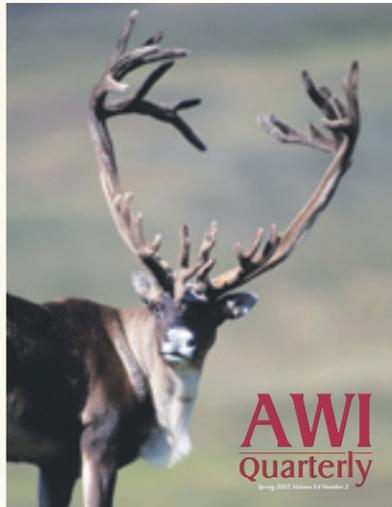


AWI

Quarterly

Spring 2005 Volume 54 Number 2



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ABOUT THE COVER

The majestic barren ground caribou is one of approximately 36 species of mammals currently living in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This animal, now enjoying its vast range in the alpine tundra, may soon be in danger. Recent action in the Senate has put the caribou's habitat at risk of destruction for the drilling of a trivial amount of oil. While proponents of drilling claim it can be done without damage, it is not a risk worth taking on such a national treasure (photo by Len Rue Jr.).

Looking back in time at the 1989 Exxon-Valdez oil spill across 1,300 miles of coastline in Alaska is a reminder that precious wildlife and their habitats should not be taken for granted. Thousands of animals died of causes such as oil coating and inhalation of fumes. A decade after the accident, relatively fresh and toxic oil was still present at several beaches, and remnants from the spill despoil the area's landscape even today (see story on the Arctic Refuge, pages 4-5).

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Protections Down and Strandings Abound

Marine mammal stranding incidents that coincide with the use of Navy sonar have been in the news yet again. Dozens of cetaceans from three species stranded off the North Carolina coast in January, and over 80 Steno's dolphins stranded off the Florida Keys in March. The Navy has been implicated in both cases. These episodes come at a time when there are significant milestones occurring for the world's whales and the threat from noise.

The current administration announced last month that it will oppose any international efforts to curb its use of active sonar, despite growing calls for caution from international quarters such as the World Conservation Union, the European Parliament and the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission.

The Animal Welfare Institute's Ben White spent most of January in Mexico successfully rallying local fishermen and environmental groups against a seismic experiment that threatened thousands of marine creatures off the Yucatan. The experiment involved the use of extremely loud airguns blasting for a month and a half from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University's research vessel, Maurice Ewing.

After initially being stalled for many days, the experiment finally went ahead with the permission of the Mexican government and the protection of the Mexican Navy, which enforced a 40x40 mile exclusion zone that barred anyone from gaining access to the area. In an ironic twist, the Ewing stranded *itself* on a coral reef and was fined \$200,000.

Meanwhile, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency that issues permits to ocean noise makers, has announced a proposal to raise the level at which it says noise hurts marine mammals. Dr. Roger Gentry, head of the NOAA acoustics team, has said consideration is always given to good science—and yet the Navy funds 70 percent of US-based research, as well as half of the world's research on the effects of underwater noise on marine mammals. A large chunk of the other half comes from the oil and gas industry, which uses noise to hunt for oil.

In a further blow to marine ecosystems, two permanent Navy sonar ranges are planned for areas off the coasts of North Carolina and California—both of which are key marine mammal habitats. Amid this current climate of heartless abandon over marine animal noise-related deaths, the Institute has decided that while continuing to fight with federal agencies, the true battleground is at the United Nations. 🐾



Animal Welfare Institute
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Ver Proten

This Bulgarian dancing bear's cruel career is finally over (see story page 8).



Hope Ryden

Wild horse protection is being threatened by recent legislation (see story pages 10-11).



Wildlife Protection Assn. of Australia

Innocent kangaroos are subject to killing sprees in their home country of Australia (see story page 18).

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Senate Votes to Allow Drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The issue of whether to tap Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas has been highly debated for more than two decades. For years, legislation to allow such drilling has been blocked in the Senate by filibusters spearheaded by Democratic senators. Yet last month, Senate GOP leaders used a back door procedural maneuver, attaching a drilling measure to the 2006 budget resolution. The move circumvented the threat of a filibuster by Democrats, which requires 60 votes. Instead, a budget measure requires only 51 votes to be passed by the Senate.

In an effort to oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) introduced an amendment that would strip the drilling language from the budget resolution. However, the measure was defeated on March 16 by the narrowest of margins: 49 to 51. Seven Republican senators joined 42 Democratic senators to support the amendment against opening the refuge, and two Democratic senators joined 49 Republican senators to oppose it.



Glaucous-winged Gull chicks huddle in their nest in the Arctic Refuge.

The Senate's rejection of the Cantwell amendment was a major victory for President Bush, who has made opening up a portion of the Arctic Refuge for energy exploration a priority since he took office in January 2001. As a former oil man, he believes drilling in the refuge will decrease US dependence on foreign oil. While proponents contend there are an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil in the refuge, there is a difference between technically recoverable oil and economically recoverable oil drilling companies would find is financially worth the effort to pursue. US Geological Survey officials indicate economically recoverable oil is the more relevant figure, and it has yet to be determined for this case. Moreover, senators supporting the Cantwell amendment were quick to point out it will be around 10 years before any oil from the refuge could actually hit America's refineries.

