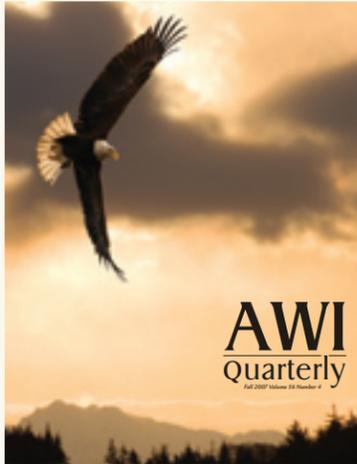




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ABOUT THE COVER

In addition to serving as America's national emblem, the majestic bald eagle (photo by John Hyde) is a symbol of the Endangered Species Act's success. The species nearly died out due to DDT exposure and other threats, but today over 11,000 nesting pairs inhabit the continental United States. A multitude of species have received protection from this important legislation since it was enacted in 1973, and today it is needed more than ever (see story, page 20).

Recently, the World Conservation Union released an updated Red List of Threatened Species, stating that one in four mammals and a third of all amphibians are in jeopardy. Threats are increasing, from global warming to habitat encroachment, and the number of species at risk of extinction is up 88 percent from last year. This could have a devastating effect on the food chain, as well as ecosystems and the lives of both animals and people around the globe.

Turning Tragedy into Hope

A gray whale living peacefully in the Strait of Juan de Fuca had been nicknamed "Kelpie" for his habit of feeding in the kelp beds and becoming draped with kelp. However, in early September, he was illegally hunted down by five men in power boats. Hit with 21 bullets from a high powered firearm and at least five harpoons, it took the gentle giant 10 agonizing hours to die.

This flagrant violation of federal law was committed by men who felt they had the right to kill the animal because their ancestors killed whales. The Makah tribe of Washington State relied on whaling for food until about 80 years ago, at which time it changed its practices, in part due to the precarious state of the gray whale population. Since then, the tribe has lost its dependence on whale meat and no longer has a subsistence need—the critical legal criteria necessary to obtain a whaling quota under both US and international law. Some Makah want to whale again, claiming a cultural need. There is no legal basis for this, and it has frightening implications internationally.

The mere mention of "native peoples" evokes sympathy for the plight that befell too many US tribes. Sadly, some are taking advantage of such sympathy to further their own vested interests. The Government of Japan, not satisfied with killing whales under a so-called "scientific" exemption, is attempting to create a bigger loophole by establishing a new whaling category of "cultural whaling." It has sought, albeit unsuccessfully, international approval for a whaling quota for its coastal communities. Inevitably, Japan will demand equal treatment for its coastal people if the United States allows the Makah to whale solely to meet its alleged cultural needs.

Whales may be the cornerstone of the Makah's culture, but their value is best preserved if they are alive. The tribe should explore non-lethal options such as whale watching with as much vigor as was previously expended on attempts to recommence whaling. The Animal Welfare Institute offers its assistance to the Makah tribe so it may develop ways to maintain its culture without harming the whales. 🐾



An investigation into Kelpie's death is ongoing. The culprits should be held fully accountable by the tribe, as well as state and federal authorities.

Associated Press



Animal Welfare Institute

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Many people in developing countries benefit from reducing greenhouse gas emissions because forests are an important part of their livelihoods. **PAGE 4**

Ian Redmond



Former trapper Bill Randall witnessed companion animals caught in leghold traps, but now speaks out against the indiscriminate device. **PAGE 10**



The previously idyllic Romanian countryside has been invaded by corrupt agribusiness giant Smithfield Foods. **PAGE 14**

Romulus Hossu/www.istockphoto.com

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Saving the Apes to Save the World



story and photos by IAN REDMOND,
CHAIRMAN, APE ALLIANCE UK

The logic is simple: to save the apes, we must save their habitats—two of the planet’s three “green lungs”—in the tropical forests of Africa and Southeast Asia. Fear of climate change has brought the ecological services that these forests provide us to the fore. As a result, there is a growing sense of urgency in efforts to slow deforestation. But forests are not just a bunch of trees, and monkeys and apes are not just important because they are cute and intelligent social mammals.

Aside from their innate right to live freely in their natural habitats, primates also perform a service to the planet. Like elephants, parrots and other fruit-eating animals, they are keystone species in their habitats, principally because they disperse the seeds of the next generation of trees in their droppings. The trees we fell today for our garden furniture and hardwood paneling were “planted” by animals many centuries ago. To maintain tropical forests over the long-term, the “gardeners of the forest” must be protected.

Yet this is not just about saving charismatic mega-vertebrates. About 50 percent of all known species live in tropical forests, or more correctly, play a role in the ecology of tropical forests. These forests play a pivotal role in sequestering and storing carbon, but losing them means more than an absence in their role as climate regulators. Forest destruction and degradation account for nearly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions (much more than the transport sector). Cutting down forests is a double loss because the process adds to the very problems we need forests to help solve. Forests store carbon not just in the wood of the trees, but also in the soil—especially in tropical forests growing on peat swamps, which release centuries-worth of stored carbon when they dry out.

In December, world leaders will meet in Bali, Indonesia for the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change. Among the items to be discussed are the new regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which will come into effect after the first period of the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. Unfortunately, the Kyoto Protocol and European Emissions Trading Scheme do not recognize carbon credits—a method of privatizing the societal cost of carbon dioxide pollution by allowing countries or individual companies not meeting emission targets to buy “credit” from independent bodies—for avoided deforestation, and they make it very difficult for afforestation (establishing a forest on land that is not a forest, or has not been one for a long time) or reforestation (reestablishing a forest shortly after its removal) schemes in developing countries.

As a result, economic pressures to exploit forests are many times greater than efforts to conserve them, and illegal, unsustainable logging and the conversion of tropical forests to agriculture continue to threaten these biodiverse habitats’ role in maintaining climate stability. Ironically, one of the measures being touted as a means of reducing carbon emissions—using bio-fuels instead of fossil fuels—is exacerbating the destruction of forests by making it more profitable to convert them to growing oil palms or other bio-fuel crops. Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions could help achieve the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty and improve peoples’ lives in developing countries, since the poorest 1.2 billion of the world’s population depend directly on forests for their livelihood.

