ABOUT THE COVER
In the eye of this Grants Zebra (Equus burchellii) in Botswana, photographer Frans Lanting (courtesy of Minden Pictures) captured the reflection of the hunters who shot the animal. Wild African animals are not only killed by hunters seeking a trophy. The zebra is one of dozens of species in Africa and Asia slaughtered for their flesh to be consumed locally or, with increasing frequency, sold in markets around the world, including major city centers in industrialized nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Belgium. Buffaloes, gazelles, hippos, giraffes, elephants, foxes, fowl, pangolins, primates, pythons, and tortoises are but some of the species killed as “bushmeat.” An innovative new program launched in Kenya takes the message about the bushmeat crisis directly to the people who live with the wildlife. A new touring play, Curiosity, recently premiered in Nairobi; the actors delve into the conservation and human health risks of killing wild animals and consuming their meat (see story pages 10-11).

Pigs in the Pan-Pacific

The Pan-Pacific region of the globe holds more than half of the world’s domestic swine population. At the request of the trade association Australian Pork Limited, AWI’s Farm Animal Advisor, Diane Halverson, delivered the keynote speech at the Pan-Pacific Pork Expo in Brisbane, Australia in March, entitled “Responding to the Public Demand for the Humane Treatment of Pigs: On the Farm, in the Marketplace and in the Law.”

Young pigs in Australia are often found in shelters open to sunlight and fresh air and with floors bedded with rice hulls, in contrast to U.S. factories where pigs are subjected to concrete slatted floors and toxic gases emitted by liquefied manure. But a large percentage of Australia’s 300,000 pregnant sows languish in crates that prevent movement and socialization. Others are kept in groups with room to move; some don’t have bedding, while others do.

Researchers at QAF Meat Industries are looking at adapting Swedish sow group housing (AWI Quarterly, Winter 2004) to Australian conditions. In addition, this year the voluntary “Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—the Pig,” will be reviewed. Indications are that restrictions on crating pregnant sows will be adopted.

A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the U.S. and Australia signed in May will give U.S. agricultural exporters duty free access to the land down under. Tragically, FTA threatens to further entrench U.S. pig factories by providing an additional destination for their pork. Australian senators are concerned the import of pork will expose Australia’s pigs to diseases that do not yet plague the country’s swine population. FTA also threatens to undermine Australia’s welfare advances unless Australian consumers are able to identify and reject U.S. factory pork in the marketplace.
Oil Exploration Threatens Rarest Whale with Extinction

After decades of decimation by whaling, the Western Gray Whale is being pushed to the very edge of existence by the extensive development of oil and gas resources in the Okhotsk Sea off southeastern Sakhalin Island, Russia. Recent studies suggest there are about 100 of these critically endangered whales left, with only 23 of these being reproductive females.

Sakhalin Island was once a lonely and inhospitable place with frigid seas and windswept coasts. This remote corner of the world is ice covered in winter months and has provided the whales with frigid seas and windswept coasts. This remote corner of the 21st century is a very different place. Multinational companies have poured into the area, lured by the scent of oil, and are changing the landscape and the lives of these peaceful whales forever. Today, oil platforms, pipelines, processing facilities and the towns that they spawn dot the Sakhalin coast, and this is just the beginning.

Oil and gas extraction and production projects in various stages of development by some of the world's biggest oil companies, including Shell, BP and Exxon-Mobil, lie along the east coast of Sakhalin Island. The most recent project and possibly the deadliest for the whales, is named Sakhalin II and is operated by Sakhalin Energy Investment Company (SEIC), a Shell-led company. Other investors include Mitsui and Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., Met Life Bldg., 200 Park Ave., New York, NY 10166-0130, Mitsubishi and Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., Met Life Bldg., 200 Park Ave., New York, NY 10166-0130, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to the tune of about $10 billion which will directly encroach upon the primary feeding grounds to the shore and processing facilities. This phase of the project will involve an investment of at least $10 billion which is being sought from funding sources that include the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Western Gray Whale is a totally distinct population from their more numerous eastern counterparts that migrate yearly from Alaska to the calving lagoons in Mexico. The Western Gray Whale historically travels from the Okhotsk Sea off Far East Russia, along the Korean peninsula and down to coastal waters of Japan. Their original "pre-exploitation" numbers are estimated to have ranged from 1,500 to 10,000 individuals. Modern commercial whaling from the 19th to the 1960's took a grievous toll and by the 1930's many thought the whale to be extinct, although some were still being killed in Korean waters.

