WHO WE ARE
Since 1951, 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 eliminate inhumane slaughter methods 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.

INSIDE
3 Marine Animals / 7 Humane Education / 9 Farm Animals / 13 Wildlife
17 Companion Animals / 23 Animals in Laboratories / 27 Government Affairs
31 AWI Quarterly / 37 Speeches + Meetings / 41 Financials
COMMERCIAL WHALING

In September 2018, AWI’s D.J. Schubert, Sue Fisher, and Kate O’Connell participated in the 67th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC67) in Florianópolis, Brazil. In advance of IWC67, AWI and international partner organizations produced two key reports. The first, Small Cetaceans, Big Problems, is a detailed accounting of the more than 100,000 dolphins, porpoises, and small whales slaughtered each year in hunts—often illegally. AWI and allies are calling on the IWC to assume a greater role in the protection of small cetaceans.

The second, Commercial Whaling: Unsustainable, Inhumane, Unnecessary, provides an unvarnished appraisal of the whaling conducted by Iceland, Japan, and Norway in defiance of the commercial whaling moratorium in place since 1986. This report was of particular importance this year, as Japan planned to use its position as IWC67 chair to push an agenda aimed at changing voting rules in order to lift the moratorium.

Thankfully, Japan’s effort to turn back the clock failed. But this meeting would prove to be a breaking point: In late December, Japan announced it would leave the IWC, effective June 30, 2019, and resume commercial whaling within its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, while ending its dubious and highly commercial “scientific” whaling program in international waters.

In the end, several AWI-supported conservation resolutions were adopted at IWC67, including the Florianópolis Declaration—a strong statement of intent to maintain the moratorium and support conservation efforts. We were particularly involved in the adoption of another important resolution that recognizes the valuable ecological services that cetaceans provide to the marine ecosystem and which endorses further research on this role. The IWC also agreed to support the strategic plan of the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, which aims to prevent cetacean bycatch, which kills more than 300,000 whales, dolphins, and porpoises each year.

Japanese whaling was thrust into the spotlight again in October, during the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in Sochi, Russia. In an unprecedented reprimand, the CITES Standing Committee declared that Japan’s hunt of sei whales on the high seas and introduction of the carcasses into Japan amounted to illegal international trade of a CITES Appendix I–listed species. Prior to the meeting, AWI led a coalition of animal protection and conservation groups that provided legal analysis to the committee concerning the issue. Eighteen countries represented on the committee accepted our conclusions, with Russia as the lone dissenter. Consequently, Japan must restore compliance with CITES or face trade sanctions.

CAPTIVE MARINE MAMMALS

In March 2019, AWI and World Animal Protection published the 5th edition of The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity. This 156-page report, co-authored by AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose, lays out in comprehensive detail the compelling scientific arguments against the practice of holding cetaceans and other marine mammal species in small concrete enclosures for entertainment purposes. The 5th edition, redesigned by AWI’s Alexandra Alberg, is a substantial expansion over the previous edition published a decade earlier, adding a wealth of new scientific data and addressing the enormous change in societal attitudes, government policy, and the industry concerning marine mammal captivity in the wake of the 2013 film Blackfish.

AWI works around the globe to prevent inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine species and destruction and degradation of their habitats.
Another major report, the 2nd edition of Ocean Theme Parks: A Look Inside China’s Growing Captive Cetacean Industry, was published in June 2019 by the China Cetacean Alliance (CCA), an AWI-cofounded coalition of international and Chinese organizations. This 89-page report—also co-written by Naomi and designed by Alexandra for the CCA—was published in both English and Chinese and addresses the alarming rise of captive cetacean facilities in China and their poor animal welfare conditions. In connection with the publication, Naomi traveled to China in June 2019 on behalf of the CCA to observe conditions for the animals at marine theme parks in Shanghai and Zhuhai and give presentations in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. Hundreds of individuals attended the presentations and tens of thousands more viewed them via live streaming.

In June 2019, AWI celebrated the passage of trailblazing laws in Canada and Ecuador that we helped bring about to protect cetaceans from capture and captivity (see Government Affairs section).

VAQUITA
Gilnet fishing in Mexico’s Upper Gulf of California ensnares vaquita as bycatch and has all but wiped out the species. AWI and others have been pressing Mexico to immediately ban gillnets in vaquita habitat for the species to have any chance at avoiding imminent extinction. In July 2018, the US Court of International Trade, in response to a lawsuit AWI and co-plaintiffs filed in March, ruled that the fish and fish product import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) require a ban on seafood imports from foreign fisheries that kill marine mammals in excess of what is allowed under US standards. The court therefore ordered the US government to ban gillnet-caught seafood imports from Mexico. In November, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld that ruling and kept the ban in place. Apart from adding economic pressure on Mexico to act more decisively to save the vaquita, this precedent-setting decision will strengthen the ability of AWI and other animal advocates to use the MMPA to mitigate marine mammal bycatch around the world.

MARINE HABITAT
In June 2019, AWI’s Susan Millward and AWI representative Courtney Vail participated in a series of UN Caribbean Programme meetings in Roatán, Honduras, aimed at protecting marine habitat in the Caribbean. These included the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, the 18th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, and the 10th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol. AWI sounded the alarm on marine mammal hunts by member countries that blatantly violate the SPAW Protocol, leading the body to formally issue a call for compliance.

Susan and Courtney also used the gathering as an opportunity to further AWI’s work—in partnership with representatives from CITES, the United Nations, and the US departments of State, the Interior, and Commerce—to establish the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN). Similar networks exist in Southeast Asia, Central America, Africa, and the European Union, and once CaribWEN is established, it will bolster enforcement, investigations, and public education—all of which will greatly enhance efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade in the region.
SAVE ALL SPECIES CAMPAIGN

Last year, AWI partnered with HarperCollins Children’s Books to produce educational materials on endangered species. The partnership coincided with the launch of Newbery Medal–winning author Katherine Applegate’s Endling series of children’s novels, which address issues of extinction.

This spring, the second book in the series, Endling #2: The First, was published, and we partnered once again with HarperCollins to launch the “Save All Species” campaign. The campaign called upon kids to take action to help protect endangered species and support the Endangered Species Act. Students were encouraged to draw a picture of the endangered species that matters most to them and to comment about the importance of that species.

Hundreds of middle school students participated in the sweepstakes, with a winning classroom selected from a random drawing. The winners were presented with a set of both Endling books for every child in the classroom and an in-class Skype interview with the author.

A VOICE FOR ANIMALS CONTEST

Our call for entries to the 2019 “A Voice for Animals” contest, held yearly in cooperation with the Humane Education Network, yielded nearly 500 submissions from middle and high school students in the United States and abroad. The contest, now in its 29th year, provides young people with an opportunity to raise awareness about animal welfare issues they care deeply about and to offer solutions—in many cases, highlighting what they themselves are doing to help make animal lives better. The winning entries covered a range of animal welfare issues, including the protection of wild species such as the piping plover and the little brown bat, helping shelter dogs and cats find homes, ending inhumane experiments on animals in classrooms, and preventing plastic pollution in the ocean.

SCIENCE CURRICULA

To encourage animal-friendly science teaching, AWI maintains a presence at the Science Teachers Association of Texas and the National Science Teachers Association annual conferences. Hosting booths at these events is an effective means to connect with teachers to discuss alternatives to dissection and ways to promote respect for all living things. AWI’s free educational materials and eye-catching endangered species poster, produced last year in connection with our HarperCollins partnership, continue to be a popular draw for teachers of all grade levels.

CLASSROOM OUTREACH

Every year, AWI staff members give presentations on animal welfare issues to universities across the country and provide educational materials to universities and high schools. This year, AWI also took the opportunity to visit younger children in the classroom to share our message. At a community day held by Meridian Public Charter School in Washington, DC, AWI’s Regina Terlau-Benford and Brittany Bailey participated in story time for several classes of pre-K students, reading aloud from one of AWI’s illustrated books for children on compassion toward animals. In Richmond, Virginia, Regina engaged with members of Pocahontas Middle School’s Promoting & Protecting Animals through Compassion and Kindness (PACK) club regarding the Endangered Species Act’s importance, local species at risk, and steps they can take in their everyday lives to make a positive impact for these animals.