Regardless of the amount of oil and the length of time it will take to reach US markets, the risk the drilling will pose to the area's ecological integrity and its diverse wildlife cannot be denied. The Arctic Refuge is a 19 million acre natural wonder containing marshes, lagoons and rivers that run through the rugged foothills of the Brooks Range and the expansive icy waters of the Beaufort Sea. It is also the nation's largest wildlife preserve, home of 180 species of birds and 36 species of mammals, including three species of North American bears. Nine marine mammal species live along its coast and 36 fish species inhabit its rivers and lakes.



Polar bears play in the snow, demonstrating a pristine example of the Arctic Refuge's wildlife and landscape.

Despite claims by proponents that oil tapping can occur in a responsible and environmentally friendly manner, oils spills and noise and air pollution—commonly associated with drilling activities—could have devastating effects on the refuge's wildlife population. Moreover, the targeted zone for energy exploration, a coastal plain bordering the Beaufort Sea, is considered the refuge's biological heart because it supports millions of migratory birds, polar bears, marine mammals and musk oxen. It is also the principal summer range for more than

Game Management or Just a Game?

The use of aircraft to hunt wildlife is illegal in most places, but not in Alaska. Hunters can legally fly planes across the sky and gun down wolves in the snow below them using a practice called aerial hunting. Not only is it lawful to shoot wolves from the air, but aerial gunning teams in Alaska also fly close to the ground in planes and chase wolves to exhaustion before landing and shooting them at point blank range. The latter practice is known as land-and-shoot hunting.

Alaskan residents passed ballot initiatives in 1996 and 2000 to ban aerial gunning and land-and-shoot hunting, but Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski reinstated the legality of these savage practices in 2003. Hunting enthusiasts contend that using aircraft to hunt down wolves is a necessary form of predator control to maintain the moose and caribou populations in Alaska for game hunters, but several biologists say the data being used to justify wolf hunting is not based on sound science.

This year's current death toll from Alaska's aerial wolf killing program exceeds 200, and hundreds more are expected to die before this summer. The killing will not stop without your help, for it is obviously not enough that the Alaskan people have already shown their strong opposition to this cruelty. 🐾

100,000 porcupine caribou who travel hundreds of miles each year to bear their offspring in the area, as well as the last fragment of Alaska coastline not yet open for drilling. The rejection of the Cantwell amendment is also devastating to the development of renewable and alternative energy sources—it is only through working to use less oil that our country can truly become less dependent on the limited resource.

The fate of the Arctic Refuge has yet to be sealed. A provision related to the refuge was not included in the 2006 Budget Resolution. The measure must now be passed as part of the budget reconciliation process between the House and the Senate before it can be sent to President Bush for his signature. The American public has consistently supported the protection of the Arctic Refuge in overwhelming numbers, and today we must make our voices heard. Please contact oil company executives to let them know you won't buy gas from the Arctic Refuge; ask them to pledge not to drill this unspoiled land. 🐾

As we go to press, Congress is likely finalizing this deal. You can still proclaim your position to your Members of Congress, as well as local newspapers and civic groups.



Wolves in the Arctic Refuge are currently threatened by aerial hunting, and oil drilling in their habitat could lead to further deaths.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please contact Governor Frank Murkowski and urge him to put an end to these practices; let him know that as long they remain legal in Alaska, you will not be spending your tourist dollars there. Write him at:

Governor Frank Murkowski
P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811
fax: 907-465-3532
email: <http://gov.state.ak.us/govmail.php>

Animal Sentience and the Evolution of Emotion



story by TRACY BASILE

Are some birds shy? Can a dolphin recognize himself in a mirror? Do elephants mourn their dead? Will a bat perform random acts of kindness? One hundred years ago, if a well-educated man of Western culture answered “yes” to any of these questions, he would have likely been locked away in an insane asylum. Even 50 years ago, it was rare to find any scientific studies that examined the emotional lives or the intelligence of animals. Such a huge omission is no accident.

Despite Charles Darwin’s boldness and brilliance in the mid-1800s, animals have largely been viewed in European and American societies as automata, creatures of instinct, from simple protozoa to our closest relatives the chimpanzees. In the 20th century, renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall broke new ground by recognizing that the chimps of Gombe were individuals with rich emotional lives. She and her colleagues started to look at animals in a new way—in their natural environments. Their pursuits gave rise to a new field of science known as ethology.

Other scientists have followed Goodall’s example in dozens of fields, and in the last few decades, they have unearthed an amazing assortment of information about the inner lives of animals. So much research on this topic exists today that it is virtually impossible to refute that animals, in varying degrees, are sentient, use and make

tools, teach their young, imitate, possess language, have long-term memory and experience emotions.