The Western Gray Whale is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). In 2001, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) called upon range states and others to "actively pursue all practicable actions to eliminate anthropogenic disturbances in the migration corridor and on their breeding and feeding grounds." In 2002 and again in 2003, the IWC reiterated these same concerns. The whales are again on the agenda for the July IWC meeting in Sorrento, Italy and AWI is urging the U.S. delegation and representatives to take a strong position to protect the whales.

The dangers to the Western Gray Whale posed by this latest phase of oil and gas development encompass almost every part of the exploration and extraction process. First come the repeated concussive bursts from seismic airguns fired down into the ocean floor to find likely areas to drill. Then come the drilling activities and the erection of platforms. Included in this phase of development is the construction of the world's largest liquid natural gas plant and the facilities to export this resource. Shell estimates that this will require the dumping of over one million cubic meters of dredging materials and then the discharge of over 500,000 metric tons of oil contaminated sewage each year. 800 miles of offshore pipelines would be dredged across 24 earthquake fault lines and 1,100 streams, rivers and waterways.

To make matters worse, the Sakhalin II project being developed by Exxon-Mobil also overlaps with the Western Gray Whale feeding ground and is likely to be an additional source of disturbance to the whales. Gray Whales are bottom feeders, relying on the consumption of tiny benthic organisms that live in the mud. This makes them even more sensitive than fish eating whales to the impacts of noise and oil pollution. And every oil exploitation project is in likelihood of a spill which increases with time. An oil spill in the Okhotsk Sea, which is frozen and inaccessible half the year, would probably have devastating impacts on the whales and their prey, and would also likely impact dozens of other marine mammal species, over 100 species of fish, the endangered Steller's sea eagle, and rich crab and Pollock spawning grounds. An oil spill the size of the Exxon Valdez catastrophe would easily reach Japan, ironically, the host country of two of the SEIC partners.

The whales may already be suffering. Scientific surveys conducted over the last few years and since the existing development of the area's natural oil and gas reserves, have shown a marked deterioration in the physical condition of some whales sighted, with many appearing malnourished from either lack of prey, stress, disease or habitat disruption.

There is a slim hope for the whales and proof that concerned individuals can make a difference. In a recent development, significant pressure from citizens and environmental groups in Europe may have motivated the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to threaten not to lend money for the Sakhalin II project based on environmental concerns. In response to be summer planned construction of the pipeline through the whales' feeding grounds has been postponed, pending further environmental impact assessments. Here in the U.S., the U.S. Export-Import Bank has also required an environmental assessment and addendum, and has yet to make its final decision on whether to lend money for the project and the conditions of the loan.

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Oil Exploration Threatens Rarest Whale with Extinction

According to SEIC, the platform is due to go into year-round oil production during Phase II of Sakhalin II. Above: One of the few remaining Western Gray Whales shares his feeding ground with the 37½ ton Molikpaq platform. For the IWC meeting in Sorrento, Italy. According to AWI, the U.S. delegation and representatives to take a strong position to protect the whales. The dangers to the Western Gray Whale posed by this latest phase of oil and gas development encompass almost every part of the exploration and extraction process. First come the repeated concussive bursts from seismic airguns fired down into the ocean floor to find likely areas to drill. Then come the drilling activities and the erection of platforms. Included in this phase of development is the construction of the world’s largest liquid natural gas plant and the facilities to export this resource. Shell estimates that this will require the dumping of over one million cubic meters of dredging materials and then the discharge of over 500,000 metric tons of oil contaminated sewage each year. 800 miles of offshore pipelines would be dredged across 24 earthquake fault lines and 1,100 streams, rivers, and waterways.

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“With Great Power, Comes Great Responsibility”

—Uncle Ben to Peter Parker in Spider-Man

With the June 30 release of Spider-Man 2, the Animal Welfare Institute proudly recognizes actor Rosemary Harris—Peter Parker’s “Aunt May”—for her deep commitment to relieving the suffering of animals confined on factory farms. Ms. Harris, a Broadway legend and winner of a Tony, an Emmy and a Golden Globe Award for her work on stage, television and in film, was a close friend of AWI’s founding President, Christine Stevens, and her husband, former AWI Treasurer, Roger Stevens. A Broadway producer and Kennedy Center Chairman, Roger produced a number of the plays in which Ms. Harris starred. Recently, Ms. Harris and her husband, North Carolina author John Ehle, accompanied AWI staff to several farms raising pigs according to AWI’s pig husbandry standards, which she strongly supports. She expressed her appreciation to the farmers for their willingness to raise pigs in ways that permit them to live more natural lives. Speaking in a video that AWI prepared for the Waterkeeper Summit on Sustainable Agriculture held in New Bern, North Carolina, Ms. Harris eloquently expressed her concerns for the welfare of one of the most severely and widely abused of all animals—breeding sows:

“What concerns me and moves me more than anything is the plight of the animals in these factory farms...Particularly, the predicament of the sows who are incarcerated in their crates for the duration of their pathetic lives. After all, they are mothers and not production units and machines. Please pause and think about the animals who are causing, through no fault of their own, the horrendous environmental problems that we are suffering now. Insist on products from animals raised on animal-friendly family farms. Not only for the sake of the animals, but because all our troubles are rooted in the light of day and the basic needs of movement and motherhood.”