The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change (an October 2006 report for the British government by economist Nicholas Stern,

investigating the effect of climate change and global warming on the world economy) concludes that “[c]urbing deforestation is a highly cost-effective way to reduce emissions.” It estimates that investing a few billions of dollars per year in protecting forests would be the cheapest way of significantly reducing global carbon emissions. This is not, however, an option to replace the development of low carbon technology and the curbing of other emissions. It is instead an immediate action that could buy some time for new technologies to come into play.

In short, we must do all we can to lessen our personal carbon footprints, and we must all call on our government to create a regulatory framework that stimulates the voluntary carbon markets. Carbon trading should meet strict standards. This would attract immediate investment in managing forests for the benefit of local communities, biodiversity conservation and the planet. To find out more, please visit www.4apes.com/carbon. 🐾

Clockwise, bottom left: A mother and baby orangutan express their affection. Forests are essential in slowing climate change, since trees absorb carbon dioxide and store carbon. There is more carbon in the atmosphere and fewer trees to absorb it, due to logging. Oil palms are grown for their fruit, which is used in the production of vegetable oil. In Malaysia, oil palms grow where a rainforest recently stood.



Stew Milne/Associated Press

Oscar the cat seems to have an uncanny knack for predicting when nursing home patients are going to die, curling up next to them during their final hours.

Feline Predicts Elderly Deaths

Oscar, a 2-year-old cat living at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence, R.I., has an unusual ability: he can predict when its residents are about to die. The cat has correctly identified 25 patients in their final hours, curling up on their beds when they generally have fewer than four hours to live. Recently awarded a wall plaque commending his work, Oscar has been said to be better than the center's employees at making these predictions. Families are grateful for the ability to say goodbye to their loved ones before it is too late, reports a recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article on the still-unexplained phenomenon. 🐾

Cockfighting to Stop in Louisiana

The last state to allow cockfighting has finally approved new legislation to stop the bloodsport in August 2008. In the meantime, another newly enacted Louisiana law bans the practice of gambling at cockfights, intending to stop it from drawing spectators and making money. The Animal Welfare Institute hopes that in light of the recent dog fighting case involving football star Michael Vick, people will open their eyes to the cruelty associated with forcing animals to attack each other. 🐾

Lovesick Elephants Elope

In August, Savitri, a female circus elephant in the West Bengal state of India, ran away to a nearby jungle with a wild bull elephant who had broken into her enclosure. Three other female elephants attempted to follow the duo, but they were led back by circus workers. Savitri spent more than a week with the bull, who wildlife officials believe was in a period of musth and seeking to mate. The circus contemplated ways to lure the elephant back to captivity, but perhaps due to hunger, Savitri returned on her own. 🐾

Endangered Wildlife Skin Smuggling Case Uncovered

Following a three-year undercover operation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, famed boot maker Martin Villegas has been charged with money laundering and conspiring to illegally smuggle protected animal skins into the United States to make exotic footwear.

With two other Mexican nationals and two residents of the United States, he has allegedly made 25 shipments of skins since 2005 that were prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Villegas, who is currently being held in a Colorado jail, has fashioned boots for world leaders such as President Bush and former Mexican President Vicente Fox—who may be connected to the operation. Prior to his arrest, a raid of Villegas's warehouse revealed goods made from endangered species including sea turtles, crocodiles, lizards and cobras. 🐾

Pets and Planes

The loss, injury or death of a companion animal used to be reported to the US Department of Transportation (DoT) as "mishandled baggage." Though Congress told airlines to start filing separate reports for this live cargo in 2000, it took five years before the DoT issued regulations to enforce the requirement and airlines finally started complying. A review of the incidents documented since that time reveals dogs and cats who have been left sitting on the tarmac for hours and even days. They have been abandoned in dangerous cargo areas, put on the wrong flight or no flight at all, and escaped, never to be recovered.

The DoT gives its Air Travel Consumer Report, containing the information provided by the airlines, to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)—the agency charged with enforcing the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The AWA stipulates handling and care requirements for live animals transported by air. Clearly, the USDA oversight does not prevent animals from suffering, getting lost or dying at some point after their human companions have left them in the hands of the airline industry.

We strongly advise against flying with your dog or cat unless he or she is small enough to be placed under your seat in a carrier. If your pet must be placed in the cargo hold, please ensure the animal is healthy enough to endure the stressful conditions and is checked on during the trip. An animal should never be shipped unaccompanied. Take your companion animal to a vet immediately if you have any doubts about his or her condition after a flight. If seriously injured or killed during air transport, your animal must be returned to you, so that you (and not the airline) can seek out treatment or a necropsy. If necessary, file a complaint with the airline as soon as possible, and contact us so that we may ask the USDA to investigate the matter. 🐾

Sharks in the Atlantic Ocean May Get a Chance to Recover

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is considering a proposal to limit shark fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It gives special attention to porbeagle and sandbar sharks, common victims of wasteful and cruel finning—whereby fins are sliced from the live animals, who are then tossed back into the sea to die. The measure would severely restrict the taking of sandbar sharks, overfished for their large, valuable fins.

Shark carcasses are often brought to shore with their fins cut from their bodies. Despite the enactment of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act in 2000, some fins continue

to be taken from protected species, and/or fins on board fishing vessels do not correspond with the carcasses. Species valued for their fins differ from species valued for their meat. Enforcement is complicated, as it can be hard to identify the species merely by looking at the fins.

By mandating that all sharks arrive on shore with their fins attached, the proposal would help stop shark finning in the region and improve the enforcement of the law. However, while this initiative may give Atlantic sharks an opportunity to recover from years of depletion, the NMFS should extend the same protections to sharks in the Pacific Ocean. 🐾



www.wikipedia.com

Breaking the "Bird Brain" Stereotype

A 31-year-old African grey parrot named Alex (an acronym for Avian Learning EXperiment) died on Sept. 6. As the subject of a 30-year experiment by animal psychologist Irene Pepperberg, he proved birds are intelligent animals capable of reasoning and using words creatively. Alex could identify 50 different objects, as well as seven colors and five shapes. His vocabulary contained about 150 words, and he was particularly talented at showing an understanding of the things he said, instead of merely mimicking. African greys typically live to the age of 50 years; Alex's premature death was unexpected, and its cause is still unknown. 🐾

MONKEYS IN PERIL:

Thousands sold by dealers for experimentation

story by SHIRLEY MCGREAL,
INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE

Macaques are heavily sought after for research in the United States and many other countries. In the 1970s, India's rhesus macaques were decimated by trade. However, India banned monkey exports in 1977, followed by Bangladesh in 1979. Since then, animal dealers and their clients have turned their attention to crab-eating (long-tailed) macaques, a species native to Southeast Asia.

