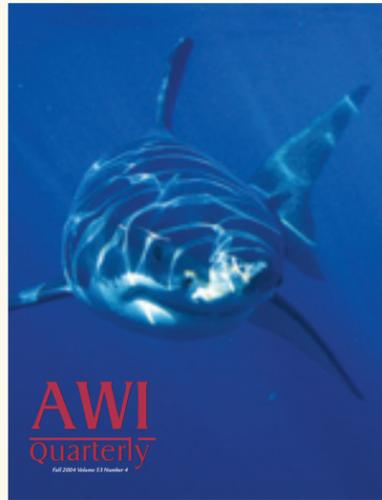




AWI

Quarterly

Fall 2004 Volume 53 Number 4



ABOUT THE COVER

In *Jaws*, sharks are described as possessing lifeless, black eyes. When the shark attacks, “The ocean turns red, and despite all your poundin’ and your hollerin’ those sharks come in and...they rip you to pieces.” Today, the ocean has turned red from the blood of millions of sharks, including vulnerable great whites (*Carcharodon carcharias*) like the one pictured on our cover, photographed by Fred Bavendam off Australia’s Neptune Islands. Some great white shark populations have declined significantly—individuals are slaughtered for their jaws, fins, teeth, and other body parts, and are targeted in sport fisheries throughout their range. Australia and Madagascar are petitioning the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to stop international trade in great whites while the species recovers, additional population information is attained, and national or international management programs can be developed. CITES Parties will consider 50 different species proposals when they meet in Bangkok, Thailand from October 2–14, 2004. (See stories, pages 10-13.)

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Whale Protection Update

Progress: Since our article on the plight of the Western Gray Whale population off Sakhalin Island, Sakhalin Energy has postponed plans to construct a pipeline this summer pending further environmental studies. This may be in response to pressure from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development who had been approached for financial backing. This gives the whales respite for a year. In addition, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has acknowledged its “great concern” over the compelling evidence that this population is in “serious danger of extinction” and made a recommendation “as a matter of absolute urgency that measures be taken” to protect the Western Gray Whales. Thank you to those who wrote letters in support of the whales in response to our plea in this summer’s *AWI Quarterly*. We need them more than ever, as recent news indicates that deals are being made for a 2007 plan to ship Sakhalin gas to a plant in Mexico, with pipeline distribution to California.

This spring we reported our success in persuading the Mexican government to deny an application by the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) to conduct an extensive seismic study off the Yucatan Peninsula using the ship RV Maurice Ewing. Subsequently, LDEO re-applied to the Mexican government, and the Mexican state-owned oil company Pemex also applied to conduct a separate seismic search for oil and gas. In public meetings held this summer, our colleague Araceli Rodriguez of Grupo Ecologica Mayab and a Mexican fishing cooperative presented twenty years of evidence provided by AWI that showed airguns used for seismic testing severely damage fisheries. Mexico rejected both applications!

Set-backs: On July 3, as many as 200 highly stressed melon-headed whales were found tightly clustered against the beach in Hanalei Bay, Kauai, HI. This behavior is very unusual as melon-headed whales tend to be scarce deep water dwellers. Residents organized to keep the whales from stranding and learned that a six-ship Navy fleet had begun a military exercise nearby using mid-range active sonar that morning. The Navy denies culpability. Fortunately it appears that most of the whales survived the ordeal, though one baby whale was found dead.

Similarly, within a week of U.S.-led NATO military exercises staged from July 11 to 16 off the Moroccan coast and involving more than 20 warships, dead whales started washing up on the nearby Canary Islands. By July 27, four beaked whales and a young sperm whale were dead, and two other dead whales washed up as far west as the Azores. Fourteen whales died during similar multinational military exercises in 2002 in the Canary Islands. Necropsies of the dead whales indicate a type of decompression sickness. 🐾

(For more whale news see our IWC report on pages 8-9.)



Animal Welfare Institute

QUARTERLY

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Chris Menjou/underwaterplanet.com

The majestic minke whale glides by oblivious to the attention it received at the 56th IWC meeting in July. Minkes are again on the agenda at the upcoming CITES meeting. (See stories pages 8-9 and 12-13.)



Born Free Foundation

The regal African lion, a symbol of an entire continent, faces a high risk of extinction in the wild. CITES can help. (See story page 10.)

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A clear window with no light from behind appears as a mirror when viewed from outside this rural home.



An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak killed from striking a clear patio glass door in a suburban home.

Glass—An Unintended but Catastrophic Hazard for Birds

by DANIEL KLEM, JR., PH.D.
ACOPIAN PROFESSOR OF ORNITHOLOGY AND
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, MUHLENBERG COLLEGE,
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Wild birds are killing themselves by flying into buildings, power lines, cell, radio and television towers, and motor vehicles. Bird strikes at buildings can

occur during the day or night. Nighttime strikes are restricted to the migratory season, the fall and spring in North America, and like tower strikes, they typically occur under inclement weather when cloud cover forces birds to fly at lower altitudes. Lights associated with tall structures such as skyscrapers in cities attract migratory birds in passage, especially under inclement weather. Seem-

ingly like moths to a flame they enter and exit beams of light that appear to confuse them. In their confusion, some individuals actually strike the opaque surface of structures. Most, however, fly about and eventually flutter to the ground exhausted and vulnerable in a city's landscape of asphalt streets and concrete canyons. At first light these birds become vulnerable to the clear and reflective glass panes, present in just about every human structure, in sizes a few inches on a side to entire walls covering multistory buildings. Nighttime collisions can be simply eliminated by turning off lights illuminating tall structures. When followed, organized "lights-out programs" have proven successful in the metropolitan areas of Chicago, New York, and Toronto where thousands of birds, among them the rare, threatened and endangered, have been saved by darkening the skyline.

Daytime strikes occur exclusively at clear and reflective glass, and the overall bird kill is estimated to be greater than any other human associated avian mortality factor, greater than pesticides, greater than that attributable to cats, exponentially greater than any other collision source, and only exceeded in its potential threat to bird populations by the destruction of the very habitat required for the fundamental survival of a species. To dramatize and put the attrition at glass

in perspective, consider that the world would have to experience 333 Exxon Valdez oil spills every year to equal the most conservative glass kill figure estimated for the U.S. alone. The Exxon Valdez released 260,000 barrels of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound on 24 March 1989, and the spill was estimated to have killed from 100,000 to 300,000 marine birds.

From 100 million to 1 billion birds are annually estimated to be killed striking clear and reflective windows in the U.S. The yearly death toll is in the billions worldwide. Observations and experiments over more than 30 years have revealed that birds act as if clear and reflective panes are invisible. They attempt to fly to habitat seen through a clear glass corridor or to vegetation or sky mirrored in reflective panes. The result is that there is no time of day, season, location, window orientation, or weather condition in which birds are able to elude the hazard. Lethal collisions are possible whenever and wherever birds and glass mutually occur, and the best predictor of the number of fatalities at any one site is the density of birds in the vicinity of windows.

Media attention to this unintended slaughter is increasing but typically occurs in the fall and spring in North America when migrants are killed on passage and their bodies are most visible in front of stores on barren sidewalks of populated cities. But, in fact, most fatalities occur in the non-breeding winter period at north temperate latitudes when large numbers of birds are attracted to feeders that are almost exclusively placed between zero and 30 feet from windows so homeowners and those at park building centers can see feeder visitors up close.

From the continuous monitoring of individual homes and other experiments it is known that one out of every two glass strikes result in a fatality. The handling of freshly killed collision victims most often suggests that death was caused by a broken neck. However, detailed examinations of glass fatalities that include over 250 x-rays reveal no broken necks. Birds die from striking windows for the same reasons humans succumb to collisions resulting in severe head trauma. Death results when the



A corridor with walls of clear glass in a rural university campus building shows the see-through effect with habitat visible from either side.

brain swells within the skull causing internal tissue damage and bleeding.

