

Christine Stevens
1918-2002



AWI

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ABOUT THE COVER

This photograph of Christine Stevens was taken at one of the dog cages at the (then) new \$100,000 shelter of the Humane Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, shortly after the Animal Welfare Institute's (AWI) founding in New York City in 1951. Mrs. Stevens wrote in the inaugural *AWI Information Report*, published December 1951, "The Animal Welfare Institute has been established by a group of persons interested in the humane treatment of all animals. It is particularly interested at present in the welfare of animals used in laboratories. This is one aspect of humane work that has received little practical attention in the United States." Mrs. Stevens persevered as AWI's president for over 50 years, expanding the Institute's work and serving selflessly without financial reward. She was so modest that she refused to allow this photograph to be used on the cover of our 50th Anniversary issue—insisting on a depiction of her with someone else. Photo taken by Esther Bubley. (See Tribute, pages 8-11.)

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Dear Friend:

It is with mixed emotions that we bring you this issue of the *AWI Quarterly*, which has a special center section devoted to the Animal Welfare Institute's founder and president, Christine Stevens, who died this past fall. I say "mixed emotions" because while her death brought great sadness to me and all the other people whose lives she touched, I know she would never approve of us dwelling on the loss when there is still so much work to do on the animals' behalf. We choose to celebrate Christine's remarkable life and all of her accomplishments.

Thank goodness for Christine! I say with utter confidence that no single individual has done more for animals than she, and animals everywhere were so very fortunate to have had her as their tireless advocate. Christine devoted her life to helping any and all animals in need of protection from the myriad cruelties inflicted on them by humans. No animal was too small to receive Christine's aid and no opponent was too large to take on.

The Animal Welfare Institute and Christine, institutions both, have been integral to my life for the past 22 years. Christine's position as my boss was overshadowed by her roles as mentor, friend, and co-conspirator. I share her belief in the vital niche that the Animal Welfare Institute fills and I am, therefore, humbled and honored to have accepted the AWI Board of Directors' invitation to assume the position of president.

During my tenure at the Institute I have held nearly every job at one time or another and have been involved in most of AWI's campaigns: I have inspected animal laboratories across the country, investigated animal dealers, scrutinized traplines and factory farms, and spoke on behalf of the Institute at a variety of local, national, and international forums.

I won't say that I will follow in Christine's footsteps, for her shoes simply cannot be filled. But I am firmly committed to continuing AWI's work and building on the phenomenal groundwork laid by Christine, inspired by her love and respect for animals, her devotion to the cause and her incredible fortitude.

Sincerely,

Cathy Liss
Cathy Liss



What's in a name? Your meat may be irradiated and neither truly free-range nor antibiotic free. (See stories pages 18-19.)

Bill Tapenning/USA



Monkey puzzle trees, now fully protected by CITES, are native to Argentina and Chile. (See story pages 4-5.)

Adam M. Roberts/AWI

Animal Welfare Institute

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CITES 2002: Scales Tip Toward Wildlife Conservation

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS AND BEN WHITE

As the city's stray dogs lazed in the sun near a busy street outside the Convention Center, delegates from more than 150 nations debated the fate of dozens of threatened and endangered species during the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) this past November in Santiago, Chile.

After two grueling weeks meeting with government representatives, talking to the media, and distributing information, countless animals and plants now face a more secure future. CITES Parties once again rejected Japan's attempt to resume a legal international trade in minke and Bryde's whales. They also approved protection for two shark species, (whale shark and basking shark), seahorses, the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin, a number of freshwater turtles and tortoises and various reptiles in Madagascar, the yellow-naped and yellow-headed parrots, the blue-headed macaw, mahogany, and the monkey puzzle tree. A number of victories were particularly hard-won.

Surely the participants in the CITES process have tired of Japan's repeated attempts to circumvent the International Whaling Commission, which is the competent international body for making decisions related to the trade in whale parts and products. The proposals to resume trade in minke and Bryde's whales, for instance, painfully brought back year after year, garner less support with each submission, despite obdurate pressure by the Japanese delegation and the pro-

whaling lobby. Meanwhile, accusations continue to fly about Japan using foreign aid to "buy" the votes of small island nations in the Caribbean. The outspoken, often comical interventions in support of Japan by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda did little to dispel these rumors. Japan, having been beaten down and defeated again, should abandon its cruel pursuit of a return to the miserable days of commercial whaling once and for all.

CITES Parties also wisely voted against the United Kingdom's proposal to allow the trade in products of the highly endangered green sea turtle from a farm in the Cayman Islands. Questions swirled around the meeting as to the legality of some of the turtles in the farm—it is highly probable that some of the founder stock, the animals used in the initial breeding program, were acquired illegally. There are also serious welfare implications for the cruelly-housed animals at the facility. Dr. Rob Atkinson, Head of the Wildlife Department of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said, "In my opinion, the Cayman Turtle Farm fails to match the welfare standards that would be required in the UK. 42.6% of turtle hatchlings from the farm are dead within the first 18 months, a further 17.1% die within 42 months."

For some species, victory was actually snatched from the jaws of defeat. Although the four good proposals to offer international protection to the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin, both sharks, and mahogany were narrowly defeated in Committee, vigorous campaigning led to a reopening of the discussion on these issues in the full Plenary session during the second week of the Conference. Whale sharks and basking sharks need international protection from the trade in their fins, meat,

and oils; the dolphins in question are the first marine mammals protected by CITES from live capture for the public display industry; mahogany is the first commercially traded tropical timber species to be protected. We pursued those countries that either abstained from voting or were absent from these important votes, and, as a result, each of these proposals was ultimately approved in turn in Plenary. UK Minister Elliot Morley deserves special commendation for his leadership on the basking shark proposal, and the delegation from the former Soviet

The basking shark, the world's second largest fish (pictured here feeding), is now protected under CITES.



state of Georgia worked diligently to secure this new protection for the bottlenose dolphin.

The Georgians also helped shepherd through a modest but important victory for the world's bears, cruelly slaughtered for their gallbladders and bile. It was suggested by the CITES Secretariat that an important resolution on *Conservation of and Trade in Bears*, which was passed unanimously in 1997, should be gutted. Not only did we succeed in maintaining the resolution language but we also got additional decisions approved at this meeting calling on certain countries to take demonstrable actions to eliminate the illegal international trade in bear parts.

Of course, not every decision benefited species in need. The Parties failed to act in a measurable way to protect the dwindling global stock of Patagonian toothfish, sold in restaurants in the U.S. and elsewhere as Chilean Sea Bass. Vicuna, found in South America, were downlisted from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow for increased and easier international trade in vicuna cloth and vicuna wool products from Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina, despite the fact that these animals are still poached in the wild for their wool and meat.