A GROWING DEMAND FOR CRAB-EATING MACAQUES

The demand for monkeys for use in biowarfare experiments has increased in recent years. Monkeys are used because they are so similar to humans. Among the biowarfare agents tested on these animals are Ebola, anthrax, botulism and Lassa fever. Much of the research is classified and conducted at highly secret facilities, and it is now extremely difficult to use the Freedom of Information Act to gather detailed information.

One certainty is that there is no "humane" way to infect monkeys with agents such as Ebola, which causes human and animal victims ghastly deaths from "bleeding out." Nor is there any "humane" way to expose monkeys to the nerve poison sarin and other lethal nerve gases.

Monkeys are also used as a food source in some parts of Southeast Asia. The growing prosperity and population of the area, especially China, has made it possible for more people to indulge in increased consumption of monkeys and wildlife in general. This escalating trade has become a threat to the crab-eating macaque and additional species that were once common in the area.

PROBLEMS FOR CAMBODIAN MONKEYS

Cambodia is a Buddhist nation and has historically never participated in the monkey trade. The nation's wildlife and protected areas were badly hurt by warfare and civil strife. However, its ecosystems were beginning to recover gradually—until the animal dealers moved in to loot Cambodia's wildlife.

US import statistics show no monkeys imported from Cambodia in 2004. In 2005, 240 Cambodian monkeys entered the United States, followed by 2,532 in 2006. All are marked on US Form 3-177 import declarations as "C," which means "born in captivity." Although this claim is highly dubious, US wildlife authorities did nothing to stop the shipments.

Cambodia is now home to at least two monkey breeding centers, the Golden China Group and KF (Cambodia) Ltd. Hsu. Leading US importers include Covance and Shin Nippon. On Nov. 25, 2006, the *Cambodian Daily* exposed this trade:

Obscured behind a high concrete wall with a sign reading "Golden China Primate Propagate & Research Center" is a roughly three-hectare [7.5 acre] compound housing an estimated 8,900 long-tailed macaque monkeys. Roughly 3,000 of the monkeys were captured in the wild by Cambodian villagers, according to Bun Tha, the Phnom Penh-based spokesman for Golden China.

The *Daily* reporter interviewed a former employee named Chim Chek, who said he was paid 75 cents US a day for construction work and described

the cruelty he witnessed. "There is one building where there are several thousand monkeys in many cages," Chek told the reporter. "[B]etween 10 to 20 monkeys are kept in a single cage. I'm not happy with it. I think these Cambodian monkeys should live in the wild."

MALAYSIA PLANS TO JOIN THE MONKEY TRADE

In 1984, Malaysia outlawed the export of monkeys on humanitarian grounds. At that time, the chief of wildlife was Mr. Mohammed Khan. Sadly, the long-standing ban was lifted on Aug. 17 of this year, when Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid announced that the Cabinet decided at a June 29 meeting to allow export of long-tailed macaques captured from urban areas.

Azmi cited macaque attacks on humans and the failure of relocation and sterilization programs as reasons for lifting the trade ban on macaques in urban areas. He ruled out culling because "it is cruel to shoot them."

Malaysian animal lovers expressed their outrage in letters to the editor of Malaysia's leading newspapers and demanded a meeting with the Minister. To fight the lifting of the ban, the Malaysian Animal Rights and Welfare Society (ROAR) was formed by the SPCA Selangor, the Malaysian Animal Assisted Therapy for Disabled Association, Parti Keadilan Rakyat, and the Malaysian Association for Responsible Pet Ownership.

The coalition submitted a memorandum to the Minister, demanding the reinstatement of the ban and a halt on all pending macaque shipments. It also lodged a police report against Azmi and ministry officials for violating Section 92(f) of the Protection of Wildlife Act of 1972.

Retired National Parks Department (Perhilitan) Director-General Mohammed Khan expressed his outrage at the plans to lift the export ban which, he stated, has "undermined the hard work of primate conservation groups." In an article published on Sept. 11, 2007 in the Malaysian newspaper *Star*, he commented that overseas buyers would not want urban monkeys, noting:

Urban monkeys are known to have tuberculosis and assorted intestinal diseases. They do not make good test subjects and are not appealing to exotic food importers. Eventually, senseless poaching of wild monkeys will ensue to fill the demands of importers.

Khan also questioned the assertion by the authorities that it is better to export than to cull. "Better for whom?" he asked. "Follow the money trail and trace who the beneficiaries are."

Star reported that former Wildlife Director-General Musa Nordin was somehow involved in the trade, and that he had laid the groundwork for getting the ban lifted while he was in office. Mr. Nordin admitted his involvement, but claimed it was "indirect."

Meanwhile, Malaysians had an unpleasant preview of the hideous cruelty of the monkey trade. Animal dealers had illegally amassed close to a thousand monkeys at a palm oil plantation in Pontian in southern Malaysia. On July 7, after a two-week investigation, the plantation was raided and 950 macaques were confiscated by wildlife officials. Kept under terrible conditions and starving, the usually protective monkeys had started eating their newborn and fighting each other. Approximately 100 were already dead, and many more died later. Three Malaysian nationals and one Indonesian were arrested. Numerous surviving monkeys were later released into the forest.

On Aug. 29, a visiting animal protection worker was able to enter the plantation premises and observed cages jam-packed with monkeys. The undercover worker also saw animal trapping equipment lying around the premises. The dealers had received small fines—and were apparently undeterred and continuing their monkey collection activities. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please send a letter to the Embassy of Cambodia, requesting a ban on the export of monkeys and the release of all monkeys being held captive:

His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia
4530 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Please write the Embassy of Malaysia, urging the country to cancel its plans to re-enter the monkey trade:

His Excellency the Ambassador of Malaysia
Embassy of Malaysia
3516 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Above: Young monkeys await export from Cambodia for an uncertain but tragic future—research or the dinner table. Left: This summer, hundreds of monkeys were confiscated from a Malaysian animal dealer. Though many were eventually released into the wild, some animals were already dead or died soon after their rescue.