Currently, there are many solutions that reduce or eliminate daytime bird strikes, but none are universally applicable or readily acceptable for all human structures. Protective measures range from physical barriers such as netting that keep birds from striking to deterrents that protect by transforming the area occupied by glass into uninviting space or a recognizable obstacle to be avoided. The manufacture of new varieties of sheet glass is recommended: panes having external patterns that alert birds to its presence but retain the current unaltered view from inside. The angling of windows at 20 and 40 degrees from vertical reduces the number of lethal strikes, but these steep orientations are likely to be

practical only at single story buildings or at ground level of multistory structures. Placement of bird feeders within three feet of the glass surface eliminates the hazard because birds cannot build up enough momentum to injure themselves.

Guilt and anxiety are common feelings among an increasing number of people who discover an accidental fatality beneath the window of their home, workplace, or any other structure. Those interested in protecting birds as a vital part of the Earth's natural resources and those architects, developers, glass manufacturers, and landscape planners seeking to accommodate human needs and interests must work together if we are to effectively address this unintended and indiscriminate slaughter of one of nature's most exquisite creations. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help reduce the number of fatal bird strikes by contacting Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) at www.flap.org or call (416) 366-FLAP. As more buildings arise it is important for developers to consider the impact on birds and their migratory paths. Please contact the following groups, which do not currently have a policy regarding bird strikes, and urge them to develop programs that promote bird friendly buildings.

- S. Richard Fedrizzi, President, U.S. Green Building Council, 1015 18th Street, NW, Suite 508, Washington, DC 20036; email: rfedrizzi@usgbc.org. USGBC is a building industry coalition to promote structures that are, among other things, environmentally responsible.
- Eugene C. Hopkins, President, The American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20006-5292; email: arutledge@aia.org. AIA serves as the "voice of the architecture profession" and hopes to inspire "creation of a better built environment."



A dark tinted wall of glass in a suburban college campus building shows the reflective effect by mirroring the facing habitat and sky.

AWI Exhibits at AVMA

A life-size sow replica in an actual gestation crate was displayed at the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) booth during the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this July. Our impetus was the AVMA's unacceptable endorsement of the gestation crate, which individually confines female pigs during their pregnancy; in the U.S. more than 4 million sows are forced to live in this deprivation. AWI's Wendy Swann and Paul Willis, who raises pigs according to AWI's husbandry standards, worked the exhibit.

There were three promising developments for animals at the convention. First, the AVMA revised its policy regarding forced molting of laying hens and now advocates that neither food nor water be withheld. Second, the AVMA began reviewing the practice of force-feeding ducks and geese to produce foie gras. Although the Association neglected to adopt a policy against this cruel practice, we anticipate that they will vote on it next year. Last of all, as part of her commencement speech, incoming President Bonnie Beaver stated, "It is important for each of us to recognize that we may at times become too close to the industries we serve, losing our objectivity about what is the best welfare and adopting instead that suggested by the industry." Undoubtedly this is what happened when the AVMA endorsed the gestation crate.



The AVMA veterinarian's oath promises to "protect animal health and relieve animal suffering." Yet, the AVMA endorses the cruel gestation crate.

More than a year ago the Association called for a task force to reconsider the existing policy, but they still have not met. AWI is encouraging the AVMA to revise its position by acknowledging that sows need to engage in natural behaviors including rooting in natural substrate such as straw, exploring, moving around, and socializing with other pigs. We hope the AVMA will recognize its primary responsibility to serve the animals, not the industry. 🐾

Petitions Document Hog Factory Horrors

Investigations into agribusiness cruelty, led by Gail Eisnitz, Humane Farming Association (HFA), have culminated in the filing of petitions with the Attorneys General of South Dakota and Nebraska. Generally, both complaints document failures to provide food, water, adequate shelter and veterinary care for pigs of all ages as well as deficient sanitation and ventilation, and an insufficient number of employees at "Sun Prairie" in South Dakota and "HKY, Inc." in Nebraska.



As documented in the "HKY, Inc." petition, piglets frequently fall through dilapidated flooring to the liquid manure pit below and slowly drown.

The specifics, however, are far more horrific. The petitions delineate horrendous mistreatment of animals and apparent violations of animal cruelty laws. In a taped interview, a Sun Prairie worker states: "I saw [the supervisor] hitting a lot of pigs...with a hammer...I saw him a lot of times use a long...steel rebar type of rod...He would use that to hit them behind the head, especially the large pigs. And these pigs would not die after the first hit and they would be kicking...trying to move and run and you could hear them squealing. Then he hit them again...until they finally don't move anymore."

The petitions provide a glimpse into the lives of millions of pigs bred and raised for meat and request that each Attorney General initiate an independent investigation and prosecute violations of state anti-cruelty law. While most states have anti-cruelty laws, many include exemptions to "accepted" or "common" farming practices, but even in states where exemptions do not exist, it is extremely hard to prosecute violators. Infuriatingly, Attorney General Long of South Dakota ignored the incontrovertible evidence presented by HFA and instead defended Sun Prairie.

HFA is doggedly pursuing legal action against both hog factories. Each petition is available at cost price of \$8.00, email wendy@awionline.org or call 703-836-4300. 🐾

Center for Cart Horses

by MARTHA GUTIÉRREZ
CENTER FOR CART HORSES

In spite of living in the 21st century, Argentina is a country where horses are still used to haul carts with heavy loads. The economic and social conditions of Argentina are bad. Much of the middle-class has disappeared because of high unemployment. The people who were already poor have duplicated their poverty. The equines are the domestic species who are suffering the most in Argentina, because they are condemned to work under miserable conditions for people who cannot afford to care for them.

The horses work though they may be weak, wounded or pregnant. Many are not provided food, water or sufficient rest during the whole work day. The harnesses do not fit properly and inflict injuries. It is common to see the horses without horseshoes or having to

carry loads that are too large for them to handle. They are pushed to work regardless and suffer by force of whip or chain. It is common to see horses missing an eye. Veterinary care, including vaccines against common diseases, is not given.

Regulations were adopted in Buenos Aires in 1960 prohibiting the entrance and transit of carts drawn by horses in the capital city. However, the law has never been enforced. After working for many years on this difficult issue, finally the current government of Buenos Aires listened



Martha Gutiérrez with one of the rescued horses at the Center.

In enforcing the law, the federal police stop the violator, confiscate the wagon and call us so we can send an equine trailer to pick up the horse and bring the victim to the Center. The equines are held until the transgressor pays a fine. During the time the horses are with us our vet examines them to

see if they have been the victim of bad treatment by means of punishment or negligence. If the animal is in good condition, the horse is given back to the proprietor with a warning not to enter the capital any more. If there is evidence of cruelty, we take legal action, and we can retain the horses until the court case is heard and a judgment rendered. Once a month we offer a



Every two weeks the Director-teacher of the Argentine School of Blacksmiths, along with a group of his students, visits the Center to care for the horses on an honorary basis.

to us and began enforcing the law. In addition, the head of the city of Buenos Aires, gave us a piece of land to create a site dedicated to mitigating the suffering of the horses.

We inaugurated the Center for Cart Horses (CCH) on the 27th of January, 2003, and since then we have received 470 horses. Most of them have been sick and injured. Before we rescue them, the equines have been worked to the bone and passed from one owner to another until the animals are unable to work any more. If not rescued, they are sold to a slaughterhouse to produce meat.

short course on equines for those who could benefit from education.

Recently we received a mare who had given birth while working in the streets. Unfortunately, the foal was premature and died. We responded by bringing a cruelty case against the owner for forcing the mare to work when pregnant.

