Animal Welfare Institute

annual report twenty seventeen
For over 60 years, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), a nonprofit charitable organization, has been alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans.

Our Aims

Through engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public, AWI seeks to:

> abolish factory farms, support high-welfare family farms, and achieve humane slaughter for animals raised for food;
> end the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and reform other brutal methods of capturing and killing wildlife;
> improve the housing and handling of animals in research, and encourage the development and implementation of alternatives to experimentation on live animals;
> preserve species threatened with extinction, and protect wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat;
> protect companion animals from cruelty and violence, including suffering associated with inhumane conditions in the pet industry; and
> prevent injury and death of animals caused by harsh transport conditions.

Table of Contents

- Marine Animals / 2
- Humane Education / 6
- Wildlife / 8
- Companion Animals / 12
- Farm Animals / 14
- Animals in Laboratories / 18
- Government Affairs / 22
- Speeches & Meetings / 26
- AWI Quarterly / 30
- Financials / 40
AWI works around the globe to prevent inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine species and destruction and degradation of their habitats.

Commercial Whaling
In October 2016, AWI participated in the 66th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Portoroz, Slovenia. Overall, IWC66 was a positive meeting for whales. Although Japan and its allies blocked a proposal for a sanctuary in the South Atlantic, the IWC approved an ambitious program of proactive welfare and conservation work, including a new initiative to mitigate the devastating impacts of bycatch. It also adopted a series of strong resolutions to (1) recognize the vital ecosystem services cetaceans provide (e.g., increasing marine productivity, storing carbon), (2) urge stronger steps to save the nearly extinct vaquita porpoise, (3) improve the review process for whaling under special permit, and (4) support the Minamata Convention on Mercury to address mercury pollution.

AWI contributed heavily to these outcomes thanks to new rules allowing nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to fully participate in all IWC meetings and intersessional working groups (a change we also helped bring about). AWI is active in several such groups, including those addressing cetacean bycatch, whale watching, and aboriginal subsistence whaling. Following the IWC meeting, AWI coordinated the drafting of detailed NGO comments on how to improve the governance of the IWC. In May, we participated in the first meeting of the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Working Group and helped draft the group’s charter.

Saving the Vaquita
The vaquita porpoise hovers on the edge of extinction due to past bycatch mortality in shrimp gillnets and, more recently, due to entanglement in illegal gillnets set by poachers of totoaba, an endangered fish. As of this writing, fewer than 30 vaquita remain, all in Mexico’s Upper Gulf of California. In a desperate attempt to save the species, AWI and its partner organizations have (1) assisted Mexican NGOs in the preparation of a draft agreement—submitted to the president of Mexico—outlining concrete, urgent steps to protect the vaquita and its habitat, (2) initiated a nationwide campaign in the United States, supported by more than 40 organizations, urging consumers to avoid Mexican shrimp and encouraging the industry to collaborate in protection efforts, (3) helped prepare a petition to the National Marine Fisheries Service seeking sanctions against Mexico for failing to prevent vaquita bycatch, (4) advocated for a bill in the California legislature to
make it unlawful to sell fish products that are not vaquita-friendly, (5) secured both International Union for Conservation of Nature and International Whaling Commission resolutions demanding more effort by Mexico and the international community to save the species, (6) helped craft decision text on saving the vaquita at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and (7) advocated for an “in danger” designation for the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (a designation that would spur protective action).

AWI also addressed bycatch affecting other species. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) operates a certification program and accompanying ecolabel—ostensibly to identify sustainable fisheries and inform the public’s seafood buying practices. But the program has drawn severe criticism for its weak certification standards on bycatch of marine mammals and other ocean species. A January 2017 letter produced by AWI and Shark Project on behalf of 52 groups objected to MSC’s mishandling of marine mammal and shark bycatch. To help address this issue, AWI was invited to participate in a June 2017 MSC stakeholder workshop—a first for an animal welfare group.

Captive Cetaceans

On October 27, 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service officially designated the Sakhalin Bay-Amur River population of beluga whales in Russia as depleted under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. This represents a final definitive victory in a long legal and public relations battle AWI waged on behalf of these belugas, after Georgia Aquarium announced plans in 2012 to import 18 of them for display in various facilities. AWI and allies won a series of legal victories over the past several years to prevent this. The depleted designation represents the final step, making it illegal for any US institution to import belugas from this population for public display.

With respect to cetaceans currently held in the United States, AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose and Georgia Hancock co-authored, with Danielle Brown and Dr. Chris Parsons, an article in the June 2017 issue of the Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy entitled “Improving Captive Marine Mammal Welfare in the United States: Science-Based Recommendations for Improved Regulatory Requirements for Captive Marine Mammal Care.” The article argues that the proposed changes to the Animal Welfare Act regulatory standards for captive marine mammals, issued by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in February 2016, are not sufficient to maintain their welfare. The authors suggest several recommendations for improvements to the proposed rule.

AWI was also heavily involved in efforts to end cetacean captivity outside the United States. Naomi participated in an October 2016 conference in Mexico organized by local activist groups. We are helping these groups push for federal anti-captivity legislation and a municipal ban on dolphin displays in Mexico City.

In April 2017, Naomi testified before a committee in Canada’s Senate, which is considering a federal bill that would end all captive whale and dolphin displays in that country. Meanwhile, AWI continues our work to raise public awareness in China via the China Cetacean Alliance. Naomi visited three Chinese facilities in December 2016 with a film crew, who then prepared a series of short public service announcements that have reached approximately 20 million people online.

In May 2017, France passed a decree to end the breeding of all captive whales and dolphins in the country, a move that could eventually lead to the closing of French dolphinarium exhibits and shows (as cetacean imports into the European Union are strictly controlled). Naomi contributed to this effort, visiting dolphin facilities in France in October 2016 and writing a report for AWI’s French ally, One Voice, that was used to push for the decree. When the industry filed a legal challenge, Naomi wrote a statement that was submitted to the court by One Voice. Based on this and other submissions, the judge denied the industry’s preliminary motion to suspend the decree until a final decision is handed down later in 2017.

UPDATE: The Mexico City ban passed in July 2017, following the close of the fiscal year. Over the summer, the Mexican legislature debated the nationwide bill and it is still under consideration.
EDUCATION

Science Conferences
AWI hosts educational booths each year at various biology and science teacher conferences across the country. This year, AWI’s Regina Terlau attended the November 2016 Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching in San Antonio, Texas, and the April 2017 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference in Los Angeles, California. Attending these conferences allows us to meet educators such as award-winning middle school science teacher, Nancy Brown, who came across our booth at the NSTA conference five years ago. After reading through the AWI humane education materials she picked up at our booth, Nancy realized that she wanted to make a difference in how animals are used in science curricula. She successfully lobbied her principal to end animal dissections at her school and continues to incorporate lessons on biodiversity, inspiring her students to get involved in local causes that benefit animals and the environment. Nancy shares her message of animal-friendly science with other educators and contributed an article to the summer 2017 AWI Quarterly entitled “Compassion in the Classroom.”

