

# AWI

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# Quarterly

*Summer 2010 Volume 59 Number 3*



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## ABOUT THE COVER

The life of this chicken roaming free on an Animal Welfare Approved farm in Texas stands in stark contrast to the lives of industrially farmed chickens. As chronicled in this issue, most chickens raised for food live in crowded, dark, windowless sheds, never once feeling the grass under their feet or the sun on their feathers (see stories on pages 14 and 16). AWI's Animal Welfare Approved certification program supports humane farming systems where the animals are raised outdoors on pasture or range, not intensively confined, or otherwise subjected to cruel and unnatural conditions. Animals on Animal Welfare Approved farms are treated with compassion and dignity, and afforded the opportunity and space to fully engage with their environment.

Photo by Mike Suarez

## Oil Disaster Devastates Gulf AWI Sues BP to Protect Endangered Turtles

THE DEEPWATER HORIZON offshore oil drilling platform exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in the evening hours of April 20. The rig, under contract to British Petroleum (BP) since late 2007 and considered one of the largest and most sophisticated in the world, sank in 5,000 feet of water approximately 50 miles off the coast of Venice, Louisiana, wreaking environmental havoc in the Gulf and surrounding coastlines.



NOAA

An oiled Kemp's ridley sea turtle.

By mid-June, the disaster in the Gulf had surpassed the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill. By early July, it was the worst non-deliberate oil discharge in world history (eclipsed only by 1991's intentional, war-related dumping of oil into the Persian Gulf). An estimated 35,000 to 60,000 barrels of oil flooded into the Gulf of Mexico daily—the higher estimate equal to an additional Exxon Valdez spill every 4-5 days. BP's gross lack of emergency preparedness and failure to follow prudent operating procedures have been catastrophic.

When reports surfaced from shrimp boat captains and others that they were being blocked from rescuing endangered sea turtles who were being burned alive during "controlled burns" of the gushing oil, the Animal Welfare Institute took action. On June 30, AWI, joined by three other groups, filed suit against BP for burning critically endangered sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico, in violation of the Endangered Species Act and other federal laws. The suit was subsequently amended to add the U.S. Coast Guard as a defendant.

On July 2, BP and the Coast Guard reached an interim agreement with AWI and the other plaintiffs whereby BP and the Coast Guard instituted standard operating protocols for the search, rescue and rehabilitation of sea turtles during burn operations, and convened a group of scientists to determine the necessary elements of final protocols to ensure the safety of the turtles. On July 15, BP employed an experimental cap to staunch the flow of oil, followed by a permanent seal in early August. Meanwhile, clean-up and rescue efforts continue. Should the resultant protocols not serve to protect turtles, we won't hesitate to resume our efforts in court. 🐾

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**Above Left:** A young coyote on the alert. These resourceful canines adjust well to urban habitat, but sometimes find themselves in conflict with human neighbors. (Photo by John Harrison/ ProjectCoyote.org); **Top Right:** Primates in the wild (like these two Japanese macaques) sometimes swim for pleasure. As a form of enrichment, primates in research facilities also enjoy a little water play. (Photo by www.flickr.com/people/chriggy); **Bottom Right:** The Baltimore oriole, a migratory songbird which feeds on nectar, fruit, insects and spiders, is one of the many bird species that frequent shade-grown coffee farms for their wintering grounds. (Photo by Kelly Colganazar).



## Zimbabwe Cancels “Noah’s Ark” Export

IN MAY, IT WAS REPORTED THAT ZIMBABWE had captured and was planning to sell animals from Hwange National Park, including zebras, giraffes, hyenas, monkeys, birds, and two juvenile elephants to a North Korean zoo for \$23,000. The plans sparked vigorous protests around the globe from conservationists and animal protection groups, including AWI. Scientists also concluded that the animals likely would not survive the transition and adjustment to conditions in North Korea. Fortunately, Zimbabwe decided not to proceed with the export and, in June, announced that the shipment was cancelled. The giraffes and zebras were sent to a game farm, and the elephants will be released following a couple years of rehabilitation. Most of the remaining animals have already been returned to the wild with an opportunity to rejoin their families and live out their lives in freedom. 🐾



This young hyena was one of two brought back to the Hwange National Park in July. When released, the animals bolted off toward their clan.

## Gorillas in Peril

AFRICA’S CONGO BASIN is home to one of the world’s largest remaining rainforests and a diverse assemblage of wildlife, including gorillas. According to *The Last Stand of the Gorilla—Environmental Crime and Conflict in the Congo Basin*, a report published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Basin gorillas are increasingly threatened by poaching, epidemics like Ebola hemorrhagic fever, and habitat loss and degradation due to agricultural expansion, logging, mining, and charcoal production. These threats, exacerbated by an increase in armed militias funded by illegal natural resources extraction interests, have led UNEP to warn that “most of the remaining gorilla populations could become locally extinct by as early as 2020-2025.”

Poaching for bushmeat is a major cause of gorilla decline and has escalated in recent years to feed hungry militias, loggers, miners, and refugees. It is estimated that up to five million metric tons of bushmeat are traded annually in the five-nation Congo Basin region. Though surveys of bushmeat markets found ape carcasses to represent only 0.5 to 2 percent of the trade, because of their slow reproduction rate, even low mortality rates can devastate gorilla populations. The gorilla is not the only victim of these threats, as hundreds of rangers have lost their lives protecting the region’s wildlife, forests, and other resources.

There remains a chance for the gorillas if urgent actions are taken to address these threats. Expanded enforcement efforts, which include trans-boundary collaborations, improved training of enforcement personnel, and increased funding for enforcement and research, may be the only hope to reverse the plight of the Congo Basin gorillas. 🐾

### STATE REGULATION

## VICTORY! Florida Bans Coyote and Fox Penning

JUNE 23 WAS A MOMENTOUS DAY for coyotes and foxes in Florida, as the state’s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted unanimously to enact a ban on coyote and fox “penning.” Penning involves sending packs of domestic dogs into a fenced-off enclosure to chase to exhaustion and often tear apart a captive coyote or fox. A groundswell of public outcry and media attention—including ten newspaper editorials taking a firm stand against penning and supporting an immediate ban—prompted the FWC to prohibit this practice.

“Florida’s commendable stand on this issue sends a clear message to the other states that sanctioning such brutal killing of wildlife is unacceptable,” said Camilla Fox, Executive Director of Project Coyote and Wildlife Consultant for the Animal Welfare Institute. “The Commission was under a lot of pressure from a small, vocal minority of pen operators to sanction this activity. But they made the right decision. As a nation we have banned both dog fighting and



© John Harrison/ ProjectCoyote.org

Fox pups are often orphaned when their parents are trapped and sold to penning facilities. Now that Florida has ended penning, the campaign against it will move to other Midwestern and Southeastern states where the practice continues.

cockfighting and it’s time we do the same for penning.” AWI worked with Project Coyote to rally support for this ban and thanks all of its members who took action on this issue. 🐾

### FEDERAL LEGISLATION

## SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN LAW BANNING CRUSH VIDEOS

On April 20, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Stevens*, handed a victory to animal abusers when it overturned the federal statute (18 U.S.C. §48) prohibiting the creation, sale, and possession of “crush videos” and other depictions of animal cruelty for commercial purposes. As we go to press, legislation to restore at least part of the law is moving through Congress.

“Crush videos” show women in stilettos or their bare feet literally crushing, stomping on, or impaling small helpless animals to satisfy sadistic viewers with a bizarre sexual fetish. Because of the near-impossibility of identifying those in the videos who were actually committing the cruelty, it was necessary to target the individuals who make and sell such videos and profit

from animal suffering. After the law passed, the crush video market dried up quickly, and law enforcement officials—including those in the *Stevens* case—began to focus instead on prosecuting the makers and distributors of dog fight videos.

In overturning the law, the Supreme Court ruled that it was “substantially overbroad and therefore invalid under the First Amendment” for potentially affecting materials pertaining to legal activities, such as hunting. The Court did not rule on whether a more narrowly drawn statute could pass constitutional muster. With that potential opening, bills were immediately introduced, a hearing was held, and a new bill, H.R. 5566, was unanimously approved by the House Judiciary Committee and subsequently passed the full House by a vote of 416-3. H.R. 5566 is precisely crafted to prohibit interstate and foreign sales and distribution only of “crush videos” as obscene depictions of illegal acts. We urge the Senate to act as swiftly as the House to get this measure to the President’s desk. 🐾

To take action on this and other important animal protection bills visit [www.compassionindex.com](http://www.compassionindex.com).

# RESUMPTION OF WHALING AND FATE OF WHALING COMMISSION STILL UNDECIDED

**AMID ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED HYPE** and media attention, the 62nd meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) opened in Agadir, Morocco in June, with AWI's Susan Millward in attendance and D.J. Schubert serving for the second year as the non-governmental representative on the U.S. delegation. Much was at stake at this meeting, in light of an alarming proposal put forth to allow for a resumption of commercial whaling. Eventually, the proposal failed, thanks to a strong bloc of Latin American and European countries and (always stalwart) Australia—countries that didn't buy the proponents' fanciful claim that fewer whales would be killed and the IWC saved through a sanctioned resumption of commercial whaling.

The U.S., regrettably, not only helped draft the proposal (along with New Zealand and the Commission's Chair and Vice-Chair), but had also strongly lobbied for a deal prior to and during the meeting—a deal that would have undermined the nearly 25-year-old commercial whaling moratorium. Sadly, the proposal has not been entirely discarded but, rather, countries have been asked to pause for reflection prior to the IWC's next meeting in 2011.