It is difficult to obtain donations for this cause in Argentina. Funds are needed for food, the veterinarian and medications. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please send contributions to AWI and note the funds are for the CCH. 🐾



Ortega was confiscated from a man who was exceptionally cruel when he was drunk and hit the donkey with a piece of iron daily. The neighbors reported the situation after they realized the man cut off a portion of each of Ortega's ears and said he would continue until the animal behaved himself.

Noise Raises a Ruckus at the IWC

Ben White and Susan Tomiak attended the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting held in Sorrento, Italy from July 19 through 22. Like most years, the rumors were rife—that pro-whaling nations would finally have financed enough countries to join the body to win a majority, that Japan would break from the IWC and set up its own organization, and that the pro-whalers would boycott the Conservation Committee meeting. And, like most years, the actual proceedings were rather tedious, with a few scary moments to keep us on our toes. When the plenary opened, Japan threw the first punch by proposing that all non-killing issues be removed from the agenda. This ludicrous offering failed when it came to a vote, thus quashing the first rumor and setting the tone. The 56th meeting of the IWC had begun.

Aboriginal subsistence whaling continues in several countries (including the U.S., Greenland, and the Russian Federation) with little control or recourse by the IWC for violations. 2007 will be the decisive year when quotas for all aboriginal species of whale will be up for revision. In a dramatic and scurrilous move, the U.S. delegation teamed up with the Russians to push through the removal of one of the fundamental requirements of any aboriginal whaling plan—proof that there is a nutritional need for the whalemeat. This requirement was never met when the Makah tribe revived their killing of gray whales in Washington State, and the U.S., no doubt, felt legally exposed.

The Revised Management Scheme (RMS) also continues to rear its ugly head, being essentially a plan to manage whaling if and when the moratorium is lifted. Each year there is a

threat that the latest RMS will be adopted and this year was no exception. But it appears that deadlock and dispute will still rule into the future due to the total intransigence of the Japanese, who refuse to consider dropping their bogus scientific whaling even if an RMS is agreed to. Still, AWI is concerned about what appears to be the widespread resignation by many nations (including the U.S.) to adopt the RMS which we see as a mechanism to resume commercial whaling.

The Southern Ocean Sanctuary was up for review. Japan not only proposed its abolition, but argued that its whalers be allowed to enter the area to kill 2,914 Antarctic minke whales. Thankfully, Japan's proposal was voted down. Several nations proposed the establishment of new ocean sanctuaries in the South Pacific and South Atlantic. Both failed to gain the necessary three-quarters majorities to be adopted.

The 56th IWC reported that despite the long period of protection since the moratorium in 1986, several populations of great whales remain highly endangered. These include most bowhead whales (especially those at risk from non-IWC countries, including Canada), gray whales in the western Pacific, all northern right whales, and various populations of blue whales. Additional threats to whales include ship strikes, by-catch in fishing gear and environmental causes such as sound and toxic pollution.

Whaling itself, of course, is not helping. Table 1 summarizes the reported catches by IWC member nations in the 2003 and 2003/4 seasons. Having originally “taken exception” to the moratorium, Norway continues to whale commercially and sets its own catch limits. The aboriginal subsistence whaling



Susan Tomiak/AWI

The press were drawn to the Japanese delegation prior to the commencement of the IWC meeting.

nations continue to take their toll, and Japan and Iceland continue to whale, under the “special scientific permit” loophole. Indeed, Japan proposed increased catch limits of 100 minke whales and 150 Bryde's whales for the next season to be taken by coastal community-based whaling. The proposal was rejected, but unfortunately the Commission did agree (thanks in part to compromise wording put forth by the U.S. delegation) to work to “alleviate the continued difficulties caused by the cessation of minke whaling to the communities of Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wadoura, and Taiji.”

AWI is very pleased to report that human-caused ocean noise was the focus of unprecedented attention at the IWC meeting, especially in the Scientific Committee which comprised 186 experts from around the world who met in the weeks preceding the plenary. The Committee held a mini-symposium dealing solely with human-generated noise and made some excellent recommendations to the IWC which were adopted in full. The adjacent box highlights key statements from the Scientific Committee report, all adopted by every single country of the IWC. This is tremendous news and gives AWI powerful ammunition in our fight against sonar and seismic activities.

The timing of the IWC was also perfect, as the Marine Mammal Commission held the third of its Acoustic Committee meetings in California during the week following the IWC meeting. The findings of the IWC Scientific Committee were presented to the Acoustic Committee. Amazingly the Navy representative on the Committee dismissed the findings of this internationally recognized body of whale experts and asked whether the findings had been peer reviewed!

Other environmental threats to whales discussed at the IWC meeting included toxic pollution. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee reported on concerns ranging from organochlorines, heavy metals and radionuclides in bowhead whales, to oil-borne aromatic hydrocarbons in the seas off Ga-

IWC Agreement on Ocean Noise

The 57 nations that make up the IWC agreed with the IWC Scientific Committee that:

- There is “now compelling evidence implicating anthropogenic [human-caused] sound as a potential threat to marine mammals. This threat is manifested at both regional and ocean-scale level that could impact populations of animals.”
- “The amount of sound energy introduced into certain ocean regions by humans has been increasing by at least 3 decibels per decade over the last 60 years.”
- “[S]ound exposures from mid-frequency sonars... coincide with mass strandings of beaked whales since sonar introductions in the 1960's.”
- “The weight of accumulated evidence now associates mid-frequency, military sonar with atypical beaked whale mass strandings. This evidence is very convincing and appears overwhelming.”
- “The Committee views with great concern the impacts on large whales in critical habitats from exposures to seismic sound impulses....”
- “[T]he Committee agrees that there is now compelling evidence implicating military sonar as a direct impact on beaked whales in particular.”
- “The Committee also agrees that evidence of increased sounds from other sources, including ships and seismic activities, were cause for serious concern.”
- “[M]easures to protect species and habitats cannot always wait for scientific certainty, as encoded in the precautionary principle.”

[emphasis theirs]

bon, a site of intensive oil and gas exploration. Contaminated whalemeat is a real issue in whaling countries, particularly to pregnant and nursing women. Indeed, the governments of Iceland, Denmark, and Norway have all issued health warnings about the consumption of contaminated whalemeat, although they are also reportedly trying to increase public consumption to keep up with the supply. The Conservation Committee (which Japan and its “client” nations did boycott) managed to determine terms of reference and survived for another year.

The IWC is an international treaty organization increasingly corrupted by the financial leverage of one country—Japan. Organizationally, it is working from an obsolete document lacking in any dispute resolution process, apparently dooming the group to deadlock. Its purpose is to regulate a brutal and obsolete industry that would collapse without subsidy. When the IWC meets next year in Ulsan, Korea, AWI will be there, perennially making the case that it is past time that whales be allowed to live in peace. 🐋

Table 1. Catches by IWC Member Nations in the 2003 and 2003/4 Seasons (prepared by the IWC Secretariat IWC/56/45)

	FIN	HUMPBACK	MINKE	SPERM	BOWHEAD	GRAY	SEI	BRYDE'S	TOTAL	OPERATION
North Atlantic										
Denmark (W. Greenland)	9 ¹	1 ²	185 ³	—	—	—	—	—	195	Aboriginal Subsistence
Denmark (E. Greenland)	—	—	14 ⁴	—	—	—	—	—	14	Aboriginal Subsistence
Iceland	—	—	37 ⁴	—	—	—	—	—	37	Special Permit
Norway	—	—	647 ⁵	—	—	—	—	—	647	Whaling Under Objection
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	Aboriginal Subsistence
North Pacific										
Japan	—	—	151 ⁴	10	—	—	50	50	261	Special Permit
Korea	—	—	5 ⁶	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Russian Federation	—	—	—	—	3	12 ⁷	—	—	131	Aboriginal Subsistence
USA	—	—	—	—	41 ⁸	—	—	—	41	Aboriginal Subsistence
Antarctic										
Japan	—	—	443 ¹	—	—	—	—	—	443	Special Permit
Total	9	2	1,482	10	44	128	50	50	1,775	

¹ Includes 3 struck and lost; ² A humpback whale reportedly killed after being injured in a rifle hunt; ³ Includes 7 struck and lost; ⁴ Includes 1 struck and lost; ⁵ Includes 9 struck and lost; ⁶ 5 minke whales reportedly killed by poachers with penalties administered by the Korean authorities; ⁷ Includes 2 struck and lost; ⁸ Includes 6 struck and lost.