A Voice for Animals
For the third year, AWI partnered with the Humane Education Network to cohost the “A Voice for Animals” contest. High school students from all over the world were invited to submit essays, essays with photos, or videos that examine animal suffering and present possible solutions. This year’s contest introduced a climate change category, giving students a chance to examine how animal species have been affected by global warming and shifting weather patterns. The winning entries covered a range of topics, from the importance of pollinators such as bees to the mistreatment of captive Asian elephants.

Publications for Children
In 2017, a Chinese language edition of A Dangerous Life, a graphic novel for middle school-aged readers about the ivory trade, debuted in China. The book, written and illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka and published by AWI and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), follows teens from China, Kenya, and the United States as they encounter the grim realities of the global ivory trade. To produce and disseminate the Chinese language edition of A Dangerous Life, AWI and KWS partnered with Foreign Languages Teaching and Research Publishing, a company affiliated with Beijing Foreign Studies University, China’s largest university press. Nearly 10,000 copies of the book were distributed to school children throughout China. This publication coincides with China’s own announcement this year that it plans to dismantle its domestic ivory industry and ramp up its efforts to educate the public about ivory’s true costs in human and elephant lives (see page 35).

AWI encourages teachers and educators to incorporate animal-friendly science education into their lessons and teach respect for rather than exploitation of animals.
AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild animals. We work to strengthen national and international wildlife protection and advocate for humane solutions to conflicts with wildlife.
victories for a number of species and strengthen the treaty itself. Despite some setbacks and ongoing compliance/enforcement issues, CoP17 was one of the most successful CITES meetings in date. Several species gained much-needed first-time protections or had their protection strengthened. These included all eight pangolin species, chambered nautilus, silky and thresher sharks, devil rays, and a number of reptile and amphibian species.

Elephants and ivory poisoning were once again of primary concern at CoP17. Thankfully, the parties agreed to end discussions over whether to develop guidelines that could set the stage for a future legal ivory trade. The parties also passed a resolution encouraging the closure of domestic ivory markets. These domestic markets encourage ivory trafficking and diminish the effectiveness of a ban on the international commercial trade in ivory that has existed since 1989. Unfortunately, a proposal to eliminate the split-listing where elephants in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa receive the lesser protections of CITES Appendix II (restricted trade) while other elephants in Africa are listed on Appendix I (no commercial trade)—failed to pass.

Carrying on a tradition spanning two decades, AWI presented the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards at the meeting. The award—named in honor of the late chief of the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement—goes to individuals, organizations, and agencies that have demonstrated excellence in the fight against wildlife crime. Eight individuals and two law enforcement organizations from China, India, Israel, Kenya, Nepal, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe were presented awards this year. Another twelve heroes for the cause—one from Tanzania and 11 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo—were recognized posthumously after giving their very lives in defense of wildlife.

Red Wolves
AWI continued to defend the red wolf against efforts by the USFWS to sabotage its own red wolf recovery program in North Carolina. In July 2016, AWI and allies submitted a petition containing nearly half a million signatures to the USFWS, urging the agency to fulfill its legal duty under the Endangered Species Act to recover the species in the wild. Instead, in September, the USFWS announced plans to remove nearly all red wolves from the wild and increase the captive population. That same month, however, in response to a lawsuit we filed, a federal court issued a preliminary injunction ordering the USFWS to stop capturing and killing—and authorizing private landowners to capture and kill—red wolves. In December, we petitioned the USFWS to develop an updated recovery plan that makes use of the best available science and complies with the Endangered Species Act.

Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards
This year’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards were announced in July 2016. Through the award—named in honor of AWI’s late founder and president for over 50 years—AWI provides grants to support innovative and creative research on humans, nonlethal tools and techniques for wildlife conflict management and wildlife study. The 2016 award recipients:

Dr. Karen Herman of the Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary and Dr. Allen Rutberg of Tufts University for developing more humane methods to assess wild horse population size and distribution in order to guide the use of immunocontraception for population management.

Dr. Brooks Manol of Rutgers University for evaluating artificial roost structures to minimize the impact on bats evicted from human-occupied dwellings, and for determining which factors contribute to use of such structures by bats

Suzanne Stone of Defenders of Wildlife for testing the E-Shepherd collar as a nonlethal deterrent to predators in order to protect sheep in the northeastern United States

Dr. Deborah Woollett and Dr. Ngaio Richards of Working Dogs for Conservation for using scent detection dogs to warn of the presence of anticoagulant rodenticides and aid the development of mitigation measures to protect the endangered San Joaquin kit fox in California
Gathering Key Data on Animal Cruelty Crimes

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) started collecting data on animal cruelty crimes under its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2016—an important development that occurred in large part due to the efforts of AWI’s Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour—it was apparent that animal control officers (ACOs) and humane law enforcement officers (HLEOs) would play a vital role. Such individuals are often the first responders to incidents of animal neglect and cruelty.

To ensure ACOs and HLEOs are aware of and fully equipped for this new role, AWI, in partnership with the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA), released the NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement in February 2017. In addition to providing guidance on reporting and working with local police departments, the manual contains a reporting form that was developed in cooperation with the FBI and conforms to NIBRS requirements. To maximize the reach of the resource, AWI and NACA are jointly distributing the manual and training ACOs and HLEOs; we are also developing an e-learning video in partnership with other organizations within the National Coalition On Violence Against Animals.

Homes For Horses Coalition

Ten years ago, AWI cofounded the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), the nation’s premier professional organization for the equine welfare community, and we continue to cosponsor the HHC annual conference. This year’s conference, which took place in September 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee, brought together equine rescues from across the country to network and attend panels on various topics to help strengthen organizations working to help horses. Mary Lou, together with Nelson Ferry of the FBI and Dan Deliouasso of the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services, held a panel on the FBI’s animal cruelty data collection efforts and how equine rescues can participate.

Helping Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Pets

Two years ago, AWI began publishing a series of manuals designed to guide attorneys and other advocates in helping domestic violence survivors get their companion animals included in state protection orders. Compiled by lawyers and law students working with AWI staff, the manuals summarize legal issues surrounding the inclusion of pets in civil protection orders, give details about the laws in the specific jurisdictions, and provide links to relevant forms and outside resources. This year, manuals for Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, and New Mexico were published.

Mary Lou also presented a workshop entitled “Adding animal abuse to the family violence paradigm” at the 33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama, in March 2017—part of AWI’s continuing efforts to partner with human services professionals to address links between animal cruelty and family violence.