Clearly, the biggest disappointment was on the elephant ivory trade and the United States' role in the elephant debate, which was dominated by contentious, often vitriolic verbal sparring. In the end, Zimbabwe and Zambia were defeated in their attempts to trade ivory legally. Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa lost their effort to trade in ivory annually but were given tentative approval to sell off their ivory stockpiles if CITES, after May 2004, is satisfied that certain conditions have been met.

AWI was terribly disappointed in the United States delegation's impotent stand on the ivory issue. The U.S. delegation, headed by Judge Craig Manson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tried to broker a deal to allow the sale of stockpiled ivory under certain conditions while removing the request to sell additional ivory on an annual basis. They didn't even share their amendment language with the African proponent countries before offering it on the floor! Why the U.S. would offer a compromise allowing the trade in ivory instead of standing firm in support of America's historic opposition to such a deadly trade is mystifying and unjustifiable. Our own government, despite receiving more than 10,000 emails in the few days leading up to the vote, actually voted *in favor* of the proposals by Namibia and South Africa to resume



The ivory trade threatens forest elephants such as this subadult bull in Dzanga National Park, Central African Republic.

ivory trade. This is also despite strong letters from the United States House of Representatives and Senate urging opposition to the international commercial ivory trade. Back in October, one-fifth of the U.S. Senate wrote to Mr. Manson urging such opposition, noting, "The United States must not stand idly by and watch as elephant carcasses once again unceremoniously litter the African savannah—their tusks carved off with chainsaws to satisfy global greed."

AWI had asked the U.S. delegation for its position on the ivory trade proposals for weeks, but the U.S. was more tight-lipped and secretive than ever—totally taking itself out of the equation and marginalizing itself throughout the discussion during the meeting over the previous week. The United States portrays itself as a global conservation leader, yet the delegation clearly acted irresponsibly during this CITES meeting.

There is a very real fear that the decision on elephants will spur increased elephant poaching in Asia and Africa and provide an easy opportunity to launder illegal ivory. Elephant poachers and ivory profiteers will only see the headline that reads: "CITES approves ivory sales from Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa," while missing the fine print that the sale is not unconditional.

AWI will continue to work to stop the overexploitation of threatened and endangered species for international commercial trade, especially in its role as a vital part of the Species Survival Network, a global coalition working to ensure strict enforcement of CITES. The next CITES meeting takes place in Thailand, tentatively scheduled for late 2004.

For background on the issues discussed at the meeting, please see the previous two issues of the *Quarterly*, both of which are available on our website at www.awionline.org/pubs/quarterly.html. You can also read daily reports from Santiago at www.awionline.org/cites/index.htm and get a full overview of CITES at www.specieessurvivalnetwork.org. 🐾



Photos by USFWS



Special Agent Ed Grace helped convict the president of a Russian caviar company for smuggling caviar into the United States. This investigation led to America's largest one time seizure of illegal caviar. He has also been involved in stopping the illegal importation of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of carved ivory products.

Law and Order AWI Honors Those Who Fight Wildlife Crime

“Wildlife law enforcement is dangerous and challenging work,” said Willem Wijnstekers, the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). “There are many unsung heroes, men and women who risk their lives in an effort to protect wildlife and prevent illegal activities.” On November 6, 2002, in Santiago, Chile, a number of these conservation heroes were honored with the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Enforcement Awards, presented by the Animal Welfare Institute in collaboration with the Species Survival Network coalition.

The Bavin award is named for a pioneer in the field of wildlife law enforcement who headed the Division of Law Enforcement of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This year's awards were magnificent elephant sculptures generously donated by artist John Perry. The following individuals received awards this year, presented by Mr. Wijnstekers, in recognition of their achievements in wildlife protection. As the Secretary-General noted, these individuals' “efforts behind the scenes, on the ground, often go unnoticed—but never unappreciated.”

Captain Ibrahim A. Ogle is head of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Airwing and a twelve year veteran of KWS, where he entered as a patrol pilot in the national parks. Over the years he was personally engaged in numerous incidents during which KWS units were confronted by well-armed

poaching gangs. He led a team that faced a gang of thirty commercial poachers armed with fully automatic military rifles and explosive projectiles. The gang was attacking elephants and rhinos in Tsavo East National Park. He has also used his flying skills to rescue and evacuate stranded tourists and orphaned infant elephants. KWS Airwing is a critical ingredient in Kenya's campaign to protect wildlife; Captain Ibrahim Ogle is the central figure responsible for the Airwing's success.

Major Carmen Castro has worked for the Costa Rican coast guard for seven years and currently holds the grade “Comandante.” She has been very active in addressing illegal fishing and hunting of sea turtles, sharks, fish, and mollusks and also in trying to stop illegal trafficking in birds (mainly parrots) by sea. She has also been a major force behind efforts to economically evaluate the environmental costs of illegal fishing and hunting. The first example was a study to quantify the value of endangered green turtles. The case is still in the courts, and it is hoped that the study will be used to set a legal precedent for higher fines against poaching of sea turtles and their eggs. She has also conducted an evaluation of the economic costs of illegal shark fishing around Cocos Island in Pacific, Costa Rica. The study will be used in a court case against an Ecuadorian pirate fisherman.

Mr. Karl Karugaba is a Ugandan wildlife officer appointed to serve as a field officer with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force headquarters in Nairobi. During June 2002, Mr. Karugaba worked undercover in southern Africa where he became a key figure in collecting intelligence data that led to the seizure of 6.5 tons of elephant ivory in Singapore on June 26, 2002. As a result of Mr. Karugaba's inquiries, Lusaka Agreement Task Force headquarters was informed that more than six tons of raw ivory, plus 40,810 rough cut ivory signature seals had been packed into wooden boxes enclosed within a shipping container. Mr. Karugaba secured descriptions and serial numbers for these shipping containers and passed the information onto INTERPOL law enforcement authorities in Singapore, who helped seize the contraband consignment.

Special Agent Edward Grace of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helped dismantle a smuggling operation that had brought over 20,000 pounds of endangered sturgeon roe (caviar) into the United States, valued in excess of 12 million dollars. Agent Grace also broke up an elephant ivory smuggling ring that led to two of the largest ivory seizures in the United States in the past five years. The two ring leaders from the Ivory Coast, attempting to import about half a million dollars of ivory for African art markets in the U.S., were convicted and sent to prison. Still another investigation led to the conviction of a retail dealer who was selling endangered wildlife specimens and parts in an affluent shopping district of New York City: a chimpanzee skeleton, ash trays made from gorilla feet, gorilla skulls, tiger rugs, stuffed pangolin, chimpanzee skulls, bald eagle parts, and numerous other endangered species. Agent Grace has also worked with governments across the globe to help stem the tide in the illegal wildlife trade. For instance, he traveled to Kenya to as-

sist the Kenya Wildlife Service in an investigation that led to a large seizure of ivory and rhino horn products.

