



Animal Welfare Institute

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Animal Welfare Institute

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

Our Vision

A world where no animal suffers because of humans.

Our Mission

The Animal Welfare Institute is dedicated to alleviating animal suffering caused by people. We seek to improve the welfare of animals everywhere: in agriculture, in commerce, in our homes and communities, in research, and in the wild.

What We Do

Through the lens of animal welfare, we work to protect animals from suffering and/or extinction that result from human activities, including the following:

- Use of animals for food, clothing, health products, experimentation, education, entertainment, companionship, or other purposes
- Means used to breed, raise, capture, manage, transport, or kill them
- Cruelty to or neglect of individual animals
- Degradation and destruction of habitat



INSIDE

Equines	: 2
Companion Animals	: 4
Humane Education	: 6
Farmed Animals	: 8
Government Affairs	: 10
Marine Wildlife	: 12
Terrestrial Wildlife	: 14
Animals in Laboratories	: 16
AWI Quarterly	: 19
Financials	: 24



AWI seeks stronger protections against all forms of abuse, mistreatment, and neglect of equines, both wild and domestic. We campaign to end the slaughter of American horses and promote humane management techniques that allow wild equines to remain with their family bands on the range.

Equines

Horse Soring

In May, the US Department of Agriculture published a final rule to end the cruel practice of horse soring (deliberately injuring legs and hooves to produce an exaggerated high-stepping gait) at Tennessee walking horse shows. AWI had pushed for regulatory reform for years—submitting detailed comments on the proposed regulations, convening stakeholder meetings with USDA officials, analyzing enforcement records and data, producing articles and op-eds, running a national ad campaign on the need for new regulations, and engaging hundreds of federal lawmakers and thousands of activists to weigh in with the USDA to finalize the rule, which represents a historic win for horse welfare.

The improved regulations, scheduled to take effect on February 1, 2025, entail the most comprehensive measures to facilitate enforcement of the Horse Protection Act since it was enacted in 1970. They eliminate the corrupt and ineffectual self-policing system by horse industry organizations, prohibit pain-inflicting devices associated with soring, and enhance the ability of USDA-authorized inspectors to detect evidence of abuse.

Wild Horses

AWI works on multiple fronts to improve the treatment of wild equines and reform the Bureau of Land Management’s misguided and inhumane approach to “managing” the nation’s wild horses and burros—an approach focused largely on removing as many as possible through brutal and chaotic roundups and warehousing these animals in long-term holding facilities. AWI delivered remarks during the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meeting in December and to BLM

officials during an agency hearing on roundups in May. AWI and allies continue to press our lawsuit against the BLM’s plan to remove more than 4,800 wild horses from the range and eliminate millions of acres of designated wild horse habitat in Wyoming in response to pressure from a livestock grazing association that wants wild horses permanently removed from the region.

Last September, AWI’s Tessa Archibald was appointed to fill one of two wild horse advocacy seats on the Colorado Wild Horse Working Group, created by statute to advance humane and nonlethal wild horse management strategies. The group will provide recommendations to the Colorado General Assembly regarding resources needed to support wild horses on and off the range in Colorado. Tessa is rallying support for increased use of proven immunocontraceptive vaccines, careful vetting for wild horse adoptions, and greater accountability by the BLM.

Homes for Horses Coalition

AWI leads the Homes for Horses Coalition, a network of over 500 equine rescues and sanctuaries that promotes the protection and welfare of equines both wild and domestic. HHC fosters collaboration among equine rescuers and sanctuaries on practical matters of equine care, helps focus and amplify advocacy on behalf of equines, and provides an array of resources to assist rescue efforts, including a comprehensive directory of facilities that take in at-risk horses. Throughout the year, HHC regularly hosted educational webinars on topics relevant to the care and protection of equines, including sessions on equine emergency response, the latest research into how horses learn, and technological tools to support efficient operation of equine sanctuaries.

AWI champions the mutually beneficial relationship between people and pets and promotes responsible care of companion animals. We seek strong legal protections for companion animals and develop tools and trainings to help law enforcement, social service providers, and other professionals address the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence—including resources for domestic violence survivors with companion animals.

Understanding Animal Cruelty

AWI led efforts to convince the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 2014, to establish animal cruelty as a distinct crime category within the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)—the mechanism by which law enforcement agencies throughout the United States report crimes to the FBI. Two years later, collection of data under this crime category began.

In March 2024, AWI launched the Center for the Study of NIBRS Animal Cruelty Data to encourage use of this burgeoning source of information on animal cruelty by researchers, policymakers, law enforcement officials, and animal advocates in ways that will inform more effective intervention and prevention strategies. The new center provides easy online access to the annually released NIBRS data, with synthesized data from 2016 to 2022 now available on AWI’s website as SPSS and Excel files—formats typically used by researchers. New data will be posted as it becomes available.

Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence

For many years, AWI has worked with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association, and the National Sheriffs’ Association to address crimes involving animal cruelty and raise awareness of the strong link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. In October, as in previous years, AWI helped plan and execute the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference. At the conference, AWI’s Nancy Blaney led a legislative roundtable and Claire Coughlin presented on animal cruelty crime data as it relates to family violence.

We also gave numerous virtual and in-person presentations to law enforcement officials, animal control officers, social services providers, and advocates on the relationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence. We developed screening tools and sponsored cross-training workshops to help professionals in various disciplines identify interconnected signs of abuse and take action to protect both people and pets.

Safe Havens for Pets

Since 2011, AWI has operated the Safe Havens for Pets project—a one-of-a-kind, searchable nationwide directory of sheltering services for pets of domestic violence survivors. This year, we launched the Safe Havens for Pets Grant Program to help establish services in communities where resources for domestic violence survivors with pets are lacking. In February, we awarded our first two grants to organizations in North Dakota and Mississippi: the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center (RACC) in Fargo and the Tupelo-Lee Humane Society in partnership with SAFE Inc., a Tupelo domestic violence shelter.

