

# AWI Quarterly

Spring 2013 Volume 62 Number 2



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ISSN 1071-1384 (print)

ISSN 1930-5109 (online)

## About the Cover

"Storm," the dog who graces our front cover, enjoys the security of a loving home. Not all companion animals are so fortunate. Some live in homes where domestic violence is present, too often suffering alongside the human victims of abuse. David LaBahn, president and CEO of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) sums it up: "As prosecutors, we know that abusers take out their rage on the family pets as a way to exert more power and control over children, spouses, even their elderly parents."

For the past several years, AWI has worked closely with the APA and other organizations to bring greater focus to the connection between family violence and animal abuse, and to provide resources to help law enforcement officials and other professionals aid victims and prosecute abusers. One such effort—our Safe Havens for Pets database—is discussed on the back cover. In producing and maintaining this database of facilities where domestic violence victims can quickly find reliable refuge for their beloved pets as they seek shelter themselves, it is our hope that more people and animals will be able, once and for all, to break free from abuse.

Photo by Cecilia van Prooijen

## Ag Secretary Says We Need "Better Solution" than Slaughter for American Horses

**Secretary of Agriculture** Tom Vilsack told reporters in March that "Congress should come up with a better solution for handling unwanted horses than slaughtering the animals for meat for human consumption." Vilsack, a former governor of Iowa, noted that in his home state horses work with inmates in prisons, and that this helps prisoners acquire job skills for when they rejoin society.

AWI has long advocated this kind of alternative to slaughter, along with many others such as riding school and therapeutic riding programs. In 2009, AWI screened a documentary called *Homestretch* on Capitol Hill, highlighting the very successful Second Chances program of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), involving prisoners and rescued horses. The Indiana Department of Corrections says the program "helps end needless abuse and slaughter of retired race horses."

When prisoners care for and work with the horses, recidivist rates drop dramatically. Out of 73 prisoners from a Second Chances program at a correctional center in Ocala, Florida, only two were known to have been re-incarcerated (compared to a 52 percent re-incarceration rate for the general population, according to Bureau of Justice statistics).

The revival of horse slaughter on U.S. soil—as called for by some in Congress—and the continued practice of sending our horses over the border to die in Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses promotes cruelty and waste, as illustrated in the story on page 6. Following Secretary Vilsack's advice would mean a brighter future for horses, and for society, as well. 🐾



*Jake Swetlow, shown here, benefits from therapeutic horseback riding lessons provided by a program in Clifton, VA.*



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**Above Left:** Scribbles, a horse rescued from slaughter. (Gordon Scott Wallace)

**Top Right:** A donkey on the Hunter Cattle Co. farm near Brooklet, GA, is there to keep carnivores and calves apart. (Emily Lancaster)

**Bottom Right:** For cold weather wolverines, a changing climate could spell shrinking habitat. (Peter Adermark)



## SEE NO EVIL: EFFORTS CONTINUE TO PULL BLINDS ON FARM ANIMAL ABUSE

Industrial agriculture is continuing the tactic of introducing anti-whistleblower legislation to prevent the investigation and exposure of cruel conditions endured by farm animals on factory farms. These bills, referred to as “ag-gag” bills, had already passed in five states prior to the 2013 legislation session. This year, nine more states introduced legislation to criminalize the methods used by animal, environmental and food safety advocates—such as the taking of photographs and videotape—to expose the realities of factory farming. More of these detrimental bills may be coming later this year.

Bills introduced in New Hampshire, New Mexico and Wyoming have thus far stalled, while bills in a few other states (Arkansas, Indiana, and Tennessee) remain active at press time. AWI has joined a broad coalition of interest groups—including animal protection, civil liberties, consumer rights, and environmental organizations—that was formed with the intent of keeping additional whistleblower-suppression laws off the books. 🐾

## Bans on Inhumane Farming Practices: Some States Step Up While Others Stonewall

EVEN AS SOME state legislatures seek to cover up abuse via ag-gag bills, a few are in pursuit of higher ground: last year, Rhode Island joined a growing list of states that prohibit intensive confinement crates for calves raised for veal and gestating sows. Rhode Island also became the fourth state to ban routine tail docking of cattle. In 2013, anti-confinement bills were being considered in six states—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Vermont—and legislation to ban routine tail docking of beef and/or dairy cattle has been introduced in Colorado and Washington.

The bill to ban veal and gestation crates in New Hampshire and the bill to prohibit cattle tail docking in Washington both failed to pass out of committee. However, the proposed ban on gestation crates in New Jersey passed both the Senate and the Assembly, and at press time awaits only the governor’s signature to become law. Passage would make New Jersey the tenth state to outlaw this inhumane method of confining pregnant sows. 🐾

## Illinois House Advances Bill to Restrict Dog Tethering

THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE has taken steps to protect animal welfare and public safety by advancing HB 83, a bill that would restrict the tethering of dogs throughout Illinois. Tethered dogs spend their lives tied up outdoors with rope, chain or other restraint; they are often denied socialization, adequate shelter, and veterinary care. These dogs can be severely injured and even strangled by their restraints. Moreover, because tethering increases dogs’ territoriality and aggression, it is a significant public safety concern.

To address this problem, Illinois Rep. Daniel Burke introduced HB 83 in the Illinois House of Representatives. The bill requires that tethers be at least 10 feet in length and that tethered dogs be given adequate shelter and protection from the weather. It also prohibits the tethering of dogs in such close proximity that they might become



*Life can be bleak at the end of the rope: chained dogs are often deprived of social contact and adequate shelter from the elements.*

entangled, and forbids the use of chains of excessive weight and size.

In February, AWI’s Rosalyn Morrison testified before the Illinois House Executive Committee, which approved the measure by a unanimous 11-0 vote. On April 15, the Illinois House approved the bill by a vote of 78-38. It now goes to the Senate for consideration. 🐾

## BILL TO BAN HORSE SLAUGHTER INTRODUCED

The **Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE)** Act of 2013 was introduced on March 12 in both houses of Congress. Sponsored by Sens. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) in the Senate and by Reps. Pat Meehan (R-PA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) in the House, this bipartisan legislation would stop the inhumane killing of American horses for human consumption by prohibiting both domestic slaughter and the transport of horses across U.S. borders to foreign slaughterhouses.

AWI joined the SAFE Act's sponsors for a press conference to announce the bill's introduction. Renowned veterinary behaviorist Dr. Nick Dodman of the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University shared his expertise on equine welfare and human health risks associated with horse slaughter and consumption. AWI was also joined by Brittany Wallace, a student from Massachusetts, and Kelly Smith, Director of Omega Horse Rescue, who worked together to rescue Brittany's beloved horse, Scribbles, from slaughter. (See accompanying story on page 6.)

The sponsors of the SAFE Act emphasized that this legislation is needed to protect consumers and horses alike. Sen. Landrieu explained that "the practice of horse slaughter for human consumption is revolting to me as a horse owner, but also as a consumer. Horses are not raised for human consumption, and they are frequently treated with drugs and chemicals that are toxic when ingested by humans. Especially in light of the European horse meat contamination scandals, we must ensure that our food supply at home is not tainted with horse meat, nor should we supply an unsafe food product to foreign industries." Rep. Meehan added a note of fiscal concern: "At a time when the U.S. Department of Agriculture is threatening to furlough meat inspectors due to budget cuts, American taxpayers should not be subsidizing horse meat inspections for the foreign export market." Highlighting the cruelty of slaughter, Rep. Schakowsky stated that "horses sent to slaughter are often subject to appalling, brutal treatment. We must fight those practices. The SAFE Act of 2013 will

Please contact your members of Congress and urge them to cosponsor the SAFE Act and PAMTA. Call (202) 337-2332 or go to [www.awionline.org/takeaction](http://www.awionline.org/takeaction) for further information. The address for senators is: The Honorable (Full Name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and for representatives is: The Honorable (Full Name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.



Alexandra Alberg

AWI's Chris Heyde explains some of the crueler consequences of horse slaughter at the press conference on Capitol Hill introducing the SAFE Act. Dr. Nick Dodman, of Tufts' Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and co-founder of Veterinarians for Equine Welfare, looks on.

ensure that these majestic animals are treated with the respect they deserve."

Although there are currently no horse slaughter facilities operating in the United States, more than 160,000 American horses were exported for slaughter last year, and efforts to reopen domestic slaughterhouses have begun. 🐾

## Antibiotics: for Us or for Animal Abuse?

U.S. REP. LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY) has reintroduced the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act ("PAMTA," or H.R. 1150) into the House of Representatives. Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) intends to introduce a companion bill in the Senate.

At present, an estimated 80 percent of all antibiotics in this country are used "sub-therapeutically" to facilitate the keeping of farm animals in overcrowded, stressful and unsanitary conditions, and to artificially speed their growth. A direct consequence of this reckless misuse of critical medicines is that it provides the perfect conditions for dangerous bacteria to become resistant to multiple antibiotics—something we have already seen come to pass with deadly *E. coli* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The proposed legislation would make the feeding of antibiotics to animals for anything but welfare and disease control illegal, and help ensure that critical antibiotics retain their ability to save human lives. 🐾



*Brittany and Scribbles pose for the camera. Brittany envisioned a peaceful “semi-retirement” for Scribbles. Instead, her horse landed in the clutches of a killer buyer, was badly injured, and narrowly escaped the slaughterhouse.*

# Scribbles, A HORSE THAT BEAT ALL ODDS

Brittany Wallace

**IMAGINE** finding your beloved horse on Facebook, in a kill pen bleeding to death with a severed artery, when you thought she was safe and happy in a loving home. That’s what happened to me, Brittany Wallace, on the morning of November 13, 2012, right after my dog Kona had died of kidney failure. My parents bought Scribbles for me when I was nine years old—the same day they bought our dog Kona. During the five years Scribbles and I were together, we were inseparable. We did everything together as a team.