The Truth Behind Trapping

Wildlife consultant Camilla Fox interviews Bill Randall, a former Maine trapper.

CAMILLA: Can you please tell us about your history in regards to trapping?

BILL: My father was a novice beaver and muskrat trapper in the 1940s, and I often went with him to set and check traps. Seeing my father chopping through the ice and pulling a beaver up through the hole was as thrilling to me as catching a fish or shooting a deer, which I also did as a young boy. A side benefit of trapping that I quickly learned was the monetary rewards from selling the pelts to Sears and Roebuck. As a 10-year-old, I was absolutely thrilled to receive my first check in the mail for a dozen or so muskrats and a mink. In my adult life, as a novice and sportsman, I continued to trap furbearers into the 1980s—right up until the fur market crash.

I was also a licensed fur buyer in the 1970s and 80s and often had discussions in my fur shop with other trappers about the unintended cruelty of our traps. At times, certain trappers who had developed a trust with me talked about the cats and dogs they caught and how they disposed of them. In my last year of land trapping and the only year that I trapped on land in a built up area, I caught 28 house cats and several dogs. I did not kill the dogs, but I did kill 26 of the cats. I did this upon the oral advice of the local game warden and the Maine Trapper's Association representative.

Most cats caught in a steel jaw leghold trap struggle so hard they further injure themselves—often severely, with broken legs and shoulders. Then, just as it still is today, the

Companion animals are frequently accidental victims of bone-crushing steel jaw leghold traps. The indiscriminate device also poses a risk to non-target wildlife species.

photos, page 11: raccoon (Bryan Eastham/www.istockphoto.com); fox (Kenneth C. Zirkel/www.istockphoto.com); owl (Jill Lang/www.istockphoto.com)

unwritten word among the trappers and some game wardens was that if you released the cats, the owners would know they had been in a trap. The owners would take their beloved pet to a veterinarian and the injured cat would then appear on the front page of the local newspaper, causing bad publicity for trappers and trapping. As trappers, when we were sometimes asked about missing cats, we were advised to say that fishers killed them—in much the same way that the coyote is nearly always vilified and blamed today for the disappearance of someone's cat.

CAMILLA: Can you tell us about what you saw in the field during your trapping days that perhaps led to your decision to stop trapping?

BILL: Like every trapper who has trapped for a few years, I have seen about everything one can imagine could happen to an animal caught in a trap. I also learned as a young boy, and later as an adult, that traps are not selective. Spring muskrat trapping was abolished for precisely that reason. Just as other muskrat trappers did, I also caught dozens of



ducks, numerous blue herons and meadow hens, several owls, and even a few pregnant female mink. It is not unusual to see just a muskrat's foot in a steel trap, even though we knew as trappers that muskrat and beaver traps must be set to ensure quick drowning. I've seen numerous skunks in my land traps that had chewed off a foot. I should mention that a foot was all that was left in the only steel-jawed trap I ever set for a bear. This was in 1958; a year after the \$15 bounty was removed.

The thing that bothered me most was seeing a raccoon caught by the front foot in a steel trap that had somehow stripped off all of the skin up to his shoulder in the struggle to free himself. Nothing I saw actually caused me to stop trapping. In my later years, I have simply chosen to speak the truth about traps and trapping. Even though I don't trap anymore, it is the collectiveness of what I have seen over the years that causes me to continue to speak out.

CAMILLA: When more than 85 countries have banned the steel jaw leghold trap, do you think it is problematic that this trap is still legal in most US states, and still promoted by the US government?

BILL: As anyone who has been around government for any period of time knows, the government and its agents can be self-serving. Maine's wildlife managers are so entrenched in tradition that they continue to support hunting and trapping practices that are no longer needed or acceptable by today's ethical beliefs. Just as the federal government has sought to extirpate the coyotes by every means imaginable, cruel and otherwise, and at a cost of over \$50 million, Maine wildlife managers now use the coyote as their deer management scapegoat. And we must never forget that selling licenses is a monetary factor in their support of the status quo.

"Regardless of trapper skills, any trap can and does catch all birds and beasts, wild and domestic."



CAMILLA: When Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) conducted a state-sponsored coyote neck snaring program, you spoke out against this practice. Why did you choose to publicly condemn this practice, and why do you think coyote snaring is not acceptable?

BILL: I was given numerous photos of coyotes caught in snares by my best friend who is a trapper, and he saw nothing wrong about what he did. However, I remained silent, not wanting to offend a friend—even though the photos were the

most gory visual display of animal cruelty I had ever seen. But after reading the report by an IF&W biologist that 70 percent of the neck snared coyotes struggled for up to three days and died only after their brains exploded from blood abundance—something known as "jellyheads"—I had to speak out. I was also a friend of the former IF&W commissioner, a wildlife biologist, and he told me that the coyote snaring could have local benefits and should not be exercised on a state-wide basis. I believe that trying to extirpate the coyote is counterproductive over a cyclic period of time. IF&W charts conclusively prove that Mother Nature, coexisting with land management practices, is the ultimate manager of wildlife. Men, including our so-called wildlife managers, are merely short term meddlers.

CAMILLA: You are quoted in the *Washington Post* (May 20, 2007) as having been a bear trapper at one point in your life. Please tell us more about the change in your views on this issue and why you'd like to see an end to bear trapping in Maine.

BILL: In order to answer this question in full, I would have to write a book. My experiences are many and varied, as I have also been a recreational bear hunter with hounds, a bear baiting guide, and a bear trapping participant and advisor at



While the cruelty of steel jaw leghold traps has been realized by Bill Randall and others, the tradition of trapping animals using this horrific device remains alive, as demonstrated by this trapper's trophy room.



various times for 45 years. I have participated in the trapping of approximately 50 bears, many of which we released. Releasing a bear from the trap always provided a greater thrill for me. If one has the ability to trap a mouse in their house, they can trap a bear. My views on bear hunting and trapping changed drastically after both activities became commercialized, following the IF&W declaration that Maine's black bear is a big game animal.