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 an end to cruel methods of housing, handling, transporting, and slaughtering farm animals. We promote pasture-based farming systems that allow animals to express natural behaviors, as an alternative to factory farming.

PROTECTING ANIMALS ON THE FARM

In October 2018, AWI released Barn Fires: A Deadly Threat to Farm Animals, a first-of-its-kind report that quantifies farm animal losses from barn fires across the country. We scoured nationwide media reports covering the five-year period from 2013 through 2017, and compiled the statistics to reveal that more than 2.7 million US farm animals perished in potentially preventable barn fires during that time. Issued in advance of National Fire Prevention Week, the report explores where and why these fires occurred and how such fires could be prevented in the future. AWI, as the lone animal welfare group serving on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee on Animal Housing Facilities, is formally requesting that safety measures be added to the national animal housing code to reduce the likelihood that farm animals will suffer and die horribly in barn fires.

To further increase public awareness of this issue, we released a barn fire tracker on our website in January 2019 that provides up-to-date information on the number of animals killed in barn fires, broken down by species and by state where such fires occur. We also did media outreach and conducted interviews with local journalists when large incidents occurred, such as the devastating fire at Herbruck’s Poultry in Michigan in April 2019 that caused the deaths of a quarter million chickens.

When the US Department of Agriculture proposed requiring much larger brands on cattle imported from Mexico, AWI strongly objected, urging the department to do away with hot-iron branding altogether. We encouraged the USDA to prioritize the development of alternatives to branding, including electronic animal identification, which not only results in far less pain and distress, but can also facilitate rapid trace back of animals in the event of a disease outbreak. The USDA ultimately elected to proceed with the enlarged brand proposal, but announced $1 million in funding to support the implementation of electronic identification for cattle—a promising development for ending such branding in the future.

In recent years, several undercover investigations have exposed widespread abuse and neglect of calves and mature cattle at dairy production operations across the United States. In spring 2019, we submitted comprehensive comments to the National Milk Producers Federation on the next version of its animal care standards, recommending that calves be housed in pairs or groups as soon as possible, electric prodding devices never be used on calves, and all dairy cattle have regular access to the outdoors.

AWI also works to prevent or reduce the suffering of animals during disease outbreaks. In January 2017, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) released draft guidelines for the mass euthanasia of animals during major disease outbreaks such as avian influenza (“bird
flu). The draft guidelines would have allowed for several blatantly inhumane killing methods, including live burial and shutting off the ventilation in animal housing structures. We consulted with animal welfare scientists on the proposal and lobbied the AVMA to substitute more humane, effective alternatives. The final guidelines released by the AVMA in April 2019 continue to allow for the use of ventilation shutdown but, in a welcome reversal, eliminate live burial as an acceptable method.

**REFORMING DECEPTIVE FOOD LABELING PRACTICES**

AWI continues to pressure the USDA and the food industry to reduce deceptive labeling practices and thereby help consumers support truly higher welfare farming operations. To achieve this goal, we investigate label claims and the USDA’s oversight of this process and, when possible, challenge deceptive and misleading claims and advocate for policies to promote truth in labeling on animal products.

In November 2018, AWI filed a lawsuit to force the USDA to respond to a rulemaking petition we submitted four and a half years earlier. The petition asked the USDA to require producers to use third-party certification programs to substantiate holistic animal raising claims such as “humane” and “sustainable” on meat and poultry packages. After we filed the lawsuit, the USDA finally responded to the petition but declined to engage in rulemaking. In its denial, the department cited the fact that producers and individuals have different definitions for animal-raising claims as one of the reasons it could not require third-party certification. This logic is baffling, as it is the USDA’s duty to promote consistency in the definitions of animal-raising claims, thereby ensuring misleading labels are not used on meat and poultry packages.

In the spring, AWI challenged before the National Advertising Division (NAD) of the Council of Better Business Bureaus a pork producer’s use of the claim “ethically raised” on its product packaging, despite raising the pigs using conventional industry practices. Following the close of the fiscal year, the NAD recommended that the company remove the claim from its packaging.

**FIGHTING INHUMANE SLAUGHTER**

On August 23, 2018, AWI and Farm Sanctuary sued the USDA for failing to adequately respond to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding proactive disclosure of slaughter records, based on a 2016 amendment to FOIA that requires federal agencies to proactively post records that are subject to frequent requests. We review over a thousand of these records annually to expose inhumane treatment of animals at slaughter plants and monitor the USDA’s enforcement of humane slaughter laws—but we often have to wait months or even years for disclosure. The lawsuit seeks to ensure more timely and complete access to these records.

The USDA recently finalized a new waiver system whereby bird slaughter plants can apply to increase their line speed to 175 birds per minute. In our public comments, we opposed the proposal, given its potential to increase incidents of inhumane handling, and asked the USDA to at least require that processors comply with good commercial practices (GCP)—normally a voluntary set of standards concerning humane handling of birds at slaughter. In September, the USDA essentially adopted this recommendation: Now, to receive a waiver, a plant must have no violations of GCP in the preceding 120 days—a strong incentive to maintain proper handling procedures.
AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild animals. We work to strengthen national and international wildlife protection and foster humane, nonlethal solutions to conflicts with wildlife.

RED WOLVES

In November 2018, AWI and co-plaintiffs won a significant legal victory on behalf of red wolves when a federal court ruled that the US Fish and Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to protect the world’s only wild population of the animals, who live in eastern North Carolina. We filed this lawsuit in 2015 to prevent the USFWS from bowing to political pressure and sabotaging its previously successful Red Wolf Recovery Program. In connection with the ruling, the court made permanent a 2016 preliminary injunction we won that bars the USFWS from killing, harassing, or harming red wolves, either directly or by authorizing landowners to do so, without first demonstrating that the targeted wolves actually pose a threat.

The USFWS argued unsuccessfully that the court could not properly adjudicate our claims because of a new rule that the agency is trying to push through that would undermine red wolf recovery even more drastically. This rule, proposed in July 2018, would reduce the existing five-county red wolf recovery area by 90 percent, to an area within a single county that could support fewer than 15 wolves. It would also eliminate protections for any wolves who left the area, such that any wolves on private and state lands could be shot without consequence. If the USFWS ignores the court’s clear mandate to protect wolves and proceeds to finalize this rule, AWI will return to court to challenge it.

WILD HORSES

The Bureau of Land Management is obligated to manage and protect wild horses and burros on BLM land in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, which states that such equines are “an integral part of the natural system of the public lands” and thus are to be “protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death.” The BLM, however, has long pursued a policy of keeping wild horse and burro populations artificially low on the range in order to serve the interests of the ranching industry.

Throughout this year, the BLM pushed to conduct gruesome sterilization experiments on wild mares to study the risks and complications (including mortality) of ovariectomy via colpotomy—a procedure in which a metal rod is inserted through an incision in the vaginal wall to sever the ovaries while the animal remains conscious. The BLM is pursuing these experiments even though the National Academy of Sciences warned the agency against it due to the risks of trauma and infection.

AWI and allies raised a significant public outcry that helped convince two major university research institutions to pull out of the project. We also went to court and, in November 2018, secured a preliminary injunction to block the BLM from proceeding. Despite this, and despite being thwarted in three previous attempts, the BLM announced in May of 2019 that the agency once again planned to perform the surgeries. AWI helped obtain sign-ons to a bipartisan letter from members of Congress to Interior Secretary Bernhardt denouncing the BLM’s proposal and calling for the agency to instead implement humane, scientifically supported, and cost-effective fertility control options such as immuncontraceptive vaccinations. As of year’s end, the experiments had not gone forward.

AWI is also fighting an unconscionable plan put forth this year by the US Forest Service to round up USFS-managed wild horses and make them available for slaughter. (For more on our efforts to block this through legislation, see the Government Affairs section.)
CRUEL TRAPPING
Around the globe, steel-jaw traps and snares are responsible for the suffering and painful deaths of many millions of wild animals every year. Despite the severe trauma caused by such devices, and the widespread opposition to their continued use, there has been until now no global network intent upon addressing their use in wildlife habitats.