AWI promotes responsible care of companion animals. We develop resources to help law enforcement officials prosecute animal abusers and help social service agencies address the relationship between animal cruelty and family violence.
Animals at Slaughter
AWI pushes for strong enforcement of laws designed to prevent undue suffering and distress at slaughter. In May 2017, we released Humane Slaughter Update: Federal and State Oversight of the Welfare of Farm Animals at Slaughter. Covering the years 2010 through 2015, the report analyzes enforcement data obtained from government agencies through public records requests. Among our findings:

1. Although federal and state humane slaughter enforcement continues to rise, the level of enforcement varies dramatically by state;
2. Repeat violators remain a major enforcement problem;
3. Inspection personnel continue to demonstrate unfamiliarity with humane slaughter enforcement rules; and
4. Humane slaughter enforcement remains low in comparison with other aspects of food safety enforcement. The report offers a number of recommendations to address these deficiencies and reduce the suffering of animals at slaughter.

This is the third report we have published, all authored by AWI’s Dena Jones, that reviews federal and state humane slaughter enforcement. In this edition, for the first time, a letter grade was assigned to each of the 27 state-operated meat inspection programs, based on how well those programs enforced the federal humane slaughter law during the years examined. This letter-grade rating proved to be a successful “hook”—helping generate much-needed media attention concerning the conditions under which animals are slaughtered. Press outlets in a majority of the states that received failing grades ran articles about the Humane Slaughter Update and its conclusions. One such state, Vermont, is home to a plant with one of the worst animal welfare records in the United States. After that plant was suspended four times for egregious humane handling violations, AWI made the public aware of the situation and encouraged agricultural officials to take stronger action to prevent undue suffering at the facility. Eventually, Vermont fined the plant and placed conditions on its continued operation, the first time the state has taken such steps to ensure compliance with humane slaughter laws.

Cruel Euthanasia Methods
In January 2017, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) released draft guidelines for the mass euthanasia of animals during disease outbreaks such as avian influenza (“bird flu”). The USDA generally relies on the AVMA for

AWI seeks an end to cruel methods of housing, handling, transporting, and slaughtering farm animals. We advocate for pasture-based farming systems that allow animals to express natural behaviors as an alternative to factory farming.
guidance and, consequently, it is likely that these guidelines will determine the methods used to kill animals during future disease outbreaks for many years to come. Unconscionably, the draft guidelines allow for several blatantly inhumane methods, including live burial and shutting off the ventilation in animal housing structures. AWI worked with Dr. Kenneth Litwak, an AVMA member veterinarian, to submit comments on the proposal. These comments, which we shared with other animal welfare groups to build support for our position, highlighted more humane, effective alternatives. Ultimately, as we have long argued, the answer lies in changing the cruel, unsanitary factory-farming conditions under which farm animals are raised—conditions that contribute to suffering and the rapid spread of disease.

On a more positive note, the AVMA did incorporate many of AWI’s recommendations into its guidelines on humane slaughter. (Before issuing draft guidelines on mass euthanasia, the AVMA produced guidelines for the humane slaughter of farm animals. These guidelines were finalized in July 2016.)

Animals Raised Organically
AWI has been involved in the effort to establish strong animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program since the late 1990s, when the original organic regulations were proposed by the USDA without any substantive animal welfare standards. The USDA finally proposed animal welfare regulations in April 2016, and the rule—which incorporated many of our recommendations concerning, among other things, space requirements, access to vegetation, and prohibition of cruel physical alterations—was finalized in January 2017 on the last day of President Obama’s administration. Sadly, implementation of the regulations has been twice delayed, and the Trump administration has suggested that it may eliminate them altogether. AWI is working hard, in partnership with consumer groups and other animal protection organizations, to pressure USDA leaders to implement the standards as written. When the USDA reopened public comment on the animal welfare regulations, it received more than 47,000 submissions, with 99.5 percent of the comments (including those from AWI and our members) urging prompt implementation of the regulations.

Meat and Poultry Food Labels
More than three years ago, AWI formally petitioned the USDA to require third-party certification of all animal welfare and environmental stewardship claims on meat and poultry product labels. We also requested that the third-party standards backing the certifications exceed those of the conventional animal agriculture industry. To date, we have not received a response to our petition. However, in October 2016, the USDA released a draft of its guidance to producers regarding the documentation needed for approval of animal raising claims. We organized opposition to the 2016 draft guidance, which resulted in the submission of more than 4,500 public comments, 99.6 percent of which were critical of the proposal.

Legal Protections Reports
Nineteen billion land animals are killed each year for food in the United States. AWI has published a series of reports examining the protections afforded to those animals under state, national, and international laws and guidelines. The series includes reports related to laws governing the treatment of farm animals while on the farm, during transport, and at slaughter, as well as the treatment of nonambulatory (or “downed”) animals. The reports address the history behind the various legal protections and their enforcement by relevant state and federal agencies. Both the benefits and limitations of enacting laws to improve the lives of farm animals are discussed. Updated annually, these reports have been used by law schools and government officials and are available on our website at www.awionline.org/farm-legal.
animals in laboratories

USDA Transparency and Animal Welfare Act Enforcement

AWI played a key role in enactment of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and its amendments, and has long been a leading voice for strengthening the law and promoting more diligent enforcement by the USDA. We disseminate original research and analysis on enforcement issues to local, national, and international media; members of Congress; other animal protection organizations; and animal advocates.

As chronicled in last year’s annual report, we used USDA records to generate enormous publicity regarding allegations of egregious AWA violations by Santa Cruz Biotechnology (SCBT), one of the world’s largest suppliers of research antibodies derived from animals. We feel this exposure played a vital role in prompting the USDA to forcefully prosecute the case and ultimately impose unprecedented penalties against SCBT—including permanent revocation of its dealer license, cancellation of its research registration, and a $3.5 million civil penalty.

To monitor enforcement, AWI has relied on USDA inspection reports that were routinely posted online. We also reviewed USDA press releases—which linked to enforcement records such as warning letters, fines, and complaints—and obtained additional records and pleadings from the USDA Hearing Clerk’s Office. In August 2016, however, the USDA began to limit transparency when it stopped posting or announcing enforcement records and actions.

AWI continued our watchdog role, however, and in October 2016, through a Freedom of Information Act request to the Hearing Clerk’s office, we obtained a complaint the USDA had filed in September against SNBL USA, a dealer and contract research organization that had a record strikingly similar to SCBT’s—a 20-year history of ineffective citations without substantive enforcement. The complaint alleged dozens of AWA violations over the course of the previous five years, including actions that led to the deaths of 38 nonhuman primates due to strangulation, suffocation, hyperthermia, injuries from fights with incompatible cagemates, and lack of veterinary care.

Ten days later, following substantial media coverage critical of SNBL, AWI discovered that the USDA, the prosecutor in the case, had filed a motion to seal the complaint—despite the fact that it had already been
made public. Once AWI obtained the motion, we were stunned to see that the USDA had asked the court, clearly at the behest of SNBL, to redact key elements of its own complaint. This indicated that the USDA did not plan to vigorously prosecute the case—which was confirmed when the department levied a short 30-day suspension of SNBL’s license and a relatively inconsequential $180,000 fine (against a company that grossed nearly $10 million in animal sales alone in 2014 and 2015).