While studies in animal intelligence are rife with debate, sentience is fairly straightforward by comparison. It simply means being conscious, having the capacity to perceive through the senses. Often, it implies the capacity to suffer. “To be sentient is to be aware. One of the ways we are aware is pain,” explains Dr. Roger Fouts, a professor of psychology at Central Washington University, an Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) board member and a co-director of the Chimpanzee and Human Communications Institute. “Sentience is a very useful trait to have in adaptation and survival,” he says, adding that it is “far too complex to have popped up in our species without a long history of evolutionary development.”

Barefoot in the Grass

Fouts is a pioneer of communicating with chimpanzees using sign language. In his book, *Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are*, he depicts his 30+ year friendship with the chimpanzee Washoe and her family. The most moving passage in the book is when Washoe, Dar, Tatu, Loulis and Moja are released into a large outdoor enclosure and experience the sun on their backs and the grass under their feet for the first time in their lives.

In a description spanning three pages, he details their reactions, including loud pant-hooting, running leaps off the deck, excitement, trepidation, joy and lots of hugs. “For weeks Moja and Tatu refused to come inside, even for meals. We had to beg and cajole to get them to eat. They spent so much time in the sun that their pale skin turned bright red. But Moja and Tatu didn’t seem to mind being sunburned. They lived for the sun. By August, only three months after the move, Moja and Tatu were not only tan, they were physically and psychologically transformed,” he wrote. Certainly enjoying the warmth of the sun or the cool grass upon their feet is part of being sentient. Without the ability to perceive these sensations, Moja and Tatu would not have responded so completely—emotionally, psychologically and physically—to these new surroundings.

A Change in Perception

New studies in animal sentience show that sheep can remember faces for up to two years, prairie dogs speak their own language, octopi disguise themselves by walking on two legs in order to escape predators, cows use tools and pigs can be devious and misleading to obtain food. But what does all this research add up to? And what does it imply about how animals should be treated in experimental laboratories, circuses, zoos, factory farms or slaughterhouses?

depression Contentment

Why is it that as scientists reveal one marvelous discovery after another, much of mainstream media treats these results as amusing trivia? At the very least, shouldn’t animal sentience be taken seriously? As we enter the 21st century, the ramifications are huge. A shift in perception is desperately needed.

A landmark conference was held last month in London with the hopes of creating just this kind of sea change. Billed as “From Darwin to Dawkins: The Science and Implications of Animal Sentience,” and sponsored by Compassion in World Farming Trust of the United Kingdom, the two-day event drew crowds of more than 600 participants from approximately 50 countries. It was the first time a conference devoted to animal sentience was staged on such a large and international scale. Dr. Goodall delivered a wonderful keynote speech; other speakers included eminent scientists and leading professors in ethology, agriculture, conservation, government policy, law, philosophy and ethics. Its purpose, according to Joyce D’Silva, CEO of the trust, was to “place animal sentience firmly on the global agenda.” Marlene Halverson, AWI’s farm animal economic advisor, was in attendance.

At the conference, Dr. Marion Dawkins (who is not related to Richard Dawkins, the famous ethologist referenced in the conference’s title), a professor of animal behavior in the

Department of Zoology at the University of Oxford, stressed the importance of thinking of animal welfare not simply in terms of what humans would like for animals, but in terms of what the animals would like for themselves.

Dr. Donald Broom, a professor of animal welfare at the University of Cambridge, enlightened listeners with his discussion of collaboration, altruism and mutual aid in animals. He explained that even unrelated individuals take care not to harm each other, noting that in herds of longhorn cattle, eye injuries are rare, despite the proximity of horns to other cows’ faces. This is just one example of how big animals and animals with sharp horns move carefully around each other. It was once thought that only humans possess these noble traits. Broom made it clear in his talk that animal societies could not have survived without them.



Play ANGER

LOYALTY

Desire grief Happiness



Why Sentience Matters

There are huge obstacles in applying the knowledge we now know about animal sentience to the real world. The reason for this has to do with coming to terms with the inhumanity of the Western world. Many people today are, as Fouts puts it, “afraid to embrace the Darwinian realities of continuity.”

Perhaps the word “sentience” covers too vast a territory, and this unfortunate fact has led to more confusion than clarity. On one end of the spectrum, the concept is as simple as a tulip turning to face the morning sun. On the other end, sentience is as complex as a young, healthy chimpanzee dying of a broken heart only a few weeks after the death of his mother. Or the courtship of two right whales.

Dawkins told participants at the London conference that even today, science does not know how the brain gives rise to the incredible richness of subjective experience. Indeed, cutting-edge research involving the study of neurochemicals, opiates and hormones indicates our emotions actually take

form *in our bodies*. Consider the many pharmaceutical pills now available to relieve a person’s anxiety and depression. The point is this: if emotions reside in our bodies, then they must reside in animals’ bodies, too. To paraphrase Charles Darwin, the difference is one of degree, not one of kind.

The debate over animal sentience is curiously nonexistent in indigenous cultures where human survival is intricately woven with the lives of animals. Wasn’t it sentience that sent the animals and indigenous people of Southeast Asia fleeing inland before December’s devastating tsunami hit their shores? What else could it have been?

Chickasaw novelist and poet Linda Hogan says it best in her essay, *First People*; “For us, the animals are understood to be our equals. They are still our teachers. They are our helpers and healers. They have been our guardians and we have been theirs,” she wrote. “We have deep obligations to them. Without the other animals, we are made less.” 🐾

Did you know...