The point came, though, when I outgrew her as a rider. All I wanted was for Scribbles to be happy. She is a strong-willed mare, with an unending amount of talent. I could have pushed her a lot farther, but she would not have been happy doing it. So we put her up for sale, figuring that if something came along that felt just right then we would do it, but we always wanted to be part of where Scribbles went.

It turns out that the woman who sold us a huge Belgian Warmblood named Maybe (another horse I grew to

love) was interested in taking Scribbles. We had turned down many people who wanted to buy Scribbles because it didn’t feel right, but this seemed to be a perfect situation, almost too good to be true. Scribbles would be used as a beginner western riding lesson and pony camp horse. I was allowed to come ride her and visit whenever I liked—which I did often in the early months after we parted.

Then a day came when I went to see her and she had vanished. They say she was sold to a loving home. When we

sold her, we had a written right of first refusal agreement should Scribbles ever be sold again. We were not given that right; if we had, we would have taken her back. We continuously asked for names, numbers and farm names, but nothing was provided—always an excuse.

On that November morning, I was on Facebook. It was a tragic day already, with the death of my dog. I was doing research for a thesis paper I was writing for school on how I thought horse slaughter should be outlawed, to keep my mind off Kona. As I scrolled through Facebook I saw a picture that a transporter we knew with connections to horse auctions shared of an injured horse in urgent need of help. This horse was in a kill pen at New Holland auction in Pennsylvania, ready to be shipped to slaughter with a severed artery. In the pictures, all I saw was pools of blood surrounding the horse's leg. Kelly Smith from Omega Horse Rescue was there and noticed the injured horse. She quickly pulled her from the pen and got her medical attention. I scrolled through the pictures thinking how awful this was, and how could anyone do this

to a horse. Then I saw a picture of the horse's face. That's when I knew that was Scribbles, my first horse who I was told was in a loving home.

When I called up the transporter and told her that this was my horse Scribbles, she assured me that it was not her—for there are many bay mares at these auctions and the possibilities were slim to none. I remembered that Scribbles had a distinct scar under her tail and asked if she or Kelly could look. Sure enough, the scar was there. We spoke with Kelly, and arranged to take her home, but first Scribbles had to spend a month at Omega, healing from her injury. Kelly was amazing; she updated us with many pictures and phone calls on how she was doing.

Then the day came to go get her. It was late at night on December 13. It was below freezing out. I walked into the barn and the beauty in Scribbles' eyes took my breath away. Kelly had her all sparkled up, and had red bows on her just like a little girl's dream Christmas present. The tears never stopped. Words can't describe the magic in that barn. When I was little I taught Scribbles



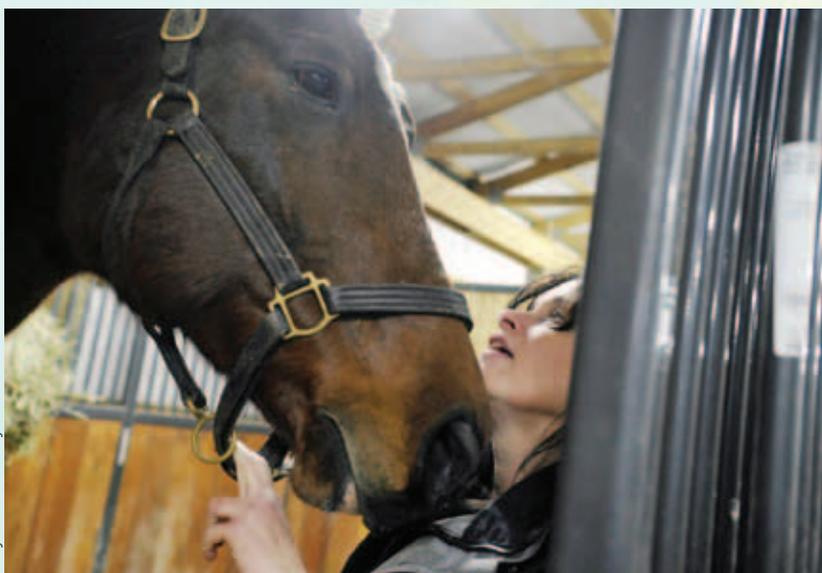
Gordon Scott Wallace

how to bow. I asked her to bow to show Kelly, and she continuously bowed down to us as if to say thank you. She remembered me. She knew her family had come back for her. Scribbles jumped up onto the familiar trailer to take our long ride home from Pennsylvania to Massachusetts.

As much as I'd like to say this is the end, it's not. Scribbles was and still is a perfectly good horse, with no issues. She was wanted just like every other horse out there. It isn't fair we do this to these animals. Horse slaughter is going on right now to horses just like Scribbles. It could be your horse. I will not stop until every horse is given the chance to live, and avoid the tragic fate of slaughter. I hope you won't either. 🐾

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Brittany Wallace, 17, is a high school junior and student at Cape Cod Community College. She lives in Harwich, MA, where she keeps company with eight horses (four of them rescues) at her family's Memory Lane Farm. She recently spoke at a press conference with AWI and several members of Congress.



Daily Record/Sunday News/Chris Dunn

*Quick action by Kelly Smith—who directs Omega Horse Rescue in York County, PA—saved the life of Scribbles. Here, Smith greets Luke, another horse she rescued from certain slaughter.*

## In Tribute to Dr. Earnest Johnson

AWI WAS DEEPLY SADDENED TO LEARN that Dr. Earnest Johnson, a dedicated veterinary inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), passed away earlier this year. Dr. Johnson embraced his obligation to ensure enforcement of both the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act, and his job took him to countless horse shows of Tennessee Walkers and other gaited breeds,

where he sought to prevent illegal soring of the equines. Dr. Johnson was subjected to relentless and brutal attacks by detractors within the walking horse industry, but being of the soundest character, he stayed true to his responsibilities under the law.



Courtesy of APHIS

Acting Administrator Kevin Shea of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) offered the following recognition of this remarkable man:

"I want to take a few minutes to honor the memory of Dr. Earnest Johnson, a greatly respected member of the Animal Care and APHIS family. Earnest passed away on February 8, much too young at the age of 56. ... Earnest worked for USDA for 24 years, first with the Food Safety and Inspection Service and then in Animal Care for APHIS. ... Earnest believed in the noble work of Animal Care: ensuring humane treatment of animals used in research and exhibition and those to be sold as pets, and working to eliminate the cruel and inhumane practice of horse soring. While he worked on all aspects of the Animal Care mission, he had a great affinity for horse protection. ... He fulfilled his duty as a public servant to carry out the law fairly and professionally. ... When he saw soring, he worked to stop it, just like the law has said we should do for over 40 years. ...

"If they could, thousands of horses would thank Earnest for what he did. Millions of Americans who love horses would also do so. ... We honor Earnest's memory. May he rest in peace knowing that others are carrying on his work to protect horses." 🐾

## Traveling Animal Exhibitors Must Report Their Whereabouts

CIRCUSES, animal acts, carnivals, petting zoos, and other animal exhibitors are now required to file itineraries with USDA at least 48 hours in advance if they will be keeping any of their animals off-site for one or more nights. Such itineraries must include precise details concerning the locations of and persons responsible for each animal.

This change in regulation under the Animal Welfare Act, which became effective January 30 of this year, is important. First, it lets USDA know where to find animals used for exhibition while they are on road; this is essential so that transport, housing and exhibition conditions can be assessed via unannounced inspections. In addition, if USDA receives any complaints from the public in response to a traveling exhibit, the department can readily identify the exhibitor and the animal involved. Finally



USDA

Nosey the elephant is hauled in a trailer with a traveling circus. In 2011, after numerous inspections by USDA officials dating back to 2007, the circus owner was charged with 33 violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

the requirement for an itinerary will prevent USDA from wasting resources on unsuccessful attempts to inspect because the exhibitors and/or the animals are not where USDA believes them to be. 🐾



Pablo Leautaud

These Monarch butterflies are wintering in Michoacán, Mexico, after long sojourns from Canada and the midwestern U.S. They are the only insect known to undertake such marathon migrations.

## Falling Reign: Drought, Industrial Ag Precipitate Disastrous Decline of Monarch Butterflies

THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY population is crashing. Over a 50-acre swath of central Mexico each winter, monarch butterflies once formed a living blanket over the trees. They now occupy less than three of those acres. Last winter's butterfly numbers in Mexico were down 59 percent from the year before.

