During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, wolves were relentlessly hunted and trapped to the verge of extinction in the United States. The winter of 1995 brought the beginnings of recompense as two groups of Canadian wolves were relocated to the American West (see page 6). In Alaska, the cruel government-sponsored killing of wolves has finally stopped (see page 7).
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**Videotape and photographs depicting the long-drawn-out anguish of four wolves led to the recent cancellation of the Alaskan government’s wolf kill. These two pups, one painfully choked by a neck snare and the other repeatedly shot before he died, were two of the victims.**

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**Unlike most of his counterparts in laboratories, this young baboon is able to play and explore enriched surroundings at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research.**
For over twenty years the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been one of the most effective forces for conservation of animals in the United States, if not the world. The ESA provides the critical umbrella under which threatened animals and plants receive the protection necessary for their future stability. On signing the strengthening amendments in 1973, President Richard M. Nixon said: “Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed.”

Nevertheless, an anti-conservation coalition of Republican and Democrat Senators and Representatives, backed by the so-called “wise use” movement, is attempting to dismantle the landmark law. Protection for whales, wolves, eagles, and other rare species would be crippled under the proposed changes. The ESA is vital to the future viability of all species currently at risk. Dr. Paul Ehrlich, professor of population studies at Stanford University, noted that “Few problems are less recognized but more important than the accelerating disappearance of earth’s biological resources. In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busily sawing off the limb on which it is perched.”

In February, the US House of Representatives adopted a general freeze on all new federal regulations until the end of 1995. The bill was specifically amended to halt any new endangered species listings for two years. This openly conflicts with a court agreement, signed by the Bush Administration, for listing at least 100 species each year in order to clear up a backlog of candidate animals and plants facing extinction.

The Act is facing a strenuous congressional reauthorization battle. Newly elected Representative, Sonny Bono (R, CA) lously joked, “Give them all (endangered species) a designated area and then blow it up.” Unfortunately, Bono is not alone in his distaste for the ESA.

Leading the assault is the new Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Don Young (R, AK). A professional trapper and hunter, Young frequently expresses his contempt for conservation and environmental groups in Washington, calling them “the most despicable group of individuals I’ve ever been around.” Chairman Young says the environmental community will have “very little access” to his committee.

Opposition to the Act lies primarily in the unsubstantiated assertion that it is harmful to the economy and to private property ownership. But no federal court has ever found that, as a result of the ESA, private property has been “taken” as defined by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. Nevertheless, no fewer than seven bills have been introduced in the Senate and House addressing the “takings” issue.

Some of these bills would impose burdensome new requirements on federal actions to protect endangered and threatened species and their habitat. They call for “risk assessments” and “cost-benefit analyses” creating a complicated, 23-step process vulnerable to huge delays and legal challenges that could cost the government billions of dollars. These changes would create a system whereby landowners who threaten to destroy habitat necessary for a species’ survival would be paid by the federal government for not doing so. Industry would be paid to obey laws not to pollute. This is the system of government that opponents of the ESA want to put into force, and taxpayers would foot the bill.

Sustainable Development: A “New World Order” Deception

Following are excerpts from an article by Professor Bill Willers, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, which appeared in the December 1994 issue of Conservation Biology (Vol.8, No.4, Pages 1146-1148).

The term “sustainable development” began a rapid spread with the release in 1987 of a United Nations report titled Our Common Future, now generally referred to as the Brundtland Report (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987). In the report, sustainable development was defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs....”

In fact, sustainable development is code for “perpetual growth.” Consider the following passages, also taken from Our Common Future: “A five to tenfold increase in manufacturing output will be needed,”... “Efforts to save particular species will be possible for only relatively few of the more spectacular and important ones....”

The concept of sustainable development has been force-fed to the world community by the global corporate-political-media network that is paving the way for the New World Order. It comes to us in every form of print and electronic media. It comes to us on a daily basis, packaged in such a sugar coat that to refuse it is to seem unpatriotic, especially when continued growth and development are presented as compatible with “respecting environmental constraints.”

But proponents of sustainable development do not respect environmental constraints, and they ignore the fact that the First World has long since lived beyond sustainability. Indeed, they hold up the overconsumptive lifestyle of industrialized society as the standard to which the rest of the world should aspire. Sustainable development guarantees the continued deterioration of ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity, and it lauds the growth that independent scientists have warned against since midcentury....
GRISLY VIDEO ENDS ALASKAN WOLF KILL

While flying over the Alaskan wilderness in late November, Gordon Haber, an independent wildlife scientist working with the animal protection group Friends of Animals (FoA), saw what seemed to be a single wolf caught in a neck snare. Haber and FoA were trying to record the cruelty of Alaska's wolf cull, and this looked like an opportunity to get some video footage. The documentation he collected this day was more gruesome and powerful than he could have suspected.

After returning in a helicopter that allowed him to land at the site, he found not one but four snared wolves, including three pups, and two dead snared caribou. Only one of the neck snares* had worked "properly"—catching the wolf around the neck and progressively tightening until the animal died. The other three wolves were still alive—terrified and in great pain. One wolf had been snared around the chest, and as the noose tightened, it had cut through fur and flesh until hitting bone. The other two wolves had been caught by the leg. One of the pups had gnawed off a foreleg in an attempt to free himself. Other wolves milled nearby, unwilling to abandon the members of their pack.

Haber radioed state wildlife officials alerting them to the situation. FoA's spring, 1995 newsletter recounts the ensuing events.

Twenty minutes later, Ed Crain—a so called master trapper—arrived on the scene. He was supposed to kill the wolves quickly and humanely. But, instead, he bumbled the job, causing the wolves more pain and terror. Crain had loaded his pistol with the wrong caliber ammunition. He shot one pup five times in the head and body at point-blank range. The pup, wounded but not dead, remained standing, looking at Crain in confusion. Crain then walked to his helicopter, loaded his gun with higher caliber ammunition, returned to the wolf pup, and shot him again—this time fatally. He then shot the others.

The video and story hit Alaskan airwaves and newspapers the next day and was soon picked up around the world. Public reaction was overwhelming. Alaskan Governor-elect Knowles said he was "disgusted, as well as disturbed" by the footage, adding "That's no way to treat an animal." He immediately suspended the cull and ordered a thorough review of the State's procedures. Six hundred and eighty five snares subsequently were removed from state lands, but not before 12 more wolves were killed.

Alaska's wolf control program was initiated in 1993 by former Governor Wally Hickel as a misguided effort to increase caribou populations in areas convenient for hunters. The New York Times reported on December 3, 1994:

State officials say the caribou herd [in the area targeted by the wolf kill] has dropped to about a third of the 1989 population of 11,000. But some naturalists say that various factors, not just wolves, have affected the size of caribou herds in the region southwest of Fairbanks and that statewide the number of caribou has increased in the last 15 years.

The Times also disclosed that the "policy, approved by the Alaska Board of Game, was to kill up to 75 percent of the region's wolves in each of the next five years."

On February 2, 1995, Governor Knowles made public the results of the wolf kill review. According to the report, 37 of the 134 wolves snared during the program were found alive and had to be shot by state officials. Also caught in the neck snares were moose, caribou, grizzly bears, wolverines, coyotes, red foxes, hares, ravens, and golden eagles. Governor Knowles cancelled the wolf kill indefinitely and ordered a review of Alaska's entire predator control policy.

Alaskan wolves are still not free from persecution, however. The cancellation only affects state-sponsored wolf kills—private hunters and trappers killed almost 1,500 wolves last year. Also, Alaskan State Senators Sharp, Miller and Taylor have introduced a bill in response to Governor Knowles' action that would pay a bounty of $400 for each wolf killed "by any method or means without restriction."

ACTION

Please write to Governor Knowles thanking him for his humane decision to cancel the state-sponsored wolf kill. Urge him to abolish the use of neck and body snares by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

* Not to be confused with the cable-coated legsnares being tested by USDA to prevent the pain caused by steel jaw leghold traps. These legsnares do not tighten with every tug like the painful neck snares designed to strangle animals to death.

A six month-old wolf pup caught in a neck snare. In pain and fear, he has chewed off almost half of his front leg.

Another wolf pup, caught in a neck snare by his right front leg. The four wolves who were eventually shot were attracted to the site by two snared caribou, one of which is seen behind the tree at the right of the picture.
Wolves Return to Yellowstone and Idaho

In January, 29 Canadian wolves were captured and released into Yellowstone National Park and Idaho’s River of No Return wilderness area, marking the species’ official return to the American West after being eradicated in the 1920s and 30s. Despite a last minute lawsuit by ranchers, almost 20 years of work aimed at restoring wolf populations finally came to fruition. Unfortunately, one wolf died during the capture process.

On January 29, a rancher found a dead wolf 45 miles away from the release site in Idaho. The wolf had been shot and lay near a calf that had apparently been killed by the wolf. Both the Wyoming and Idaho wolf populations have been designated as experimental, allowing an animal who is known to prey on livestock to be killed. The remaining 28 wolves all seem to be doing well and finding wild prey to eat.

800,000 Doses of Oral Anti-Rabies Vaccine Provided to Texas Coyotes

This January, a foxhound in Alabama came down with rabies. The dog had been forced into contact with coyotes captured in South Texas and sold for the infamous “penning” indulged in by so-called sportsmen. Penning consists of putting wild foxes and coyotes in an enclosure with dogs trained to killed them. The victims naturally bite back and infect any unvaccinated hunting dog in the enclosure.

Spreading the rabies virus by trucking wild animals from one state to another severely threatens public health. In the United States, compulsory vaccination of dogs has been so successful that since the 1950s incidence of canine rabies in the wild has been virtually non-existent. Recently in South Texas, however, unvaccinated dogs began to infect coyotes, and rabies started to spread rapidly among Texas coyotes.

To the great credit of the US Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which provided critical financial assistance, and the Texas Department of Health, a massive program of oral rabies vaccination was instituted on February 15, 1995. Over the next few days, more than 800,000 fishmeal baits laced with oral rabies vaccine were dropped over an area larger than Maryland, Delaware, and Rhode Island combined. Cooperation between federal and state governmental agencies and private companies and individuals brought about the commendably prompt and efficient response.

AWI has long encouraged the use of oral anti-rabies vaccination to protect wildlife from this dread disease. The Director of the Zoonosis Control Division of the Texas Health Department, Dr. Keith Clark, called oral vaccination “the most effective, economical, and aesthetically acceptable option for controlling this epizootic.”

Woodchip Exports Decimate Australia’s Wildlands

Koalas are constantly becoming more threatened with extinction as the woodchip industry deprives them of their natural homes. All woodchip exports from Australia go to Japanese paper mills, according to Japan Environment Monitor’s, Ken Rodgers. He states, “The major source of woodchipping is clearfelling of native forests on public land.” It represents over 80% by volume of Australia’s forest products. According to Sean Cadman in Habitat Australia, November 1994, “Many of the forests now being cleared for woodchips could not produce sawlogs economically. Without a woodchipping industry they would be left alone. The forests in some logging coupes in Tasmania yield as little as 4% sawlogs, with the so-called residue comprising 96% of the wood produced from the coupe... The residues referred to by the industry are often eucalyptus trees up to 600 years old with the hollows, broken crowns and rotten centers on which so many native animals, including gliding possums, koalas, parrots and owls, are dependent.”

Australian Federal Resources Minister Beddall reportedly often begins his speeches with the words, “We in the timber industry...” He was brought up short this January when the Federal Court in Sydney ruled Beddall had “erred in law” by taking on a function “that was properly the province of the environment minister.”

Importers of Australian woodchips include Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Mitsui, Kawatetsu Bussan, Itochu, and Marubeni.

American and Germans Responsible for Elephants’ Death

According to the London Times (December 17, 1995), the four Amboseli elephants were killed (see page 7) during “expeditions” organized by Northern Hunting Enterprises, run by Rick Trappe, a German Tanzanian. Geoff Broom, a Tanzanian, is thought to have guided two of the trips. Three bulls were shot by two Germans, Klags Hillescheid and Utz Ritmeir, and the fourth was killed by Darrel Mitchell, an American. One of the dead elephants has been identified as RGB; another as either M10 or Sleepy—named by Cynthia Moss.

The London Times (December 14) also reports that Mohidin Ndalanga, the head of Tanzania’s Wildlife Services, announced a ban on hunting near the Tanzania/Kenya border on December 13, 1995. Mr. Ndalanga has initiated an investigation into the granting of permits to shoot the Amboseli bull elephants.

Lecture on Rwanda’s Mountain Gorillas

AWI is co-sponsoring an evening with Ian Redmond. Ian hosted the January, 1995 BBC documentary on the Mountain Gorillas’ current status in Rwanda and has just completed a book on Digit (pictured at right), the famous Silverback who was killed by poachers. The book will be published in England in the fall and in the United States early in 1996. All proceeds from the lecture are to benefit the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund, founded in memory of Digit. Ian is also well known for his research into the elephants who frequent the caves of Mount Elgon, Kenya.

Ian will be speaking from 6:00 to 8:00 on Monday, May 8 at the British Embassy, which is located at 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Reservations can be made by sending a check for $35 to Tom Gause, Redmond Program, Box 304, Annandale, VA 22003.
AMBOSELI ELEPHANTS AMBUSHED AS THEY CROSS BORDER

In a letter to AWI President Christine Stevens, famed elephant researcher Cynthia Moss describes the situation surrounding the recent slaying of four large bull elephants who had wandered out of Kenya’s Amboseli National Park just across the border into Tanzania. The letter is reprinted below.

At least four and possibly more of our large Amboseli bulls have recently been killed by hunters in Tanzania. They have been crossing this border for years but there was an unwritten agreement that there would be no hunting of elephants close to the border. I have been studying the Amboseli elephants for 22 years and I and my colleagues know all 840 individuals in the population. We learned about the killings when two baboon researchers from Amboseli came upon the fresh carcass of a large dead bull in November. My research assistants went to the carcass, which was less than two kilometers into Tanzania, and discovered it was the very well-known bull called “RBG.” He was one of the six oldest bulls in the Amboseli population. Ageing of the lower jaw indicated that he was approximately 47 years old at the time of death which tallies with our Project estimates for him. RBG was one of Amboseli’s western bulls whose bull area extended into Tanzania. He was first photographed in 1976 and has been seen regularly and frequently ever since, that is for the past 18 years. He was totally habituated to vehicles and could be easily approached to within a few feet.

The Maasai in that area reported to my research assistants, who are also Maasai, that the hunters had been waiting for him to cross. But most disturbing of all, they said that the hunters shot him from a vehicle.

When I found out about the killing of RBG, I started making inquiries among hunters and safari guides in Tanzania and eventually found out that two other large bulls were shot on license in the same border block known as the Longido Game Controlled Area. Further inquiries to the Wildlife Department in Dar es Salaam indicated that the elephants were definitely in a legal hunting block and the permits had been issued in Arusha to hunt them. Thus, it is very likely that everything was legal. Apparently the hunters have the CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species] permits to export the tusks as hunting trophies.

However, the hunting of Amboseli bulls raises the issues of ethics and cross-border cooperation. It is against hunting regulations to shoot from a vehicle, and to shoot an Amboseli bull from a vehicle or from the ground has nothing to do with sportsmanship. It is about as dangerous and difficult as shooting your neighbor’s cocker spaniel. Amboseli has had tourists since the 1930s. Thus the habituation of the elephants has been going on for over 60 years. The result of this long process is that Amboseli is the best place in Africa to view elephants. It is one of the few places that have elephant bulls in the older age classes. RBG was only 47; he could have lived another 18 years. Many tour companies go to Amboseli specifically to see the elephants. Three tour companies pay the local group ranch substantial fees to camp and view game on their land. The large bulls, including RBG, were a particular attraction. This is ecotourism at its best. The Maasai on that group ranch were receiving direct benefits from protecting and tolerating wildlife on their land. And they cared about those bulls. I found out recently that they knew the big bulls individually and had given each one a Maasai name.

Kenya has put a great deal of effort into conserving its elephants and it has been very successful in Amboseli. Is it fair, neighborly, internationally acceptable for Tanzania to profit from Kenya’s success in protecting Amboseli’s big bulls? RBG and the others were worth hundreds of thousand of dollars to Kenya as a tourist attraction on a sustainable basis. Tanzania received a one-off license fee of $4000 for each of the those dead elephants.

As I was gathering the information and alerting the press, NGOs, tour operators, etc. to the situation, I heard that a fourth bull was killed just a few days ago. His tusks were said to weigh about 80 pounds each. The hunters were waiting there for him. It could only have been Sleepy or M10, the two other big bulls who use that area. In a very short time we could lose the top breeding bulls in Amboseli, animals whose histories we have followed and recorded for over 20 years. What a waste it will be in terms of both scientific knowledge and tourist attractions for Kenya, and potentially for Tanzania as well.

Even some of the reputable hunters in Tanzania are outraged. They feel that there should be no hunting on the borders, and one top hunter I know feels that there should be no elephant hunting at all in Tanzania. I personally think the Tanzanian government should put a moratorium on elephant hunting, at least until their current Parliamentary inquiry into sports hunting is completed.*

* The Tanzanian parliament is investigating corruption of its hunting industry. Quotas are frequently surpassed and animals are being killed at the edges of protected areas.
African greys are famous for their intelligence and ability to speak articu-
larly. Here the renowned Alex and Dr. Irene Pepperberg communicate.

Major Parrot Smuggler Indicted
On December 21, 1994, a nine count indictment charging A. A. “Buzz” Pare, doing business as Gators of Miami, Inc., was returned by a Miami Grand Jury. Charges include:
• one count of conspiring to illegally smuggle African grey parrots into the US and defraud the US Government by filing false importation documents on 12 separate shipments of parrots,
• six counts of smuggling approximately 4,702 African grey parrots, and
• two counts of making and submitting false records.
Pare’s alleged activities violate the Lacey Act and the smuggling statute. He faces up to 37 years in jail and almost $2 million in fines if found guilty.

According to the indictment and public documents, Gators of Miami, Inc. was the nation’s largest importer of African grey parrots from 1988 through 1990, having imported approximately 24% of all such birds. Between February 1988 and August 1991, Pare conspired to smuggle approximately 14 shipments totalling 5,102 “Congo” African grey parrots that had been illegally taken from the wild in Zaire, where commercial trade in this species has been completely banned.

The African grey parrot is listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The parrots were allegedly smuggled from Zaire, laundered through Senegal, and then exported to the US. The CITES export documents accompanying the parrots claim that they had originated in Guinea or the Ivory Coast—neither country has wild populations of these birds. African greys are highly prized by commercial pet traders, commonly commanding a retail price of $600 to $1000 each in the US.

AWI Receives Highest Rating
The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), which issues the Charity Rating Guide & Watchdog Report, gives the Animal Welfare Institute the highest rating of any animal protection group listed. AIP publishes a newsletter containing ratings of charities in many different categories, including fundraising methods. For example, a short article entitled “The Latest Patterns of Telemarketing Abuse,” reports, “professional telemarketing firms consume nearly 70% of donor contributions.” AWI employs no professional fundraisers at all.

Population Pains
by Grenville Lloyd
How are we going to greet the 2 billion additional people we expect to receive in the next twenty years, let alone the additional 7 billion who may join our world before the end of the next century?

There is no doubt that the world needs a “full court press” if there is to be any hope of stabilizing the world’s human population at 7.27 billion people by the year 2015. This was the goal expressed at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt on September 5-13, 1994. The “Cairo Declaration” proposed achieving the stabilization goal by empowering women throughout the world, providing women with comprehensive health care, including family planning services, and more educational, political and economic opportunities. In much of the world, motherhood is looked upon as the only road to status and security; this must change.

The Cairo Declaration recognizes the imperative of increasing family planning services to a level that will make them available to all people throughout the world who desire such services. It was recommended that all nations accept the conference’s “20-20 proposal,” which suggests that developing countries spend 20 percent of their national budgets and donors spend 20 percent of their foreign aid on social programs with particular emphasis on empowerment programs for women. The US should invest some $4 billion a year rather than the $595 million currently proposed for the 1995 fiscal year. However, the world community is only asking the US to gradually increase its contribution to $1 billion a year by the year 2000.

It seems most unlikely that the stabilization goal will be reached without additional actions. Every nation should establish a population policy. We already have foreign policies and economic policies; the world’s most pressing issue deserves similar recognition. The demographic impact of social and economic policies needs to be incorporated into our decision making. Recognizing that money, as well as sex, makes the world go round, governments should consider financial incentives to motivate people to limit family size.

As Timothy Wirth, US State Department Counselor said: “If we can’t stabilize the world’s population, we’re not going to be able to control any other problems.” For the welfare and diversity of both humans and nonhumans, we had better achieve the Cairo goal. Today, any cause is a lost cause in the long run unless we control our own numbers.

Bequests to AWI
To all of you who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’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. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Animal Welfare Institute
Post Office Box 3650
Washington, DC 20007
Whale for Sale, In Name of Science

Thumbing its nose at environmentalists, Japan's official Fisheries Agency will next week begin selling whale meat to the public at half price in its efforts to create a new generation of eaters of the flesh of the mammal, Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo writes.

"The number of children who have never eaten whale meat is growing," said an official of the agency, explaining the policy to whet the public appetite for the whale. The agency hopes the new whale eaters will back its campaign for the resumption of commercial whaling.

Timing for the launch has been chosen to coincide with the New Year festivities, Japan's biggest public holiday. The agency is arranging for delivery of whale meat to households and is running a special promotion to encourage big firms as well as individuals to offer whale meat in their year end "oseibo" gifts, when people offer luxury products to chosen friends.

A pound of whale meat will not come cheap. A package of 600 grams (about a pound and a quarter) of vacuum-packed whale meat "sashimi" will cost 5,500 yen [US$55.81]. The home delivery service will sell more affordable 100 gram slices at a mere 850 yen each [US$8.62].

The Fisheries Agency is using part of the 1,378 tons of meat of whales caught last year for "scientific purposes." The International Whaling Commission does not prohibit the sale of meat caught for scientific purposes, and small amounts have reached the market, hence the high price.


Periodical Pleasures

The Shell Game

by John Gleiber

The Sea Turtle Protection Society (STPS) of Greece publishes a newsletter in English every four months. Pleasingly named Turtle Tracks, it both delights and humbles me. How many animal welfare organizations do you know that publish bilingual newsletters? The Animal Welfare Institute certainly doesn't. But, when I read about the STPS's earnest and successful efforts, I wish we did.

It's only four pages, but they are chock-a-block with good news. The Touristik Union International (TUI) has presented the 1993/94 International Environmental Award to STPS in the persons of President Margaritoulis, Vice President Arapis and Secretary General Dimopoulos (a big hand for the proof reader). TUI, the largest tour operator in Europe, provides practical encouragement to international trail-blazing activities in environmental protection. Being strong advocates of tourism replacing exploitation in cash-strapped economies, we salute the progressive programs of TUI and STPS. The representative of the Greek Minister of the Environment pointed out that STPS is a vanguard in Greece, pointing the way to links between tourist development and environmental protection.

STPS was instrumental in banning speed boats from the Bay of Laganas on Zakynthos. Look at your atlas, I did. They work hard on research and loggerhead nesting beach acquisitions. They deserve our admiration and our thanks. You can subscribe and support them by sending money to The Sea Turtle Protection Society, 35 Solomou Street, GR-106 82 Athens, Greece. Don't pass up an opportunity to deal in drachmas. Four thousand drachmas (or $20 for the fainthearted) gets you started.

Florida Slashes Coastal Net Fishing

Voters came to the rescue of marine life inhabiting Florida's waters by overwhelmingly passing State Constitutional Amendment Number 3 in November's election. The amendment "Limiting Marine Net Fishing" bans gill nets and entangling nets of any size within 9 miles of shore in the Gulf of Mexico and 3 miles off the Atlantic coast. The amendment also bans other nets, such as seines, stab nets, and shrimp taws larger than 500 square feet, within one mile of Florida's east coast and within 3 miles to the west. Permit use of smaller hand-thrown cast nets is still allowed, and the majority of fishing operations, including deep sea operations and hook and line fisheries, will be unaffected by the change.

A state constitutional amendment may seem a drastic method of instituting gear restrictions, but it was seen as the only hope after many attempts to pass restrictive legislation or regulations failed. The Save Our Sealife coalilion combined the efforts of marine scientists, sport anglers, and conservationists to gather the signatures required to place the amendment on the ballot and spearhead the public information campaign to secure its passage.

The amendment was needed to:

• curb overfishing of species targeted by commercial netters.
• limit the biologically unsound catch of immature fish and shrimp which results from netting in coastal waters.
• decrease bycatch. Large nets ensnare nontarget species and the dead and dying fish are then tossed overboard. For instance, 10 pounds of fish and other marine life are killed for every pound of shrimp netted.
• reduce bycatch. Large nets ensnare nontarget species and the dead and dying fish are then tossed overboard. For instance, 10 pounds of fish and other marine life are killed for every pound of shrimp netted.
• decrease the killing of highly endangered sea turtles, dolphins, birds, and other unintended victims of the nets.

A similar ban on netting was passed in Texas in 1988, and the State reports that fish populations have rebounded significantly in subsequent years. Florida's ban takes effect on July 1, 1995.
1981 Swiss Ban on Battery Cages: A Success Story for Hens and Farmers

Today millions of laying hens still suffer as a result of being confined in inhumane housing systems known as battery cages.