In advance of the meeting, AWI teamed up with several groups to develop a critique of the proposal and—in partnership with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and Humane Society International—created an interactive web-based tool to graphically demonstrate the enormous success of the 1986 commercial whaling moratorium in saving whales (see chart on page 7). This information along with other documents and persistent efforts to inform member nations' commissioners about the deficiencies in the deal were successful in countering arguments for the proposal.

Proponents claimed that the moratorium hadn't worked because whale killing for commercial gain continues (by Japan, Norway and Iceland, exploiting loopholes in the whaling convention). Therefore, commercial whaling should be allowed. This ludicrous and circular argument in favor of rewarding rogue whalers by legitimizing their actions had gained ground because of intense lobbying and spin by its drafters, with some unfortunate support from a few conservation-oriented organizations.

AWI and the remainder of the whale advocates at the meeting were united in staunchly opposing the deal. AWI opposes any effort that does not include an end to all forms of commercial whaling. It is inherently cruel, antiquated and unnecessary, threatens the long-term survival of some whale species, and ignores the vital role whales play in our planet's ecosystems. Those who opposed the deal did not go unrepresented. The European Union developed its own common position for the meeting, which included: 1) setting a timeframe for an end to commercial whaling, 2) using scientifically based catch quotas in the interim, 3) no whaling in IWC-designated sanctuaries, 4) only domestic use of whale products, 5) penalties for the abuse of loopholes, and 6) a timetable for renegotiating the whaling convention. The Latin countries, or "Buenos Aires Group," had issued a similar declaration, and these countries, together with Australia, formed a powerful conservation bloc throughout.

The U.S. was a key advocate for the proposal, with impassioned pleas by its commissioner for "control" of the rogue whaling by Japan, Iceland and Norway which, according to the commissioner, has recently escalated. In fact, while the number of whales killed for commercial purposes has inched up over the years, the body count today pales in comparison to the tens of thousands of whales killed annually only a few decades ago. Moreover and not surprisingly, the increase in the self-allocated whaling quotas by these nations has largely occurred since negotiations over the deal began, to corrupt the process and to pad whaling quotas in anticipation of a deal being struck. Similar obstructive tactics have created the alleged dysfunction that contributed to the perceived need for a deal in the first place.

The U.S. commissioner also complained about the inequity of the IWC in tightly regulating aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW), such as that conducted by Alaskan natives, while loopholes allow commercial whaling to take place with little IWC oversight. AWI acknowledges this inequity, but feels that ASW should not be the main driver of U.S. whaling policy. Since 2002, when the five-year ASW quota of bowhead whales for

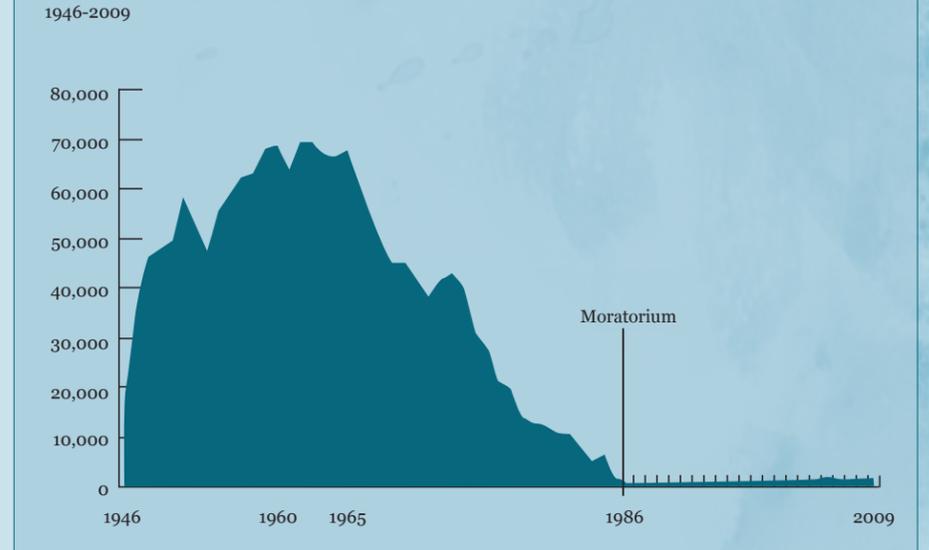
Alaskan Inupiat was blocked at the annual IWC meeting by the pro-whaling faction (only to be approved at a subsequent special meeting), strong U.S. leadership on conservation measures at the IWC has eroded. In 2007, after the bowhead quota was again threatened, then-Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) stepped in to help secure its approval. The price of passage, however, was U.S. agreement to enter into the "future" negotiations. The resulting proposal to sanction commercial whaling would have provided also for renewal of ASW quotas without a vote for ten years. Thus, the failure of the present package is seen by some as placing the 2012 and 2017 quotas in jeopardy. While AWI abhors subsistence quotas being used for political purposes, the U.S. should fight such low tactics rather than allow itself to be hobbled by them.

It wasn't until day three of the plenary that the deal was shelved and the Commission attended to other business, including a proposal from Denmark on behalf of Greenland to allow for an ASW quota of ten humpback whales in addition to the bowhead, fin and minke whale quotas already approved for its natives. The U.S. and Denmark concurrently introduced a joint proposal that retained only the ASW language from the deal allowing the ASW quotas to extend to 2017. This last ditch effort by the U.S. to avert the 2012 quota threat was unsuccessful, and Denmark's proposal was accepted by consensus after it agreed to an EU deal to

limit the quota to 9 humpbacks and to reduce its fin whale quota from 19 to 10, essentially replacing the 9 fins with an equal number of the smaller humpbacks.

The pause in negotiations should be used by the U.S. and other conservation-minded nations to rethink their strategy for winning the whaling wars. The past three years have wasted time, money, and carbon as commissioners traveled worldwide trying to craft a deal that, in the end, few found palatable. As the deal was negotiated, thousands of whales were slaughtered for commercial purposes by three rogue whaling nations displaying little serious interest in compromise. Appeasement has not worked. The U.S. needs to use its expansive economic, political and diplomatic clout to save the whales and the IWC. 🐾

## TOTAL CATCHES



This graph and others like it proved effective in demonstrating to IWC commissioners the success of the 1986 moratorium in saving whales.



Illustration of minke whale by Cameron Creinin

## Shark Fin Soup off the Menu in Hawaii

HAWAII HAS BECOME the first U.S. state to officially prohibit the possession, sale or distribution of shark fins. On May 28, Governor Linda Lingle signed the shark-finning ban into law after the bill passed the state House and Senate with broad support.

Hawaii restaurants that serve shark fin soup have until July 1, 2011 to use up existing inventory. After that date, those caught with fins will pay fines of up to \$15,000 for a first offense, \$35,000 for a second offense, and \$50,000 and a possible year in prison for a third offense.

Some members of the sizable Chinese community in Hawaii opposed the measure, considering it an infringement on a cultural tradition. Senator Clayton Hee, sponsor of the bill and himself of Chinese and Native Hawaiian descent, rejected this argument. Senator Hee

points out that consuming the soup is not, historically, a widely practiced tradition but rather an indulgence, customarily eaten by the wealthy at special events.

The once modest trade in shark fins, in fact, has grown alarmingly in recent years alongside an exploding, status-conscious Chinese middle class. An estimated 73 million sharks are killed yearly for the fin trade alone. Because the fins are highly prized while shark meat is not, sharks are often hauled up only to have their fins sliced off, after which the still living shark is tossed overboard to suffer and die.

Marie Levine, director of the Shark Research Institute, calls the new law a “landmark.” Conservationists hope it will inspire other states and the federal government to follow Hawaii’s lead and put an end to this unsustainable and inhumane activity. 🐾



Ryan Harvey

A Mediterranean sojourn is a momentous event for a gray whale. Most grays today migrate along the west coast of North America.

## WRONG TURN OR RECOLONIZING?

Some 20,000 gray whales roam the eastern Pacific from Alaska to Baja California. Less than 200 also ply the waters from the Sea of Okhotsk to southern Korea. A third population swam the North Atlantic until the 17th or 18th century, then disappeared at the dawn of the New England whaling industry. Evidence indicates that no grays have been seen on the Atlantic side in some 300 years.

Until now. A solitary gray whale was spotted in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Israel in early May of this year. By month’s end, the whale had crossed the Mediterranean and was (tail) spotted near Barcelona, Spain.

How this particular cetacean got there remains a mystery. Scientists theorize that the whale may have swum through broken polar ice, then traveled down the coast of Europe to the Mediterranean. Where the whale goes from here is anyone’s guess, but many hope this solitary traveler heralds the species’ return to the Atlantic. 🐾

# The Great Challenge of Conserving the Saola

by Serda Ozbenian

This summer, I traveled to Vietnam to help facilitate and document a snare removal workshop for rangers from Vietnam’s Forest Protection Department (FPD) as part of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) initiative. The 5-day workshop was the result of over a year of planning with workshop partners as part of a campaign to conserve the critically endangered saola, a wild ox found only in the Annamite Mountains on the border of Vietnam and Laos.