The butterflies' doom appears linked to weather and agricultural practices in the midwestern United States, where the monarchs congregate in the summer to reproduce. Drought and hot weather has led the butterflies to arrive early and to nest farther north. Chip Taylor, director of the conservation group Monarch Watch, told the *New York Times* that this has disrupted the breeding cycle, dried insect eggs, and lowered the nectar content of the milkweed on which they feed—or what little remains of it. The second problem is that where once monarchs found plentiful milkweed growing between rows of corn and soybean, farms now plant herbicide-tolerant crops and wipe out the monarch's food supply. Taylor told the *Times* “That habitat is virtually gone. We've lost well over 120 million acres, and probably closer to 150 million acres.” 🐾

## Climate Concerns Induce USFWS to Propose ESA Protection for Wolverines

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS) announced on February 1 a proposal to list the North American wolverine as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). USFWS stated in a news release that “Extensive climate modeling indicates that the wolverine's snowpack habitat will be greatly reduced and fragmented in the coming years due to climate warming, thereby threatening the species with extinction.” The listing would allow for continued recreational activities in wolverine territory, but would make hunting and trapping of the animals illegal.

Two states still allow wolverine trapping: Alaska and Montana. Last year, a coalition of eight mostly Montana-based wildlife protection and conservation groups sued the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to block wolverine trapping in that state. In November, just before the trapping season began, the groups won a temporary restraining order that effectively shut down the season. The underlying lawsuit is slated to run into the summer, while a final decision from USFWS on the ESA proposal will be issued following several months of public comment and review. 🐾

## BEAR POACHERS PINCHED IN NC & GA

“Operation Something Bruin,” a four-year, multi-agency sting operation involving state officials from Georgia and North Carolina, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service, has resulted in the arrest of 80 people charged with some 980 wildlife violations in connection with bear poaching in the region. Georgia Department of Natural Resources and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission officers infiltrated poaching circles to document bear baiting, illegal takes of bears and other wildlife, and a host of other violations. Though most of the bears taken were killed for trophies, some died to supply the black market with paws and gallbladders used for traditional Asian medicines—a growing problem nationwide, according to USFWS. 🐾

# PITCHING Painted Dog Conservation IN ZIMBABWE



Peter Blinston

Alpha male and pup from one of Zimbabwe's painted dog packs. Painted Dog Conservation, a non-profit organization, is changing perceptions of this endangered species and enlisting locals in the effort to save them.

**PAINTED DOGS** (*Lycaon pictus*), also called African wild dogs, once numbered around 500,000 across 39 countries on the continent. Today, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, a little over 1 percent of that population hangs on, and the painted dog ranks among Africa's most endangered species. Traps, snares, cars, domestic canid diseases, habitat destruction and poaching, as well as human food shortages, unemployment, and land management practices create more and more human-wildlife conflicts in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Botswana and South Africa. In the face of these threats, Painted Dog Conservation (PDC), founded in 1992 by Dr. Gregory Rasmussen after he spent years working in the field with the dogs, seeks to save this uniquely African species.

PDC's mission in Zimbabwe is to protect and increase the range and number of painted dogs—called *Iganyana* in the local Sindebele language—in that country and elsewhere in Africa. The organization seeks to accomplish this not only by working directly to protect painted dogs,

but also via local education and employment programs and getting involved with the community—including local ranchers, who often feel the most threatened by the dogs' presence.

At its Community Conservation Education Complex, PDC offers several conservation education programs free of charge, including a children's *Iganyana* Bush Camp, Community Outreach, Community Development, a Painted Dog Interpretative Hall, and an Art Center. Every year, a thousand children come through the bush camp and stay for a week to learn about the value of biodiversity and the role that painted dogs play in ecosystems—inspiring emotional attachment to wildlife at an early age. By forming connections between people and the dogs early on, the project has gained the respect of the local community, and the potential for conflict is reduced in the long term. Dr. Rasmussen describes these programs as “preventing fires instead of putting them out.”

Perhaps the greatest threat to the painted dog's survival is poaching activity, in particular snares set for other animals; Dr. Rasmussen describes the dogs as “caught like dolphins in tuna nets.” In Zimbabwe, bushmeat is a substantial source of income and poaching threatens all wildlife. But the painted dog is especially susceptible. Their extensive hunting range—12-plus miles a day, on average—increases the likelihood of an encounter with a deadly snare.

PDC provides employment opportunities and promotes environmentally sustainable income-generating projects that help combat the threat of snares. The group deploys three highly trained and well-equipped anti-poaching units that work in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Since the units were first deployed in 2001, they have collected over 50,000 snares and released countless other animals caught in them, including wildebeests and baby elephants.

Along with snares, impacts from car strikes leave many dogs injured and suffering. In response, PDC has initiated a campaign to get speed limits drastically reduced—and

enforced—to ensure motorists slow down near roads frequented by painted dogs.

Research has shown that painted dogs are obligate cooperators. Thus, the loss of one individual can affect the survival of the whole pack. While injured dogs are recuperating, they can be a burden on their packs. A PDC Rehabilitation Facility, constructed in 2002, provides a safe recovery area for dogs with injuries so that they can be returned to the pack. The ultimate goal is to return the injured individuals once they are fully recovered so that they can again make valuable contributions to their family units. In this sense, the facility has huge significance for the species—not only helping to reduce the suffering of individuals but ensuring that whole packs are not disrupted—and is an essential element in Zimbabwe's National Management Plan for painted dogs. PDC also recently completed construction of a veterinary clinic and is trying to raise funds for equipment, a laboratory for processing samples, refrigerators and freezers, and a cold room to store food supplies for the dogs.

Beyond working directly to address immediate threats and help injured painted dogs, PDC devotes significant time and resources to working within the community to improve relations between these wild animals and humans and combat the kinds of financial hardships in the region that can lead to wildlife abuse. In 2007, PDC opened the Interpretive Hall to advance knowledge about painted dogs and provide support for staff, artisans, and schools. The

facility raises awareness of the plight of painted dogs, promotes Hwange National Park—one of their last remaining refuges—and encourages international tourism and support for the local community and the dogs. Similarly, the Art Center, opened in 2003, financially benefits artisans who are making *Iganyana* art, such as wire sculptures made from the collected snares.

Dr. Rasmussen and his team are constantly campaigning to change public perception of painted dogs. Even the simple act of putting up road signs to warn cars to slow down for crossing wild dogs made a huge difference in public acceptance of the need to protect these dogs. The organization regularly meets with landowners and discusses the movement patterns of the dogs to help keep stakeholders informed, and is trying to raise money to fit some of the dogs with tracking collars in order to more accurately track painted dogs and know when they move into dangerous areas.

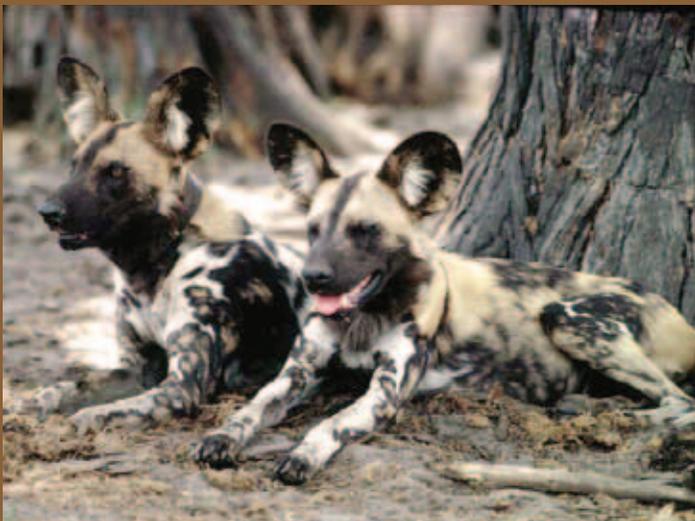
Painted dogs remain in grave danger throughout their range. However, in Zimbabwe at least, the efforts of PDC and the local communities have helped enhance the image of the painted dog and raise the nation's painted dog population from 400 to 700 individuals since the project's inception. What's more, these wild dogs of Africa—once considered pests—have become the number one animal that tourists want to see in Zimbabwe. As such, PDC serves as a potent model for community-based conservation. 🐾

To learn more and support PDC's campaigns, visit [www.painteddog.org](http://www.painteddog.org). Donations can be made via the Wildlife Conservation Network at 25745 Bassett Lane, Los Altos, CA 94022 (please be sure to specify "painted dog" in your donation).



Peter Blinston

*Dr. Gregory Rasmussen, founder of and research director for Painted Dog Conservation, revives a painted dog who has been fitted with a protective anti-snare collar.*



Nick Creaves

## Bad "B"-havior: Feds Finally Collar Notorious Dog Dealers

FLOYD AND SUSAN MARTIN were random source Class B dealers who, over the years, kept thousands of animals in appalling conditions at their Chestnut Grove Kennels in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. In late February, the pair pleaded guilty to federal charges and now face jail time and the loss of some of their ill-gotten gains. Despite ongoing violations of the Animal Welfare Act's acquisition and animal care standards, the Martins—up until now—had managed to stay in business. Finally, in 2011, based on an investigation by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania indicted the Martins on numerous counts of mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, making false statements to the government, and conspiracy—all stemming from keeping fraudulent records regarding the source of the dogs they sold for medical research at such institutions as Johns Hopkins and Columbia Universities. In a plea deal, Floyd Martin agreed to serve one year in jail for mail fraud, while Susan Martin will be placed on probation for conspiracy, and the couple will have to pay \$300,000 in restitution. Formal sentencing will take place in June. 🐾

## NEW WEB TUTORIAL PROMOTES GREATER CARE IN HANDLING RODENTS IN RESEARCH

The free web tutorials at the *Procedures with Care* website offer a detailed learning tool for those in research looking to learn or brush up on best practices for performing subcutaneous injection, gavage, intravenous injection, and surgical preparation in rats and mice. This effort was produced by Newcastle University with the support of the Institute of Animal Technology and the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. The videos emphasize actions to lessen the stress of the animals in research. To view the tutorials, go to [www.procedureswithcare.org.uk](http://www.procedureswithcare.org.uk). 🐾

## USDA to Facilities Regulated Under the Animal Welfare Act: When Disaster Strikes, Be Ready

IN RESPONSE to a string of recent natural disasters, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published a rule in December making it mandatory that all dealers, exhibitors, intermediate handlers, carriers, research facilities, and other entities regulated by the agency under the Animal Welfare Act have an emergency or contingency plan—the better to save the lives of employees and animals in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. The plans, maintained at the facility and subject to review by USDA inspectors, must be in place by July 29, 2013, and all employees must be trained regarding the plan by September 27.