To correct this shortcoming, AWI this year launched an ambitious program: the Partnership Against Cruel Traps and Snares (PACTS), an international collaboration among government wildlife agencies and wildlife advocacy groups, to be coordinated by AWI’s Dr. Bill Clark. An initial goal of PACTS will be to assist wildlife managers around the globe in thwarting the use of these devices by poachers. To that end, PACTS will facilitate the sharing of information among wildlife agencies concerning proven methods and emerging technologies for locating and disarming traps and snares.

WILDLIFE SERVICES
In California, the USDA’s Wildlife Services program annually kills thousands upon thousands of animals—including black bears, coyotes, mountain lions, muskrats, and multiple bird species—using indiscriminate traps, snares, and poisons and without assessing the ecological damage. In recent years, through education and legal action, AWI and allies have persuaded a number of California counties to end their association with Wildlife Services and investigate nonlethal alternatives to address human-wildlife conflicts. This year, we chalked up two more victories: Officials in Shasta and Siskiyou counties announced in July and August 2018, respectively, that they were suspending wildlife management contracts with the program.

CHRISTINE STEVENS WILDLIFE AWARDS
Seven individuals received AWI’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards this year. Established in 2006 and named in honor of AWI’s late founder and long-time president, the award provides grants of up to $15,000 to help develop humane methods of resolving conflicts between wild animals and humans, as well as less intrusive wildlife study techniques.

This year’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Award winners:
+ Dr. James Anderson of West Virginia University for developing noninvasive genetic and environmental DNA methods for monitoring salamander distribution
+ Stacy Cotey of Michigan Tech University for analyzing tracks left by northern river otters to monitor behaviors, population numbers, and genetic diversity
+ Dr. Maureen Murray of the Tufts University Wildlife Clinic for determining accurate methods of screening red-tailed hawks to document exposure to dangerous anticoagulant rodenticides
+ Dr. Susan Parks of Syracuse University for using noninvasive digital acoustic tags to quantify and evaluate close encounters between Florida manatees and boats
+ Christine Proctor of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology for using drones to capture thermal images of threatened eastern massasauga rattlesnakes to better evaluate the population
+ Dr. Tracey Tuberville of the University of Georgia for studying the dispersal, health, and survival of formerly captive gopher tortoises to determine whether they can be released into the wild
+ Dr. Andrew Von Duyke of the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management for monitoring polar bears of the Alaska-Chukotka subpopulation by sampling environmental DNA from snow tracks
ANIMAL ABUSE + INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

AWI continued our work to foster awareness of the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence, thus helping to facilitate coordinated responses and timely interventions to better protect both people and animals. In October 2018, AWI’s Dr. Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney gave a presentation entitled “The Relationship Between Animal Cruelty and Violence Prevention and Reduction” for the International Criminology Conference in Washington, DC. In February, AWI hosted a meeting for key policy leaders, researchers in the field of pet abuse and domestic violence, and representatives from domestic violence advocacy groups to discuss next steps for research in the field and how to use that research to shape policy and programs. Nancy and Mary Lou also authored, along with three others, an article that was published in the May 2019 edition of the journal *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* entitled “Animal Abuse as a Type of Trauma: Lessons for Human and Animal Service Professionals.”

In March 2019, AWI sponsored workshops in Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, Ohio, on “Cross Reporting for Humane and Human Services: A Species-Spanning Approach to Safer Families and Communities.” These daylong programs drew social workers, humane agents, veterinarians, police, sheriffs, and prosecutors to discuss the relationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence and the importance of cross reporting. The workshops described research, new strategies, public policy responses, and programs to prevent and respond to family violence and animal abuse. Following the workshops, many of the participants indicated a commitment to incorporating the new information into their practice and helping to launch the multidisciplinary teams needed to facilitate cross reporting and cross training.

In September 2018, AWI published Representing Domestic Violence Survivors with Pets in Ohio: A Manual for Domestic Violence Attorneys & Advocates Helping Survivors Obtain Protection Orders. The manual is the latest in a series that AWI is producing for states across the country to enable attorneys and advocates to better assist pet-owning domestic violence survivors. The manuals summarize the state-specific laws regarding protection orders, offer step-by-step instructions on how to include pets on such orders, and provide guidance on where to go for additional help. AWI also continues to update and expand its Safe Havens Mapping Project for Pets of Domestic Violence Victims—a nationwide directory of sheltering services that assist victims of domestic violence in placing their beloved companion animals out of harm’s way as they seek safety for themselves.

ANIMAL CRUELTY CRIMES AND ENFORCEMENT

AWI works closely with the law enforcement community to address animal cruelty crimes. In March 2019, AWI once again sponsored the annual meeting of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, in Washington, DC. Nancy Blaney continues to serve as co-chair of the council, which plans the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference—the primary training event each year for prosecutors, law enforcement and animal control officers, veterinarians, and related disciplines to address crimes against animals.

This year, Nancy joined the newly formed Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee of the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) and the National Animal Care and Control Association’s Training Advisory Board. The first meeting of the Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee took place in February 2019 at the NSA’s Winter
Conference in Washington, DC. At this meeting, Mary Lou Randour gave a presentation on the importance of reporting animal cruelty crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the National Incident-Based Reporting System, or “NIBRS.” (For more on reporting animal cruelty crimes through NIBRS, see The Schweitzer Medal section below.)

THE SCHWEITZER MEDAL
In 1951, Dr. Albert Schweitzer gave AWI permission to create a medal bearing his name and honoring his legacy, to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare. Since its inception, the Schweitzer Medal has been awarded to 47 individuals, including members of Congress, foreign presidents and dignitaries, law enforcement officials, reporters, and scientists. On March 7, 2019, AWI awarded the Schweitzer Medal to John Thompson in acknowledgment of his extraordinary efforts to increase law enforcement’s recognition of animal cruelty as a crime of violence and its response to those crimes.

Thompson has had a long and storied career in law enforcement. He spent 14 years in the US Army as a military police officer, canine handler, and military intelligence officer, and later served as chief of police for Mount Rainier, Maryland, assistant sheriff of Prince George’s County, Maryland, deputy executive director and chief operating officer of the National Sheriffs’ Association, and chair of the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council. Thompson claims his epiphany regarding animal cruelty crimes, after many years in law enforcement, came when his daughter wrote an article on the link between animal abuse and other violent behavior.

Thompson worked with AWI to convince the FBI in 2014 to add animal cruelty crimes as a distinct category in the National Incident-Based Reporting System. Thompson was a longtime member of the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board, and his advocacy for this key policy change proved to be the tipping point. The FBI formally began collecting such data in 2016. Since then, Thompson and AWI have worked with law enforcement officials around the country to help them report this vital data, which helps policymakers better understand the scope and nature of animal cruelty crimes (including their link to other criminal activity) and formulate effective responses. Thompson also helped convince the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider animal abuse as an important data element in the National Violent Death Reporting System.

In January 2019, Thompson became executive director of the National Animal Care and Control Association, which seeks to strengthen the animal care and control profession through training, networking, and advocacy. Prior to this, he helped found the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals—a multidisciplinary coalition of local, state, and national organizations that seeks to reduce violence against animals and raise awareness of its link to human violence. He also helped found the NSA’s National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse, which assists officers in understanding and enforcing animal cruelty laws. He helped develop an app for law enforcement to access state cruelty laws and other resources, as well as a training curriculum on nonlethal responses to dog encounters.

AWI is grateful to John Thompson for all his work on behalf of animals, and pleased to make him the latest recipient of the Schweitzer Medal.
Even as AWI worked to expand protections for animals this year, we had to devote significant energy to preventing the wholesale demolition of existing federal laws, regulations, and policies that benefit animals. Among the laws hit especially hard by the current administration are the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA). To an unprecedented degree, private industry is being protected from the law rather than animals being protected by the law.