Mr. Richard Charette has been working for more than 30 years with the Canadian Wildlife Service, starting as a Park Ranger in 1971. Since that time, he has been a wildlife inspector and has been intricately involved in the preparation of CITES identification guides of very high quality. His guides on birds, turtles and tortoises, butterflies, sturgeon and paddlefish, and tropical woods are vital tools for wildlife law enforcement officers and inspectors at points of entry who need to distinguish different animal species, including animal parts and products made from endangered and threatened animals. 🐾



Ben White/AWI

AWI's Adam Roberts congratulates Canada's Richard Charette on receiving the Bavin award.



Saving the Elephant Through Film

With an enormous 20 foot tall inflatable elephant watching over hundreds of guests, the Species Survival Network reception during the 12th Conference of the Parties to CITES began with a showing of the film *Wanted Dead or Alive* produced by the African Environmental Film Foundation (AEFF). The film, available in eight languages including Arabic, Japanese, and Swahili, presents a comprehensive insight into the role played by the African elephant in the economy, ecology, sociology, and politics in Kenya today.

The film highlights the lasting effects of elephant poaching in Kenya in the 1970s and 1980s, the complexity of elephant society, and the threats posed to both people and animals by any resumption of the international commercial ivory trade. “Yet, through all the daunting challenges,” notes the AEFF, “hope continues to burn strong: this film demonstrates the benefits Kenyans can gain by conserving the Elephant, which is not only part of their natural heritage, but is a vital player in their country's economy and ecology.”

The film was produced by Simon Trevor, a long-time advocate for Africa's elephants. Simon has served as a game warden in Kenya's national parks and, after many years of successful commercial film-making, now devotes all of his time to the work of the AEFF. For more information, visit www.aeffonline.org. 🐾

The Animals' Angel

Celebrating Christine Stevens' Passionate Animal Activism

AWI's founder, president, and motivator, Christine Stevens, died on October 10, 2002, after founding the organization in 1951 and actively leading it for more than fifty years. Though she loathed accolades and self-promotion, respected colleagues—and even opponents—have called her an “immortal icon,” an “inspiration,” and an “institution.”

She has long been called the “Mother of the Animal Protection Movement” with good reason. Without her five decades of leadership, animals globally would have suffered much greater atrocities and long, drawn out pain, fear and suffering. AWI's new president Cathy Liss acknowledged, “She was phenomenal—a woman of boundless compassion and drive.”

Mrs. Stevens founded the Animal Welfare Institute to end the cruel treatment of animals in experimental laboratories. Inevitably, her work expanded to the fight against cruel animal factories, the barbaric steel jaw leghold trap, commercial whaling, the extinction of endangered species, and the burgeoning killing of great apes for bushmeat.

Dr. Jane Goodall said, “Christine Stevens was a giant voice for animal welfare. Passionate, yet always reasoned, she took up one cause after another and she never gave up. Millions of animals are better off because of Christine's quiet and very effective advocacy. She will sorely be missed by all of us.”

“Mrs. Stevens' achievements in the field of animal protection are incalculable,” added Ms. Liss. For example, it was she who spearheaded the campaign to ban the commercial trade of fur from animals caught in steel jaw leghold traps to and within the European Union. She was also instrumental in achieving the 1989 international ban on the commercial trade in elephant ivory at the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.



Her passionate defense of the creatures of the sea led to the beginning of the Save the Whales campaign in the 1970s. For years she was an active combatant against commercial whaling at the meetings of the International Whaling Commission. Sue Fisher of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society said of her phenomenally powerful advocacy, “I only met her once and she had more spark at 80 than the combined energy of the rest of the NGO community in the room. A very inspiring lady.”

Mrs. Stevens didn't mince words. In 1988 she served on a National Research Council committee examining the Use of Laboratory Animals in Biomedical and Behavioral Research. She issued a Minority Statement to the Committee report in which she chided the authors for refusing “to face the widespread, ingrained problem of unnecessary suffering among the millions of laboratory animals used yearly in our country.” She continued: “I was shocked by the attitude of Committee members who asserted that we have no moral obligation to animals and expressed hatred of the idea of having a report that puts emphasis on alternatives.... A balanced report should recognize the severity and extent of the problem.”

In 1955, sensing a need to make an impact in the legislative process, she founded the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL). At a time when only a handful of laws to protect animals were on the books, Mrs. Stevens' resolute efforts helped lead to the passage of dozens of vital bills including the Animal Welfare Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, and the Humane Slaughter Act. On the wall here at AWI's office is a simple, yet illustrative letter from May 15, 1958 written by Gerald W. Siegal of then-Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson's staff to future Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas about the Humane Slaughter Act. Siegal wrote: “Dear Abe: I surrender. Mrs. Stevens and I visited at some length yesterday on the humane slaughter bill. She is as persuasive as she is charming.”

Running AWI was a family affair. Mrs. Stevens' daughter, Christabel Gough,

was her mother's colleague and trusted advisor and served on the board for a decade. Mrs. Stevens' husband of 60 years, Roger L. Stevens, founded Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and served as Treasurer for AWI and SAPL. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens used their important political connections to host foreign dignitaries and leaders in the American government. Mrs. Stevens possessed what AWI's Ben White called a “graceful and lovely” presence, which served as the “ultimate disguise.” She never passed an opportunity to push her agenda of animal protection. For instance, Mrs. Stevens donned a raccoon mask at one party to expose the plight of animals cruelly trapped for their fur. In one terrific photo of Mrs. Stevens at the White House, she's practically *glaring* at President Clinton as they shook hands in a receiving line. After all, how could she pass up an opportunity to tell the President directly that free trade agreements such as the WTO were potentially disastrous for animals?

Senator Edward Kennedy, a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens said, “Washington is a more civilized place because of Christine and she will be greatly missed.” He continued, “For so many of us, Christine Stevens will always be the First Lady of the Kennedy Center. She was as knowledgeable as she was gracious and a tremendous partner to her devoted husband, Roger. My brother asked him to lead the effort to estab-



Drawing by Christine Stevens

lish a national performing arts center here in Washington. Together they did an impressive job and, in the process, transformed our capitol city.”