Ten rangers from three different provincial districts, representing a third of all the rangers responsible for patrolling saola habitat, attended the workshop—which included examining threats, data collection and management, social marketing techniques, community engagement, and the development of conservation goals. Breakout sessions to explore the many challenges rangers face—from rough terrain, hostility from local communities, and lack of resources—were particularly beneficial.

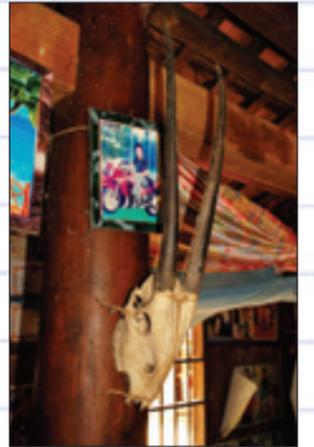
Two days were spent in the forest inside a proposed 121 km<sup>2</sup> saola conservation area in Quang Nam Province to practice snare removal techniques and GPS and data reporting skills. Our drive took us along the enormous Ho Chi Minh Highway where we witnessed an active forest fire, serious erosion, and polluted water from gold mining activities—all threats to the saola and other wildlife. The highway itself has fragmented habitats as it cuts straight through the forest. Following a tipoff, we located a snare line a short hike from the highway and removed over 30 snares and a handful of steel-jaw leghold traps.

Hiking through the exceptionally steep, mountainous terrain, it became immediately evident how difficult the rangers’ job really is. The snares are constructed with readily available sticks and bicycle wire, and are set by local people to catch wildlife for domestic consumption, as well as by commercial hunters who sell the meat to restaurants. Saola are caught as bycatch in these indiscriminate traps set out for other species like pangolin, gibbon, civet, bear and tiger. The demand for Vietnam’s wildlife for the pet trade, food, and traditional medicine is wreaking havoc on the lush and once productive ecosystem, and creating a phenomenon called “empty forest syndrome” in which pristine forests are denuded of wildlife.



Photos by Serda Ozbenian

Top: A ranger removes a wire snare set to catch wildlife. Some snare lines can consist of hundreds of snares. Right: Though there is no directed hunting for saola, their skulls are prized by villagers for their long, unique horns.



On the final day, we visited a village and discussed hunting and agricultural land use with community members. Upon completion of the workshop, we met with higher level FPD officials to report on the workshop and provide recommendations. The FPD understands the importance of conserving the saola but they face a daunting task; more rangers, training, resources and organized patrolling efforts are needed to preserve Vietnam’s rare and exploited wildlife. Less than 200 saola remain as a precarious symbol of Vietnam’s enormous challenge to preserve its biodiversity.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Fund and the EWCL Board. To assist saola conservation efforts, visit: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/savethesaola>. 🐾

# Denver's Coyotes Learn to Live with Human Neighbors

THE URBAN COYOTES OF DENVER were getting a bad reputation. An increasing number were moving into the city and human-inhabited areas of the surrounding county. Negative interactions between pets and coyotes were on the rise. Over the course of about two years, four highly publicized incidents in Colorado of coyotes biting people fed the perception that urban coyotes were a growing menace. Indeed, in Denver at least, coyotes were beginning to show less fear and far bolder behaviors in the presence of humans. When, in February of 2009, a woman told reporters she was attacked and bitten by three coyotes while walking her Labrador retriever in her southeast Denver neighborhood, it spurred calls for action. "Action," in such cases, often leads to dead wildlife.

That's when Denver's Parks & Recreation Department (DPR) stepped in—to see if it could "broker a deal" between the more domesticated residents of Denver (both human and animal) and the wild canines that were intent on moving back into what once may have been their neighborhood. Research and evidence from other urban areas convinced DPR that killing or trapping and relocating the coyotes would not be effective. More would move in, and the problems would just be repeated. Instead, DPR wanted a chance to "teach" resident coyotes how to live

beside their human neighbors without getting into trouble. To do that, they also needed to teach the humans how to behave around coyotes.

A plan was put into place and now, over a year later, is deemed a success. Coyotes are still around, but they are acting more like their old selves and less like urban toughs. And humans are learning what they need to do to keep negative interactions to a minimum. Camilla Fox, AWI Wildlife Consultant and founder of Project Coyote, calls Denver "a trend-setter when it comes to human-coyote coexistence."

To find out what Denver did to make this human/coyote relationship more harmonious, Fox recently spoke with Ashley DeLaup, Wildlife Ecologist with Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Denver. DeLaup is responsible for much of the plan's ongoing success. She joined DPR in July of 2008 as Denver's first wildlife ecologist, responsible for the 4,000 acres administered by DPR's "Natural Areas Division." DeLaup is tasked specifically with encouraging peaceful coexistence between Denver's wild and human populations. She came to DPR with an animal training background, and had worked before on redirecting the behavior of wild animals. DeLaup explains to Fox how Denver created a plan and continues to help coyotes and humans coexist:

*Fox: How did Denver's coyote management plan come about?*

*DeLaup: We drew on a vast amount of existing knowledge about coyote ecology and newer knowledge about how they behave in an urban environment, and just applied that knowledge to how we could best reduce conflicts with them. Our first step was trying to accumulate facts about*

*Coyotes now inhabit every U.S. state except Hawaii and have adapted to life with people even in the most densely populated cities.*

the danger from coyotes and determine what would be needed to reduce encounters. Data clearly showed that human injuries from coyotes were extremely rare, and the circumstances were usually preventable if people had the right information about living in coyote territory. Danger to pets was real and people needed tips on how to protect pets. So quickly the focus turned to four initiatives: 1) creating a reasonable and realistic understanding of coyote behavior and coyote danger; 2) keeping pets safe; 3) changing the behaviors of the coyotes that scared people; and 4) educating people on ways that they can decrease negative encounters with coyotes whether in their backyard (reducing wildlife attractants) or out on the trail in open space.

*Fox: Denver incorporates "hazing" into its coyote management plan. What is hazing and what are the goals of this practice?*

*DeLaup: Hazing is about persistently and consistently providing an aversive response to the presence of coyotes when they have become habituated to the presence of people. People can yell, bang pots, blow whistles or air horns, throw sticks, and generally be something that animals want to avoid. Hazing does *not* chase animals out of a territory, nor does it harm the animal. Territory is precious to animals and they need those resources for survival, but they can be out at 2 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. So if they are always harassed at 8 a.m. they'll learn not to be out at that time. Harming an animal, on the other hand, makes him/her unpredictable, and killing the animal just opens that space up for a new coyote.*



Ashley DeLaup, Wildlife Ecologist with Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Denver demonstrates a variety of coyote hazing tools.



John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org

Coyotes give birth in the spring, and this is the time when coyote parents may be more territorial and protective of their den sites and pups. From April to July, dog walkers should try to avoid known coyote den site areas and should walk dogs on leashes in such areas to avoid conflicts.

Coyotes are incredibly intelligent, and they have learned how to thrive in close proximity to people. They can and will continue to learn how to survive in an urban environment. People have been "teaching" coyotes for years how to act without realizing it. Every time a coyote has encountered a person up close in an urban setting and has not had any negative consequences, the coyote has learned that it's not scary to be close to people. Interacting with people and pets and being seen in close proximity to people is a learned behavior, not a natural behavior. The goals of hazing are to reshape coyote behavior to avoid human contact and to give residents tools to help them feel more in control and less afraid of encountering coyotes.

*Fox: From your experience, is "hazing" effective in changing coyote behavior or "re-wilding" a coyote who has become too comfortable around people?*

*DeLaup: So far hazing has been very successful in Denver when done properly and consistently. We had one park where the family group of coyotes was seen out daily and had begun approaching pets on leash and attacking unattended pets in yards in the adjacent neighborhoods.*



John Harrison/ProjectCoyote.org

Both outdoor dogs and cats had been injured and killed by the coyotes and people were terrified and angry. About 20 Denver parks staff members were trained in hazing coyotes and we put together a “coyote hazing tool kit.” Every morning, one to three staff members went to the park during early morning “dog walking” hours with the intent to look for the coyotes and haze them. Staff “hazers” were also trained on explaining what they were doing, why they were doing it, and how park locals could help with the hazing. After about three weeks we noticed that staff hardly saw the coyotes at all. By the fourth and fifth week we realized that coyotes both identified our vehicles and knew that they didn’t want to be in the park that time of day, and we stopped staff hazing.

Concurrently with this, we offered training to residents at the park and went to local homeowners group meetings in the areas as well, and residents effectively began hazing themselves. It’s been over a year since that time, and now we rarely get calls of sightings from this park. One resident recently called me, upset because she never sees the coyotes anymore and she thought we had removed them! Meanwhile the coyotes are definitely still there, and in fact have a natal den in the park and continue to provide the ecological services without the contact with their neighbors.



Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Denver

*This coyote pup was mistaken for a domestic dog pup and brought to Denver Parks & Recreation staff. He was successfully released back into the wild, but some are not so fortunate when removed from their families.*

*Fox: In your opinion, what does “human-coyote coexistence” look like in an urban/suburban landscape?*

*DeLaup: It’s an active and educated process. We “coexist” with our human neighbors because we understand and obey certain “rules” such as not throwing trash into someone’s yard, parking on their grass, or playing loud music in the middle of the night. Creating and enforcing expectations of our coyote population by hazing them and understanding normal vs. abnormal coyote behavior can set us up to succeed in reducing urban coyote conflicts.*

People need to develop reasonable expectations such as understanding that coyotes are finding resources here and they will be *someplace*. We can help decide where those places are by hazing in unsuitable locations, and supporting healthy open space and natural areas nearby that will be much more attractive and safe for them. We also need to realize that as much as our pets are a part of our family, a city is a functional ecosystem, and any animal there can become a part of it if unattended. And pets are often less able to protect themselves than wildlife raised with an awareness of the dangers of life.