AWI played a significant role in passage of the AWA in 1966 and the HPA in 1970. The AWA sets modest but vitally important care standards for animals used by the following industries: breeders, dealers, exhibitors, research, handlers, and carriers. The HPA was passed to stop the brutal practice of intentionally inflicting pain on the front legs of Tennessee walking horses and similar breeds to produce an exaggerated high-stepping gait prized at competitions. Enforcement of these two laws is the responsibility of the US Department of Agriculture’s Animal Care unit.

Since February 2017, Washington Post reporter Karin Brulliard has been using key information supplied by AWI to expose Animal Care’s gutting of inspections and enforcement—the heart of the AWA. Her article of October 18, 2018, “USDA’s enforcement of animal welfare laws plummeted in 2018, agency figures show,” quoted AWI’s Eric Kleiman on the terrible state of the AWA: “We’ve never seen this kind of attack on the fundamental tenets of the most basic precepts of a law that has enjoyed long-standing bipartisan and public support for over 50 years.”

Subsequently, Eric and AWI’s Sydney Hearst engaged in a painstaking dive into the records to produce a detailed analysis encompassing years of USDA inspection citation data. The department had thrown up a significant roadblock to this analysis—changing the way it presents the information on its website and redacting thousands of licensee names, thus obscuring the data. But our team cracked the code and exposed the meteoric drop in citations and concomitant enforcement actions against AWA scofflaws. Our revelatory analysis provided the basis for Brulliard’s February 2019 article on the issue, “The USDA is issuing far fewer citations to zoos, labs and breeders for animal welfare violations.”

To preserve the integrity of these key laws we also arranged two meetings—one addressing the AWA and another on the HPA—between stakeholders and USDA personnel. At these meetings, attended by the Animal Care deputy administrator and other Animal Care staff, we outlined and strenuously protested the specific ways in which the USDA was failing its mandate to protect animals under the law.

To further pressure the administration, AWI and allies worked with legislators to get strong language in a House-passed funding bill (see Government Affairs section) directing the USDA to enforce the AWA and HPA and restore compliance records to its website. In addition, we campaigned for the PAST Act, a bill to strengthen HPA oversight. We helped secure more than 290 cosponsors on the bill—ensuring that it would proceed to the floor for a vote. (It passed the House following the close of the fiscal year.)
AWI fosters species-appropriate housing, compassionate care and handling, and minimization of fear, distress, and pain for animals in research. We promote research methods that reduce the total number of animals subject to experimentation.

**REFINEMENT DATABASE**

In July 2018, AWI welcomed a new Laboratory Animal Advisor, Dr. Joanna Makowska. Joanna has a PhD in laboratory animal welfare science and is an adjunct professor in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia.

Once on board, Joanna took on an extensive updating of AWI’s Refinement Database. This database, which curates published scientific articles and books on topics related to the refinement of housing, husbandry, and care of animals in research, is a valuable resource for those seeking new and established strategies to improve the welfare of these animals. Joanna added more than 800 new entries, for a total of nearly 7,000 citations.

**SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

At the end of October 2018, AWI’s Cathy Liss, Brittany Bailey, and Joanna Makowska attended the annual American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting, held in Baltimore, Maryland. This meeting provides a golden opportunity to promote better treatment of animals in research. The AWI staff members attended scientific sessions and hosted an exhibit showcasing our many publications on refinement in the care and handling of animals in research. As in past years, these publications proved popular among the 4,500 meeting attendees from the academic community, research institutions, government, and industry.

AWI was involved in a number of scientific meetings in the spring as well. In early April 2019, Joanna gave a presentation on the welfare benefits of playpens for animals in research at the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Conference in Bellevue, Washington.

At the end of May, Joanna hosted an AWI exhibit at the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science’s Annual Symposium in Richmond, British Columbia, and presented her research on welfare-friendly housing for rats and mice at a scientific session titled “What Can Animals Tell Us About Animal Care?” The session was sponsored by the Canadian Council on Animal Care, Canada’s national organization responsible for setting, maintaining, and overseeing the implementation of standards for animal care in science throughout the country. And in early June, Cathy hosted an AWI exhibit at the 6th Annual Symposium on Social Housing of Laboratory Animals, held at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland.

**LAREF**

Many valuable online conversations continued on AWI’s Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF), where animal technicians, animal care personnel, researchers, veterinarians, and students share their experiences and exchange information about best animal care practices. Forum members sought ideas for creative enrichment for rabbits, macaques, rats, guinea pigs, hamsters, degu, ferrets, frogs, and sheep. Other topics discussed this year included best group housing practices for mice, macaques, and marmosets; play opportunities for pigs and dogs; housing recommendations for squirrel monkeys and pigs; standardized training protocols for new personnel; best handling methods for mice; and strategies for preventing food competition among pair-housed macaques.

Over the course of this fiscal year, AWI reported on the results of research projects that received funding via AWI’s Refinement Grant program:

A research team led by Dr. Brianna Gaskill at Purdue University sought to determine a “tickling” dosage for rats
that is both effective and time-efficient. Rat tickling, a type of handling that mimics rat play, is known to improve laboratory rat welfare, but existing protocols are time consuming and tickling is therefore rarely done in practice. The results showed that a mere 45 seconds of tickling—15 seconds per day for three days—could improve the welfare of laboratory rats.

Mr. Bret Tallent and Dr. Jonathan Lifshitz of the University of Arizona assessed whether adding dividers into standard male mouse cages reduced aggression (a common problem among standard-housed laboratory male mice) and improved other welfare indicators. The study found that adding partial dividers resulted in reduced aggression (including fewer bite wounds), lower anxiety, and greater weight gain. Dividers likely allowed mice to express natural submissive and escape behaviors, thus de-escalating aggressive events and improving welfare.

Dr. Angelika Rehrig et al. at the University of Rochester determined the food preference hierarchies of laboratory macaques using the Multiple Stimulus without Replacement preference assessment technique. Laboratory primates are sometimes trained to volunteer for various procedures, such as presenting their arm for an injection. Animals are rewarded for performing the desired behavior with food items that researchers assume the animals like, but determining what the animals actually prefer would be much more effective. The study found that macaques most preferred yogurt-covered raisins/peanuts and grapes and were least interested in dried apricots and plain peanuts.

This year, AWI provided a Refinement Grant to Dr. Rachel Dennis at the University of Maryland, who will investigate novel environmental enrichment strategies for laboratory-reared quail in order to improve their welfare. AWI also provided funding to Dr. Gaskill of Purdue for her work investigating how to reduce barriers to the implementation of established animal welfare enhancing techniques in a laboratory.

While some are studying ways to improve animal welfare in the laboratory, other research causes much animal suffering. In the winter 2018 issue of the AWI Quarterly, we called attention to invasive “risk behavior” research conducted by Veit Stuphorn of Johns Hopkins University, and how it was grossly mischaracterized in numerous press accounts published in September. The news stories described happy gambling monkeys who voluntarily played games while sitting in front of computer screens, made choices using their eyes, and were rewarded with juice when they won. In reality, these “happy” monkeys were immobilized in primate chairs with bars inserted into their ear canals and electrodes into their brains.

Though Stuphorn has repeatedly claimed the monkeys are “free to choose” by moving their eyes, this is virtually the only movement they can make because of the extreme restraint. It is not surprising that the news articles that followed a university press release failed to report these facts, because Stuphorn conspicuously failed to mention the chairing and head restraint in his multiple research papers funded by the National Institutes of Health. (Stuphorn has received over 4.9 million in tax dollars—with an additional NIH grant in 2019—for this highly invasive, deeply troubling, and ethically questionable research.)
AWI has been a leader, at both federal and state levels, in securing landmark laws aimed at shielding animals from cruelty and needless suffering. We work to ensure diligent enforcement of these laws and fight efforts to roll back hard-won animal protections.

One of the final acts of the 115th Congress was to pass the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018—the latest version of the extensive agricultural appropriations package (a.k.a. the “Farm Bill”) that must be approved every five years or so. This legislation had significant implications for animal welfare, particularly worrisome was the fact that several provisions in the version of the bill that passed the House of Representatives would have drastically scaled back animal protections.

AWI was actively engaged throughout the House-Senate conference committee negotiations. Our efforts—and the efforts of our members who joined our campaign and contacted their legislators—to turn back the most harmful provisions of the House bill were successful; moreover, we helped ensure that several very positive animal welfare measures from both House and Senate versions were included in the final Farm Bill signed into law in late December 2018.