RACC is using this funding to establish a volunteer foster program for pets of domestic violence survivors, defray the cost of veterinary care, assist with pet-related safety planning, and conduct community outreach and education on the relationship between domestic violence and animal cruelty. The Mississippi organizations are using this funding to create and equip a pet-safe space at SAFE Inc., transport companion animals to temporary shelter at the Tupelo-Lee Humane Society, recruit foster families, coordinate visits between survivors and their pets, fund veterinary care, and cross-train staff at both organizations.

AWI aims to foster a respect for all living beings and an understanding of the positive impact that compassionate attitudes and behaviors can have on animals, the environment, and ourselves. AWI seeks to empower students of all backgrounds to improve the lives of animals and encourages educators to develop animal-friendly lesson plans that avoid treating animals as disposable commodities.

Books and Lesson Plans

At the annual Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) Educator's Choice awards in April, AWI took home the top prize in the category "Best Free Education Resources" for our suite of lesson plans designed to foster greater understanding of and kindness toward animals. The APHE awards are voted on by humane educators from across the United States. AWI was also a finalist in the "Best Book for Young Children" category for *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person*.

The books and lesson plans are available both on the AWI website and through our dedicated page on the Teachers Pay Teachers (TPT) website. This year, we added several dissection alternative lesson plans created by Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, a scientist and nonprofit leader who generously provided them for AWI to share with educators. The plans—which cover frog, rat, and fetal pig anatomy and body systems—quickly became the most downloaded lessons on AWI's TPT page.

AWI donates copies of our children's books to organizations that can best use them—sending 11,300 copies this year to humane societies, shelters, and literacy programs across the country. A number of shelters have indicated they are using *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person* and *Kamie Cat's Terrible Night* in their camp curriculum and school outreach programs, as well as distributing them to families at spay/neuter and vaccination clinics.

Scholarships

We awarded Animal Welfare Institute Scholarships in the amount of \$3,000 each to 12 high school seniors whose college and career plans are focused on animal welfare

and conservation and who are already actively involved in helping animals in their schools or communities. These future veterinarians, scientists, policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and animal rescuers have raised money to provide medical care for companion animals in need, educated their communities on the vital ecological role of insects, designed animal enrichment activities at a nature center, volunteered countless hours at animal shelters, and more.

AWI has been a supporter of the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) since 2018, helping to sustain the organization's anti-poaching and humane education efforts. Through its Africa Conservation Education Fund, ANAW offers scholarships to students in rural areas where economic pressures have put local wildlife at greater risk of poaching. The fund supports secondary school tuition to allow students to continue their education while participating in wildlife conservation initiatives—thus improving their future employment opportunities and empowering them to become advocates for animals in their region. AWI provided a grant to help fund both the scholarships and ANAW's school-based animal welfare clubs. We also consulted with ANAW's scholarship team to help refine their selection criteria.

Conferences

Every year, AWI attends education conferences across the nation. Highlights this year included the North Carolina Science Teachers Association conference in Winston-Salem in November and the National Science Teaching Association conference in Denver in March. These events have helped us connect with a diverse network of educators and build lasting relationships to strengthen and broaden humane education efforts.



AWI seeks to advance the welfare of animals raised for agricultural purposes—on the farm, during transport, and at slaughter. We support plant-based food choices and higher-welfare options when animal products are consumed and work to ensure accuracy and transparency in animal-product marketing claims pertaining to the welfare of farmed animals.

Higher-Welfare Farming

AWI partnered with video-production firm The Garden Creative to develop a three-minute animated educational video, *Choose Better Eggs*, depicting the four primary hen housing systems: caged, cage-free, free-range, and pasture-raised. The video and an accompanying website were designed to help consumers better understand claims found on egg carton labels and support higher-welfare practices. We ran social media ads featuring the video for four months in five major US metropolitan areas, targeting bakers, vegetarians, and those interested in organic and sustainable living. *Choose Better Eggs* won a Gold Award in the “Branded Content” category at the 2023 MUSE Creative Awards and a Silver Award in the “Multimedia Animation” category at the 2023 International Design Awards.

Barn Fires

For the past several years, AWI has led efforts to address the tragic toll of barn fires, which cause immense suffering and claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of farmed animals across the country each year. We’ve also worked with the National Fire Protection Association’s Technical Committee on Animal Housing to promote safety measures. In June, our efforts were rewarded when the committee voted to require the installation of sprinkler systems in larger agricultural facilities. The new provision will go into effect in 2025 in jurisdictions that have adopted NFPA guidelines.

Fitness for Transport

Long-distance transport is extremely stressful for farmed animals—particularly for the very young and “culled” animals who have been taken out of production due to age or infirmity. An AWI examination of recent public records

revealed that each year in the United States, tens of thousands of neonatal calves are transported on journeys lasting 18 hours or longer from northern dairy farms to calf-rearing facilities in the Southwest. To document firsthand what the records revealed, AWI partnered with the nonprofit Animals’ Angels to trail a shipment of calves from a mega-dairy in Minnesota to a ranch in New Mexico in July. The week-old calves were subjected to a 1,113-mile, 20-hour journey in a crowded trailer in stifling heat. Eleven hours in, investigators captured video footage of the calves bellowing in apparent distress as the temperature soared to 100°F.