Common sense is enough to tell us that birds kept in this way are subjected to undue suffering—with just 400 square centimeters of space each, battery hens barely have enough room to turn around. Housing systems must be adapted as far as possible to the livestock, not the livestock to the housing systems.

In 1981, the Swiss Animal Protection Act came into effect, making Switzerland the first country in the world to ban battery cages. The law requires housing systems for laying hens to provide sheltered, darkened nesting boxes and perches or slatted grids for all hens and allow a minimum area of 800 square centimeters per bird. This requirement effectively prohibits keeping laying hens in cages. Swiss poultry keepers have accepted the new situation and have demonstrated that it is possible to make a profit by using more humane husbandry.

The method of choice in Switzerland is now the aviary. This system is conceived in accordance with the natural behavior of fowl and is based on installations and equipment such as nest boxes and scratching areas or perches that enable birds to follow patterns of behavior specific to their species.

Despite the success of the Swiss system, millions of dollars are still being spent around the world on research into the needs of laying hens. Scientists are neglecting the progress that has been made in Switzerland over the last 30 years. Hygienic measures, behavioral aspects and economic problems are being studied over again. Thirteen years ago, the Swiss poultry farmers were presented with a major challenge. They faced up to this challenge and have now successfully mastered it. There is no logical reason why poultry farmers in other countries should not be at least as successful in the same situation.

Deregulated Farm Animal Transport in Canada—The Animals Pay the Price

by Tina Harrison

On an April morning in 1992, an investigator with Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals (CETFA) arrived at the Ontario Stockyards with a video camera in time to spot a truck at the ramp where a crippled cow was being unloaded. For nearly two and a half hours she lay in misery on a filthy floor covered in excrement and directly in the path of other animals doing their best to sidestep her as they were goaded and shouted off the truck. Once in a while, the little cow lowed softly, sides heaving, as the chains tightened to drag her yet another few feet along the interminable journey to the doorway of the vehicle and down the long ramp.

No one seemed to give a thought to her plight. If she reached the kill floor alive, she could be approved for human consumption, with minimum loss to the industry. No misplaced compassion must allow the slightest pang of conscience to interfere with profit. No matter that this cow, reduced to a skeleton, had quite likely produced some 25 tons of milk in her lifetime. This was her reward. Annual federal statistics show that more than 3 million farm animals die in Canada on their way to slaughter. Moreover, this figure does not even include “downers” at the thousands of uninspected plants across the country.

Large rigs regularly traverse the country with full loads under the direction of drivers with no training in livestock handling and even less sympathy for the distress of their cargoes. Following is a quote from a sympathetic long distance hauler.

One of the bigger priorities that I would like to see changed is how the animals are loaded into the front nose of some trailers. Once the deck is cranked for your second floor, the pigs are run into the trailer on the top deck and forced to jump approximately 3 1/2 feet into the front nose of the trailer. The pigs run around in circles trying to get away from the person(s) forcing them into this distant hole, and the look of terror in their eyes when they get to the edge of the floor and see where they have to jump is upsetting. If they are lucky they may fall on top of one another to cushion the blow, if not they fall snout first into straw and steel. I have seen many injuries resulting from sprained and broken legs to smashed snouts. Even some drivers who are not normally concerned about livestock voice their concern about this inhumane act.

Transportation of farm animals in Canada is deregulated, and clearly out of control. Protection of livestock in transit was eliminated in 1987 as a budgetary measure, and the results have been chaotic—both in terms of enormous animal anguish, and in staggering economic losses to an industry already heavily subsidized by long-suffering taxpayers.

Tina Harrison is co-ordinator of CETFA.

*Except for the “28-hour law,” which was passed in 1906 and only applies to livestock shipped by rail. Farm animal transport in the US has never been regulated.
Do Animal Protection Laws Dupe the Public?

by Henry Spira

“If, as Mahatma Gandhi states, ‘The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated’, the United States is being left behind by much of Western Europe.” So says David Wolfson in a soon to be published study documenting the fact that present laws are of no help to the cruel realities suffered by seven billion farm animals. Wolfson, an attorney in a major international law firm, suggests that while farm animals have no real legal protection, society perceives that they do.

As outlined by Wolfson, laws give the perception of protecting farm animals but, in reality, provide little or no protection. Federal law fails to provide any protection to farm animals on the farm. Moreover, while many state cruelty laws still cover farm animals in theory, they are rarely if ever applied. And most disconcerting is the trend of farm animals being increasingly excluded from the reach of state cruelty laws.

At present, 25 states exclude “accepted farming practices” from the reach of such cruelty laws. Nineteen states amended their statutes in the last twelve years. Eleven of these amended their statutes in the last six years and in just the past year, two states amended their state cruelty statutes to exclude accepted animal agricultural practices. The result is that any “accepted farming practice” is legally permitted—no matter how cruel. Obviously, there would be no need to amend state cruelty laws were there not the fear that accepted practices would be judged cruel. In effect, Wolfson states, animal agriculture has been left to regulate itself.

Consequently, our legal system appears to acquiesce to dragging a half dead cow, chained around her hind leg, through the stockyards and keeping calves deliberately anemic by depriving them of the most basic foods and water while imprisoning them in wooden crates for their entire short, utterly miserable lives. “The reality in the US”, says Wolfson “is that our society, through its laws, seemingly condones cruelty to animals.”

Is this how the American public wants farm animals to be treated? Much has happened in the past few years to suggest that not only are increasing numbers of people opposed to the routine and needless misery inflicted on seven billion farm animals each year, but that industry and government are finally beginning to respond to the public’s concerns.

Encouraging developments include USDA’s rapidly halting the face branding of Mexican cattle in the wake of widespread public outrage. And the USDA then following through by placing the issue of farm animal well-being on their agenda. Earlier, the American Meat Institute issued guidelines promoting the humane handling and transport of animals. Major American slaughterhouses have replaced the shackling and hoisting of large conscious animals. And fast food giant McDonald’s has told its suppliers to adhere to guidelines for more humane treatment of farm animals.

These reforms are encouraging. Still, life for farm animals has never been more miserable. Today, the only limits to increasing the confinement and trauma of farm animals are economic. The only reason they don’t cram more laying hens into a cage is because the increased mortality would make it less profitable. The same thing holds true for the pigs and veal calves routinely denied the most basic freedoms to turn around, lie down, and extend their limbs.

The enormous response to our recent campaign to end the face branding of Mexican cattle suggests that the public will not tolerate animal abuse if it is made aware of the facts. But, as Wolfson notes, the public believes that “although we eat animals, there are laws which prevent these animals from being treated cruelly.” In reality, farm animals are being subjected to ever more stressful confinement systems and have no legal protection.

How do we proceed? The public may want to replace or reduce its consumption of meat. At a minimum we can all agree that as long as the public eats meat, there’s a need to refine current methods of animal agriculture. But in order to make informed choices, we need to know the realities of confinement systems, transport, handling, and slaughter of farm animals. We also need to understand the lack of legal protection for farm animals and the need for a farm animal protection bill. The USDA and producer groups must be encouraged to promote the well-being of farm animals. Users of the products of animal agriculture need to enforce more humane standards for their suppliers.

Until the seven billion farm animals do have legal protection, agribusinesses need to respond rapidly and substantively to emerging public concerns. If they don’t, let’s place them in the unenviable position of having to publicly defend their right to be cruel.

Henry Spira, who has been active in human and animal rights movements for half a century, has coordinated successful campaigns to promote alternatives to the use of animals in laboratories. He has been a merchant seaman, auto assembly line worker, journalist, teacher, and an activist for civil rights and trade union democracy. He is now focusing on the plight of seven billion farm animals and plans to write a column regularly for the AWI Quarterly.
The Dangerous Business of European Live Animal Transport

A routine animal rights protest turned deadly when Jill Phipps, mother of a nine year old boy and dedicated campaigner for animal protection, was crushed to death under the wheels of a truck carrying veal calves to Coventry airport in central England for trans-national shipment. Ms. Phipps was part of a group demonstrating for more humane treatment for animals during export. According to The Washington Post on January 27: "The profile of the average member of the protesting organizations, said Trevor Hayes, spokesman for the National Farmers Union, 'is a 44-year-old Tory woman.'" 60 year old Betty Clydesdale told British news reporters of facing off against police in riot gear during passive protests against long-distance sheep export from the English port at Brightlingsea: "They sent into a one-horse place like this, people who had only been trained for violence. They were picking up middle-aged mothers and throwing them onto the pavement." Mrs. Julie Wayland, 39, claimed "I was kicked, punched, and dragged by the hair."

The UK has more stringent animal welfare regulations than many of the nations to which live animals such as calves and lambs are shipped. The practice of confining calves raised for veal in crates, for instance, was banned in the UK in 1990, but roughly half a million calves are exported to other EU members that still use dark, cramped, inhumane crates for confinement.

An individual member of the European Union cannot impose unilateral trade restrictions to prevent other members from treating animals however they wish. If such unilateral action were allowed, the UK simply could prohibit the export of live animals to any nation that does not have humane requirements comparable to domestic UK law.

The animal protection organization, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), has worked diligently to win improved conditions for these animals. On January 16, protesters succeeded in halting the transport of almost 2,000 sheep to port for export. Philip Lymbery of CIWF told the British newspaper The Guardian that "There cannot be any further excuse not to listen to the voice of the people. These sheep would have been sent for slaughter in continental abattoirs where the conditions and methods of slaughter are nothing short of barbaric."

The journey to the continent causes great suffering, with animals often transported as long as 48 hours without food, water, or rest. Journey time limits have often been debated among Europe's agriculture ministers without significant progress. Germany has long advocated an eight-hour time limit for such transport, but has met with strong opposition from consumer nations such as France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. William Waldegrave, Britain's Farm Minister, urged other member nations of the EU to join Britain in outlawing the "abhorrent" veal crates and support journey time limits. But his credibility is undermined by the fact that he sells calves from his farm to European exporters. His wife even wrote a cookbook recommending Dutch veal.

Ministerial discussions in February collapsed with no decision reached on how to provide better care and handling for animals in transport. The Ministers did agree, however, to resume talks in March.

Smuggled Drug Dangerous to Calves and Consumers

Clenbuterol is a highly toxic, illegal drug used to promote rapid, unnatural growth in veal calves. Use of the drug reportedly can increase daily weight gain as much as 30 percent while creating chemically induced, pale, anemic, so-called milk fed veal.

Thousands of animals from veal factory farms suspected of using clenbuterol may have been slaughtered and sold to consumers. Clenbuterol is toxic to humans. Even trace amounts have the potential to cause increased heart rate, muscle tremors, headache, dizziness, nausea, fever, and chills.

A special report by the Humane Farming Association (HFA) reveals the results of a federal investigation into the veal industry's use of this dangerous substance. According to HFA, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been aware of alleged uses of clenbuterol since 1989 when a rancher's calves experienced "an 'unusually high and unexplainable death rate.'" The rancher learned from Vitek Supply Corporation, a Wisconsin feed supplement company, "that clenbuterol was used in the feed and that it is smuggled into the country within shipments of other feed ingredients."

In February, 1994, armed FDA and Customs Service agents raided Vitek, setting off eight months at leading veal factories, feed manufacturers and distributors. Veal calf supplements seized from the Vitek raid allegedly tested positive for Clenbuterol. An October 14, 1994 article in the Los Angeles Times states that in Europe more than 1,000 human illnesses and five deaths have been attributed to use of the drug on calves.

According to the HFA report, underground use of Clenbuterol may be widespread throughout the industry. Former Vitek president Aat Groenevelt is now the chairman of one of the nation's largest veal companies, Provimi, Inc. It is not known how many factories produce veal from drugged animals or how much of the tainted meat has been eaten by unwitting American consumers.

For more information contact HFA, 1550 California St., Suite #6, San Francisco, CA 94109.
I also think that this is a real evolutionary time for scientists. We now know that animals have feelings, that animals, at best, have a family structure. They make reasoned responses. These things we now know about animals. Well, does this knowledge bring responsibility? I think knowledge always brings responsibility, and I also think that this is a real evolutionary time for scientists.

The research community and its activist critics are like two different nations locked in a long, bitter, seemingly intractable political standoff. They are fighting the monkey wars.

The Monkey Wars is an in-depth analysis of the tug of war between the biomedical establishment and the animal protection movement over the ethical and scientific justification of current practices in nonhuman primate care and research. The book is a captivating account of this battle which, for the most part, is rooted in cherished opinions and sentiments. The issues inherent to animal research force us to see what we would rather not. The author has remained objective, but the facts presented are so compelling that the principal ethical questions are interwoven into a haunting main theme for the book. The earnest reader will not be able to escape wrestling with some of the questions which are sure to arise.

Deborah Blum has based her work primarily on numerous personal interviews, but has also done a lot of homework, carefully studying and assessing relevant scientific publications, newspaper reports, press accounts, and legal documents to support her statements and conclusions and to elaborate on especially interesting issues such as memory, AIDS, regulatory loopholes, biomedical conformism and protectionism, and the illegal trade of nonhuman primates.

Each chapter discusses thoroughly and impartially the work of a specific, often charismatic worker in the field, some researchers and some animal welfare advocates. Here the reader will find the most readable exposition of just what all the fuss is about. Deborah Blum makes it clear that only mutual understanding can solve the problem.

I recommend The Monkey Wars to primatological researchers and animal advocates alike in order to examine and broaden their perhaps opinionated views of each other. The book is particularly recommended to biology and science teachers, and to high-school, college, and university students to give them a realistic insight into a rather shadowy area of science.

Viktor Reinhardt

Excerpts from an Interview with Deborah Blum

In an interview with Deborah Blum in Isthmus November 11, 1994, George Vukelich wrote, “Deborah Blum, science writer for The Sacramento Bee, wrote a series of articles on the battle over the use of primates in scientific and medical research that won a Pulitzer Prize.” Blum, who is also the author of The Monkey Wars (see review above), had the following to say about humans’ responsibilities to animals used in research:

One important thing I learned on this story—and it’s been a running theme throughout for me—is that animal research is about us. It’s not the story of cute little animals. The animals are important, yes. But the story is about us.

That’s the reality, because by majority vote we are the number-one species on the planet. Yes, we are ‘stewards,’ if you will, but it’s our show. We make the decisions about the other species. We have the power, if not the right, to use the other species, and how we use them tells a lot about who we are.

When Descartes said, ‘I think, therefore I am,’ that pretty much proclaimed that animals had no feelings, that animals were, at best, test tubes with a pulse.

So if you believe that, as lots of scientists did, there is no ethical issue. Slice up a rat or slice up a piece of cheese. It’s the same thing, right? No feeling there.

But our knowledge of animals has now progressed far beyond that. We now know that animals are smart. They have feelings. They have a family structure. They make reasoned responses. These things we now know about animals. Well, does this knowledge bring responsibility? I think knowledge always brings responsibility, and I also think that this is a real evolutionary time for scientists.

Yes, there are still scientists who regard animals as ‘tools,’ and many of these scientists also know that animals are complex living beings. It is a problem for many researchers.

It’s interesting to me that science has forced that problem on itself because science has studied so many, many animals all these years.

One tiny example. Historically, Rhesus macaques were regarded as sort of the ‘lab rats’ of monkey research. People said yeah, they were mean, but they weren’t smart. Now they’ve found out that Rhesus macaques can play computer games, sit with a joystick and ‘shoot down’ targets and do simple math on a computer screen. Every scientist I talked to says, ‘Well, you know, we underestimated them.’ That’s a theme that runs throughout: We’ve underestimated a lot of animals.

I think we haven’t reached the point where we say: We cannot use animals in research. But if we are to use primates in that way, I think we should use only the ones bred in captivity and increase those breeding colonies. We must not keep trapping animals out of the wild, because there aren’t too many of them left there.

Let the remnants of the wild populations stay in the wild. That decision would be a good one for responsible ‘stewards’ to make.

Progress in Denmark

In 1993, the Danish law regulating the use of animals for research was revised and significantly improved. Now, in addition to prohibiting experiments that inflict severe pain on animals, the law also bans experiments that generate intense suffering or anxiety. The Council for Animal Experimentation (CAE), which administers the law, consists of representatives from scientific councils, disease prevention societies, industry, and animal welfare groups. The 1993 revisions added a representative from the Animal Ethics Council and also allowed the CAE to refuse permission for experiments not likely to be of essential benefit.
Improving the Laboratory Environment for Nonhuman Primates
by Linda Brent

The 1985 amendment to the Animal Welfare Act requires research facilities to promote the “psychological well-being” of nonhuman primates. After much debate, the US Department of Agriculture published its final ruling concerning this topic in 1991. The USDA’s new regulations emphasize social housing and other environmental enrichment procedures, such as perches and toys. Now, several years after implementation of the regulations, it is reasonable to ask if the living conditions of laboratory primates have improved. At the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) in San Antonio, Texas, the answer would be “yes.” A once unknown term to our animal care staff, “environmental enrichment” is now part of our standard operating procedures.

An inquisitive chimpanzee investigates his large, grassy, and well-appointed playground.

A formal enrichment program at SFBR began in 1987 in the chimpanzee breeding and research area, now holding over 240 chimpanzees. Over the years, the program has grown to encompass most aspects of the chimpanzees’ lives, including housing, management, breeding, rearing and feeding. Environmental improvements include construction of large indoor cages that allow pairing of experimental animals, a grass-covered “playground” for breeding chimpanzee groups, and indoor/outdoor group housing for “retired” experimental animals. In addition, we provide toys, perches, mirrors, and foraging devices, and televisions for chimpanzees housed indoors. Management changes include leaving infants with their mothers for at least 2 years after birth and removing mothers from the breeding program who have proven to be inadequate or abusive toward their infants. Nursery areas have been greatly improved to provide important stimulation for the developing infants. Rockers, jungle gyms, numerous toys and stuffed animals, a fish aquarium for viewing, and a window to the adult chimpanzee groups nearby are examples of the enrichments available. Dedicated volunteers also spend time holding and playing with the infants.

We used the success of the chimpanzee enrichment program to guide our more recent efforts for monkeys. With over 3000 baboons and 150 other small monkeys at the SFBR, enrichment can be an overwhelming task. Luckily, the majority of monkeys are housed in large outdoor group cages or corrals that offer important opportunities for socialization and space for locomotion. To increase use of vertical space and provide shade and hiding places, we constructed a number of climbing and perching devices in the group-housing areas. We hang fifty-five gallon plastic drums as swings from suspended horizontal ladders in the outdoor cages, and we added large climbing structures similar to jungle gyms made of wood, metal, chain and wire to the corrals.

We provide individually housed animals with a variety of toys, either loose within the cage or hanging from a chain on the outside

Retirement Plan for Chimpanzees

The January, 1995 issue of the Laboratory Primate Newsletter reports on the ethical considerations of chimpanzee use in AIDS research. Following are excerpts from the article:

**Therapy:** The use of chimpanzees already infected with HIV for evaluation of approaches to therapy is possible, since about 150 such animals already exist. No additional animals should be infected solely for use in such studies. Furthermore, there is no shortage of human subjects for such investigations.

**Pathogenesis studies:** As numerous HIV-infected chimpanzees are already available, no new infections should be initiated for this purpose.

The article continues:

**Appropriate conditions for chimpanzees during and after experiments:** Whenever possible, chimpanzees must be housed at least in pairs, or larger groups. The fact that HIV is rarely, if ever, transmitted between animals caged together supports the practicality of such a policy. Cages should be of a size sufficient to permit exercise and normal play behavior, and a variety of enrichment articles should be provided to avoid boredom and facilitate recreation. The housing of chimpanzees involved in AIDS research singly in isolator cages which deny social interaction and companionship, as well as social interaction with human care-givers, is both unnecessary and unethical.

**Retirement:** It is now generally accepted that chimpanzees must be retired at the end of their involvement in research, to live under conditions which provide for their social and psychological well-being, for the remainder of their 40-50 year life span. For this reason, no experiment should be carried out unless the supporting agency has guaranteed to provide the funds necessary for such retirement. Such funds must be kept in a secure annuity account. At present, approximately $30,000-$60,000 per chimpanzee are standard charges for this purpose. The provision of more dedicated retirement facilities is a matter of great urgency. They should be as free-ranging as possible, should provide access to the outdoors, and should include relatively large groups of resocialized animals. Retirement facilities can be open to public view, as long as their design conveys an important message to the public concerning the ethical responsibility of the medical research community.

The provision of more dedicated retirement facilities is a matter of great urgency. They should be as free-ranging as possible, should provide access to the outdoors, and should include relatively large groups of resocialized animals. Retirement facilities can be open to public view, as long as their design conveys an important message to the public concerning the ethical responsibility of the medical research community.
of the cage. Durable dog toys, such as plastic bones, seem to work best with the baboons and other monkeys. We provide radios as auditory enrichment for animals housed indoors. We also attempt to pair individually housed primates, and provide a large activity cage several days per month for some of the baboons. Recently constructed "corn crib" housing allows us to move individually housed baboons to small outdoor groups.

We instituted several new policies regarding the well-being of baboon infants, including providing surrogate mothers made of rolled up towels suspended from the side of the cage, offering manipulable toys, and providing regular group play periods for the infants before they are integrated into pairs. It is hoped that these procedures will more closely resemble rearing with the mother, and that some of the possible detrimental behavioral effects of nursery rearing will be lessened.

To offset the high cost of maintaining an enrichment program at a large laboratory, we make use of available items, such as the large plastic drums and shredded paper for nesting material. In addition, we post signs requesting donations from the staff, such as baby toys, empty plastic containers, and old radios or televisions. The SFBR also has a very successful enrichment volunteer program. Our volunteers assist us in filling feeding devices, giving grain to group housed baboons, playing with infant chimpanzees, and helping with paperwork. We train the volunteers to work safely with primates, and provide them with literature on primate behavior and enrichment.

Perhaps the most important and far-reaching efforts to improve the lives of the nonhuman primates at the SFBR have been in educating and training our staff. We arranged films on primate behavior and invited individuals to speak on enrichment and the behavior of wild and captive primates. We also started staff training for our Behavioral Intervention Program. The goal of the program is to provide more responsive care on an individual basis. Identifying abnormal behavior is best done by the care giving staff who are trained in the identification of abnormal behavior in primates and have daily contact with the animals.

The environmental enrichment program at the SFBR has grown tremendously in the past few years and has had many successes in addressing the behavioral needs of the nonhuman primates in our care. However, improving the environment and well-being of nonhuman primates is not achieved by reaching some static level, but rather is an evolving process in which the physical and psychological needs of the animals are addressed on a daily basis.

Linda Brent is a Research Associate in the Department of Laboratory Animal Medicine of the SFBR in San Antonio, Texas.

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**Fisons Pharmaceutical Assessed $7,500 Fine Under the Animal Welfare Act**

On December 28, 1994, Fisons Corporation (formerly Penwalt Corporation) was fined a mere $7,500 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) under the terms of a Consent Decision and Order. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Medical Officers allegedly found that dogs used in a stroke study "received inadequate veterinary care which resulted in excessive pain and suffering for the animals. Adequate veterinary care has been a requirement at research facilities for many years and this was grossly violated at this facility."

According to USDA, Fisons' records reveal "animals in pain and distress from thoracotomies [incisions through the chest wall] which were performed on them. The evidence shows than no pain-relieving drugs were given from 1988 to 12-19-90 during the post-operative phase of this study." One dog had to be euthanized "to 'put it out of misery', as the record stated. To say that anyone could ever reasonably assess that no dogs experienced unrelied pain or distress on this study is ludicrous."

Thirteen percent of the dogs died prior to completion of the experiments. According to USDA, Fisons' records "show that surgery was never supervised, and Post-Operative visits by a veterinarian were rarely if ever made."

"When questioned, Dr. John Hicks, the attending veterinarian [and a former inspector with APHIS], stated he did not have adequate time to oversee these procedures."

The following numbers of dogs that died and associated causes of their deaths illustrate the shocking level of incompetence and cruelty that was apparently routine at Fisons:

- 15 dogs fluid accumulation in lungs
- 10 dogs ruptured aorta
- 5 dogs cardiac fibrillations and failure
- 4 dogs collapsed lungs
- 2 dogs ruptured pulmonary artery
- 2 dogs complications from local anesthetic
- 2 dogs unknown causes
- 1 dog incorrect intubation
- 1 dog complications during general anesthesia
- 1 dog severed blood vessel
- 1 dog disconnected to the respirator
- 1 dog no water given for several days
- 1 dog strangulation during recovery
- 1 dog dosed directly into lungs
- 1 dog extensive laceration of lungs

Although the AWA requires Fisons' Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to oversee research causing pain and stress to animals, USDA found that the stroke study proposals "conveniently detoured IACUC to receive what Fisons calls an expedited review. . . . Fisons circumvented USDA Regulations and put that power in the hands of one individual." Fisons was also charged with "deliberate failure to correctly report on the annual report the numbers of animals used in its research experiments involving pain or distress without the administration of appropriate anesthetics, analgesic or tranquilizer drugs."

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*These corn cribs serve as communal, outdoor play areas for individually housed baboons.*
AWI Offers Consultant for Environmental Enrichment

The Animal Welfare Institute has long been interested in improvements in the housing and handling of nonhuman primates used in laboratories. Refinement techniques have been tested and implemented at the macaque colony of the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center (WRPRC). The plan provides inexpensive but safe stimulation for expression of social behavior and a variety of other species-typical activities and includes training techniques to ensure the animals' cooperation during routine handling procedures, thus minimizing distress reactions.