One particular reason for celebration: a longtime AWI priority, the Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, was incorporated into the final bill. The PAWS Act expands resources to help domestic violence victims find shelter for themselves and their companion animals, while providing law enforcement agencies with additional tools to protect people and pets from abuse. Among other significant wins, the new law also establishes a nationwide ban on the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption and extends the Animal Welfare Act prohibition on animal fighting to US territories.

The conference committee thankfully rejected an insidious amendment sponsored by Rep. Steve King (R-IA) that would have prohibited any state from establishing animal welfare standards for products sold within its borders that are stricter than federal or another state’s standards. This would have upended, in one fell swoop, myriad state animal protection laws, including state bans on cramped battery cages for egg-laying hens, tail-docking of cattle, gestation crates, veal crates, and the sale of dogs from puppy mills.

Rejected language from the House version of the farm bill also would have weakened oversight of harmful pesticides and eroded key provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A concerted effort to hobble the ESA and other vital animal protection laws, unfortunately, persisted throughout the 115th Congress. AWI was involved in numerous efforts to counter this onslaught. We helped engineer the defeat of a package of dangerous bills put forward in the House that would have made it easier to remove ESA protections from listed species, deprived citizens of the right to challenge these actions in court, turned over species protection to state governments (some of which are openly hostile to wildlife protection), and even allowed the US Fish and Wildlife Service to throw out listing petitions when the agency decided there was a “backlog.” We also helped defeat similar anti-ESA riders in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

In January 2019, when the 116th Congress was sworn in, AWI staff members visited the offices of all freshmen representatives and senators to acquaint them with AWI and the pressing animal welfare issues before Congress. We have since worked with legislators on both sides of the aisle to introduce bills addressing horse slaughter, exotic pets, circus animals, predator control, shark finning, wildlife trafficking, bycatch, right whale entanglements, trophy hunting, and more.
After the US Forest Service made the shocking announcement that it planned to round up a thousand wild horses in California and make them available not only for adoption (as is traditional), but also for slaughter (which is unprecedented), we rallied public opposition and worked with members of Congress to add protections against the slaughter of wild horses in an appropriations “minibus” (HR 3055) that passed the House in late June 2019.

A number of other AWI-supported measures were added to HR 3055: Import permits are banned for elephant and lion trophies from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Funding is provided for efforts to protect North Atlantic right whales from fishing gear entanglements and prevent sea turtle bycatch. The US Department of Agriculture is directed to cite all noncompliances by regulated entities (e.g., dog breeders, zoos, and research labs) and restore all Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act inspection and enforcement records to its website. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is directed to ensure that state management plans include adequate protections and enforcement mechanisms for any species the agency proposes to delist from the ESA—this is of particular importance as the agency is moving aggressively to delist gray wolves across the contiguous 48 states. As of the fiscal year’s end, the bill awaited action in the Senate.

STATE LEGISLATURES

AWI was active in state legislatures and local governments across the country as well. One big victory concerns a bill—SB 241, sponsored by Senator Linda Holmes (D-Aurora)—we were able to get introduced into the Illinois legislature to ban the sale of animal-tested cosmetics in the state. AWI submitted testimony in support of the bill, which passed the Illinois Senate by a unanimous 53–0 vote and subsequently passed the House by a vote of 85–25. Following the end of the fiscal year, it was signed into law by Governor Pritzker.

We were instrumental in the defeat in the Washington legislature of an appropriations bill that would have required the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to kill the maximum number of sea lions and other pinnipeds permissible by federal law. We also helped introduce and rallied support for bills and city ordinances seeking to restrict or ban the use of circus animals, the keeping of exotic pets, wildlife trafficking, the sale of furs, the sale of foie gras, and cruel trapping and hunting methods.

INTERNATIONAL

AWI helped secure two huge international legislative victories for orcas this year. In June 2019, the Canadian Parliament passed the Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act (S-203) to end the public display of captive cetaceans in that country. Over the course of two years, AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose—who helped draft a similar groundbreaking law that passed in California in 2016—provided information and exhibits on the issue and testified in Parliament in favor of the bill, while advising individual legislators and local activists on strategies to ensure its passage.

That same month, Ecuador passed a law to prohibit trade in live cetaceans, meaning the country will remain dolphinarium-free. Naomi had visited Ecuador in April to rally support for the measure, giving presentations for the public at the Universidad Tecnologica Equinoccial and for legislators in the National Assembly of Ecuador.
The AWI Quarterly magazine is distributed to over 46,000 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 fiscal year.

**FALL 2018**  
Volume 67, Number 3

**These days, AWI’s Dr. Bill Clark is helping Kenya Wildlife Service pilots get equipment and training to watch over Kenya’s wildlife and dodge poacher gunfire. He’s working with local communities in Senegal to restore habitat and wildlife to the denuded Sahel region. For Clark, these are merely the latest adventures in a colorful career that stretches back decades. It includes a stint as chairman of Interpol’s Wildlife Crimes Group, where he coordinated operations that netted more than 1,000 arrests and tons of ivory and other contraband. Perhaps his proudest moment, however, came in 1999, when he authored a successful proposal to list all elephants on CITES Appendix I, effectively ending the legal international trade in elephant ivory.**

AWI has been monitoring international exports of farm animals and found that, over the last five years, more than 2.2 million farm animals were exported from the United States, about a quarter of them overseas by ship or plane. After several egregious incidents involving numerous animals suffering or dying en route, AWI petitioned the USDA to amend Federal Meat Inspection Act regulations to halt exports of animals who are too young, weak, or sick to travel. The USDA agreed, and the final rule went into effect in February 2016. Since that time, large-scale incidents appear to have been curtailed.

A team of scientists led by Dr. Thomas Hartung of the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing at Johns Hopkins University has developed a computer algorithm that can predict the toxicity of new chemicals better than standard animal tests. The algorithm relies on a database and software that enable them to map relationships between chemical structures and toxic properties, pinpoint new compounds on that map, and thereby predict whether a compound is likely to have toxic effects. The algorithm sequenced or outperformed the animal tests in six areas that account for nearly 60 percent of all such toxicity tests. This breakthrough has the potential to spare millions of animals from having to endure such testing.

The latest National Beef Quality Audit from the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association indicates a need for animal welfare improvements. The audit uncovered evidence that cattle are being transported to slaughter for periods longer than is allowed without rest under the Twenty-Eight Hour Law. Nearly one-quarter of cattle arriving at facilities appear to be lame. An examination of carcasses after slaughter revealed that a significant percentage of cattle arrive at facilities with major bruises—indicative of mishandling and poor processing facility design.

In July, observers at Iceland’s Hvalur fin whaling station noticed that a large whale being dragged up the slipway did not look like a fin whale—one of the usual targets of Icelandic whalers. This whale was a mottled grayish-blue color and had a dorsal fin of a different size and shape than a fin whale’s. A DNA analysis revealed the whale to be a rare hybrid blue-fin whale. AWI has called on the Icelandic government to report the killing of this hybrid whale as an infraction, and to ensure that products from the hybrid are not processed for export.

The North Carolina General Assembly gave final approval to a bill that restricts nuisance lawsuits against factory farms and other agricultural operations, overriding a veto by Gov. Roy Cooper. The law is a reaction to several lawsuits won by plaintiffs who have been negatively affected by the smell and environmental impact of nearby intensive hog farming operations. Lawmakers paint the law as a victory for local farmers, but in reality the act places profits of large corporations that treat animals and the environment poorly before the interests of ordinary North Carolina citizens and their property rights.