The work undertaken by Mrs. Stevens was always without compensation and she modestly listed her profession as “volunteer work in the area of animal protection.” She was a talented artist who attended the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science and the Arts. Her creative skill, too, was applied to the work of AWI. Mrs. Stevens designed hand-drawn holiday cards each year, a magnificent, detailed elephant t-shirt, and a huge eight foot high mural of endangered species that adorned AWI's booth at the 1994 CITES meeting. Her artistic eye also assisted in the design and publication of

the Animal Welfare Institute *Quarterly* magazine, for which she served as chief editor and writer.

Perhaps our colleague Susie Watts, formerly of the Environmental Investigation Agency, put it best: “When I look around me and I see all the huffing and puffing egos among the world's animal protectors, people who cannot claim—and never will be able to claim—to have achieved anything close to what Christine achieved in her lifetime, I'm just all the more grateful that she was there. Not many people can truly be called great or unique. Christine can. Not many of us could make a list of achievements that's more than a paragraph long. Christine could, and then some. Not many of us will be remembered after we're gone. Christine will.” 🐾

“So long as I can, I feel it's a duty. Why would I stop?”
—Christine Stevens, 1918-2002

Christine in action photomontage, pages 10-11. Top Row: Humane Society of Washtenaw County shelter; Michigan; Trapping protest; President Lyndon B. Johnson and Former AWI Assistant Treasurer Adele Schoepperle; Mr. Stevens, May and Follow. Middle Row: President Reagan's Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger; Daughter Christabel Gough at laboratory animal meeting; DC whale demonstration; Countess Wachtmeister; Schweitzer Medallist Astrid Lindgren, Ambassador Wachtmeister; Former AWI Secretary Estella Draper. Bottom Row: Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Argentinean Ambassador Orfila, Mr. Stevens, Vice-President and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kissinger at the Kennedy Center; Congressional Trapping Hearing; John Kullberg, then ASPCA President; DC WTO demonstration; in Australia.



AWI Launches Laboratory Animal Forum

The Animal Welfare Institute initiated a closed, electronic forum on Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment in October 2002. The purpose of this discussion group is the factual exchange of experiences about ways to improve the conditions under which laboratory animals are housed and handled. The group is intended to serve the international animal care community in its attempt to promote animal welfare and improve scientific methodology by avoiding or eliminating husbandry-related stress situations. The forum is open to animal care personnel, animal technicians, students, attending veterinarians, and researchers who have first-hand experience in the care of animals kept in laboratories. Presently the forum has over 100 members from 15 different countries. If you want to join please send your name, professional affiliation, experience(s) and interest(s) to viktorawi@siskiyou.net.

The following is part of a discussion by participants in the forum in response to the question: **Should animal care personnel be encouraged to establish affectionate, rather than neutral, relationships with the animals in their charge?** Erik Moreau, McGill University, Canada; Kathy Clark, Holliston, Massachusetts; Deborah Hartley, University of Oklahoma; Ann Lablans, Queen's University, Canada; Augusto Vitale, Instituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy; Pascalle Van Loo, Utrecht University, The Netherlands; Terri Hunnicutt, St. Louis Zoo, Missouri; Anna Olsson, Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, Portugal; Chris Sherwin, University of Bristol, England; Viktor Reinhardt, Animal Welfare Institute, Washington, DC; all posted opinions, which were edited by Viktor Reinhardt, moderator of LAR-EF, for publication in the *Laboratory Primate Newsletter* (2003, 42[1], 14-15). The text below has been shortened because of space limitations.

Most correspondents agreed that development of an affectionate

relationship with the animals in their charge is almost unavoidable (Clark, Hartley, Hunnicutt, Lablans, Moreau, Van Loo, Vitale). Empathy can even arise in researchers who go to great lengths to try to ensure that their data are objective (Sherwin). "Having a close relationship with your animals is necessary to regard them as living beings, rather than biological test tubes. As such, you are more careful and patient, and will think more about what the procedures mean to the animals. You will become more creative in finding animal-friendly alternatives for the procedures you need to do on the animals. You will thus increase the well-being of your animals and, by doing so, make them better research subjects and increase the validity of test results" (Van Loo).

There was a consensus that emotional attachment provides an assurance that the animals receive optimal care, both physically and behaviorally (Clark, Hartley, Van Loo, Vitale). "If I didn't think about the animals in my care, I wouldn't notice that someone seems a little off today, he's not participating in

social activities like he normally does. I wouldn't notice that one animal suddenly flinches when I feed her something with a spoon, indicating a possible tooth problem. I've seen 'caregivers' that treat the animals with complete indifference miss a million details that they should have noticed. They don't clean well, are callous to the animals, and forget important things. I have watched animals cringe or cower when these individuals enter the room. I have seen these individuals breaking for lunch rather than take a few extra minutes for enrichment. Their emotions may not be absent from the situation, but they're focused somewhere else and so they don't do a good job since they aren't emotionally vested in the outcome" (Hunnicutt). A relationship based on trust rather than fear is particularly important when potentially dangerous animals such as macaques are being trained to actively cooperate during handling procedures (Lablans, Moreau). "Whether such a relationship enhances training success is another question, but it certainly is an effective safeguard against injuries resulting from defensive aggression" (Reinhardt). 🐾

Report Mistreatment of Experimental Animals www.labanimalissues.org

Labanimalissues.org was created by AWI to serve as a secure and confidential source for the reporting of any specific concerns about the well-being of animals used for experimentation, testing, and/or teaching. Labanimalissues.org is open to all persons wishing to notify us about any laboratory animal welfare problem, whether it involves one animal or many animals; whether the concern is for animals in one laboratory cage, animals used by one principal investigator or animals throughout an institution; and whether or not there has been a violation of any law or guideline.

The objective of Labanimalissues.org is to assist individuals in helping laboratory animals who are suffering unnecessarily or are simply in need of better treatment. Reports can be anonymous, and the website is guaranteed to ensure the highest level of privacy, confidentiality, and security. We will follow-up on each report by taking whatever action we can to improve the situation for the laboratory animals involved. This may include, but is not limited to, personally inspecting the animals, filing complaints with the appropriate oversight agency, and reporting to the media and/or Congress. 🐾

One Family's Crusade to Help Primates

On the outskirts of Santiago, Chile, in a suburb like that outside major cities the world over, lives a very special family dedicated to helping primates. Beyond two huge gates, past five or six small and incredibly affectionate dogs, and through Elba and Carlos Almazan's own home is a refuge for 91 monkeys: Siglo XXI (21st Century), a center for the rescue and rehabilitation of primates.