Primates need to partake in natural behaviors, such as grooming.

Developed and implemented by ethologist and former WRPRC veterinarian Viktor Reinhardt, the innovations reflect the spirit of the Animal Welfare Act. AWI encourages other institutions to make use of Dr. Reinhardt's expertise and incorporate some of his ideas into their own plans. A 60-slide series entitled "Environmental Enhancement for Caged Rhesus Macaques" and a written summary are available on loan from AWI.

Dr. Reinhardt will visit interested institutions to offer advice on improving primate housing and handling. AWI will cover consultant fees and lodging expenses. Travel expenses must be covered by the institution. If you are interested in having Dr. Reinhardt visit your institution as a consultant, please contact him at 4605 Crescent Road, Madison, WI 53711, Tel: 608-274-9056.

Take a Course in the Ethical Issues of Animal Research

A summer course on Ethical Issues of Animal Research will be held June 24-29, 1995, on campus at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. This is a multi-disciplinary course for those broadly interested in the question of ethics and animal use. Participants will include biological, biomedical and social scientists, clinicians (veterinarians and physicians), and those with a background in humanities and philosophy. The course will enhance the experience of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee members and others responsible for training programs within academia or industry.

Course topics include the moral status of non-human animals, justification for using animals as experimental subjects, ethical concerns about vulnerable subjects, students' objections, the use of alternatives, animal harms and pain, the importance of species, and the role of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees. Various points of view will be presented. Speakers are well-known experts from the US and abroad. Course directors are F. Barbara Orlans, PhD, and Tom L. Beauchamp, PhD, both of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University.

For more information contact Moheba Hanif, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 20057. Tel: 202-687-6833 Fax: 202-687-8089 Email: hanif@guvax.georgetown.edu.
THREATS TO ANIMAL WELFARE

by Craig Van Note

The 15 animal protective laws passed by the US Congress in the last 37 years are suddenly endangered by a series of bills that could disastrously weaken these laws. The Committee that developed and promoted the Endangered Species Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act has been eliminated. Instead, a new Resources Committee, headed by an advocate of the steel jaw leghold trap, Representative Don Young (R, AK), has taken charge of wildlife issues.

Radical changes to federal laws and regulations that could cripple or destroy decades of hard-won progress in animal welfare and wildlife conservation are being pressed in a number of ways.

The sweeping changes in the federal government now being pushed through Congress include:

1. Broad-brush deregulation that would wipe out wise rules along with unnecessary and burdensome ones.
2. A regulatory moratorium that would freeze for many months—and perhaps years—new regulations for humane treatment of animals and the protection of threatened and endangered species.
3. Cost-benefit analysis of all federal regulations at taxpayer expense, a process that could tie every federal agency into knots by requiring complex, time-consuming studies of the impacts and effects of regulations.
4. Costly risk analysis of major laws and regulations, subjecting them to nit-picking by economists and statisticians. Humane values and conservation concerns could be sacrificed on the altar of economic growth.
5. A regulatory “sunset” provision that would terminate automatically all existing federal regulations in seven years and new regulations after three years unless the federal agencies and Congress complete an exhaustive review of each regulation within the time frame—and Congress specifically reauthorizes the regulation.
6. A proposed requirement for the federal government to reimburse property owners for diminution of value of their assets that could cripple the government’s—and every community’s—ability to set standards for humane treatment of animals and to regulate development.
7. Across-the-board budget cuts that could wipe out any enforcement of decades of animal welfare and conservation standards we have fought for in America.

Craig Van Note is Executive Vice President of the Monitor Consortium.

Cover: The cherubic beluga whale has long been the subject of immense curiosity and commercial exploitation. They have been hunted for food, oil and leather and were the first whales to be held in captivity. Here an adult beluga and two calves enjoy a frolic in a shallow stream in the Northwest Territories, Canada. Photo by Flip Nicklin.
Despite its many successes, including the recovery of the black-footed ferret, the Endangered Species Act is under attack. See pages 2 and 10.

A man in wolf's clothing? AWI staff member Adam Roberts poses as a trapped wolf during a protest in front of the US Trade Representative's office. See page 9.
"Scientists against killing mammals"

The March 29, 1995 Galveston Daily News reports two scientists are working on a book about non-lethal methods of studying populations of whales and other mammals. Under the headline "Scientists against killing mammals," Heidi Lutz writes:

Alexey Yablokov is the chairman of the Russian Federation National Security Council Interagency Commission on Ecological Security. He met Texas A&M's Dr. William Evans in 1972 while Evans was in Moscow for a conference.

Since then, the two scientists have been working together to show people what can be learned from mammals without killing them.

Yablokov first had the idea that scientists could learn about the populations of whales by their color patterns. He shared this idea with Evans and it is now the subject of their book.

"We are absolutely sure there is no reason to kill," Yablokov said. "We can understand the whale population of Antarctica without killing."

Many scientists have been killing whales to learn about their social patterns. But all of the information needed to manage the population of a species can be found by observing them, he said.

Yablokov and Evans are polishing the manuscript and hope to publish it by the end of the year. Their data can only be used to study marine mammals, such as whales, but not all mammals, Yablokov said.

"What we're doing here is very important to us," Evans said. "We can learn the majority of things we need to do without lethal methods."

Before heading the commission on ecological security, Yablokov was a scientific advisor to Yeltsin. And when Perestroika was beginning, Yablokov was a member of the Soviet Parliament.

All of these positions have enabled Yablokov to help shape environmental policy, he said.

The commission he chairs discusses environmental security in the wake of nuclear disarmament and litter left in space from American and Russian spacecraft.

"You have to establish regular norms and rules," Yablokov said.

Evans was the head of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

He currently is a professor at Texas A&M University in Galveston and president of the Texas Institute of Oceanography.

Both scientists have written several books, but this is their first project together.

**JAPAN PROFITEERING IN ANTARCTIC WHALE SANCTUARY**

For the eighth consecutive year, Japan has defied the International Whaling Commission (IWC) by killing 330 whales in the Antarctic. Not one of the so-called "scientific permits" the Japanese government has issued itself has ever been approved by the IWC. Each year since the Commission adopted the moratorium on commercial whaling, Japan has used a loophole in the treaty to continue killing whales and selling whale meat.

This year, Japan not only defied the IWC moratorium, but added insult to injury by repudiating the IWC Convention's 23 to 1 vote creating the Antarctic Sanctuary for Whales.

"These hunts," said Michel Barnier, France's Minister of the Environment, "are all the more shocking less than a year after the creation of the Sanctuary, set up on French initiative."

He called the Japanese scientific permits "alibis for practices mainly motivated by commercial objectives" and vowed France would take corrective action at the next meeting of the IWC.

**Biodome Won’t Display Belugas**

In a March 29th press release, the Biodome de Montréal announced its decision to "postpone the acquisition of beluga whales for its St. Lawrence marine ecosystem indefinitely, whether through capture or a purchase from other institutions."

According to the press release:

"The Biodome believes it is important to keep in mind the opinions voiced strongly and vigorously by groups whose environmental goals in the end match its own.

... the Biodome is closing its file on the belugas indefinitely."

The only option that might be considered is to temporarily accommodate a beluga or other marine mammal sent to the Biodome as part of a rescue operation or a short-term collaboration with national and international programs to preserve the genetic pool of cetaceans in captivity. In such cases, the animals would not be on display to the public. For the time being, however, the Biodome prefers to focus its efforts on developing its ecosystems and facilities.

**State Department Provides Funding for US/Russian Beluga Observation**

The most beautiful of all 91 species of cetaceans, the beluga whale has long been persecuted. Belugas have been killed both for sport and for their meat. Currently, Norwegian whalers are anxious to involve the Russians in commercial beluga hunting. Canadian belugas are threatened by pollution from manufacturing plants whose wastes pour into the St. Lawrence River. Many of these belugas have been found to be suffering from cancerous growths.
According to James Cameron, a barrister and director of the London-based Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has not fulfilled a critical legal mandate to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the effects of the moratorium on commercial whale hunting. "No comprehensive assessment of the effects of setting zero catch quotas on the commercial hunting of whales has been completed," stated Cameron in a recent legal opinion. "The Scientific and Technical Committees of the IWC have instead merely made a selective assessment of the potential of some whale stocks to sustain renewed catches. No modification of the 1982 (moratorium) decision is permitted until a comprehensive assessment has been completed." Cameron’s opinion undermines efforts by Norway and Japan to overturn the moratorium.

Recent IWC resolutions calling on the Commission’s Scientific Committee to study environmental threats to whales and other cetaceans should provide additional support for the moratorium.

In March, the IWC held a special scientific workshop on the threat of chemical pollution to cetaceans. The meeting was held in Bergen, Norway and hosted dozens of the world’s top experts on pollution. A variety of papers describing known and potential effects of pollutants on whales were discussed and numerous recommendations were drawn up to be forwarded to the Scientific Committee.

Dr. Theo Colborn, a world expert on effects of pollutants, gave an impressive but sobering account of new scientific insights into the massive damage caused by organochlorine pollutants, including reproductive failure in many species. Dr. Colborn described how many of these pollutants replicate the effects of hormones and are transmitted from mother to infant in the fetal stage of development. The pollutants affect neurological development of the fetus even at very low doses previously thought to be harmless. The IWC will host a second special scientific workshop on the effects of global warming and ozone depletion in the United States in early 1996.

Only during the last two years has the IWC’s Scientific Committee started to undertake the daunting task of studying environmental threats to whales. Ironically, it was only after the IWC agreed to the moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 (which was implemented in 1986) that the broader scientific community began to document many of the major environmental threats that now pose such grave dangers to whales.

The ozone hole above the Antarctic was discovered in 1986, and this year European scientists discovered a similar hole in the earth’s atmosphere above Europe and the arctic regions. During the nine years the commercial whaling moratorium has been in effect, scientific data on the impacts of pollutants have emerged at an ever increasing rate. Bycatches of hundreds of thousands of whales, dolphins and seals have been recorded since the mid 1980s. The cumulative impact of the many threats to whales has not yet been studied by the IWC. It will take decades of research to even begin to quantify these threats.

The existing moratorium on commercial whaling must be extended for a period of 50 years. Deliberate killings should also be banned to ensure that whales, dolphins and porpoises have a chance to survive in the long term. These goals will be the focus of a joint campaign by the Animal Welfare Institute and the Environmental Investigation Agency at the 1995 meeting of the IWC.

Allan Thornton is Chairman of the Environmental Investigation Agency.

The Cruelest Kill:
The Faroese Pilot Whale Hunt

The world’s largest whale slaughter continues in the Danish owned Faroe Islands, just north of Scotland. Each year, more than 1,000 pilot whales are driven into bays and brutally killed. This indiscriminate killing method is banned in the US and by the European Wildlife Convention, to which all European states adhere—including Denmark with a single exemption for the Faroe Islands. Pilot whales are protected in the North and Baltic Seas by an agreement reached under the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species. Both Britain and Ireland safeguard pilot whales within their 200 mile limits.

Although pilot whales are protected within their entire coastal distribution around Europe, they migrate temporarily out of these waters each year towards the continental shelf around the Faroe Islands. Once they approach the islands, dozens of fishing boats drive a herd onto a beach, where whalers kill all of the animals, including pregnant females and newborn calves.

Pilot whales are also threatened by high levels of pollutants, including heavy concentrations of toxic organochlorines—PCB’s, dieldrin, aldrin and heptachlor—and heavy metals such as mercury and cadmium. The whales are so contaminated they would be classified as high level toxic waste under US law.

A recent study revealed Faroese people have pollution concentrations in their bodies up to eight times greater than people on the Danish mainland. This is almost certainly associated with their consumption of highly polluted whale meat and blubber. The Danish Health Ministry continues to turn a blind eye to the threat posed to the Faroe Islanders’ health. The Faroese disbelieve the health warnings of environmentalists, considering it a “trick” to fool them into stopping the whale hunt.

The Environmental Investigation Agency and AWI will be seeking a ban on the pilot whale hunt at the 1995 IWC meeting to be held in Dublin, Ireland.
A History of Lawlessness—Can Whalers Ever be Trusted?

The International Whaling Commission was established in 1946. From the very first, the whalers have violated the rules and agreements of the IWC. Following is a brief summary showing chronic defiance by the whaling industry.

1942-52 Contrary to IWC rules, half the average annual catch of 1,000 whales in the Norwegian minke whale hunt in the North Atlantic are first year calves, an unknown proportion still suckling.

1951-55 Panamanian registered Olympic Challenger under-reports large catches of sperm whales and humpback whales off South America and catches baleen whales in Antarctica outside the season.

1953 Olympic Challenger catches undersized blue, humpback and sperm whales.

1960s Soviet whalers in the Antarctic catch prohibited species and massively under-report catches of eight species to the IWC.

1967 Japan establishes whaling station in Peru, a non-IWC country. About 1,800 whales killed per annum until 1970s.

1968-72 Japan imports whale meat from pirate whaling ship MV Run, which has been hunting humpback and southern right whales off South Africa.

1970s Sei whales caught by Norway around Iceland are misreported as minke whales.

1970s Norwegian whalers regularly report two small whales as one large whale.

1973 Observer on Icelandic whaling station reports that some meat from whales caught below minimum length was exported, contravening IWC rules.

1974-80 Pirate whaling vessel MV Rin renamed the Sierra catches thousands of whales regardless of size or sex; the whale meat is imported by Japan.

1975-79 Four Taiwanese-registered pirate whaling vessels catch whales in the north Pacific Ocean; whale meat is laundered to Japan via South Korea.

1977 Pirate whaler Palmy Star No. 3 operates off Chile, exporting the catch to Japan.

1977-78 Japan imports fin whale meat from Spain, a non-IWC member, which also catches blue and sperm whales.

1977 Taiwanese statistics show exports of whale meat to Japan; no imports appear on Japanese statistics.

1978 Pirate whaler Tonna hunting whales in the Atlantic Ocean.


1980s Norwegian whaling vessels are reported to be catching 30% above the quota allocated.

1980 IWC observer reports widespread infractions of Japanese sperm whaling despite being present at only 10% of landings; the national inspectors report few infractions despite being present at the majority of landings.

1981 Chilean vessel Juan IX reported to have captured 10 Bryde's whales over its quota and sei whales, a protected species; 104 tons of meat exported to Japan.

1981 Japan circumvents the IWC ban on factory ships by using an anchored factory ship to process Bryde's and sperm whales in the Ogasawara Islands, calling it a land station.

1983-86 In violation of IWC regulations, MV Faith catches and processes whales around the Philippines and hunts whales after IWC moratorium comes into effect.

1984-85 Chilean vessel Juan IX reported to have captured right whales illegally.

1986 Norwegian whaling vessel Ulla catches four whales above the ship's quota.

1986-91 Japan imports over 58% of whale meat from Iceland's scientific hunt, contravening IWC rules.

1987 140 tons of Icelandic whale meat confiscated in Germany en route to Japan.

1986-89 Iceland hunts whales under scientific permit in each year.

1987 South Korea goes scientific whaling.

1987-85 Scientific whaling conducted by Japan in each year, contrary to recommendations of the IWC.

1988 196 tons of Icelandic whale meat confiscated in Finland on route to Japan.

1988-94 Norway conducts scientific whaling in each year, contrary to the recommendations of the IWC.

1991 Japanese import statistics show Icelandic whale meat still being imported, two years after the end of Iceland's scientific whaling program.

1991 Stripped whale blubber found in South Atlantic Ocean.

1992 10 tons of whale meat seized in southern Japan, imported illegally from Taiwan.

1993 Unconfirmed report from Norway of a whale caught after the season had ended.

1993 Attempted smuggling of 3.5 tons of minke whale meat from Norway to South Korea.

1993 Korean Fishermen's Associations admit large-scale illegal whaling in the Pacific after whale meat is found openly sold in Republic of Korea.

1993-94 Contrary to the will of the IWC and despite the moratorium, Norway conducts commercial whaling operations, setting its own quotas.

1994 Confiscation of 232 tons of whale meat in Vladivostock, Russia, tentatively identified as Bryde's whale, being smuggled from Taiwan to Japan.

1994 Attempted smuggling of 11 tons of whale meat by Korean fishermen into Japan.

1994 Norwegian whaling vessel catches and strips the blubber from a whale above the ship's quota.

1994 Japan conducts two scientific whale hunts contrary to the recommendations of the IWC.

1994 DNA analysis reveals illegal minke, fin and humpback whale meat on sale in Japan.

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The Animal Detectives

A new seven-part television series currently airing on British Independent Television has received high acclaim in the British press. "Animal Detectives" follows seven undercover investigations by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). "This is a completely new kind of factual television," says producer Paul Cleary of Goldhawk TV and Film Productions. "Animal Detectives focuses on the work of EIA and combines hard-hitting undercover investigations with natural history footage and challenges the audience to act."

Public reaction to the first two programs has been overwhelming. Carlton UK Television’s phones were jammed following the broadcast of the first program. Thousands of letters have been sent, and every British Member of Parliament (MP) has been warned to expect large postbags while the series is running.

The series was launched in London with the support of celebrities and MPs from each of the political parties. Since the first program, it has been chosen by TV magazines as their “pick of the day” and has generated more than 400 newspaper and magazine articles. Mathew Taylor MP, the Liberal Democrat Environment spokesperson, said “The series...reflects a huge change...from getting people to accept that there is a problem, to looking at how we solve these problems.” EIA has worked with Carlton UK to produce a free brochure for the public with action points on each of the wildlife issues addressed in the films.

EIA’s Executive Director and Chief Investigator, Dave Currey, has worked very closely with the production team over the last year. “Animal Detectives is one of the most powerful campaigning tools we could have” he explains. “The idea is that the programs appeal to broad audiences who will follow the excitement of the investigation, but get pulled into the importance of the issue. These are films that demand action, and EIA is trying to empower audiences by helping them discover the problems and join in to help provide the solutions.”

The programs cover the plight of macaques, marine turtles, rhinos, walrus, grey parrots, pilot whales and bears. Filming took place in the Russian Far East, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Vietnam, the Faroe Islands, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, China, North America, South Africa and Taiwan.

The Films:

The macaque investigation exposes a plan by Vanny Chain of Hong Kong to set up a “captive breeding” station for macaques outside Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. This would provide half the world’s supply of research macaques. The EIA team found wild animals in appalling conditions in holding cages and were told the company planned to catch 6,000 macaques in the immediate future from all over Vietnam. Former investigations prove the captive breeding centers in Asia are often used to launder wild caught monkeys. When secretly filmed, the director of Vanny Chain explained Vietnam was his biggest venture because Vietnam has “the natural resources.”

The turtle film exposes marine turtle shell available in Sri Lanka’s tourist shops even though it is illegal to sell parts of these highly endangered animals. The EIA investigators traced the majority of the supply of raw shell to the Maldivian Islands in the Indian Ocean. Here they learned the identity of the main suppliers and the smuggling method.

The rhino film was shot during a number of investigations and follows the trail from poachers in Africa to the big dealers in Taiwan and China and the shops around Asia. The undercover EIA investigators found one ton of rhino horn for sale in southern China.

Walruses, whales and seals are hunted by native people in Chukotka, Siberia. An investigation revealed marine mammals are all killed primarily to feed foxes on fur farms. In this area left behind after the collapse of the Soviet Union, nobody gains from the cycle of killing and waste to feed foxes who are killed for fur no one wants to buy.

Grey parrots are one of the most intelligent birds and for that reason are popular in the pet trade. EIA investigators discovered the identities of traders and officials who are illegally catching wild grey parrots in Ghana and smuggling them to Côte d’Ivoire. The film follows the investigation, which ends in an arrest by Ghanaian police.

The Danish Faroe Islands, 200 miles from Scotland, are the site of the biggest whale kills in the world (see page 5). For the first time, locals spoke out to EIA in opposition to the hunt. So scared are they of reprisals, their identities had to be disguised.

EIA met with Fish and Wildlife Service officers to uncover the extent of bear poaching for gall bladder in the US and then traveled to China to track down sordid farms where bears are regularly drained of their bile for sale as Chinese medicine. Asiatic Black Bears, an endangered species, are often caught from the wild and forced to live the rest of their lives in tiny, barren cages.

“Animal Detectives” is scheduled to be shown in Germany in June, and the distributors are currently negotiating with four other countries. When asked about EIA’s concern that its investigators will be recognized in the future, Dave Currey had a warning. “There are countries in which some of us could no longer work undercover effectively,” he explains. “But we’ll send others. We want every trader in wildlife to be worried that the next person offering them a deal may be out to expose them. Let’s get them nervous. But if they want to do business they’re going to have to trust someone. One day that’ll be one of EIA’s Animal Detectives.”
Traps like this were outlawed in Britain in the 1950s. Now the US wants to stop us banning catching this way

BY DANNY PENMAN

Canadian and United States trappers are trying to force the European Union to scrap its imposing ban on using killing machines, by convinced animals caught in cruel and inhumane traps. With the full support of their governments, the trappers plan to exploit a loophole in the ban which allows imports of fur of animals caught using "internationally recognised humane trapping standards".

Animal welfare groups claim that the fur trade dominates a key international group setting the "humane" trapping standards and are challenging through a series of measures that would condemn millions of animals to an agonizing death. By enacting a new bill to cut off fur from animals caught in traps that snap bones, tendons and ligaments and from those that drown their prey.

The traps were banned in Britain in the 1950s and across Europe on 1 January this year. Under a European regulation, fur from animals caught in steel jawed leghold traps will be banned in the EU from 1 January next year.

US and Canadian trappers are lobbying hard for the ban to be scrapped. According to documents obtained by The Independent, and criticisms voiced by an American National Standards Institute, for blocking the admission of animal welfare "humane" trapping standards, a technical committee of the Geneve-based International Standards Organisation (ISO), known as TC191. Animal welfare groups are not represented on TC191.

The committee's final recommendations to the ISO are due later this year, and are expected to legitimise traps that have been described as "inacceptable" and "inhumane" by the Scientific Veterinary Committee, which advises the European Commission on animal welfare and husbandry policies. The standards, if accepted, may allow Canadian and US fur trappers to overturn European animal welfare laws using international free trade rules. Last month Stuart Eiscenstain, the US ambassador to the EU, tried to persuade Rolf Bjørnegaard, the EU's Environment Commissioner, to scrap the ban. But Canada, who asked last year's International Conference on trapping, Ty ronge, 2000, the US Trade Representative, is expected to persuade the EU to change the ban. If the US wins, then Europe could be forced to lift the ban. The Canadians are determined to win international acceptance of their trapping methods. The Government has been advised by a public relations firm to behalf Canadian fur "as so as to assure the wearer of the animal's well being of humanity - where environmental balance is always a key consideration". "Fearful cruelty", page 2

Fur trappers fight to inflict 'fearful cruelty'

Animal welfare groups claim those defining acceptable killing machines are biased, according to reports.

In 1863 Charles Darwin condemned the steel-jawed leghold trap made famous by Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett for consigning thousands of animals to a "slow and lingering death". He called on Englishman to act against "so fearful an amount of cruelty.

Today, fur trappers are trying to get their traps classified as humane through the International Standards Organisation. The ISO is better known for worrying about film speeds and widget standards. The European Commission's VT department, assisted by Tom Krause, from the National Trappers Association and guiding research into drowning traps.

The distinguished British newspaper, The Independent, is well known for its outspoken reporting on matters of serious concern and controversy. The May issue featured the international battle against the steel jaw leghold trap emphasizing the fact that Britain banned it many years ago, but the United States "wants to stop us banning catching this way." Reproduced above is the banner headline and report by Danny Penman, below, his article quoting Charles Darwin on the "acute agony" inflicted by the steel jaws.

Fur trappers organize protests against steel jaw held traps at the US Trade Representative's (USTR) office two blocks from the White House. Senators from several states, where these agonizing traps are used on a large scale have exerted pressure on the head of USTR, Ambassador Mickey Kantor, to oppose and challenge the European Union (EU) ban. The US government has realized that they should end the use of these maiming instruments. "the special constitutional rights of the Russian Federation.

The Canadian government has begun the first stage of a challenge to Europe's fur ban under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) challenge to the ban in April 1994. If they win, then Europe could be forced to lift the ban. The Canadians are determined to win international acceptance of their trapping methods. The Government has been advised by a public relations firm to behalf Canadian fur "as so as to assure the wearer of the animal's well being of humanity - where environmental balance is always a key consideration". "Fearful cruelty", page 2

Demonstration Against Cruel Traps

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AWF's Adam Roberg, disussed as a trapped wolf, and HSSU's Dale Bartlett delivered a letter opposing "any effort to weaken or delay implementation of the European Union's Lethal Trap Regulation.

A WWF and the American Trappers Committee, which sends delegations to TC191, was castigated by its parent organisation, the American National Standards Institute, for blocking the admission of animal welfare groups.

An ANSI appeal board said the sub-committee had "a complete lack of balance" and was dominated by a "single interest group:" The findings were subsequently overturned and the results of a further appeal are awaited. The Canadian government has begun the first stage of a challenge to Europe's fur ban, under the World Trade Organisation Treaty: Top level discussions are planned between Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative and Sir Les Brittan, the European Commission's Vice-President, to try to resolve the long-standing dispute.
ASSAULT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT ENDANGERS US ALL

US legislation protecting wildlife and the environment is the finest in the world. It is important that our nation maintain this leadership of which every American can be justifiably proud. In 1973, Congress enacted a comprehensive, model Endangered Species Act (ESA). This legislation has been extremely effective in saving wildlife and plant species in danger of extinction.