Most research facilities should already have some kind of disaster plan in place as a result of either their Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) accreditation or their Public Health Service (PHS) Assurance. The same is true of exhibitors accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Under the new rule, facilities maintain the flexibility to design their own plans, but all plans must, at minimum, do the following:

1. Identify the kinds of emergencies that are common in their locality;
2. Identify emergencies that could happen at a facility such as theirs;
3. Outline specific tasks to be undertaken during emergencies;
4. Establish a clear chain of command for implementing the plan;
5. Identify available materials and resources for use during an emergency; and
6. Affirm that employees are trained on the plan.

The rule is available online at <http://1.usa.gov/12TYUx>. 🐾



NYU's Smilow Research Center. During Hurricane Sandy, some 10,000 rodents drowned when their basement quarters flooded. Though not covered under the Animal Welfare Act, rats, mice and birds should be included in contingency plans so that they, too, can be protected.

# Mice Make Imperfect Models to Study Human Maladies

**AN ARTICLE** by Gina Kolata in the February 11 *New York Times* titled “Mice Fall Short as Test Subjects for Some of Humans’ Deadly Ills,” unleashed a maelstrom—from both those advocating alternatives to animals in research as well as those defending animal experimentation. The article’s first paragraph described the study’s finding that “the mouse model has been totally misleading for at least three major killers—sepsis [a life-threatening systemic infection], burns and trauma. As a result, years and billions of dollars have been wasted following false leads.”

Kolata was reporting on a scientific paper, “Genomic responses in mouse models poorly mimic human inflammatory diseases,” published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The paper, by Junhee Seok and 38 co-authors, was based on ten years of research and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Predictably, the study and its publication met with stiff resistance within animal research circles. The study team had tried for more than a year to publish its paper, and it was rejected by both *Science* and *Nature*. One of the co-authors, Ronald Davis of Stanford University, explained to Kolata that researchers “are so ingrained in trying to cure mice that they forgot we are trying to cure humans.”

AWI scientific committee member Viktor Reinhardt described the article as “highlighting the obvious: non-human animals are not humans.” He added that, “When millions of animals are ‘used’ and killed every year to study human health issues, with the promise to the public that cures are just about to be found, the human patient is bearing a considerable risk. In the United States alone, well over 1 million patients are hospitalized because of serious, often deadly side effects of drugs that have been developed and tested in animals.”

On February 19, NIH director Francis Collins reiterated many points from the study and the article, blogging, “If it works in mice, so we thought, it should work in humans. But when it comes to molecules designed to target a sepsis-like condition, 150 drugs that successfully treated this condition in mice later failed in human clinical trials—a heartbreaking loss of decades of research and billions

of dollars. ... When the authors compared the activity of the human sepsis-trauma-burn genes with that of the equivalent mouse genes, there was very little overlap. No wonder drugs designed for the mice failed in humans: they were, in fact, treating different conditions!”

While asserting that there are still things to be learned from mice, Director Collins went on to say, “The new study provides more reason to develop better and more sophisticated models of human disease. More than 30% of all drugs successfully tested in animals later prove toxic in human trials. The NIH plans to commit \$70 million over the next five years to develop ‘tissue chips’—miniature 3-D organs made with living human cells—to help predict drug safety and efficacy. Though this is high-risk research, these chips may ultimately provide better models of human disease and biology than the use of animals.” 🐾



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*Mice in a research laboratory. A recent study indicates that, at least in some instances, testing drugs on mice to determine their efficacy to treat human illnesses may be misguided.*

## NEW CERTIFICATIONS

# Recognize Farmers and Ranchers Who Make Peace

## WITH PREDATORS AND OTHER WILDLIFE



Larry Lamisa

*Researchers* are only just starting to understand the critical role of native U.S. predator species in the functioning of ecosystems. A recent study by Oregon State University, for example, found that large predators such as coyotes, bears, wolves and mountain lions help to maintain native plant communities by keeping large herbivore populations in check, contributing to the health of forests, streams, fisheries and other wildlife.

Yet, throughout the history of U.S. livestock production, predators have been pursued and eradicated from their native habitat with a vengeance. Although the growing recognition of the damage that human activity is inflicting on the environment has brought conservation efforts to the fore over recent decades, “conservation” and “ranching” have been regarded as two very separate and incompatible objectives. The political solution has generally been to set aside dedicated conservation areas, where the predators are allowed—and expected—to remain. The problem is that predators don’t recognize the artificial boundaries created

by our cognitive separation between food production and nature conservation, so conflict frequently arises wherever predator and ranch inevitably meet again. Sadly, a “shoot, shovel and shut up” approach is still the norm when it comes to predator management on many farms and ranches across North America.

Livestock losses from predators can sometimes have a devastating economic and emotional impact on producers, as well as on livestock stress and welfare. However, many producers find that using lethal force in an attempt to eliminate the predator threat from their land rarely succeeds in the long term. Even if they do manage to eradicate the local population of coyotes, for example, a new pack or breeding pair will quickly move into the vacuum. There is also significant evidence to suggest that attempts to control coyotes by lethal means will actually *encourage* them to breed, as this is their biological response to factors that threaten their population.

Over recent years, a growing movement among some agricultural producers is to coexist with wildlife, including

predators, rather than eliminate them. Such means of coexistence have included the use of livestock guardian animals, electric fencing, fladry, rotational grazing, and mechanical deterrents. These grassroots efforts across the United States and Canada have culminated in the launch earlier this year of a new certification program to assess and reward producers who are coexisting with wildlife, including some important native predator species.

### WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FARMS AND RANCHES

The Certified Wildlife Friendly™ and Predator Friendly® production standards are the result of a three-year partnership project among AWI's Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) program, Predator Friendly, and the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (see box on page 17). The new standards were developed to meet the growing consumer demand for food and other products from farms and ranches that are committed to coexisting with native species. As the name suggests, Predator Friendly® standards focus on the protection of native predators; the Certified Wildlife Friendly™ standards also incorporate predator protection, but the standards include additional measures to protect a broader spectrum of wildlife. Nevertheless, the underlying philosophy of both standards is to use market forces to create positive outcomes for threatened species and the producers who share their habitats.

So how does the new program work in practice?

Participating producers must undergo an annual third-party audit, carried out by an AWA auditor, to demonstrate compliance with strict standards on wildlife conservation and predator coexistence. Participating producers must show that they are maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat on their farms and ranches, and that they are employing a mix of proactive practices and careful observation to allow wildlife and livestock to coexist, and are able to quickly adapt their management practices in response to changing conditions.

Producers who pass the audit can then market their products—including wool, meat, eggs, honey, leather goods, soap, and more—using the Certified Wildlife Friendly™ or Predator Friendly® logos, demonstrating their dedication and commitment to practical wildlife conservation and coexistence. Using this approach, the program seeks to encourage producers to help protect some of the most important habitats and species across the United States, while opening up new business opportunities for sustainable farms and ranches.

### CONSERVATION IN PRACTICE

The comprehensive Certified Wildlife Friendly™ and Predator Friendly® standards cover a number of areas relating to wildlife and predator conservation, from the provision and preservation of wildlife habitat and corridors on the farm or ranch, to the kinds of non-lethal strategies that producers must adopt. But the underlying principle is that by adopting mixes of non-lethal strategies and common-sense management techniques, producers can maintain wildlife habitats as well as keep livestock safe and wildlife alive without resorting to lethal control measures. The measures adopted by producers range from ordinary to ingenious.

### KNOWLEDGE IS KEY

It may sound obvious, but a basic knowledge and understanding of the wildlife on and around the farm or ranch is fundamental and must serve as the primary tool to minimize the potential for conflict with wildlife. Producers are encouraged to educate themselves and continually observe their farm or ranch to recognize the changing potential for conflict with wildlife. An understanding of the habits and lifecycle of the predator species in question will help to alert the farmer or rancher to periods of the day—or year—when the threat of predation is likely to be highest. Prudent practices such as swiftly disposing of livestock carcasses and reducing and eliminating other attractant sources are also essential.