AWI is delighted to acknowledge such a distinguished and compassionate actor.

Biogas from Manure: How Green?

On May 4, Secretary of Agriculture Veneman announced availability of $22.8 million in grant funds to farmers and rural businesses for renewable energy projects, including biomass, wind, geothermal, and solar. Last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded $21 million to 113 farm energy projects. Thirty involved anaerobic digesters to capture methane (biogas) from confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that manage manure as a liquid. Increasingly, biogas production from liquid animal wastes is being touted to boost farm incomes, achieve independence from foreign oil, and solve massive environmental problems associated with CAFOs.

While AWI applauds efforts to develop renewable energy sources, we are concerned that subsidizing energy production from liquefied manure artifically creates a demand to continue an extractive and exploitive relationship with animal wastes and perpetuates a form of animal production that has proved detrimental to public health and rural communities (see www.apha.org/legislate/2003-2003-007.pdf; and www.factoryfarm.org/press/docs/Methane_Digesters_2003final062703.doc).

In a recent San Francisco Chronicle article a California Energy Commission spokesman estimated that, if all the dairies in California (which subsidizes methane digesters) were hooked into the state’s utility grid, they would produce only “100 megawatts or so” of energy. But CAFOs have public costs that exceed their energy potential. CAFOs flush manure from buildings with water, a scarce resource in some regions. Besides methane, anaerobic decomposition of liquefied manure emits other gases, including hydrogen sulfide, a potent neurotoxin. Hydrogen sulfide from manure pits and inside CAFO buildings has killed animals and people, including three California dairy CAFO workers. Methane is highly explosive and has asphyxiated workers repairing equipment in manure pits. Local governments’ health care services and community food shelves too often are forced to “subsidize” CAFOs that hire unskilled workers at wages well below the cost of living.

Commercial biogas production requires skilled and attentive management and top of the line equipment. Most sources indicate that investments in manure digesters are not possible without subsidies. Some contend that manure digesters may never be profitable without them and that equipment life may be little longer than the payback period, necessitating further capital investments. The farmer soon finds himself on an even faster treadmill than the one on which he was running to keep up before. CAFOs’ continuous need to expand to pay capital costs has driven industry structure to fewer and larger companies, displacing smaller operators. Additional capital costs of manure energy are likely to exacerbate the trend.

CAFOs house pigs and dairy cattle on solid concrete or slatted floors from which manure is scraped into gutters or flushed into under-floor collection pits. Laying hens live in wire cages through which manure drops onto conveyers and into pits. CAFOs do not provide bedding that would interfere with liquid manure collection and anaerobic digestion. They submit farmed animals to lifetimes of breathing polluted air, without the possibility of performing healthful natural behaviors such as grazing or flapping of wings. Such inhuman practices will be entreated by CAFOs’ need to collect enough manure to produce energy.

Government programs should support farming practices that are inherently sustainable rather than inherently demanding of remediation. A first positive step is to stop liquefying manure. Composting bedding-based manure is safer for people, animals, and the environment than anaerobic digestion. Sustainable farms raise animals in proportion to the land they have for spreading manure. Rather than a “waste,” composted manure is a valuable soil amendment needed by crops. Raising animals on pasture contributes to animal health, reduces veterinary expenses and antibiotic use, conserves energy, and helps prevent soil erosion. Requiring low capital investment, sustainable practices keep farmers off the high-tech treadmill and can provide comfortable livings for farm families and better lives for farmed animals.
Against the Grain
How Agriculture Has Hijacked Civilization

By Richard Manning
Hardcover, 232 pages; $24

He greatest challenge for a reader of Richard Manning’s Against the Grain may be to endure the introduction. But, from the point in the first chapter when his prose coagulates and he begins to make his case, Manning covariance his reader on an extraordinary intellectual excursion. Against the Grain is not without flaws; it is a wide net that is sometimes carelessly flung and Manning waits until in the book to explain the plain distinction he draws between agriculture and farming or, more precisely, between raising commodities and raising food. But his fundamental thesis, that non-submersion agriculture has created a cascading social and environmental calamity—beginning long ago and becoming more malignant as industry and commodity agriculture fuse—is compellingly presented.