Siglo XXI provides permanent sanctuary for primates rescued from the illegal pet trade in South America or who are currently living in deprived conditions in captivity. The monkeys come from, or are destined for, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and, of course, Chile. Sometimes gypsy families abandon these animals, or they are confiscated from laboratories. Tamarins, squirrel monkeys and woolly monkeys, are among the inhabitants at the sanctuary.

Monkeys at the facility are housed in a huge backyard city of linked enclosures that provide escape routes for animals who wish to be alone but also present an opportunity for companionship when it is sought. Baskets hang or rest within arms reach of the outside of the enclosures offering ready access to fruits and vegetables, especially cut apples. Inside the enclosures are toys, hanging tire swings, and even hammocks for the enjoyment of the sanctuary's residents.

Twin veterinarians make house calls to heal the animals, many of whom need serious medical attention from wounds suffered as a result of horrible transport conditions or cruel laboratory settings. The work is done right inside the house.

Siglo XXI educates the public about primate welfare, conservation issues, and in particular the inherent cruelty of the illegal trade and keeping primates as pets. The subject is



Elba Munoz Almazan treats all the monkeys in her care as though they were her children, bestowing upon them endless love and affection.

of great interest to the Chilean public, and Siglo XXI has received much media coverage for their laudable work. School visits to the center are popular as well.

Unfortunately, the limited space of the sanctuary site meant that Siglo XXI could not cope with the demand by schools and colleges for greater visitation. As well, they ran out of space to satisfy the number of animals in need of a home—especially urgent since Mr. and Mrs. Almazan have pledged to help house additional confiscated pet and circus primates.

Thus, the couple has undertaken an ambitious expansion project. A beautiful new sprawling plot of land has already been bought to continue their vital work, and they have begun building the enclosures there.

Mr. Almazan is a practicing pediatrician who invests much of his earnings into the rescue center—he and his wife fund the ongoing care for the animals at a cost of about \$3,000 a month. Additional funds are needed, however, for the enclosure construction at the new site. AWI has provided assistance for the erection of a security fence on the perimeter of the new property, which will run along a small river.

Without Siglo XXI there is no appropriate sanctuary in Chile available for these needy primates. If you would like to help ensure that the new facility is fully operational, please send a check payable to AWI with a note in the memo line: "for Siglo XXI." All donations will be sent to the sanctuary together. For additional information contact adam@awionline.org. 🐾



Animals at Siglo XXI share time with each other as they pick through the regularly stocked baskets of fruits and vegetables.



Jim P. Reid/USGS, February 2002

Irresponsible boaters ignoring clearly marked signs stating "Idle Speed Manatee Area Nov. 15 to Mar. 31" as they speed through manatee habitat.

Manatees: Betrayed by the Bushes

U.S. District Judge Emmett Sullivan reminded Department of the Interior attorneys that the agency is not "above the law" and twice ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to "show cause why they should not be held in contempt" for delaying a court-ordered directive to implement new manatee protection zones in Florida.

After a two year holdup, another agreement finally was reached on manatee conservation between the Bush Administration and animal advocates including AWI on January 24, 2003. The Corps and FWS agreed to publish a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* to designate manatee protection areas in Florida's Caloosahatchee, St. Johns, and Halifax/Tomoka Rivers by March 31, 2003. These three rivers are considered vicinities of the highest annual manatee mortality in Florida. A final decision is due by July 31, 2003.

The deal could be positive if implemented properly. It requires that permanent signs or buoys be posted along these rivers informing the public of applicable speed and other restrictions to protect manatees. It is doubtful, however, that boaters will adhere to posted warnings. Florida's waterways historically have been deathtraps for peaceful manatees who fall prey to speeding boats. In 2002, a record 95 manatees died in Florida because of reckless boaters.

Moreover, without sufficient on-water enforcement, speed signs are meaningless. FWS claims that it "plans to significantly increase the presence of Federal law enforcement officers on the water to ensure boater compliance with speed zones..." We hope they succeed.

Meanwhile, boaters' rights groups are selfishly fighting against manatee protection. Is this really an issue of "boaters' rights"? Mary Jo Melone, a *St. Petersburg Times* reporter, expresses disbelief in an article entitled, "The 'rights' of a few don't do right by manatees." She writes, "I'm really struggling with the idea that this so-called right to the water (or to make a living from it) carries more weight than my right, and your right, to live in a state with a well-managed natural environment."

The jury is still out as to whether the government will meet its deadlines and fulfill its requirements. The Bush Administrations, both at the federal level and at the state level in Florida under Governor Jeb Bush, have a bad history of selling manatees down the river. Our lawyers are standing by. 🐾

Tuna-Dolphin Battle Continues

Within hours of the decision by the Department of Commerce to allow dolphin-caught tuna to be sold as "dolphin-safe" in American markets, Animal Welfare Institute, Society for Animal Protective Legislation, Earth Island Institute, and other groups were back in court suing the federal government. In dramatically relaxing the standards of the dolphin-safe label, the Department of Commerce asserted that the setting of nets on dolphins causes "no significant adverse impact" even though a brand new study by their own scientists says the opposite.

The National Marine Fisheries Service study found that populations of eastern spinner and offshore spotted dolphins have failed to recover from a seventy percent decline suffered from decades of pursuit and entrapment from tuna boats. It also showed an entirely new category of heretofore unreported deaths—unweaned babies separated from their moms during the chase, and "cryptic kill" where animals are injured and go off to die. Even without counting these mortalities, over seven million dolphins have died through this method of fishing.

Allowing the sale of dolphin-deadly tuna in the U.S., fraudulently labeled as "dolphin-safe," is expected to cause between 20,000 and 40,000 dolphin deaths a year.

The dolphin-safe label is one of the biggest successes in using consumer awareness to protect a threatened and beloved creature. Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced new legislation forbidding the change in label that would "blatantly mislead the American public."

As we go to press, an agreement to stay the implementation of the new label has been signed by the Judge. For the moment at least, the dolphin-safe label still means what it says. 🐾

Dolphins Turned into Killers

During World War II, Japan was criticized for strapping incendiary bombs on bats and unleashing them on the Pacific Northwest, hoping they might roost under eaves and cause fires. Now our own Navy has announced that it may use bottlenose dolphins in any upcoming war against Iraq.

The Navy refers to sixty dolphins long held in San Diego as "soldiers of the sea" and "systems" for finding mines and for "neutralizing" enemy swimmers.

Dolphins were first captured for the Navy in 1959 but were classified as secret until the 1970s. They were used in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam to kill enemy divers, in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, and even in San Diego Bay during the 1996 Republican Convention where dolphins were used as underwater patrols to prevent terrorism.