Africa's Natural Heritage— Wanted Dead or Alive?

The African lion (*Panthera leo*) is quite literally under the gun. There may be as few as 16,500 African lions left, with some national populations in West Africa already extinct. Kenya, in an effort to protect lions from further decline as a result of international trade, is proposing that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) move the African lion from Appendix II to Appendix I, thus prohibiting international trade for primarily commercial purposes (see box next page).

Trophies, skins, and live lions have been exported in recent years, primarily from Botswana, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Lion parts such as the bones and fat are also used in Africa in traditional medicines. The United States in particular is a huge importer of lion trophies, allowing some 350 specimens to enter the country in 2002 alone.

According to the most recent *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, the African lion is also declining “due to habitat and prey base loss and persecution.” It is considered “Vulnerable” by IUCN-The World Conservation Union, indicating a high risk of extinction in the wild with no subpopulation containing more than 1,000 mature individuals.

And while Kenya, a vocal and vital defender of threatened and endangered species, fights to increase protection for lions, the Kenyan delegation will have to rally global support to defeat yet another effort by a minority of southern African nations to open up international trade in elephant parts and products.

Namibia is proposing to export an annual quota of 2,000 kg of raw ivory, and commercially trade worked ivory products and goods made from elephant hides and hair. South Africa wants to trade commercially in elephant leather goods.

Namibia claims an estimated elephant population of 11,262 animals; it further claims that “the absence of trade [is] the greatest threat to elephant populations in the region.” Yet in Namibia’s own proposal it presents a graph depicting a steady increase in the national population estimate beginning in 1990, the year that the CITES Appendix I listing took effect for African elephants, banning commercial trade in ivory. Clearly, the absence of trade has helped Namibia’s elephant population to increase.

Poaching and illegal trade in elephant parts and products remain a continent-wide problem, taxing wildlife law enforcement agencies who spend significant sums and risk individual warden’s

lives to protect their elephants. Elephant ivory—whether raw or worked—and other elephant parts should remain taboo. Neither international commercial buyers nor tourists on African safari should be permitted to purchase these products, risking a return to the days of the 1970s and 1980s when the African elephant population plummeted—from 1.3 million animals to 600,000. CITES should not risk encouraging poaching or national culling to supply a rekindled market demand for elephant parts.

Another charismatic African species, the southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), is also at risk. Swaziland is requesting permission to transfer its white rhinos from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow trade in live animals and hunting trophies.

Swaziland’s population of white rhinos is terribly small—only 61 individual animals—and is restricted to a very small habitat area. It is unclear how many animals Swaziland would hope to export each year, but any off-take of the national population could prove dangerous to its long-term viability. If another “Rhino War,” such as the one that took place between 1988 and 1992, were to strike again, Swaziland’s white rhinos could be wiped out beyond recovery. During that four-year period, Swaziland lost 80% of its white rhinos according to Swaziland’s own proposal, resulting in an historic 20-year low of 27 animals in 1993.

Swaziland’s proposal notes the existence of an established eco-tourism industry there, “and both black and white rhino are a major draw card for this industry.... Swaziland’s white rhino are already helping to fund their own conservation.” We agree. Wildlife viewing industries can bring economic support to the people who live with wildlife and help fund wildlife protection measures—without the need to use the ill-conceived concept of slaughtering individual threatened or endangered wild animals to protect the populations. 🐾



Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)



Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*)

Do We Take Care of Our Own?

The United States has long portrayed itself as a global leader in wildlife conservation, but this leadership is increasingly marginalized as a result of pressure from exploiters.

At CITES the U.S. is proposing to weaken international protection for two signature species—the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

The U.S. has proposed to “downlist” bald eagles from Appendix I to Appendix II of CITES, thus allowing international commercial trade in the species. There were an estimated 250,000 bald eagles in America when it was designated our national symbol in 1782. By 1963 there were only thought to be 417 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

While the bald eagle has demonstrated a wonderful—though incomplete—recovery in recent decades, bringing the fragile species literally back from the brink of extinction, the species has not stabilized across the entirety of its range. As the U.S. proposal admits, habitat availability and populations of the species in neighbor-

ing Mexico are both “relatively low and somewhat fragmented.”

Bald eagles remain at risk nationally from pollutants, diseases, electrocutions from power lines, poisonings, and poaching. The primary uses for bald eagles are the international live animal trade for zoos (which remains fundamentally unaffected by the current Appendix I listing) and domestic ceremonial use by Native American groups (which, if internal in the U.S. is not a CITES international trade issue).

The U.S. proposal recognizes that “accurate data on illicit international trade is not easy to acquire.” The burden of proof remains with the U.S. delegation to show conclusively that there will be no increase in illegal trade, threat to localized populations of bald eagles in America, or decline in the population in Mexico from a potential reopening of the commercial international trade in bald eagles. Absent such proof, the species should remain on Appendix I.

The bobcat proposal is suggesting complete removal of the species from CITES (currently listed on Appendix II).

The U.S. has tried this in the past, but failed since bobcat skins and products made from them are similar in appearance to other cat skins from highly endangered felid species. The Convention text specifically allows the listing of species on Appendix II if the listing of those species is necessary to keep the trade in other, more imperiled species, under control.

The U.S. proposal inexplicably relies on population data from 1988 and assesses population trends using data from 1996. Despite the animal’s abundance based on those distant estimates, the bobcat is the most heavily-traded cat species, and that trade could put the species’ long-term viability at risk in certain areas. According to trade data compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 16,895 skins on average were traded internationally each year between 1997 and 2002. Meat, live animals, and bodies were also traded.

With bobcats legally killed in two-thirds of American states and almost 200 illegal bobcat specimens seized in the past six years, international trade regulations under CITES should remain. 🐾

CITES COP 13

The Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will take place from October 2-14, 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre.

Fifty proposals will be considered

on the vital level of international protection threatened or endangered species receive. Appendix I species are threatened with extinction and are, or may be, affected by trade. International trade for primarily commercial purposes is prohibited. Appendix II species may become threatened with extinction unless their trade is subject to strict regulation. Appendix III species are identified by

an individual CITES Party as subject to domestic regulation and in need of international cooperation.

AWI is a member of the Species Survival Network (SSN), a global coalition of more than 70 organizations working for the strict implementation of CITES. All of SSN’s positions on proposals for consideration in Bangkok are posted at www.speciesurvivalnetwork.org/cop.htm. 🐾



African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

Species of the Sea

While charismatic terrestrial wildlife such as elephants or tigers often take center stage at CITES meetings, threatened and endangered marine life play a significant, often controversial and divisive role in the CITES debate.

The most vitriolic discourse usually concerns Japanese (and sometimes Norwegian) attempts to rekindle a legal international trade in whale products, notably meat. For COP 13, Japan has proposed, yet again, the downlisting of certain minke whale stocks (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow the trade in

whale meat, despite the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) ongoing moratorium on the commercial harvest of whales. Minke whales have enjoyed much-needed international protection under CITES for a quarter of a century, and a commercial whaling ban under the IWC since 1986.