Cherrie Nolden

*A herd of goats at 1dr Acres, an Animal Welfare Approved farm in Prairie du Sac, WI, graze under the watchful eye of a guardian dog. The dog deters predators, keeping both predators and farm animals out of harm's way.*



Courtesy of Natham Lance

*Left: Fladry—a line of rope across a field hung with strips of cloth that flap in the breeze—can dissuade predators from crossing the barrier. Right: A still image from a study testing electrified fladry with captive wolves.*

### ADAPTIVE GRAZING AND FEEDING

An awareness and knowledge of predator activities can help producers schedule their grazing to take advantage of seasonal lulls in predation pressure—for example, by ensuring that young stock are not grazed near active dens. While producers are expected to maintain uncultivated areas and wildlife habitats on their farms and ranches to support predator-prey ecosystems, these areas offer predators good cover and an easy means of retreat; placing vulnerable animals near such areas will clearly present more of a risk. As many predators are nocturnal hunters, gathering and moving animals to a more secure location at night—such as a poultry house or fenced corral—can be an option for effective protection.

### HARASSMENT TECHNIQUES

Predators can quickly become comfortable with the routine of a farm, and harassment may be necessary to prevent them from becoming acclimatized to livestock or home ranch areas—and from learning when it is “safe” to approach because humans are not around. Making frequent and unpredictable patrols in pasture, varying approaches to pastures, changing where and when people are present, and employing differing means of transportation can all help to avoid predictability.

### MIXED GRAZING

Simple strategies such as grazing larger and smaller livestock species together can help to deter unwanted predators. The presence of cattle with sheep, or pigs with poultry, for example, can act as a significant deterrent, as the larger animals are seen as a greater threat. Some livestock species are also more alert than others and will warn their companion species of a potential threat.

### BARRIERS AND MECHANICAL DETERRENENTS

Another widely used strategy is to use barriers such as electric fencing to protect small areas of land. This approach is particularly useful for poultry. In certain conditions, fladry is a low-tech option for keeping species such as wolves away from domestic livestock. It involves fitting a line of rope on the top of a fence and suspending strips of fabric or colored flags that flap in a breeze and can be highly effective, although generally for short periods and small areas. Scientists (some with the help of grants via AWI’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Award program) are also working to test the efficacy of “biofencing”—scent barriers that may discourage predators from crossing over into areas where livestock are present (see Spring 2012 AWI Quarterly).

More high-tech solutions might involve mechanical deterrents, such as motion-sensitive alarms, which use lights and noise to discourage predators. Trials have been carried out using radio-activated guard boxes, which sense individual wolves who have previously been fitted with radio tracking collars. Lights and noise scare off the collared wolf—and the wolf’s pack.

### TIMING OF BIRTHING AND HATCHING

For all livestock species, birthing is a highly vulnerable period. In the wild as well as on farms and ranches, newborn and young animals are often the prime target for predators. However, when native prey is abundant and/or domestic animals are hard to access, predators are less likely to strike. Sometimes it is possible to alter calving, lambing, kidding, farrowing and/or poultry hatching schedules, so as to minimize predation risk by avoiding having young stock on the land at times of the year when predators will be most active—or when natural prey species are less available. Where this is impractical, an alternative is to ensure that birthing is carried out in dedicated protected areas, temporarily moving animals to smaller, well-fenced pastures or fenced lots or sheds to secure stock during this highly vulnerable time.

### USING LIVESTOCK GUARDIANS

Perhaps the most well-known non-lethal strategy for managing predator threats is the guardian dog. Although dogs have been used for centuries to protect livestock from predators in Europe and Asia, they remain underutilized in the United States, although awareness of their advantages is growing rapidly. The most common breeds in the United States include the Great Pyrenees, Anatolian Shepherds, Akbash and Maremma. Each dog breed has different

characteristics, making them suitable for different roles, landscapes and predator threats. (A Christine Stevens Wildlife Award helped fund a successful demonstration of Great Pyrenees guard dog efficacy in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; see Summer 2011 *AWI Quarterly*.) But the role of guardian is not limited to dogs: llamas and donkeys are often used, as well, where their size and presence can be an effective deterrent to certain predator species.

## Conclusion

Predation is a serious issue for livestock farms and ranches in many parts of the country, and the issue of "predator control" evokes strong emotions among the farming and ranching community and the general public alike. There is no "one-size-fits-all" guaranteed solution to living with wildlife. Nevertheless, producers who (1) take steps to make coexistence an integral part of their farm or ranch management, (2) gain an understanding of the wildlife surrounding their operations, and (3) are willing to vary their practices to suit the changing conditions can address predation threats and significantly reduce livestock losses without resorting to lethal methods or destroying important habitats. With the ever-increasing public concern about the plight of

native wildlife and natural habitats, the Certified Wildlife Friendly™ and Predator Friendly® production standards will not only show that it is possible to farm and ranch without killing important wildlife, but will provide market opportunities for those producers who choose to do so. 🐾



Quiet Acres Farm, Grottoes, VA

At Animal Welfare Approved Quiet Acres Farm in Grottoes, VA, three guardian dogs (middle dog is partially hidden) stand ready to lead a flock of Katahdin sheep through a gate into pastures beyond.



### WILDLIFE FRIENDLY

The Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN) is a global community dedicated to the development and marketing of products that conserve threatened wildlife while contributing to the economic vitality of rural communities. An example of a WFEN member outside the United States is the Elephant Pepper Development Trust, which trains African farmers to plant chili crops as deterrents around their main cash crops rather than injuring or killing elephants. This simple approach helps reduce incidents in which elephants raid crops. Elephant Pepper then manufactures chili products using the chilies grown by these farmers. For more info, see [www.wildlifefriendly.org](http://www.wildlifefriendly.org).

### PREDATOR FRIENDLY

Predator Friendly® initially grew out of a conversation between a sheep rancher and a conservationist, who recognized the keystone role of native predators as well as the role farms can play in conservation. The program developed in the early 1990s as a way to let consumers know about and support farms and ranches practicing predator protection in North America. In 2012, Predator Friendly became part of the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network. For more info, see [www.predatorfriendly.org](http://www.predatorfriendly.org).





Pacific Southwest Region USFWS

Wild Chinook salmon swim upriver to spawn in central California. AquaBounty engineered a Chinook gene into Atlantic salmon to produce a farmed fish that reaches market weight twice as fast. The GE fish awaits FDA approval.

## Fishy Food: FDA May Approve Genetically Engineered Salmon

**DESPITE STRONG PUBLIC OPPOSITION**, and no documented demand, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) appears to be drawing closer to approving the first food product from a genetically engineered (GE) animal. For a decade, the agency has considered various applications for use of the technology. In December, FDA announced a “Finding of No Significant Impact” in its assessment of the controversial application by AquaBounty Technologies to market its AquaAdvantage transgenic salmon in the United States.

Approval of AquaBounty’s application would clear the way for the first GE animal to enter the marketplace for human consumption. If GE salmon is approved, meat from other GE animals—including pigs and cattle—will likely follow. It is imperative that the full impacts of genetically engineering food animals be considered now, because the public may not receive notification of future applications of the technology in the food supply. Moreover, consumers will be unable to identify and avoid GE products at stores and restaurants because there will be no requirement that they be labeled as such when sold.

Consumer advocates point out that the human health impacts of eating GE fish are unknown, and environmentalists fear the potential damage to native populations from accidental release of GE fish. Genetic

modification also raises significant animal welfare concerns. Though few data have been provided, preliminary findings show that AquaAdvantage salmon experience high rates of abnormalities and mortality, and that they are prone to jaw deformities, lesions, and skeletal malformations. In considering AquaBounty’s application, FDA has neglected to take the health and welfare of the salmon themselves into account.

AWI has joined a coalition of 30 consumer, food safety, environmental, sustainable agriculture, public health, and animal health and welfare organizations in sending a letter to the nation’s top grocery store chains asking them to commit to not selling GE fish. Launched in March, the campaign quickly gained the support of three major national grocery chains, operating a total of 2,000 individual stores across the United States.

Members of the public can participate in the campaign by signing a petition to food retailers, asking them to pledge not to sell GE fish. The petition can be found at [www.gefreeseafood.org](http://www.gefreeseafood.org). 🐾

## AWA HIGH WELFARE FARM CERTIFICATION IS A-OK, SAYS ISO

Following a year-long application process, AWI’s Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) program was audited for compliance with the International Organization for Standardization’s “ISO 65” standards earlier this year by the International Organic Accreditation Service—the leading independent sustainable food and farming accreditation service. ISO is the world’s largest developer of voluntary international standards. ISO 65, which is open to certification bodies across the world, was specifically designed to verify that a certification body is operating in a consistent and reliable manner in all aspects of its work. AWA is the only farm animal welfare program in the United States to hold this globally recognized quality assurance standard. 🐾



Paolo Vescia



# Coyote Drive Makes Contest out of Cruelty

**FEW AMERICANS KNOW** that almost every day of every year, somewhere in the United States coyotes are being slaughtered as part of a contest or bounty—where money or prizes are awarded for killing the largest, the most, or even pregnant coyotes. Often all that’s required to retrieve the prize is a body part—a pair of ears, a tail, a paw, or evidence of pups in utero. Prizes awarded include silver belt buckles, semiautomatic rifles, and newfangled “calling devices” that lure coyotes into shooting range with recorded distress calls of young and of prey.

The weekend before Valentine’s Day, some 240 people came to the tiny town of Adin in northeastern California to partake in the town’s annual coyote killing contest. Sponsored by the Pit River Rod and Gun Club along with Adin Supply Outfitters, and touted as a “great time to teach quality ethics and outdoorsmanship to our youth,” “Coyote Drive 2013” ended with a reported 42 coyotes killed.