On February 3, 2017, the USDA abandoned any semblance of transparency when, without notice, it scrubbed all inspection reports from its searchable database and removed all enforcement actions that it had archived online since 2010. On February 7, the department issued a clarification, vaguely citing the Privacy Act and pending litigation as justification for its action. Using the USDA’s wording from its February 7 clarification, AWI searched online and discovered that a pending lawsuit supported by a powerful segment of the walking horse industry had prompted the department’s decision. The plaintiffs in Contender Farms v. USDA—which concerned alleged violations of the Horse Protection Act, another law under USDA jurisdiction—asserted that posting enforcement records naming individuals violated the Privacy Act. The USDA’s sudden action, coupled with AWI’s revelation of this behind-the-scenes motivation, resulted in a detailed Washington Post story and garnered significant coverage in other major news outlets.

Later in February, a besieged USDA began to post an extremely limited number of inspections, which continued through March and April. AWI dove deeper into these records, however, and determined that the department still had not restored inspection reports covering 94 percent of the 3,333 USDA-licensed breeders and dealers that provide animals for the pet trade and, in some cases, research. We provided this latest analysis to the journal Science, which reported on our findings in its May 26 issue.

AWI will continue to fight for full transparency, including release of all USDA enforcement records that are so critical to holding accountable both those who fail to comply with the AWA’s modest requirements and the department charged with ensuring the protection of animals under the law.

Improving Lives of Animals in Research

AWI’s Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF) marked its 14th year in September 2016. The online discussion group, established by AWI Scientific Committee member Dr. Viktor Reinhardt, is open to animal care personnel, animal technicians, students, attending veterinarians, and researchers who have or had first-hand experience in the care of animals kept in laboratories. The forum, with hundreds of members from more than 20 countries, facilitates the exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences about ways to improve the conditions under which animals in laboratories are housed and handled. During one discussion this year, a member of the group described the depth of its benefit: “This forum has really shaped not only my career in working with animals in research, but really provided me with insight and alternative methods of thinking when it comes to the animals in our care. Thank you one thousand times over for providing a source like LAREF that can supply so many different perspectives and experiences from around the world to better support and care for all the living creatures we are all responsible for each day. The animals deserve our very BEST and LAREF helps us provide them that.”

Topics covered by LAREF this year included reducing fear and stress in mice subject to injections, preventing widespread barking of dogs through training, pair housing male and female macaques, food enrichment, handling stressed cats, social housing of rabbits, group housing of chinchillas, Nylabones for rats, abnormal behaviors in captive macaques, adopting rats and mice from the lab, and how to cope with the death of animals with whom you have bonded.

In the fall, selected discussion threads from the forum from 2013 to 2016 were compiled and edited by Viktor to create AWI’s latest book, Committed to Animal Welfare—the fourth such volume of LAREF discussions. AWI offers this book at no cost to those who work with animals in research, and we widely distributed it via our exhibit booth at the fall 2016 national meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, in Charlotte, North Carolina.
Since the 1950s, AWI has been a leader, at both federal and state levels, in securing landmark laws and tougher enforcement to shield animals from cruelty and needless suffering.

AWI on Capitol Hill
January 2017 ushered in a new Congress and with it—an feared—an increasing number of efforts to undermine key laws and regulations to protect animal welfare. Dozens of bills have been introduced thus far in the 115th Congress attacking the Endangered Species Act alone. Throughout the year, AWI’s legislative team diligently sounded the alarm over the potential dire consequences of these measures and campaigned to defeat them.

Compounding matters, the new administration acted immediately to nullify or stall regulations enacted late last year that were designed to protect animals, including a rule to crack down on “soring” of show horses and a rule to establish welfare standards for farm animals raised under the federal organic program (see Farm Animals section). The administration also elected to shield abusers from public scrutiny by removing a database of Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act enforcement records on the USDA website. (See Animals in Laboratories section.) At a congressional briefing in June 2017, hosted by the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus (CAPC) and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, AWI’s Cathy Liss served on a panel to discuss the ramifications of this move and call for the swift return of the records in order to increase government transparency, industry accountability, and public awareness of violations.

Nevertheless, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle continue to fight on behalf of animals. AWI welcomed Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) as the new co-chair of the CAPC, replacing Representative Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), who retired at the end of the last term. Rep. Buchanan joins co-chair Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), who is serving his second term in the role. AWI’s own legislative team experienced a changing of the guard, as well: Nancy Blaney was appointed director of government affairs in April. Nancy brings decades of animal advocacy experience to the role, including the past decade as a federal policy advisor at AWI.

The legislative team met with all new members of Congress and their staffs in January to introduce them to AWI and discuss animal welfare issues. Throughout the year, we helped congressional animal protection leaders introduce a number of positive animal welfare bills. We cohosted congressional briefings on several of these bills and helped drum up support for them.
in both chambers of Congress. Among the AWI-supported bills introduced or reintroduced this year:

> The Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, to prohibit the slaughter of horses in the United States for human consumption, as well as the export of live horses for slaughter abroad

> The Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, to support programs that provide shelter and housing assistance for the companion animals of domestic violence victims and thereby help both human and animal victims escape abusers

> The Pet Safety and Protection Act, to end what has long been an abuse-ridden system under which “Class B” (random source) dealers supply non-purpose-bred dogs and cats for use in research

> The Orcas Responsibility and Care Advancement (ORCA) Act, to phase out the captive display of orcas for entertainment in the United States

> The Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act, to help veterans with physical and mental health needs resulting from their service obtain service dogs and to ensure such dogs are sourced from humane suppliers and trainers

> The Humane Cosmetics Act, to phase out animal-based testing for cosmetic products and sale of such products in the United States

> The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, to amend the Horse Protection Act so as to end the show horse industry’s failed system of self-policing and crack down on the abusive practice of “soring” for shows

> The Chemical Poisons Reduction Act, to ban the use of sodium fluoroacetate and sodium cyanide in federal predator control programs

California Orca Captivity Bill
On September 13, 2016, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a trailblazing bill to prohibit the breeding and theatrical performance of captive orcas in California, as well as their export, consistent with federal law, out of North America. AWI campaigned heavily for this bill and worked with its author, Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), for two years to secure its passage. AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose helped draft it and testified in its favor at a hearing before the Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife. With this tremendous victory in hand, AWI now seeks to make the California law a legislative tipping point toward finally ending the captivity of orcas and other cetaceans in the United States.

Cracking Down on Cruelty in Illinois
AWI worked with our partners in Illinois to strengthen the response to animal cruelty crimes. In addition to continuing to build support for bills to require mandatory arrests in animal cruelty cases and to treat animals as individual victims (rather than allow for a single charge of abuse when multiple animals are involved), we joined the Cook County Sheriff’s Office to support a bill authorizing the appointment of special advocates in animal cruelty cases to represent the interests of the animals. Such advocates can help alleviate the burden on prosecutors while expanding their ability to present animal cruelty cases. Work on these bills will resume in January 2018.