Coyotes are a new urban reality, and the more we understand them and their new role, the better we can shape a successful and functioning ecosystem in our own backyards. 🐾

*Road mortality is one of the leading causes of death for coyotes living in urban areas. Research indicates that coyotes have become more nocturnal in urban areas to avoid roads and other human-related hazards, though it is not uncommon or unnatural to see coyotes during the day.*

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## They Are What They Eat: An Investigation of Secondary Poisoning in Birds of Prey

By Maureen Murray, D.V.M., and Florina Tseng, D.V.M.

ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (ARs) are used to control rodent populations in urban and suburban areas. These toxins kill target species by interfering with an animal’s blood-clotting system, causing the animal to bleed to death. However, secondary poisoning of non-target species who ingest the dead or dying rodent has been documented in a variety of wild birds and mammals, and puts birds of prey who feed on rodents at a particularly high risk of poisoning and death from severe blood loss.

At Tufts Wildlife Clinic, we have confirmed the presence of the AR, brodifacoum, in cases of suspected poisoning of red-tailed hawks. These clinical cases, along with a report describing widespread anticoagulant rodenticide exposure in birds of prey in New York State,<sup>1</sup> led to an ongoing project to survey the extent of exposure to these compounds that birds of prey experience in urban and suburban areas of Massachusetts.

The purpose of this study, funded by the Animal Welfare Institute’s (AWI) Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, was to screen birds of prey presented to the wildlife clinic for exposure to ARs and to investigate potential effects of these compounds when they are present below the level at which signs of poisoning occur. We hypothesized that, consistent with the findings in New York State, a significant proportion of tested birds (less than or equal to 50 percent) would be positive for AR exposure below a level that causes

signs of poisoning. We further hypothesized that these low levels might cause damage to the liver, where these compounds accumulate. Birds included in the study were red-tailed hawks, barred owls, eastern screech-owls and great horned owls.

A total of 92 birds were tested. Consistent with our hypothesis, 88% of those birds tested positive for the presence of an AR, most commonly brodifacoum. Of the positive birds, only two showed signs consistent with AR poisoning. Our second hypothesis was not supported, however, as birds with low levels of an AR stored in their livers did not show evidence of liver damage.

The data from this study has been used to obtain further funding to continue surveying this population of birds for AR exposure, and to attempt to identify the levels at which signs of poisoning occur. As the Environmental Protection Agency recently took steps to restrict the use of certain ARs, effective in 2011, due in part to the risk they present to wildlife, continuation of this project may help assess the effectiveness of new regulations. Once data collection for the second phase of the project is complete, we intend to combine these data with those collected during the AWI-funded project for publication. 🐾



*This red-tailed hawk was successfully treated at Tufts Wildlife Clinic for anticoagulant rodenticide toxicosis.*



*Red-tailed hawk taking off upon release after treatment at the clinic.*

*Maureen Murray, D.V.M., is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Staff Veterinarian of the Wildlife Clinic at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton, MA. She began investigating anticoagulant rodenticide exposure in birds of prey in 2006 and is currently continuing this study.*

*Florina Tseng, D.V.M., is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Wildlife Clinic at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in North Grafton, MA. She has been a wildlife veterinarian for the past 19 years and has particular expertise with seabirds and petroleum spills.*

<sup>1</sup> Stone WB, Okoniewski JC, Stedelin JR. 2003 Anticoagulant rodenticides and raptors: recent findings from New York, 1998-2001. *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* 70: 34-40

# IN ATTEMPT TO FOWL UP CONSUMERS, PERDUE CROWS

## "HUMANELY RAISED"

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Perdue, the country's third largest chicken producer, introduced a line of "USDA Process Verified" chicken products bearing the claims "humanely raised" and "raised cage free" on the label. Unfortunately, this change in the label did not herald any actual initiative to treat chickens better. It was, rather, a cynical attempt to keep consumers (like their chickens) in the dark. Over the summer, under pressure from AWI, Perdue quietly removed the "humanely raised" designation on the label. "Cage free"—more technically true but equally deceptive under these circumstances—remains.

What, though, prompted Perdue to sing its own praises in the first place? Before adding "humanely raised" and "cage free" to its label, Perdue did nothing

to distinguish itself from the lax standards widespread throughout the industry. The fact is, Perdue's chickens were and still are raised in the same manner as most other industrially processed chickens.

Purdue claims that it complies with the guidelines of the National Chicken Council (NCC), a poultry industry group. These standards, however, would not be considered humane under any reasonable understanding of the term. Under NCC guidelines, tens of thousands of birds may be packed into windowless sheds without access to fresh air and sunlight. The guidelines permit chickens to spend their lives sitting in wet litter or without litter entirely, on floors of packed chicken feces and urine. They allow chickens to live in constant dim light, inducing a state of inactivity in which the animals do nothing but sit in dark, crowded filth, eat, and grow. (See the accompanying article, "Dark Meat: The Shady Business of Industrial Chicken.") Animal scientist Dr. Temple Grandin sums it up: "The National Chicken Council Animal Welfare Audit has a scoring system that is so lax that it allows plants or farms with really bad practices to pass."

Consequently, and contrary to what Perdue would have consumers believe, adherence to NCC standards signifies no heroic concession to humane care. NCC guidelines merely codify widespread industry practice—a practice that ignores the welfare of the animals. The NCC itself boasts that its standards are "utilized by companies with the vast majority of production in the

industry." Perdue's two largest competitors, Tyson and Pilgrim's Pride, both raise their chickens according to NCC standards, yet neither to date has claimed their birds are humanely raised. So far, Perdue is the only major chicken company that has attempted to make the audacious claim that adherence to NCC standards can be equated with humane treatment of chickens.

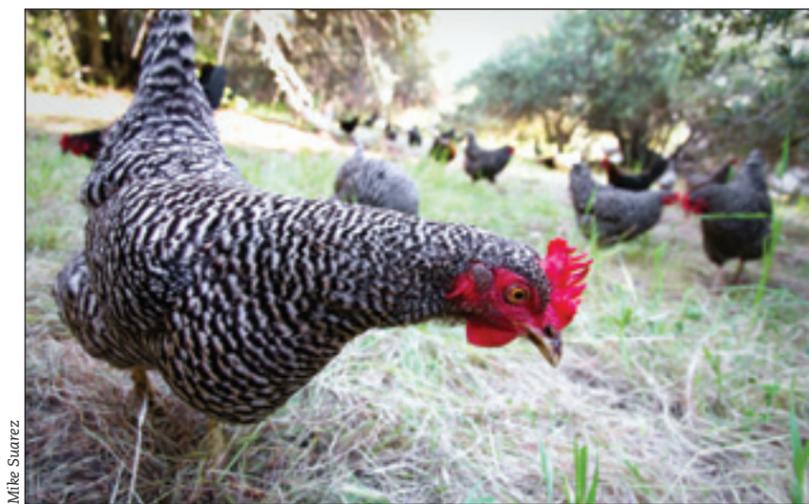
"Raised cage free" is a similarly hollow assertion meant to imply adherence to some "extra" level of care. Standard industry practice, however, does not call for cages when raising chickens for meat—but rather the above-mentioned crowded, dark, windowless sheds. Perdue's new label thus seeks to do nothing more than slap a fresh coat of paint on business-as-usual cruelty, while exploiting consumers who seek more humane alternatives to factory-raised chicken.

Upon learning of the label's release in February, AWI immediately demanded that Perdue remove it, on the grounds that it misled consumers. A national survey commissioned by AWI revealed that the vast majority of consumers feel that NCC standards fall well short of humane: 63% of those surveyed indicated that housing chickens in sheds with less than one square foot of space per bird was "totally unacceptable"; similarly, 69% found the practice of providing chickens no access to fresh air and sunlight "totally unacceptable"; 85% would expect chicken labeled "humanely raised" to have had access to natural sunlight and fresh air (Perdue's chickens don't); and 82% would expect chicken labeled "humanely raised" to have had enough space to stretch their wings and move freely (Perdue's chickens don't).<sup>1</sup>

Adding to the subterfuge—Perdue's label also prominently touts the "USDA Process Verified" seal of approval, right next to its (former) "humanely raised" and (still existing) "cage free" claims. The USDA Process Verified program is a voluntary, fee-based auditing service whereby the USDA verifies that producers are adhering to standards and processes that the producers themselves unilaterally develop. Producers—like Perdue—then use this "approval" as a marketing tool to imply adherence to some USDA standard, when in fact USDA merely signs off on whether the producer adheres to its own set of rules. Perdue, however, takes it one step farther. By placing a big "USDA Process Verified" logo next to its "humanely



Carole Morrison



Mike Suarez

A study in contrasts: The dim, impoverished, crowded existence of chickens raised in industry-mandated, closed houses (top) versus the pastoral life of free range chickens (bottom).



Cameron Creinin

Mislabeled: "Humanely Raised" on the package doesn't match the meat inside.

raised" and "cage free" claims, Purdue clearly intended for consumers to think USDA had objectively determined that its standards were humane.