The contest hunt—in its seventh year—generated national media attention and more than 20,000 letters, emails and calls of protest to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission.

Camilla Fox, an AWI wildlife consultant, spearheaded opposition to the hunt and testified before the Commission on behalf of AWI, Project Coyote, and two dozen other wildlife conservation and animal protection organizations representing more than 1 million Californians. In her testimony, Fox declared that “making a contest out of killing wildlife is ethically indefensible and suggests that wildlife have no value other than as live targets in an outdoor shooting gallery. We can disagree on the ethics or value of killing coyotes, but none of us, including hunters, should tolerate the gratuitous slaughter of wildlife as part of a contest to win prizes. ... We must ask what kind of lessons such killing contests teach our children about the value of life.”

Fox and AWI’s wildlife biologist, D.J. Schubert, garnered the attention of federal and state wildlife and land management agencies and urged the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to state for the record and to notify contest sponsors that they had not obtained a Special Use

Permit, and therefore hunt participants could not kill coyotes on BLM lands.

Fox worked closely with freelance reporter Allan Stellar, who traveled to Adin with his granddaughter to bear witness and report on the event. As reported March 4 in the *San Francisco Gate*, they were met with open hostility and harassment. “The outrage over the killing contest apparently created a siege mentality in town. Sheriff Mike Poindexter declared in a letter to the editor of the *Modoc County Recorder* before the hunt that sheriff deputies ‘absolutely will not tolerate any infringement upon your liberties pertaining to accessing or legally hunting on your public lands.’” (He was referring to BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands that were, by federal law, off limits to contest hunt participants since the hunt sponsors had not obtained the necessary federal permits.)

Stellar told a reporter from the *San Francisco Gate*, “It was awful up there. The place was an armed camp.” He added that when his 13-year-old granddaughter went down to Adin Supply Company, camera in hand, to get a soda, she was met by a sheriff’s sergeant who told her that if she took one more step she would be arrested. He told her that if Allan came down there, he also would be immediately arrested and brought to jail.

“While we weren’t able to stop this particular contest hunt because the law still allows the gratuitous slaughter of coyotes,” Fox said, “We promise this: on behalf of the coyotes who died needlessly, we will not stop working toward a better day for our native ‘song dogs’—and to ending this wanton waste of wildlife.” 🐾



*Grisly scene from a prior year’s Coyote Drive. The Drive takes place around Adin, CA, a town of 279 in the northeast corner of the state. Widespread condemnation this year was not enough to stop the carnage; 42 coyotes were killed.*

# CITES CoP16: SUCSESSES AND FAILURES

**THE 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was poised to be historic. Not only was 2013 the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CITES, but never before had so many commercially valuable and highly exploited species been proposed for listing in the CITES appendices—which determine what trade protections will be afforded to the species by CITES parties (see box on page 22). After a fortnight of deliberations and debate in Bangkok, Thailand, the results were indeed historic, as the 178 CITES Parties agreed to international protections for a cavalcade of species at risk. Unlike the dismal results of the 2010 CITES meeting—when every single marine species proposal was rejected—in Bangkok, science sometimes prevailed over politics, palates, and profiteering.

The West African manatee was upgraded from Appendix II to Appendix I, thereby forbidding the commercial trade in its meat, skin, bones or genitalia. AWI worked extensively with other conservationists and the countries of Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Benin to achieve this conservation victory, which was needed to stem the population's decline, loss of habitat, and illegal slaughter for domestic and international trade.

Similarly, oceanic whitetip, hammerhead, and porbeagle sharks were added to CITES Appendix II, despite objections from China, Japan and their allies. Such listings and the resulting regulation of trade in these species are urgently needed, as their unsustainable slaughter—primarily for the shark fin trade—has led to population declines of 99 percent or more in some areas. According to a recent paper published in *Marine Policy*, which supplements reams of scientific evidence documenting these species' precipitous decline, between 63 and 273 million sharks are killed each year; many are finned while still alive. Though other shark species had previously been added to the CITES appendices, these were the first with significant commercial value to be listed.

Australia's freshwater sawfish was added to Appendix I, and manta rays (*Manta spp.*) were granted Appendix II protection. Manta rays have experienced significant declines in numbers—up to 86 percent lost in the past 6–8 years in some areas—largely as a result of the burgeoning trade in

gill plates used in traditional Asian medicine. Unfortunately, an Appendix II designation was denied for three species of freshwater rays—the Ceja, Ocellate, and Rosette river stingrays.

Over a dozen plant species were listed, with several commercially valuable tree species among them—including Malagasy ebony and various rosewood trees. Ebony and rosewood trees have been felled (frequently illegally) for decades to provide raw wood for high-end musical instruments, furniture, cabinets, gun stocks, pen blanks, and for carving.

Turtles have been recklessly captured, slaughtered, and traded, driving many species to the brink of extinction. Fortunately, CITES extended a lifeline to a variety of turtle species by granting new or enhanced international protections. With Asia's wild turtle populations largely eliminated due to local demand and the subsequent trade in species from other regions becoming a major concern, the protections provided at this CITES meeting to the Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, diamondback terrapin, and a variety of freshwater box turtles were sorely needed. Other reptiles receiving protections were green geckos from New Zealand and the Mangshan pit viper from China. Conversely, proposals



Hammerhead sharks (Jonas Pettersson)



During the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CITES, AWI's D.J. Schubert (far left) chairs a side event organized by the Environmental Investigation Agency to address the rhino horn trade.

to reduce protections for crocodiles from Thailand and Columbia were rejected.

Trade sanctions were agreed upon for Guinea because of its failure to resolve issues relating to trade in great apes. The sanctions prevent Guinea from importing and exporting *all* of the 35,000 species listed by CITES.

Sadly, there were many negative outcomes to the meeting, as well—most glaringly for polar bears. Despite overwhelming scientific evidence of their precarious position, efforts to secure Appendix I protections for the polar bear were rejected. With no more than 20,000–25,000 polar bears believed to remain in the wild, including 15,000 in Canada, scientists predict that two-thirds will be gone by 2050 as a consequence of climate change and the melting of their offshore ice habitats. While native people kill polar bears in all of the range states (United States, Canada, Russia, Norway, and Greenland), only Canada permits sport-hunting of polar bears and international trade in polar bear pelts and parts. Of the 600 bears killed annually in Canada, the pelts and parts of 400 are sold internationally, often at high prices. Though an Appendix I listing would not affect indigenous take of polar bears, after a lengthy debate, including an inflammatory intervention by a representative of the Canadian Inuit, the proposal was defeated. The ice bear thus will have to wait at least three years before it can again be considered for protection from commercial international trade.

Over 50,000 elephants have been slaughtered in the past two years, devastating elephant populations and resulting in the deaths of scores of rangers. There is also substantial

evidence of criminal syndicates and terrorist groups engaged in elephant poaching. Nearly all experts identify China as the driver of this illegal trade. In Bangkok, however, China continued to deny any role in the slaughter, as well as to dismiss the notion that there is an urgent need to address the ivory trade.

Rather than concede that previous CITES decisions to permit one-off sales of stockpiled ivory had contributed to the current crisis and demand an immediate and indefinite prohibition on all ivory trade—which many conservationists believe is essential to end the slaughter, the CITES parties elected to use Band-Aids to cover this gaping wound: They sent mixed messages about the future of ivory trade by, on one hand, threatening trade sanctions against eight ivory source, transit, or destination countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and China) if they do not meaningfully address their role in the ivory trade, while simultaneously discussing a mechanism to permit legal trade. In time, we'll know if such threats—which CITES has a history of not following up on—will have any effect. If the promises made at the meeting's opening ceremonies by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand to close its domestic ivory markets—which are used to launder ivory stolen from slaughtered African elephants—are kept, however, this could be of significant value in ending the trade in blood ivory.

Although CITES parties agreed on enhanced reporting requirements for Vietnam, China, and other countries caught up in the illegal trade in rhino horns, given the gravity of the trade many conservationists had wanted far more drastic

actions to be taken—particularly against Vietnam. With over 158 rhinos slaughtered in South Africa already in 2013 as of mid-March, this year could see losses far in excess of the record 668 killed in 2012, and continuing a gruesome escalation in rhino poaching in a country where, as recently as 2007, only 13 rhinos were reported poached.

Vietnam (where rhino horn is falsely claimed to cure cancer, is considered a hangover cure, and is flaunted as a status symbol by the nouveau riche) is driving this trade, and to date has done little to stop it. Though rhino horn is made of keratin—the same material of which human hair and nails are comprised—it's currently worth more by weight than cocaine and gold. This has led to the killing of a rhino every 11 hours in South Africa, often by criminal syndicates using high-tech equipment. With the body count continuing to rise, current efforts to combat the trade are failing. Aggressive enforcement of a wholesale ban on the domestic and international trade in rhino parts is needed to halt it. Yet, South Africa—despite having taken some steps to address its role in the slaughter—is now considering legalizing trade in rhino horn, a strategy that most conservationists oppose because it will stimulate demand and facilitate laundering of illegally obtained horn.