Ten thousand years ago, while Clovis hunters were consuming the extinction of the great ice Age mammoths, barley and wheat cultivation was underway in Mesopotamia. Within a few millennia it expanded throughout the Fertile Crescent, Asia Minor and southeastern Europe. By 6,000 years ago rice and millet cultivation spread across China, maize was raised in central Mexico, an assortment of grains and tubers were growing in the Andes. But with swelling, stationary populations that agriculture made possible, writes Manning, came the end of freedom for hunter-gatherers subject to degenerative and infectious diseases from which the former were largely free. Worse, with agriculture came inequality, then tyranny, slavery; and organization of society and commodity agriculture fuse—is compellingly presented.

Many brands use the “Animal Care Certified” logo which implies humane, but hens raised according to the applicable guidelines are tightly confined, mutilated, and starved, like those shown here.

Packaged food from agricultural animals is increasingly identified by appealing claims such as “natural” and “happy” as if to suggest that the animals from which the produce some were treated humanely. With no regulation on such terms, producers can easily deceive customers. Such is the case with United Egg Producers’ (UEP) “Animal Care Certified” label. UEP, the egg industry’s trade association, labels its products as “Animal Care Certified” and describes the program as the customers “assurance that the eggs you are buying are from hens receiving the highest level of care…” we care about the welfare of our hens...the guidelines place top priority on the comfort, health and safety of the chickens. Nothing could be further from the truth. Over 225 million laying hens are subjected to abuse frighteningly codified by UE’s misnamed program. “Animal Care Certified” eggs come from hens who are: 1) intensively confined in barren, wire cages so small the birds cannot spread their wings and which prohibit them from dustbathing. 2) beak trimmed, in which an unanesthetized bird’s beak is cut off, and 3) force-molted or starved for up to two weeks to artificially induce the laying of additional, larger eggs. Fortunately, Compassion Over Killing brought this disingenuous marketing to the attention of the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and in May, the BBB’s highest authority on advertising issues determined that the UEP label is in fact misleading and should not be used considering most consumers would not consider the treatment of the hens, under the program, humane. Compliance with the ruling is voluntary, but groups that refuse are referred to federal agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, which can stop the advertising and levy fines. Evidently non-compliance is so infrequent that, if referred, the case would be highly scrutinized. We hope strong action is taken against this dishonest labeling.

Egg Industry Happily Markets Cruelty

Japen and more than 50 other na-
tions continue to ban American beef due to the unwillingness of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to test each animal slaughtered for mad cow disease. As one might expect, a growing number of consumers, and seek to test all of their animals. In fact, Credicrest Farms, which exports to Japan, spent $500,000 on testing facilities only to have USDA prohibit the purchase of the chemical kits necessary to conduct the testing. Credicrest is appealing this decision, but USDA hypocritically prohibits this initiative on the grounds that allowing the tests might imply that the products from companies that don’t test all of their animals are less safe. Not surprisingly, the staunchest ally the USDA has in its opposition to universal testing is the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the beef industry’s trade association. USDA claims that by testing less than 1% of the cattle slaughtered each year it is doing the testing deemed appropriate by science and asserts that it has enacted reforms to protect against mad cow disease. Yet on-going revelations demonstrate inconsistent implementation of regulations and breaches of procedure that jeopardize human safety. For instance, an agency veterinarian and an attorney representing federal veterinarians recently charged that USDA officials pressure their veterinarians to sign documents that falsely certify food items are safe for export. Separately, in May, the agency acknowledged policy was broken when a cow who exhibited signs of a central nervous system disorder was not tested for mad cow disease. It has also come to light that USDA issued permits that led to the importation of banned Canadian beef products. Furthermore, the agency will not identify the companies that imported the banned items. USDA, engaged in the conflict- ing tasks of testing and regulating animal products, does more to appease industry than to ensure food safety and animal health. A May 23 Denver Post article noted the Bush Administration has appointed more than 100 top government officials who were once lobbyists, attorneys, or spokespeople for the industries they oversee, including more than a dozen high-ranking USDA officials. USDA officials who certify food items are subjected to abuse frighteningly codified by UEP’s misnamed program.

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I am not interested in blood money,” says Philomena to her husband, Molkacha, a bushmeat trapper in Africa. “I will not be a party to a merciless and inhumane trade. I cannot believe that you would participate in the killing and maiming of animals for money. I don’t want anything to do with bushmeat.”