Of the many nonresident bear hunters over bait that I guided (I use the term loosely), I quickly learned that hunting was not the reason they came to Maine. Most were braggarts and merely wished to kill a bear as a trophy to prove their manliness or hunting prowess. Bear hunters and trappers are a different breed, and I came to find many of them offensive after a period of time. They are not sportsmen as I define sportsmen, who eat what they shoot. A true sportsman is far more thrilled by the ethical, lengthy and challenging pursuit than by the instant of killing of his prey.

While a case can be made for bear hunting, I know from experience that bear can be hunted in sufficient numbers without resorting to hunting and executing a Pavlov-conditioned bear over a bait pile. Maine's IF&W cannot make a case that the annual trapping of 130 bears is a scientific or a wildlife management issue. And IF&W's argument for justifying the "tradition" of trapping is only as valid as saying that we should continue the practice of selling human beings as we did in the days of slavery because it was a tradition. Should we also go back to the tradition of living as a troglodyte? I think not.

CAMILLA: You are a standing declarant in a lawsuit against the state of Maine aimed at protecting threatened and endangered species such as Canada lynx from indiscriminate traps. Why did you join this suit?

BILL: I'm a bit of a legal buff and a former Passamaquoddy fish and wildlife consultant who wrote its hunting, fishing and trapping ordinances in 1989. I joined the Animal Protection Institute lawsuit because I do not believe the Maine IF&W is upholding the intent of the federally

"Even though I don't trap anymore, it is the collectiveness of what I have seen over the years that causes me to continue to speak out..."

mandated Endangered Species Act, in much the same way that the IF&W failed to get the required federal permit that has recently curtailed Maine's unneeded and inherently cruel coyote snaring program. I also know that traps and snares are not selective and often times catch non-target animals. Regardless of trapper skills, any trap can and does catch all birds and beasts, wild and domestic.

CAMILLA: It takes a lot of courage to speak out about something you once practiced, but now view as unacceptable and unethical. What is your hope for this issue?

BILL: I'm not sure whether it was courage or rage that finally tipped the scales. Yes, speaking against the interests of a special friend was indeed a painful experience. But I've never been a person to follow the crowd just for the sake of following the crowd. And after a four-year stint as a US Air Force Air Intelligence Operations Specialist, I learned that some of my government agents did not always tell the truth. I now welcome the opportunity to tell the truth, for doing so is an easy task. The truth of traps and trapping is one that needs to be addressed more than ever before. It is time that we learn to love and have compassion for all things.

For more information about trapping in Maine, please visit www.wildlifealliancemaine.org. 🐾



Former trapper Bill Randall now advocates against the practice and has spoken out against Maine's since-halted coyote neck snaring program.



Peoria Animal Welfare Shelter

Dog fighting pits dogs against each other for entertainment purposes. Congress is taking steps to stop this cruel practice.

Dog Fighting Charges Present an Opportunity for Action

Following the announcement of dog fighting charges against Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick in July, the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act was introduced in the US Congress as S. 1880 and H.R. 3219. The bill seeks to further empower federal prosecutors to pursue individuals—including spectators—engaged in all aspects of dog fighting. It would increase maximum penalties to include up to five years in federal prison. While public awareness of this barbaric act is at an all-time high, Congress must take prompt action.

Despite most Americans' horror at the situation, some people have stepped up in Vick's defense. The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) spoke out against the argument that the abused dogs were "private property"—and thus Vick's behavior was acceptable. The private property or "private rights" claim is a common but dangerous mindset espoused by some elected officials to "justify" cruelty to animals in the form of barbaric activities such as animal fighting and horse slaughter for human consumption. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor S. 1880 and H.R. 3219, the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act. Write to:

The Honorable (name)	The Honorable (name)
US House of Representatives	US Senate
Washington, DC 20515	Washington, DC 20510

To find your Senators and Representative and learn more about animal welfare legislation, please visit www.compassionindex.org.

A Victory for Equines in Illinois

A three-judge panel from the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled unanimously in September to uphold a decision by the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, reaffirming the constitutionality of an Illinois law preventing the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Following passage of the law in May, the state's sole horse slaughterhouse, Cavel International, filed suit in federal court to challenge the mandate's constitutionality. On July 5, the US District Court ruled the law constitutional—and thus, enforceable. Cavel appealed that decision to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and horses continued to be slaughtered while the case was considered.

Cavel has two options remaining to challenge the ruling, and we hope it will do neither. It can request an *en banc* review, whereby all Seventh Circuit judges would reconsider the decision rendered by the three-judge panel, or it can appeal directly to the US Supreme Court. Meanwhile, export for slaughter remains legal, and the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act must be adopted to curtail the trade. 🐾

An End to B Dealers is Within Congress' Reach

Two bills to improve the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) have been combined and inserted in the 2007 Farm Bill. Passed in the US House of Representatives in July, the amendment to halt the notorious trade in animals by Class B dealers. It will close a loophole in the AWA that currently permits profiteers to sell illegally acquired dogs and cats for experimentation. Additionally, the measure stops the use of live animals as part of sales pitches by purveyors of medical devices. Finally, the measure reinstates the requirement that the US Department of Agriculture submit an annual report to Congress on Animal Welfare Act enforcement activities, and it increases fines to research facilities violating the Act to as much as \$10,000 per violation when appropriate. 🐾

Of Pigs, History and Impunity:

A train ride from the southwestern city of Timisoara appears to confirm all that has been written in the western press about Romanian agriculture. One can pass for long stretches across one of Europe's famously fertile regions, the Hungarian plateau, wreathed in mist in the first light of morning, without seeing a farmstead. All were razed during the communist dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu to make way for giant state farms. This region, along with the country's other flatlands, the Wallacian plateau and the Danube valley in the south and east, as well as much of Moldavia in the north, was remorselessly collectivized. Today, many fields, returned to owners without the capital to resume farming, are abandoned and overgrown. Flocks of sheep, watched over by shepherds, crop the weeds.

Yet in the hills and mountains making up the central part of the country, one steps back in time to a peasant society unaltered in 60 years. Outside the northern city of Cluj are innumerable narrow valleys clogged with tiny haystacks. There are women in kerchiefs bending over in the fields, men cutting hay with scythes, beautiful teams of horses. The villages are neat and solidly built, but without electricity and running water. Donkey carts make their way from house to house delivering water; every home is backed by an orchard and garden, every yard seems occupied by chickens and pigs. There are 4.2 million peasant properties in Romania. While they average only 2.2 hectares, most of the country's agricultural production, including pigs, derives from them.