A mere 3,500 tigers are thought to survive in the wild. It was therefore shocking that, despite expanding threats to tigers and their habitats, despite thousands of tigers languishing in captivity in China and elsewhere (as living stockpiles of tiger parts, should legal international trade ever reopen), and despite evidence of domestic trade in tiger parts within China, virtually no attention was paid to tigers during the meeting. While CITES parties agreed to request more information from tiger range states on tiger trade and on wild and captive tigers, such requests made in the past have been largely ignored, without any penalty for non-compliance.

As the meeting concluded, the positive results for sharks, trees, turtles, and other species provided hope both for their future and the integrity of CITES. Yet, with levels of legal and illegal trade at all-time highs, coupled with massive habitat loss, a burgeoning human population, and a seemingly endless number of threats to all species, the glaring lack of urgency by CITES parties detracted from the conservation gains. If CITES celebrates an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will there be wild elephants, rhinos, tigers, polar bears, sharks, turtles and other species left to protect, or will human greed, corruption, selfishness, and ignorance have relegated them to the memories of those who failed to protect them? 🐾



*Diamondback terrapin (USDA), Asian leaf turtle (Wibowo Djatmiko), Indochinese box turtle (Torsten Blanck)*

## THE CITES APPENDICES

Appendices I, II and III to the Convention are lists of species afforded different levels or types of protection from over-exploitation by the CITES parties.

**Appendix I** lists species that are considered the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. International commercial trade in these species is prohibited.

**Appendix II** lists species that may become endangered unless trade is closely controlled. International trade in these species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.

**Appendix III** lists species included at the request of a CITES party that already regulates trade in the species and needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation. International trade in these species is allowed only on presentation of the appropriate permits or certificates.

# AWI'S BAVIN AWARDS PRESENTED AT CITES CONFERENCE

Rosalyn Morrison



AN EARLY HIGHLIGHT of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties was the presentation of AWI's Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards, honoring those who have

demonstrated remarkable effort to protect wildlife.

This award is named in memory of the late chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement, who pioneered the agency's highly effective use of covert investigations and "sting" operations to uncover illegal wildlife trade. The awards were presented by CITES Secretary-General John E. Scanlon at a March 5 reception hosted by the Species Survival Network and Freeland, a Thai group combatting illicit wildlife trade. They were bestowed upon nearly the entire "village" necessary to combat wildlife crime, including enforcement officers and staff in the field, a forensic scientist, an NGO that cares for confiscated wildlife, police and forestry agencies, and individuals who oversee and coordinate law enforcement investigations.

The 2013 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award recipients are:

- Marco Fiori, chief operational officer at the National CITES Investigations Unit of the State Forestry Corps, Italy, for his over-20-year career preventing illegal wildlife trade;
- David Higgins, manager of the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Programme, for his work in establishing this key INTERPOL program, which has a dozen officers spread across Europe, Asia and America;

- The Jiangmen Customs District Office, China, for combating the illegal shark fin trade in China;
- Kittipong Khaosamang, deputy commander of the Royal Thai Police Central Investigations Bureau, Natural Resource and Environmental Crime Division, for his efforts to combat wildlife traffickers and corruption;
- Samsundar Ramdeen, game warden of the Wildlife Section of the Forestry Division, Trinidad and Tobago, for a 36-year career as a game warden in which he distinguished himself with diligence and a serious approach to wildlife conservation;
- Dr. Karmele Llano Sánchez, executive director of International Animal Rescue Indonesia, for her work to provide sanctuary and rehabilitation for confiscated wildlife, including slow loris and orangutans;
- The Uttarakhand Forestry and Police Departments, India, for their exemplary work in investigating and seizing illegal wildlife;
- Bonnie Yates, scientist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Clark R. Bavin National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, for her pioneering work in both wildlife law enforcement and the science of wildlife forensics;
- Six Chadian rangers gunned down while protecting animals at Zakouma National Park; and
- Thirteen Kenya Wildlife Service rangers and other enforcement staff who died in the line of duty while trying to protect wild animals and their habitats.

A full report on the 2013 Bavin awards and the recipients can be found at [www.awionline.org/2013Bavin](http://www.awionline.org/2013Bavin). 🐾

## Sounding Off: Navy Severely Impacts Marine Life with Ocean Noise

THE U.S. NAVY has requested authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to allow it to take (harass, harm or kill) many tens of millions of marine mammals incidental to thousands of training and testing activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area (AFTT). This massive area includes all the waters along the eastern U.S. coast from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico, and more than 200 miles out to sea (into international waters) for some activities. It is home to a variety of marine animals, including 45 marine mammal species. The Navy has similar requests to NMFS for two other massive areas,

including the Hawaii Range Complex (3.2 million square nautical miles) and the Southern California Range Complex (120,000 square nautical miles).

All 45 marine mammal species could be impacted, including those listed under the Endangered Species Act—namely, North Atlantic right whales, humpback whales, sei whales, blue whales, bowhead whales, and sperm whales. Animals present in the range areas are at risk of death and injury resulting from the huge number of naval training activities planned for the five-year period, involving multiple surface ships, submarines, and aircraft. These exercises—singly or combined—will disrupt significant biological behaviors and will prove fatal to many animals exposed to active sonar blasts, underwater detonations, ship strikes, live firing, and/or pile driving.

The Navy admits that its activities will affect many millions of animals, yet it's primary strategy for limiting the potentially devastating impacts is to use lookouts—even at night!—to scan for animals, and to limit activities (e.g., reducing active sonar levels) when animals get too close. As AWI and others have repeatedly pointed out in our comments to the Navy and NMFS for these operations, even on clear days, detecting marine mammals on a vast moving sea from a moving platform is difficult. Instead we believe the Navy should significantly alter its planned operations so as to—at minimum—limit proposed activities to periods of good visibility, reduce the number of exercises, avoid biologically sensitive habitats (while also establishing meaningful buffer zones), and vastly improve and expand mitigation methods.

In March, the California State Coastal Commission unanimously objected to the Navy's Southern Californian activities and suggested mitigation measures similar to those we support, which the Navy rejected. If the Navy decides to carry on regardless, the state could sue the Navy—as it did in 2007 over its use of active sonar. 🐾



Réunion Underwater Photography

Many marine animals—like this mother and baby sperm whale—use sound to find food and interpret their environment. Flooding their world with intense noise directly interferes with activities necessary for survival.

## Japan's Taiji Dolphin Killing Methods Deemed Inhumane

A recent issue of the *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* contains the findings of a clinical veterinary and behavioral analysis of the killing methods being used in the notorious Taiji dolphin drive hunts based on bystander video footage from 2011, accessible at <http://youtube/dzOw5IBmqWk> (WARNING: footage is graphic). The analysis was performed in response to claims by the Taiji Fishing Cooperative that

this “new” killing method—which involves the repeated insertion of a metal rod into the blowhole of captured dolphins, followed by plugging of the wound to prevent blood loss into the water—reduces time to death, compared to former methods.

The analysis showed this not to be the case, and in fact found that the damage to the vertebral blood vessels from insertion of the rod leads to significant hemorrhage, paralysis and eventual death through trauma and gradual blood loss. The scientists conclude that this killing method would not be tolerated or permitted in any regulated slaughterhouse process in the developed world. 🐾

# ICELAND TO RESUME COMMERCIAL FIN WHALE HUNT

Almost two years ago, Iceland's Hvalur Inc., headed by Kristjan Loftsson, suspended its fin whale hunt. It continued however to export thousands of tons of mainly fin whale products, principally to Japan. In fact, Icelandic whale meat now represents 20 percent of whale meat sales in Japan. Perhaps stocks are running low, because Mr. Loftsson announced in February his intention to resume hunting fin whales by killing 150 this summer.

While the real reasons for the cessation of fin whaling back in 2011 may never be publically known, we do know that in March of that year two of the Japanese whale processing companies that did business with Hvalur suffered greatly from the tsunami. Another factor that could have been at play was the pending certification of Iceland by the U.S. secretary of commerce, in response to a petition filed under the Pelly Amendment to the Fisherman's Protective Act by AWI and other groups in December 2010. The petition asserted that citizens of Iceland were conducting fishing operations that diminished the effectiveness of an international fishery conservation agreement—namely the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which bans commercial whaling. The certification led to a rebuke from the president and diplomatic measures taken against Iceland, which stand today. Sadly these measures don't appear to have been meaningful enough to derail Mr. Loftsson.

In order for President Obama's condemnation of Iceland to have a longer-term impact on its whaling policy, his words must be matched by more robust action, including narrowly targeted trade sanctions against individuals and companies engaged in Iceland's commercial whale hunt and those facilitating the hunt. To that end AWI has provided the U.S. Government with extensive information on companies with direct links to Hvalur and is urging trade sanctions against those companies. Only then will the president's directive to "raise U.S. concerns regarding commercial whaling by Icelandic companies and seek ways to halt such action" be fulfilled.

The international trade in whale products by Iceland is the subject of a companion Pelly Amendment petition, submitted by AWI and other groups at the same time as the aforementioned petition, but to the secretary of the interior. The petition asserts that Icelandic citizens are engaged in trade that diminishes the effectiveness of an international program for endangered or threatened species—in this case the Convention on International Trade in Endangered



*A fin whale blows in the North Atlantic. Iceland's Hvalur company seeks to slaughter 150 of these endangered whales this summer, after a two-year hiatus.*

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). We have not yet received a response to this petition, despite numerous promises to address it.