Non-consumptive Use of Wildlife—A Fiscal Boon

The economic benefits of preserving species and their environments are numerous. In 1991, whalewatching in the US brought an estimated $37.5 million in direct revenue while another $155.5 million was earned by associated businesses. In Southern New England alone, tourists pay more than $21 million each year to visit whales in their natural environment. Humpback, fin and minke whales frequent these waters, as well as the occasional orca and pilot whale. One might even be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

The California gray whale, now removed from the endangered species list, is the star of the West Coast’s whalewatching industry. Commercial whalewatching vessels also serve as platforms for educational outreach and scientific research. The Endangered Species Act was key to protecting the whales that now support an industry pouring millions into our coastal economies.

Agriculture Dependent on Wild Plants & Animals

American agriculture’s debt to wild plants is estimated at $1 billion per year. All of our food comes from species of plants and animals that were once wild. Cultivated plant species become prey to diseases, fungus or insect attack. When Southern cornleaf blight attacked crops in 1970, losses totalled almost $1 billion. The disease was stopped when an old, resistant corn species was found and bred into a new hybrid. Currently, botanists are collecting seeds of wild potatoes in an attempt to prevent a variant of the fungus that caused the Irish potato famine in the 1840s from ruining crops in the US. Food losses to insects in the US amount to at least $5 billion per year, and hundreds of insects have become resistant to a wide spectrum of pesticides. Species capable of saving agricultural crops and billions of dollars for American farmers will be lost without protection from the ESA. Many of these ancestral plants and insect predators are highly endangered and urgently need to be maintained in their native habitats. The ESA has identified many of these species and preserved them from extinction.

Life-saving Medicine from Rare Species

Worldwide, medications derived from plants are worth $40 billion annually. Most of our medicines came originally from wild plants, including major painkillers, birth-control agents and malaria drugs. Quinine, digitals and morphine all come from plants. According to a study funded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Bank, more than 40 percent of all prescriptions in the US still depend on natural sources. Only a small percentage of wild plants have been tested for medicinal value. In some cases, plants that might have disappeared altogether were found to be medical treasures. The Madagascar periwinkle is a small flowering plant that grows in a country that has lost more than 80 percent of its vegetation. Two potent compounds found in this plant have proven effective in the treatment of Hodgkin’s disease and produce a 99 percent remission in patients with acute lymphocytic leukemia. Global sales of these two drugs now total $100 million a year.

Another species that could have slipped into extinction is the Pacific yew. Traditionally considered a “trash plant” by foresters in the Pacific Northwest, this evergreen has been cleared to make way for plant species that are profitable to the timber industry. Research in the past few years revealed that the Pacific yew contains compounds effective in treating ovarian and other cancers. Synthesis of these chemicals will save thousands of lives and be worth millions of dollars.

The Pacific yew grows in old-growth forest, home of the spotted owl. This threatened bird’s addition to the ESA provoked a bitter controversy between loggers and conservationists. After a flurry of lawsuits from both sides, logging limits were implemented. In spite of dire predictions from lumber companies that 100,000 jobs would be lost as a result of the reduction in logging, employment in Oregon, the heart of the spotted owl’s habitat, has increased. An influx of technology firms and retraining of loggers through government programs has brought new higher paying jobs to Oregon, resulting in the highest employment rate in a generation. The ESA is directly responsible for saving both the Pacific yew and the spotted owl through habitat protection.

When a species’ habitat is preserved, an entire ecosystem may benefit. That ecosystem may harbor other species valuable to medicine or perform functions essential to the health of the environment. For instance, old growth forests keep streams and rivers clear from erosion, and their slow release of water keeps rivers flowing throughout the longest droughts. Salmon find the rivers of old

continued on page 11
asmus to lift sanctions.

In May of last year, the Clinton Administration imposed ground-breaking sanctions on the wealthy nation of Taiwan for illegal trade in rhino and tiger products. The embargo, which took effect in August 1994, covered imports of Taiwanese wildlife products valued at US$23 million annually. A delegation representing the US government visited Taiwan in March to evaluate Taiwan’s progress in controlling trade in endangered species. Based on this delegation’s report, President Clinton will decide whether or not to modify the import prohibitions.

Investigators working for the Animal Welfare Institute, the Humane Society of the US and Humane Society International also visited Taiwan in March 1995. They concluded that although there had been some positive progress in combating the illegal trade in rhino and tiger products, it was too early to judge whether this would be a temporary phenomenon. The investigators were encouraged by an increased public awareness of wildlife laws brought about by extensive media coverage and campaigns by the government and wildlife groups. The availability of rhino and tiger products has apparently been reduced, but the investigators warned the illegal trade may resurface if efforts are not ongoing. They found the sanctions had given the rhino and tiger issue the high political profile it needed in Taiwan but asserted that unless this increased official concern is translated into greater resources for wildlife enforcement and education, the progress could be short-lived.

Taiwan has passed new, stricter wildlife laws, but the by-laws or regulations to implement them have not been finalized. US Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has made it clear that wildlife law enforcement is the most crucial issue to be dealt with before sanctions are revoked. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement has provided technical assistance and training to its Taiwanese counterpart, but the investigators found that lack of identification materials, resources and appropriate manpower still hampered enforcement. They called the formation of a “Conserva-
Koalas, Australia’s Ancient Ones

This is a book that celebrates the enormous charm of the koala. Koalas are nocturnal animals who sleep all day long after spending their evenings eating their fill of eucalyptus leaves. They are mysterious creatures who, the author tells us, most Australians have never even seen. Koalas have been on the planet for more than 50,000 years; they were here before the separation of land into what we now know as continents. Mr. Phillips lists no fewer than 38 species of eucalyptus preferred by koalas. Only six species are common. He tells us “the destruction of [the koala’s] trees has been allowed to proceed at an alarming rate.”

In a table headed “The Bare Facts,” Mr. Phillips lists the “Principal predator” as “Humans,” and this is attested to by records showing that “in the 1890s from 10,000 to 30,000 [koala] skins per year were being sent to London. By 1889 the volume reached 300,000! They were not used for high-fashion items but when a ‘cheap and durable fur’ was required.”

Mr. Phillips is no mere recorder of facts about koalas. Proceeds from his book go entirely toward efforts to protect, heal and ensure a future for the koala and its habitat. He describes the Koala Hospital, which carefully caters to the koala’s tastes. He writes: “…running the Koala Hospital resembles a fine European hotel, as the dietary preferences must be noted and eventually logged in a computer database. Fresh leaves must be picked in accordance with these preferences and served within hours of picking, having been kept in cool water first.”

The book ends with the story of a koala rescue high in the trees after a forest fire. The intensive care that a koala named Terry Glen received continued for months and resulted in his return to the wild.

Mr. Phillips stresses the necessity of preserving the koala’s habitat if this remarkable creature is to survive:

With the continued destruction of its habitat, even if present disease factors were to be eliminated from the equation, in roughly ten years’ time, there will simply be neither home nor food for the koala. Trees must be planted and the destruction of forests containing the koalas’ eucalyptus leaves halted.

Even as this book was being written, massive fires were consuming hundreds of thousands of acres of trees and wildlife in New South Wales. Though the popular press reported that hundreds of thousands of homes had been destroyed in the wealthier suburbs of Sydney, virtually no mention was made of the fact that while the owners of these abodes probably have insurance to enable them to reconstruct their homes, many more thousands of Australians have lost their lives in these conflagrations, not to mention their magnificent green forested dwellings. These fires, reported to be the worst in the 200 years since Australia was settled by whites, are now known to have been in large measure set by human arsonists.

While the region served by the Koala Hospital is not at risk at present, volunteers from other areas of New South Wales, who have received training at the hospital and who have released rehabilitated koalas into the wild, have now seen many of those territories destroyed by fire.

I end this book as it began, by noting that one of the planet’s oldest and wisest inhabitants is about to disappear unless aggressive action is taken to protect the koala’s habitat. At the start of this century, new settlers killed over two million koalas for their fur. At the end of this century, let us right this terrible wrong by ensuring the continued survival of this very special Earth Spirit. When the last member of a species disappears, so, too, does a part of the earth and a part of each of us. As Beebe pointed out, ‘an entire heaven and an entire earth must pass before such a one can be again.’

The photographs in this book so far surpass all other pictures of koalas that it can be recommended in aesthetic terms alone.

If you want to know more about what you can do to help, write or telephone:

Mr. Ken Phillips
Koala Preservation Society
PO Box 612, Cooper Station
New York, NY 10003
1-800-989-KOALA (5625) or 212-477-4370.

In Memory of Pearl Twyne
Animals have lost another good friend with the death of Pearl Twyne. A long-time employee of the Department of Agriculture, she plunged whole-heartedly into animal protection activities upon her retirement. After helping to found the Arlington Animal Welfare League, she served as its president for over twenty years. She founded the American Horse Protection Association and led the campaign to end cruel sorting of Tennessee walking horses. At one horse show she was mobbed by irate trainers whose horses’ pasterns had been deliberately sored to such a degree that some lay groaning in their stalls. She wrote the authoritative chapter on horses when AWI’s Animals and Their Legal Rights was first published.

Letter to the Editor
April 13, 1995
Dear Christine,

You and your colleagues deserve the highest praise for your efforts in forcing the world’s most abundant primate to adopt behavior appropriate for humans. The Quarterly, always outstanding, has become even more so, powerfully effective. I write in admiration to convey congratulations to all of you.

Yours truly,
George M. Woodwell, Director
The Woods Hole Research Center
Chile’s Heraldic Animal Faces Extinction
by Godofredo Stutzin

The Chilean national coat-of-arms is upheld by two animals, the condor and the huemul. While the former, although facing increasing problems, has managed to survive in satisfactory numbers, the latter is rapidly approaching the brink of extinction. A beautiful and goed-natured animal, the huemul, or Southern Andean deer, was still abundant in central and southern Chile over a century ago when it was added to the national emblem. Today, however, it can only be found in remote areas of the deep south, in the regions of Aysen and Magallanes, where small and scattered populations live a precarious existence under adverse natural conditions. It is estimated that not more than a thousand animals still survive.

About a hundred animals have found refuge in two reserves managed by Conaf, the National Forestry Corporation, with support of Codeff, the National Committee for the Defense of Fauna and Flora, which obtained funding for the purchase of part of the land from the Frankfurt Zoological Society’s “Help for Endangered Wildlife.” Because of their very limited number, the future of these animals is in doubt.

A true miracle of survival is represented by the presence of less than fifty animals in a mountainous area not far from the town of Chillan. This group of animals is separated by a distance of over 700 miles from the other huemul populations. For more than two decades, Codeff and Conaf have endeavored to protect these hardy survivors who have been visited and studied repeatedly by various scientists, particularly Dr. Anthony Povilitis, a US wildlife specialist who has published a number of reports on the subject pleading for support of the conservation program.

The Ministry of Nature Protection has taken more and more conservation issues. In an unexpected move, the Ministry turned the sheiks down. After a meeting convened to debate the issue, the bureaucrats of the Ministry wrote a respectful denial to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating, “During spring, while they are breeding, animals must not be disturbed, and therefore such a hunt is impossible.”

The sheiks, accustomed to a genial reception, arrived anyway without waiting for official approval. They brought with them their hunting falcons, specially trained to hunt bustard (Chlamidoodys undulata), a rare species in Turkmenistan. The Minister of Nature Use and his Deputy Minister for Animal Conservation were abroad at the time. The decision was left in the hands of the Director of the Department for Animal Conservation, Mr. Masharipov. The decision he took was not only brave but amazing; he dispatched wildlife inspectors to the scene; these inspectors issued an official complaint against the sheiks and levied a $40,000 fine on them.

The distraught hunters directed themselves to President Niyazov, confident that his intercession would restore “justice.” However, Niyazov turned them back, saying that the issue was clearly in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Nature Use. At this time, Minister Kurbanov returned from abroad, reviewed the case and fully supported the decision of his inspectors. With greatly sunken spirits, the Arabs paid the fine and quickly fled inhospitable Turkmenistan. Kurbanov rewarded Masharipov with a healthy percentage of the collected fine. This is the first case that includes a presidential comment on the issue and indicates a definite intention not to protect the same Arab hunters that were once accorded preferential treatment as the “President’s personal guests.”

The Ministry of Nature Protection has taken more and more positive stands recently with regard to ecology. This was the fourth incident of Ministerial action against foreign and local poaching in the past six months. These changes may even encourage the repetition of the famous “Turkmenistan Invasion” of the 1980s, when more than fifty young scientists from the Soviet Union’s most prestigious universities accepted research positions in the nature reserves of Turkmenistan. In a short period of time, they made Turkmenistan the most progressive republic of the USSR in nature conservation issues.

The situation of the huemul in general and of the Nevados de Chillan huemul population in particular is extremely critical. The only real chance of saving the Chillan huemul lies in the purchase of sufficient land to assure winter and summer habitats. Codeff has launched an urgent appeal to obtain the necessary funds, estimated at about $500,000. A quarter of this amount has already been provided by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, but the rest is still outstanding and sorely needed. Logging and cattle ranching are progressively encroaching on the already reduced living space of a population that is diminishing every year. The huemul may still be rescued from extinction by the generous help of those who are in a position to give a hand to these wonderful animals who certainly deserve to be with us in the future.

ACTION: Send contributions to help save the huemul to CODEFF, Casilla 3675, Santiago, Chile.

Godofredo Stutzin has led animal protective efforts in Chile for many years. He is a valued member of AWT’s International Committee.

Sport Hunting of Endangered Species Stopped in Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirate Sheiks Forced To Pay $40,000 Fine and Go Home

The following is based on an article by Andrei Zatoka of the Dashkhovuz Ecological Club that originally appeared in the May 1, 1995 issue of Ecosten News, which reports on the ecological situation in the Central Asian Republics.

This spring, several sheiks from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) informed the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs of their desire to hunt endangered animals. Such hunts are not occasional but are evidence of an emerging tradition for the UAE royalty. The request made its way into the Ministry of Nature Use as a formality. During spring, while they are breeding, animals must not be disturbed, and therefore such a hunt is impossible.

The sheiks, accustomed to a genial reception, arrived anyway without waiting for official approval. They brought with them their hunting falcons, specially trained to hunt bustard (Chlamidoodys undulata), a rare species in Turkmenistan. The Minister of Nature Use and his Deputy Minister for Animal Conservation were abroad at the time. The decision was left in the hands of the Director of the Department for Animal Conservation, Mr. Masharipov. The decision he took was not only brave but amazing; he dispatched wildlife inspectors to the scene; these inspectors issued an official complaint against the sheiks and levied a $40,000 fine on them.

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AWI’s Executive Director Speaks at NABR Conference

In a startling reversal of previous policy excluding all but National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) sanctioned members, NABR invited AWI Executive Director Cathy Liss to speak at the group’s annual meeting. AWI welcomes this opportunity. Following are excerpts from the speech.

My message to you is that random source dealers are bad news, and I hope you will consider other options available to you for acquiring dogs and cats for research. As long as the demand for dogs and cats for research continues, and research facilities are paying hundreds of dollars for random source animals, there is a very strong financial incentive for illegal activities. The solution is to stop relying on random source dealers for dogs and cats—you can get these animals from other sources.

Currently there are approximately 4,100 USDA licensed dealers. 3,000 of them are Class A dealers—people who breed animals for commercial purposes. The vast majority breed animals for the pet trade and the rest breed animals for the research trade. Of the 1,100 random source, or Class B, dealers, only about 60 provide dogs and cats for the research trade. The number of these dealers is on the decline, and according to our information, approximately one-fourth are under investigation by USDA or have cases pending against them because of apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act. This does not mean the other three-quarters of Class B dealers supplying animals for research are in compliance. With its limited resources, USDA just hasn’t gotten to all of the violators yet.

The legal sources of dogs for random source dealers are: 1) Class A dealers, 2) other Class B dealers, 3) pounds and 4) individuals who have bred and raised the animals themselves. In reality, many dealers will get dogs and cats any way they can, including using bunchers, unlicensed dealers who collect dogs and cats by theft or by “adopting” them from pounds or through “free to good home” ads. They then sell these animals to random source dealers. Auctions and trade days are major sources of animals for B dealers. Bunchers and dealers travel from many states to one location where they trade or buy animals. Many of the dealers’ acquisition record violations are for animals acquired at these functions.

The American public is rightfully concerned about pet theft. When a beloved dog disappears from his fenced yard, there is no sign of him at the local shelter, and numerous other dogs in the neighborhood have “disappeared,” theft for the laboratory research trade is a realistic possibility. We hope you will take the necessary action so you can tell members of the public that no, you would never experiment on their pets. The fact is we know pet dogs and cats are ending up in research laboratories.

When a person’s pet is stolen for research, the dealer network helps insure that it will be nearly impossible to find that animal. The person whose pet is stolen may frantically call every dealer or research facility in the state in a desperate attempt to locate his or her animal. Meanwhile, the animal has probably been sold by a buncher to an out-of-state dealer perhaps at a trade day, who then sold the animal to a research facility at the other end of the country. Dogs and cats in the dealer network are victims of rough handling, deplorable housing conditions, neglect and deprivation. These animals are transported under horrible conditions over long distances, oftentimes crossing many state lines.

I know of a research facility that claimed to dutifully check for stolen/missing pets in response to all in-state callers, while making a point of buying animals from an out-of-state dealer. This same facility proudly stated it would never use anyone’s pet. Yet the out-of-state dealer they were purchasing from was Julian Toney, an Iowa dealer with more than 1,600 apparent record violations. (See page 15).

A key sign of problems at a dealer’s facility is violation of regulations governing acquisition and disposition records. If animals are acquired legitimately, dealers should have no problem maintaining records in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. USDA has only recently been checking the validity (or lack thereof) of records. The USDA tried to verify acquisition and disposition records of random source dealers in a random source traceback pilot project. The USDA is to be complimented for conducting such a thorough investigation—unfortunately the process is extremely time-consuming and costly. Every one of the 8 dealers whose records were examined by USDA had apparent record violations.

You have heard a lot from me about the problem, but what is the solution?

1. Do not use random source dealers.

2. If you are in need of quality dogs and cats for experimentation, use purpose-bred dogs. Breeders are able to supply beagles, hounds, mongrels, "#2 grade dogs" and ex-breeders.

Many countries, including Switzerland and the United Kingdom, conduct research using only purpose-bred dogs and cats. In 1986, the European Union adopted a directive stating only purpose-bred dogs and cats are to be purchased for research.

continued on page 15
bred animals shall be used. The Council of Europe’s European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes contains similar language.

3. If your principal concern is getting dogs and cats at minimal cost, go directly to the same pound your dealer is using, rather than through the dealer.

I understand some research institutions are still using B dealers, but are trying to be sure the animals they purchase from the dealer were acquired from pounds only. I must warn you many random source dealers are contract pounds for their local communities. This gives them a license for aggressive collection of animals. Unlike most pounds, dealers who maintain pounds are interested in making money, not reuniting animals with their owners. Also, it appears that virtually all random source dealers are acquiring animals from sources other than pounds.

In conclusion, we believe the only way to stop pet theft, acquisition of pets by fraud, payments made under the table and other illegal activities that are the *modus operandi* of the dealer network is to stop use of random source dealers. You will be able to maintain your supply of dogs and cats while assuring the public that family pets will not be used for experimentation.

**Center Promotes Alternatives to Animal Experimentation**

In response to a European Union directive calling for research into the development and validation of alternatives to animal experimentation, the Commission of the European Union established the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM). ECVAM functions as a focal point for the exchange of information on the development of alternative test methods that reduce, refine or replace the use of animals. The center coordinates validation of alternative test methods, maintains and manages a database on alternative procedures and facilitates discussion among regulatory authorities, scientists, industries and animal welfare groups. ECVAM is an organizer of the Second World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, scheduled for 1996 in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

**TONEYS’ LICENSE REVOKED ASSESSED LARGEST CIVIL PENALTY UNDER AWA**

On April 29, 1995, USDA permanently revoked the Class B license of notorious animal dealers Julian and Anita Toney and fined them $200,000, the largest civil penalty ever assessed under the Animal Welfare Act. The Toneys have 30 days to appeal. Following are excerpts from the Administrative Law Judge’s Decision and Order:

“On brief, the USDA addressed the extent of sanction as follows:

“Part XI Sanctions.

Giving due consideration to the four factors set forth in the Act (7 U.S.C. § 2149), extremely severe sanctions should be imposed upon the respondents. The four factors to be considered are the size of the respondents’ business, gravity of the violations, good faith and history of previous violations. The size of the respondents’ business is relatively large. The gravity of most of the violations is extreme. The respondents acquired random source dogs from prohibited sources and falsified their records to conceal their violations. They failed to hold dogs for the required period before selling them. Although there are no prior adjudicated violations by the respondents, this case involves two separate complaints which were consolidated for hearing. After the first complaint was filed and while a hearing was pending, the respondents falsified certificates which the Act and regulations require not only for the sale of dogs but to acquire them. They also misrepresented dogs obtained from other, unknown sources as “home raised.” These violations are the antithesis of good faith. Further, while the first complaint was pending, the respondents allowed the physical condition of their facility to deteriorate so that the violations were flagrant. They let dead dogs [lie] and they let dogs feed on a rotting carcass and on rotting animal parts.”

The Decision continues: “The record, as a whole, supports Complainant’s allegations as to numerous violations of the Act and the applicable regulations. These have been repeated, flagrant and willful. Such disregard by Respondents reflect a situation where the purposes of the Act are thwarted and render its objectives a nullity. The Animal Welfare Act seeks to ensure the humane treatment of various species of animals used for research or experimental purposes.”

**Wright State University Fined**

USDA Alleges Inadequate Veterinary Care

On March 27, 1995, Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio was fined $25,000 under a Consent Decision and Order for alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act. According to the complaint filed by the US Department of Agriculture, Wright State allegedly failed to provide adequate veterinary care to three dogs—Genesee, Princess and Woodstock. Specifically, Wright State misdiagnosed Genesee’s dislocated hip and Princess’ loss of appetite and bloody diarrhea and failed to euthanize the dogs. Researchers did not treat Woodstock for hookworm, resulting in his death from severe anemia.

Additional allegations included use of expired drugs to euthanize animals, failure to use sedatives, analgesics or anesthetics when scraping scabies mites from rabbits’ ears and failing to deworm dogs used in the scabies study in order to conduct other, independent research on the animals.
FACE BRANDING: GOING, GOING...
by Henry Spira

On May 17th, the Federal Register published the USDA’s proposal to end face branding of domestic cattle and bison in the agency’s tuberculosis and brucellosis identification program. As you probably know, January 1995 saw an end to face branding of Mexican steers. However, smaller numbers of domestic cattle have continued to be face branded as part of disease control programs. With the current announcement we can look forward to the complete elimination of the face branding of cattle within the next few months.

USDA’s Acting Assistant Secretary Patricia Jensen said, “We are committed to continually evaluating USDA identification requirements to ensure that our methods are both humane and effective for livestock disease control and public health purposes.” Jensen also said that these proposed regulations are USDA’s response to increasing public concern that hot-iron branding on the jaw may cause undue distress to cattle or bison.

Congratulations to all of you who voiced your strong concerns to the USDA. You stopped the proposed expansion of face branding in its tracks. In fact, the USDA was so impressed with your reaction that they moved to eliminate all face branding with speed uncharacteristic of a government agency.

Many of you also voiced strong concern to the USDA about other painful animal agriculture practices. This concern is now empowering USDA officials to place farm animal well-being on the federal agenda. A similar recognition by fast food giant McDonald’s recently led the company to publish a statement requiring their suppliers to adhere to humane guidelines for farm animals. Independent experts are suggesting the McDonald’s initiative is already making a meaningful difference. There will now be pressure on other major companies to take similar initiatives, including fast food parent PepsiCo, with whom we are now in discussion.

Until very recently, “food animals,” who account for 95% of all animal suffering, have not been considered as appealing or deserving of concern as some other animals. But now, increasing numbers of individuals and organizations are beginning to direct serious energies towards solving the nightmarish problems of the more than seven billion farm animals in the USA.

Clearly, we now have momentum and enormous opportunities for progress. But not all the news is good news. In future columns, we’ll discuss the negative trends, including: how the US is promoting the consumption of a debilitating, high-fat diet in countries that to date have benefited from a largely meatless lifestyle, and the proliferation of mega factories, where pigs live their entire lives in steel cages unable even to turn around, at a time when such cruel systems are being phased out elsewhere.

“Bovine Economics”

Having twins is usually a cause for celebration. But for a dairy farmer a cow that bears twin calves can be a bad omen: twin births weaken both the mother and her offspring. One or two sets of twins in any herd is par for the course, but when Lisbon, New York dairyman Jay Livingston discovered 20 sets of twins among his 200 milk-producing cows, it was a calamity. He lost little time in dispatching the 40 calves to the slaughterhouse where they were ground up for bologna and hot dogs. Many of the sickly mothers will soon follow their weaking calves, ending up as hamburger in the school lunch program.

The lot of these cows is more than an inexplicable twist of fate. Livingston had been injecting his herd with Monsanto’s new genetically engineered growth hormone known as rBGH—trade name Posilac—which promises to increase the amount of milk a cow produces...