SHEEP can recognize the faces of at least 10 people and 50 other sheep. When isolated from their flock, they experience stress, but being shown pictures of familiar sheep faces reduces their feelings of anxiety. They can also form deep friendships.

ELEPHANTS make graves by breaking branches to cover their dead. They also mourn.

COWS can recognize familiar faces, take pleasure in solving problems and form long-lasting and co-operative partnerships. Cows can also make tools; one heifer bent a piece of wire to create a hook that allowed her to scrape food from the bottom of a jar.

WOOD MICE build their own signposts using sticks and stones to mark sites where food is abundant, or to signal short-cuts back to their burrows.

GIBBONS take care of their elderly. They move through forests hand over hand and will only go as fast as the slowest member of the group.

CHICKENS in pain will choose food laced with morphine, while healthy chickens do not. Also, when mother hens are given a choice of two foods, one toxic and the other safe, they will choose the non-toxic food. They teach their young chicks to avoid the toxic food as well.

BATS perform altruistic deeds. Father bats “babysit” and care for young bats who are not their offspring while mothers are out hunting.

WILD BUFFALO care for the weakest members of their herd by allowing only the strongest bulls to be trailblazers when foraging in deep snow.

The Last of the Dancing Bears

story by MONICA MINCIU AND IONUT LESOVICI
ROMANIAN ALLIANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

The issue of bears in captivity took the spotlight at a recent conference concerning the European Brown Bear in Central Europe, hosted last February in Bucharest, Romania by the Romanian Alliance for the Protection of Animals (APAR) and the Animal Welfare Institute. Topics ranging from the status and management of bear populations to the commercial traffic in bear products were also discussed at the fruitful meeting.

The Vier Pfoten Dancing Bear Park presented a model project for the humane housing of captive bears, and when APAR received an invitation to visit the sanctuary, our members jumped at the chance. We set out for the journey on a sunny winter day, talking about the bears and the stories we had heard from our grandparents. The gypsies sang for the animals, and it made them dance, we had been told.

But thanks to the park, located in the town of Belitsa, Bulgaria, we now know the truth. The bears were cruelly trained to “dance”—as young animals, they were forced to stand on burning metal plates while gypsies sang. An

iron ring inserted in the bear’s nose was attached to a chain that gave the gypsy complete control. In time, the intelligent creatures associated the gypsies’ singing with these types of intolerable pain.

Fortunately, new laws dictate that dancing bears in Bulgaria will not stand on hot surfaces or be tortured with tugging nose rings any longer. Today, they are retired and enjoying their safe home at the Vier Pfoten headquarters.

Yet while keeping dancing bears is illegal in Bulgaria, the government does not strictly enforce the ban. Vier Pfoten found a way to convince gypsies to give up their animals by offering each owner a sufficient amount of money to allow him or her to find another profession. Around 25 dancing bears are officially registered, and most of them have been safely held in the sanctuary since its founding in November 2000.

The park is open for visitors and plans to operate for the rest of the bears’ lives. The area in which it is situated, surrounded by three mountain ranges (the Rila, Pirin and Rhodope),



This dancing bear will soon be rescued from this gypsy village and taken to the sanctuary.

is an ideal habitat for bears, but it is very difficult to reach—this is part of what makes it such a wonderful place.

From the roof of the park’s information center, one can observe the vastness of this true sanctuary; it is a quiet, snowy forest, a temple of bears. When we visited on that cold day, some were hibernating, and others were hiding in the bushes. There was no singing, but one bear continued to rock back and forth for hours. Hopefully in these tranquil surroundings, someday he will learn to stop dancing. 🐾



The Vier Pfoten Dancing Bear Park is a peaceful refuge where bears can engage in their normal behaviors.



A bear walks through the snow on a wintery day at the sanctuary.

Fear

Photos, page 6: pig (Niman Ranch), hen (Dave DeNoma/OohMahNee), dolphins (Jeff Pantukoff/Whaleman Foundation), rat (Greg Morton/Media Group, UBC); page 7: longhorn cattle (www.texaslonghorn.net), Moja the chimp (Friends of Washoe); page 8: manatee (FWS), foxes (FWS); seal (FWS).

affection

Thirty Years Later... Wild Horses Again Slated for Slaughter

The 92nd Congress had never experienced such a deluge of letters—it was as if the spirit of America's wild horses had suddenly infected the entire nation. Newspaper editorials, radio talk shows and television coverage were all focused on this topic in 1971. Our country was so fired up over the plight of wild horses that it was inevitable Congress would act; finally the animals I'd tracked for years through canyons and deserts would receive a hearing.

I had worked with Representative Walter Baring, Velma Johnson ("Wild Horse Annie") and Joan Blue of the American Horse Protection Association to fine-tune the proposed legislation. One of our concerns was the future management of wild horses. "There must never be any opportunity for profit to be made off these animals," Annie said. "That must be written into the legislation."