Given that trade with Japan seemingly is the motivator behind a resumption of fin whaling, the secretary of the interior needs to act now in conjunction with the secretary of commerce and the president, so as to end both the illegal whaling and the concomitant trade. 🐾

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## St. Vincentian Whalers Learning New Vocation, but Bloodshed Continues

AWI CONTINUES to work with NGOs and individuals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) to bring an end to its cruel and wasteful humpback whale hunt. We are particularly supportive of local efforts to encourage the few remaining whalers to transition to a much more sustainable whale watching industry. In March, a team of five St. Vincentians, led by a government official and including a whaler, traveled to the Dominican Republic for training in how to establish and run a whale watch operation. Sadly, as they were returning home, news spread that two whales had been killed in SVG. So far this year four whales have been landed, in addition to another struck, but lost. In July 2012, the International Whaling Commission approved a quota of 24 humpback whales for SVG over the next six years. 🐾

## Wildlife Conservation in a Changing Climate

edited by Jedediah F. Brodie, Eric S. Post,  
and Daniel F. Doak  
University Of Chicago Press  
ISBN: 978-0226074634  
416 pages; \$45

As more and more people accept the reality that our climate is changing due to human activities, the future effects of a changing climate are being discussed and debated. Will modified rainfall and drought patterns affect food production and prices? Will the severity of storms increase, and how will the insurance industry respond? How will new CO<sub>2</sub> emission regulations impact economies and pocketbooks? What will be the social and environmental costs associated with rising sea levels?

In this discussion, it would be easy to lose sight of pikas, wildebeest, Arctic shorebirds, green sea turtles, and a vast number of other wildlife species. Wild animals just take care of themselves, right? Always have, and always will. Except, the rapidity of climatic changes is a new phenomenon, and these changes may have devastating impacts on biodiversity. These issues are laid out in a new scholarly book titled *Wildlife Conservation in a Changing Climate*, edited by Jedediah Brody, Eric Post, and Daniel Doak.

How will wildlife be affected? Obviously, precipitation and temperature affect plant distribution and abundance, and wildlife populations are intimately linked to the products of photosynthesis. Climate modelers tell us that the impacts of climate change include declines in ice and snow cover, increases in flooding, an increase in drought severity, modified fire regimes, and a rising sea level,

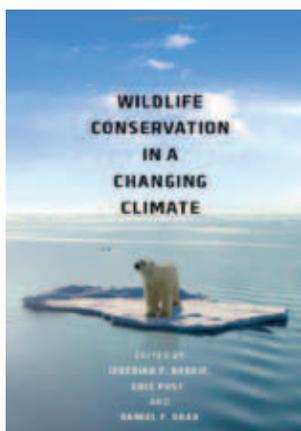
just to name a few of the direct effects on wildlife. But there are other insidious factors at work here. Stressed or modified ecosystems will be vulnerable to new or expanded invasions by exotic species. Parasites and diseases like avian malaria may expand their distribution, further impacting populations of sensitive and threatened species. Warmer nesting beaches may affect the worldwide sex ratio of sea turtles. Pikas may continue shifting their distribution uphill until they simply run out of hill.

What I found of particular interest in this volume was the extended discussion about what to do about these impacts. Biologists monitoring wildebeest migration routes

aren't going to be dictating industrial and vehicular CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards. So the debate is quite frank. Should humans assist species in colonizing new habitats? Can managers develop corridors to connect shrinking habitats? Will this alter the role of hunting as a management tool to manipulate populations? I am fearful that consortiums of conservation biologists will battle each other over management strategies favorable to "their" species of concern. However it plays out, conservation actions and priorities in the near future may be changing in a climate-shifting world.

Disturbingly, the authors note, "The time lag between emissions and atmospheric response ensures that our past discharges have not yet caught up with us; even if we were to stop emitting fossil fuels tomorrow, climatic warming would continue." The genie is out of the bottle, and we need to be ready to be creative and persistent in our approach to this biodiversity apocalypse. 🐾

*Review by Dr. Robert Schmidt. Dr. Schmidt is on the faculty in the Department of Environment and Society at Utah State University, and is a member of AWI's Scientific Committee.*



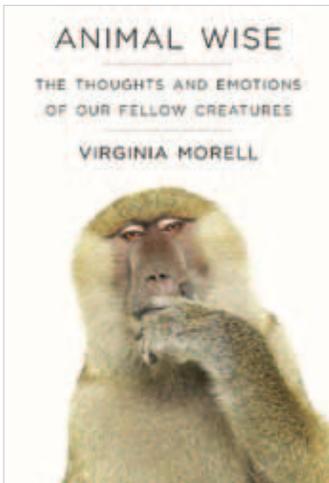
### BEQUESTS

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 WISE: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures



by Virginia Morell  
Crown  
ISBN: 978-0307461445  
304 pages; \$26

*Rats enjoy being tickled.* They also have an innate wariness of cats—such that an extraneous variable could be introduced to research from the scent of domestic cats, however innocently carried on their caregivers' or investigators' clothing.

In *Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of*

*Our Fellow Creatures*, well-known science writer Virginia Morell argues that animals often do not get the proper credit for their emotional and mental ranges. Covering new species with each chapter, the book explores their personalities, feelings and behaviors (unfortunately relying on some studies—including invasive ones—that seem at odds with the author's call for treating animals with greater respect).

Did you know that ants teach other ants and work together in teams, earthworms are capable of making decisions, crows make use of tools, and moths can recall living as caterpillars? The terrible grief experienced by elephants and chimpanzees upon the loss of a loved one is well documented. Perhaps less well known is that chimpanzees get a better grade on a particular memory test than do humans, or that dogs have a vocabulary of more than a thousand words.

Humanitarians, particularly those who are keen observers of animals, may see the findings as interesting, but of no great surprise. Nevertheless, many well-educated individuals have failed to acknowledge the abilities and the depth of feelings in animals. This resistance is tied, at least in part, to the fear of how our treatment of animals will have to change—for it is clear that the wide and varied range of animals on this planet are clearly not automatons—far from it. They are complex beings and humans have a tremendous impact on their lives. As Morell notes in her epilogue after describing the suffering caused to animals by people on factory farms and in laboratories, “it seems past time to find better methods for managing these animals when they are used for our needs.”

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## The One and Only Ivan

Katherine Applegate (author), Patricia Castelao (illustrator)  
HarperCollins  
ISBN: 978-0061992254  
320 pages; \$16.99

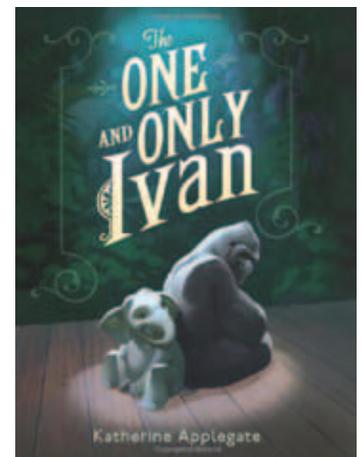
*The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate, a poignant book with a strong animal welfare theme, has won the 2013 Newbery Medal—a prestigious award given annually to the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Based on a true story, the tale focuses on Ivan the gorilla, an “attraction” at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. Ivan is resigned to his lot in life, and wards off the boredom by focusing on his few friends and occasional diversions. But his torpor is shattered when an orphaned

elephant, Ruby, shows up at the mall. Her presence ignites a fierce desire to win a better life for Ruby—and for himself. The only question is: how? For once, Ivan must think outside the boxes (figurative and literal) that hem him in.

The story is told in Ivan's wry, staccato (yet lyrical) “first-gorilla” voice.

In the words of Newbery Medal Committee Chair Steven Engelfried: “Katherine Applegate gives readers a unique and unforgettable gorilla’s-eye-view of the world that challenges the way we look at animals and at ourselves.” 🐾





# Animal Welfare Institute

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## SAFE HAVENS MAPPING PROJECT

*Animal Welfare Institute*

### AWI Unveils Nationwide Database of Safe Havens for Pets Program

WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS, professionals working in the violence prevention field have become more conscious of the fact that many victims of domestic violence delay leaving a dangerous environment because of a strong attachment to companion animals who may be left behind. They justifiably fear for the pet's safety; where there is domestic violence, animal abuse is often present, as well.

Responding to the need to make it easier for domestic violence victims to escape, communities around the country began to create "safe havens for pets" programs. They are, as their name suggests, places of refuge for the companion animals of domestic violence victims. They come in many

forms—housing the animals in foster homes; in space provided by local humane societies or veterinarians; or, increasingly, in shelters where the animals can stay with their human companions.

For these programs to be effective, people in the community have to know they exist. Through its Safe Havens Mapping Project, AWI is trying to make sure they do. AWI staff and volunteers have worked to identify safe havens for pets programs throughout the United States—over 1,400 so far in all 50 states and the District of Columbia—and to put that information on our website. Visitors to the site can now search for safe havens by zip code.

Additions, deletions, and other changes in such a list are inevitable, and AWI will be working to ensure that the information remains accurate and up to date. Additional resources for families in crisis, as well as for the domestic violence shelter personnel, humane societies, law enforcement, and others who provide services to human and animal victims of abuse, are available through AWI's Animals and Family Violence web page. To find a safe haven in your area, or to learn more about these programs, please visit [www.awionline.org/safe-havens](http://www.awionline.org/safe-havens). 