A study by Alyson Andreasen et al., published in the Journal of Wildlife Management earlier this year, examined the fate of cougars caught in steel-jaw leghold traps and lethal snares set for other furbearers, particularly bobcats. The results were grim. Within the study area, mortality as a result of accidental capture in traps was the second highest killer of adult cougars, behind only hunting. The authors called on regulatory oversight agencies to address the traumatic and often deadly impact of nontarget trapping on cougars.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is a wildlife haven that encompasses one of the world’s last remaining intact arctic tundra landscapes. The sanctity of ANWR’s fragile remaining intact arctic tundra landscapes.
WINTER 2018

Volume 67, Number 4

The beaver is a “keystone” species, as beaver ponds support thousands of other species. Occasionally though, these ponds flood human properties and cause serious damage. Traditionally, when this has occurred, beavers have been killed and their dams destroyed. The Beaver Institute, an organization that has received financial support from AWI, was established to help nonetheless resolve human conflicts with beavers. The Beaver Institute trains mitigation professionals, provides outreach and education materials to public and private landowners experiencing beaver conflicts, and works to increase public appreciation of the beaver’s critical role in creating wetland ecosystems.

A new law in Massachusetts strengthens penalties for animal cruelty and makes three other significant changes: (1) It makes animal sexual abuse a new offense. (2) It adds committing an animal cruelty crime, and its illegal abuse of children, to the list of crimes for a finding of “dangerousness”—thereby allowing for an order of pretrial detention or release on conditions. (3) It specifically permits personnel of agencies serving children and families, the elderly, and disabled persons to report suspected animal abuse, while conversely designating animal control officers as mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse, and abuse of disabled persons.

The crusel shark fin trade continues to decimate shark populations worldwide. Each year, AWI audits its online list of restaurants serving shark fin. During the 2017 audit, AWI found a Texas restaurant that was serving shark fin soup despite a state ban on such products. We notified Texas wildlife enforcement officials and, subsequently, the restaurant was charged and pleaded guilty to illegally serving shark fin. Officer Michael Stevens, the police officer who arrested the restaurant for AWI’s shark fin campaign, inspired this prosecutor to include, as part of the plea deal, that the restaurant be required to make a donation to AWI for its shark protection work.

With a current population of only 74, southern resident orcas are in crisis. Their primary prey, Chinook salmon, are endangered, and the whales are starving. In March, Washington Governor Jay Inslee created the Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery Task Force to recommend actions to save the orcas. The task force, however, ignoring both science and the public will, recommended the lethal removal of pinnipeds within the Columbia River Basin. It failed to mention the one thing that would provide the greatest benefit to both orcas and salmon: strategic dam removals along the Lower Snake River.

The Search Dog Foundation and K9 for Warriors are among the nonprofit organizations giving shelter dogs a second chance by training them as working dogs. Such dogs have shown their mettle in many arena: search and rescue, contraband or explosive detection, conservation, therapy, disability support, and more. One such dog, Ranger, is employed by 3M Communities in Minnesota to provide comfort to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse as they work with police and courts to reveal details of their trauma. For the rescued dogs, the programs provide a path out of the shelter into loving homes and better, more stimulating lives.

In August 2018, AWI filed an arcane curfew brief in support of a New York law restricting trade in ivory and rhinoceros horn. The Art and Antique Dealers League of America is challenging this law as unconstitutional. AWI’s brief set forth four primary reasons for the law: (1) a catastrophic, unprecedented poaching crisis, (2) the emergence of ivory trafficking as a massive enterprise dominated by organized crime, (3) the role of elephants, rhinoceros, and terrorist organizations, (4) New York plays a prominent role in the US ivory trade.

Three years ago, the National Institutes of Health announced it would no longer support experimentation on chimpanzees and that all its chimps would be eligible for retirement to a sanctuary. At present, 257 are still being held at three research facilities, while these facilities seek to expedite the retirement process (and continue receiving funds for the chimps’ care) by labeling some as “at risk” due to infirmity. The NIH is letting an “independent” veterinary panel (actually consisting of NIH personnel) make the final decision on relocation. In fact, there is no evidence that a move would be risky. These poor chimps deserve to be moved with their social groups.

Members of the United Nations have begun negotiations on the first treaty to manage and protect biodiversity in international waters. For the past several years, UN members have enlisted with the issue of high seas governance and have held numerous preliminary negotiations—with AWI participating in several of these sessions. Formal negotiations finally began in September 2018. Some of the key issues debated during a two-week meeting included access to genetic marine resources, the need for robust environmental assessments before engaging in potentially harmful activities, and the creation of marine protected areas.

At this year’s meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, several presentations focused on solving the issue of aggression in group-housed mice. Researchers from Stanford University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences found that aggression is higher in mice housed on corncob bedding compared to aspen chip bedding. Previous research has shown that corncob bedding—which is widely used—is also associated with other welfare concerns, such as lower sleep quality in rats.

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

Volume 68, Number 1

A recent discussion on AWI’s Laboratory Animal Research and Enrichment Forum focused on effective enrichment to improve the lives of rabbits in research. A number of caregivers chimed in concerning which toys and treats get rave reviews from their charges. One person cautioned, “A major factor in enrichment is novelty; rabbits get bored easily so making sure you are varying your enrichment categories.” More than one person touted papaya tablets as a favorite food treat. One caregiver indicated that small cardboard boxes with hay or treats work well, rabbits love to destroy stuff and chew up cardboard.”

A number of bipartisan bills that benefit animals have been introduced in the House of Representatives. Among them are the Pet Safety and Protection Act to protect pets and strays from being sold for use in experimentation by unscrupulous Class B (random source) dealers; the Prevent All Soring Tack Act to outlaw the practice of intentionally inflicting pain on a horse’s hooves and front limbs to produce an exaggerated gait in competitions; the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act to close a loophole in current law that allows the making of “crush videos”; and the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act to prohibit the sale, purchase, and possession of shark fins in the United States.

On March 3, customs officials in the Philippines seized 529 live turtles who were found wrapped in duct tape and stuffed inside four suitcases in Manila’s international airport. The suitcases had arrived on a flight from Hong Kong but were discarded before security checks. Officials say the animals were worth about US$78,000 on the black market. Four species were found in the abandoned luggage; red-eared slider turtle, Indian star tortoise, red-footed tortoise, and African spurred tortoise—the latter three classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Dolphinaris Arizona, a swim-with-dolphins facility near Scottsdale, opened with eight dolphins in October 2016. AWI and other groups alerted the proprietors and the public to problems in the abandoned desert was a bad idea—aside from the relentless sun, desert air carries pathogens unfamiliar to dolphins. Our fears were well founded. Four of the dolphins have died and, in late February 2019, the remaining animals were moved to a sea pen (unfortunately, in a polluted bay) at Coral World Ocean Park in the US Virgin Islands. Dolphinaris, meanwhile, shut down its ill-conceived Arizona dolphin feature.

In January, the Healthy Students Amendment Act (HSAA), which incorporates the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) into law, passed in Washington, DC. The GFPP calls for public institutions to (I) obtain animal products from suppliers whose higher-welfare practices are
the crime of "agricultural production facility fraud" after several undercover investigations revealed broker cruelty to animals. The incidents included farm workers hurling small pigs onto a concrete floor, beating pigs with metal rods, and abusing hens and chicks. Instead of addressing the conduct of workers, however, the Iowa legislature enacted to criminalize the conduct of undercover investigators. But the court found that the law infringed on protected speech. Similar laws have been struck down in Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

At the end of 2018, Hawaii became just the second state (after New Jersey) to prohibit the use of exotic animals in traveling shows. Exotic animals exploited by circuses are subject to nonstop travel in cramped cages, forced to perform unnatural tricks in front of noisy crowds, and trained using abusive methods. A growing list of jurisdictions have taken steps to end this abuse. California and Rhode Island have banned bullhooks, and Illinois and New York have banned the use of elephants in traveling shows, and nearly 150 local communities have enacted some version of these prohibitions.

Hardy Jones, who died in December, was a renowned videographer who used his warm and kind personality, to introduce the public to the beauty of dolphins and their ocean habitats—as well as to expose those who hurt and exploit them. His work caught the attention of AWI’s international team of undercover investigators. AWI helped coordinate and draft letters from an international coalition of whale biologists that urged the Russian government to stop capturing free ranging orcas in the Sea of Okhotsk for sale to marine parks abroad—particularly in China—and to free dozens of orcas and belugas captured in the summer of 2018 and held by companies that have come to be known as “whale jail” in Nakhodka, in Russia’s Far East. Substantial progress had been made on both these fronts by late 2018, with the Russian government establishing a moratorium on neworca captures and discussing a plan to release the whales currently held.