This is but one of the many insightful exchanges in a new play about the bushmeat trade, *Carcasses*. The play was the vision and a project of Born Free Foundation’s Global Friends Programme, an initiative to unite schools and communities around the globe to help wildlife, and was written, produced, and performed in association with Kenya’s Kenyatta University Travelling Theatre. In collaboration with many other organizations, *Carcasses* was premiered at the Louis Leuck Theatre in Nairobi’s National Museum on April 23.

Bushmeat Takes Center Stage

Kenya’s Honorable Minister for Land Nairobi’s National Museum on April 23.

While the Animal Welfare Institute and others have long campaigned against the global trade in bushmeat (the flesh of wild animals in Africa and Asia), our educational efforts have been focused on the developed world and global decision-makers. This traveling play, however, enables the message to reach the people on the ground who live with wildlife, with whom we have previously consumed bushmeat, and with whom we are under enormous pressure to catch and sell bushmeat to middlemen who make terrific profits selling the game meat in city centers and abroad.

Carcasses challenges people to consider their relationships and attitudes toward wildlife, and explores many of the complex relationships that exist in wildlife-rich areas. In the story, three subplots swirl: the relationship of Molkacha the trapper with his family, the relationship of bushmeat hunters and the middlemen they supply, and the relationship of wildlife rangers to the people in the village.

Molkacha is clearly dismayed at the small bounty caught in his snare—one skinny dik dik (a small antelope)—as the play begins. There was a day when plenty of game meat was available in the forest. Historically, bushmeat has been consumed sustainably by the local people who live with wildlife. This was hunting based on sustenance, not commercial trade. But with the insurmountable risk from consumption of bushmeat. “Do you know that you can contract diseases from wild forest animals. In Malawi, for instance, small traveling theaters help educate local villagers about AIDS and other vital health matters. In Zimbabwe, the United States Agency for International Development reports that a new television show, *Studio 263*, which deals with HIV prevention, is the most popular TV show in the country. Performances such as these can simultaneously entertain and educate.

*Molkacha* will be performed in schools and communities of Nairobi initially, with a view to expanding nationally as funding allows. As part of a wider bushmeat campaign in Kenya, BFF has commissioned the local nongovernmental organization, Youth for Conservation, to undertake a survey of Nairobi butchers to see what proportion of their meat for sale is from bushmeat. Initial results reveal an alarming 30% of samples coming from wild forest animals. If we are to arrest the alarming decline of wild animal species slaughtered for their meat, we must engage in a coordinated strategy that includes local people. *Carcasses* could become an invaluable model and, with its expansion, just might be the final tool we need to save dikers, primates, elephants, impalas, and other bushmeat species for future generations.

For more information on the bushmeat trade, request a copy of AWI’s “Bushmeat” leaflet or view it online at: http://www.awionline.org/othercampaigns/

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*Africa’s Bushmeat Campaigns* (ZSM). Together, AWI and ZSM are receiving a joint grant from AWI and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). Together, AWI and ZSM are part of a consortium called Up The Riv

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Bushmeat/bushmeat.pdf
Chimps Safe in Uganda...for Now

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1 t.a.m. on April 1, 2004, Malaysian Airways Flight 201 departed from Kuala Lumpur Airport, Malaysia. The plane, carrying passengers and crew in the cabin were three Malaysian nationals associated with Taiping Zoo. Four young gorillas traveled in the cargo hold. The gorillas, known as the “Taiping Four” had been smuggled from Nigeria to Malaysia on falsified documents.

A sanctuary should be a haven from the cruelty of the world for the remainder of each resident's life.

The potential shipment of these chimpanzees as “diplomatic gifts” would surely damage Uganda’s growing reputation as a wildlife conservation leader in Africa. Further, it would threaten Uganda’s growing status as a prime ecotourism destination; depriving local residents of income from foreign visitors, and preventing these tourists from looking in the country’s naturally resplendent environment.

A A M A rine Mammal Commission, historically the most steadfast government agency in advocating for cetaceans, has steadfastly opposed any attempt to expand the sonic assault on the oceans, but has agreed on very little. But the pre-ordained conclusion the commission reached in 2000 after naval exercises, appear to have been driven by the desire to resolve the conflict between whales and the industries that emit these sounds appears to be sliding towards allowing even higher levels of this deadly sound pollution.

The Navy has set 145 decibels as the maximum safe level for human beings in water. We proposed that this level be set much lower, 120 decibels, as a minimal safe level for human beings in water. We proposed that this level be set much lower, 120 decibels, as a minimal safe level for human beings in water.