Besides the obvious harm done to the Navy dolphins themselves, with all of the attendant problems of taking them from their homes and families to a life of captivity and servitude, AWI questions the wisdom of making any dolphin in the Persian Gulf area into a potential combatant and therefore fair game.

Unfortunately, it appears that this bad idea has already spread to other countries. An official of the Ammunition Factory Kirkee (AFK) in India, Mr. O.P. Yadav, confirmed that the Indian Navy has successfully trained dolphins to plant mines on sensitive areas of enemy ships. He claimed dolphins, "regarded as one of the most intelligent creatures" are useful in deep-water missions "because they will cut the human risk factor."

Turning dolphins into weapons to kill humans is unacceptable and immoral. 🐾



U.S. Navy

This Navy dolphin, shown with a device used for finding and marking underwater mines, may be deployed in a war against Iraq.

Loud Sonar Reined in by Legal Decisions

Two recent court decisions support our claims that Low Frequency Active sonar (LFA), other active sonars, and airguns pose some of the greatest threats to whales, dolphins, and all ocean life across the globe.

On January 24, 2003, U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti blocked Dr. Peter Tyack of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute from blasting migrating gray whales—including newborns and pregnant females—off the California coast with 180 to 210 decibels of sound to test their reactions. Dr. Tyack is one of the principal biologists testing active sonars for the U.S. Navy. Two weeks earlier, Judge Conti issued a temporary restraining order against such studies, allowing us to halt plans to put swimmers in the water to protect whales by blocking sonar transmissions (which cannot occur when humans are in the water).

Animal welfare and environmental organizations brought suit asserting that the National Marine Fisheries Service did not conduct a proper environmental assessment to conclude that Tyack's studies would not pose a significant risk to whales. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the Bush Administration's attempts to cut red tape and circumvent comprehensive environmental assessments are increasingly being "tripped up in the courts."

In a second court decision last October, U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth LaPorte imposed a global ban on the Navy's deployment and testing of LFA sonar, agreeing with arguments offered by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) that the device poses an unacceptable risk to marine mammals.

However, Judge LaPorte also agreed with the Navy that the device was needed to find quiet enemy submarines. She directed the opposing attorneys to find a place where the intensely loud sonar could be tested. The two sides struck a deal allowing LFA testing in about a million square miles of ocean around the Mariana Islands in the Pacific, specifically avoiding the coasts of Japan and the Philippines. Clearly, any LFA deployment is unacceptable.

This is just the first phase of this court challenge. In issuing the original injunction in October, the judge found that it was likely that NRDC will prevail in its attempt to win a permanent injunction on LFA in her court over the next few months. The current deal allows continued testing during this period. 🐾

The Circus Is Coming to Town... With NO Polar Bears!

They are no longer suffering in constraining metal cages; they are no longer whipped until they perform unnatural tricks; they are no longer languishing in sweltering temperatures reaching more than 110 degrees. On November 5, 2002, Wilhelm, Masha, Boris, Kenneth, Royale, and Barle, six of the polar bears stuck in Puerto Rico as part of the Suarez Brothers Circus, were rescued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement.

After 18 months of public struggle and legal wrangling, these bears have a chance for a peaceful retirement at three different American zoos. Though they are not free, there is no question that their lives will be enormously enhanced in their new surroundings. As readers of the *Quarterly* know, one of the bears, Alaska, had already been confiscated and sent to the Baltimore Zoo as a result of allegations that the circus had falsified documents regarding the origin of this specific bear.

Two bears, Kenneth and Boris, thought to be about 18 years old, have gone to the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium in Tacoma, Washington, where polar bears have been displayed since 1980. The zoo estimates that it will cost approximately \$20,000 a year to feed and care for them.

Barle, the only female in the group, has gone to the Detroit Zoo's Arctic Ring of Life exhibit. Detroit Zoo Director Ron Kagan stated unequivocally, "There is no excuse for the cruelty that was inflicted on these bears...Circus animals often demonstrate the effects of physical and social deprivation, so we're pleased to offer Barle a more natural and stimulating environment." Dr. Kagan had been on Capitol Hill last year urging support for Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer's legislation to prohibit the use of polar bears in traveling circuses.

Painfully declawed Wilhelm and underweight Masha have found new homes at the North Carolina Zoo. Sadly, a third bear, Royale, also was supposed to join them, but he died in transit from Puerto Rico, a testament to the long suffering these animals endured, their inhumane treatment, and the effect of prolonged inaction by the U.S. government in their rescue. Diana Weinhardt, Chair of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Bear Taxon Advisory Group, presciently noted before the death, "We are also very concerned about the current health of the bears, which we know to have deteriorated from their conditions earlier this year."

The Marine Mammal Protection Act provides that commercial exhibitors of marine mammals such as polar bears, taken for public display, must offer a public education program, maintain these animals under "humane and healthful conditions," and keep proper records related to the animals. The Suarez Circus allegedly has not fulfilled any of these legal obligations. The circus faces penalties of up to \$20,000 and one year imprisonment for each violation of the Act.

For additional background on this case, please see *AWI Quarterly*, Winter 2002 and Spring 2002. 🐾



photos © PETA

Debbie Leahy of PETA, who worked tirelessly on the release of the "Suarez Seven" noted, "These polar bears are finally enjoying the simple pleasure of swimming, diving, and playing in a refreshing pool of water. They will serve as ambassadors of hope for all those animals still forced to perform cheap tricks."

DOMINION: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy

By Matthew Scully
St. Martin's Press, New York 2002; ISBN: 0312261470; 464 Pages, \$27.95

Matthew Scully's powerful treatise, *Dominion: The Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy*, is a passionate, reasoned discourse on the way in which humans (mis)treat animals and a stern call for reform. He craftily weaves together historical, religious and philosophical considerations in his examination of the very essence of our humanity.

The central thesis in *Dominion* is that we, as an ostensibly humane species, must turn our consideration of nonhuman animals on its head: "Maybe, in the grand scheme of things, the life of a pig or cow or fowl of the air isn't worth much," Scully contends. "But if it's the Grand Scheme we are going by, just what is a plate of bacon or veal worth?"

Scully, a speechwriter for President Bush, implores us simply to act mercifully. Why? "It is just a gracious thing, an act of clemency only more to our credit because the animals themselves cannot ask for it, or rebuke us when we transgress against them, or even repay our kindness."