Following this investigation, AWI petitioned the US Department of Agriculture to issue regulations that would bar interstate transport of very young or infirm animals, based on fitness-to-travel criteria established by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Poultry Slaughter

The Welfare of Birds at Slaughter in the United States, an AWI report released in December, spotlighted the USDA’s ineffective approach to preventing the mistreatment of birds in slaughter plants. We analyzed 2020–2022 inspection records from the roughly 350 federally inspected plants that process the vast majority of the 9.7 billion chickens, turkeys, ducks, and other birds slaughtered each year in the United States. We found that inspectors took actions against abuse (e.g., by slowing or stopping the slaughter line) in a mere 12 percent of documented incidents and issued only five “letters of concern” for repeated instances of inhumane handling. The report recommended a number of concrete federal actions that would help end this pervasive abuse.

AWI seeks to promote the welfare of animals and shield them from maltreatment by securing federal, state, and local animal-protection laws and policies. We also work to ensure vigorous enforcement of animal-related statutes and regulations, and combat efforts to roll back hard-won legal protections for animals.



Appropriations

Congress adopted a \$460 billion spending package in March that contained multiple animal welfare measures championed by AWI, including the following:

- Funding for Protecting Animals With Shelter (PAWS) grants to enable local service providers to assist domestic violence survivors who have companion animals
- Directing the US Department of Agriculture to work with producers to develop disaster preparedness plans to prevent suffering and death of farmed animals during extreme weather events
- Directing the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to step up enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act against exhibitors, researchers, breeders, and dealers who repeatedly violate the law
- Prohibiting the USDA Wildlife Services program from using chemical poison devices such as M-44 “cyanide bombs” and Compound 1080 for predator control
- Earmarking a portion of the Bureau of Land Management’s budget for administration of humane fertility control of wild horses as an alternative to brutal roundups and removals from the range
- Directing the Food and Drug Administration to “reduce animal testing and advance alternative methods in a measurable and impactful way”
- Blocking the operation of horse slaughter facilities on US soil

118th Congress: Bills Introduced

During the fiscal year, the following animal welfare bills were introduced in Congress with active support from AWI:

- Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act (HR 5217), prohibiting the possession or use of body-gripping traps within the National Wildlife Refuge System

- Ejiao Act (HR 6021), banning the sale of ejiao (donkey-hide gelatin) products in the United States
- Strengthening Welfare in Marine Settings (SWIMS) Act (HR 7145/S 3694), phasing out the captive display of orcas, beluga whales, pilot whales, and false killer whales at US marine theme parks and aquariums
- Prohibiting Threatened and Endangered Creature Trophies (ProTECT) Act (HR 7795), banning the import of trophies from threatened or endangered species or the taking of such species as trophies within the United States or US territorial seas
- Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 8164), ending the cruel and dangerous pet primate trade in the United States
- Prohibit Wildlife Killing Contests Act (HR 8492), banning wildlife killing contests on public lands
- Humane Transport of Farmed Animals Act (HR 8699), requiring the federal government to develop an enforcement mechanism for the Twenty-Eight Hour Law to protect livestock in transport and prohibiting the interstate transport of livestock who are unfit to travel due to age or physical condition
- Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act (HR 8733), allowing state child protection agencies to include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse in the data they provide to the federal government

State Bills

This spring, AWI celebrated wins on two state bills we supported: In April, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed SB 55 into law, allowing Pennsylvania judges to weigh animal cruelty convictions in child custody decisions. In May, Gov. Wes Moore signed SB 547/HB 379 to prohibit the use of elephants, big cats, bears, and nonhuman primates in traveling shows and circuses in Maryland.



AWI strives to minimize human-induced harm to marine wildlife. We work around the globe to prevent and counter inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine animals and stem the destruction and degradation of their habitats.

International Agreements

Through our involvement in the International Whaling Commission, AWI seeks protections for cetaceans great and small. This year, AWI was represented at the October IWC Conservation Committee Planning Group meeting (held virtually) by Kate O’Connell and at the May IWC Scientific Committee meeting in Bled, Slovenia, by Sue Fisher, D.J. Schubert, and long-time committee member Dr. Naomi Rose. The team worked to address a number of issues, including fisheries bycatch, chemical pollution, marine debris, anthropogenic ocean noise, and best management practices for whale watching.

In October in Aruba, AWI’s Georgia Hancock and Susan Millward participated in Conferences of Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (aka the “Cartagena Convention”) and to the Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (aka the “SPAW Protocol,” one of three sub-agreements to the Cartagena Convention). AWI has been involved in the SPAW Protocol’s development and operation since the outset and is active within its Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Susan played an integral role in formulating the protocol’s five-year conservation action plan, which the parties adopted at this meeting.

Endangered Species

AWI achieved a victory in February when the National Marine Fisheries Service listed the Atlantic humpback dolphin as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in response to a petition we filed with partner NGOs. Along Africa’s western coast, these dolphins are at grave risk from bycatch, coastal development, anthropogenic ocean noise, and a growing local market

for dolphin meat. The ESA listing will foster international cooperation and funding for protection measures.

A critically endangered population of orcas along the Iberian Peninsula recently began interacting with vessels—primarily by ramming sailboat rudders—damaging hundreds and sinking at least eight. Naomi and other cetacean scientists believe this behavior, albeit dangerous, is a form of play. In February, Naomi joined other orca experts and regional government authorities for a workshop in Madrid to discuss measures that might end these encounters without harming the whales. In the spring, researchers in Portugal and Spain launched studies to test several mitigation measures identified at the workshop, and a workshop report was presented at the IWC Scientific Committee meeting in May.