Trapping
In August 2016, the Law Library of Congress released Laws on Leg-Hold Animal Traps Around the World, a compendium of national laws governing use of steel-jaw leghold traps. AWI worked closely with congressional offices to request this study, which—merely by presenting the data—pointedly illustrates how the United States lags far behind other nations in outlawing cruel trapping methods. More than 100 countries worldwide prohibit or impose stringent limits on use of steel-jaw leghold traps; many national laws, as the report shows, make it clear that the bans were enacted specifically because these traps cause undue suffering.

An article by AWI’s Tara Zuardo, “How the United States Was Able to Dodge International Reforms Designed to Make Wildlife Trapping Less Cruel,” in the June 2017 issue of the Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy further bolsters the case for US legislation banning steel-jaw leghold traps. The article provides an overview of wildlife trapping regulations and the traps most commonly used in the United States, describes how the United States has undermined international efforts at trapping reform, and suggests ways to overcome resistance in this country to such reforms.
SPEECHES & MEETINGS

Twenty sixteen

Naomi Rose participated in Whale Sanctuary Project strategic planning meeting; Los Angeles, CA; July 6–7.

AWI staff organized and participated in Save the Vaquita rally outside Mexican Embassy; July 7.

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney presented National Resource Center on Domestic Violence webinar on link between animal abuse and domestic violence; July 7.

Bill Clark, Cathy Liss, and D.J. Schubert participated in meeting of African Elephant Coalition countries to discuss CITES conference priorities, Keeyan Embassy; July 14.

Naomi Rose gave presentations on scholar-advocacy and marine mammal policy; Superpod 5 event; July 28.

Bill Clark participated in meeting of Clinton Global Initiative’s Elephants Action Network; New York, NY; July 27.

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney participated in US Department of Justice roundtable discussion on police shooting of dogs; July 28.

Naomi Rose presented talk on the “Blackfish Effect”, International Marine Conservation Conference; St. John’s, NL; July 29–31.

Bill Clark met with Ambassador Michael Museus-Adams of Galton to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 5.

Brittany Horton and Cathy Liss staffed AWI booth and distributed new AWI posters to help veterinarians identify animal abuse; American Veterinary Medical Association Convention; San Antonio, TX; August 5–9.

Bill Clark met with Tamar Cooper, Head of Clinton Global Initiative’s Environmental Stewardship Task, to discuss support of Kenya Wildlife Service’s Manyani ranger training school; New York, NY; August 10.

Bill Clark participated in Elephants Action Network teleconference on ivory trafficking; August 16.

Bill Clark participated in meeting of Clinton Global Initiative’s Elephants Action Network; New York, NY; August 22.

Bill Clark met with Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh of Vietnam to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 29.

Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney met with USDA Animal Care Deputy Administrator Bernadette Jones to discuss various issues, including USDA oversight of animals used in entertainment; August 22.

Bill Clark participated in Cambodian Embassy meeting to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 23.

Bill Clark met with Director Dan Ashe and other USFWS officials to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 23.

Bill Clark met with Caroline Vincini of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 25.

Bill Clark attended Singaporean Embassy meeting to discuss elephant protection under CITES; September 11.

D.J. Schubert and Tara Zuardo participated in 6th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES; D.J. thanked side event on impact of captive cetacean poaching; Johannesburg, South Africa; September 23–October 5.

Mary Lou Randour participated in Home for Hawaiian Coalition Conference panel discussion on the addition of animal cruelty crimes to FBI national crime database; September 23.

Naomi Rose gave lecture on welfare of captive cetaceans; Stetson University College of Law; Gulfport, FL; September 29.
Twelve seventeen

Michelle Pawliger participated in meeting of the DC Food Policy Council’s Sustainable Procurement Working Group to address animal welfare aspects of Good Food Purchasing Project; January 26

D.J. Schubert, Georgia Hancock, and Naomi Rose gave presentations at Cambridge, MA; December 2–3

Naomi Rose gave lecture on marine mammal welfare; American Food Exports Act; April 26

Naomi Rose participated in “Marine mammals in China orca trade; George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; April 24

Naomi Rose gave lecture on Taiwan’s threat to Taiwanese white dolphins; Taipei, Taiwan; March 22

Naomi Rose gave lecture on Russia-Chinese culture; George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; April 24

Naomi Rose and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on Prevent All Slaughter Tactics Act; March 15

D.J. Schubert, Kate O’Connell, and D.J. Schubert put forward proposed rule on captive marine mammal regulations; American Farm Bureau Federation; Washington, DC; March 3

Naomi Rose presented a paper on “Endangered Species Act: Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act” at the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Annual Convention; Dallas, TX; February 12

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on US delegation; D.J. chaired D.J. served as NGO representative on US delegation; D.J. chaired subcommittee, working group, United Nations Environmental Programme’s Committee of Experts on the Conservation and Management of the Vaquita; Mexico; October 20–22

Regina Teufel staffed booth to promote dissection alternatives and animal-friendly biology lessons; Tufts University; Medford, MA; April 8

Naomi Rose participated in panel discussion on marine mammal welfare and sea sanctuaries; Global Marine Science Congress; Detroit, MI; May 3–7

Naomi Rose participated in IWC Scientific Committee meeting and served as rapporteur for whale welfare aspects of Good Food Purchasing Project; January 28

Naomi Rose participated in IWC Scientific Committee meeting and served as rapporteur for whale persecution of the vaquita; Mexico; December 12

Kate O’Connell, Naomi Rose, and D.J. Schubert participated in meeting with Ambassador Alberto Abrantes of Clinton Foundation and Bill Clark met with Raquel Melo NC; October 31–November 2

Naomi Rose, Mary Lou Randour, and Nancy Blaney participated in National Coalition On Violence Against Animals meeting; February 5

Naomi Rose participated in workshop and public forum on planned offshore wind farms’ threat to Taiwanese white dolphins; Taipei, Taiwan; April 13–22

Naomi Rose gave lecture on Rosa-Chinese culture; George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; April 24

Naomi Rose and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on ban on horse slaughter and Safeguard American Food Exports Act; April 29

Naomi Rose gave lecture on marine mammal policy; Tufts University; Medford, MA; April 8

Naomi Rose participated in panel discussion on marine mammal welfare and sea sanctuaries; Global Marine Science Congress; Detroit, MI; May 3–7

Nancy Blaney and Chris Heyde co-ordinated congressional briefing on Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act; February 28

Michelle Pawliger and members of the Good Food Purchasing Project met with Lane Collisvold, DC Food Policy Director, regarding project implementation in Washington, DC; March 3

Naomi Rose testified before Canadian Whales and Dolphins Act; Ottawa, ON; April 4