Both chambers took testimony in committee rooms packed with press and supporters for two days. Hearings were interrupted to seat a class of sixth graders from Long Island who raised money to attend by selling wild horse stickers.

At the hearings, Annie produced photographs of a mustang roundup to underscore the importance of our mission. The images, featuring terrified horses



Mother and foal run free on open range.

being chased by aircraft from the safety of their remote mountain and canyon habitats onto flat land, were hard to look at. The beautiful animals were hog-tied and loaded onto trucks, and foals were left behind to die; baby horses brought too small a price to warrant space in the rigs. Transport conditions were appalling, an awful prelude to inhumane deaths.

It is common knowledge that free-lance "mustangers" who rounded up wild horses for sport and profit were given the nod of approval by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials eager to rid public lands of animals they perceived as "trespassers." Given the BLM's longstanding negative view of wild horses, we wondered how they would treat their charges once given custody. Would they continue to employ the same cruel practices in the name of the "range management" we wanted the law to eliminate?

Annie was resolute on the issue. "To prevent such atrocities from continuing, the bill must contain language prohibiting any commercial use of wild horses, dead or alive. Never, ever should they go to slaughter."

Joan and I backed her up, and the following language was written into the bill as a result: "In no event shall horse remains, or any part thereof be sold for any consideration, directly or indirectly (Section 4/d)."..."Any person who... processes or permits to be processed into products the remains of a wild free-roaming horse or burro...will be subject to a fine up to \$2,000 or/and imprisonment up to one year (Section 8/4)."

No politician would take a position against such a popular movement, and the law easily passed. With a stroke of the president's pen, the wild horse became a "living symbol of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," entitled to "protection from capture, branding, harassment or death."

Sadly, the story did not end with this victory. Many BLM managers refused to accommodate wild horse herds in their districts. A state livestock board in New Mexico invoked its state estray law to claim ownership of 19 captured wild burros. In doing so, it challenged the supremacy of the federal law over a state law.

It became apparent that more issues than just wild horses were at stake as the case worked its way up the lower courts. Federal laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act were at risk of being invalidated. This was a case destined for the Supreme Court, and the end victory was decisive; the court voted 9 to 0 to uphold the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Yet this Supreme Court decision did not put an end to wild horse abuse.

My own investigations turned up sickening conditions at the holding corrals, such as a ditch filled with the bodies of horses who had succumbed to these appalling conditions. If these corrals were intended to demonstrate the adoption program's failure, they couldn't have been more convincing. Far too many animals had been gathered, when only the adoptable ought to have been held. These should have been showcased in comfortable holding pens that presented them at their best.

To be fair, BLM directors in some districts did just that. They also sponsored mentoring programs to help new adopt-

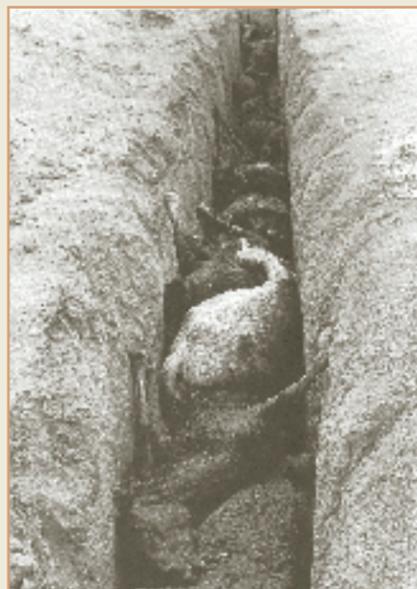
ers work with their animals, published a news letter that alerted the public to upcoming adoption sites and dates and used the Internet to facilitate adoptions. They demonstrated how an adoption program should be run, but unfortunately, their common sense approaches were not universally implemented.

It is also a problem that BLM personnel are trained range experts, not biologists. Their directive is to prevent degradation of the public domain—a vast area that in aggregate sprawls across twelve states and is larger than the entire country of France. To a range manager, grass is king; the better it looks, the better he or she is doing the job. Seen through this lens, a grass-eating herbivore appears to be the enemy.

These unsettled problems were troubling enough, but they were nothing compared to what was still to come. The Act was rendered meaningless last November when Senator Conrad Burns

(R-MT) attached a rider to the Appropriations bill, the contents of which must have escaped scrutiny by weary legislators anxious to take a vote and go home to bed. It was an amendment that dictated any wild horse or burro 10 years of age or older, as well as any horse not adopted after three tries, could be sold at auction without limitations.

This travesty must be reversed. Thankfully, Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY) have introduced H.R. 297, a bill to restore the 1971 Act and prohibit the sale of wild horses for slaughter. A companion bill, S. 576, was recently introduced in the Senate by Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV), an original sponsor of the 1971 bill. It is imperative that you encourage your Members of Congress to cosponsor these bills, for if they are not persuaded to reverse this perfidy, we might well say goodbye to America's wild horses! 🐾



Executed wild horses fill a large trench at a holding pen, proving the serious degree of abuse conducted by the BLM.