Thanks to AWI, Perdue appears to be quietly withdrawing the "humanely raised" claim but is still misleading consumers with the words "raised cage free" on the label. Perdue's self-satisfied rebranding effort—and USDA acquiescence—serve to highlight both the lack of government oversight preventing consumer deception in labeling, and the value of third party certification systems such as AWI's own "Animal Welfare Approved" program to provide consumers with objective assurance that what's under the label really did come from an animal who was humanely raised. 🐾

<sup>1</sup> Full survey results available at: [www.awionline.org/perduesurvey](http://www.awionline.org/perduesurvey)

# DARK MEAT: THE SHADY BUSINESS OF INDUSTRIAL CHICKEN

CAROLE MORISON WAS NOT BORN INTO FARMING. She married into it, joining her husband Frank on his third-generation farm in Pocomoke City, Maryland. In the mid-1980s, she and Frank began raising chickens for Perdue, in chicken houses built, according to Morison, to Perdue's precise specifications: "They brought out the blueprints for the poultry houses, the required equipment, everything."

In 2007, Carole was approached by Robert Kenner, director of the Academy Award-nominated documentary, *Food, Inc.*, and asked to appear in the film to shed a little light on the otherwise windowless world of industrial chicken farming. Morison readily agreed. After all, she was no stranger to farmer activism. In the 1990s, she co-founded and served as Executive Director of the Delmarva Poultry Justice Alliance, a group formed to hold poultry companies accountable for industry-wide abuses affecting poultry industry workers, farmers, the chickens, and the environment.

Perdue, on the other hand, was less enthusiastic about having one of its contract farmers step into the spotlight. A few minutes of screen time—during which Morison opened the doors of her chicken house and showed the film crew her operation—spawned a series of threatening letters from the company. A year later, the Morisons and Perdue would part ways—their contract termination serving as stark acknowledgment that the Morisons' notions about raising chickens in a manner fair to both farmer and chicken did not mesh with those held by the industry.



courtesy of Carole Morison

Carole Morison on her Pocomoke City, Maryland farm. In the background stands one of the houses where she formerly raised chickens for Perdue.

## WHO OWNS THIS MANURE?

Over the years, in fact, Morison had many reasons to suspect that she and the company were not necessarily on the same team. That sense was heightened during the late-1990s *pfisteria* outbreak along the Eastern Shore. *Pfisteria*, a dinoflagellate responsible for harmful algal blooms, kills fish and is harmful to humans, causing memory loss, headaches, skin rashes, upper respiratory irritation, muscle cramps, and gastrointestinal problems. The outbreak has been tied to animal waste—something Eastern Shore chicken farms produce in large quantities.

By the terms of the contract, Perdue owned the chickens. According to the industry, however, any environmental impacts associated with the waste were not its problem. Morison thought it ridiculous that the same companies that dictated how farms operated were now saying that none of this was their fault. Morison remembers questioning them about the situation: "Whose manure is this? I own other animals on the farm and I'm responsible for their mess. These guys own the chickens but are not responsible for their waste. It's crazy."

## DARKNESS DESCENDS

From the start, says Morison, the chickens were raised in confinement, spending their entire six to seven week lives before slaughter inside the chicken houses. "Being as I was not born a farmer, I just assumed that's the way chickens were raised." In the beginning, however, the degree of confinement was decidedly less claustrophobic. Those first houses built to Perdue's specifications were open-walled, with clear curtain sides that at least provided the birds with fresh air and sunlight.

Then darkness descended. If Perdue didn't like seeing Morison in the spotlight, it was even less happy to see light shining on its chickens. Long before the *Food, Inc.* crew interviewed Morison, the industry decided that all that outside air and sunlight available to the chickens via the open-walled houses did not suit its needs. Farmers had to switch to blackout curtains to keep the birds more lethargic. Morison was troubled by the change in behavior she observed:

"When we had clear curtains, the chickens were still active inside the houses. They would run around and play this little game, sort of 'practice fighting,' jumping up and down at each other when they just started to get their feathers—like adolescents feeling their oats. But once you put the black curtains on, they were sedate. Just eat, drink and sit around. You had to shuffle when you went through the houses because if you didn't, if you picked up your feet in a normal walk, you were likely to step on chickens because they would not even try to get out of the way."

Morison was also unnerved by the rapid growth and what it would do to their systems: "Once they got close to processing time, maybe two weeks prior, they'd sometimes flip over from heart attacks. The heart attacks really bothered me because there was nothing really wrong with

these chickens except that they grew too fast for what their bone structure and internal organs could keep up with."

Eventually, the dissonance got to be too much for Morison. "When I got to the point where I was kind of numb to it, it struck me—how did I get like this? When you are cramming so many in and they can't move and it's wall-to-wall chickens, I thought 'There is really no sense in this.'"

For the Morisons, the breaking point came when Perdue mandated new, fully enclosed structures. The Morisons refused—not only because of the effect on the birds, but because it would have set them back \$150,000. (Farmers typically foot the bill for any company-mandated changes in the houses.) Perdue had been wrangling with the Morisons over "biosafety" rules—which Carole allegedly broke by allowing the film crew on the premises. This refusal to install new houses, however, finally provided the company with a more concrete reason for contract termination. Ironically, it came three weeks after the company had given the Morisons an "outstanding producer" award. Severing ties with Perdue, says Morison, was fine with them, however: "By that time, we'd had enough."

## NEW GIG

Morison and her husband no longer raise chickens. She has not, however, abandoned the issue. She stays busy, touring the country and warning others of the pitfalls of contract farming under Big Poultry. "Mostly what I'm doing now is a lot of education. I do different speaking engagements, for all ages and audiences, comparing industrial production with alternative methods such as free range and the [Animal Welfare Institute's own] Animal Welfare Approved program."

Morison wants the public to understand the true cost of food, and how the final price tag isn't always an indication of how much we pay: "The argument has always been that the industrial way is providing cheap food for everyone. But then, if you look at the real cost of cheap chicken, if you add in the environmental issues, the public health issues, the below poverty wages of industry employees—all of which the taxpayers eventually pay for—how cheap is the chicken? If you start adding all these costs in, it is not any cheaper than that of free range chicken."

Given the enormous price that industrial farming extracts from the chickens themselves, it is clear that humane farming is the better bargain—both economically and ethically. 🐾

# Wildlife and Weddings:

## NOT A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



Chase Nordengren

Handlers used bull hooks to control this elephant's movements at a wedding ceremony in the streets of Washington, D.C.

INCORPORATING ANIMALS INTO WEDDING CEREMONIES is a practice that spans many cultures and can involve a variety of species. Many couples, however, do not stop to consider how the animals got there, how they are treated, or what will happen to them after the party's over. The unfortunate truth is that animals involved in weddings are often placed in highly stressful situations, and may be hurt or die as a result. Wedding planners should consider the implications before using living creatures in ceremonies. An otherwise joyous event, symbolizing a couple's love and respect for one another, should not be an occasion for the mistreatment of animals.

### ELEPHANTS

Elephants are especially popular in Hindu marriage ceremonies, as they are believed to bring good fortune to the new couple. In these ceremonies, the groom rides on an elaborately decorated elephant while guests dance and sing around them. Being forced to perform for people in unnatural and noisy situations, such as weddings, is extremely stressful for them. As is typical with most elephants used for entertainment, these pachyderms are chained for extremely long periods and "disciplined" using a bull hook (a long club with a sharp metal hook on the end).

There are two commercial operations that rent elephants for use in weddings. One is based in California and the other, R.W. Commerford & Sons Traveling Petting Zoo, is in Connecticut. Elephants are often trucked hundreds of miles to and from ceremonies. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates

this use of elephants, has cited Commerford numerous times over the past two decades for its failure to meet the minimum requirements under the Animal Welfare Act, including failure to provide adequate veterinary care, failure to maintain enclosures and transport trailers, and failure to provide adequate housekeeping. Commerford also has been cited repeatedly for failing to handle animals so as to minimize risk of harm to the animals and the public.

Minnie, one of Commerford's elephants, has been used in a number of wedding ceremonies. This despite the fact that Minnie has been involved in at least four dangerous incidents while giving rides to people where handlers and/or the general public were injured. At least two of these dangerous incidents are believed to have immediately followed Minnie being struck with a bull hook by a handler.

### DOVES

Doves are a traditional Christian and Jewish symbol of peace, love and faithfulness. Dove releases, therefore, are popular during wedding ceremonies. Misconceptions exist,

however, about what happens to the birds once they are released. Many assume they are set free, which is not the case at all. The industry standard is to use white homing pigeons who have been trained to return to a home loft once released. Misinformed amateurs or unscrupulous businessmen, however, sometimes purchase doves from a pet store for ceremonial releases, which often end tragically. In July of last year, more than 40 albino ringneck doves, apparently released during a wedding, were found in a New York City park, some injured from attacks by other animals or starving and too weak to fly. Birds from pet stores should never be released into the wild, as many of them have never even flown and can't locate food or avoid predators.

Although homing pigeons are specifically bred and trained to be released and fly home, the training may be conducted by backyard hobbyists with limited knowledge and skill. In addition, when released at weddings, the birds can become confused and lost in the alien environment or because of bad weather or insufficient light. Marc Johnson, founder of the bird sanctuary, Foster Parrots Ltd., states, "Bottom lines are the biggest concern of a business and when you combine that with animals, it usually is the animal who pays the price. We have taken in a dozen or so of these white 'doves' who became disoriented in storms or unable to physically return to their 'home.'"