Nancy Blaney gave presentation on US delegation; D.J. served as NGO representative on US delegation; D.J. chaired D.J. served as NGO representative on US delegation; D.J. chaired subcommittee, working group, United Nations Environmental Programme’s Committee of Experts on the Conservation and Management of the Vaquita; Mexico; October 20–22

Bill Clark attended congressional briefing on existing and potential legislation affecting migratory bird conservation; May 9

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement; Animal Care Expo; Fort Lauderdale, FL; May 12

D.J. Schubert participated in African Pangolin Conservation Strategy Workshop; May 15–16

Naomi Rose attended the Veterinary Forensic Sciences Conference and distributed AWI posters to help veterinarians identify and report animal abuse; Vapi, Gujarat, India; May 1–6

Naomi Blaney and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on Protect All Slaughter Tactics Act; March 15

Cathy Liss and Bill Clark met with Chinese Ministry of Agriculture representatives; Chinese-language versions of A Dangerous Life graphic novel on revory trade for school children in China; April 13

Naomi Rose testified at Hawaii House of Representatives Agriculture Committee hearing in support of resolution urging Hawaii captive cetacean facilities to discontinue phase out captivity; Honolulu, HI; March 22

Cathy Liss met with Marc Richir, Senior Expert, Directorate-General for Agriculture, European Commission, on trapping, cruelty and far trade; New York, NY; March 23

Dena Jones met with Roberta Wagner, Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, to discuss farm animal welfare; June 12

Dena Jones and Cathy Liss hosted NGO meeting with the World Organization for Animal Health to discuss members of his cabinet to discuss farm animal welfare; June 20

Nancy Blaney participated in Take Your Dog to Work Day at GMIB advertising agency; spoke with employers about animal welfare issues and distributed AWI materials; June 23

Nancy Blaney hosted with Office of Management and Budget to staff its dog encounters impact of proposed rule on pig slaughter inspection; White House Executive Office Building; June 23

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on reporting of animal cruelty crimes by animal control personnel during recent animal cruelty and dog encounters; National Coalition On Violence Against Animals meeting; June 24
The AWI Quarterly magazine is distributed to approximately 42,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, deans of medical and veterinary schools, laboratory technicians, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this year.

The Animal Welfare Act, the chief federal law for the protection of animals in research, on exhibition, in transport, and in the hands of dealers, turned 50 in 2016. A Life magazine photo essay published in February 1966—based on investigations by AWI laboratory animal consultant Dorothy Dyce—exposed the horrific conditions at the premises of a Maryland dog dealer and proved a major catalyst for the law’s passage. Over the past five decades, the Animal Welfare Act has greatly reduced animal suffering in the United States. Still—many animals are denied its protections, and much more must be done to broaden and strengthen this important law.

Thanks to the efforts of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Police Service, and others, ivory trafficker Feisal Mohamed Ali is behind bars—sentenced to 20 years in prison plus a fine of 20 million Kenya shillings (about $200,000). A June 2014 raid on Ali’s facilities in the Kenyan port city of Mombasa turned up 4,744 pounds of contraband ivory, worth $4.5 million on the black market—and all that remained of at least 200 elephants slaughtered by poachers. Ali initially fled and was a fugitive for five months before being caught in Tanzania and brought to justice.

For poultry on their way to slaughter, abuse and unnecessary suffering can occur before the birds even enter the plant. Through a review of US government records, AWI found that large numbers of birds are suffering and dying as a result of being abandoned for extended periods of time without food or water—often during extreme weather conditions—in the holding areas of slaughter plants. AWI has requested that the USDA revise its poultry slaughter...
regulations and directives to give inspectors the authority to take strong action against this unconscionably cruel practice. The National Aquarium in Baltimore announced in June 2016 that it plans to move its colony of eight dolphins from its indoor amphibious pool to a seaside dolphin sanctuary—the nation’s first. Transfer to the sanctuary is expected to take place by the end of 2020. Aquarium CEO John Racanelli explained: “Although this decision is about a group of dolphins, it is every bit as much about our humanity; for the way a society treats the animals with which it shares this planet speaks volumes about us.” Many veterinarians are reluctant to report potential cases of animal abuse to law enforcement authorities. Possible reasons for this include uncertainty about what abuse really looks like and what to do when it is suspected. To raise veterinarians’ awareness of the likelihood that some of the problems they see in their patients may be due to abuse, and to demystify the process for reporting such concerns, AWI created posters listing some of the most frequent signs of abuse and the proper steps to address the situation. Appropriate use of pain relief in laboratory animals is a scientific and ethical imperative. Yet, a recent analysis published in an overheated transport van just prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, a denial) issued a point-by-point rebuttal. In Swansboro, North Carolina, a great horned owl was caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap and languished for days before being rescued. Fortunately, a volunteer at the Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary found the owl and came to its rescue. The owl recuperated at a local raptor rehabilitation center. Two of her toes had sustained cuts down to the bone, but under the care of the center, the owl escaped infection and amputation. Once recovered, the owl was released back to the wild. A new report, Illegal Otter Trade: An Analysis of Seizures in Selected Asian Countries (1980–2015), by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC examines the black market trade in live otters and otter parts in the region. The authors found an extensive otter fur trade centered in India, Nepal, and China—one that “is likely to be taking a toll on wild otter populations.” They also saw evidence of a growing (primarily domestic) trade in otters as pets. This trade chiefly occurs within Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. …
Companies with the worst animal handling records are currently supplying the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), which provides government-subsidized school lunches. This is allowed because the USDA has not set animal welfare standards for poultry supplied to the program, despite having standards for the handling of cattle, hogs, and sheep. AWI has been urging the USDA to incorporate bird welfare standards into the NSLP, but the USDA has not acknowledged the food safety benefits that would result from doing so.

Despite decades of scientific research demonstrating a link between how animals are treated and subsequent meat quality, AWI provided recommendations for humane handling standards—good animal care, health, and welfare during slaughter. In May 2017, the USDA announced that it intended to remove the animal welfare recommendations that appear in the NSLP service document. Farm animal welfare recommendations were first included in the NSLP in 2004 to address access to veterinary services, addressing the animals’ needs for frequent, friendly interactions with caregivers and discussed which toys, food, and management practices seemed to most strongly stimulate and encourage natural behaviors. The committee recommended use of the animal welfare guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health as a baseline standard.

In Voracious Science and Vulnerable Animals: A Primate Scientist’s Ethical Journey, author and scientist Dr. John Gluck tells of a crisis of conscience as an animal researcher: “I slowly became conscious of the animals’ point of view and recognized that much of what I was doing as a scientist did not square with my own moral standards.” His growing unease eventually motivated a change in direction toward bioethics. He offers his story “in hopes that it will cause others to question the ethics of research in a discussion among animal care professionals that took place last year on AWI’s online Laboratory Animal Enrichment & Enrichment Forum. The participants affirmed the benefits to rabbits of frequent, friendly interactions with caregivers and discussed which toys, food, and housing environments keep rabbits stimulated and encourage natural behaviors, notwithstanding the unnatural setting of a laboratory.

