columbia and the sharp decline in its wild pink salmon due to an infestation in open-net salmon pens by sea lice. Though older salmon can handle the parasite, young wild salmon migrating through these areas are much more vulnerable. “In the natural system, the youngest salmon are not exposed to sea lice because the adult salmon that carry the parasite are offshore,” said study co-author and Salmon Coast Field Station director Alexandra Morton. “[F]ish farms cause a deadly collision between the vulnerable young salmon and sea lice. They are not equipped to survive this, and they don’t.” 🐾

Vulnerable young wild salmon traveling on migration routes that pass through open-net salmon farming pens are increasingly being killed off by the sea lice parasite.



Russian Doos/Marine Photobank

Oil Harms Birds and Marine Species

In what may have been the worst environmental disaster in the Black Sea region in years, 18-foot waves in the Kerch Strait off the southern coast of Russia sank five ships and an oil tanker this November. Approximately 2,000 tons of fuel oil, in addition to sulfur, leaked into the water. In addition to several human fatalities, early estimates reported the deaths of 30,000 birds and 9,000 fish. The “environmentally sensitive” area is along an important migration route, and 11 of the bird species impacted are already endangered. Cleanup will go on for months, and officials have said the effects will last for up to a decade. That same week in the United States, a ship in the San Francisco Bay scraped a bridge and began leaking fuel—eventually causing more damage than any spill in the area in over 10 years. Though events such as these have been reduced due to legislation resulting from the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill, they remain a preventable threat to wildlife around the world. 🐾

After a storm wrecked several ships, large quantities of fuel oil and sulphur leaked into the Kerch Strait—injuring and killing thousands of birds, fish and other marine wildlife.

PART FOUR: China's Illegal Trade Threatens the Environment

As the world's most populous country, with over 1.3 billion people and a burgeoning economy, China is quickly becoming a major player on the world stage. Cities such as Beijing and Shanghai are growing in size and opulence, featuring modern skylines that rival many of those found in America. Unfortunately, China's environmental record is miserable, with few animal protection laws, massive habitat loss and degradation, and severe air pollution. When it comes to wildlife trade, China's consumption of these products has skyrocketed. The growing middle-to-upper class has allowed more people to spend money on wildlife and wildlife products than ever before.

China is now a major destination for illicit elephant ivory—both raw tusks and ivory products. The demand for ivory has soared as more people can afford the cost of this symbol of affluence. In 2006, two large shipments of ivory weighing over 12,500 pounds and representing the tusks of nearly 900 elephants were seized in China and Hong Kong, respectively. Smaller seizures of illegal ivory appear to be routine, with at least two such incidents occurring in January 2007 and another the following month.

Alarming, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in Botswana reported in August 2006 that Chinese nationals have been involved in several cases of elephant poaching. This announcement was preceded by a July 2006 report in the United Kingdom's *Sunday Standard* on the role of Chinese ivory dealers who facilitate the illegal trade in stockpiled Zimbabwean ivory, leading to increased poaching of elephants in neighboring countries to fulfill a seeming bottomless demand.

China's desire for wildlife products is also a threat to turtles, sharks and many species of fish. Turtles are a popular ingredient in many Chinese

meals and are used in traditional Chinese medicine. They are a favorite food served in restaurants and can be bought live at China's supermarkets, where they are often tied up and left to squirm inside of string bags. Turtle head soup, according to a Chinese man interviewed for a February 2007 article in the *Sunday Standard*, is "better than Viagra," due to its alleged aphrodisiac affect. Upward of 20 million turtles are consumed in China each year, often as a delicacy. However, according to dozens of scientific studies, it is impossible to kill a turtle humanely.

To meet the demand for these animals, there are more than 1,000 turtle farms estimated to exist in China. While turtle farming has reportedly reduced the market share of wild turtles in South China from 70 percent in 2000 to 30 percent today, other factors, including the fact that many Southeast Asian turtle populations are greatly depleted, may have also contributed to this shift. Turtle farmers are also now purchasing wild-caught turtles to improve their breeding stock. This places significant new pressure on China's turtle species, which are nearly all threatened, as the effort needed to capture even the rarest wild turtles has become economically worthwhile. Moreover, some turtle farmers are operating illegal turtle laundering operations, selling off wild-caught turtles as farm-raised.