Committee Drowns Dolphins and Whales with Words

T

e failure of U.S. regulatory agencies in stopping the emission of ear-splitting noise into the oceans is writ	
ten in dead whales and dolphins driven to the shores of the Bahamas, Azores, Canary Islands, Greece and Mexico.

But, in the face of this tragic evidence, a multi-million-dollar effort to resolve the conflict between whales and the industries that emit these sounds appears to be sliding towards allowing even higher levels of this deadly sound pollution.

The Marine Mammal Commission, historically the most steadfast government agency in advocating for cetaceans, has convened an advisory committee at the request of Congress. In its second session this committee of “stakeholders” debated different models of calculating just how much damage could affect marine life given different levels and duration of sound emitted. The committee, which comprises representatives from the shipping, military, oil and gas exploration, research and environmental communities, actually agreed on very little. But the pre-ordained conclusion the group is being directed towards is sadly apparent: that loud shipping and louder military sonar and seismic airguns are inevitable and that the best we can do is try to mitigate some of the harm they cause.

Ever since the Navy tested its Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar and decided the regulations in place to protect marine mammals were too restrictive, protections had been falling and whales and dolphins have been dying. We really have no idea how many marine mammals are killed each year. We have estimated that about 5% of Gray Whales die each year, and as a result of the intensive hunting that occurred in the past, there are only about 20,000 whales left.

Our colleagues on the advisory committee who are interest...
Industrial Wants You to Eat Downers

less than three months after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) banned “downed” cattle (animals suffering immobility due to injury and/or illness) from being consumed, the cattle industry has initiated a federal bill, H.R. 4121, misleadingly named the “Consumer and Producer Protection Act of 2004,” which seeks to allow downed cattle back into the human food chain. This ill-conceived bill, which blatantly undermines USDA’s commonsense and long overdue ban, would allow the consumption of cattle unable to stand or walk due to “fatigue, stress, obdurator nerve paralysis, obesity, or one or more broken or fractured appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, or dislocated joints.”

Citing extensive data from other countries, USDA states that downers are at significantly higher risk of having BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or “mad cow disease”) than other cattle. USDA also ascribes “downer cattle infected with BSE often cannot be distinguished from the signs of the many other diseases and conditions affecting downed cattle.” Case in point, the cows detected with BSE in Canada and the U.S. were identified as non-ambulatory due to calving injuries, pneumonia, and a broken leg. H.R. 4121 recklessly suggests USDA inspectors can distinguish between diseased and injured downed animals, and by encouraging the consumption of downed animals, it poses a direct threat to human health. H.R. 4121 also exacerbates animal cruelty since downed animals are often in pain and cannot be moved gently. Rather than being brutally prodded, pulled, and pushed to the kill floor, these animals should be humanely euthanized for their sake and for our own health and morality.

Don’t Experiment on My Beloved Companion Animal!

The Animal Welfare Act was passed in 1966 to prevent the sale of companion animals to laboratories for experimentation, yet dogs and cats obtained through illegal means continue to be sold for research purposes. On April 26th, the Pet Safety and Protection Act was reintroduced by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) in an effort to finally achieve this important objective. The legislation will prohibit the sale of dogs and cats to re- search facilities by random source animal dealers such as C.C. Baird (see pages 16 and 17).

USDA licensed Class B dealers are “a cottage in- dustry,” aggressively collecting dogs and cats from “random sources” in order to sell them to laboratories for $500 or more each, and they are notorious for their ability to locate their dog or cat at the dealer’s facility. Thankfully, this other business is there only 17 Class B dealers still in operation in the U.S., and of these, seven are currently under investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for violations of the Animal Welfare Act. It is time to reduce the number of these dealers to “0”. Please help by asking your Senator to co-sponsor S. 2346.

Senate Veterinarian Opposes Horse Slaughter

Senator and veterinarian John Ensign (R-NV) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) have introduced S. 2352, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, a companion bill to H.R. 857. The legislation has bipartisan support, and we’re pleased to report that 225 Members of the House of Representatives (a major- ity of the House) have cosponsored H.R. 857. As we reported in the last AWI Quarterly, Bo Derek has joined the effort to ban horse slaughter. She returned to Washington, DC, along with film legend Tony Curtis and his wife, Jill, to lobby in support of the pending bills. The Curtis’ have a special understanding of the issue because they operate Shiloh Horse Rescue and Sanctuary near Las Vegas, NV, where horses rescued from kiln-buyers are cared for, re-trained, and adopted to good homes.