Despite the prohibition on whaling and trade in whale products, Japan regularly exploits an IWC loophole that allows "scientific-whaling," with whale products from these slaughtered animals ending up for sale on the domestic market. Japan has, in fact, killed hundreds of whales annually under this exemption.

Indeed, at this year's IWC meeting, Japan proposed to increase the "scientific" killing to 2,914 Antarctic Minke Whales and 150 North Pacific Minke Whales, and also proposed the introduction of small-scale commercial whaling of minke and Bryde's whales by Japanese coastal communities.

Japan, by downlisting certain "stocks" of minke whales, would create an enforcement nightmare—meat from minke whales remaining on Appendix I (or meat from other whales) is visually indistinguishable from meat of whales that would be downlisted to Appendix II. Appendix I stocks of minke whales would be killed and the meat sold fraudulently under the guise of being from Appendix II stocks.

AWI Quarterly readers, as well as CITES and IWC delegates, will be well-familiar with Japan's vexing, habitual attempts to resume commercial whaling. Similar proposals have been rejected at each CITES meeting since 1997! Japanese Minister Masayuki Komatsu once called minke whales the "cockroaches of the sea" in an effort to exaggerate their abundance. *AWI* trusts that few will be swayed by Japan's minke whale downlisting proposal at this CITES meeting, and this historically over-exploited species will remain on Appendix I.

Unlike the minke debate, other marine proposals are relatively new to CITES and the international conservation arena. Great White Sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) are globally threatened, slow-growing, long-lived marine predators. At COP 13, Madagascar and Australia have joined together to pro-



Morris Gregory/www.morrisphoto.org.uk

Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*)

pose listing the white shark on Appendix II of CITES, but with a zero export quota. This will allow for the heavily-depleted species to recover from recent significant population declines.

They are targeted commercially, primarily for their jaws, fins, and teeth, and are killed by recreational fishermen. The proposal tabled by Madagascar and Australia notes the high value of white shark parts and products in the global marketplace. One jaw of a white shark from South Africa was valued at \$50,000, while "small jaw sets may be sold for as much as US\$12,500-15,000 and individual teeth for US\$425-600."

They are also at risk from conflict with humans who degrade coastal shark habitat in expanding fisheries. Shark diving—ecotourism activities involving the watching of Great White Sharks from within a submerged steel cage—is often unregulated or poorly regulated and can

vulnerable humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*). Proposed for listing in CITES Appendix II by the Republic of the Fiji Islands and others, the range of this fish extends within the jurisdiction of nearly 50 countries and overseas territories.

The proposal specifically notes, "International trade appears to be the major threat to this naturally rare species because of high demand, the selective capture of juvenile fish, and its biological characteristics which make it particularly susceptible to exploitation at even the lowest levels of fishing intensity."

This coral reef fish is long-lived (they can live into their thirties), but are heavily exploited in the live reef fish trade and for food in Hong Kong and mainland China. As a luxury food item, the fish can fetch prices as high as \$175 per kilogram. The wrasse is also valuable in non-consumptive uses—scuba

divers want to see the wrasse in the reef habitat in which it lives.

However, this coral reef habitat is being steadily destroyed by cyanide and other destructive fishing practices (see *AWI Quarterly*, Summer 2002) and there is no international protection for the humphead wrasse, adding to the imperative of a CITES Appendix II listing.

Lastly, Thailand, the host country, has proposed "uplisting" the Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. The dolphin is found in rivers, estuaries, and shallow waters of Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Bangladesh, and elsewhere. There is no total population estimate for the species, and individual populations are incredibly small and vulnerable.

The Irrawaddy dolphin is threatened by entanglement in gillnets and the effects of explosives used in blast fishing. A burgeoning and worrisome use of these dolphins is their capture for public display and entertainment. According to Thailand's proposal, "The charismatic appearance of Irrawaddy dolphins and behavioral characteristics they exhibit in the wild (e.g. spitting water, spy-hopping, fluke-slapping, etc.) make them especially attractive for shows and display in dolpinariums."

The IWC Scientific Committee supports the proposal, which hopefully will win the wide support of CITES Parties in October. 🐾



Chris and Monique Fallows/apexpredators.com

Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)

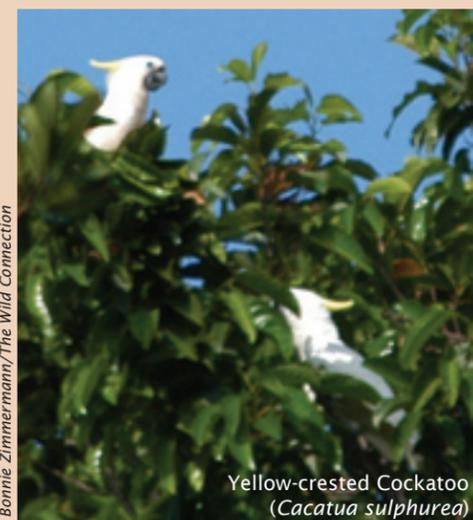
Birds of a Feather

The Yellow-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*), exploited historically for the international pet trade, barely survives in Indonesia's and Timor-Leste's forests. One subspecies on Masakambing Island was thought to number a meager five individuals as recently as 1999. Indonesia is wisely requesting an Appendix I CITES listing for this critically endangered bird.

Illegal trade is a global problem—adult birds are captured in the wild, reducing the number of productive

individuals for breeding. They are then smuggled out of Indonesia, where they are totally protected, to countries such as Singapore, where they are illegally traded as captive bred birds.

Other birds that may receive increased CITES protection are the Lilac-crowned Amazon parrot (*Amazona finschi*) and the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*); meanwhile, Namibia and the U.S. are pushing to remove international protection for the Peach-faced lovebird (*Agapornis roseicollis*), found in southern Africa. 🐾



Bonnie Zimmermann/The Wild Connection

Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)



Malayan Snail-eating Turtle (*Malayemys subtrijuga*)

Reptiles—As Pets or on a Plate?

Important reptile proposals will be considered in Bangkok. Kenya is proposing to list two of its resident species: the Mt. Kenya bush viper and the Kenya horned viper, both of which are collected for international trade, including to the U.S.

The U.S., to its credit, has authored or co-authored with Indonesia proposals to list a number of Asian freshwater turtles on Appendix II. The Malayan snail-eating turtle, Malayan flat-shelled turtle, Southeast Asian softshell turtle, pig-nosed

turtle, and Roti snake-necked turtle are among the turtle species that are traded internationally for Asian food markets and the pet trade. As a result of their rarity, some of these animals can fetch thousands of dollars in the international pet trade.

While Cuba finally has abandoned, at least for this meeting, its misguided effort to reopen trade in hawksbill sea turtles, the small island nation is instead proposing to weaken protection for the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). 🐾

Coalition to Restore Michigan Mourning Dove Shooting Ban

For years SAPL has been fighting against and reporting on the attempts of the guns and ammo lobbying organizations to overturn long-standing and widely supported laws prohibiting the senseless shooting of mourning doves at the state level. Despite strong public opinion in support of the doves and their protection, these organizations, including the National

Rifle Association and U.S. Sportsman Alliance, have been successful in undermining public will in states such as Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and now Michigan. They will again turn their attention to Iowa which has rejected attacks on its law under the leadership of Governor Tom Vilsack.

Earlier this year Michigan became the most recent state to repeal its prohibition on dove shooting, a ban that had been in effect for 99 years. The Legislature passed and Governor Granholm signed the law that reclassifies the small, peaceful dove from a songbird to a game bird, thus allowing the first hunt to commence as early as this September.