China also has a taste for shark fin soup, an expensive dish that is frequently served during wedding celebrations. Its popularity is contributing to a global decline in many shark species; scientists estimate that 38 to 100 million sharks are being caught annually by the world's fishing fleets. Many are caught intentionally to feed the growing market for shark fins, meat, cartilage and skin. Others die as bycatch. Sharks have their fins cut off while they are still alive, and often they are thrown back into the



Fiona Ayers/Marine PhotoBank

Shark carcasses are crudely tossed aside after their fins are removed for use in shark fin soup.

ocean, where they are unable to swim and destined to die. While China is not solely responsible for the decline in shark populations, its demand is setting a bad example for other countries that have banned the product but do not enforce their laws.

Reef fish are another popular meal in China. Restaurants may stock live reef fish in large tanks, allowing their customers to select which fish they eat. Though considered a delicacy and costing anywhere from \$50 to \$100 per pound, depending on the species, the demand for coral or reef fish has exploded in line with China's economy. Since local fish stocks have been exhausted, restaurant tanks are filled to the rim with exotic fish species collected throughout Southeast Asia, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and as far away as Fiji and Vanuatu, as unsustainable fishing practices used to satiate this demand spread across the Pacific Ocean.

Increasingly rare species, including grouper, snapper and the humphead

wrasse, continue to be collected to please the palates of Chinese consumers. According to a report issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 20 species of grouper are threatened with extinction. As one of the oldest fish inhabiting coral reefs, many do not reach sexual maturity until late in life, making them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Two species of coral trout grouper, a favorite in Hong Kong's live reef fish trade, are subject to extensive and unmanaged fishing pressure. In Malaysia, a study by the World Conservation Union concluded that catches of some grouper species and the endangered Napoleon wrasse declined by 99 percent from 1995 to 2003 as China's demand for reef fish escalated.

Not only is the reef fish trade devastating reef fish species, but the methods of capture—including the use of dynamite and cyanide—are destroying entire reefs that have already been harmed by pollution and global warming. The World Resources Institute reports that 88 percent of Southeast Asia's coral reefs face destruction from overfishing and pollution. Indeed,



Russ Gurney/The Asian Turtle Consortium

Care for the Wild International

Turtle farms all over China are now purchasing wild-caught turtles to improve their breeding stock, further harming the threatened species.

an article in the *International Herald Tribune* claims that large sections of reefs in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia are quickly becoming devoid of marine life because of overfishing and the use of cyanide. This toxin, used to stun the fish to be captured, kills most other marine life, including coral. Only a quarter of the captured fish actually make it live to the restaurants.

It is said that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. America and other developed countries are not without fault, and our environmental records are not stellar. The United States is responsible for causing the extinction or near extinction of hundreds of species, and our consumerist lifestyle has enormous environmental implications throughout the world. China must learn from these mistakes and not repeat them. It cannot continue to hide behind the label of "developing country" to avoid its stewardship responsibilities to the environment. The upcoming 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are being touted as the "green" games; we hope that they usher in a "green" future for China. 🐾



Flugstafffotos

Napoleon Wrasse populations, which have been wiped out almost entirely over the past 15 years, are suffering to satisfy China's appetite for reef fish.



MONGOLIA'S PERILOUS WILDLIFE TRADE

Mongolia—the world's second largest landlocked country—is a place of great beauty and adventure, though rarely a destination for American tourists. It is also a place of extremes, with landscapes ranging from arid deserts to high mountains, and from rich grasslands to vast forests. The country's climate exceeds 100 degrees in the summer, yet falls to -50 degrees in the winter. Though nearly as large as Alaska, Mongolia is home to fewer than 3 million people, making it one of the least densely populated countries in the world. Tragically, illegal trade has decimated its wildlife heritage, once-teeming with myriad species, including saiga antelope, argali sheep, saker falcons, gray wolves, musk deer and marmots.

In "Silent Steppe: The Illegal Wildlife Trade Crisis," a Wildlife Conservation Society report, the causes and consequences of illegal wildlife trade are comprehensively and starkly documented. The numbers of wild species being slaughtered to feed both domestic demand and to satiate China's appetite for wildlife and wildlife products are startling, as are species population declines and the lack of wildlife research or enforcement of the country's wildlife laws.

Life in Mongolia changed practically overnight in 1990, when the Soviet Union—and its economic subsidies—dissolved. Mongolia's northern neighbor had dominated the country's political and economic life for almost 70 years, leaving it adrift with a marginal capacity

to function. Its salvation was its native wildlife, which quickly became a new source of currency. The wildlife's value increased as Mongolia's borders, shared with Russia and China, were thrown open to both legal and illegal trade.