Unfortunately, both peasant Romania, which survived Communism, and commercial farming, still painfully restoring itself, face an enemy that aspires, in effect, to resume where Ceausescu left off. In 2004, Smithfield Foods, already entrenched in Poland, invaded Romania as well. Its initial target was Contim, a huge complex of Ceausescu-era hog factories—36 large farms, six feedmills, and the country's biggest slaughterhouse—which it acquired for only 33 million dollars through the socialist government then in power.

When biology student Dana Spinu and I visited Timisoara a few weeks before the Smithfield takeover, we found officials and academics naively unprepared for what awaited them. We were invited to Paderini, one of six Contim farms being operated by a Romanian firm, in its last days of independence before being swallowed up. In contrast to US and Polish hog factories, the operation was scrupulously clean. The effluent was pumped to sewage ponds a kilometer away; the feeder pigs had four times more room than in the United States, twice that required under EU regulations. Piglets were weaned at 36 days and took six months to reach market weight. My description of Smithfield practices—piglets weaned at 11 days and brought to market weight at 120 days, feed doped with growth enhancers and antibiotics, dumpsters overflowing with dead animals—was greeted with incredulity by company veterinarians. “Impossible! Illegal! It can't happen here!”

Smithfield's first move upon its arrival was to fire former managers, post guards at hog factory gates, and order employees to say nothing about their work. Evidence of high level corruption was not long in coming. Local officials were ordered to keep “hands off” the company; academic critics were disciplined. Smithfield's relationship with the neo-liberals who came to power in 2005 was even more intimate. Free of interference, even exempted from EU regulations until 2012, Smithfield moved rapidly to consolidate its position, reactivating the Contim farms, and buying refrigeration and transportation companies. While the government shut down small slaughterhouses (ostensibly because of the EU), leaving small farmers with no place to market pigs, Smithfield flooded the country with pork imported from Poland and the United States.

In July 2007, however, Smithfield encountered an opponent that it could not bribe. At Cenei, west of Timisoara, 3,500 Smithfield pigs died suddenly. The company blamed it on a heat wave, but nauseating piles of carcasses attracted the press, and the county veterinary inspectorate was forced to do

Smithfield in Romania by TOM GARRETT



These dead pigs are victims of swine fever in Romania.

its job. On Aug. 3, it discovered classical swine fever, a viral disease long endemic in Romania, among Cenei's 20,000 pigs. At this point, the “hands off Smithfield” policy came to an abrupt end. The county disease control center halted all movement of Smithfield hogs, freezing its operations; the National Veterinary and Food Safety Authority began emergency inspections of the entire Contim system. Within a few days, two more infected farms with 30,000 pigs were discovered at Igris, on the Hungarian border.

At the same time, it was learned that 11 Smithfield farms had not even applied for sanitary-veterinary authorization and were operating in blatant contempt of Romanian law. Agency head Radu Roatus excoriated local officials and announced that the unregistered farms would be shut down. Agriculture Minister Decebal Traian Remeș confirmed that all exposed pigs would be killed and incinerated, and he suggested that the company “probably” would not be compensated for them. Muzzles removed, lesser officials blamed the Americans. “Our doctors have not had access to American farms to perform routine inspections,” said Timis county veterinarian Csaba Doraczi. “Every time they tried they were pushed away

by the guards.” It even came to light that Smithfield workers are paid so little, about \$230 US a month, that the company suffered from a labor shortage.

On our visit to Cenei, we heard harrowing tales; huge piles of rotting pigs left unburied for weeks at the farm a kilometer away, then five intolerable days as 20,000 pigs were shot and burned in the open. At Igris, the government vaporized 30,000 very young pigs, some just weaned, in an electric incinerator brought from the United Kingdom. Both villages were visited by EU observers and privately owned pigs within a 10-kilometer radius were hastily vaccinated.

A “serious investigation” of Timis county authorities is said to be underway. But the impunity with which Smithfield was allowed to operate derives from collusion at the highest levels of government, far above the hapless officials who are likely to take the blame. Nor does one have to look far to find the long arm of the US government. A delegation of American lawmakers (reportedly Senators) came to Bucharest to lobby for Smithfield, and Romanian Members of Parliament were in the United States at Smithfield's expense—the American ambassador has been persistently involved. Already, there is evidence of an attempt to smother the issue and remove it from public view.

Whether the arrival of classical swine fever, exposing Smithfield as the rogue company it always has been, can halt its takeover remains to be seen. But the trajectory of events, if it does not, is perfectly clear. When Walter Goldschmidt, dean of rural sociology, travelled in Romania during the 1980s, through fields of sunflowers stretching unbroken as far as the eye could see, he said he had a sense of déjà vu. He had seen it all before when he studied America's first corporate takeover of agriculture as a young man in the Central Valley of California. It was perfectly clear to Goldschmidt that the collectivization and corporatization of agriculture are two sides of the same coin. Where rural Romania is going, if the virus does not save it, is back to Nicolai Ceausescu's vision of complete control, materializing re-clothed, but in an even more tyrannical and malignant form. 🐾

ENRICHING MACAQUE LIVING CONDITIONS

Feeding Enrichment

Frozen Frisbee Salads: Plastic frisbees are layered with fruit and veggies, covered in water or juice, and frozen overnight. These can be handed directly to the primates or hung outside of the cages. The animals seem to have a great time picking up the treats as they gradually thaw.

Pylon Surprises: Plastic children's street cones containing small dry treats such as dried peas, raisins, seeds or nuts are zip tied together with holes on each end. The animals must manipulate the pylons to access the treats.

Foraging Crates: Plastic milk crates are filled with magazine paper wrapped around dry treats. Primates must manipulate the paper to find treats, some of which will fall out on the cage floor and create an additional foraging opportunity.

Twine Cones: Pinecones rolled in a sticky substance such as jam, honey or peanut butter and covered with a mixture of seeds and nuts are hung with braided twine outside of the cages. The monkeys must pick at seeds and nuts through the mesh of the cage wall and maneuver the twine to retrieve the treats.