After 146 years in operation, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced in January 2017 that it would close down in May. AWI spent years raising awareness of the circus’s cruel treatment of elephants, and joined others in filing suit in 2000 against Feld Entertainment—Ringling’s owner for the past 50 years. “There is no question,” said AWI counsel Stephen Neal Jr., “that the closing of the circus is due in large part to the publication of evidence of the circus’s cruelty to animals [resulting from the] litigation.”

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit in late 2016 of the research practices and operations at the USDA’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. Though the audit was spurred by myriad allegations regarding the allegations in the Times article hidden from public view. In December 2016, China made the stunning announcement that it plans to shut down its billion-dollar ivory industry. China’s State Council approved research into ivory to make it illegal by “ending the commercial processing and sale of ivory and related products” in four stages, to be completed by the end of 2017. Hardly anyone anticipated that the decision would be so sudden, comprehensive, and authoritative. This would be the single most positive development for elephant conservation in many decades. Currently, China consumes an estimated one half to three quarters of all ivory from elephants poached in Africa.

A resort development on Oahu, Hawaii, has abandoned plans to include a captive dolphin attraction at its facility. Atlantic K. Olu had pursued a dolphin display permit in the early days of planning. But developer Jeff Stone confirmed in a letter to Animal Rights Hawaii that captive dolphins are no longer in the mix. Stone even referred to swimming with the dolphins exhibits as “dated concepts.” AWI supported outreach to local authorities and community opposition when news of the original captive plan emerged.

What are the best methods for providing rabbits in research with effective enrichment? This question was raised in a discussion among animal care professionals that took place last year on AWI’s online Laboratory Animal Enrichment & Enrichment Forum. The participants affirmed the benefits to rabbits of frequent, friendly interactions with caregivers and discussed which toys, food, and housing environments keep rabbits stimulated and encourage natural behaviors, notwithstanding the unnatural setting of a laboratory.

After 146 years in operation, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced in January 2017 that it would close down in May. AWI spent years raising awareness of the circus’s cruel treatment of elephants, and joined others in filing suit in 2000 against Feld Entertainment—Ringling’s owner for the past 50 years. “There is no question,” said AWI counsel Stephen Neal Jr., “that the closing of the circus is due in large part to the publication of evidence of the circus’s cruelty to animals [resulting from the] litigation.”

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit in late 2016 of the research practices and operations at the USDA’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. Though the audit was spurred by myriad allegations regarding the allegations in the Times article hidden from public view. In December 2016, China made the stunning announcement that it plans to shut down its billion-dollar ivory industry. China’s State Council approved research into ivory to make it illegal by “ending the commercial processing and sale of ivory and related products” in four stages, to be completed by the end of 2017. Hardly anyone anticipated that the decision would be so sudden, comprehensive, and authoritative. This would be the single most positive development for elephant conservation in many decades. Currently, China consumes an estimated one half to three quarters of all ivory from elephants poached in Africa.

A resort development on Oahu, Hawaii, has abandoned plans to include a captive dolphin attraction at its facility. Atlantic K. Olu had pursued a dolphin display permit in the early days of planning. But developer Jeff Stone confirmed in a letter to Animal Rights Hawaii that captive dolphins are no longer in the mix. Stone even referred to swimming with the dolphins exhibits as “dated concepts.” AWI supported outreach to local authorities and community opposition when news of the original captive plan emerged.

What are the best methods for providing rabbits in research with effective enrichment? This question was raised in a discussion among animal care professionals that took place last year on AWI’s online Laboratory Animal Enrichment & Enrichment Forum. The participants affirmed the benefits to rabbits of frequent, friendly interactions with caregivers and discussed which toys, food, and housing environments keep rabbits stimulated and encourage natural behaviors, notwithstanding the unnatural setting of a laboratory.

After 146 years in operation, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced in January 2017 that it would close down in May. AWI spent years raising awareness of the circus’s cruel treatment of elephants, and joined others in filing suit in 2000 against Feld Entertainment—Ringling’s owner for the past 50 years. “There is no question,” said AWI counsel Stephen Neal Jr., “that the closing of the circus is due in large part to the publication of evidence of the circus’s cruelty to animals [resulting from the] litigation.”

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit in late 2016 of the research practices and operations at the USDA’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. Though the audit was spurred by myriad allegations regarding the allegations in the Times article hidden from public view. In December 2016, China made the stunning announcement that it plans to shut down its billion-dollar ivory industry. China’s State Council approved research into ivory to make it illegal by “ending the commercial processing and sale of ivory and related products” in four stages, to be completed by the end of 2017. Hardly anyone anticipated that the decision would be so sudden, comprehensive, and authoritative. This would be the single most positive development for elephant conservation in many decades. Currently, China consumes an estimated one half to three quarters of all ivory from elephants poached in Africa.

A resort development on Oahu, Hawaii, has abandoned plans to include a captive dolphin attraction at its facility. Atlantic K. Olu had pursued a dolphin display permit in the early days of planning. But developer Jeff Stone confirmed in a letter to Animal Rights Hawaii that captive dolphins are no longer in the mix. Stone even referred to swimming with the dolphins exhibits as “dated concepts.” AWI supported outreach to local authorities and community opposition when news of the original captive plan emerged.
In his new book, A Plea for the Animals, Author Mattituck criticizes the suffering imposed upon animals resulting from factory farming, unchained animal experimentation, trafficking in wildlife, and "animals in entertainment"—everything from shooting animals for trophies to bullfighting to circuses. Adeptly sprinkled throughout the text are thoughtful comments explaining why these abuses are wrong: biologically, environmentally, philosophically, and morally.

Tilikum, the SeaWorld orca featured in the documentary Blackfish, died in January 2017. That same month, the death of southern resident orca Ju, known as Granny, was also confirmed. Tilikum spent 50 percent of his life confined in a space less than 1/10,000 of one percent the size of an orca’s natural home range, without family. Ju spent her life in the wild, traversing the Puget Sound area, the matriarch in her population. Two iconic orcas have died, but only one was allowed to truly live life as an orca.

Polly Schultz, director of OPR Coastal Primate Sanctuary in Longview, Washington, has a high regard for monkeys' suffering is understood in captivity. This was a stunning first-time observation for Polly in her many years of research. This was a stunning first-time observation for Polly in her many years when he began to groom and interact with other monkeys. But rhesus macaques in China stream the presentations, allowing another 20,000 people to watch them live online. After the talks were archived, an additional 40,000 people viewed them within a few days—an amazing level of interest in the message.