Support S. 2352

You Can Make a Difference

- Urge your United States Representative to oppose H.R. 4121 and H.R. 4114. Address Representatives as: The Honorable (familiar name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.
- Urge both of your United States Senators to cosponsor S. 2346 and S. 2352. Address Senators as: The Honorable (familiar name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510.
- Visit www.sapoonline.org for the name of your Representative and for updates and action you can take on animal related legislation.
One hundred and twenty-five dogs and one cat were seized from C.C. Baird and placed with rescue groups in seven states. Some have rebounded from their ordeal very quickly, while others are still terrified of men, being touched, loud noises, sudden movement and even flashlights. Picture above are Max, Pasiie, and Maggie; at left, Gromit (photo by Reid Ashton); and at right Chase with his cat companion—all enjoying their new homes and lots of love. Maggie who is sitting with her “dad,” was adopted by a USDA inspector who stated, “I found this [to be] one of the more rewarding things I have done in the 14 years I have been with Animal Care, and Maggie serves as a daily reminder to me that ‘we’ can make a difference for some!”

A hole at adjoining dog pens was large enough for a small dog to enter the adjoining enclosure where he was injured by a larger aggressive dog. There was a strong ammonia smell from a lack of sufficient ventilation in two of the cat rooms. The “…‘puppy barn’ facility had extremely poor lighting insufficient to permit inspections” and were shrouded “in the enclosures dark to the extent that thirty animals could not be seen without opening the cages and shining a flashlight into the enclosures.”

Water for the animals was “mucky and contained dead flies and heavy green algae” and moldy cat food and dog receptacles for cats were contaminated by kitty litter. The food receptacles in the dog runs had an accumulation of brown, crusty debris and contained “varying amounts of wet and caked food remains, which attracted numerous flies.” Five-gallon buckets were used to feed dogs, and the small dogs couldn’t reach their food; not surprisingly, they were “in very thin condition,” and a male terrier “could not reach any of the food containers.”

In January 2001, Baird “failed to handle 16 dogs in transportation as carefully as possible in a manner that did not cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm and unnecessary discomfort, resulting in the death of at least one dog.” Baird was also cited for overcrowding dogs during transport and failing to offer food and water to animals transported for longer than 12 hours.

Baird had myriad sources for dogs and cats. The complaint alleges that at least 18 dogs and cats were obtained “by use of false pretenses, misrepresentation, or deception.” He collected some animals at “trade days” in Ripley, MS, Joplin, MO, and Poplar Bluff, MO. While many people sold him one or two animals, others provided as many as five, eight and even 15 animals at one time. We will never know where many of Baird’s animals came from since he has a long-standing problem maintaining comprehensive and accurate records. The complaint specifically cites 156 dogs and 168 cats who Baird acquired without obtaining complete information identifying the people who sold him animals. In addition, at least 137 dogs and cats were acquired illegally from people who had not bred and raised the animals as mandated by the Animal Welfare Act; Baird’s illegal purchases included “stray” animals. C.C. Baird and his wife have denied all of the charges. USDA has requested “an expedited oral hearing” and is seeking the maximum civil penalties and revocation of all licenses. In the meantime, Baird is still in business, and apparently about a dozen experimental laboratories shamelessly continue to buy animals from him. No doubt there will be more news to come.
Do Laboratory Rats Benefit from More Cage Space?

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Introduction
In the United States, rodents used in research are commonly kept in minimum sized, barren cages. In Canada, trends toward environmental enrichment have been implemented in many research facilities. However, biomedical researchers do occasionally require animals to be housed in small, wire bottom cages for the purpose of urine and fecal collection. Investigators often argue that the animals do not find such living quarters to be stressful, and that they would not make use of additional space. The present study examines if this assumption is really correct.

Methods
The subjects of this project were 24 male Wistar Han rats who were all 31 days old at the beginning of the study. The animals were kept either in small wire bottom cages that had a floor area of 1088 cm². All cages were 18 cm high and of the same design (Figure 1). The cages were either barren or enriched with a PVC tube of 6 cm length and 3 cm diameter plus a Nylabone™ (Figure 2). The animals had ad libitum access to pelleted food and water.