For the first couple of months on rBGH “our cows seemed to be doing OK,” [Livingston] says. “Their milk production increased from 40 to 65 pounds per day. Then they just went all to pieces. We had a half a dozen die and then the rest started experiencing major health problems, cows went off their feed, experienced severe weight loss, mastitis and serious foot problems....

Dairy Profit Weekly, [an] industry report, quotes Mike Connor, a dairy nutritionist in Black Earth County, Texas, who said two-thirds of his client farmers are phasing out rBGH. Noting recurrent side effects, he said, “Many concluded that the risk was not worth the benefit.” Dick Bengen, an 800-cow dairy producer from Everson, Washington, recently told a Toronto dairy symposium that he had disappointing results using rBGH on his herd, saying that many of the cows with increased milk production require more feed. The extra costs—a shot per cow every two weeks runs $5.80—and the additional feed made the economic gains marginal at best.

**Cover:** This sleek, handsome river otter is among 13 furbearing species that an impending European Union Regulation would help to protect from needless suffering. The ruling, scheduled to go into effect January 1, 1996, would prohibit the importation into Europe of furs from these animals (including otter, lynx, wolf, coyote, badger and beaver) from countries that have not either banned leghold traps or adopted internationally agreed trap standards. See related stories on this page and pages 8 and 9.

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**U.S. AND CANADA: A CRUEL CONSPIRACY**

*Kantor Defies Majority in Defending Leghold Traps*

U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has announced that he will join a Canadian challenge of the European Union (EU) Regulation against the steel jaw leghold trap. "We will cooperate with you," Kantor told Canada’s Minister of International Trade, Malcolm Maclaren, “to avoid having this matter become a major irritant in our trade relations with Europe.”

Canada may dispute, through the World Trade Organization, the EU’s impending ban on the import of certain furs from countries that haven’t complied with its Regulation against leghold traps. Under the Regulation, nations that have not either banned these traps or adopted “internationally agreed humane trapping standards” will be unable to export 13 species of fur to EU member countries starting next year.

To date, there are no internationally agreed humane trapping standards, though the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has been seeking to draft such standards for the past eight years without success. A newly formed “working group” met for the first time August 31 in Ottawa, Canada, ostensibly to create such standards by mid-September. Shockingly, the U.S. delegation included two stubborn adherents of leghold traps. Their record in the ISO deliberations indicates that they will endeavor to write standards defining broken bones, massive tissue damage, extreme shock, severed tendons, and amputated toes as acceptable under a “humane” standard. Kantor countenanced the group’s formation and the U.S. delegation’s makeup.

President Bill Clinton has said, “I have always loved and respected animals and abhorred any cruelty toward them.” Vice President Al Gore, while a Senator, cosponsored a bill to outlaw leghold traps. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has spoken feelingly against them, saying that “a society which can allow animals to innocently get caught in steel traps and die an agonizing death...attempting to chew their way out...can’t possibly have the spiritual strength to deal with all of the issues of habitat and biodiversity and living thoughtfully and lightly on the land.”

To live up to these ideals, the Clinton Administration should rein in Mickey Kantor and honor the EU Regulation. Please let the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of the Interior know what you think. Remind them that an overwhelming majority of Americans—over 78%, according to a Yale University study—oppose steel jaw leghold traps. How can a humane administration allow our country to be represented by a small minority that recklessly disregards the animals’ intense pain and fear?
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Of special interest...
On pages 6 and 7, we have reprinted a short excerpt from Alan Clark's diaries. Mr. Clark, a British Member of Parliament for 18 years, brilliantly describes the short-sightedness that scuttled his bill which would have been an important first step in breaking the grip the steel jaw leghold trap has on the trapping community on this continent. It is especially sad because, seven years later, we are still waging the same war against a small minority that dominates the political struggle over this issue.

This sow, brutalized by factory-farm conditions and discarded by a roadside, is a silenced witness to the suffering induced by hog factories. See page 15 for the story of the Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment (CFFE), a grassroots campaign against factory farming which has attracted more-than-grassroots attention—singer Willie Nelson has given strong support to the campaign, including performing at a CFFE rally for the 3,000-strong crowd shown below.
**IWC '95 Results**

**Whaling Nations Make Little Headway as Commercial Whaling Ban Retains Strong Support**

Efforts on behalf of whales paid off this spring as the feared resumption of commercial whaling has been halted yet again. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) ended its annual meeting in Dublin, Ireland without moving closer to adopting the proposed Revised Management Scheme, which would lift the worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling.

It was a disappointing session all around for whaling nations, as the Commission passed a strongly worded resolution against Norway’s continued whaling activities, voted that Japanese “research whaling” in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary be limited to non-lethal means, and resoundingly refused to grant Japan its request for a 50-whale quota in its coastal waters.

Norway stubbornly continues to hunt minke whales despite the ban and admitted that its whale-population estimates were flawed. Norwegian scientists conceded that their quota for minke whales was too high due to computer software errors. The initial abundance estimate for the whales was 86,700, from which Norway allotted itself a quota of 301 whales. When this estimate was found to be incorrect, it was lowered to 69,600, yielding a quota of 232—which the IWC’s scientific committee believed was still too high. Without reliable scientific data, “Norway didn’t have a leg to stand on,” said David Bowles of the Environmental Investigation Agency.

In the absence of acceptable population data, the Commission resolved that Norway should “reconsider its objection” to the moratorium and “halt immediately all whaling activities.” Meanwhile, in Norway, whale meat was going largely unsold, catches were poor, and many whalers were dejected and demoralized (see accompanying item). IWC resolutions are nonbinding, said Bowles, but “Norway has to make an internal decision on the grounds that neither existing data nor non-lethal research methods would yield results.

Further, the Commission took stronger measures to curtail the dishonest use of scientific permits to circumvent the moratorium. A new resolution calls for all lethal research to be justified on the grounds that neither existing data nor non-lethal research methods could be used.

The Commission also zeroed in on illegal international trade in whale meat, voting to impose random DNA testing of whale meat to determine its species and to require member nations to report all stockpiles of whale meat.

**Now, the News from Norway**

*Norway continues to kill minke whales in defiance of the International Whaling Commission.*

The government admitted overestimating the numbers of minke whales in the North Atlantic and set a lower quota, but the whalers couldn’t find enough whales to fill it. Further, the sale of meat and blubber from the whales has been sluggish due to rising prices.

**Anton Krag, of the NOAH animal protection organization, has translated articles from Norwegian newspapers, some of which are excerpted below.**

**Left With 90 Tons of Whale Meat**

(Lofotposten, March 30, 1995)

Approximately 90 tons of whale meat, including 40 tons of first class beef, are left unsold after last year’s hunting season. “We are seriously thinking about quitting as producers,” says Ulf Ellingsen. Last season 400 tons of whale meat was delivered. Ellingsen thinks it’s a pity that 25% of this is still stored...there are problems connected with selling the by-products.

**Expensive whale meat—bad sale**

(Fiskerbladet, June 22, 1995)

The minke whale meat has to compete with other meat in the refrigerated display counter. But 170 NOK ($29) per kilo is a bit too much for the consumers, and the sales get slow. “Here the whale meat competes with beef, and we will not lower the price of this meat, which we consider a delicacy like other good meats, for instance, elk,” says one of the biggest wholesale dealers, Bjorn Hansen.

**Whalers Give Up**

(Fiskerbladet, July 5, 1995)

Nearly half of the whaling vessels that were out this year do not intend to continue next year. Some boats are already sold, others are about to be sold. The whalers cannot take any more, now they are giving up one by one. Those whalers that can go over to other forms of fishing intend to do so next season,” says Jan Kristiansen, from the Norwegian Small Type Whaling Association.

**Whales vs. Whalers, AWI’s continuing commentary on the campaign to save the whales and curtail commercial whaling, was first published in 1981 covering the years 1971-1981. Occasional supplements have helped keep readers up to date on the struggle’s ups and downs, but a great deal has happened in the intervening 14 years. Accordingly, a complete edition of Whales vs. Whalers is now available, incorporating nearly a quarter century of AWI Information Report and Quarterly articles on whales, whalers and whaling. The book is an invaluable resource and is available from AWI for $5.**
On May 11, 1995, a group of animal protective organizations, led by the Mexican organization Grupo de los Cien International and joined by AWI, placed an advertisement in the New York Times in an effort to protect the gray whale mating and calving grounds at Laguna San Ignacio. Following are some excerpts from the ad:

[ THERE’S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO KILL A WHALE ]

Gray whales rock their newborns to sleep in this warm Mexican lagoon. Their only enemy? Mitsubishi, a giant Japanese conglomerate with plans to suck it dry.

One of the world’s great success stories... in danger again.
The gray whale migrates down from Alaska each year to Baja’s warm and buoyant salt lagoons, protected by the Mexican government since the 1970s.

There the whales mate and calve, largely undisturbed. So successfully, in fact, that only last year they were finally taken off the endangered species list.

Yet suddenly, danger has returned.

Exportadora de Sal (ESA), an industrial salt producer co-owned by the Mexican government and Japan’s Mitsubishi (see box) plans a 70 square mile salt operation at Laguna San Ignacio.

Honored as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, Laguna San Ignacio is the last pristine gray whale nursery. But what will it look like after operations doubling ESA’s output begin? Plans call for:

▲ Pumping 462 million metric tons of water a year out of the lagoon. This will reduce its salinity and the buoyancy critical to the whales.
▲ Building a mile-long concrete pier directly in the whales’ path.
▲ Dredging the lagoon itself for barge traffic if the pier is damaged by the area’s frequent hurricanes.
▲ Shipping salt out and bringing diesel fuel in, ship traffic—and chances of pollution—will increase tremendously. Guerrero Negro lagoon, once frequented by the whales, has been all but abandoned due to ESA’s activities.

Both Exportadora de Sal and Mitsubishi felt compelled to respond with the above ads, which appeared in The New York Times on June 26 and June 27, 1995.

Is Mitsubishi at war with the world?

Mitsubishi has a history of exploiting the environment:

▲ Alaska—Convicted of antitrust and collusion; logs the Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world.
▲ Oregon & Washington—Huge purchaser of whole logs for export; costs US mill jobs.
▲ Chile—Promotes cutting of ancient forests for export as wood chips to Japan.
▲ Brazil—Largest milling operation in the Amazon rainforest, buys most of its wood from loggers operating without permits.
▲ Malaysia—Owns Daiya Malaysia, one of the largest wood exporters in the country; buys from other companies logging in territory of native groups.
Minister Alan Clark’s Valiant Struggle for the Fur Labelling Order

“The first step...in enlarging man’s sense of responsibility to the animal kingdom”

The lengthy battle which resulted in the banning of steel jaw leghold traps throughout the European Union this January, began in 1988 when Alan Clark, Member of Parliament for Plymouth, proposed the Fur Labelling Order. He had been appointed Minister of Trade and Industry by Margaret Thatcher, and he writes in his diaries, “I can’t think of many occasions when a Minister’s mind has actually been altered during a discussion—although it can happen, most notably with the Lynx delegation.” The following footnote explains:

Lynx was a charity staffed by young volunteers who had visited AC on his appointment as Minister of Trade, and had found in him a kindred spirit. Single-handed, against massive opposition from civil servants in several Departments of state, AC had drawn up an Order which would force fur traders to label garments made of the skins of animals who had been caught in leghold traps.

Minister Clark took the Order very seriously and notes:

Sometimes I think that all I want is to stay in office here long enough to get my fur legislation on to the statute book. I was looking through some more papers which have come in this morning. Horrific illustrations. Worst was a great circular crater, some 16-foot in diameter, dug out of the frozen earth (for all around was snow) by a poor badger, just using one hand, as he went round and round and round; caught by a steel jaw on the other leg, chained to a post in the centre, trying (for how long must it have taken him?) to escape, he dug that great pit. Until, finally, he just lay down and died.

An entry in the diaries a month later recounts the rescue of a badger from a cruel snare.

Sandling - Charing Cross train
Wednesday, 24 February 1988

This morning I was out very early with Tom. A completely blue sky without a single trace of cloud and the grass blades all crisp and frosty. We went as far as the lake, which was iced over, but treacherous.

On our return I saw Tom alert and bristling, hackles up, at something in the corner of the ‘peppercorn’ field where the fence crosses the dyke. Fearing a dead or wounded fox (John often sets a snare at that point, as the fence wire is taut across the water and animals can use the bank to squirm underneath), I walked over with a sinking heart.

It was a badger, still with some life in it. I bellowed at Tom, and he reluctantly followed me, running, back to the house where I telephoned angrily to the farm.

John appeared prompt, but sulky, with one of the Apps boys, and then another. He was carrying a pitchfork with which he tried to pinion the unfortunate creature’s neck and head. But the badger was strong still, and dangerous.

‘Get some sacks,’ I told the boys.

I muffled the badger and he went quiet, knowing I was a friend, while John worked with the wire-cutters.

Once he was released the little Brock squared up to us, bravely and aggressively. Then, when we made no move, bumbled off at a very fair pace toward the old railway line. I hope and believe that he was saved by his rib cage. What is awful is when they worm their way down the noose by exhaling (as foxes, being more intelligent, do) and then tighten it against the lower gut in a final effort to break free.

In spite of my early start this diversion caused me to miss my train, and thus the first of the morning’s dreary Meetings with Officials. Good! What are they beside the saving of a beautiful and independent creature of the wild?

In June, the Fur Labelling Order was ready for action; however, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had not yet given her approval of the Order. The following excerpt from Clark’s diaries gives a vivid glimpse of political decisions in Britain at the highest level.

Department of Trade and Industry Tuesday, 14 June

We are now poised to put in place my personal chef d’oeuvre, the Fur Labelling Order. It has to lie on the table for a month, and then a brief debate in the House, after ten, and if necessary a perfunctory whipped vote on a two-liner. I have devoted enormous energy and time to this measure, and it is a purely personal triumph—over lawyers, Ambassadors, senior civil servants in several Departments including my own; eskimos, furriers, ‘small shopkeepers’—they have all been in and alternately (sometime simultaneously) threatened and cajoled.

But yesterday, sinisterly, Charles rang from Number 10 to say that the PM ‘would like a word’ on the subject, could I come to her room in the House after Questions?

H’m. Could be bad.

Later
House of Commons

Charles was waiting behind the Chair, to catch me before I went in, a bad sign. He tried to soften me up.

‘The Prime Minister really wants to drop the whole thing.’

‘Not a chance, I’m afraid.’

‘She’s very worried about the effect on these local native commu-
nities of their livelihood being destroyed.'

'That's all balls.'

'Apparently Carol has just come back from there with heartrending stories.'

'She's just been conned.'

'The Prime Minister would like you first to go out to Canada and see for yourself.'

'Sure, I can do that. But it won't make the slightest difference.'

'No, but the Prime Minister's idea is that this would allow you to come back and say that you had seen for yourself and that you were not going to proceed.'

'Forget it.'

'You know that she herself is visiting Canada shortly?'

Of course! She could probably have resisted the Finchley furriers. But that blasted High Commissioner in Ottawa was winding her up with predictions of demos, placards, bad atmosphere, 'attention diverted from principal objectives of the visit,' I could see it all.

'Let's go in.'

Hamilton was there, on an upright chair. The PM and I sat opposite each other on those yellow damask sofas in the 'L' of the room.

'Alan, how are you?'

I ignored this. 'I'm so sorry that you should be getting all this trouble from the Canadians.'

'Oh it's not really trouble. I think there's more to it.'

This was going to be very difficult. She had a letter from Mulroney; from Resource International (I remember being warned about the clout they carried); she was going to address the Canadian Parliament. As the Prime Minister developed her case she, as it were, auto-fed her own indignation....

'Why not labelling of battery hens, of veal who never see daylight, of fish which had a hook in their mouth—what about foxes? Do you hunt?'

'Certainly not. Nor do I allow it on my land. And as for veal, I'm a vegetarian.'

'What about your shoes?'

I ignored this the first time. The second time I said, 'I don't think you would want your Ministers to wear plastic shoes?'

CP and Hamilton smiled. She did not.

Too far gone in indignation now. She just said something about the feet breathing better in leather.

'It's not you, Alan. It's so unlike you to respond to pressure.'

'I'm not "responding" to pressure. I'm generating it. I believe in it.'

Off we went again. Her sheer energy, and the speed with which she moves around the ring, make her a very difficult opponent. There was talk of wolves around the house.

'How would you like that?'

'I'd love it.'

Her argument, if such a confused, inconsequential but ardent gabbling can be dignified by that Aristotelian term, was 'it's all-very-well-for-suburban-bourgeoisie-to-inflict-this-kind-of-legislation-but-what-about-the-noble-savage?' I was prepared to respond on a philosophical plane. I said something—something about it being 'the first step'.

This was a mistake. She grittily repeated the phrase to herself several times, half under her breath, '—the first step?'

'In enlarging man's sense of responsibility towards the animal kingdom.'

She shifted ground again. Didn't like labelling orders, weren't we trying to move away from all that?

After four and a half minutes of this I realised I'd lost.

The meeting, scheduled for fifteen minutes, went on for forty-five.

About three-quarters of the way through I said, 'Well, if that's what you want, I will obey you.'

Later I said, 'When you go to Canada, don't have anything to do with that "Humane Trapping Committee." It's a put-up job, you'll just make a fool of yourself. They'll think they've conned you.'

She grunted assent.

'I hate quarrelling with you, Alan.'

I snarled, 'I wouldn't do it for anyone else,' and went out of the door.

Later

Department of Trade and Industry

A few minutes ago Charles rang. The PM was anxious to try and help me 'out' of this. No note had been taken of the meeting. (All that means, of course, is that the note which was taken will not be circulated.)

'I won't land her in it' (thinking of all those nice sincere young people in Lynx whom I was letting down).

No no, of course not, it wasn't that, she just wanted to see if she/we could help at all. Charles suggested that the order did still go on up to OD (E)² and that he would put up the Attorney and the Foreign Secretary to co-ordinate a very strong expression of legal opinion that would stop it in its tracks.

I like Charles. But au fond he is an apparatchik, although one of superlative quality. But my relations with the Lady are damaged—perhaps beyond repair.

Should I preempt? It would be the first time that a Minister will ever have resigned on an issue concerning the welfare of creatures that don't have a vote.

I rang Jane and she was wise and calming, though sad. Said, don't do anything hasty.

¹ Archie Hamilton succeeded Michael Alison as PPS to the Prime Minister in 1987.

² OD (E): The Cabinet committee whose responsibility it would be to consider this topic.


Alan Clark was an important member of the Thatcher Cabinet during his tenure as Member of Parliament (1974-1992). In addition to his post as Minister of Trade and Industry, he later served as Minister of State and Minister of Defense. He is the son of the late Lord Clark of Salford who, as Sir Kenneth Clark, entrallled television viewers with his oft-repeated series, Civilization. There is a strong family interest in animals. Kenneth Clark was also the author of a wonderful book, Animals and Art, containing reproductions of some of the world’s greatest art in which animals are portrayed.
Honor the E.U. Regulation
Ban Steel Leghold Traps!

AWI offers the use of this large banner (shown here at the G7 meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia) to interested groups.

This banner was produced in cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization’s Technical Committee 191, which has been struggling to produce an international standard for traps—something that has been necessary for decades. The import ban is scheduled to go into effect January 1, 1996.

However, powerful machinations on the part of the fur industry threaten to undermine the legislation—despite overwhelming evidence that these traps are cruel and the penury of instruments of torture, for which less cruel alternatives are available.

Leghold trap advocates have sought to circumvent or negate the ban’s intentions at every turn. The governments of the United States and Canada (in which leghold traps are used more widely than any other type of trap) have either evaded the issue or engaged in delaying tactics. Canada’s government has funded research programs ostensibly for the purpose of developing traps standards, but these “research” efforts have not earnestly considered alternatives to leghold traps (see page 8), but have sought to get these traps ahead of the ban by defining leghold traps as humane, allowing the import of furs caught with them.

If consensus on standards is not reached—which is highly likely gives the law of the land to the ban’s opponents—Canada will challenge the EU Regulation through the World Trade Organization, newly created by the GATT treaty to arbitrate trade disputes. Such a challenge would have U.S. policy implications.

In the meantime, the Fur Institute of Canada is busy marketing the “soft-catch” trap, which is only cosmetic, offers minimal relief of pain. When Diedre Gardner, a wildlife educator, invited her to demonstrate its ‘humane’ features, AWI offers the use of this large banner (shown here at the G7 meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia) to interested groups.

This cruel, archaic trap “scored highest” in government tests. The euro-trap, unveiled in these pages—a new, so-called “EZ” gripper trap, now being sold by Woodstream Corporation—this trap also comes in a larger size (3½”) and still larger size (4½”).

Manufacturers offer a small bit of hard rubber to the traps and drastically distort their description by calling the “EZ” trap “humane.” The trap’s makers imply that the “EZ” trap has “massive springs” on the grip and is “among the most powerful available.” In fact, the grip is so strong that a special tool is necessary to open the jaw. To make release of non-target animals virtually impossible for someone not carrying the proper equipment, animals may be mistreated in the trap, whether target or non-target species. The “EZ” grip has massive springs.

The “EZ” trap is designed to catch leghold traps but, when the trap is set, the hardwood is placed on the jaw. This cramps the jaw and disorients the trapper. The “EZ” trap is designed to break during use, and the trapper cannot and should not open it. In addition, the trap will not hold the jaw in place, so the trapper cannot check the trap.

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Home Sweet Home: Supreme Court Decision Protects Animal Habitats

On June 29, 1995, the United States Supreme Court decided by a 6-3 margin that destroying habitats necessary for species survival does, in fact, “harm” the species—a prohibited action under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The decision in Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, et al. v. Sweet Home Chapter of Communities for a Greater Oregon et al. halts landowners’ and logging companies’ attempts to resume intensive logging in the Pacific Northwest, which has been curtailed to protect the spotted owl.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits the “taking” of a listed species. “The term ‘take’ means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” At issue for the Court was whether the term “harm” includes adverse modification of the habitat necessary for the species’ long-term viability as well as harm to an individual animal.

Writing for the majority, Justice Stevens asserts that “the broad purpose of the ESA supports the Secretary’s decision to extend protection against activities that cause the precise harms Congress enacted the statute to avoid.” Justice O’Connor, in a concurring opinion, suggests that “Breeding, feeding, and sheltering are what animals do. If significant habitat modification, by interfering with these essential behaviors, actually kills or injures an animal protected by the Act, it causes ‘harm’ within the meaning of the regulation.” Stevens further explains the Court’s decision by example: “(R)espndents) ask us to invalidate the Secretary’s understanding of ‘harm’ in every circumstance, even when an actor knows that an activity, such as draining a pond, would actually result in the extinction of a listed species by destroying its habitat. Given Congress’ clear expression of the ESA’s broad purpose to protect endangered and threatened wildlife, the Secretary’s definition of ‘harm’ is reasonable.”

Justice Scalia’s dissent on behalf of the Chief Justice and Justice Thomas neither represents an accurate interpretation of the law nor the regulations for its implementation. Instead, it exemplifies the misguided rationale of the anti-environmental movement. Scalia writes: “The Court’s holding that the hunting and killing prohibition incidentally preserves habitat on private lands imposes unfairness to the point of financial ruin—not just upon the rich, but upon the simplest farmer who finds his land conscripted to national zoological use.” The three dissenting Justices ignore the basic assumption that without appropriate habitat, survival is nearly impossible.

It remains to be seen whether Congress will attempt to legislate a reinterpretation of the harm provision. Senator Slade Gorton (R, WA) has sponsored legislation that would scrap the basic mechanisms of the Act—legislation drafted by representatives of the very industries which would profit tremendously from an eviscerated ESA. According to the New York Times, “Mr. Gorton says he did not bother to consult with environmentalists because he already knew what their views were.” Gorton responded to the Sweet Home ruling, “Today’s decision will serve as a rallying cry for... reform from communities across the country that have been hurt by the current law.” His remarks, like those made by other vociferous ESA opponents, should serve as a rallying cry for those who want to preserve a strong ESA.

Pay Me to Be Good—or I’ll Sue

This article, “Perspective on Property Rights,” by Donella H. Meadows, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies at Dartmouth College, writes in the March 10, 1995 edition of the Los Angeles Times. Her article is reprinted with permission of the Times.

Plainfield, NH— I’m going to turn my farm into a gold mine. Old rumors about gold circulate around this town. Maybe some of it is under my farm. I plan to blast out the bedrock, grind the rubble and run cyanide through the grindings to dissolve out the gold. I think I can find as much as $6 million worth.

What, you say the land isn’t zoned for mining? The town well is just down-stream? A third of my farm is protected wetland? The cyanide runoff will kill the endangered dwarf wedge mussel in the Connecticut River?

Well, too, too bad. If you block my mine, you’re impeding my private property rights. Under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution (“... nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation”) that’s a “taking.” If you want me to preserve wetlands or keep water pure, pay me. Otherwise I’ll sue the town (zoning), the state (water regulations) and the feds (Endangered Species Act). Collectively you owe me $6 million.

That’s not a crazy scenario. One like it just hit the courts in Colorado. The owners of the Summitville gold mine, having extracted $6 million in gold and poisoned 17 miles of the Alamosa River, are demanding compensation for a “taking,” because their cyanide heap has been declared a Superfund site and they can no longer mine the land nor sell it.