### BUTTERFLIES

Butterfly releases are performed at wedding ceremonies to represent happiness and new beginnings. Unlike doves, when butterflies are released they are truly set free. Many, however, do not survive the shipping, handling or release into environments not suited to them. Robert Michael Pyle, founder of the Xerces Society, was quoted regarding butterfly releases, "They end up being released [in] unsuitable times, places, and weather conditions, resulting in death, disorientation, or pointless flight in the absence of nectar, mates, or the right habitat. I feel treating butterflies as if they were mere living balloons is both cruel and degrading."

Butterflies are often shipped long distances to be released during events. To keep them alive during shipping, the standard practice is to individually package the animals in small envelopes and place them in a cooler with ice packs to force the cold-blooded animals into a state of dormancy. Prior to release the envelopes are given to guests. Often these "releases" are sad events, with butterflies dying inside the envelopes or injured due to poor handling. Many are not able to fly when released, falling instead to the ground to be killed by other animals or the shoes of guests.

Releasing commercially bred butterflies into the environment can also have a detrimental effect on natural butterfly populations. Dr. Jeffrey Glassberg, President of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) states, "Our concern is primarily one for the wild butterflies that are negatively impacted in a number of ways by the intentional release of farmed butterflies into the environment (especially by the spread of disease and by the loss of genetic fitness caused by interbreeding with the farmed butterflies)." The release of captive-bred butterflies can also disrupt the migratory behavior of wild butterflies and interfere with scientific studies of butterfly migrations. For these reasons, NABA and other groups have called on the USDA, which regulates the interstate shipment of live butterflies, to ban the release of captive-bred butterflies.

### DECORATIONS AND FAVORS

In addition to incorporating animals into ceremonies as transport or for symbolic releases, some couples have included animals in their day as wedding favors—giving fish, turtles, birds, butterflies and other small animals to guests. Often, the recipients are unprepared to care for the animals, who die as a result.

Increasingly, animals are also used as decorations—for example, by putting turtles in tanks or fish in bowls for centerpieces. Building wedding cakes around live fish or birds is also increasing in popularity. In an episode of the Discovery Channel reality series, *Cake Boss*, the show's star created a cake with a compartment housing two doves.

Though couples may incorporate animals into their wedding day out of a sincere desire to add pageantry to the event, the distress animals endure as a result is too often overlooked.

In most cases, the best way for couples to express their love for animals and celebrate their new beginning is to refrain from involving live animals in the wedding, and perhaps instead choose a humane gesture, such as making a donation to a shelter or rescue center in the name of their guests or encouraging guests to do so in lieu of gifts. 🐾



Goldfish used as a table decoration.

# Migratory Birds Favor Shade-Grown Coffee

Since its (apocryphal) discovery in East Africa by a shepherd who watched his goats joyfully cavort across the pasture shortly after eating the red berries from an unassuming shrub, coffee traditionally has been grown in the shade, under a canopy of trees offering habitat to a variety of avian species. However, in the early 1970s, “shade-grown” coffee began to give way to coffee grown under full sun, a transformation that would negatively impact numerous migratory and resident birds.

An estimated one-third of the migratory birds that have breeding grounds in the U.S. are believed to seek solace in the warmer climes of Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean during the unforgiving winter months of the north. Many will make their homes in shade-grown coffee farms. These farms provide an attractive environment for scores of bird species, be they year-round avian residents such as toucans or parrots, or migratory birds such as ruby-throated hummingbirds, gray catbirds, Baltimore orioles or the cerulean warbler, a species of bird listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Hybrid, sun-tolerant dwarf coffee plants were introduced to produce bigger yields, and immediately became popular among many coffee growers. However, clear cutting to make room for the dwarf varieties has taken its toll on the forest environment and its inhabitants. Though research is sparse on the full impacts of sun-grown coffee plantations on migratory birds, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) indicates that “[T]he few studies that have been conducted have found that the diversity of migratory birds plummets when coffee is converted from shade to sun. One study found a decrease from 10 to 4 common species of migratory birds.” The SMBC adds: “As for the overall avifauna, studies in Colombia and Mexico found 94-97% fewer bird species in sun-grown coffee than in shade-grown coffee.”<sup>1</sup>



cerulean warbler

The shaded farms not only protect birds from harsh weather, they also harbor orchids, ferns, and lichens upon which some birds nest, and provide food in the form of fruit and insects. In return, birds aid the coffee farmers by consuming pests harmful to coffee plants and their berries, such as the coffee berry borer, considered the most destructive insect to sun-grown coffee farms. The sun-filtering canopy of a shade-coffee plantation also helps keep soil moist and therefore less susceptible to erosion. It combats global warming by filtering carbon dioxide. Unlike sun-grown coffee, shade-grown coffee does not depend on heavy inputs of environmentally unfriendly fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides—relying instead on leaf litter to provide nutrients and inhibit weed growth, and providing habitat for other pest-removing animals such as frogs, spiders and ants.

A number of coffee growers now participate in third party coffee certification processes which verify that the coffee has been produced in accordance with established socially and environmentally responsible standards, such as “organic,” fair trade,” and “shade-grown.” Conscientious consumers seeking to preserve habitat for resident and migratory birds would do well to seek out coffee bearing SMBC’s own organic, shade-grown “Bird Friendly” label. 🐾

<sup>1</sup>Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, “Why Migratory Birds are Crazy for Coffee”: [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/MigratoryBirds/Fact\\_Sheets/default.cfm?fxst=1](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/MigratoryBirds/Fact_Sheets/default.cfm?fxst=1)



Rhesus macaques cool off at the National Primate Research Center at the University of California, Davis.

## A Dip in the Pool Deemed Positive for Primates

**TO KEEP THEIR INTEREST** and encourage natural behaviors, animals in research facilities are often offered enrichment devices: objects to gnaw on, nesting materials that allow them to custom build their shelters, “food puzzles” to forage, and various toys to keep them occupied during the long hours cooped up in cages. For highly intelligent primates, mental stimulation and access to outlets for natural exuberance are especially important.

When it comes to monkeys, one way to keep things from getting too dry is to add a little water. According to the Animal Welfare Institute’s Laboratory Animal Advisor, Viktor Reinhardt, “Providing monkeys with ‘swimming pools’ during the hot summer months is probably one of the most attractive environmental enrichments for them. Macaques and baboons are good swimmers and divers, but just simply playing with water can fascinate them for extended periods of time.”

In a recent discussion on AWI’s Lab Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF), Reinhardt asked forum participants to offer anecdotes on water play for primates. Several caregivers wrote back to share their stories. Among the comments:

“At my last facility we used kiddie pools with our outdoor housed [cynomolgus] and rhesus [macaques]. The cynos spent a lot more time in/around the pools. It was really cool to see the juvenile cynos actually swimming in the pools (underwater with eyes open)! Some of the juvie rhesus would get in the water but not too many (more ‘in and out’ quickly).”

“We’ve observed the monkeys enjoying ‘running water’ as much as swimming! Sometimes we’ll take an old hose, turn it on & slide it into their enclosure. Sometimes with certain monkeys... we’ll actually give them the hose and let them ‘aim & spray’ & play, but they WILL trash the hose in short order. Other times we keep the hose on the outside of the enclosure and just let the water run in. They LOVE it!”

“Our senior NHP [non-human primate] technician has come up with a square stainless steel water pan insert that is approximately two inches in height that fits inside the entire area of the view port and can be filled with water. It is by no means large enough for our NHPs to fit their bodies in the tub, but gives them access to playing with water.... The NHPs that have used the prototype have spent a lot of time splashing their hands and arms in the water, cleaning their fruit/veggies and their toys. I have found it to be very rewarding to observe. The other monks watch intently for hours as well.”

It is incumbent upon research facilities to address not only the physical needs of the animals, but their emotional needs, as well. When caregivers provide species-adequate enrichment devices—in this case, water play for primates—they help stave off boredom and contribute to the animals’ overall well-being. 🐾



Polly Schultz

For maximum fun, monkeys commandeer the hose at OPR Coastal Primate Sanctuary.

## Senator Robert C. Byrd

ON JUNE 28, the animal welfare community lost a stalwart friend when Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, America's longest serving senator, died at the age of 92. Byrd was a fierce advocate for animal protection legislation and was well known for his forceful oratory on the subject of compassion to animals.

Byrd's legislative efforts on behalf of animals began early. As a U.S. representative in 1958, months before taking the senate seat he would occupy for over 50 years, he voted for passage of the Humane Slaughter Act. Later, as a senator, he supported the 1966 Laboratory Animal Welfare Act (later renamed the Animal Welfare Act) to improve the treatment and well-being of animals intended for research. But it was his advocacy on behalf of animals during the last decade of his career for which he is most remembered. Among other things, he sponsored legislation to protect wild horses, co-authored a bill to end horse slaughter and, in 2002, convinced the Senate Appropriations Committee to allocate a record \$5 million toward improving enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act. (At a hearing the following year, under harsh questioning from the Senator, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman was forced to admit that no new humane slaughter inspectors had been hired as Congress had directed. Ms. Veneman later recalled that as one of the worst days of her life.)



AWI's Chris Heyde, with Senator Byrd, John Corbett and Bo Derek.



The office of Senator Robert C. Byrd

A noted dog-lover, Byrd delivered a powerful 25-minute speech in 2007 condemning dog fighting as brought to light by the Michael Vick case. Years before, reacting to the news of a little dog thrown into traffic by an angry motorist, Byrd said, "We have a responsibility to roundly condemn such abject cruelty. Apathy regarding incidents such as this will only lead to more deviant behavior. And respect for life, all life, and for humane treatment of all creatures is something that must never be lost."