SHOCKING STATISTICS

Mongolia's subspecies of saiga antelope catastrophically declined in only five years, from more than 5,000 to less than 800 animals, to feed China's lucrative traditional medicine market—where saiga horns are believed to have curative powers. Since horns containing blood are most valuable, poachers pursue the animals by car with the intent of striking and forcing them to the ground. An axe is then used to remove the horns from the still-live injured animals, who

Saiga antelope populations have declined dramatically because their parts are popularly used in traditional Chinese medicine. Saker falcons and mule deer are also targeted for the wildlife trade.

eventually bleed to death. Though recent population surveys suggest saiga numbers may have increased to 1,500, the species remains in desperate trouble due to poaching and other threats.

With population numbers falling from an estimated 130,000 in 1986 to no more than 10,000 in 2004, Mongolia's red deer populations have declined by 92 percent. The deer are killed largely for their antlers, which are exported for use in the Traditional Chinese Medicine trade. Male genital organs, fetuses and female deer tails are also traded. At the height of the antler trade, 57,000 tons of blood antlers and 155,000 tons of shed antlers were being shipped annually to China. Mongolia's musk deer, killed for their valuable scent glands or pods for use in Asia's traditional medicine industry, have experienced a sharp decline from their estimated population of 44,000 in 1975, according to biologists. With no surveys in the past 20

years, however, the current population size is unknown.

As a favorite of wealthy American trophy hunters, argali sheep—the largest wild sheep in the world—have been reduced from an estimated 50,000 animals in 1975 to as few as 13,000 in 2001. Additionally, there is a lack of evidence that Mongolia satisfies any of the criteria established to ensure the sustainability of trophy hunting by the US Fish and Wildlife Service when it listed the argali sheep as threatened, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. However, permits to allow the import of sport-hunted argali sheep from Mongolia are issued routinely. The requirement that significant sums of money raised from this hunting (which can cost between \$40,000 and \$70,000) be used for argali conservation has been nearly completely ignored.

The marmot is the species perhaps most dramatically impacted by illegal wildlife trade. Extensively trapped and

hunted for their fur, Mongolian marmot populations that once numbered more than 40 million fell to 20 million by 1990, and to only 5 million by 2002. Over 3 million Siberian marmots were killed in 2004 for their fur and other parts, estimated to be worth \$30 to \$40 million, with another 1 million Altai marmots killed the same year. The decline in marmot populations in their range throughout Mongolia is critical and catastrophic.

The demand for wildlife products, mainly from China, feeds the growing poaching and illegal wildlife trade problem in Mongolia. Along with a lack of funds to conduct required wildlife population surveys, deficient wildlife protection and trade laws, woeful inadequacies in its capacity to enforce existing laws, and a lack of scientific justification for hunting quotas and wildlife management programs, Mongolia's once-ecologically diverse landscapes are becoming silent and empty. 🐾



Xavier Bayod Ferré



Marek Szczepanek/Wikipedia



Peter's Eggle



Creative Peaks, Inc./iStockphoto



Roger Whiteway/iStockphoto



Richard Reading



Richard Reading

Gray wolves and red deer are just two of many progressively disappearing Mongolian wildlife species.

Argali sheep, prized by trophy hunters for their massive size, are not receiving adequate protection.



LIVING IN HARMONY

DR. BUSHMITZ MARK MOSHE, VETERINARY DIRECTOR OF THE B VIRUS-FREE CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY BREEDING FARM IN ISRAEL, SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE MINIMIZING AGGRESSION IN GROUP-HOUSED MACAQUES.

Monkeys are arboreal animals who are biologically adapted to spend most of their time high above the ground in trees—where they can keep distance from each other as needed. When they meet a predator on the ground, they inevitably climb the nearest tree, since sitting on a high branch gives monkeys a feeling of relative security.

We have kept breeding troops of cynomolgus monkeys for 17 years in large outdoor enclosures that address their biological and behavioral needs so well that they do not show any behavioral disorders. The animals are housed in large,

two-story pens divided horizontally by a wooden floor with numerous openings that allow low-ranking animals to quickly escape and hide from potentially aggressive high-ranking group members.