When running for governor, Jennifer Granholm had publicly stated that she would oppose any legislation overturning the ban, a stand backed by a majority of Michigan voters. However, when presented with the bill, she signed it into law. To restore the mourning dove hunting ban a coalition of national and state organizations have joined together to form the Coalition to Restore the Dove Shooting Ban. The Coalition will work to gather the necessary 225,000 valid Michigan signatures needed to place a repeal of this law on the 2006 ballot for voters to decide.

As the Coalition prepares to collect signatures, volunteers in Michigan will be greatly needed. To learn more about the Michigan campaign and signature gathering seminars visit www.stopshootingdoves.org. 🐾



Ava Rinehart/AWI

Known for their soft cooing sound and peaceful presence in backyard feeders, like the two pictured above at the AWI office, mourning doves are under assault by the guns and ammo lobby.

Antifreeze Doesn't Have To Be Deadly

SUPPORT H.R. 1563

In early July, as Penny Sperry was saying goodbye to her son who was shipping off to Iraq as a member of the Montana National Guard, her dog Riley began heaving and throwing up. The nine and a half year old mixed breed dog, like Mrs. Sperry's other companion animals, had never left her fenced yard. According to the *Missoulian* newspaper, it was discovered that the dog had ingested antifreeze—a feared poisoning by someone in the neighborhood. The poor dog had to be euthanized that night. Most frightening for the community is the fact that other neighbors have reported similarly losing their pets to poisoning in recent years.

Now, Penny Sperry is working to educate people about the dangers of antifreeze intake, and to gain support for a new law imposing severe penalties for pet murderers. At the same time, Albuquerque, New Mexico Mayor Martin J. Chávez has been working to mandate the addition of a bittering agent to antifreeze to make it unpalatable to people and pets. His work was prompted

by the death of a golden retriever named Scooby, who died after consuming antifreeze.

Mayor Chávez was successful in getting the Albuquerque City Council to pass such a law, and in June he also supported a resolution unanimously adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors that “urges Congress to help cities protect children and animals by enacting legislation to require denatonium benzoate as an additive to antifreeze that contains ethylene glycol.”

In the United States Congress, H.R. 1563, legislation to require antifreeze “that contains more than ten percent ethylene glycol, to include denatonium benzoate at a minimum of 30 parts per million (or other equally effective aversive agent) as a bittering agent so as to render it unpalatable” is currently languishing in the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

SAPL hopes that the action by the Conference of Mayors will spur Congressional attention to the bill before this Congress comes to an end. 🐾

Congress Contributes to Conservation

SUPPORT H.R. 4826

On July 2, 2004, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act was signed into law by President Bush, providing a potential source of much-needed funds for global conservation projects that benefit marine turtles and their nesting habitats. Possible beneficiaries include loggerhead, green, hawksbill, Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, and leatherback turtles. The law was based on similar Acts establishing conservation funds devoted to Asian and African elephants, rhinos and tigers, great apes, and neotropical migratory bird species.

Now, another conservation funding bill has been introduced in Congress. H.R. 4826, the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2004,” would provide financial resources to projects that benefit imperiled felid and canid species abroad. The legislation, sponsored by Congressman E. Clay Shaw, Jr. (R-FL), could benefit gray wolves, Ethiopian wolves, African wild dogs, maned wolves, dholes, lions, leopards, jaguars, snow leopards, clouded leopards, cheetah, and Iberian lynx.

These species face an array of threats including habitat loss, poaching, disease, and pollution. Some are exploited for their skins, while others are killed so their parts can be used in traditional medicines.

For example, according to the IUCN-The World Conservation Union's Species Survival Commission Canid Specialist Group, there are likely fewer than 5,000 African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) remaining on the continent. When their habitat becomes fragmented because of human encroachment, these endangered



Ralf Schimode

Dholes live in extended family packs and are at risk from disease, loss of prey, and human persecution.

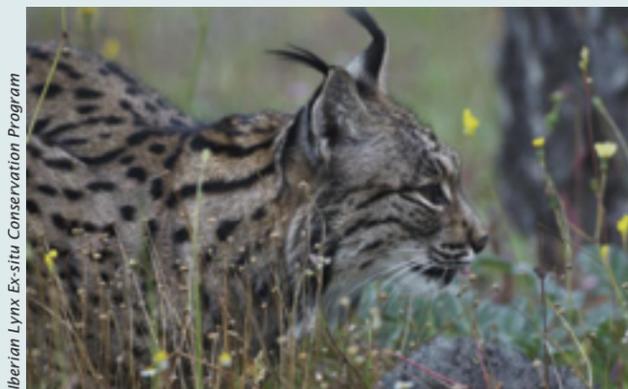
canids often end up shot, snared, poisoned, killed by cars, or infected with diseases transmitted from domestic dogs. Other canid species face similar threats, and readers of the *AWI Quarterly* will be familiar with the plight of the Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) from the article “Ethiopian Wolves Hit by Rabies Outbreak” in the Winter 2004 issue.

The endangered Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), found primarily in Spain with very small numbers in Portugal, is the most endangered cat on earth with an estimated 1,200 individuals remaining according to the IUCN Cat Specialist Group. The Iberian lynx is threatened by habitat loss and decline in its main prey species, European rabbits. Many of the other cat species at risk are targeted for their enchanting fur among other uses.

H.R. 4826 specifically finds, “felids and canids are important aesthetic, economic, and ecological global resources that need to be conserved,” and “Healthy populations of these species act as an important indicator of the integrity of entire ecosystems....”

While there is clearly not always a government commitment to protect these species in the countries in which they perilously cling to life, where national interest in preservation exists, financial resources are often not available to engage in conservation sufficiently. Should the “Great Cats and Rare Canids Act of 2004” be signed into law, up to five million dollars a year from 2005 through 2009 can be appropriated for this fund.

That may just be the assistance that is needed to save these species at such great risk. 🐾



Iberian Lynx Ex-situ Conservation Program

Will Congress devote funds to conservation projects to save the Iberian lynx and other endangered cats?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Urge your United States Representative to support H.R. 1563 and H.R. 4826. Address Representatives as: The Honorable (full name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.
- Visit www.saplonline.org for the name of your Representative and for updates and action you can take on animal related legislation.



Courtesy of the Scottish Agricultural College

It is almost impossible not to develop an affectionate relationship with the animals in one's charge and hence feel sadness, grief, and frustration if one of them is subjected to avoidable suffering and killed at the end of the research project.

Emotionality in the Animal Research Laboratory

Contributors to the following email discussion on the Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF) were six animal technicians (T1-6) and five researchers (R1-5). The messages were edited by Viktor Reinhardt, moderator of LAREF.

"I strive to alleviate the boredom and minimize the anxiety and stress of the monkeys in my charge, but my efforts are usually blocked by senior personnel. This can be overwhelmingly frustrating at times. If I cry, I am labeled as unprofessional. I have learned to remove myself from everyone when I no longer can control my emotions" (R1).

"There have been occasions when I had to do everything in my power to choke back tears of grief and frustration. I think it is normal to be sad and cry sometimes with our line of work" (T1). "Crying is unprofessional only if it prevents me from doing my job in a way that is best for the animal, otherwise it is simply an indication that I care about my charges" (R2), "that my emphatic feelings are alert rather than put to sleep by the routine of work" (R3). "Crying shows that you are sensitive to the impaired well-being of your animals. I would ask those who are judgmental with us who cannot help but cry occasionally, to just let us be, especially if our response to a disturbing situation is not interfering with our work per-

formance. Crying is an important safety valve that some of us simply need to cope with emotional distress" (T2). "Expressing the feelings that our work gives rise to is a normal response not only for animal care staff but also for investigators" (R4).