Byrd was equally passionate about improving the condition of animals raised for slaughter. He told his Senate colleagues: "It is one thing to determine as a culture that it is acceptable to raise and rear and then eat animals. It is another thing to cause them to lead a miserable life of torment, and then to slaughter them in a crude and callous manner. As a civilized society, we owe it to animals to treat them with compassion and humaneness. Animals suffer and they feel. Because we are moral agents, and compassionate people, we must do better."

To members of the animal welfare community, Senator Byrd was an inspirational, resolute champion, one who will be fondly remembered and sorely missed. 🐾

## Dr. F. Barbara Orlans

ON JUNE 18, our good friend and colleague, Dr. F. Barbara Orlans, passed away. Barbara was a bright, compassionate woman and a steadfast defender of animals. I first met her about thirty years ago, early in my animal protection career. What a pleasure and an honor to have worked with her and learned from her over all of this time.

Barbara held a bachelor of science from Birmingham University (UK) and a master of science and doctorate in physiology from the University of London. She conducted research at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and at the National Institutes of Health, publishing numerous papers in both British and American journals of physiology, pharmacology, and experimental therapeutics. From 1989 until her death, she worked as a senior research fellow and then a research assistant professor at the Georgetown University Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

Barbara sought to alleviate the suffering of animals used for research via numerous avenues. In 1964, she became a member of AWI's scientific committee. At about the same time, in a letter to the editor published in *Science*, she supported passage of the federal Laboratory Animal Welfare Act (later renamed the Animal Welfare Act), stating in part, "...Unfortunately, many scientists seem to regard



The Smithsonian Institute

Barbara Orlans speaking at a Smithsonian Institute event early in her career.

a college degree as a certificate not only of professional standing but of moral integrity, the holder of which is henceforth beholden to no man for his actions. The infliction of pain on animals, like the infliction of pain on humans, involves moral and social standards which cannot be left solely to individual judgment but should, in a civilized society, also be governed by law."

The reform of science fairs, where abject animal cruelty was rife, was another of Barbara's goals. In one instance, a young man won a prize after drilling holes, attempting to implant electrodes, and applying skull screws to the heads of 25 squirrel monkeys in his home; in another, a teenager centrifuged mice until they were paralyzed. Still other animal projects involved cancer, thalidomide, LSD and organ transplants. Barbara sought to replace painful animal experiments at the fairs with humane projects that would have equal or greater teaching value.

In 1984, she founded the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare to promote humane treatment of animals used in research from the scientific perspective. She ably served the organization for many years until her untimely unseating by those wishing to pursue a more conservative agenda. She repeatedly spoke at scientific forums, testified on behalf of animals before Congress, and wrote a plethora of books on animal issues including: *Animal Care from Protozoa to Small Mammals*, *In the Name of Science: Issues In Responsible Animal Experimentation*, *Applied Ethics in Animal Research* (with John Gluck and Tony Dipasquale), and *The Human Use of Animals: Case Studies in Ethical Choice* (with Tom Beauchamp, Rebecca Dresser and David Morton).

It is extremely rare to find a scientist in the U.S. willing to defend the rights of animals used for research purposes. To do so, one has to withstand ridicule and persecution by those seeking to maintain the status quo. Barbara was one of the few, following a moral imperative throughout her life to alleviate inhumane, needless animal suffering. 🐾

—Cathy Liss



Andrew Orlans

# Thoroughbred Owner Races to Save Mares from Slaughter

CAROL BROWN and her husband Don own a small Thoroughbred farm in Kentucky. Her horses may never earn a garland of roses at Churchill Downs, but she'd hoped, at least, to give them a rosy future and a green pasture retirement when she sent several of them this past January to a nearby riding camp for kids.

Two of her mares, however—Royal Glowing and Toolern Vale—found themselves not toting kids but bound instead for a Canadian slaughterhouse. The camp owners had sold them to a “killer buyer,” a middleman who purchased the horses to transport across the border and sell for meat. Only the efforts of rescuers, who discovered the mares at a livestock auction in Ohio, identified them based on lip tattoos, and alerted Brown of their impending fate, prevented the rosy retirement Brown envisioned from turning a darker shade of red.

Although some horses are sold into slaughter by irresponsible owners fully aware of what awaits them on the other side of the sale, many come from owners kept in the dark concerning the buyer's intent. Some have discovered the awful truth and tried to reclaim their horses, only to find it is too late—their horses have already been slaughtered. For a well-intentioned former owner who thought she was doing the right thing by giving her horses a nice retirement or a second career, this knowledge can be devastating.

Carol Brown and her horses were lucky. Once alerted, Brown quickly repurchased her mares and even adopted two more the rescuers found that day—one of them pregnant. They arrived back at her farm bearing marks of their ill treatment; the head of one scraped badly enough to expose the bone.



Royal Glowing, shown here, is one of Carol Brown's two Thoroughbreds back home with her friends after a harrowing journey and narrow escape.

Since her ordeal, Brown has become active in educating others about the hidden world of horse slaughter. Recently, she traveled to Tennessee to meet with state legislators and speak out against a bill introduced for the purpose of establishing a licensing scheme for horse slaughter facilities in the state. Many others, including long-time AWI supporters Willie Nelson, his daughter Amy, and granddaughter Raelyn Nelson also voiced strong opposition to the proposal. In the end, the bill was withdrawn and the issue sent by the legislature to a summer study committee (which may include Brown and the Nelsons).

Royal Glowing and Toolern Vale (Brown's “girls,” as she affectionately calls them), as well as the two newcomers, now reside back on her farm under her watchful—if more jaded—eye. Cocoa, the pregnant mare, foaled and mother and baby are doing well. Meanwhile, Brown plans to continue sharing her story and pushing for change in the hopes that her horses' harrowing journey will not have been in vain. 🐾



Lucky and his mom, Cocoa. Carol Brown adopted pregnant Cocoa (a Standardbred, she believes) and another rescued horse in February. Lucky was born in May.

photos: Carol Brown

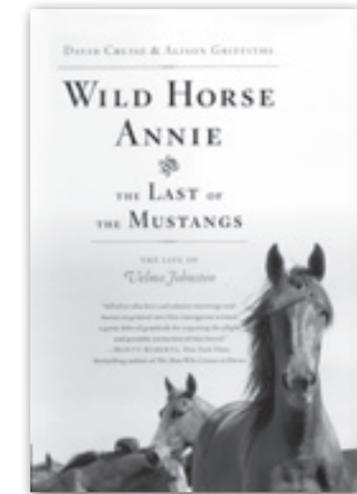
## Wild Horse Annie and the Last of the Mustangs: The Life of Velma Johnston

By David Cruise and Alison Griffiths  
Scribner  
ISBN: 978-1416553359  
308 pages; \$26

Velma Bronn Johnston's boss told her at the end of her lengthy secretarial career, “The world is made up of three kinds of people—those who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and those who don't know what's happening. Go girl, go!” Velma Johnston, or “Wild Horse Annie” as she was referred to by fans and foes alike, was definitely in the first category. Her life was filled with the pursuit and accomplishment of lofty goals, as is brilliantly chronicled by authors David Cruise and Alison Griffiths in their new book, *Wild Horse Annie and the Last of the Mustangs: The Life of Velma Johnston*.

More than just a biography of the most vocal and colorful advocate for wild horses in the last century, this well-researched book is a raw history of the shocking plight of America's mustangs and an overview of the movement that grew from Velma's tireless efforts and continues today.

During her lifetime, Velma overcame the torment, disfigurement and pain associated with contracting polio at an early age. Reading the book leaves one with the clear impression that Velma's empathy for wild horses—considered by some to be unsightly, useless, and in the way—was rooted in her personal trials. If this indeed was the seed of her empathy, it was an event in 1950 that served as the catalyst for her activism. On her way to work as an executive secretary in Reno, Nevada, she was horrified to witness a livestock truck filled with bloodied and dying mustangs fated for the pet food slaughter industry. That grotesque sight sparked a life-long crusade to educate the



public and public officials, to lobby legislators, and even to engage in direct action, secretly freeing frightened, trapped mustangs who had been brutally removed from the range and were doomed for slaughter.

In many ways, Wild Horse Annie emulated the very animals she loved—taking a tough, steady, survivalist approach to winning significant victories for wild horses. The book recounts Velma's fervent campaign that culminated in passage of two pieces of federal legislation: the 1959 Wild Horse Annie Act that prohibited the cruel practices of using aircraft to round up wild horses and of poisoning their watering holes; and the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act that served to protect wild horses and burros as living symbols of the history and pioneer spirit of the West. (Christine Stevens, the founder of the Animal Welfare Institute, was an important ally, and is mentioned several times throughout the book.)