The pens include many wooden shelves, ladders, climbing structures, swings and branches at different heights, making full use of the vertical dimension of their enclosure. If they want or have to, the monkeys can get away from each other instantaneously by leaping to another shelf or branch at a different height. Our monkeys spend almost all their time on these elevated structures, where they probably feel

safe and secure. They come down to the ground to pick up or search for food, but they prefer to rest in the arboreal dimension of their living quarters.

There are also many big blinds made of colored plastic and suspended plastic barrels, behind and into which individual animals can escape to break visual contact with a dominant animal who threatens them. This is one way our monkeys avoid aggressive conflicts—out of sight, out of trouble!

In the wild, monkeys spend a major part of the day searching, retrieving and processing seeds, roots, fruits and insects. We entice our animals to

forage by distributing sunflower seeds, dates and other small food items into sawdust or hay. The animals seem to be fascinated, searching with full concentration for food, then finally retrieving and eating it. While they are engrossed in foraging, our monkeys have no time to chase each other, so this kind of feeding enrichment helps to promote the social compatibility of the group.

The number one hit for our cynos is the swimming pool (see photo, page 3). They do not get bored jumping into the water, diving under with wide-open eyes to retrieve “goodies” such as raisins and corn from the bottom of the pool, or fishing for floating food items such as pomegranate. Sometimes they merely sit at the edge and play with the water.

Our monkeys give the impression of being content and perhaps even happy, and our experience shows that proper living quarters can help them adjust to confinement harmoniously. 🐾


compassion INDEX
Measuring Federal Animal Protection—*One Humane Legislator At A Time*

Updated Compassion Index Promotes Constituent Activism

In 2006, AWI launched the Compassion Index (CI) to provide a real-time legislative system that shows the public how elected officials rate on animal protection issues pending before the US Congress. We are now pleased to announce the site, located at www.compassionindex.org, has been expanded into a full-blown activist resource. The public can still see where Members of Congress stand on animal protection legislation, but visitors will now be able to create targeted emails, letters and faxes to their Senators and Representative—as well as the President and Cabinet and Executive Branch officials.

From the earliest days of AWI, founder Christine Stevens realized the importance of public involvement in the political process—and several of our initiatives have led to some of the largest letter writing campaigns elected officials have ever seen. When journalist and 1961 Albert Schweitzer Award winner Ann Cottrell Free asked President Eisenhower if he would sign the 1958 Humane Slaughter Act, he replied, “If I went by mail, I’d think no one was interested in anything but humane slaughter.” Congressional staff members have made similar comments about AWI’s campaign to end horse slaughter.

Despite the technically progressive nature of the new CI website, little has changed since AWI’s founding in 1951 when it comes to getting through to

Members of Congress. Nothing beats a handwritten and heartfelt letter expressing the facts with a personal touch only an individual can provide. By providing a template for visitors’ own messages, the expanded site is a complement to the public’s ability to monitor Congressional activity and lobby elected officials to ensure they are doing as much as they can for animals.

A new section allows visitors to locate local media outlets, then find reporters interested in stories, send letters to the editor, or simply monitor local news sources for stories about animals. More features to assist constituents in taking action may be added in the future—please bookmark the site and visit it often.

Our updated CI will further AWI’s longstanding influence on Capitol Hill, and with the help of constituents like you, we will continue to assist Congress in the passage of laws to benefit animals. If you would like to sign up to receive our “Dear Humanitarian” letters via email, you may enter your contact information through the front page of the CI or the AWI website. When signing up online, please be sure to include your mailing address so we can send you information targeted to your Congressional district. Additionally, if you are not signed up to receive hard copies of our mailings and would like to, please let us know. We are grateful for all of your help! Voicing your perspective to legislators can make a significant impact. 🐾

Bequests to AWI

If you would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’s future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

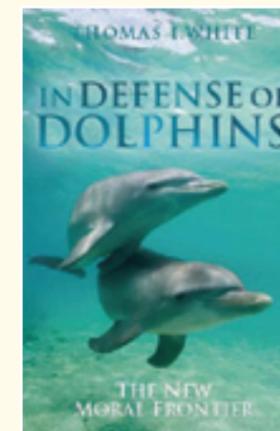
I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, D.C., the sum of \$_____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible.

We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

In Defense of Dolphins: The New Moral Frontier

By Thomas I. White
Wiley-Blackwell, 2007
ISBN-10: 1405157798
248 pages; \$21.95



Are humans alone in this world? Does our intelligence stand as a barrier between us and the rest of the animal kingdom? It is accepted by many people that dolphins are intelligent beings—but how smart are they? How do we define their intelligence? Could it be that dolphins have an “alien” intelligence that qualifies them as “non-human persons?” If so, how should this affect the way we treat them?