"I have noticed coworkers who do not cry. Sometimes I have interpreted this as a coldness, but I was wrong. Talking to my colleagues I realized that they are, just like me, deeply affected but somehow deal with the pressure in other ways" (T2). "It is not the people who do not cry that are the problem, but those who do not cry AND fail to accept that others do" (T3).

"I work with guinea pigs, and we euthanize quite often. I haven't cried yet, maybe because the animals are in my care only for a short while. It would probably be much more difficult for me to euthanize one of our male breeders, who stay with us for up to two years. It's almost impossible not to get attached to these guys and, rather than euthanizing we always manage to find good homes for them. One is with me :)) (T3).

"At the end of the studies, I euthanize the monkeys myself because I want them to feel no apprehension or fear. For them it's a normal anesthetization procedure. Some of them I have worked with regularly for up to five years. To terminate one of them is heartbreaking. I believe in the science that is done

with the animals and I do my best to alleviate their boredom, pain, discomfort and stress while they are in my care, but I will cry when they are gone" (T2). "Whenever an animal had to be put down, my supervisor was very strict in respecting the animal's dignity. If anyone joked about it, she was like a cobra. She is still my dear friend" (T5). "We too had to let some of our guys go off to a better place. Although no one would show any tears, there definitely would be a different feel in the air. Some became quiet, others a little snappy, others would choose to just not be around for the terminal procedure. As for myself, the day before a euthanasia, I would sit with 'my young man' or 'my little girl' and talk to them. I'd let them know that I was glad for them to move on, and thank them and apologize for the sacrifice they have done for us, though the sacrifice was not by their own choice. I will always think of the monkeys I have had the privilege to work with" (T4).

"After working with a group of beagles for several weeks I was asked to assist in their euthanasia. My favorite was nicknamed *Chunky* because he was a porker but still so cute!! I helped but cried like a baby. My co-workers suggested that I should not be around for future euthanasias. This was not a solution because I still would have been upset. Fortunately, I have not had to say good-bye to any of our monkeys yet. I honestly don't know how I'll deal with that" (T1).

"Once we received a group of dogs from a class B dealer. One of the animals was a beautiful golden retriever pup. Even with proper 'paperwork' we just knew that this dog had been stolen. It was decided to save *Alex*. When my supervisor brought the little terrier over as a trade, we just broke down. This animal was selected because she could never be adopted out due to the particular research she had been used for. She was so sweet! I sat there for a good 30 minutes crying and talking to her and hoping someday she would forgive us. Ah, I'm crying again! On the positive side *Alex* is running on the prairie with a loving family" (T5).

"I'm crying now too!! We do such a tough job. If I didn't cry and didn't care, and didn't feel bad about what we are doing, then I wouldn't be in this profession" (T1). "It is very dif-

ficult at times dealing with the animal research issue, but until the day invasive studies with animals are no longer done, I will be here helping the animals" (T6). "I am sad that there isn't yet another way besides using animals in these experiments. As hard as it is on a daily basis, I am glad that I'm here because I feel that I am offering the animals a special gift. Every day I do my part to foster their well-being and make sure that they get the best care possible, and the best toys, of course!! ha ha. I have been criticized for crying on the job, I too have hid to cry because it is looked down upon here" (T1).

"People are often assuming that animal technicians must not be animal lovers because we work in biomedical facilities. It's just the opposite. Most of the colleagues I have met truly do love animals. In fact, that's the reason we work in these emotionally challenging positions. There are days that are almost unbearable. Yet, I know that if I weren't working in my position, someone else would. Who knows how that person might treat the animals I care so much for? I do my very best to make the life of the animals as easy as possible. Unfortunately, being attached to them is frowned upon in the facility I am working, but it is hard not to cry about the situation that research animals are in. I have a friend at work, and we offer each other a shoulder to cry. It makes all the difference to have someone who understands you and who can share the same frustrating experiences and sad feelings with you" (R5).

"A month ago, we had a young monkey suffering from a seizure as a consequence of an experiment. After the seizure had stopped, she was paralyzed completely on her left side. She was awake, alert and hungry, but every time I tried to give her some food, she would make attempts to sit up and get hold of it but would inevitably flop all over the place trying to accomplish this task. I couldn't help but cry. Here was this perfectly healthy animal and we did this to her! Because I work with the girls on a daily basis, I become attached to them. I can't work any other way. I know what I'm in, what they're here for and what will eventually happen to them. It's not easy! I am glad to know that I'm not the only one who gets upset with what we are doing" (T6). 🐾

New Database: Practical Enrichment Options for Animals Kept in Research Institutions

This database disseminates inexpensive yet effective enrichment ideas and practical tips from the Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF). The forum, an email discussion list, exchanges first-hand experiences about ways to improve the housing and handling of laboratory animals. Links to photos and graphs shared by LAREF members are available. Selected practical enrichment options from other published sources are also included. Detailed descriptions of the enrichments are provided. Some entries are accessible as full-text documents. The database can be viewed at: www.awionline.org/lab_animals/LAREF/enriop.htm 🐾



Moshe Bushnitz, DVM

Long-tailed macaques sitting on wide perches are enjoying sugar cane.

2005 Animal Welfare Enhancement Awards—Call for Proposals

Attention lab techs, animal techs, and all who work with laboratory animals: the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT) have issued a call for proposals for Animal Welfare Enhancement Awards.

An anonymous donor has provided funds to award up to twelve applicants with funds for proposals intended to improve the welfare of laboratory animals. The focus of these awards is to refine the housing, handling and/or experimental situations for laboratory animals.

Studies may, for example, examine:

- how physiological and behavioral stress responses to common husbandry (e.g., capture) and traditional treatment procedures (e.g., gavage, injection, blood collection) can be reduced or eliminated (e.g., by training the subjects to cooperate rather than resist);
- whether animals caged at different tier levels show different physiological and behavioral stress responses when being approached by personnel, and how these responses can be minimized or avoided;
- whether the presence of a compatible companion buffers physiological and behavioral stress responses to experimental situations (e.g., enforced restraint);
- whether animals kept in legally minimum-sized cages benefit from a moderate increase in space that is (a) empty versus (b) structured in species-appropriate ways (e.g., shelter, visual blind, perch, platform, PVC tube).

This program excludes research studies with great apes.

Any studies to be undertaken must be non-invasive, with the possible exception of obtaining blood for biochemical measurements and if possible using animals that have been trained to cooperate during venipuncture. Objective measures might include behavior, coat appearance,



body weight, analysis of feces, urine, or blood as described above.

Each award will be for \$6,000. In the case of successful completion of the application, some individuals may be invited to present their papers at a national symposium. Additional funds will be provided for travel to these meetings.

This award is limited to North American applications. The proposal itself should be in the form of a letter clearly stating the objectives of the study and the anticipated outcomes. It should provide sufficient detail so that reviewers can understand what is being proposed, how it will be achieved, and how the data will be evaluated.

These awards are intended for laboratory and animal technicians; senior investigators can sponsor them, however.

Each proposal must be approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee, and the proposal itself must be co-signed by the Head of Animal Services at the Institution. Send applications via email to rbrady@jhsph.edu (Ruth Brady). Any parts of the application that cannot be sent by email must be sent in multiples of 10 copies to:

Alan M. Goldberg, Ph.D., the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, 111 Market Place, Suite 840, Baltimore, MD 21202-6709.

Deadlines and Review: The deadline for submission is November 1, 2004. Applications will be reviewed by an international group of reviewers. The AWI and CAAT then will make the final decisions on those proposals to be funded. Successful applicants will be funded by February 28, 2005.

Each successful applicant must send a final report of the completed study to rbrady@jhsph.edu (Ruth Brady) and viktorawi@siskiyou.net (Viktor Reinhardt) by November 1, 2005. These reports will be posted on such web sites as Altweb (<http://altweb.jhsph.edu>), the Animal Welfare Institute (www.awionline.org), the Animal Welfare Information Center (www.nal.usda.gov/awic), and other sites, as appropriate. It is hoped that successful applicants also will submit a manuscript of their project and its outcome to a professional journal.