Velma Johnston was a complex person with paradoxes in her life that make reading *Wild Horse Annie and the Last of the Mustangs* like setting off on a thrill seeking trail ride. Every turn reveals a remarkable scene, some awe-inspiring and others somewhat jolting and off-putting, but taken together, a fascinating adventure. 🐾

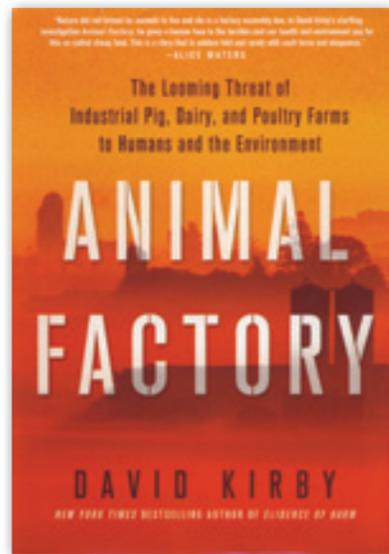
—Andrea Lococo

### BEQUESTS

If you would like to help assure AWI'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.



## Animal Factory: The Looming Threat of Industrial Pig, Dairy, and Poultry Farms to Humans and the Environment

By David Kirby  
St. Martin's Press  
ISBN: 978-0312380588  
512 pages; \$26.99

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST DAVID KIRBY'S GRIPPING new book, *Animal Factory: The Looming Threat of Industrial Pig, Dairy, and Poultry Farms to Humans and the Environment*, sets out to expose industrial agriculture as a cruel, polluting, disease transmitting, manure-soaked con game. Think that's too harsh? By the end, one of the everyday heroes that make the book such an absorbing exposé, hardy ex-Marine Rick Dove, ends up with a severe case of antibiotic resistant *E. coli* after a tumble in a creek flooded with chicken manure from a nearby industrial chicken operation. The infection nearly kills him.

Dove is just one of the ordinary citizens-turned-activists that Kirby follows in *Animal Factory*, and Kirby wisely lets the power of their stories drive the narrative. For Dove of New Bern, North Carolina, Helen Reddout of Yakima Valley, Washington, and Karen Hudson of Elmwood, Illinois, farming originally meant what we've all been taught to believe—happy animals standing in lush grasses with a welcoming red barn in the background. It's not until Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, known as CAFOs, move nearby, complete with stench and large manure spills, that they begin to realize what today's industrial agriculture really represents—polluted fields and waterways, cruelly confined and mistreated animals, dreadful working conditions, fish kills, stink, illness.

Kirby is an experienced investigative reporter, *Huffington Post* contributor, and the author of *Evidence of Harm*, an investigation into the possible link between mercury in vaccines and autism. For the latter he won the 2005 Investigative Reporters and Editors Award. In *Animal Factory*, he skillfully weaves the personal and political to

uncover a world where profit and efficiency come at a steep price to people, animals and land. In Kirby's capable hands, *Animal Factory* reads like a political thriller, but the stakes are hardly imaginary.

Corporate agriculture maintains that you can't feed the world, much less the United States, without CAFOs to make meat, dairy and eggs plentiful and affordable. While Michael Pollan and others have talked about the "true cost" of food, *Animal Factory* plainly illuminates the incomprehensibility of industrial animal farming. It's a system where seemingly no one but the parent company profits, yet all are at risk. CAFOs not only produce an alarming rise in pollution and reciprocal loss of quality of life in areas where they are established, but CAFO systems lead to increased and more deadly risks to humans from diseases such as antibiotic resistant *E. coli* and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease).

At its core, *Animal Factory* is a personal story—of individuals coming together to protect their land, the health of their community, the dignity of the farm animals, and the safety of the nation's food supply. Kirby uses the activists' stories as the backbone of his book, weaving in science, statistics and politics to enhance but not overwhelm the reader's experience. No doubt it's been an unwelcome surprise to industrial agriculture that three such disparate people as Rick, Helen and Karen would rise up to build a movement that is forcing the industry to be more accountable, but they did. Using their compelling stories, Kirby shines a light into the dark corners of industrial agriculture, and what he finds isn't pretty. 🐾

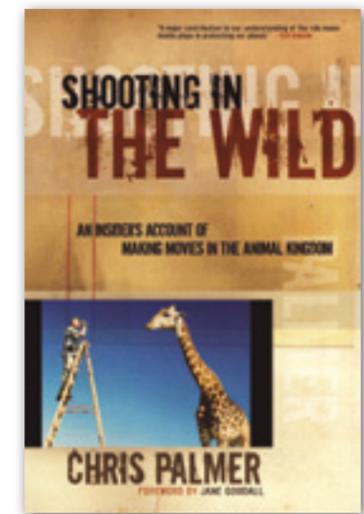
—Amy Rutledge  
Public Relations Associate  
Animal Welfare Approved

## Shooting in the Wild: An Insider's Account of Making Movies in the Animal Kingdom

By Chris Palmer  
Sierra Club/Counterpoint  
ISBN: 978-1578051489  
223 pages; \$24.95

THE MYSTERIOUS LIVES OF ANIMALS have been the subjects of countless films and nature shows. Though these productions might focus on similar themes, filmmakers are driven by a variety of motivations, and may use vastly different methods to capture animals on film. While some wildlife filmmakers aim to inspire viewers and encourage respect for animals, the vast majority aim to shock, instill fear, or simply entertain viewers and get better ratings, too often at the expense of animal welfare.

The shocking secrets behind the wildlife filmmaking industry are uncovered in veteran filmmaker Chris Palmer's book, *Shooting in the Wild: An Insider's Account of Making Movies in the Animal Kingdom*. His 25 years of producing films have exposed him to the best and worst sides of the industry, and he shares true, behind-the-scenes stories about popular films like *March of the Penguins* and critiques the methods employed by personalities like Steve Irwin. His deep

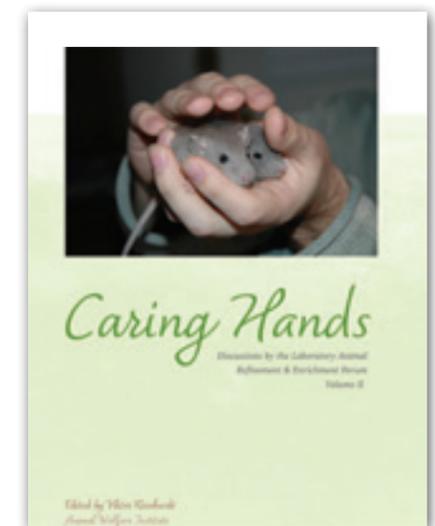


exploration of the industry and the ethical challenges it faces are eye-opening, and a compelling read for anyone who has been touched (positively or negatively) by a wildlife film or television show. Palmer exposes the less savory side of the industry, from scene-staging to outright animal abuse, and bemoans the too-often exaggerated emphasis on "extreme" animal behavior, which fosters neither respect for nor understanding of animals in the wild. Palmer also praises those few films and filmmakers who have used this medium successfully and responsibly to educate viewers and benefit animals, while making it abundantly clear that the industry has a long way to go. 🐾

## CARING HANDS: Discussions by the Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum

Edited by Viktor Reinhardt  
Animal Welfare Institute  
ISBN: 978-0-938414-88-9  
291 pages; \$6, one copy free to research staff

CARING HANDS is the second volume of discussions that took place on the Animal Welfare Institute's online Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum. Incorporated in this book are nearly 2,000 comments from animal care personnel on practical ways to improve the living and handling conditions of animals assigned to research projects. It has been prepared for those who are responsible for the treatment of animals used in research, as well as for everybody who is genuinely concerned about the welfare of these animals, including animal rights advocates who may not be aware that most animal caretakers and technicians, many veterinarians, and some researchers do their very best to refine the traditional, often inadequate housing and inhumane handling practices so that the animals in their care experience less distress. 🐾





## USDA Fails to Enforce Animal Welfare Act Against Problem Breeders

ON MAY 20, THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION pledged to fully enforce the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Not a minute too soon, it turns out. Two days later, the USDA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit of AWA enforcement, focusing on "problematic" dealers (i.e., breeders and middleman brokers) of dogs for the pet trade. The audit uncovered serious shortcomings on the part of the Animal Care (AC) program and its parent agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), that have allowed violators to avoid sanctions (and, in some cases, to escape regulation altogether) while keeping dogs in inhumane, filthy conditions. AWI has been calling attention to these problems for years.



*The oozing sore on this dog's head is testament to the breeder's failure to provide adequate veterinary care.*

USDA

Among OIG's major findings: Animal Care does not enforce the law effectively. During a two-year period, 2,416 of 4,250 violators repeatedly broke the law, and AC's reliance on "education and cooperation" rather than penalties puts animals' lives in jeopardy. During the same period, AC failed to notify states of potential cruelty cases involving dealers and failed to confiscate animals, or delayed doing so, even when the animals were suffering or dying. Penalties, when imposed, are so low that violators regard them simply as a cost of doing business. In many cases, violations were not even reported or documented properly, and deficient evidence seriously compromised several cases brought against dealers. Exploiting a loophole in the law, some large breeders circumvent the AWA entirely by selling animals over the Internet.

The OIG's 14 recommendations include: 1) requiring enforcement action for direct and serious violations; 2) confiscating suffering or dying animals immediately; 3) providing better training for inspectors and supervisors "on direct and repeat violations, enforcement procedures, and evidentiary requirements"; 4) imposing meaningful penalties, and counting each animal as a separate violation in cases involving animal deaths and unlicensed wholesale activities; and 5) seeking legislation to require breeders selling dogs via the Internet to be licensed and adhere to the AWA's minimum care standards.

Legislation—the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (H.R. 5434 and S. 3424)—has also been introduced to regulate large-volume dog breeders who sell to the public via the Internet. But closing this loophole will mean very little if APHIS does not also significantly address the numerous other problems documented in the OIG report. 🐾