Remembering Madeleine Bemelmans

We sadly report that Madeleine Bemelmans died just after Christmas 2004. She was an essential part of the stalwart band Christine Stevens assembled, mostly in her dining room, when the Animal Welfare Institute was founded in 1951. Madeleine was the wife of Ludwig Bemelmans, an extraordinarily talented artist and writer. Is there anyone who has not read his *Madeline* books, either for pleasure or to a delighted child?

In her own quiet way, Madeleine was a shrewd and dedicated worker for animals and their protection. As a longtime board member of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL), she was especially helpful as an editor—though she was usually no more successful than the rest of us in curbing Christine’s sometimes prolix explanations of what was wrong with the way the world treated animals and what should be done about it. What a sly sense of humor our colleague showed!

When Madeleine finally stepped down as president of SAPL—after several attempts were thwarted by



Paris, 1939; Ludwig and Madeleine at what is clearly not a working lunch.

Christine—to open her post to the next generation, there was a gap in our office life. Her spirit is shared by her only child, Barbara, who survives her. Barbara has devoted her life to raising and caring for horses, and she is the mother of Madeleine’s three grandsons. Just as they do, we will miss Madeleine very much. 🐾

—John Gleiber

Endangered Species Act: Decades of Wildlife Protections Under Attack

For over 30 years, the Endangered Species Act has been the landmark law providing critical protections for endangered species and their habitats. Recently, House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo (R-CA) and several of his colleagues announced plans to introduce legislation that will weaken the Act.

These legislators are undoubtedly well aware of how important protection of threatened species is with the public, so they have disguised their efforts by stating the proposed legislation will “modernize” the law. However,

the real goals, such as increasing the amount of scientific evidence needed before a species can be listed as endangered or an area can be designated as a habitat, will work only to dilute the protections provided by the Act.



The Peregrine falcon benefited greatly from the Endangered Species Act.

If anything, the Act needs to be strengthened, as rates of extinction have only risen over time—mostly because of interference by humans. Still, without its protections, even more animals and their environments may have been lost over the past three decades. The Act has contributed to the survival of over 30 spectacular species, including the Bald eagle, the Peregrine falcon and the American alligator. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please send your Members of Congress letters in support of the *original* Endangered Species Act before it is too late!

- Address Representatives: The Honorable (full name), US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
- Address Senators: The Honorable (full name), US Senate, Washington, DC 20510
- Visit www.saplonline.org for names of your Members of Congress and for updates on animal related legislation.

It’s Not Happening at the Zoo

story by MARC BEKOFF

AUTHOR AND PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

If you dare look into the eyes of an animal in the zoo, you immediately know something isn’t right. Last winter, I confirmed this when I was a reader for the “Review of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoological Park,” a report resulting from a study of the Washington, DC zoo, conducted by the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The purpose of the study was to “identify strengths, weaknesses, needs and gaps in the current infrastructure” because of suspicions of mismanagement and inadequate animal treatment. It’s important for the public to know the truth behind an establishment that markets itself as a refuge for animals; even objective readers could see there was a long history of problems, and that the numerous infractions of federal statutes, laws and other guidelines (as well as common sense) were serious and inexcusable.

One of the most egregious violations among the plethora of horrors was the alteration of veterinary records. It was also disquieting that infractions and abuses occurred even though the

zoo’s veterinarians are board-certified by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Questions from the public finally surfaced when two red pandas died after being exposed to rat poison. Safety managers, who could have prevented these unnecessary deaths, were nowhere to be found. Many people who work at National Zoo really care about the animals, but there is a shameful lack of concern for animal welfare by some administrators responsible for overseeing the zoo’s operation.

My other concerns included the lack of documentation for the preventative medicine program and the lack of compliance with standard veterinary medicine, the shortcomings of the animal nutrition program (despite supposed world-class research) that have led to animal fatalities and the disregard for requirements for research given by the Public Health Service, the Animal Welfare Act, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, in addition to the zoo’s own policies and procedures for animal health and welfare. The list of problems goes on and on. Infractions such as the failure to keep adequate animal husbandry and management records, poor compliance with the zoo’s own policies and poor record keeping and a lack of accessibility to the records were commonplace.

The AZA reaccredited the zoo in the spring of 2004, apparently turning a blind eye to the zoo’s appalling state and no doubt yielding to political pressure. There still was no strategic plan for the zoo at that time, “despite



the recommendations of previous AZA accreditation reports,” which in and of itself justified withholding accreditation until the zoo made some major adjustments. I found that while the report was supposed to foster significant changes, many problems were blatantly ignored.

Today, one can see that not much is different at the National Zoo. An 18-year-old Bactrian camel died in March, and while the causes are still unknown, one must wonder how an animal deemed perfectly healthy only weeks earlier died so unexpectedly. Another camel of the same endangered species, with a lifespan of around 50 years in the wild, was euthanized last year at the zoo. Perhaps some day soon, the zoo’s injustice will be revealed to all. 🐾

The full length documents can be viewed at www.awionline.org/articles/bekoff.htm.



The photos on this page (taken in Washington, D.C.’s National Zoo) are from *Captive Beauty*, a book of 50 zoo portraits by Frank Noelker, an associate professor of Art at the University of Connecticut. Their sad, stark beauty—in which more attention is paid to the artists’ murals than the animals’ environments—says something important about how our culture “packages” nature and challenges us to reconsider the purpose and effects of zoos.