For winners of the 2004 Animal Welfare Enhancement Awards, please see <http://caat.jhsph.edu/programs/AWE/2004/recipients.htm>. 🐾

Primate Dealer Pleads Guilty to a Felony

by SHIRLEY MCGREAL
INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE

In May 1997 the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) received a message from someone who had just seen dozens of crated monkeys, including tiny babies, at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. The animals had been shipped from Indonesia. U.S. wildlife regulations ban shipment of unweaned infant animals unless they are traveling "for needed medical treatment" and are "accompanied at all times and completely accessible to a veterinary attendant."

Upon further investigation IPPL learned that there had been a series of shipments totaling over 1,000 crab-eat-

ing macaques. They were shipped in batches of around 200 to LABS, Inc. a laboratory primate dealer. Shipping rosters showed that monkeys as young as 3-5 weeks old had been shipped, as well as pregnant monkeys.

Many older monkeys, aged 13-16, had been shipped too. In 1994 Indonesia banned export of wild-caught monkeys to protect wild populations. Claims that hundreds of older monkeys were captive-born were suspect, since Inquatex, the exporter, had only started breeding monkeys a few years earlier. Case documents show that pay-offs were made to Indonesian Government officials to procure export documents.

Primate friends deluged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with letters calling for an investigation. In April 2002, LABS and its president David Taub were indicted on eight felony and four misdemeanor charges. The government alleged that the shipments contained wild-caught macaques in violation of Indonesian law, and that documents fraudulently represented that the shipments consisted only of captive-born macaques. The indictment alleged that three shipments illegally contained nursing mothers and unweaned young. Two senior LABS officials were charged with a misdemeanor.

The case was assigned to Judge Ruben Castillo. A "plea bargain" has just been announced under which

LABS would plead guilty to one felony. Charges against all individual defendants would be dropped. If the judge agrees, LABS will receive two years probation and pay a fine of \$500,000, with assets totaling \$64,675 forfeited. Sentencing is scheduled for November 16. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ask for Justice for the Baby Monkeys. Please ask U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo to levy the toughest penalties possible in Case No. 02-CR-312 (*United States versus Labs Va. Inc. et. al.*) and to question the dropping of charges against the individual defendants. Respectful letters should be mailed to: *The Honorable Ruben Castillo, U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Federal Building, 219 South Dearborn Street, Fifth Floor, Chicago, IL 60604.*



Anne Haynes courtesy IPPL

Facing an uncertain future—infant monkeys cling to each other at the LABS, Inc. nursery in South Carolina.

Animal Welfare Act Enforcement: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Good: After more than five years, modest regulatory changes were finalized which will close existing loopholes and improve USDA's ability to enforce the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), particularly at the premises of dealers and exhibitors.

Bad: USDA will not be finalizing a much-needed policy regarding training and handling of potentially dangerous animals (e.g. lions, tigers, bears, and elephants). Apparently the agency capitulated to pressure from the exhibition industry.

Ugly: USDA has ceased providing the public with copies of inspection reports of dealer, research, and exhibitor premises. Now this data will have to be obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, and there is a three year backlog. 🐾

Charles River Labs Charged with Animal Cruelty

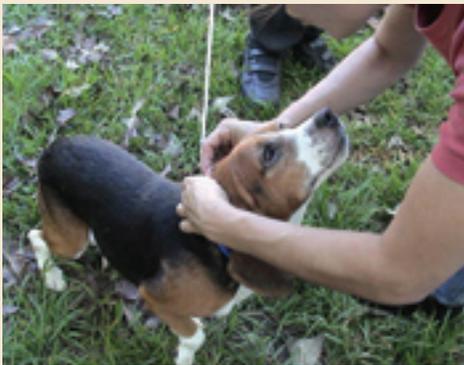
Four years ago, The Coulston Foundation of Alamogordo, NM, under threat of a USDA case for violating the Animal Welfare Act, gave the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 288 of its chimps. NIH decided to let Charles River Labs take care of the apes and provided a \$42 million contract for ten years. According to a September 7 criminal complaint filed against Charles River Labs and two of its officials, on three separate occasions chimps suffering grave wounds were left in the "care" of untrained night security guards. Two chimps died.

Thanks to In Defense of Animals for providing authorities with key information. 🐾

Case Against Dog Dealer is Expanded

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) added more charges of Animal Welfare Act violations to its complaint against licensed random source Class B dealer C.C. Baird and his family in Arkansas. Despite damning evidence and a lengthy list of apparent violations, Baird continues selling dogs and cats for experimentation.

The amended complaint, filed in July, notes the Bairds' "lack of humane care to animals has resulted in animal deaths." The dog on the cover of the Fall 2003 *Quarterly* is mentioned: "A 5-year old male black and tan coonhound, known as 'Buck,' was found to have been suffering from advanced, untreated *dirofilaria immitis* (canine heartworm), a parasitic infection that caused Buck's death in April 2004. *Dirofilaria immitis* can be effectively prevented...." Baird



A beagle rescued during the raid on Baird's premises last August.

is also cited for acquiring a dog from an illegal source; the animal was sold to a laboratory and then discovered to be someone's pet. More dogs were added to the slew of animals acquired without proper documentation; apparently Baird illegally obtained about 50 dogs from Mike 'Slick' Pittman, an unlicensed dealer, in 2002 and 2003. Facilities' deficiencies included excessive rust, filth, and inadequate ventilation and sanitization.

One former client, Mississippi State University (MSU), is cooperating with USDA regarding apparent violations by Baird in 2003. Dogs in need of veterinary care (including a bite wound and pneumonia) were brought to MSU. Others were delivered without identification and 23 dogs were transported in cages that were too small, lacking sufficient ventilation. MSU stated for the record, "It is now a practice that we do not purchase dogs or cats from random source dealers."

A recent inspection found Baird failed to establish an adequate veterinary care program including negligent oversight of staff who performed medical procedures such as administration of anesthesia. Baird's program stated dogs could be killed by: "point blank 22 cal bullet into brains."

We hope Baird will soon relinquish his dogs and cats; should that happen, homes will be needed. If you are able to adopt an animal, please let us know. 🐾

Random Source Dealers Still Selling Dogs and Cats for Experimentation

Alabama: John Pesnell/Pesnell Kennels (Arab)

Arkansas: **C. C. and Jeanette Baird/Martin Creek Kennels (Williford)**

Illinois: **Michael Cooper/Triple C Farms (St. Joseph)**

Indiana: Gene Clark/Salt Creek Kennel (Trafalgar)
Mark and Penny Lynch/LBL Kennels (Reelsville)

Iowa: Dennis and Toots Conrad/Conrad Livestock (Keota)

Michigan: Fred Hodgins/Hodgins Kennels (Howell)
Mark Ulrich/Cheri-Hill Kennel and Supply (Stanwood)
Roberta and James Woudenberg/R & R Research (Howard City)

Minnesota: **Kenneth Schroeder (Wells)**

Missouri: **Mildred and Danny Schachtele/Middlefork Kennels (Salisbury)**

New York: Ray and Valerie Dolan/R & V Kennels (North Java)

Ohio: **Robert A. Perry (Mt. Sterling)**

Oklahoma: **Henry Lee Cooper/C & C Kennels (Wewoka)**
James Hester/Anamerica, Inc. (Pryor)
Larry Paris/Circle P Kennels (Kenefic)

Pennsylvania: Bruce Rotz (Shippensburg)

Those marked in **bold** are under investigation by USDA for apparent violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.



Animal Welfare Institute

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