Research and Reporting

AWI and allied organizations issued three high-profile reports this year: The first, *The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity* (6th ed.), presents arguments against holding marine mammals in zoos and aquariums, based on the latest science. The second, *Unravelling the Truth: Whale Killing in the Faroe Islands*, addresses the islands’ brutal and chaotic drive hunts that slaughter scores of pilot whales and other small cetaceans each year. The report debunks claims that the hunts are humane, sustainable, and integral to local culture. The third, *Ban Bycatch: The United States Must Ban Seafood Imports from Countries Failing to Protect Marine Mammals*, addresses the death each year of hundreds of thousands of marine mammals from entanglement in fishing gear and urges an immediate ban—as required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act—of imports from countries that fail to meet US standards for preventing bycatch.

AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild terrestrial animals. We work to foster humane, nonlethal, science-based solutions to conflicts with wildlife, protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats, and restrict global wildlife trade.



Endangered Species

For more than a decade, the legal advocacy of AWI and allies has helped ensure the continued existence of red wolves in the wild. This year, that work culminated in a historic settlement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in which the federal agency firmly recommitted to the conservation and recovery of the world's only wild red wolf population, in eastern North Carolina. In the settlement, the USFWS declared its intention to implement adaptive management strategies, reduce human-caused mortality, and engage with community members and stakeholders. The settlement requires the agency to develop annual plans for the release of captive wolves and provide annual briefings regarding coyote management efforts for a period of eight years. Prior to our lawsuit, scientists warned that the agency's recent management practices could lead once again to red wolves' extinction in the wild as early as this year. As a result of our legal efforts, however, the population of wild red wolves has more than doubled.

Wildlife Killing Contests

AWI serves on the steering committee of the National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests. Such contests are killing sprees in which participants gun down native predators and other wildlife en masse for cash and prizes. In September, the coalition achieved another victory as the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission passed a measure to prohibit killing contests targeting coyotes and other species classified as "unprotected mammals" in the state. In recent years, the coalition has succeeded in getting bans passed on killing contests in Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Washington. Ten states thus far have established bans on such gruesome and scientifically unsupportable events.

Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

In August, AWI announced eight recipients of Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards—research grants provided each year to foster development of humane methods to resolve wildlife conflicts and study wildlife. Studies funded this cycle focused on strategic use of range riders to reduce predator-livestock conflicts across the American West; using noninvasive genetic analysis to discern the origins of captive spotted, wood, and Blanding's turtles to combat illegal trade; examining human recreational activities' impact on wildlife conservation efforts and animal behaviors; and developing unobtrusive methods of studying prairie grouse, marsh birds, and gray wolves.

Wildlife Trade

In November, AWI's D.J. Schubert and Sue Fisher participated in the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva. Our delegation expressed concerns over ongoing noncompliance, which the committee addressed by approving several recommendations to initiate or continue trade suspensions against nearly two dozen countries that are out of compliance with respect to trade in specific species (e.g., sharks, tigers, parrots, and elephants) and/or broader implementation issues. AWI also urged governments to pursue listings of broader taxonomic groupings (i.e., at the genus level and above) on CITES appendices in order to maximize protections of vulnerable species, and to implement a recently developed scientific process that relies on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species to more effectively identify species in need of protections in international trade.



AWI works to foster the development and implementation of science-based housing and handling refinements for animals in research that reduce pain and distress and provide opportunities for species-appropriate mental and physical stimulation and social interaction. We promote practices that replace animals with non-animal alternatives and minimize the number of animals used in research. We also endeavor to identify and address reports of animal abuse in laboratory settings and the supply chain.

Developing and Disseminating Refinement Research

Since 2000, AWI has maintained an online Refinement Database that curates scientific articles and books on topics related to improving or safeguarding the welfare of animals in experimentation. We continued to grow the database this year and added a new feature allowing users to filter searches based on the study's setting (e.g., laboratory, zoo) in addition to filters for subject matter (e.g., environmental enrichment, social housing) and species.

For over two decades, AWI has offered annual Refinement Research Awards to fund innovative research projects designed to test or develop methods to refine the care, husbandry, or housing of animals used in research. We increased the maximum award amount this year to \$15,000 and distributed two awards for research into novel handling methods to reduce stress in zebrafish and to examine the impact of enriched housing on the learning ability, social behavior, and overall welfare of laboratory-housed pigs.

In the fall, we added a second funding opportunity—the Implementing Refinement Grant program—which offers grants of up to \$8,000 toward the implementation of existing refinement strategies such as the purchase of equipment or staff training. AWI provided six inaugural grants to fund refinements that ranged from the purchase of larger, enriched cages that enable rodents to burrow, climb, and explore, to initiation of a physical therapy program for cats, dogs, and horses at a veterinary school.

Community Engagement

Throughout the year, AWI participated in various conferences to promote refinements to improve the lives

of animals in research, including the annual American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting—the world's largest gathering of animal research professionals from academia, industry, and government. In December, AWI's Dr. Maisy Englund participated in a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund strategic planning meeting to establish a Complement Animal Research in Experimentation program intended to catalyze the development of new approach methodologies that could more accurately model human biology and reduce the use of animals in research. The program was officially greenlighted in January and provided its first grants in May.

Since 2002, AWI has also hosted the online Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF), where veterinarians, researchers, and animal care personnel can exchange ideas and experiences concerning the care and welfare of animals used in research. Forum participants this year engaged in lively and thoughtful discussions on how to create DIY enrichment for various species, the most successful methods for socially housing macaques, dealing with burnout and compassion fatigue, and much more.

Influencing Policy

AWI submitted formal letters to the NIH's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare as the agency considers feedback on proposed changes to several guidelines. We expressed opposition to changes in the operation of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs)—oversight bodies at each research institution—that would result in weakened protections for animals, and we voiced strong support for bringing cephalopod research under the purview of IACUC oversight.

RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS

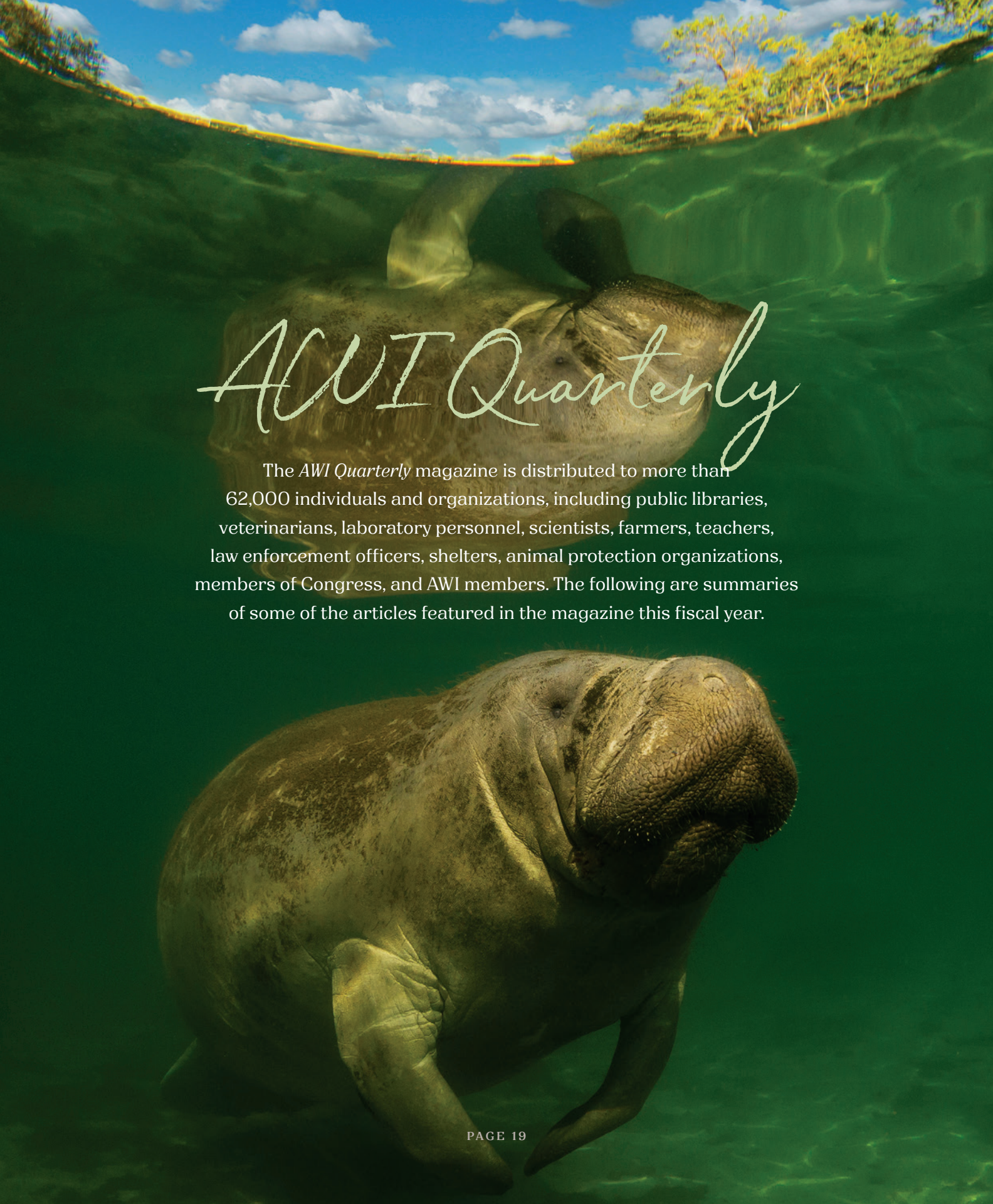


In March 2022, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified long-tailed macaques (LTM) as “endangered” on its Red List of Threatened Species based on a scientific assessment that predicted at least a 50 percent decline in the species over the next 40 years, due in part to accelerating demand from the biomedical industry. Red List classifications influence protections established through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In light of its potential impact on the LTM trade, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), an industry lobbying group, filed a petition with the IUCN in September 2023 challenging the endangered classification.

In recent years, AWI’s analysis of the enormous financial incentives underpinning the trade in LTMs has been

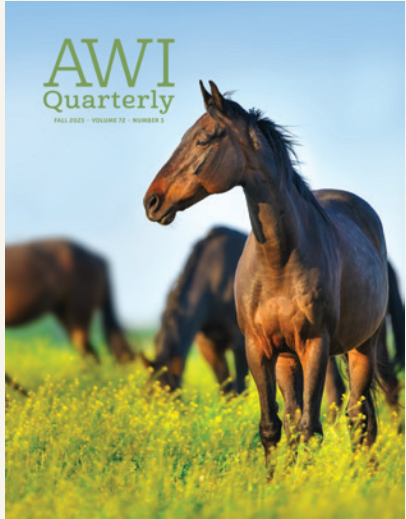
featured in the *AWI Quarterly* and contributed to articles in *Science* and the *Wall Street Journal*. In a letter to the IUCN and a statement to the press, we asserted that the principal motivation for NABR’s petition appeared to be these financial incentives rather than any serious flaws in the IUCN’s scientific basis for the classification. In June, the IUCN announced it would maintain the LTM’s Red List status while it awaits an updated scientific assessment—one we anticipate will only strengthen the basis for the endangered classification.