Missouri Trapper Shoots Dogs Caught in Leghold Traps

On the morning of Feb. 6, 2005, Marcela Egea did something she had done every morning for several years. She let Bubba and Savannah, her English Mastiffs, outside for a run on her 41-acre property in Belton, Miss. Approximately 20 minutes later, Egea and her boyfriend overheard the dogs yelping and a series of gun shots. The terrifying discovery that followed is one no dog owner should ever have to endure.

Egea found her two dogs dead in a creek just 10 feet beyond her property line. They had been shot, killed and pushed into the creek by local game trapper Michael Kartman after they were caught in



Three-year-old Hagan Egea lounged at home with Bubba and Savannah.



The bodies of Bubba and Savannah were retrieved from the creek behind Marcela Egea's home.



Bubba's front paw was caught in one of Michael Kartman's leghold traps.

leghold traps he set to catch beavers and otters. While Kartman claims both dogs were caught in his traps, only Bubba was found with a trap attached to one of his paws.

Kartman claims he shot each of the dogs multiple times because they acted aggressively when he attempted to free them from the traps, yet he has also been quoted by the *Kansas City Star* as saying he shot the dogs because they were interfering with his business. He admits he could have gone to nearby homes to find the owner of the dogs, but he opted not to do so because it would have taken too much time and he had several hours of trap checking left to do.

The incident is still under investigation, but Kartman has only been charged with two conservation misdemeanors to date. He received one citation for failing to label his traps with his name and address, as required by Missouri Hunting and Trapping Regulations, and another for littering the creek bank. Kartman left behind the carcasses of a skunk, two possums and a small raccoon he had also

caught in his traps and subsequently shot; trappers generally refer to such animal pelts with little or no economic value as "trash."

The trapping of domestic animals in leghold traps is not uncommon. Because such traps do not discriminate among their victims, they can catch any animal who triggers them. Once caught, the jaws of the leghold trap can cause the trapped animal to suffer bone crushing injuries and sometimes even death. Some animals will escape by chewing off a trapped limb, while those unable to escape remain at the mercy of their captors.

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation has lobbied vigorously to ban the use of these inhumane devices, and it will continue to do so. While 88 nations worldwide and eight states in our country have passed laws outlawing or severely limiting the use of leghold traps, federal legislation in the United States has yet to be enacted. We anticipate a bill to end the use of leghold traps will soon be reintroduced into Congress. 🐾



A hog dog rodeo fight is interrupted by the use of a breakstick.



A pack of dogs attack a vulnerable hog as their owner looks on.



Dogos are selectively bred as hog killing machines.

Inhumanity Disguised as Family Fun

Hog dog rodeos, also known as hog catches, are taking place in rural areas of the South and the Midwest, and those who profit from them bill animal cruelty as family entertainment. In actuality, it is a horrible display of inhumanity toward both wild hogs and domestic dogs. The organizers of these weekend rodeos release a mutilated hog into a make-shift ring with a dog, usually a pit bull trained to attack. In order to reduce the amount of harm that may befall the dog, the boar's tusks are often removed with bolt cutters or a steel pipe and hammer. On occasion, the dog is dressed in a leather jacket for added protection.

The hog is forced into the fighting ring, and the dog is then released to maul his flesh—tearing the hog's ears off and mangling his snout. This horrifying event lasts until the pit bull has "pinned" the innocent hog and is deemed winner of the match. Only then is the dog pulled off the hog, a situation that can involve the use of a breakstick to loosen the dog's death grip. The event's profit comes from an entrance fee to the rodeo and from

gambling on the dog with the fastest "pin" time. Unfortunately, the hog has to suffer this torture more than once on an event night, as they are used over and over each rodeo to accommodate the number of dog entries.

In most of the states where these rodeos are thought to take place, animal fighting is illegal; hog dog rodeos, however, are not specifically addressed, and a lack of law enforcement allows them to continue. Yet thanks to an undercover investigation early last year by an Alabama NBC affiliate, this despicable practice was brought to the public's attention. In December 2004, raids across three states yielded arrests on animal cruelty charges to hog dog event organizers. In late February, three suspected operators of three distinct hog dog rodeo operations were arrested in Escambia County, Ala. and charged with animal cruelty; 45 hogs were confiscated and will most likely be euthanized because of their injuries and possible diseases.

There may be an end to this terrible abuse. Louisiana passed a law in 2004 that bans hog dog events, and it went into effect last August. Mississip-

pi introduced a similar piece of legislation that passed the State Senate, but died in the House Judiciary "Division B" Committee. As of late March, Tennessee and Alabama had related legislation pending. While there seems to be some hope for restricting hog dog rodeos, hunting wild hogs with teams of dogs is legal in many of the same states where the rodeos occur—a sign exploitation of both hogs and dogs may continue.