Scully touches on practically every conceivable animal protection issue in the book, focusing the bulk of his attention on three main case studies: trophy hunting, the decimation of the creatures of the sea, and the horrors of factory farming. Investigating Safari Club International and its annual conference, Scully questions how anyone could shoot an elephant, how anyone "could find pleasure in shooting an 8,000-pound mammal who has been walking the earth for fifty-odd years..." How could they, indeed?

Scully next turns his persuasive prose to the mystery of commercial whaling: "... the great leviathan, these grand mammals of 'a certain intelligence' about which we learn more every year, creatures with no natural predator, not caus-

ing any environmental damage or harm to anyone, hunted to the point of annihilation in a single century after millions of years swimming the seas, are consigned to more years of hunting long after humanity has any need for any product derived from them."

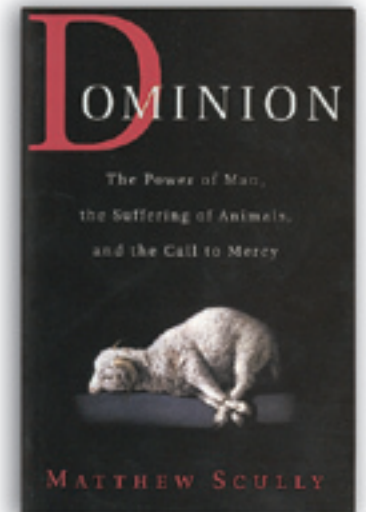
Inside animal factories, especially hog "farms," which perhaps draw Scully's greatest ire, he wonders "How does a man rest at night knowing that in this strawless dungeon of pens are all of these living creatures under his care, never leaving except to die, hardly able to turn or lie down, horror-stricken by every opening of the door, biting and fighting and going mad?" And why do we torture these animals so?

Scully suggests it stems from "our own boundless capacity for self-delusion, especially where there is money involved."

Scully's rhetoric is not merely theoretical. He calls for justice and mercy in very practical ways: ban the trade in bear parts, stop baiting wild animals and allowing "canned" hunts, rid the U.S. (as is the case in nearly 90 countries) of the draconian steel-jawed leghold trap, stop experimenting on primates, pass a "Humane Farming Act."

Scully's moving words left me nodding in agreement, muttering "yes" and "just so" with each passing page. *Dominion* is as empowering a book as I've read in many years, and I trust the newly-initiated animal advocate will devour this comprehensive primer with stirring enthusiasm. 🐾

—By Adam M. Roberts



If, in a given situation, we have it in our power either to leave the creature there in his dark pen or let him out into the sun and breeze and feed him and let him play and sleep and cavort with his fellows—for me it's an easy call. Give him a break. Let him go. Let him enjoy his fleeting time on earth, and stop bringing his kind into the world solely to suffer and die.

Requests to AWI

If you 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, D.C., the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Zapping Irradiation

2002 saw the single largest meat recall in history—27.4 million pounds of turkey and chicken! Not surprisingly, Americans suffer from foodborne illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 76 million Americans get sick each year, 325,000 are hospitalized, and about 5,000 die due to foodborne pathogens. The majority of these cases are associated with contaminated meat. Cows, pigs, and chickens are subjected to increasingly deleterious housing and slaughter conditions that encourage bacterial contamination. Nonetheless, when people get sick or die industry representatives and the United States Department of Agriculture quickly blame consumers for not cooking meat thoroughly. Most recently, corporate interests are promoting irradiation as a “solution” to the contamination problem.

Unbeknownst to most Americans, a substantial amount of meat is already irradiated. Food irradiation is the deliberate exposure of food to ionizing radiation in an attempt to kill pathogens that cause illness. Industry representatives advocate irradiation to prevent the public relations disaster of people getting sick and to extend the shelf life of meat for export purposes. Rightly so, there is consumer skepticism

of this technology, but in an attempt to deceive the public, industry is petitioning the Food and Drug Administration to rename the process “cold pasteurization” and to request that labeling be voluntary. Currently, irradiated meat products sold in grocery stores must bear the international symbol for irradiation and a statement saying they have been “treated by irradiation.” However, there is no labeling requirement for irradiated food served in restaurants, schools, or by other food service providers.

Labeled or not, irradiation neither removes contaminants that cause illness nor addresses how they got there in the first place. Meat contamination coincides with a dramatic increase in inhumane factory farming practices, substantial cutbacks in federal food safety inspectors, and dangerously accelerated line speeds at slaughtering and processing facilities.

The most common sources of contamination are the inherently filthy and inhumane conditions of massive factory farms. The use of irradiation does nothing to reform the cruelty animals suffer in factories where pigs are confined in crowded and barren conditions, where sows are housed in crates so narrow they cannot walk or turn around, and where

chickens raised for meat spend their short lives indoors, standing in their own feces. It is in these cramped, dark, damp conditions that bacteria proliferate.

Irradiation also masks cruel conditions in slaughterhouses. Rather than irradiate meat at the end of the processing line, USDA should station inspectors, on a full-time basis, for the purpose of enforcing the Humane Slaughter Act, at those critical points in the handling and slaughtering process where violations are most common, such as the unloading and handling areas and the stunning and bleeding areas. Furthermore, line speeds in slaughterhouses must be drastically reduced. Current line speeds prevent animals from being stunned in accordance with the Humane Slaughter Act. Improperly stunned animals thrash about in unnecessary pain and fear resulting in the contamination of meat with partially digested food or fecal matter.

Far from being a solution, irradiation masks the food safety problems caused by inhumane conditions at factory farms and slaughterhouses. AWI will continue to work for comprehensive food safety policies that protect farm animals and prevent foodborne illness. For more information visit www.citizen.org/cmep/foodsafety/food_irrad/. 🐾

WELFARE RANCHING

The Subsidized Destruction of the American West

Edited by George Wuerthner and Mollie Matteson
Island Press 2002; Hardback: ISBN 1559639423; 346 pages; \$75.00;
Paperback: ISBN 1559639431; 368 pages; \$45.00

When picturing the American West, one conjures romantic images of wide-open ranges filled with wild horses, cows, and cowboys. However, upon closer examination you will see corporations and the very rich exploiting millions of acres of public land to the extreme detriment of the land, people, and wildlife that inhabit it.

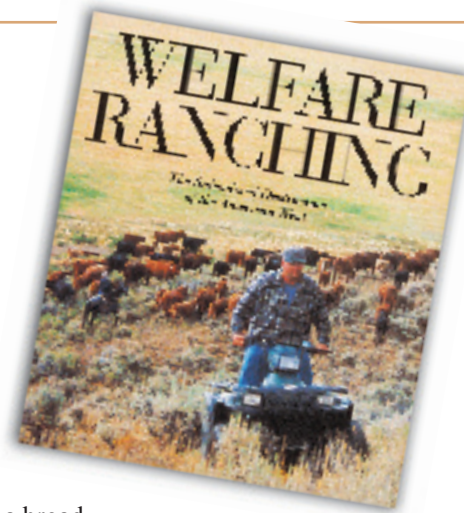


George Wuerthner

Taxpayer dollars also fund predator control methods such as the barbaric steel jaw leg-hold trap.