“Takings” is the most terrible of all the terrible ideas in the “contract with America.” Takings laws are also being pushed at county and state levels, backed by oil companies, timber companies, mining companies, developers. Shucks, let’s name a few: Weyerhaeuser, Exxon, Du Pont, Boise-Cascade, Texaco, the National Cattlemen’s...
The "contract with America" pushes it even further. The courts have generally ruled that you need be compensated property value by even 10%. The current version, passed by the House, now in the Senate, says 20%.

Either way, the real purpose of this legislation can't be to protect property rights. If it were, there would be some concern for the homeowners along the poisoned 17 miles of the Alamosa River, those downwind from polluting factories, those whose property value is diminished by ugly development.

The purpose can't be to redress private versus public imbalances, either. Takings advocates are strikingly silent about public givings—royalty-free mines on public lands, subsidized logging roads, underpriced grazing permits, tax breaks for oil drillers, publicly funded roads, bridges and water projects that give some private property virtually all its value. The property rights folks have never, as far as I know, offered to share private gains that come at public expense.

Rather, their purpose, readily admitted by some, is to make environmental laws go away. If the cost of clean water is to pay every gold-crazed landowner her fantasy earnings from her land, so much for the Clean Water Act. So much for regulating toxic wastes, food safety, strip mining. Goodbye endangered species. You can see why developers and resource-extracting industries love this idea. You can see why no sane nation would allow it.
Aiding the Animals of the Amazon

An undercover team from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) traveled to the Amazon Basin in April to document the illegal trade in wildlife from that region. WSPA’s Communications Manager, Jason Black, traveled with the team and reports on their findings.

It is impossible to fully comprehend the size, diversity, beauty and mystery of the Amazon region. Further, to thoroughly investigate the illegal trade in wildlife from the area would take several lifetimes. Profit from the trade in contraband wildlife is estimated to be 10 billion dollars annually; the trade in animals originating in Brazil is believed to represent up to 15% of that market. Globally, the illegal trade in wildlife ranks third, after the drug trade and the arms trade.

During our investigation, we gathered some alarming information. Posing as potential buyers, we were repeatedly offered wild animals for sale, including primates, parrots, reptiles and animal parts (including eyeballs, full sets of teeth and penises from rare pink river dolphins). In every market, and through the numerous contacts the WSPA team made, wild fauna were offered for sale, often with the assurance that more animals could be easily obtained.

Logging’s Impact on Wildlife

The illegal wildlife trade is benefitting from the increased demand for exotic hardwoods, specifically mahogany, which was denied the protection of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) this past November. The failure to list mahogany under CITES is having a tremendous impact on the entire Amazon.

The process of extracting mahogany trees is extremely destructive. In order to take one mahogany tree out of the rainforest, up to 28 other trees that do not have commercial value are destroyed, and up to 1,450 square meters of rainforest are damaged by the logging process. Less than half of each mahogany tree is used, and the remainder is either left in the forest to rot, or is discarded at the mill.

Expanded logging activity in the Amazon is now crossing into areas that were previously unexplored—pristine rainforest regions that are supposed to be protected tracts of “conservation” land. As the rainforest is destroyed, so is the habitat of countless species of wildlife. In addition, the increased logging opens up new roads that are cutting deep into the heart of the rainforest, exposing animals to threats from poachers that did not previously exist.

Manatees in Danger

Amazonian manatees are suffering from two threats: mercury poisoning and hunting. Mercury, which is used in gold mining, is discharged into the river and the manatees eat aquatic plants containing it.

The manatees are also being sought for food, as they have become an exotic “delicacy.” Manatee meat is reported to have seven different tastes, and they are being slaughtered in greater numbers to meet the demand. When a manatee is killed, the animal’s parts are sold along the Amazon. This slaughter is devastating Amazonian manatee populations.

To catch adult manatees, baby manatees are often used as lures. The hunter takes a baby manatee, and then waits for the mother to find her calf, who calls out in distress. When the mother is killed, the orphan manatee is helpless.

Hunters have brought orphan manatees to the National Institute for Research of the Amazons (INPA), a facility studying wildlife native to the Amazon, in the hopes of selling the animals. The INPA staff will not buy animals that are brought to them, but they will take in those who are surrendered.

INPA currently houses two juvenile manatees, a male named Guarany, and a female named Cunhatai, aged 16 and 12 months, respectively. These young manatees require constant attention, and are fed a high-protein mixture hourly. WSPA plans to construct a large, outdoor facility for them. Once they are large enough, they will be transported to a protected lagoon several hundred miles from Manaus, where they will not be threatened by hunters.

The Problem of Wild Pets

Keeping wild animals as pets is commonplace in Brazil, and has been going on for centuries. Wildlife officials estimate that in Belem, on the northeast coast of Brazil, seven out of every ten homes keep wild animals as pets.

On the last day of the WSPA investigation, we met an exotic pet who had been surrendered to the staff at the INPA facility. As we opened the door leading into the offices of the manatee project, we were startled by a giant anteater standing in the courtyard, staring back at us.

The anteater was as tall as an adult Labrador, and measured over three feet long from the tip of her snout to the end of her tail. This anteater had been kept as a pet for nearly two years by a Japanese expatriate living in Brazil, and during her prolonged captivity, she had only been bottle-fed milk. The anteater ignored the steady food source that was crawling around in the dirt beneath our feet. We left funds at the center so that they could pay someone to spend extra time with the anteater, encouraging her to forage. We recently learned from INPA that the anteater is eating termites, and she will live.

Only a First Step

As a result of this investigation, and the documentary evidence that was obtained, federal authorities in Belem raided several marketplaces, seizing illegally held animals. But this was only a first step for WSPA.

The human resources and the funds necessary to take action against Brazil’s illegal trade in wildlife are sorely lacking. Until this is changed, animals in the rainforest will continue to be exploited, ripped from their homes, sold, or killed, and the decimation of species that are on the verge of extinction will not end.

If you are planning a vacation, be sure to get a copy of WSPA’s new ‘Tips for the Compassionate Traveler’ before you go, which includes information about what to do if you observe cruelty to animals while you are traveling. Contact: WSPA, PO Box 190, Boston, MA 02130, or call 1-800-883-WSPA. Or, via e-mail, wspa@igc.apc.org.
Illegal Trade Is Bad Medicine for America’s Bears

The American black bear (Ursus americanus) inhabits forested regions throughout the United States, Canada and northern Mexico. Though not yet threatened with biological extinction, remaining black bears (roughly 600,000 individuals in North America) face pressures from increased habitat destruction and the growing illicit trade in bear parts used to supply the Asian traditional medicine market.

In Asian countries, and in urban areas in the U.S. and Canada with large Asian populations, bear parts are sold as food and traditional medicine. Most of the heavily consuming American cities, such as San Francisco, New York, Seattle and Portland are also primary ports for international shipments of wildlife products.

As food, the paws, meat and fat are considered delicacies and are served in expensive restaurants abroad. As traditional medicine, bear-part remedies made from body parts like the gall bladder are used to treat fever, delirium, stomach and liver ailments. A single gall can fetch thousands of dollars on the Asian market. Bile salts extracted from the gall are thought to cure illnesses related to the liver, intestines, and heart. Bear bile also has been marketed in shampoo, herbal tea, throat lozenges and hemorrhoid cream. Inexpensive synthetic and natural alternatives to these bear-part remedies are readily available throughout the world, but are often overlooked in favor of the cachet surrounding actual bear parts.

Asia’s remaining wild bears may soon find themselves confined in the many intensive bear farms across China. An estimated 10,000 bears currently live in cramped cages, with the captive populations soon to outnumber the present wild population of about 12,000. Pro-bear farm interests assert that farms reduce the stress to wild populations, although wild populations continue to dwindle as bears are removed to supply the farms. The very existence of these farms encourages and propagates bear gall use.

The cages into which these bears are forced are so restrictive that free movement—even turning around—is impossible. For the remainder of their lives, they will be constantly “milked” for their bile by a catheter-like steel tube inserted through the skin into the gallbladder.

Rising demand for bear gall products, especially bile from wild bears, increases incentive for poaching. As the Asiatic populations decline, consumers look to exploit America’s bears. Undercover investigations suggest the existence of extensive sophisticated trade networks involving hunters, middlemen, retailers and buyers. The easily concealable galls are smuggled out of the country with little difficulty. Korean tourists smuggle bear gall back to Korea and package tours are arranged and sold expressly for that purpose.

In 1994, wildlife officers in California successfully completed “Operation Asian Ursus.” This investigation brought charges against an American citizen of Korean descent for felony counts of selling and offering to sell bear parts, and conspiracy to commit illegal hunting guide activities. William Jin Tack Lee was accused of soliciting hunters from South Korea, arranging illegal hunts with guides in northern California at $1,500 each, and selling gallbladders and other parts to Asian communities in Los Angeles. For the first time, solid evidence implicated foreign interests in the poaching of American bears. If convicted, Lee faces a year in jail and a $5,000 fine per violation.

The skyrocketing demand for American bear parts emphasizes the need for strict regulations on taking bears. Consistency in laws between states is vital to bear protection. The current inconsistency subverts strong state laws and the work of dedicated law enforcement officers.

Federal legislation to protect bears from this horrific exploitation is essential. Senator Mitch McConnell (R, KY) has introduced the “Bear Protection Act” in the Senate (S. 968), and Congressman John Porter (R, IL) has introduced identical legislation in the House (H.R. 2240). If passed, it would establish a national framework for bear protection, closing the loophole created by disparate state laws.

Senator McConnell told the US Senate, “...it is estimated that Kentucky has only 50-100 black bears remaining in the wild. Black bears once roamed free across the Appalachian mountains, through the rolling hills of the bluegrass, all the way to the Mississippi River. Although we cannot restore the numbers we once had, we can ensure that the remaining bears are not sold for profit to the highest bidder.”

We must act now to ensure that the epidemic poaching that devastated the world’s rhino and tiger populations does not also seal the fate of America’s bears. Until there is a nationwide prohibition on the sale of bear viscera, bear populations risk decimation by people who, by falsely claiming to have taken the bears from a state where it is legal, can circumvent protective state laws to supply foreign markets. The Bear Protection Act will send a powerful message to poachers and smugglers that U. S. citizens will not tolerate an all-out attack on America’s bears.
The Power of Television—Turtle Conservation in the Indian Ocean

by Dave Currey, Director, Environmental Investigation Agency

Only weeks after the UK broadcast of a film highlighting the plight of sea turtles in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, new laws, arrests, and new concern have been generated. The program was shown in the British TV series “Animal Detectives,” which follows seven investigations by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA).

EIA investigators uncovered the trail of smuggled tortoise-shell (from Hawksbill turtles) from the Maldives to Sri Lanka. The film, accompanied by an EIA investigation report, has sparked action in both Indian Ocean countries.

The Maldives lacked legislation banning sale of tortoise-shell, and its souvenir shops openly sold goods. Although export of raw tortoise-shell was forbidden, an EIA investigator posing as a dealer discovered the four main dealers and the smuggling method. Tortoise-shell was concealed in dried fish shipments to Sri Lanka. The film shows one of the dealers demonstrating his smuggling method.

On June 21, the Maldives decided on a total ban on catching turtles. It also banned the sale, import and export of all turtle products. In further moves the government is formulating legislation for protecting endangered species and setting up sanctuaries for turtle conservation and the presentation of national awards for conservationists. Furthermore, a nationwide campaign has been launched to create greater awareness about the need for turtle conservation, and dealers exposed by EIA have been arrested.

In Sri Lanka, where strong legislation already existed, EIA exposed the complete failure of the government to enforce this legislation. Since broadcast of the film, EIA has received many reports from conservationists in Sri Lanka that the government is, at last, listening to their concerns about turtle protection. In an Associated Press story dated June 22, the Government Tourist Board is said to have written to 325 tourist shops in Sri Lanka warning them not to stock, display or sell tortoise-shell products. The letter read “Those who violate the law will lose their registration and license in addition to stringent legal action.” EIA is waiting to hear if this warning has been acted on by the shops.

All seven films in the “Animal Detectives” series have had a profound effect, and the series has already been shown in Germany and been sold to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ireland and Taiwan. It is believed that the issues will be resolved so that future screenings can be prefaced by good news and further investigations are unnecessary.

**Action:** Please write to the Maldives government congratulating them for taking such swift and decisive action. Also write to the government of Sri Lanka asking whether all tortoise-shell has yet been removed from souvenir shops and how much tortoise-shell has been seized.

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Alleged Parrot Smugglers Indicted

*In the Fall 1994 AWI Quarterly, we reported an indictment against Tony Silva et al., who reportedly conspired to smuggle countless rare parrots and other birds. More news about Silva follows.*

by Michelle Renfield

Tony Silva has been indicted again on charges of buying, importing, transporting, possessing, and selling endangered, protected, and smuggled wildlife and wildlife products. Suppliers, buyers, helpers, and other organizers, most notably Silva’s mother, Gila Daoud, were also indicted on charges of transgressing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Act (CITES), the Lacey Act, and several foreign wildlife protection laws.

This illegal trade in psittacines, which include parrots and related species, was facilitated by taping eggs to the body, and smuggling tranquilized birds in tubing inside the door panels of cars. Silva reportedly told a secret agent that he would force closed leg bands onto the legs and feet of smuggled birds, to make them appear captive-born. The vast majority of such birds are dead upon arrival to their final destination. On January 30, 1990, a Florida veterinarian, Dr. Thomas Goldsmith, witnessed the smuggling of thirty-five hyacinth macaws by Tony Silva, and said all these birds were dead on arrival and that he had to help decapitate them.

Silva made thousands of dollars for each bird smuggled. As the author of several books pertaining to these birds, Silva was conscious of the illegality of his deeds, assuring a cooperator “Neither you nor I are going to be anywhere near those birds when they land there.” The smuggling of the macaws is of particular concern because their population in the wild is declining precipitously due to the continued extensive trapping for the international exotic bird trade. According to specialists, this macaw is likely to become extinct within the decade unless protected. In addition to the macaws, Silva, Daoud, and conspirators knowingly possessed and traded other specimens contrary to the provisions of CITES the Endangered Species Act, such as blue-throated and crimson-bellied conures. The lilacene amazon, also a victim of smuggling, occurs only in Ecuador and Colombia—which have banned the export of their wildlife since 1981 and 1978, respectively.

Further, Silva told the agent that he suspected that some of the birds had Exotic Newcastle Disease, which has devastating effects on American poultry populations. Daoud was also indicted on charges of smuggling an endangered bird headdress and an elephant tusk.

Silva’s operation became precarious when FBI agents at the border were increased during the Gulf War and when conspirators’ telephone lines started to be tapped, causing co-conspirators to bow out from fear. Though the conspirators had bribed customs officials, they were nonetheless subject to irrefutable accounts by an undercover agent. Silva’s attempts to “leave a clean path” apparently didn’t work.

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A STRONG ANTI-POACHING STANCE IN KENYA

Kenya recently burned its entire ivory stockpile—ten tons of ivory worth about one million US dollars. The following comments are excerpted from a statement by the Honorable Noah Katana Ngula; Minister for Tourism and Wildlife.

“The mere anticipation of trade is enough to fuel the engine of greed that runs the poaching industry…. Over half of all elephant poaching in Kenya last year occurred in the two months preceding an international review of whether the ivory trade should resume.

“We are destroying our entire stock today to reaffirm our commitment to save the elephant and to draw attention to the danger posed by such stocks. We urge other countries to follow our example.”
When a giant pig factory sued a tiny Missouri township for $7.9 million last year, the stage was set for a David and Goliath battle that would engage the hearts and minds of citizens around the country. In 1994, the voters of Lincoln Township, Missouri enacted a zoning ordinance that placed restrictions on the planned construction and operation of Premium Standard Farms, Inc. (PSF) pig factories. The ordinance was written to ensure that new development in the township would conform to a variety of standards designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public. PSF, with the massive financial clout of Morgan Stanley and Chemical Bank to back it, refused to abide by the ordinance. PSF sued the township, protesting what it called "retroactive zoning." The township filed a counterclaim, seeking enforcement of the zoning ordinance and the restriction of the facility on the grounds that it is a public nuisance.

In March 1995, the newly formed national Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment (CFFE) organized an April 1 rally in Lincoln Township to show support for Township residents and opposition to corporate factory farms. Country music star and FarmAid co-founder Willie Nelson drove from his Texas home just for the event. Nelson spoke out on behalf of the township residents and entertained the crowd of 3,000 with his music. Thirty-five speakers represented a broad range of organizations, including advocates of animal welfare, environmental protection and family farms, along with the United Auto Workers, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, United Rubber Workers and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. The event received coverage on radio and television and in newspapers from coast to coast.

Lincoln Township residents have also drawn the support of former presidential candidate Reverend Jesse Jackson. In a March 15 address to students at Northwestern Missouri State University, Jackson said Premium Standard Farms was attempting to "literally devour" the township, called PSF's actions "fundamentally unjust," and promised to help township residents.

Under mounting public pressure, PSF dropped the monetary portion of its lawsuit against the township on March 24, but still refuses to abide by the township zoning ordinance. The case is still in the courts.

Carrying signs emblazoned "Stop Factory Farms" and "No Hog Factories," CFFE launched a march in Lincoln Township on April 21. CFFE representatives, joined by Missouri and Iowa residents, headed for the site of the Rural Conference held by President Clinton, Vice President Gore and Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman in Ames, Iowa on April 25. Flyers and homemade signs declared the march a "Journey for Justice" to draw attention to the abuse of people, animals, rural communities, land and water caused by corporate hog farms. Along the route of the journey, CFFE representatives held meetings in communities threatened by corporate hog factories, gathered a list of citizen concerns, and offered CFFE support for local fights against factory hog farms. Local residents joined representatives of the campaign as the journey marched through their communities. On April 25, the journey culminated with 150 marchers from several states converging in Ames to carry clear messages of protest against factory farms to the Clinton Administration.

CFFE provides a unique forum to expose the severe animal welfare problems created by factory hog production. By uniting a broad range of groups opposed to factory farms in direct action, the Campaign can have an enormous impact on factory pig farming. The campaign also offers an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate that permitting cruel treatment of farm animals leads to human health and environmental problems, the destruction of family farms and the erosion of rural communities. If farm animals were treated humanely in the first place, factory farms and the associated environmental and social problems would not exist.
The 25 Million Gallon Wake-Up Call

by Henry Spira

On June 21, 25 million gallons of manure from 10,000 hogs broke out of a “lagoon” at the Ocean View Hog Farm in Onslow, North Carolina, pouring into nearby fields and streams feeding the New River. The spill was enormous—twice the volume of the 11 million gallons the Exxon Valdez dumped in 1989. That same day, another hog lagoon ruptured in Sampson, N.C. Then on July 3, a four-acre poultry lagoon broke in Duplin County, N.C. spewing 8.6 million gallons of waste into tributaries of the Northeast Cape Fear River.

Feedstuffs, the leading publication of the animal agriculture industry, commented that “Anti-corporate farming activists have the smoking gun they’ve been looking for.” Meanwhile, the Raleigh, N.C. News & Observer, with the headline “Big Stink in Onslow,” commented “The pork industry has assured North Carolinians repeatedly that it has environmental risks under control. But those assurances were undermined last week in about as dramatic a fashion as you can get. The collapse of a dike on the waste lagoon of a huge state-of-the-art hog farm in Onslow County allowed the public to see—and smell—the real story.... That was the public’s water that is now befouled, and those are neighbors who are having to cope with the mess.... Of course hog farms can pollute in ways more insidious than gushing spills, including the release of ammonia gases, seepage from lagoons and runoff from fields treated with manure.”

Cathy Davis, a hog farm executive, said “It was terrible what happened.... It is bad publicity for pork producers. It is bad for the environment. It’s been a field day for the environmentalists and the media. It’s been a wake-up call for the industry.”

For industry, a “wake-up call” could translate into more protection money paid out to legislators. In the past four years more than half the current North Carolina General Assembly members got campaign contributions from the pork industry, according to the News & Observer.

For environmental activists, these massive spills translate into a dramatic wake-up call that the raising of seven and a half billion animals for food every year is destroying our environment while using up our limited resources with an insatiable appetite for land, water and energy.

It’s encouraging that more environmental groups are now protesting the environmental damage caused by mega hog factories (see page 15). In the past, many environmentalists have spent too much time trying to save the world from plastic plates while ignoring the meat that’s served on them. Isn’t now the time for environmental activists, nationwide and worldwide, to get their heads together and help the planet, the people and the suffering animals?

Note: Full-color reprints of the Raleigh News & Observer articles are available from AWI or the News & Observer for $5.

Wolf Bounty Bill Passed by Wyoming State House and Senate, Vetoed by Governor

Representative Roger Huckfeldt, a freshman in the Wyoming State Legislature, introduced a bill to provide a $500 bounty for any wolf killed in Wyoming, outside of the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park. Huckfeldt is a rancher and had to be asked to remove the wolf pelt he had draped over his chair because it was an “embarrassment to the legislature.” The bill also authorized the State Attorney General’s office to defend anyone charged with violating the Endangered Species Act against the Federal government.

The bill was passed in the House and the Senate, where the bounty was raised to $1,000. Governor Jim Geringer vetoed the bill on March 2, 1995.

Action: Please thank Governor Geringer for his humane and sensible veto. He may be addressed:

Governor Jim Geringer
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

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Cindy had been caught in the trap for at least four days, miles deep in the woods of Fall River, before somebody heard her cries.

When Joy Bannister, the city’s dog officer, found her, the 50-pound hunting dog had leghold traps on both back paws and one of her front legs. The trap on her leg was staked, keeping her from hobbling for help.

“She was chewing off her paw to try to break free from the traps,” Bannister says. “She was crying as she did it from the pain.” Bannister carried her out of the woods, but the injuries to her leg and paws would have required amputations. She was put to sleep.

Animal welfare advocates point to stories like that one to argue that leghold traps in any form are unacceptable.

Land use of steel leghold traps has been illegal in Massachusetts since 1963. But after a ruling in June by the Supreme Judicial Court, so-called soft-catch or padded traps can once again be used on land. And not just on one’s own land: if property is not explicitly posted, trappers will be entitled to set traps on other people’s land during a trapping season that opens November 1.

Padded traps are billed as holding an animal without injury or serious pain. “The scientific literature shows that in the majority of cases the animals trapped will be unharmed,” insists Rod Deblinger, associate director for wildlife for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

That’s a contention veterinary experts vigorously dispute.

“No one can say that a trap, padded or unpadded, doesn’t hurt,” says Dr. John Boyce, assistant director of scientific activities for the American Veterinary Medical Association. “That is ludicrous. The padded trap produces less injury that the unpadded trap, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t hurt.”

The traps on Cindy’s back paws were padded, “but crushed all her toes,” Bannister says. “They say it is soft and humane. I don’t think so.” And like Cindy an animal may try to chew off its own limb to escape, animal specialists say.
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This Tibetan moon bear, rescued from a cruel life of imprisonment in a bear gall “farm,” enjoys newfound freedom. See stories on pages 8-9.

How can anyone conscionably maintain that “padded” steel jaw leghold traps are a humane alternative to traditional steel jaw leghold traps, considering the fate of this poor dog? See Cindy’s story on page 2.
First-Ever Nobel Prize Given for Environmental Research

This October marked the first time the Nobel Prize was given for achievement in environmental science. The prize for chemistry was given to three scientists for their pioneering work in describing the chemical processes that deplete the earth’s ozone layer, including the discovery of the harmful effects of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). The recipients are Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland of the University of California, Dr. Mario Molina of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. Paul Crutzen of Germany’s Max Planck Institute for Chemistry.

The New York Times called the scientists’ work “a watershed in environmental thinking,” which “showed for the first time that human activities could undermine global life support processes and that the fabric of nature was not infinitely resilient to insult.”

The chemists’ findings were harshly criticized by industry when Rowland and Molina first forwarded the thesis that industrial chemicals harmed the ozone shield in 1974; this year’s Nobel Prize is therefore something of a vindication for the chemists.

It is all the more shocking, in light of the prize, that legislation has been put before Congress to end American participation in the international ban on CFC production. “The science underlying the CFC ban is debatable,” said Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX), who introduced the legislation. DeLay, a former exterminator who is House majority whip, called the global CFC phaseout “the result of a media scare.”

DeLay’s measure is among dozens of anti-environment bills progressing through Congress, in the face of scientific warnings and public opinion. Daniel S. Greenberg, editor and publisher of Science & Government Report, wrote in the Washington Post that “1995 is shaping up as a vintage year on Capitol Hill for the denigration of knowledge.”

Animal Detectives to Receive Genesis Award

The 7-part BBC television series Animal Detectives, which details the valuable undercover work of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), will be given the Tenth Annual Brigitte Bardot Genesis Award. The Ark Trust has announced. The presentation ceremony for the award, to be held March 30 in Beverly Hills, California, will be aired in April on the Discovery Channel.

The Genesis Awards are given by The Ark Trust to members of the media and the film and television industries for “exemplary accomplishment in spotlighting animal issues with creativity and integrity.” The EIA series certainly qualifies. Congratulations!

Your Car’s Antifreeze May be Tempting—and Toxic—to Animals

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon publish a Federal Register notice concerning the dangerous toxin ethylene glycol (EG), which is an ingredient in some brands of antifreeze, among other products.

EG is currently listed on the Toxic Release Inventory, established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right To Know Act. The Toxic Release Inventory provides communities across the country with vital information concerning toxics used in their area which may pose an unnecessary threat to wildlife, companion animals, humans, and the environment.