Mop Medleys: Mop heads strung with pasta and dried treats are hung on the outside of the cages. The animals have to remove the treats from the mop strings through the mesh of the cage walls.

story and photos by JENNIFER GREEN, RESEARCH ASSISTANT
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF KINGSTON, ONTARIO

work to promote the well-being of three adult male rhesus macaques who live together in a pen-like enclosure ("Use of Enclosures with Functional Vertical Space by Captive Rhesus Monkeys Involved in Biomedical Research," *Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science*. Clarence WM, Scott JP, Dorris MC, Pare M 2006). They are involved in biomedical research and must be removed from the enclosure for approximately three hours per day. In the wild, macaques spend a great deal of their days searching for, retrieving and processing food. Therefore, it is not surprising that the easiest way to provide enrichment for the captive animals involves food. Making it more difficult for them to access their food promotes foraging behavior.

I have come up with several novel feeding enrichment items (see column at left). However, preparing them can be time-consuming and is not feasible on a daily basis. Fortunately, there are other easy, cost-effective and interesting options. In our laboratory, students and staff bring in plastic bottles, cardboard boxes and paper rolls. These items are used to encourage our monkeys to work for their food, instead of having it distributed in freely accessible food hoppers.

For example, one of my primate's favorite vegetable is sweet potatoes or yams. Instead of just handing him a yam after he has completed his work for the day, I cut it into small pieces that I stuff into bottles or hide in a box filled with recycled paper.

When he returns to his cage, I give him the treat. He then spends the next 20 minutes or longer getting all the yam pieces and eating them.

Using food enrichment is not the only way our lab tries to improve the living conditions for research primates. We strive to increase normal behaviors and activity levels by keeping our animals in a large enclosure furnished with high perches located above human eye level, as well as substrate bedding on the floor to encourage additional foraging behavior. Perches, logs, PVC swings and milk crates allow the primates to move around the enclosures, accessing various views at different levels.

Non-breakable acrylic mirrors amuse our monkeys more than any other objects. We mount some mirrors on the walls so animals can view all areas in the room and outside in the hallways. We also hand them small pieces of this non-breakable mirror material, which they carry around and use to check every angle in the enclosure. They often use the mirrors to look at another cage mate—or at me—without being noticed.

The benefits of providing macaques in research labs interesting living conditions can be seen in many areas. Less boredom and frustration reduces distress and therefore increases the validity of research data collected from the animals. It is our goal to continue to seek novel and interesting ways to promote the behavioral well-being of our animals. They are making the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit, and we must keep them as well and content as possible. 🐾



Simple Housing Changes May Improve Laboratory Rat Welfare

Sylvie Cloutier, Ph.D. and Ruth C. Newberry, Ph.D. of Washington State University's Center for the Study for Animal Well-Being increase the value of research data and help the animals.

A long-term goal of our laboratory animal welfare research group is to identify management and housing factors that affect animal welfare and influence the validity of research findings. Validity is an important component of scientific methodology. One aspect of validity refers to the degree to which the findings from a study are repeatable—in other words, whether the findings would hold true if the same study was conducted again in other laboratories.

Because rats are used often in research, the discovery of husbandry methods to improve their welfare can have a major impact on laboratory animal care. Our research team is currently investigating how laboratory rats are affected by the degree to which they can see out of their cages, as well as the location of their cages in a rodent rack. These factors are almost never mentioned in the reporting of biomedical research involving animals, and yet they may contribute variability to the data. If so, this could increase the number of animals required to detect treatment effects and reduce the comparability of findings from different laboratories.

Rats used in biomedical research are commonly housed in shoebox cages made of polypropylene (opaque white) or polycarbonate (clear) material. Opaque white cages prevent visual contact with the surrounding



Henry Moore (College of Veterinary Medicine photographer)

Walls with alternating opaque and clear stripes could create a “Venetian blind” effect that allows the animals to observe the surrounding environment, while providing a sense of security and control over exposure to visual stimuli outside of their cages.

Rat cages are usually placed on multi-shelf racks. On different shelves, rats are likely to be exposed to multiple varieties of light intensity, temperature, humidity, sounds and views of the surrounding area. When studying laying hens, birds housed in upper cages are reported to be more fearful than birds housed at middle or lower levels. In laboratory rats, the effect of shelf height is unknown. Furthermore, there may be interactions between shelf height and degree of visual cover provided by the cage walls, especially when rats are housed individually. A better understanding of the effects of shelf height and cage cover could lead to improvements in housing that increase the well-being of laboratory rats used for research.

We are comparing the responses of male Sprague-Dawley rats housed in three different cage types: clear plastic cages, opaque cages (clear plastic cages covered with white cardboard

environment. Since rats are social animals, visual contact between individually housed animals could reduce the negative impact of social isolation. Clear cages allow a view of the room and facilitate visual social contact with neighboring rats. However, they may induce anxiety due to lack of visual cover.

It is possible, therefore, that cages with partially covered walls, rather than completely clear or opaque walls, would be beneficial to rat welfare.

“Rats housed in partially covered cages show less anxiety-related behavior than rats housed in clear and opaque cages...”



Henry Moore (College of Veterinary Medicine photographer)



Sylvie Cloutier

Left: Partially covered cage walls create a “venetian blind” effect for this rat. Right: Three different types of cages were compared: clear cages, opaque cages and partially covered cages.

walls), and partially covered cages (clear plastic cages covered with vertical bands of white cardboard). Our research group is also interested in knowing how rats may be affected by shelf height. Therefore, the three cage types are spread among three different shelf heights: top (at or above human head), middle (at human body level) and bottom (at human leg level).

While the rats are housed in these cages, we assess effects of cage cover and shelf height on body weight, chromodacryorrhea secretion, and behavior. Chromodacryorrhea is a reddish porphyrin secretion that stains the skin and fur around the eyes and nostrils during times of stress. We measure chromodacryorrhea secretion weekly, following two routine procedures: body weight measurement and cage cleaning. The anxiety levels of the rats, and their reactions to the anticipation of

being handled by a human, are assessed at four-week intervals.

Preliminary results suggest that body weight, growth rate and secretion of chromodacryorrhea are not affected by the degree of visual cover provided by the cage walls or the height of the cage in the rodent rack. The rats are reacting similarly in anticipation of being handled. They are curious and approach the experimenter when the cage lid is removed. However, after eight weeks of housing, we are finding differences in the behavior of the rats according to cage type and shelf height. Rats housed in partially covered cages show less anxiety-related behavior than rats housed in clear and opaque cages when tested in an elevated plus maze. Additionally, rats housed on the bottom shelf in opaque cages or on the top shelf in clear cages are more active during behavioral testing compared with other

rats. It still needs to be determined whether this increased activity is related to exploration or escape attempts, but these results suggest cage types and location may modulate the animals' fear responses.