Welfare Ranching: The Subsidized Destruction of the American West exposes this abuse through a broad range of essays detailing habitat destruction, species extinction, water pollution and depletion, and waste of taxpayer dollars. The mammoth book is filled with maps and photographs vividly depicting the stark contrast between public lands that have been overgrazed and those given a reprieve, or those that have never been grazed.

An estimated 307 million acres of federal, state, and local lands are leased for raising livestock through federal grazing permits. The 1934 Taylor Grazing Act created these permits to be “revocable, amendable, nonassignable ten-year licenses to graze on public lands” as a way to ensure the lands future viability and family ranching during the economic troubles of the Great Depression. Today, however, large corporations have consumed the Act’s intended beneficiaries, the small family ranchers, much as they did the family farmers of the East. Those small ranchers, who remain in



operation, struggle to survive, often forced to find additional jobs to supplement their income.

Welfare Ranching is filled with statistics clearly showing how a few people like Idaho potato billionaire J.R. Simplot (owner of one of the largest U.S. cattle operations) and the Hewlett and Packard Families, corporations such as MetLife, and Anheuser-Busch, and even the Mormon Church reap vast financial rewards at immense natural and public expense. Simplot’s company alone controls 2 million acres of public grazing allotments. Because federal permits are not retired, those no longer used by smaller operations are simply bought up by the larger operations.

It is simple economics why corporations use public lands. Federal permittees pay only \$1.35 per month to graze a single cow-calf pair on public lands while the average monthly cost of grazing per cow-calf pair on private lands is \$11.10. In addition, subsidies for predator and pest control, drought and fire damage, further make the endeavor more profitable. In a one year period alone, welfare ranching cost taxpayers an estimated \$72 million loss for Bureau of Land Management’s Range Management Program (2001) and more than \$52 million for Forest Service Program (2000).

Most ranching and cattle production in the U.S. exist on private lands while public lands contribute less than three percent of U.S. meat production. Only 1.9 percent of the 1.6 million cattle producers in the U.S. are ranching on all western public lands. Hopefully, this corporate abuse of a precious ecosystem and taxpayer dollars will end while the land and wildlife can still recover. 🐾

—By Christopher J. Heyde

Buyer Beware Comments to USDA Critical

An increasing amount of meat is marketed with claims such as “free-range” and “antibiotic-free.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently seeking public comment on proposed definitions for “USDA Verified” claims. Clear and meaningful language will provide consumers with important information about how animals are raised. Below, in bold type, are USDA’s proposed claims followed by AWI’s recommendation of how USDA must strengthen their definitions and remove potential loopholes that would be exploited by industry. Please write to USDA by March 31, 2003 requesting these changes.

• “No subtherapeutic antibiotics added” or “Not fed antibiotics”

Animals can receive antibiotics by means other than feed. USDA must alter the second phrase to read: “Not administered antibiotics.” USDA’s proposed definition for these phrases includes the statement, “Livestock are not fed subtherapeutic levels of antibiotics.” USDA should change the definition to read: “Livestock do not receive subtherapeutic levels of antibiotics.”

• “Free Range, Free Roaming or Pasture Raised”

USDA’s definition for this phrase regarding the environment provided to cattle, sheep and swine is loophole-ridden. It should be re-defined to require that: 1) “Each individual animal shall have continuous, unconfined and unobstructed access to pasture throughout their life;” 2) “Pasture” include: “Vegetative cover and environment appropriate to the species in terms of diet and natural behavior;” and 3) “Animal density must be restricted so that animals can fulfill normal patterns of behavior and so that healthy pasture or range is maintained.”

• “Grass fed”

USDA’s proposed language would allow farmers confining animals in feedlots to make a “grass-fed” claim. USDA must require that: Animals have had continuous, unconfined and unobstructed access to grass (including legumes and forbs) pastures throughout their life. When free-standing forage is unavailable during the winter season cattle will continue to be fed an 85% forage derived diet.

The address for USDA is: Chief, Standardization Branch, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2603-S, Stop 0254, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-0254. Comments can also be emailed to marketingclaim@usda.gov. Refer to Docket No. LS-02-02. Comments submitted by AWI to USDA can be viewed at www.awionline.org/farm. 🐾

Helping Hands for Hedgehogs

Victim of one of the latest exotic pet crazes appears to be the African Pygmy hedgehog. Sadly, many of these animals are being mass-produced in “mill-type” situations where they are viewed as easily replenishable commodities. Novel pets, hedgehogs are oftentimes purchased by individuals who have done little research into how to properly care for them.


Although hedgehogs are protected under the Animal Welfare Act, the law’s regulations are overly broad to cover a wide range of species and do not provide specific requirements for cage size, exercise opportunities, appropriate weaning age, and proper environmental temperatures to avoid hibernation attempts and possible death-by-freezing.

The Hedgehog Welfare Society (HWS) is an organization that exists to protect the well being of hedgehogs through rescue, research, and education of the people who care for hedgehogs. The HWS expends most of its resources on rescue of unwanted and abandoned hedgehogs, who are frequently purchased on impulse from pet stores. Members of the American and Canadian HWS have rescued hundreds of hedgehogs in the past year from

situations where they were neglected, unwanted, and/or in desperate need of veterinary care.

Another objective of the HWS is advocacy, targeted at breeders and pet stores. The HWS has filed numerous complaints to the USDA regarding unlicensed pet stores and breeding facilities that practice inadequate animal care. These include reports of hedgehogs who have been left injured and bleeding in cages, animals in overcrowded conditions without sufficient room for movement or exercise, unattended cages piled with two inches

of feces, hedgehogs soaked in urine, cannibalism, and hedgehogs shipped in bulk to pet stores across the country prior to healthy weaning age. Many unlicensed facilities have been inspected and, once informed of licensing and care requirements, agreed to cease sales of hedgehogs. However, there have been far more occasions where no action is taken in response to the complaint.

For more information about hedgehog rescue or to report abuse, please contact the HWS at <http://www.hedgehogwelfare.org>. 



Hedgehog Welfare Society

Deirdre, a victim of neglect, was rescued from a family in Pennsylvania, a state that prohibits keeping hedgehogs as pets.



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