A small Pennsylvania company, Bonded Products, Inc., has petitioned the EPA to delist ethylene glycol, enabling its use without community knowledge. Once it is removed from the EPA list, however, major companies probably will switch from safer propylene glycol (PG) to cheaper, highly toxic ethylene glycol.

EG is sweet tasting and therefore attractive to wildlife. It is also a hazardous chemical which, if ingested, can crystallize in an animal’s kidney causing the organ to fail and the animal to die. Polar bears, mountain goats and condors as well as thousands of farm and companion animals have been killed by ingesting EG, which is so toxic that a cat who walks through a contaminated puddle and then cleans herself will very likely die.

PG, on the other hand, is safe enough to be used as a food additive and bitter tasting enough that animals will not be enticed to drink the liquid. Its lower toxicity makes it safer for common use in automotive coolant and industrial use in airplane de-icers.

In 1990, airlines and airports in the United States, Canada and Europe began switching their de-icing fluids from harmful EG to safer PG. Each year, airports spray over 100 million pounds of de-icing fluid on planes. At de-icing temperatures, ethylene glycol does not rapidly biodegrade and may collect in soil and standing water surrounding airports, fatally affecting wildlife who drink the toxic liquid. The United States military, to its great credit, has completely switched to PG, as have roughly 80% of America’s commercial airlines. It would be unconscionable to set in motion the reversal of this trend away from EG’s use by granting the delisting.

The EPA, thus far neutral on this subject, must not remove ethylene glycol, reversing important efforts in pollution prevention and animal protection.

ACTION: Urge EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner to oppose the delisting of the dangerous ethylene glycol on the Toxic Release Inventory: Write to The Honorable Carol M. Browner, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 1101, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

To help prevent accidental poisoning, use one of the following brands of antifreeze: Sta-Clean, Uni-Guard Freeze-Proof, SAFE, Eco-3, or Sierra, rather than ethylene glycol products.

NO SANCTIONS AGAINST JAPAN FOR ILLEGAL WHALING

Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown has formally certified Japan, under the Pelly Amendment, for outlaw whaling. Japan has continued its open defiance of the International Whaling Commission by granting itself “scientific permits” for its “research” whaling (not one of which has been approved by the Commission), even expanding its whaling activities this year. The Pelly Amendment provides for trade sanctions such as an embargo of Japanese fish.

President Clinton, unfortunately, announced February 9, 1996 that he will not impose any penalty on Japan.
EU PARLIAMENT’S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR DENOUNCES LEON BRITTAN

Ken Collins, a British Member of the European Parliament who chairs its Environment Committee, gave the following impassioned speech. Collins angrily called upon European Commission Vice President Leon Brittan to explain his proposal to delay implementation of the EU Regulation on leghold traps himself, rather than saddling Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard with the unpleasant task, as Brittan did in December.

...Sir Leon Brittan is not here. One of the great privileges of being a Vice-President of the European Commission is that you can make unpopular decisions, you can make decisions in the face of democracy, and you can stay in your room and wish that somebody else would make the statement for you.

So the Commission is proposing an amendment to delay the implementation of the leghold trap regulation by one year with the intention of amending it further in the next six months. This is doing three weeks before it is due to come into force. Now I am flattered, Madam President, as indeed you must be, by the idea that the Commission believes that Parliament is so efficient that we can deal in three weeks with something that it has been toiling over for seven years. I would be flattered by that, if I did not think that Sir Leon Brittan and the people who have been helping him had another objective altogether.

The fact of the matter is that people have been conspiring to ensure that the will of this Parliament, expressed way back in 1991 and indeed before that, is not implemented. What do we find is the excuse? The excuse is that, first of all, there are no implementing regulations and, secondly, that the WTO would not like it. Well, let me deal with the regulation first.

Are we seriously suggesting that when the Council decides on a regulation the Commission has the power to decide on its own whether or not that regulation will be implemented? Are we seriously suggesting that the Commission—non-elected, with no democratic authority at all—had the possibility of overruling both the Council and Parliament because it has decided not to table any implementing measures? What a farce that would be, would it not? Yet that is what is being proposed.

Secondly, if the WTO would not like it, who was it that negotiated the GATT regulations on behalf of the European Union? Who was it that negotiated on behalf of the whole European Community? The answer is Mephistopheles himself, the man who is not here tonight. Sir Leon Brittan was our guy in GATT. He negotiated it. The question is, if this regulation is not compatible with the WTO, why were we not alerted to this long ago?... The answer is because he has achieved precisely what he wanted to achieve, that is, the supremacy of free trade over any consideration of animal welfare, the supremacy of free trade over any consideration of the environment....

The question then is what happens on 1 January? Our view is unequivocal. The regulation comes into force on 1 January in the absence of any change.

We are not going to cause any unnecessary delay but, frankly, what has been suggested to us is so vague and open-ended, so contrary to the spirit of the regulation, that some time may be needed to make it compatible with our long-standing and widely-supported views. But I look forward to seeing Sir Leon Brittan himself come before this House to do his own dirty work, rather than wishing it on somebody else.
Dolphins are now facing a renewed threat from cruel fishing practices and from influence over US policy by foreign interests, misguided US legislators, and conservation groups willing to turn their backs on dolphin protection.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), passed in 1972, is the world’s most stringent law for preserving the mammals of the sea, including whales, seals, sea lions, and dolphins. It sets a goal of zero mortality or serious injury rate for dolphins in the purse seine tuna fishery, which had been responsible for over 600,000 dolphin deaths before the MMPA was enacted. Strenuous efforts by animal protective groups including the Animal Welfare Institute and Society for Animal Protective Legislation helped reduce the massive “incidental” kill.

In 1988, the law was amended to require that foreign fishing fleets would not kill more dolphins than US fishing fleets. In the short term, the law would prevent foreign exporters from selling tuna on the US market if they killed in excess of 1.25 times the number of dolphins killed by US fleets.

Congress added to its laudable efforts by passing the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act in 1990 and the International Dolphin Conservation Act in 1992. The latter, originally sponsored by Senators Barbara Boxer and Joseph Biden, ensures that the “dolphin safe” label is applied only to tuna caught without setting deadly driftnets or purse seine nets on dolphins, and bans the importation of tuna from countries that still allow this practice. The former dramatically reduced the dolphin kill quota, made it illegal to sell tuna products that are not dolphin safe, and provided funds to conduct research on alternatives to harmful fishing techniques.

Together, these laws work to ensure that US consumers do not contribute to ecologically destructive, cruel fishing practices, but this legislative safeguard is now at risk.

In the fall of 1995, the US State Department participated in a series of secret meetings with officials from Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Spain, Vanuatu, and Venezuela, along with the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Greenpeace, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The result of these meetings was the “Panama Declaration,” which creates an international agreement destroying US dolphin protection.

The Declaration would weaken the embargo provisions of the MMPA by increasing the number of dolphins that could be killed each year to 5,000—though last year only 4,095 kills were observed.

The Declaration would allow the sale of dolphin-unsafe tuna on the US market as long as the exporting country is a member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission or has even begun the membership process. Participation in the Commission is no guarantee of dolphin protection.

Additionally, the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act would be radically altered. Instead of the current definition of dolphin-safe, which prohibits encirclement, harassment, or death of dolphins by the setting of purse seine nets, the new definition would allow immeasurable harm to dolphins provided there is no observed mortality. Sadly, dolphins may die or suffer other cruel effects of being chased and encircled after fishing vessels have departed. Tuna caught by such harassment would still be allowed into the US under the Panama Declaration, and consumers will not be able to distinguish between genuine dolphin-safe and dolphin-deadly tuna.

Competing bills have been introduced in the United States—one retaining basic dolphin protection and the other implementing the harmful provisions of the Panama Declaration.

The “International Dolphin Protection and Consumer Information Act of 1995,” S.1460, was introduced on December 7, 1995 by Senators Boxer and Biden. According to Boxer, the bill will “embrace the positive aspects of the Panama Declaration lifting the US country-by-country embargo to give all tuna fishermen the opportunity to export to the US market as long as they use dolphin-safe practices.” It would preserve the current definition of dolphin-safe, and require that the exporting countries provide evidence that “the total mortality permitted under the International Dolphin Conservation Program will not exceed 5,000 in 1996, or in any year thereafter and the total dolphin mortality limit for each vessel in each successive year shall be reduced by a statistically significant amount until the goal of zero mortality is reached....” This bill would continue protecting dolphins while opening the profitable US market to tuna products from foreign fleets that employ dolphin-safe practices.

California Congressman George Miller, who introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives, also noted the need to maintain strong marine mammal protection laws, both for the dolphins these laws protect and the humans who seek to protect them: “(the bill) would preserve the integrity of the dolphin-safe label that American consumers have come to expect by maintaining the embargo of Mexican tuna that fails to meet the current standard.” Miller continued, echoing the fears of organizations such as AWI:

If the United States Congress and the American public cannot decide that a product should not be sold here, in competition with domestic products or foreign products that meet our standards, then we have a very serious problem that not only jeopardizes dolphin protection, but a long list of US laws that protect the environment, consumers, and American workers.

Contrary to the wise observations made by Senator Boxer and Congressman Miller, Senators John Breaux and Ted Stevens have introduced weakening legislation in the Senate with a companion bill introduced by Congressman Wayne Gilchrest in the House.

The Stevens-Breaux bill, dubbed by its many opponents the “Dolphin Death Act,” would legislatively implement the worst provisions of the Panama Declaration and substantially alter in numerous other ways the laudable goals of our current strong legislation.

Although the same five sell-out “environmental” groups (EDF, CMC, NWF, WWF, and Greenpeace) that support the Panama Declaration also support the Stevens-Breaux bill, almost 100 conservation and humane organizations oppose this reversal of cautious US policy toward marine resources and support legislative efforts to maintain strong US policy on dolphin protection.

Compassionate consumers across America must make their voices heard to ensure that the US maintains its strong conservation laws protecting dolphins. Contact the White House urging President Clinton to reject any measure that undermines these laws that help protect the world’s dolphins.

Illustration adapted from “Dolphin Safe” logo courtesy of Starkist
With Hope in Hard Times, Russia Forms Marine Mammal Council

Russia has formed a new scientific body to protect marine mammals from the myriad threats to their survival, despite that country's economic and social turmoil. The creation of the Marine Mammal Council is an act of faith on the part of the Russian government, recognizing its responsibility to make animals and the environment a high priority.

Science suffered a massive setback during the fall of the Soviet Union and the establishment of the Russian Federation. Scientists in fields such as biology and zoology lost vital financial and intellectual support; many were forced to abandon their fields of study by the lack of funds, going into other professions for which they were ill-suited. As work in marine mammal science came to a virtual halt, it became increasingly clear that this loss would have tragic effects not only in Russia but worldwide.

Due to economic unrest, ineffective law enforcement, industrial expansion (with its concomitant increase in environmental impact, including nuclear waste dumping), and wide-scale illegal fishing, marine mammals and their habitat are deteriorating rapidly.

The Council met for the first time in October in Moscow. Some of the greatest minds in marine mammalogy were gathered—some of whom have continued working, without financial support, for months or years. The Council includes Dr. Vladimir Zemsky (its chair), Dr. Dimitri Tormosov, and Dr. Alfred Berzin, men who helped reveal to the world years of illegal whaling by the former Soviet Union. Dr. Alexey Yablokov, environmental advisor to President Yeltsin and a key member of AWI’s International Committee, spoke passionately at the meeting about environmental and industrial threats to marine mammals.

Among the concerns Yablokov addressed are oil and gas exploration; diamond extraction in the White Sea (which will leave it dry and lifeless); the highly trafficked northern shipping lanes, which pose a serious threat to several marine mammal populations and their habitat; and the military transport and dumping of nuclear waste as well as the dumping of WWII-era ammunition (which is expected to begin seriously leaking in the next ten years); and nuclear testing.

The Marine Mammal Council has resolved to begin research programs that will attempt to assess these threats and their effects upon the marine ecosystem, and to make recommendations on marine mammal conservation to the Russian government and the international community.

One of the critical research topics identified was the beluga whale. According to Russian beluga experts, whales traditionally travelling the coasts near the northern shipping lanes of the Barents Sea have clearly altered migration routes in every single study area as a result of intrusive activity by the oil and gas industry. Recent acoustic studies on beluga behavior off Greenland and Canada show similar patterns of disturbance and relocation as a result of noise. There is very real danger of malnourishment of these animals as their hunting may be impaired by distraction from noise. Further, belugas have higher concentrations of toxins than any other marine mammal. Studies on belugas have been going on in Russia since the late 1970s, but in the absence of funds, technology, and scientific know-how, these studies had come to a near halt.

Initial priorities for the Council will be to develop guidelines for the government on marine conservation policies, which should be used as minimum standards when government agencies consider industrial activity. The Council is in the process of formulating a clear policy on developing ecotourism in areas where scientific studies are taking place—partly to fund projects and partly to show the government that there is economic potential in such tourism. Council members are encouraged to recruit young Russian scientists into the field of marine mammalogy, and to support and encourage those who have been forced to make a living away from science to come back.

Beluga Whales in the St. Lawrence River Threatened by Toxic Chemicals

In recent years, belugas have been under increased scrutiny by scientists focusing work on marine mammals in the St. Lawrence River of Canada. Specifically, researchers have uncovered contaminant levels in beluga whales several times beyond the World Health Organization (WHO) accepted standards of contaminants in humans.

Belugas of the St. Lawrence are confined to a small geographic area with much industrial activity and are therefore exposed to substantial and highly concentrated waste. Chemical contamination of belugas in the St. Lawrence did not occur overnight. Land-based pollution output has been significant for decades. Whales and dolphins are extremely vulnerable to contaminants, which are absorbed by the blubber, tissue, organs and brain, and attack nervous and reproductive systems.

Chronic exposure to mercury, lead, DDT and PCBs has been found to be the cause of tumors in the whales. In a study by Dr. Pierre Béland in Canada, 40% of all whales necropsied had malignant tumors in their digestive systems, mouth, esophagus, intestines, and respiratory systems. Moreover, 2% of the total St. Lawrence beluga population of 400-500 was found to have visible and serious deformations. The most serious finding, however, was a marked decline in female belugas’ reproductive capacities. What future effect these findings will have on the small St. Lawrence beluga population is unknown.

It is increasingly clear, however, that the international community, and the International Whaling Commission in particular, must place heavy emphasis on these emerging threats to cetaceans in the marine environment. If we do not focus on these threats or attempt to solve the problems, we could lose more marine mammals to environmental threats than we did to commercial whaling.

The preceding two articles were written by Katherine Hanly, a research associate specializing in marine mammal issues for the Investigative Network.
Illegal trade in bear parts for traditional Chinese medicine is rampant in Canada. After months of undercover investigations with Asian agents assigned to document the sale of bear gall bladders in Canada's Chinatowns and the use of bear paws as an exotic delicacy, the Investigative Network (IN) has released an exposé of the trade. "From Forest to Pharmacy—Canada's Underground Trade in Bear Parts.'"

The demands of the medicinal trade that devastated rhinos for their horns and tigers for their bones is thriving in North American Asian communities as well as Asia. IN found poaching for body parts on the increase in Canada and bear gall being offered in over 60% of traditional Chinese pharmacies there.

IN alerted British Columbian authorities who have recently found poached bear carcasses with only the gallbladder and paws removed. Assisted by Renco, a German shepherd specially trained to sniff out bear gall, authorities carried out a month-long investigation and seized 191 gallbladders from Vancouver's Chinatown together with rhino, tiger and other endangered species products. The IN's investigation also found:

- Polar bear gall, considered unsuitable for medicine, are increasingly traded, together with those of grizzly bears.
- Grizzly bear paws were among the 84 paws discovered in October in the freezer of a Chinese restaurant in Vancouver.
- Bear paw soup sells for US $1,000 per bowl in Seoul.
- Koreans even travel to Canada to witness the killing of bear's first hand to ensure they are not buying fake.
- Bear gall bladders have been dipped in chocolate and ground into honey to smuggle them out of Canada.
- Few customs officers could identify a fig-like dried gall, let alone recognize that it came from a bear.

Smugglers' profits can be further increased by using gallbladders from other animals, in the same way that narcotics are cut. Smuggling techniques to make it more difficult to identify the bear gall bladders being dealt with.

Petrol in the form of a dried gall, let alone recognize that it came from a bear.

Smugglers' profits can be further increased by using gallbladders from other animals, in the same way that narcotics are cut. Smuggling techniques to make it more difficult to identify the bear gall bladders being dealt with.


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*Devastating Bear Part Trade Uncovered in Canada*

**Asian Traditional Medicine Prescribes Suffering and Death for Bears**

**Bear Gall Facts**

- Bear gall has been listed as a medicine in China since 659 AD, but used to be available only to the aristocracy due to prohibitive expense. However, as Asian economies and populations have boomed, many can now afford bear parts.
- Bear gall is used to treat a wide variety of ailments including liver complaints, heart disease, poisoning, fever and cough—but is also used in products like shampoo and hemorrhoid cream.
- Exorbitant prices are paid for bear gall in Asia. In South Korea, for instance, gall can sell for up to $500 a gram and a whole gallbladder for up to $18,000.

**Over 50 herbal and numeric synthetic alternatives to bear gall remedies exist.**

by Cliff Wood

From the frozen wilderness of Siberia to the remote passes of the North American Andes, dwindling bear populations are being pounced for rich rewards. The practice of killing for profit has become big business. The growing wealth of Asian countries is producing a huge increase in demand for bear parts—especially their gallbladders—used in the practice of traditional Chinese medicine.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), international trade in all bear species is prohibited and international trade in all other bear species should be regulated. Although black bear gall bladders can be legally exported from the US under CITES, there have been almost no applications for legal export permits. This is almost certainly due to the large volume of illegal trade, run by well-organized and well-organized CITES controls.

The international trade in bear gallbladder and other body parts affects all bears worldwide as Asian bear populations decline and demand for bear parts from North American bears increases. Although many states and provinces in the US and Canada have banned bear gallbladder trade, their efforts are undermined by the failure of the Asian consumer nations to implement comparable import and trade bans.

The burgeoning market for American black bear parts has led to highly developed poaching and smuggling operations. According to veteran US Fish and Wildlife Service Agent Terry Groos, poaching is more severe now than at any other time in his career. "I've been in the business for 30 years, and the [poaching] problem is definitely at its worst," Groos told Time magazine. As Asian communities in North America grow and prosper, and as bear populations decrease, the threat to North America's bears will only increase.

The US has some of the world's best-trained wildlife enforcement officers, yet funding, personnel and equipment resources of conservation agencies are being stretched to the limit. Exports to Asian markets often go through Asian communities across North America. Many bear parts are sold within the US in urban areas with large Asian populations, such as San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, New York, and Chicago. A wildlife investigator in New York reported that he had seen 2,000 gallbladders at one time in New York's Chinatown. These cities are also key export points for wildlife products.

In 1993, British Columbia banned the sale of bear gall bladders, a move which wildlife enforcement officers called "a godsend." Saskatchewan banned the trade in July 1994. Wildlife enforcement officials estimate that as many as half the black bears killed in Canada are killed illegally. Still, bear carcasses are found regularly, stripped of gallbladders and paw meat to meet the Asian demand, and it is relatively easy to export gallbladders by mailing them or shipping them as gifts.

In China, a major consumer of bear parts (along with Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong), it is estimated that two tons of bear paws were consumed each year prior to 1989.

An estimated 10,000 bears are incarcerated in Chinese bear "farms." In the 1980s, as Asian bear populations declined dramatically, the Chinese government encouraged the establishment of large numbers of farms stocked with wild-caught bears. The bears are visibly traumatized by the appalling conditions of the farms. A new disease called fubile has been found in these farms. The results of this disease were chronic infection and constant pain for the bears.

According to IFAW's Jim Robin, "Our fear was that, after all those years of confinement, they would be unable to stand, let alone run around as most of them do now. It is wonderful to see them recovering—gradually at first—and then walking around on the grass, sniffing the plants, eating bamboo and fruit and generally behaving like bears for the first time in their lives."

Veterinarian Gail Cochrane said "They are doing amazingly well, much better than we had ever hoped. They were scared, sick bears when they came out of those cages. Some couldn't even stand. Now they have sleek coats, furry ruffs around their necks and are full of fun and energy."

David Dawson coordinates the Asian and Pacific programs for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.
Lack of Funding Threatens Non-Animal Research Workshops
by Ken Carter

A main goal of animal protection activists is to compel scientists to use alternatives to animal testing in their research. One of the oldest and most highly respected laboratory workshop programs in the world—one that trains scientists to use advanced laboratory techniques that do not use animals—is now in danger of shutting down, due in part to federal budget cuts.

The program, run by the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), has trained more than 5,000 scientists and patent attorneys from more than 35 countries since 1983, but a decline in government support of ATCC’s microbial biodiversity programs from 80% to 16% over the past 15 years has led to a suffocating downturn in the availability of resources for these valuable workshops.

ATCC’s workshops are important to the animal protection community because they teach a diverse array of research techniques that center around the manipulation of microorganisms—not animals—to achieve maximum results. One of ATCC’s most popular offerings is its In Vitro Toxicology Workshop. This workshop emphasizes in vitro ocular and dermal toxicity tests, which include many of the most successful alternatives to the inhumane Draize eye and skin tests. Many ATCC workshops, such as recombinant DNA: Techniques and Applications, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Applications, and Anaerobic Bacteriology, focus on teaching participants fundamental research techniques.

These workshops are a vital primer to the more advanced non-animal model workshops in In Vitro Toxicology, such as insect cell culture techniques, the growth and preservation of viruses, freezing and freeze-drying microorganisms, techniques for research with Archaea bacteria (organisms that live in thermal vents at the bottom of the ocean) and serum-free techniques in which participants learn how to grow cells in non-animal growth media.

The ATCC was founded in 1925 to acquire, preserve and distribute microbial cultures (bacteria, fungi, viruses, yeast etc.) for the global research community. Its workshop program has made a valuable contribution to the development and utilization of non-animal research models and techniques worldwide. Workshops and courses like these help to ensure that thousands of researchers can use viable alternatives to animals in their own research projects. In fact, non-animal techniques are generally faster, less expensive, and more accurate than those which utilize animals.

ATCC serves as the microbial Bureau of Standards by allowing research results to be compared across national boundaries as well as across decades. This helps reduce waste and redundancy in experimentation—so that laboratories do not spend years producing a culture that’s sitting idle on another laboratory’s shelf—thus reducing the need for laboratory animals.

Without external sponsorship, some or all of ATCC’s workshop program will have to be dissolved. The ATCC is seeking sponsors to help support the teaching of non-animal research techniques and the development of new non-animal workshops. Sponsorship dollars will support the purchase of laboratory supplies, the cost of instructors, student fellowships, and administrative support costs of running a quality workshop program.

If you or your organization would like to support the ATCC Alternatives to Animal Testing Workshop Fund (contributions are tax-deductible), please contact Ken Carter, American Type Culture Collection, 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852. Phone: (301) 231-5525. E-mail: kcartier@atcc.org.

Ken Carter is Associate Director of the Education Program of the American Type Culture Collection.

Bear Trade
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conditions in which they are held (see accompanying story). By stimulating demand, these operations encourage further illegal international trade in bear products and increase pressure on wild bear populations.

In 1994 in Taiwan, EIA found 35 of 40 pharmacies surveyed were willing to sell gallbladder. The US imposed sanctions on Taiwan for their role in the international wildlife trade in 1994, and since then Taiwan has made progress in halting trade in endangered species, promising to phase out the bear gallbladder trade in 1996.

South Korea is widely considered to be the world’s largest market for bear parts and products, especially bear gallbladder. Only 10 to 20 Asiatic black bears remain in South Korea, divided between two mountain areas at opposite ends of the country. South Korea joined CITES in 1993, with a three-year “reservation” on restricting trade in American black and brown bears, which means that trade in bear parts is essentially unregulated.

Japan is the only major Asian consumer of bear gallbladder with significant wild populations of Asiatic black and brown bears. Both species are listed as game species by Japan’s Environment Agency and can be shot year round as pests if they threaten people or property. Domestic trade in their parts is legal and unregulated.

The growing Japanese appetite for bear products has led to a major import trade from Canada, China, Hong Kong, India and North Korea. Traditional medicine in Japan has enjoyed a boom in popularity, with prices rising significantly yielding hunters a substantial bounty.

Hong Kong is a key transshipment point for bear parts being smuggled from other Asian countries to foreign markets. Bear paw is easily available in local restaurants, and bear gallbladder and bile are widely sold. As of 1993, as many as 1,000 bear gallbladders are sold annually in Hong Kong.

To stop this devastating trade, authorities in the US, Canada, and Asian countries should promptly ban the trade, import, and export of bear gallbladders and other body parts, and funds should be appropriated to support those actions. In 1995, legislation prohibiting bear gallbladder trade, known as “The Bear Protection Act,” was introduced in the US Senate and House of Representatives. Congress should immediately pass, and President Clinton sign, this vital legislation.

Cliff Wood is the Endangered Species Specialist for the Environmental Investigation Agency.
Endangered Primates Killed in Christmas Eve Electrical Fire; Guards Ignored Smoke

Twenty-three gorillas, orangutans, gibbons and lemurs—all endangered species—were killed in a fire at the Philadelphia Zoo on December 24.

Two guards smelled smoke nearly three hours before the fire (caused by faulty wiring) was reported, but they did nothing. The building was equipped with smoke detectors, but they were evidently not functioning.