The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report in March 2019 concluding that the red wolf (Canis rufus) is a taxonomically distinct species. In support of this finding, the report (commissioned at the behest of Congress) identified morphological, behavioral, dietary, and genetic differences between red wolves, grey wolves, and coyotes. This finding is a key conservation victory—those seeking to strip Endangered Species Act protections from red wolves have long argued that the animal is a coyote subspecies or a grey wolf-coyote hybrid that does not merit an ESA listing.

Provided that information on animal abuse would form a new category in a federal database,王爷王爷 would ensure that abuse was punished by state child protection agencies. Weighing this additional factor can help identify those who are subject to both child and animal abuse or suggest when more specialized intervention is needed.

AWI helped coordinate and draft letters from an international coalition of whale biologists that urged the Russian government to stop capturing free ranging orcas in the Sea of Okhotsk for sale to marine parks abroad—particularly in China—and to free dozens of orcas and belugas captured in the summer of 2018 and held by companies that have come to be known as “whale jail” in Nakhodka, in Russia’s Far East. Substantial progress had been made on both these fronts by late 2018, with the Russian government establishing a moratorium on neworca captures and discussing a plan to release the whales currently held.

Mice have a strong preference to nest away from their own waste, and mice in laboratories should be housed in a system of cages that allows them to segregate space into clean and dirty areas, according to work led by researchers at the University of British Columbia. Current standard laboratory housing for mice consists of small, simple cages where mice are in constant contact with their waste. Compared to mice housed in such standard cages, mice housed in the interconnected cages expressed more behavioral indicators of good welfare and were less disturbed by weekly husbandry procedures.

As of mid-May 2019, 48 gray whales had been found dead along the coasts of California, Washington, and Alaska. Scientists who examined carcasses think the deaths are likely due to malnourishment caused by a lack of amphipods—tiny shrimp-like crustaceans the whales feed on. Amphipods are being impacted by a decrease in algae as ice retreats in warming Arctic waters, where most Eastern North Pacific gray whales spend their summers feeding.

As companion animals become infirm due to age or illness, we all want to give them the highest quality of life in the time they have left. The Quality of Life Scale, developed by Dr. Alice Villalobos, a renowned veterinarian specializing in the care of terminally ill pets, can help. The scale examines seven key quality of life factors: hunger, hydration, hygiene, happiness, mobility, and, finally, "more good days than bad." The scale offers guidance on how best to lovingly care for infirm animals and, importantly, how to read the signs telling us it is time to let go and not prolong their suffering.

A highly coordinated international operation targeting the illegal trade in reptiles has resulted in the largest reptile bust ever to date. Coordinated by Interpol and Europol, “Operation Blizzard” in April and May 2019 involved law enforcement agencies from 22 countries, including the United States. Some 4,400 live reptiles were seized and 12 arrests have been made thus far out of nearly 200 suspects identified. The live reptiles seized included 20 crocodiles and alligators, 2,700 turtles and tortoises, and 1,500 snakes, lizards, and geckos. One of the biggest busts led to a number of live parrots, owls, falcons, and swans, as well as elephant ivory, bush meat, and products derived from reptiles.
AWI staff organized and participated in a Save the Vaquita rally outside the Mexican Embassy; Kate O’Connell met with César Murillo Juárez, secretariat of environment and natural resources, and other embassy officials to discuss measures to protect the vaquita; July 5

Kate O’Connell met with Marine Stewardship Council CEO Rupert Howe and other senior staff to discuss sustainable fishery certification standards with respect to cetacean bycatch and shark finning, and met with Dr. Callum Roberts of the University of York and members of the Maka Stewardship Council coalition to discuss strategies for improving the rigor of MSC certification standards; London, UK; July 6–7

J. D. Schubert participated in the 30th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee; Geneva, Switzerland; July 15–22

Joanna Grossman attended the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Legislative Summit to speak with lawmakers about the cruelty inherent in the horse slaughter trade; Los Angeles, CA; July 30–August 2

Joanna Grossman participated in a training and seminar at Days End Farm Horse Rescue on identifying and investigating cases of equine cruelty, abuse, and neglect; Woodbine, MD, August 22–23

Sue Fisher, Kate O’Connell, and J. D. Schubert participated in the 67th meeting of the International Whaling Commission; Florianópolis, Brazil; August 31–September 15

Mary Lou Randour gave a presentation on reporting animal cruelty crimes; Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs Conference; Colorado Springs, CO; September 5–7

Kate Dylewsky and Nancy Blaney attended, and Nancy gave comments at the National Academy of Sciences’ “Assessing the Taxonomic Status of the Red Wolf and the Mexican Gray Wolf” public meeting; September 13

Joanna Grossman helped organize and gave a presentation on federal legislation regarding equine welfare at the Horses for Horses Coalition Conference; Orlando, FL; September 20–23

Sue Fisher and J. D. Schubert participated in the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee; Sochi, Russia; October 1–5

Joanna Grossman gave a presentation before the BLM’s National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board on ways to improve the BLM’s management of wild horses; Salt Lake City, UT; October 11

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney gave a presentation entitled “The Relationship Between Animal Cruelty and Violence Prevention and Reduction”; International Criminality Conference; October 12

Bill Clark met with Noeline Raondry Rakotoraivo, chief of the UNESCO Section on Biosphere Reserves, to discuss AWI’s wildlife reintroduction and habitat restoration efforts in Senegal, Paris, France; October 15

AWI board of directors meetings; October 25, 2018; April 12 and June 28, 2019

Joanna Makowska attended scientific sessions and Cathy Luis and Brittany Bailey distributed AWI books and other materials on improving the housing, handling, and care of animals in research; 69th American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting; Baltimore, MD; October 28–November 1

Regina Terlau-Benford hosted an AWI booth on humane education; Science Teachers Association of Texas’s Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching; Fort Worth, TX; November 1–3

Dena Jones attended sessions and met with researchers and government officials regarding the most humane slaughter and euthanasia methods for various farm animal species; American Veterinary Medical Association Humane Endings Symposium; Chicago, IL; November 2–4

Mary Lou Randour, Nancy Blaney, and AWI board member Caroline Griffin participated in a panel discussion on the link between animal cruelty and human violence and on animal cruelty laws and court decisions; Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ 8th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference; Louisville, KY; November 7–9

Joanna Grossman participated in the Botstiber Institute’s Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Fertility Control Workshop; Albuquerque, NM; November 8

Naomi Rose participated in a panel discussion on captive cetaceans; Performing Animal Welfare Society’s 2018 International Captive Wildlife Conference; Burbank, CA; November 9–11

Naomi Rose gave a lecture on the impacts of captivity on orcas; University of Redlands, Redlands, CA; November 12

Sue Fisher met with officials from the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss Japan’s CITES
Kate Dylewsky participated in a panel discussion on careers in animal welfare policymaking at George Washington University, November 27

Sue Fisher attended presentations on whaling policy and discussed whaling issues with other NGO representatives; Symposium on Whaling Culture, Osaka, Japan; November 30–December 2

Kate Dylewsky participated in the Good Care to Great Welfare workshop sponsored by the Detroit Zoological Society’s Center for Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare and Ethics, Detroit, MI; December 3–7

Joanna Grossman attended the National Sheriffs’ Association’s Legislative Conference of State Legislatures’ Capitol Forum to speak with state legislators about the cruelty inherent in the horse meat trade; London, UK; November 16

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour attended the National Sheriffs’ Association Winter Conference; Nancy participated in the NSA’s Animal Cruelty and Abuse Conference inaugural meeting, at which Mary Lou gave a presentation on the importance of recording animal cruelty crimes in the FBI’s NIBRS database; Nancy and Mary Lou participated in a meeting of the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals, February 10

Bill Clark met with John Waithaka, chair of the Kenya Wildlife Services; Bill met with John Waithaka and representatives of the Kenya Wildlife Services; Charles Musyoki, KWS acting director general, and other KWS senior officials to discuss AWI support for ranger training and participation in the Partnership Against Cruel Traps and Snares; coordinated flight safety and proficiency training for KWS Aoling pilots; and spoke at ceremonies for KWS officers and pilots who completed ranger training; Nairobi, Kenya; February 15–26