In November, AWI wrote to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees regarding an NIH request for \$30 million during fiscal year 2024 to “expand, remodel, renovate” or construct new research facilities for the seven National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs). In our letter (as well as in a feature article in the *AWI Quarterly* and a press release), we detailed the NPRCs’ long and ongoing history of noncompliance with the Animal Welfare Act, including multiple citations issued to all seven NPRC host institutions over the past decade for critical issues related to primate welfare. AWI called on Congress to redirect the requested \$30 million from the NPRCs toward research into new approach methodologies, simultaneously addressing the NPRCs’ poor welfare record and supporting more modern, humane research. (The final FY2024 spending package did not include the requested funds; the NIH has renewed its request for FY2025.)



AWI Quarterly

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to more than 62,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, veterinarians, laboratory personnel, 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 2023

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 3

The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity (CAMMIC), published by AWI and World Animal Protection, addresses the scientific and ethical arguments against holding cetaceans and other marine mammals in zoos and aquariums. In the wake of the documentary *Blackfish*, centered on an orca’s killing of a SeaWorld trainer, the captive marine mammal industry has sought to rehabilitate its image. The 6th edition of CAMMIC, released in July, includes a critique of recent industry research attempting to show that the industry safeguards captive animals and promotes conservation.

AWI has petitioned the US Department of Agriculture to require that farmed animal producers have audited emergency response plans

in place in order to receive taxpayer-supported compensation for animal losses. Such plans should include strategies for humanely euthanizing animals during disease outbreaks rather than turning to expedient but brutal techniques such as “ventilation shutdown plus.” VSD+ is a particularly horrific method of “depopulating” entire flocks of birds via heatstroke that has been widely deployed during the current bird flu outbreak.

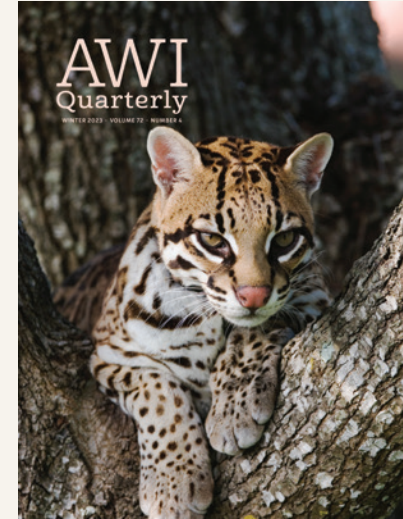
Both thoroughbreds and walking horses undergo extensive training and conditioning in preparation for competitions. For owners and trainers, a champion horse can spell fame and fortune. All too often, however, single-minded pursuit of victory ends up running roughshod over the safety and well-being of the horses themselves. Thoroughbreds are drugged to enhance performance and mask pain. Conversely, walking horses are “sored”—intentionally put *in* pain to induce a certain gait. In both fields, AWI’s efforts have helped establish new rules designed to clamp down on rampant abuse.

With support from AWI, two nonprofit organizations in Africa are striking a blow against wildlife trafficking: Intelligence gathering and enforcement operation planning by Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement (EAGLE) helps expose corruption and has facilitated arrests of over 300 wildlife criminals (including traffickers of elephants, pangolins, big cats, and

primates). Investigations by Saving the Wild have also exposed corruption, led to arrests of several rhino poachers in Mozambique and South Africa, and contributed to a steep decline in rhino poaching in the latter country.

Protecting birds was a predominant theme of this year’s “A Voice for Animals” contest, hosted by AWI in partnership with the Humane Education Network. Students were Invited to submit essays, photos, and videos addressing issues involving animals near their home—such as invasive or endangered species or human-wildlife conflicts. Among the top prizes were entries discussing efforts to maintain migratory bird-friendly habitat in Houston, Texas; stem the illegal wild songbird trade in Jakarta, Indonesia; and foster humane treatment of nonnative monk parakeets in Albertson, New York.

A Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI supported a study to determine whether genetic material shed by polar bears into their environment (e-DNA) could be used to identify individuals and keep tabs on the population. The results provided the first evidence that e-DNA collected from footprints in snow can be used to identify individual polar bears. Consequently, this method has potential as a useful, noninvasive tool for biologists to genetically monitor polar bear populations as well as other species that occupy remote, challenging, snow-covered regions.



Winter 2023

VOLUME 72, NUMBER 4

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted to stem an ongoing tide of extinction resulting from “economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation.” Bipartisan support for the bill was overwhelming—unanimous passage in the Senate and 96 percent approval in the House of Representatives. President Nixon, who had called on Congress to increase endangered species protections, signed it into law on December 28 of that year. Five decades on, it is hailed as the world’s strongest conservation law, one that serves as a global model for the preservation of imperiled wildlife.

After a whistleblower contacted AWI alleging long-standing neglect of animals in research at the University

of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC), as well as failure by the university’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to intervene, AWI filed a complaint with the federal Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). We urged OLAW to suspend UMKC’s research funding and investigate further, arguing that such ongoing, unchecked neglect is a clear sign that OLAW’s reliance on self-reporting and self-regulation by institutions leaves animals in research unprotected.

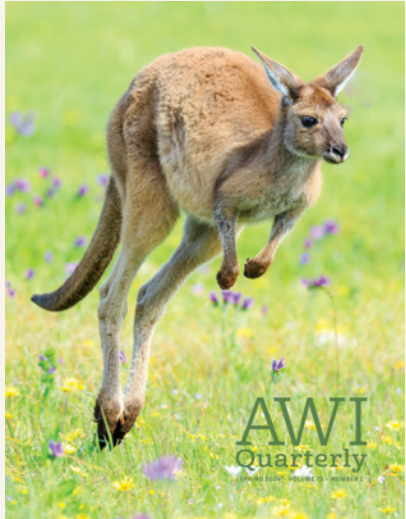
The Banggai cardinalfish—listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act—has been heavily impacted by the ornamental fish trade. By the early 2000s, up to 1.4 million of the strikingly patterned fish were being removed from Indonesia’s Banggai archipelago annually, contributing to an estimated 90 percent decline in population. In 2021, AWI and allies petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service to ban the import, export, and domestic sale of the species. NMFS responded in August 2023 by proposing to ban import and export of Banggai cardinalfish but allow domestic sales to continue.