Our results indicate that the degree of visual contact with the surroundings can affect the outcome of behavioral tests used in biomedical research. The use of cages providing partial visual cover may reduce the anxiety level of rats and thus reduce the time taken by rats to habituate to the cage, humans and routine handling. This simple change in housing could improve the welfare of laboratory rats, and the external validity of research data from behavioral tests performed outside the home cage. 🐾

This research project was made possible through funding from an Animal Welfare Institute Refinement Award.

Bequests to AWI

If you would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:
I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, D.C., the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

An American Success Story

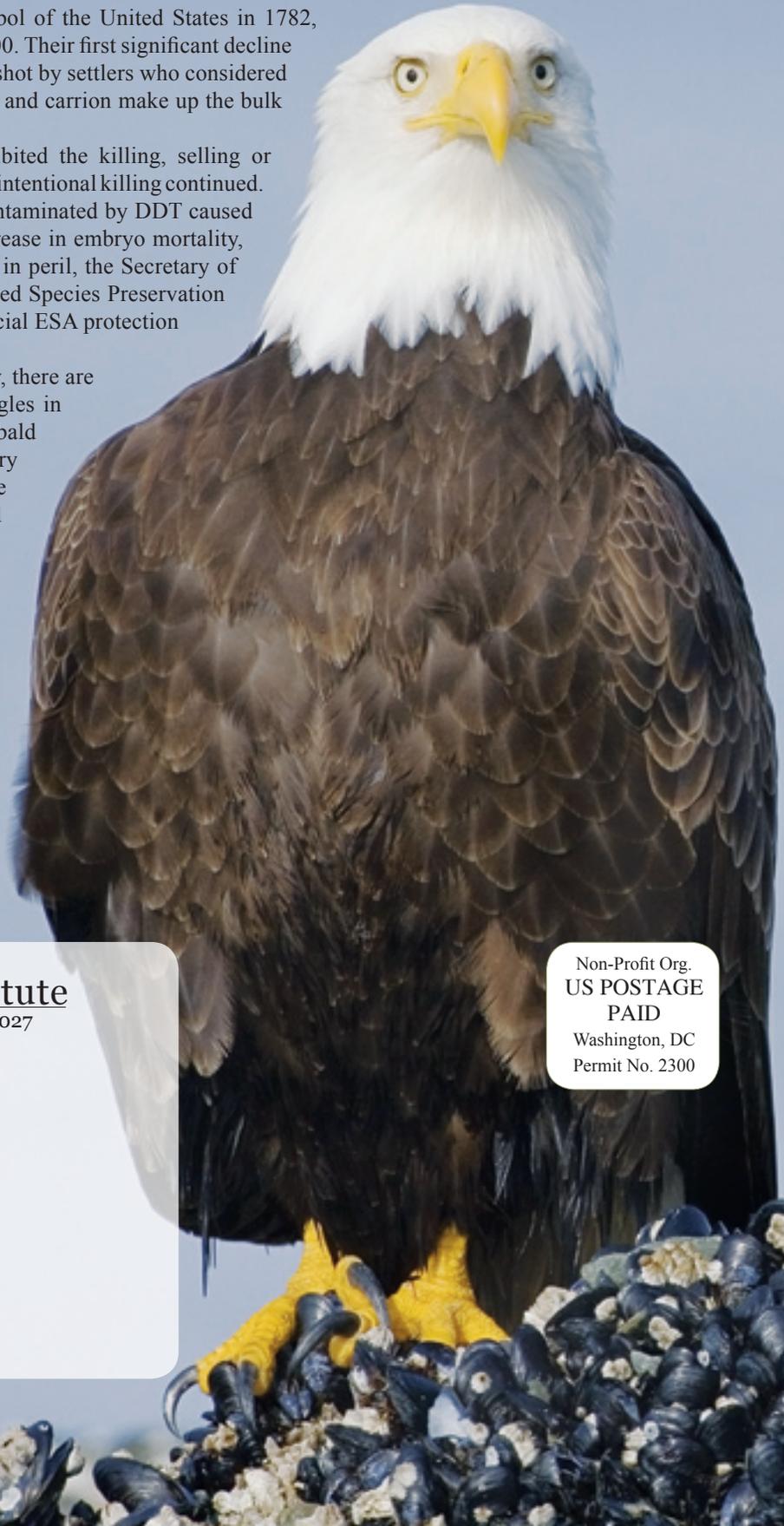
June 28, 2007 marked a victory for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, with the announcement of the American bald eagle's delisting. The ESA is intended to afford protection to imperiled species and facilitate their recovery. For the bald eagle, the ESA has been a lifeline, facilitating the species' recovery from a low point of only slightly more than 400 nesting pairs in the contiguous United States in 1963.

When the bald eagle became the national symbol of the United States in 1782, nesting eagles were thought to have numbered 100,000. Their first significant decline likely took place in the late 1800s, when many were shot by settlers who considered the birds a threat to farm animals—even though fish and carrion make up the bulk of the eagles' diet.

The Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 prohibited the killing, selling or possessing of any eagle parts, nests or eggs. However, intentional killing continued. And after World War II, the ingestion of animals contaminated by DDT caused eagles to experience infertility and a significant increase in embryo mortality, due to thinner eggshells. Realizing the raptors were in peril, the Secretary of the Interior listed the bald eagle under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966—the precursor to the current ESA. Official ESA protection was awarded in 1978.

According to the Center for Biological Diversity, there are now an estimated 11,040 breeding pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Though delisted from the ESA, bald eagles continue to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The species will also be monitored for five years under the ESA to ensure the delisting decision was correct.

The Bush Administration has listed the smallest number of species since the ESA was promulgated, and it has only done so in response to citizen petitions and/or lawsuits. The Administration and a few key Members of Congress have also repeatedly tried to undermine the Act. While the story of the bald eagle is one of success, hundreds of species remain on the list. Thousands more that should be included are not, and dozens of species have gone extinct as they awaited listing. It is critical that the ESA be preserved, and ideally strengthened, to ensure more recoveries in the future. 🐾



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