Dr. Alexey Yablokov, the “grandfather of Russian ecology,” passed away on January 10, 2017, at the age of 83. As a young scientist, Dr. Yablokov studied whales and dolphins and soon became a strong advocate for their conservation. Later, he became a member of the Soviet Parliament and advisor to Russian presidents. In 1993, he exposed the threat posed by Russian dumping of military reactors and nuclear submarines in the Arctic. From 1999 until his death, Dr. Yablokov was a member of AWI’s International Committee of advisors. We will be forever grateful for his bold advocacy and his many contributions to our understanding of our place on the planet.

Dr. Alexey Yablokov...
says its retaliation will target US imports, which could include tariffs on goods.

After Corey Knowlton won a Dallas Safari Club auction for the right to kill an endangered black rhino—which he did, in Namibia, in May 2015—he was incensed to find that Delta Air Lines, like many others, now refuses to ship rhino (as well as elephant, lion, leopard, and buffalo) trophies. So he sued. But in March 2017, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Delta is under no legal obligation to carry such cargo. Perhaps if trophy hunters can’t display the spoils of their unethical hobby, they may be less eager to pursue it.

In February 2017, a bald eagle near Bonneville, Pennsylvania, was photographed with a steel-jaw leghold trap on her foot. Three days later, an eagle with a trap on her foot (who may or may not have been the same bird) was found 65 miles away in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and freed. She flew away, but often such injuries cut off blood supply, leading to gangrene, loss of digits, and certain death for birds of prey who can no longer hunt. Each year, an untold number of raptors and other nontarget species fall victim to these barbaric traps.

In early 2017, the USDA filed a complaint against Wild Wilderness, Inc., an unaccredited zoo and drive-through “safari” in Gentry, Arkansas, featuring black bears, wolves, big cats, sloths, and a host of other exotic animals. The complaint describes several disturbing instances at the park and alleges willful violation of the Animal Welfare Act. After AWI called public attention to the situation, several news outlets in the state broadcast the story. AWI is calling on the USDA to impose a significant fine against Wild Wilderness and revoke its exhibitor’s license.

Filmmaker Craig Lawson traveled the world to chase down the 8 million tons of plastic humans dump into the oceans each year. He found some of it spinning in massive gyres such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Some was lodged in the stomachs of animals who ate plastic and died. Much of it breaks apart into tiny fragments that are ingested by microorganisms and subsequently work their way up the food chain to top predators—including us. Lawson’s documentary, A Plastic Ocean, sheds harsh light on the consequences for aquatic life and human communities of a global culture awash in disposable plastic.

In 2015, Florida’s black bears suffered an estimated 20 percent population decline amidst the first state-authorized hunt since 1994. In 2016, the controversial hunt was put on hold for a year. In the spring of 2017, Florida wildlife officials went further, announcing that they wouldn’t consider holding another hunt until 2019 at the earliest, in large part due to significant opposition from the public—including many letters sent by AWI members. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission reported that close to 90 percent of the more than 4,000 emails the commission received were opposed to holding another hunt.

AWI has been working to help the Kenya Wildlife Service battle poachers in sunlight and in darkness. AWI is shipping three replacement aircraft engines to KWS to bolster its critically important air patrols over the country’s 59 national parks and reserves, as well as the surrounding countrysides. The air patrols have effectively chased poachers into the cover of night. Some months ago, AWI also shipped night vision goggles to KWS, which have contributed to a reduction in nighttime poaching, as well.

When nearly 200 dogs and over 50 cats were saved from an abusive North Carolina animal testing facility in 2010, AWI and others worked with rescue groups from New Jersey to Florida to find homes for the animals. Two of these dogs—Moxie and Huckleberry—landed with the family of Carol Vinzant. Six years later, Carol provided an update: she gushed about the charming antics of Moxie and “Huck,” who are thriving and who remain much beloved members of the family—a heartwarming happily ever after for these two beagles and their humans.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVENUES:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - Foundations and trusts</td>
<td>$569,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>1,874,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships and other</td>
<td>1,511,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants net rental income</td>
<td>78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of publications and reports</td>
<td>1,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend income</td>
<td>91,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>1,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities</td>
<td>556,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants net rental income</td>
<td>78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of publications and reports</td>
<td>1,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend income</td>
<td>91,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>1,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities</td>
<td>556,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of program restrictions:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger L Stevens Publication Fund</td>
<td>28,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnian stray dogs</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine mammals</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>38,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service</td>
<td>2,457,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>229,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>50,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>2,737,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(38,144)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>(38,144)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>1,978,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS - beginning of year</td>
<td>11,417,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS - end of year</td>
<td>$13,367,444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
<th>MQMT &amp; GENERAL</th>
<th>FUND RAISING</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>$1,144,096</td>
<td>$73,196</td>
<td>$22,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance</td>
<td>89,190</td>
<td>6,028</td>
<td>16,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>131,032</td>
<td>12,728</td>
<td>2,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan</td>
<td>23,074</td>
<td>1,262</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>1,664</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>5,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWI Quarterlies</td>
<td>192,029</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)</td>
<td>89,645</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>5,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, writing, and editing</td>
<td>14,787</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>141,689</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, meetings, and travel</td>
<td>100,720</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)</td>
<td>21,511</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies</td>
<td>54,600</td>
<td>46,328</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>86,954</td>
<td>28,624</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships and subscriptions</td>
<td>26,850</td>
<td>3,760</td>
<td>1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>202,466</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet services</td>
<td>18,060</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy costs</td>
<td>59,881</td>
<td>41,461</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>3,122</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses before depreciation</td>
<td>2,409,164</td>
<td>223,315</td>
<td>47,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>49,117</td>
<td>3,803</td>
<td>9,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$2,458,281</td>
<td>$229,117</td>
<td>$56,724</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A complete financial statement audited by Marks Paneth LLP, Certified Public Accountants, is available from AWI and upon written request from the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Business and Professional Licensing Administration, Corporations Division, P.O. Box 92300, Washington, DC 20090.
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, DC, 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 (FEIN: 13-5655952). 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.

Photo credits:
- cover, cheetahs: yva momatiuk & john eastcott (minden pictures)
- 1, african grey: anthony c
- 3, humpback: michael sale
- 4, tiger shark: papahanaumokuakea
- 7, bee: benjamin watson
- 9, mountain lion: emmanuel keller
- 10, elephants: jagermo
- 13, kit fox: gregthebusker
- 15, horse: jean-baptiste duville
- 16, pig: mike suarez
- 19, cows: mike suarez
- 21, macaque: oceanfishing
- 23, rabbits: mauro grigollo
- 24, ferret: usfws mountain prairie
- 26, orca: mark malleson
- 27, deer: grandriver
- 31, polar bear: christopher michel
- 32, hooded penguin: nova
- 35, spring cover: novartis ag
- 37, summer cover: grzegorz lesniewski (minden pictures)
- 39, mouse: hirurg
- inside back, dog: kiuko

Animal Welfare Institute