In November, the US Department of Agriculture published a final rule establishing meaningful animal welfare standards for products that carry the USDA Organic label. Under the new rule—which AWI long campaigned for—all animals raised under the organic program will have true access to the outdoors. (Previously, massive

egg operations were allowed to count barren, screened-in concrete porches as outdoor access for hens.) Additionally, the rule mandates environmental enrichment and prohibits many painful mutilations and the extreme confinement of pigs in gestation and farrowing crates.

A 2023 study published in Cambridge University’s *Animal Welfare* journal estimated that 124 billion farmed fish were slaughtered for food in 2019, a nine-fold increase since 1990. Although the World Organisation for Animal Health first established welfare codes for farmed fish in 1995, the authors found that at least 70 percent of farmed fish have no protection under countries’ animal welfare laws, and less than 1 percent have fish-specific legal protection at slaughter.

Efforts continue in Congress to throttle a proposed vessel speed rule that is sorely needed to help stave off extinction of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. AWI has met with dozens of House and Senate offices to ensure they have the necessary information to counter false claims raised by the rule’s opponents. At a congressional briefing hosted by AWI, speakers emphasized the urgency and science behind the proposal, as well as the fact that in 50+ years of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, no species has been allowed to simply go extinct.



Spring 2024

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 1

Every year, Australian state governments authorize the killing of about 5 million wild kangaroos. Their flesh is sold globally as pet food and exotic game meat, while their skins are used in high-end soccer shoes and other leather goods. The killing occurs under the cover of darkness in remote areas, with no supervision or government monitoring. But there is hope: Public awareness campaigns regarding the cruelty and chaotic nature of the slaughter are gaining traction, and a number of major corporations worldwide have stopped selling kangaroo products.

This fiscal year, the Bureau of Land Management plans to round up approximately 20,000 wild horses and burros. Most who endure the brutal

roundups will end up in overcrowded, understaffed holding facilities such as the Cañon City Off-Range Corral in Colorado, leading diminished lives—sometimes cut short by deadly disease outbreaks. There are better ways to manage wild equines. AWI is helping to secure language in annual budget legislation directing the BLM to increase expenditures on immunocontraceptive fertility control, which would help keep wild equines on the range, where they belong.

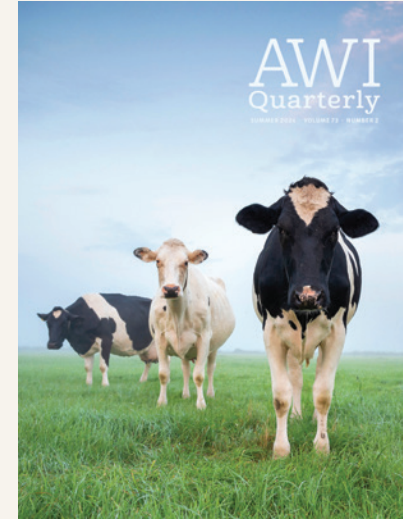
A massive 200-acre breeding facility is planned in Bainbridge, Georgia, to provide monkeys for biomedical research. At peak capacity, it would hold 30,000 long-tailed macaques—at least triple the number currently housed at any other US breeding facility—and employ up to 263 workers. The first 500–1,000 monkeys would be imported from several Asian countries. The planned facility’s leadership, its sheer size, and the unavailability of a sufficient number of qualified animal care staff amidst an industry shortage all raise serious animal welfare concerns.

More than 486,000 farmed animals suffered horrific deaths in barn fires in 2023, pushing the death toll over the past decade to more than 6.8 million. As in prior years, the vast majority of barn fire victims were birds, with around 400,000 perishing in enormous fires on egg-producing factory farms. The deadliest fire involving cattle since 2013—the year AWI began calling

attention to this issue and advocating safety measures—also occurred in 2023: In April, a fire and explosion at South Fork Dairy in Dimmitt, Texas, killed 18,000 cows.

AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose visited China in January on behalf of the China Cetacean Alliance (CCA) to observe the orcas living in Chinese facilities. She also gave public presentations to eager audiences in Shanghai and Hangzhou on captive cetacean welfare. Unfortunately, China is expanding its captive orca industry even as other countries are turning away from the practice. AWI and CCA are working to increase awareness in China about the numerous welfare issues associated with orca captivity and encourage Chinese authorities to alter the course.

AWI led efforts this year to get a bill introduced in the Illinois Senate to ban mink farming in the state. Sponsored by Assistant Majority Leader Linda Holmes, the Mink Facility Disease Prevention Act (SB 3262) recognizes that mink on fur farms incubate diseases such as COVID-19 and avian influenza, creating the perfect conditions for new variants to jump to humans—with potentially devastating results. AWI also joined with other organizations to urge the governor of Oregon to phase out commercial mink fur farming in that state.



Summer 2024

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 2

On March 14, in Washington, DC, AWI awarded the Schweitzer Medal to Dr. Temple Grandin. Throughout a long and storied career, Dr. Grandin has made it her mission to develop and encourage practical measures to reduce the suffering experienced by animals farmed for food. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) presented the medal, noting that Dr. Grandin’s work “has benefited billions of animals worldwide.” USDA Deputy Under Secretary Sandra Eskin also spoke at the ceremony, stating, “In a world where the treatment of animals is often overlooked or undervalued, Dr. Grandin stands as a beacon of compassion, empathy, and innovation.”