The zoo's president, Pete Hoskins, called the deaths “like losing members of our family.” Hoskins spoke of his “anguish” over the fire, but failed to mention the anguish of the animals themselves. Nor did Hoskins address the substandard housing and inadequate safety procedures that led to the blaze.

The primates killed in the fire were extremely unusual. According to the *New York Times*, the deaths did “potentially irreparable” damage to the primate gene pool. Among the casualties were two highly endangered mongoose lemurs (out of only 48 in North America), and one very rare albino gibbon. One baby orangutan died, as did an 11 month old gorilla. Another gorilla was pregnant—a fact unknown to the zoo staff—making the death toll 24.

“These are natural treasures in terms of their rarity,” said AWI’s Wildlife Consultant Greta Niisson, comparing them to priceless paintings. “You wouldn’t keep the Mona Lisa in third-rate conditions.” According to zoo officials, the gorillas were the zoo’s most popular attraction—some of them had been at the zoo for 25 years—but apparently they were not important enough to rate installing a sprinkler system.

An estimated $100,000 in contributions has been given since the fire, along with bouquets of bananas. This outpouring of concern—which unfortunately comes too late for the animals—raises the question of why they were kept in such unsafe housing in the first place.

The Duke University Primate Center has offered to “re-place” the lost primates, and to give the zoo two rare blue-eyed lemurs—which are not found in any other zoo. A representative of the Duke Center, when asked whether he was concerned about the zoo’s care and housing in light of the fire, said he hadn’t known about the faulty wiring or about the irresponsible guards.

Coulston Research Laboratory Moves Close to Chimpanzee Monopoly

Experts aghast at legacy of abuse and neglect in New Mexico Facility

The Coulston Foundation, a New Mexico research facility, may soon control more than half the chimpanzees used for research in the United States, despite a long record of tragically irresponsible animal care. The laboratory, already housing the world's largest colony of research chimps, has a troubling history of substandard living conditions for the animals in its care, insufficient medical attention (leading to poorly explained injuries, illnesses and deaths) as well as misleading and deceitful statements to the public, the press, and the government.

Toxicologist Frederick Coulston, Chairman of the Foundation, has a long-standing pattern of “questionable research, suspect financial dealings and negligent animal care,” according to In Defense of Animals, a group that has paid close attention to Coulston and his facility. Though cited in July 1995 by the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the laboratory continues to seek out more animals—raises the question of why they were kept in such unsafe housing in the first place.

The USDA complaint further listed four monkeys found dead or dying in their cages in 1994. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, “They had gone without water for at least three days. Although the caretakers were trained to test the animals’ automatic waterers every day, they had in fact simply been checking off that task on their daily logs without actually performing the test.” In June 1994, four monkeys who had been left outside in 100 degree heat died, apparently having choked on their own vomit. In Defense of Animals wrote that the incidents show “extreme negligence and mismanagement” on the part of the Coulston Foundation.

In each case, it took weeks for the problems to come fully to light, due to stonewalling and secrecy from the laboratory. Not reporting the first deaths to USDA was a clear violation of federal law, and the laboratory’s animal care and use committee (of which Coulston himself was a voting member, and which included no one who actually cared for the chimps) saw no reason to investigate either incident.

Nonetheless, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Rodney Coleman said that the Coulston Foundation “will provide excellent care for our chimpanzees.” The Air Force also blithely overlooked the suspicious financial wranglings Coulston undertook to expand his business, in the course of which he allegedly sold property actually belonging to the U.S. government.

The National Institutes of Health will not renew a $3 million yearly contract with the Coulston laboratory, and two major LEMsip contractors have said they will not do business with the facility if Coulston takes over. Further, funding for research on chimpanzees is dwindling, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, because “researchers have discovered the chimp is not the model for AIDS they had hoped it would be.” The increasing cost and diminishing return of research on chimpanzees makes it difficult to understand why Coulston is so eager to take on so many animals he cannot afford to take care of, but Coulston remains sanguine: he boasted in 1994 that “We are the sole source of chimpanzees for research.”
Matthew Block, Dealer and Felon, Finally Imprisoned

by Dr. Shirley McGreal

Matthew Block, the notorious Miami wildlife dealer, is finally in prison for his role in the international smuggling of six baby orangutans ("The Bangkok Six"). Orangutans are a highly endangered species. The six baby orangutans and two siamangs (also endangered) were confiscated in the Bangkok Airport on February 20, 1990. The orangutans had been stuffed three each into two tiny coffin-like crates labelled "Birds."

The animals had been smuggled from Borneo into Singapore. A first effort to smuggle them out of Singapore was made in late 1989. The animals had passed all Singapore formalities, and were to be loaded as cargo on an Aeroflot flight for Moscow. However, the plane was full and the "living cargo" got bounced.

The second attempt started with the loading of the orangutans and siamangs on a Thai Airways flight leaving for Bangkok on 19 February 1990. They travelled as the "personal baggage" of German animal dealer Kurt Schafer, then based in Bangkok. The animals were to be transferred to a Yugoslav Airlines flight for Belgrade. The siamangs would have stayed in Belgrade and the orangutans, now with official papers showing them to be captive-bred in Yugoslavia, were to proceed to the Prdomintorg farm in Moscow.

During a long transit delay, some of the infant orangutans woke up and started crying. Suspicious Thai authorities x-rayed the crates and confiscated the animals. Thai law at the time allowed import/export/transit of smuggled wildlife but not misdeclaration of contents. The orangutans and siamangs were confiscated and sent to a sanctuary.

When the director of Belgrade Zoo sent a letter to the government of Thailand asking that the "monkeys confiscated from Mr. Schafer" be forwarded to him immediately, Thai authorities provided the letter to the International Primate Protection League (IPPL). The German Wildlife Department immediately recalled Schafer to Germany and collected information and documents pertaining to the shipment, which IPPL in turn provided to the US government with a request for an investigation.

From the start, it seemed as if something was fishy. Crucial witnesses were not contacted: Leonie Vejjajiva of the Wildlife Rescue Foundation of Thailand, who was taking care of the babies and had interviewed Schafer, could not get answers to her calls to the wildlife case agent. Thousands of letters and petitions started to pour into the US Fish and Wildlife Service from conservationists around the world requesting action.

In February 1992, Dianne Taylor-Snow (who had taken care of the infant orangutans, only to lose three of them) and I testified before a congressional oversight committee about the leaks and other problems associated with the case. On February 20, less than three weeks later, Block was finally charged with two misdemeanors and two felonies. Plans were made for a trial starting in August 1992. The government announced its intention to introduce a live orangutan into the courtroom. This trial was cancelled due to Hurricane Andrew.

Witnesses had gathered from around the world and returned to their homes with strange stories of bizarre behavior by US government agents (e.g. one reportedly saying he wanted to jail me and another saying he wanted to put me in a monkey-crate and sell me to Matthew Block).

In November 1992, IPPL got a tip-off about an impending plea-bargain. We suspected it was a "cushy" probation deal and later events confirmed this. Without knowing the details, conservation groups around the world sent letters to Judge James Kehoe calling for the crime to be taken seriously. Kehoe rejected the plea-bargain, denouncing the illegal wildlife trade and calling the plea-bargain "contrary to the public interest." Rejection of plea-bargains is very rare and 90% or more of Miami judges would have accepted the deal—if only to lighten their calendars.

Later Block pled guilty to a "superseding indictment" of felony conspiracy. Government documents show that in October 1991, even before his indictment, Block had offered to "set up" a New Zealand smuggler who had called him offering tuataras, etc. One wonders how the smuggler chose whom to call?

After his guilty plea, Block took part in "setting up" five Mexicans and one bird dealer. The government intended to recommend leniency until a problem arose when Block's lawyer learned from the US government of the impending arrest of Block's pal Kenny Dekker in the Netherlands; Block then called Dekker to tip him off. The Dutch police heard this on their phone-tap of Dekker and were unhappy and told the US so—and the leniency deal fell through. Block was sentenced to 13 months in jail.

He could have received five years, but a wildlife agent made an incredible blunder. Price dictates sentences in US wildlife cases (the first plea-bargain had stated that the six baby orangutans were worth a total of less than $10,000 on the black market, but it is retail price that applies to sentencing). The agent claimed that siamangs were worth $35,000 each. Block's lawyer pulled out zoo surplus lists offering siamangs for $500 or $1,000 and kept asking the agent "What is the difference between $500 and $35,000?" Judge Kehoe, totally confused, allowed Block to serve as his own "expert witness" on price after the prosecutor incredibly bowed to his expertise. Then Kehoe halved the price of orangutans from $30,000 to $15,000—and assigned zero value to the siamangs. A long-delayed appeals process followed that only just ended.

As a result of his felony conviction, Block lost his license to import primates to the United States (he was the third largest primate dealer). Court documents suggest that one reason for the government and Block agreeing to a misdemeanor plea-bargain was to help Block keep his dealer's license, which would not have been suspended for a misdemeanor conviction. Even so, on leaving jail, he will be free to deal legally between countries outside the US.

Testimony by Block at the Mexicans' trial showed that he had imported around 60 primate shipments in 1992-93 without a single one being inspected by Miami wildlife inspectors, despite his being under indictment.

This case, which was publicized worldwide, involved trafficking in one of the rarest of the world's rare species (there are fewer than 32,000 orangutans in the world), and also one of the most beloved, raises concerns about the extent to which networks of traffickers (traffickers from eight nations were involved in this affair) can operate with relative ease and get off relatively lightly when caught.

Dr. Shirley McGreal is the founder and director of the International Primate Protection League.
TONY SILVA PLEADS GUILTY
TO FELONY SMUGGLING CHARGE

Well-known bird breeder and dealer Tony Silva, the author of books and articles about exotic birds such as parrots and macaws, can now add “smuggler” to his growing résumé.

Though Silva has billed himself as a parrot expert and has been an outspoken advocate of the conservation of exotic birds in the wild, he pleaded guilty in February 1996 to smuggling scores of rare wild birds, resulting in the deaths of at least a hundred, according to the New York Times.

Between 1985 and 1994, Silva brought more than 185 highly endangered hyacinth macaws and other exotics into the United States, a flourishing trade that brought in an estimated $1.3 million—and which violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Lacey Act, the Endangered Species Act, and several foreign wildlife protection laws.

According to the Times, the hyacinth macaw is among the world’s most endangered birds, with fewer than 3,000 remaining in the wild. However, demand for these birds has risen in recent years: they can fetch as much as $10,000 when sold legally.

Silva’s felony smuggling charge, along with a tax evasion charge, carry a maximum penalty of eight years in prison and fines totalling $500,000. Sentencing is scheduled for April. A smuggling charge against Silva’s mother, Gila Daoud, named as a conspirator in indictments relating to the case, was reduced as part of a plea bargain. She pled guilty to a tax evasion charge.

VEAL DRUG SMUGGLERS INDICTED

On December 6, 1995, a federal grand jury indicted a Wisconsin feed distributor, the Vitek Supply Corporation, on twelve counts of conspiracy, receipt of smuggled merchandise, and smuggling unapproved drugs that were allegedly added to feed mixtures and sold to veal producers throughout the United States.

As AWI reported in its Winter 1995 Quarterly, trace amounts of one of the smuggled growth enhancers, clenbuterol, can lead to increased heart rate, muscle tremors, headaches, dizziness, nausea, fever and chills in humans who ingest the tainted veal.

In addition to the hazardous clenbuterol, other unapproved drugs in the indictment include: avoparcine, which promotes growth and feed efficiency but is not FDA approved; furaltadone and furazolidone/nitrofurazone, all of which had FDA approval withdrawn because they were considered unsafe in the conditions under which they are used and because these nitrofuran animal drugs are potentially carcinogenic; and zinc bacitracin, a new animal drug that is not yet approved for use in veal calves.

According to the indictment, Vitek sold 1,733,205 pounds of drug-contaminated products worth $1,329,062.40. Thirty-two alleged acts in furtherance of the conspiracy are acknowledged in the indictment. These include: importing illegal substances from the Netherlands as early as 1988, falsifying documents for US Customs, claiming the contaminated feed mixes to be “unnmedicated calf premix,” and shipping contaminated feed to companies in Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

Jannes Doppenberg, named in the indictment as “at times relevant an employee, officer, shareholder and director of Vitek,” allegedly wrote a letter to an Illinois feed company referring to clenbuterol as “‘Vitamin C’ and sent a letter to a Wisconsin feed company owner asking for a “‘Kickback’” of over three thousand dollars “based on sales of premix containing clenbuterol.”

If convicted on all counts, Vitek faces up to more than half a million dollars in fines.

LIGHT PUNISHMENT GIVEN IN SMUGGLING CASE

In July, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) charged Texan John Kemner with smuggling 30,000 Mexican butterflies, moths and beetles (many of them endangered) into the United States, in violation of the Lacey Act. Kemner pled guilty to a misdemeanor, was fined $500, and was given three years’ probation.

According to an Associated Press story, Kemner collected butterflies in Mexico without the required Mexican permits, then failed to declare his specimens when crossing the border. “I’d say I got my clothes, got my butterfly collection, and they’d say that’s fine,” Kemner was quoted as saying.

However, Kemner’s “butterfly collection” was not that of a casual hobbyist. Much of his collection consisted of rare or endangered species; the insects were illegally obtained and transported across the border, and many were sold to collectors and museums—including the Smithsonian Institution—for up to $1,000, according to the AP story.

Kemner pled guilty to the misdemeanor charge rather than face a more serious smuggling charge carrying up to $1 million in fines and 30 years in prison. Kemner, guilty of contributing to the endangerment of rare fauna for his own commercial gain, has received a judicial slap on the wrist and is barred from collecting butterflies. The seized butterflies are to be returned to Mexico, but they cannot be brought back to life.

CHINA CLOSES RESTAURANTS FOR SELLING WILDLIFE DISHES

The government of the Hainan province in southern China closed down 19 hotels and restaurants that were serving dishes made from exotic wildlife such as camel’s hump, bear paws and monkey brains. The violators were fined a total of $34,000.

During a three-month crackdown, officials raided hotels, restaurants, harbors, railway stations, markets and shops, finding more than 6,300 wild animals for sale—over 3,200 of which were listed under state protection.

MEMBERS OF COCKATOO EGG SMUGGLING ORGANIZATION JAILED

US District Court Judge David V. Kenyon gave multi-year sentences to two men who pled guilty to conspiracy to import Australian cockatoo eggs into the United States and to sell the birds hatched from those eggs. William Arthur Wegner, of La Jolla, California, was given a five-year sentence and fined $10,000, while Brian T. Bradley, of New Paltz, New York, was sentenced to 41 months in prison.

The birds whose eggs were smuggled included white-tailed and red-tailed black cockatoos, Major Mitchell’s cockatoos, long-billed corellas, sulphur-crested cockatoos, and rose-breasted cockatoos, all of which are listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Cockatoo expert Joseph Forshaw testified that some of these birds are seriously threatened or endangered in their native Australia. They can fetch prices as high as $15,000 each in the United States.
The End of Evolution: a Journey in Search of Clues to the Third Mass Extinction Facing Planet Earth
by Peter Ward
A wave of extinction swept over the earth 245 million years ago as Earth’s climate and topography went through wrenching change, killing 90 percent of the species then alive, ending the Paleozoic Era. Sixty-five million years ago, a second major mass extinction tore through earth’s biota, with a hail of asteroids accompanying the end of the dinosaurs.

Are we in the midst of another such extinction “event”? In The End of Evolution, a prominent paleontologist takes us on a guided tour of natural history and argues persuasively that we are. “Extinction is the end of evolution,” Peter Ward writes, and it is irrevocable.

Furthermore, he argues, human activity has played a key role in the present extinction event. Far from mere doomsaying, however, Ward holds that if humans have in large part caused this “Third Event,” humans can also do something to forestall it.

In the course of a meticulous discussion of the three major mass extinctions from geological, biological and meteorological perspectives, Ward notes that they show an eerie similarity: all began with global temperature change, coinciding with a large drop in global sea level; and all include some more acute catalyst, such as intense volcanic activity, meteor impact, or—in the case of the current crisis—the arrival of “mankind, the consummate weed.”

The Second Event was apparently brought about by “climate change from carbon dioxide emissions, sea level change, and then a meteor.” Now, 65 million years later, the sequence is “climate and sea level change, the evolution of mankind, and then carbon dioxide emissions.” None of the elements alone would have caused such widespread extinction, but the factors coinciding over a million-or-more year period—an eyeblink in geologic time—can start the avalanche.

Humans were wreaking havoc long before the advent of industrial society, via overhunting, competition for food, habitat destruction and species introduction. The first humans in North America, who crossed the land bridge from Asia during the Ice Age, eliminated most of the large mammals from the continent—extinguishing the mammoths, mastodons, and saber-toothed cats, as well as giant horses, bears, sloths and camels.

The End of Evolution is, despite its dire subject matter, a richly informative and entertaining book. Ward digresses into fascinating territory, including vividly imagined time-travel to the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras. A wry, gentle sense of humor about these journeys helps relax our incredulity: “Rubber boots. Why didn’t I bring rubber boots?” he laments. “There are no excess baggage charges in imaginary time traveling.”

Ward’s personal and humorous touches abound. Hamlet-like, he holds the skull of an extinct protmammal and asks, “What killed you?” The ancient and modern are superimposed on each other as he notes dryly that “It is doubtful that anyone will ever feature a protomammal in a movie or write a best-selling novel about reconstructing one from DNA.”

Always there is a persistent message about extinction, interdependence and biodiversity: species are “stacked together like a giant house of cards, each supporting other species in some way, so that if enough species are kicked out of place by their extinction, the entire house falls down.”

In a characteristically deft comparison, Ward describes eucalyptus trees whose leaves and bark are so toxic that they kill the plants around them: “The eucalyptus are not knowingly malicious creatures; like our species, they did not evolve with evil intent. But in their grace, beauty, and utter destructiveness they are almost human.”

Among the most troubling of the book’s warning notes has to do not with direct exploitation but with human-induced climate changes: “If such massive extinctions can take place because of climate perturbations, the world’s remaining biota is in very grave danger in light of what our species is currently doing to the global atmosphere. Perhaps we can teach ourselves to stop killing animals and thus stave off the worst potential ravages of a mass extinction. But can we change the weather? Can we stop global warming?”

In the book’s epilogue, titled “Hope,” Ward does offer us some hope in spite of the gravity of the crisis. Increasing consciousness of environmental issues has brought about ambitious projects to conserve endangered species and to protect habitat. Ward broadly outlines some real ways in which we can help save what is left, asserting that “we have it in our power to avert or lessen the severity of the catastrophe, to ensure that our children’s children will hear the sound of birds in a world still alive with species.”

—Patrick Nolan

Secrets of the Nest: The Family Life of North American Birds
by Joan Dunning
In this charming, informative book, naturalist Joan Dunning explores the myriad nestling strategies of birds, showing their surprising ingenuity and adaptability. Birds’ nests can tell us a great deal about their lifestyle and social interactions, and Dunning is a knowing, thoughtful and eloquent guide.

A nest must protect the vulnerable, precious eggs and nestlings from predators and the elements, among other threats. Types of nests range from a simple depression scratched in the ground during a tern’s courtship to an oriole’s elaborately woven hanging nest. Dunning arranges the book along this scale of complexity, as the evolution of nests parallels that of birds.

In the course of reading about nest types, we get fascinating glimpses into birds’ lives. Owls, for instance, do not build nests but borrow them from other animals. Since they breed in winter, the owls often do not displace the nest’s previous owners. Murres, which nest on ledges only a few inches wide, lay pear-shaped eggs—when bumped, they roll in a wobbly circle rather than falling off the cliff as a round egg would. Doves and pigeons are unique among North American birds in that the parents—both male and female—produce milk for their young. Many birds are fed insects while in the

continued on next page
Pigeons are vegetarians. Many birds show remarkable social cooperation in raising their young. If an adult dies, often the community will raise the nestlings from the dead bird’s brood. “Everyone agrees that birds are beautiful, but we do not usually look for much depth in their behavior,” Dunning writes. “It is delightful to discover that cooperative behavior is much more common in birds than we might suspect.” However, some birds have evolved as parasites, such as the brown-headed cowbird, who lays her eggs in other birds’ nests. The cowbird “impostor” is raised along with the young in the host’s nest.

Nesting often depends on intricate ecological webs, now threatened by heavy-handed human activity. Only very recently it was a mystery where marbled murrelets nested; now we know that they require old-growth forests to breed successfully. The birds nest in the moss and lichen on branches of redwood and fir trees, the branches of which are not wide enough to accommodate the nests until the trees are 200 years old, and lichens do not have the required depth until they have been growing on a branch for at least 100 years. Of the redwoods that once grew in the American Northwest, less than four percent are left—and the murrelets are dying with them.

—Patrick Nolan

Hogging the Spotlight

Sometimes, Hollywood can do no wrong, as proved by one of the most endearing films ever produced, “Babe.” Almost from the first day of the first showing, “Babe” has become a cult film, beloved by all ages and conditions of moviegoers.

It is hard to decide which is more poignant: the beginning, when Babe appears from out of a squealing tangle of piglet siblings to whisper a shy “goodbye” to his mother as she is shipped off to “unknown glories” (i.e., the slaughterhouse), or the ending, when Babe wins the sheepherding contest with a perfect score of one hundred from every judge and the crowd rises to its feet with hosannas of praise. Theatre audiences join in the applause.

In an odd sense, it is not a falsely sentimental film. Babe learns the mores of the barnyard world, with its cruelty, its spite and its unfairness and learns to cope—and conquer. A child can learn from this story, as can an adult. All in all, a tour de force. The video (available in March) should be bought, not rented. “Babe” could easily join “The Wizard of Oz” or “A Christmas Carol” as an annual treat in a family tradition.

It was recently announced that “Babe” won the New York Film Critics Award as the best film of 1995. It also won a Golden Globe Award. Hooray for these critics, who can separate true gold from the dross in a season of mindless multi-million dollar blockbusters (and duds).

—John Gleiber

Species Recovery Efforts Faring Well, Fish and Wildlife Service Reports

America’s effort to save endangered species has prevented the extinction of more than 99 percent of animals and plants on the Endangered Species List, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The fact that more than 99 percent of all our endangered species continue to exist is one of the great successes of the endangered species program,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie said. “Preventing extinction is our first goal. From there, we can begin to bring these species back to the point where they are no longer endangered.”

Species listed the longest are showing the greatest signs of recovery. Fifty-eight percent of the species listed from 1968-73 are stable or increasing, compared with 22 percent of those listed from 1989-93. Most of the species known to be still declining are recently listed species, for which recovery programs have not had time to work.

Beattie said critics of the Endangered Species Act often cite the difficulty and cost of recovering species. “Recovery is like emergency room medicine. It costs more than seeing your regular doctor for preventive care. And it costs more to recover endangered species than it would have cost to prevent their decline in the first place. Nevertheless, I doubt a single American would say that saving the bald eagle wasn’t worth the time or money.”

Although most recovery plans have been written to cover individual species, some cover multiple species occupying the same habitat, and others have broad benefits for entire ecosystems.

“The Fish and Wildlife Service’s budget for recovery programs for all 962 listed U.S. species was $39.7 million in FY 1995. That’s about the cost of building one mile of urban highway. Americans spend 40 times more than our recovery budget on popcorn at the movies every year,” Beattie said.
Is the Public Ready to Roast the Meat Industry?

by Henry Spira

For decades, the well-being of farm animals has been a largely ignored issue. So it may come as a surprise that most Americans want animals to be protected from cruelty. This is the overall finding of a recent telephone survey of 1,012 adults by the Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, for Animal Rights International.

The survey found that 93% of US adults agreed that animal pain and suffering should be reduced as much as possible even though the animals are going to be slaughtered anyway.

Nine out of ten adult Americans also disapprove of current methods of raising food animals in spaces so confining that sows and calves can’t even turn around and that laying hens are unable to stretch their wings.

With these concerns, it’s hardly surprising that more than eight out of ten people think the meat and egg industries should be held legally responsible for protecting farm animals from cruelty. And that 91% think the US Department of Agriculture should be involved in protecting farm animals from cruelty.

What may well alarm corporate executives is that on top of this, 58% of the public also believes that fast food restaurants and supermarkets, who profit from factory intensive farming, should be held legally responsible for protecting farm animals from cruelty.

Too often, in the past, animal protectionists have ignored the 95% of animals who do not necessarily rank high in popularity. But, this study shows that the American public cares about all vulnerable animals. And, as demonstrated by the recent successful campaign to abolish the face branding of cattle, they are ready to confront and challenge abuses in animal agriculture.

As the public focuses on the horrors of factory farming, smart-thinking, image-conscious corporations, who profit from animal agriculture, would do well to respond swiftly and pro-actively. The alternative will almost certainly be a consumer backlash as animal protectionists begin to launch public awareness campaigns. In this connection, we have begun to use the survey to talk with major companies such as Campbell Soup, Heinz and PepsiCo about setting humane animal standards for themselves and their suppliers. This was the successful formula which energized Revlon and the whole cosmetics industry in the 1980s.

Pressures on the meat-industrial complex will continue to intensify from all directions. In addition to farm animal well-being issues, intensive confinement systems will be increasingly challenged on the grounds of public health, protecting the environment, feeding the starving millions and leaving some quality of life for future generations.

BEQUESTS TO AWI

To any who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’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. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

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