Author Thomas I. White explores these and other ethical questions while taking a detailed look at dolphin anatomy and physiology, behavior and intelligence in this new book. He comprehensively recounts recent research showing that dolphins share “uniquely human” attributes such as complex brains, language comprehension, and self-awareness. Even more impressive are the traits that no other animals seem to possess, such as dolphins’ ability to “see” objects by echolocation. This curious ability enables them to “see through” opaque objects.

White stresses the point that dolphins and humans have followed completely different evolutionary paths and therefore have distinct forms of intelligence. It appears that a dolphin’s large brain is used for social intelligence, and that dolphins have an extremely complex sense of “social self”. They may form even stronger connections with others than humans do. In fact, these connections are so strong that dolphins have been observed sacrificing their own lives for their pods.

According to White, dolphins deserve better treatment from man. Therefore, he questions such interactions as the use of dolphins in entertainment, education and the military, dolphin-assisted therapy, and the deaths of dolphins that result from certain fishing practices. This humbling book is a must-read for anyone who respects cetaceans and would like to step back from preconceived anthropocentric notions to learn more about these “people of the sea.” 🐾



Sharkwater

A Sharkwater Productions Release
www.sharkwater.com

Setting out to make a film that dispelled common notions about sharks and brought people closer to these often-misunderstood animals, first time filmmaker and biologist Rob Stewart’s original mission evolved into so much more. The project that resulted in *Sharkwater* became a five-year-long journey, and Stewart even risked his life along the way.

The film gives a unique look at the plight of the oceans through the perspective of their top predators, who have ruled the oceans for 450 million years. Stewart explains how shark species’ disappearance threatens all life on earth, due to their important role in the food chain. He also debunks our irrational fear of sharks with enlightening statistics such as “soda pop machines kill more people than sharks.”

During his journey, Stewart teams up with the controversial Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and ventures out on the high seas—where anything goes and corruption and exploitation are the name of the game. They narrowly escape arrest by the powerful Taiwanese mafia, and in the end expose the multibillion dollar illicit trade in shark fins.

Stewart presents frightful footage of sharks being caught on hundreds of miles of longlines and illustrates the fact that there are no international regulations against shark finning, showing the animals being finned alive and thousands of shark fins drying on a rooftop in Costa Rica. Stewart challenges the “out of sight, out of mind” mentality by letting viewers know just how dire the situation is for sharks—and how vital it is to conserve their populations, the oceans, and ultimately, ourselves. 🐾

RANCHER HORRIFIED TO LEARN HER PREGNANT MARES WERE SLAUGHTERED

Though there are no US horse slaughter plants currently in operation, killer-buyers continue to purchase horses at auction—transporting them across the border to Canada or Mexico to face an even more brutal death. Recently, a horse owner in northwest Oklahoma contacted the Animal Welfare Institute to report that her two pregnant mares were purchased, by someone who sold them for slaughter.

The owner—a rancher—had encountered financial problems due to recent droughts, as well as family health issues. After much debate, she regretfully agreed to sell her horses to earn some much-needed money. However, she never thought that her beloved animals would be sent to slaughter.

“Nobody that works at the auction barn let me know who was buying,” she said. “I found out when I went to the office to ask how to notify the buyers so I could send them the breeding certificates.” When the staff hinted that no certificates would be needed, the owner suspected something might be wrong. Though she obtained the phone numbers of the buyers, no one would return her calls.

“I just want my mares back with me, so they can have their babies and be cared for,” she said. Sadly, it was too late. The owner sought to repurchase her horses, despite her financial woes, but by the time she located the buyers, the mares had already been sent to Mexico to be slaughtered.

“I read how the horses were killed in Mexico,” the owner



Until Congress passes the federal American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, horses risk being sent to slaughter outside of the United States.

said. “I just don’t understand how the United States would let this happen. I’m just baffled by it all.” The public must be baffled as well, considering that a recent national poll found that almost 70 percent of Americans support a federal ban on horse slaughter for human consumption.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act must be passed to ensure that US slaughter plants stay closed—and to stop our horses from being transported elsewhere for slaughter. The bill is pending in both chambers of Congress; please contact your legislators to ask for their support today. 🐾



Animal Welfare Institute

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