Miami-Dade County authorities are seeking to terminate the lease of the Miami Seaquarium—the infamous

facility where the orca Lolita (aka Tokitae) was held for 53 years in a tiny tank before her death in August 2023. Since 2021, the Seaquarium has received a number of negative USDA inspection reports, with dolphins reportedly dying after violent fights, animals fed rotten food, and enclosure infrastructure literally falling apart. The facility’s owner is challenging the eviction in court.

Every year, millions of crocodiles, alligators, lizards, snakes, and other wild animals are raised and killed in horrific ways to manufacture high-end leather products. AWI recently joined a coalition of organizations determined to topple the exotic-skins industry. The coalition is urging consumers to shun exotic skins, educate others about the cruelty and lawless culture of the exotic-skins trade, and pressure companies through petitions and other methods to sever ties with the industry.

For the upcoming fiscal year, AWI provided members of Congress with a list of priorities covering the welfare of companion animals, farmed animals, marine mammals, and other wildlife. We also submitted testimony to the House and Senate appropriations committees and circulated sign-on letters on important animal welfare issues. Numerous legislators signed on to letters in support of robust implementation and enforcement of key animal welfare laws, resources for domestic violence survivors and

their pets, reforms to wild equine management policies, and more.

Last year, AWI and allies filed a petition with the US Department of Agriculture to require cameras within cages used to lower pigs into CO₂ stunning chambers, so inspectors could determine whether the process meets federal humane slaughter requirements. As we await a response, an undercover UK documentary, *Pignorant*, has revealed disturbing footage of pigs screaming and panicking in CO₂ chambers. Following a similar undercover investigation in Australia, two major slaughter plants were investigated by regulators, resulting in the closure of one and a move by an industry group to require video monitoring in certified facilities.

When AWI asked supporters to contribute to a fundraising drive on behalf of verified sanctuaries that care for and rehabilitate animals retired from laboratories, they responded with overwhelming generosity. We added an additional \$10,000 and were able to distribute a total of \$70,000. Among other things, the funds enabled one primate sanctuary to construct outdoor enclosures, another to purchase vital medical equipment, and a third sanctuary to take in additional rabbits, dogs, and mini pigs. Our supporters’ compassion is helping to provide new life to these animals within a peaceful, nurturing environment.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2024	2023
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
REVENUES		
Contributions - Foundations and trusts	\$ 820,502	\$ 1,203,672
- Legacies and bequests	2,966,529	6,490,532
- Memberships and other	2,485,819	2,720,479
- Contributed services	519,190	—
Tenants rental income	118,593	151,229
Sale of publications and reports	6,933	15,211
Dividend income	512,922	275,036
Interest income	163,104	85,354
Realized and unrealized gain on securities	1,444,476	1,247,452
Other income	6,541	1,443
Total revenue	9,044,609	12,190,408
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS	343,845	177,629
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	9,388,454	12,368,037
EXPENSES		
Program services	7,127,996	5,664,418
Management and general	588,893	455,265
Fundraising	63,873	44,334
Total expenses	7,780,762	6,164,017
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	1,607,692	6,204,020
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Contributions	669,185	105,493
Net assets released from restrictions	(343,845)	(177,629)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	325,340	(72,136)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	1,933,032	6,131,884
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	25,638,172	19,506,288
NET ASSETS - end of year	\$ 27,571,204	\$ 25,638,172

Statement of Functional Expenses, Year Ended June 30, 2024

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND- RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 2,636,096	\$ 264,023	\$ 29,320	\$ 2,929,439
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	207,599	20,264	2,277	230,140
Employee benefits	362,766	42,233	3,996	408,995
Retirement plan	99,899	9,960	1,108	110,967
Advertising	73,272	580	—	73,852
<i>AWI Quarterlies</i>	280,312	—	2,825	283,137
Printing and publications (except <i>AWI Quarterlies</i>)	55,839	2,989	15,845	74,673
Research, writing, and editing	58,554	228	13	58,795
Grants	1,341,890	—	—	1,341,890
Conferences, meetings, and travel	266,199	8,911	436	275,546
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except <i>AWI Quarterlies</i>)	37,104	1,274	2,456	40,834
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	87,089	23,270	610	110,969
Professional services	358,966	41,839	544	401,349
Contributed service expenses	516,264	2,926	—	519,190
Memberships and subscriptions	106,452	19,428	1,377	127,257
Consultants	376,645	4,500	500	381,645
Internet services	81,228	6,519	725	88,472
Schweitzer Award	15,856	—	—	15,856
Occupancy costs	108,713	57,158	1,208	167,079
Bank, investment, and other fees	1,352	32,405	12	33,769
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	7,072,095	538,507	63,252	7,673,854
Depreciation and amortization	55,901	50,386	621	106,908
Total expenses	\$ 7,127,996	\$ 588,893	\$ 63,873	\$ 7,780,762

A complete financial statement audited by Mayer Hoffman McCann CPAs is available online 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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Regina Terlau-Benford • Coordinator, Humane Education Program
Dave Tilford • Senior Writer/Editor

BEQUESTS

If you would like to help assure AWI's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, 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

DONKEY: HELGA; COW: BENEVOLENTE; TURTLE: JEREMY HYNES; HORSES: TERRI CAGE; CAT: DISQ; FROG: ANGELDIBILIO; HEN: ANTONIVANO; ELEPHANT: JAMES; DOLPHINS: WIRESTOCK; FOX: WILDMEDIA; GERBIL: JEARU; LONG-TAILED MACAQUE: SOMPAO; MANATEE: YURI SVIRSKY; HORSE: KWADRAT70; OCELOT: ROLF NUSSBAUMER/NPL/MINDEN PICTURES; KANGAROO: JOHN WHITE PHOTOS; COWS: OLHA ROHULYA; DOG: MARY SWIFT



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Animal Welfare Institute

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