Kate Dylewsky gave a presentation on the Endangered Species Act and climate change; House of Representatives Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition meeting; February 22

Johanna Hamburger and Kate Dylewsky participated in a panel discussion entitled “Federalism in the Elephant Conservation Context: Federal and State Schemes to Combat the Ivory Trade”; Public Interest Environmental Law Conference; Eugene, OR; February 28–March 3

Cathy Liss, Dena Jones, Nancy Blaney, and Susan Millward hosted a meeting with animal advocates from China as part of the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program; March 5

Nancy Blaney, Mary Lou Randour, and AWI board member Caroline Griffin participated in a meeting of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, which Nancy co-chairs; at this meeting, Caroline Griffin presented the Schweitzer Medal to John Thompson; March 7–8

Naomi Rose gave a presentation to launch the 5th edition of The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity; ITB Berlin travel industry trade conference; Berlin, Germany; March 8

Vicki Desiner (AWI representative) facilitated workshops entitled Cross Reporting for Human and Humane Services: A Species-Spanning Approach to Safer Families and Communities; Nancy Blaney participated in the Columbus workshop; Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, OH; March 26–29

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on the impacts of captivity on cetaceans; The American Cetacean Society Student Coalition’s “Cetacea: A Multidisciplinary Approach” Symposium; Madison, WI; March 28

Joanna Makowska staffed an AWI exhibit and gave a presentation on the benefits of using playpens for animals in research; Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research’s 2019 IACUC Conference; Belmont, WA; April 2–3

Naomi Rose gave presentations on the welfare of dolphins in captivity at the Universitat Tecnològica Equin込む and before the National Assembly; Quito, Ecuador; April 3–4

Naomi Rose participated in a roundtable discussion on the fate of Taiji, the last dolphin at the Seoul Zoo; Seoul, South Korea; April 10

Regina Terlau-Benford hosted an AWI booth on humane education, National Science Teachers Association National Conference; St. Louis, MO; April 11–13

Johanna Hamburger participated in a panel discussion at Cornell Law School on careers in animal welfare and met with Akua Ayikoe, Cornell Law School’s assistant dean for public service, to discuss AWI’s internship program; Ithaca, NY; April 12

Naomi Rose participated in a panel discussion at Cornell Law School on careers in animal law at Georgetown Law School; April 16

Nancy Blaney participated in a panel discussion on animal welfare legal issues and lobbying strategies; Animal Law Committee of the NYC Bar Association’s “Animal Law Lobbying 101: Getting Political for Animals” event; New York, NY; April 18

Cathy Liss, Nancy Blaney, and Kate Dylewsky participated in an AWI-organized meeting between animal protection organizations and Bernadette Juarez, USDA Animal Care deputy administrator, and other Animal Care staff; Riverdale, MD; April 24

Nancy Blaney was the keynote speaker at the Texas Humane Legislation Network’s Laws for Paws symposium; Austin, TX; April 26

Cathy Liss and Nadia Adawi met with Louis Nel, executive director, and Kim Doyle, chief operating officer, of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control regarding rabies control in dogs; April 29

D.J. Schubert and representatives from other animal protection organizations met with staff from the office of Governor Murphy regarding deer hunting and population control legislation; Trenton, NJ; April 30

Naomi Rose participated in the IWC Scientific Committee meeting and served as rapporteur for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sanctuaries and the Sub-committee on Whalingwatch; Nairobi, Kenya; May 7–22

Dena Jones, Erin Thompson, and Joanna Grossman hosted a meeting on farm animal welfare with EU food safety and animal welfare officials as part of the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program; May 16

Joanna Makowska staffed an AWI exhibit and gave a presentation on the housing needs of laboratory rodents; National Meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science; Richmond, BC, Canada; May 26–28

Dena Jones attended the fourth annual Dairy Cattle Welfare Symposium; Orlando, FL; May 29

Naomi Rose gave presentations on the fate of Taiji, the last dolphin at the Seoul Zoo; Seoul, South Korea; May 7–22

Naomi Rose gave public presentations on The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity and Ocean Theme Parks: A Look Inside China’s Growing Captive Cetacean Industry reports; Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, China; June 6–14

Joanna Grossman spoke at a congressional briefing on the Horseracing Integrity Act, a bill to create stringent and uniform drug and testing standards for the horseracing industry; June 13

Mary Lou Randour participated in meetings of the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals and the National Sheriffs’ Association’s Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee during the NSA Annual Conference; Louisville, KY; June 14–19

Joanna Makowska gave a lecture on “A Good Life for Laboratory Rodents”; Charles River Short Course; Carlsbad, CA; June 24–26

Dena Jones and Erin Thompson met with Agnès Poirier, deputy agricultural attaché at the French Embassy, and gave a presentation on emerging issues in US farm animal welfare; June 27
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES +
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

REVENUES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - Foundations and trusts</td>
<td>$857,076</td>
<td>$884,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>2,258,548</td>
<td>1,649,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Memberships and other</td>
<td>1,911,176</td>
<td>1,826,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- In-kind</td>
<td>28,884</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenants net rental income</td>
<td>93,384</td>
<td>66,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of publications and reports</td>
<td>1,111</td>
<td>1,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend income</td>
<td>112,331</td>
<td>90,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>27,613</td>
<td>19,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities</td>
<td>93,580</td>
<td>444,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total unrestricted revenues and other support | 5,383,703| 5,023,369|

NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction of program restrictions</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger L Stevens Publication Fund</td>
<td>19,140</td>
<td>35,669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total net assets released from restrictions    | 39,640   | 35,669   |

Total unrestricted revenues and other support | 5,423,343| 5,059,038|

EXPENSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program service</td>
<td>3,766,371</td>
<td>3,264,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>297,738</td>
<td>261,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>65,319</td>
<td>54,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total expenses before depreciation             | 4,129,428| 3,580,371|

Increase in unrestricted net assets            | 1,293,915| 1,478,667|

CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(39,640)</td>
<td>(35,669)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>(39,640)</td>
<td>(35,669)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS                         | 1,254,275| 1,442,998|

NET ASSETS - beginning of year                 | 14,810,442| 13,367,444|

NET ASSETS - end of year                       | $16,064,717| $14,810,442|

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Mgmt &amp; General</th>
<th>Fund-Raising</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$1,462,307</td>
<td>$115,515</td>
<td>$26,896</td>
<td>$1,604,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance</td>
<td>115,376</td>
<td>9,510</td>
<td>2,102</td>
<td>126,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits</td>
<td>136,058</td>
<td>14,568</td>
<td>2,632</td>
<td>153,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan</td>
<td>33,311</td>
<td>2,628</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>36,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>52,260</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>1,660</td>
<td>54,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWI Quarterlies</td>
<td>237,416</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,394</td>
<td>239,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)</td>
<td>108,109</td>
<td>2,222</td>
<td>12,252</td>
<td>122,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, writing, and editing</td>
<td>30,364</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>500,009</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>500,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, meetings, and travel</td>
<td>211,399</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>212,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)</td>
<td>64,739</td>
<td>1,291</td>
<td>2,632</td>
<td>68,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies</td>
<td>61,943</td>
<td>13,551</td>
<td>2,632</td>
<td>75,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>164,356</td>
<td>28,962</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>193,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships and subscriptions</td>
<td>42,605</td>
<td>11,292</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>54,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>354,488</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>354,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet services</td>
<td>56,276</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>12,424</td>
<td>68,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schweitzer Award</td>
<td>5,293</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy costs</td>
<td>65,501</td>
<td>37,412</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>103,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,854</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses before depreciation</td>
<td>3,701,810</td>
<td>291,282</td>
<td>64,602</td>
<td>4,057,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>64,561</td>
<td>6,456</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>71,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>$3,766,371</td>
<td>$297,738</td>
<td>$65,319</td>
<td>$4,129,428</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
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Staff Attorney, Farm Animal Program
Dana Tiffard
Writer/Editor

REQUESTS
If you would like to help ensure 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.