Six rats each were assigned to the following four housing conditions:
- small barren cage (Group 1)
- small enriched cage (Group 2)
- large barren cage (Group 3)
- large enriched cage (Group 4)

The amount of time spent moving around, resting on the cage floor, contacting the PVC tube [resting in or on it] and contacting the Nylabone™ [grawling, pushing around] was recorded for each individual rat four times a week from 10–11 am over a period of six weeks. The amount of food consumed was recorded weekly for each animal. The animals’ body weights were taken once a week. Their stress levels were estimated also once a week by scoring the porphyrin staining around the nose and back of the neck of each of the 24 rats. Porphyrin is a red pigment that is secreted by the Harderian glands when a rat is stressed. The weights of the rats, their feed, and their porphyrin scores were recorded weekly on Mondays. The study ended on Monday of week seven. No behavioural observations were recorded in week seven.

Results and Discussion
Regardless of the housing condition, the rats of all four groups spent the same percentage of observation-time moving around (~30%) and the same amount of time resting (~54%). This implies that neither the provision of more space nor the provision of enrichment encouraged the animals to engage in more exercise.

Those rats who lived in enriched cages spent approximately 3% of the test session time contacting the Nylabone™ versus more than 40% of the time contacting the PVC tube which, apparently, was much more attractive and/or useful for the animals. Both, in the small and in the large cages, the animals spent more time resting in/on the PVC tube (~30%) than on the bare floor (~23%). This suggests that rats feel more comfortable and perhaps more secure with a PVC tube offering an elevated vantage point plus seclusion than with the bare floor. The porphyrin scores substantiate this assumption: The scores were significantly higher in rats housed in small or large cages that were barren than in rats housed in small or large cages that were furnished with a PVC tube. The lowest porphyrin scores were found in rats living in the large PVC tube-furnished cages (Figure 3). This housing environment was the least stressful one of the four test situations.

The animals’ stress status was reflected in their food consumption with rats living in barren cages eating much more food and gaining significantly more weight than rats living in the enriched cages (Figure 4). Rats kept in the typical, barren standard cages very often become obese. The present findings indicate that this problem is related to stressful living conditions, similar to obesity in modern people living in stressful environments.

Conclusions
Laboratory rats do not benefit from more cage space, unless the space is provisioned with proper enrichment such as a PVC tube. Being confined in a small standard cage is a much more stressful experience for rats than being confined in a larger cage furnished with a PVC tube. Access to a PVC tube reduces a rat’s stress level in a small cage, but the stress is still much higher than in a large cage with a PVC tube.

Stress is a sign of poor welfare. Housing laboratory rats in larger cages that are furnished with PVC tubes rather than in small standard cages would, therefore, contribute to the animals’ welfare. It would also improve scientific research methodology by reducing the variable stress resulting from inappropriate living quarters.

Acknowledgments
Thank you Animal Welfare Institute for providing the 2003 Refinement Award to fund this study. Thank you to the 24 rats, of which 10 have already been adopted and placed into good homes. Thank you to Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Widowski, and Margaret Quinon for all your guidance and assistance. Finally, thank you to the staff at Animal Care Services for your dedication to the animals in your charge.
Acting on a tip, authorities discovered and seized sixty Maine Coon cats kept under appalling conditions in a house in Harrison, New York. The animals were being bred so their kittens could be sold for as much as $1,100 each for the pet trade. Most of the cats had been confined to a cage. Many were thin and suffered from upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, ear infections, diarrhea, parasites and ringworm. An additional sign of neglect was massive mats down to the skin in the cats’ fur. The building reeked, and there were urine stains and feces all over the carpet.

The business, in existence for several years, was operated by Ruth Sonneville under the name Charlemaine Maine Coon Cattery, and the offspring were being advertised for sale over the internet. The company’s web site described how Sonneville had previously bred German shepherds and Great Danes, but had switched to Maine Coon cats after moving to a smaller building; shortly after the bust, the web site was removed from the internet. Apparently internet sales of both cats and dogs are increasing dramatically.

In this case, a potential buyer called authorities after seeing overcrowding and smelling an overwhelming stench. Frequently, commercial breeders don’t want customers to see the squalid conditions or the tragic state of the breeding animals so they either conduct business with potential buyers at locations that are separate from the breeding facility—or they sell their animals based on internet photographs and ship them directly to their new homes.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not require commercial breeders such as this who are selling animals retail to be licensed and regulated under the federal Animal Welfare Act. The local District Attorney’s Office has decided not to prosecute Ms. Sonneville though she will likely face fines from the Health and Building Departments.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Westchester, the group that conducted the seizure, has provided veterinary care for the cats and is seeking financial support for their care and adoptive homes for the animals. Mimi Einstein, SPCA President noted, “Obviously, Ms. Sonneville was not equipped to handle this number of animals. Every single cat there wound up suffering in some regard because of neglect. The conditions on the premises were completely out of hand.” 🐾