Human hunters take advantage of the dogs' natural courage and power, sending a Cur dog out to track a hog and alert them when one is caught. Taking a sick pleasure in the horrific violence, the hunters then release a pack of Dogos—dogs bred specifically for this type of hunting—and let them rip the hog's flesh to shreds. Like the rodeos, this puts both hogs and dogs at risk of unnecessary pain, all for the humans' amusement. If you suspect this cruel practice is occurring in your area, please contact your state fish and game department and let it be known that hog hunting, the original inspiration for the rodeos, should be stopped. 🐾

Bequests 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.

A Humane Approach to Elephant Population Control

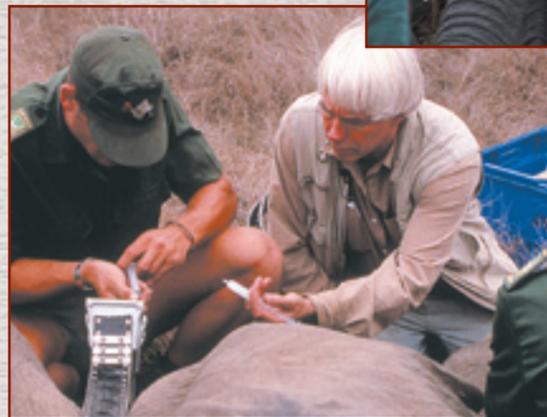
story by JAY F. KIRKPATRICK, PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF THE SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION CENTER,
BILLINGS, MT

photos courtesy of the Science and Conservation Center



A female African elephant in Kruger National Park is immobilized from a helicopter.

All necessary exams and contraceptive treatment could be completed on this downed elephant in less than 15 minutes.



A tracking collar is fastened on a treated cow so her roaming patterns can be detected.

The author secures a radio collar to a cow as part of an ultrasound pregnancy test before the treatment selection.



Despite the continued presence of poaching in parts of Africa, elephant populations are growing at rates of 4 to 5 percent in some regions of the continent. At the same time, a decline in elephant habitat, given over to an expanding human population and an increased agricultural presence, has led to human-elephant conflicts, degradation of habitat and a decreased tolerance for the species in many areas. This has spurred management actions of a lethal nature, and the Kruger National Park in the Republic of South Africa killed between 300 and 800 elephants annually until 1995, in an effort to stabilize the population.

That year, a coalition of scientists from the Science and Conservation Center, University of Georgia, University of Pretoria and Kruger embarked on a project to test the concept of immuncontraception in Kruger's elephants, since it had been so successful in the United States with wild horses, urban deer and zoo animals. While there was an undercurrent that contraception was not liked by many locals because of its cost and the fact that it was being pushed by foreigners, there was enough support to conduct the study.

Twenty-nine adult female elephants were captured by immobilization between Oct. 1996 and 2000, then tested for pregnancy by ultrasound, fitted with radio collars and given an initial inoculation of the contraceptive vaccine porcine zona pelucida (PZP). Booster inoculations were given without capture, by a dart from a helicopter. The treated elephants could then be followed over several years.

The results demonstrated the PZP vaccine is highly effective in inhibiting fertility, that it is reversible in its contraceptive actions because it requires annual booster inoculations, that it is safe to give to pregnant and nursing animals and that no debilitating health side effects result from treatment. Ultrasound examination of the reproductive tract indicated



A calf meddles at the side of his mother while her treatment takes place.



A cow at Makalali receives her yearly contraceptive dart. Once research was completed in Kruger, the animals no longer had to be captured, but were darted remotely.

the ovaries continue to look healthy and function properly and the uterus of the treated animals remains normal. It was clear by 2000 that contraception was in fact a reasonable approach to the humane management of elephants.

One of the few remaining questions centered on the possibility that fertility control and a plethora of non-pregnant animals would change the complex social behaviors and structures of elephant society. Unfortunately, Kruger is not a good place to study behavior because of the dense bushveldt in which the animals live.

The Makalali Experience

Makalali, a private game park in South Africa, requested the research team begin long-term studies on its grounds as the Kruger project neared completion. This park had about 60 elephants on limited land and its officials didn't want many more animals. At the same time, it was not interested in pursuing lethal controls because of opposition from the public. In this long-term study, the formulation and doses of the vaccine were altered, treatment was remote and the focus of the study was on behavior.

This study is ongoing and is entering its fifth year, but already a number of important discoveries have been made. First, the change in formulation of the vaccine led to a 100 percent efficacy in contraception, as opposed to the 75 percent efficacy achieved at Kruger. Second, it was revealed that smaller doses can bring about contraception, which has reduced the cost. The study has also confirmed the earlier discoveries that the vaccine was safe to give to pregnant animals. No behavioral consequences

have yet been discovered, except that animals became more wary of the darters. The PZP vaccine does not inhibit estrous cycles, but bulls did not harass treated females over the course of the study. Perhaps most importantly, it was demonstrated that fertility control could manage an entire population, and growth of this herd has stopped. None of the 350 elephants we treated died in this study.

The success at Makalali led to enthusiasm from a number of game reserves throughout South Africa, and the demand for vaccine increased to the point that the Science and Conservation Center was unable to provide the large quantities needed and still meet the domestic demands for wild horses, zoo animals and deer in the United States. This phenomenon led to the third phase of the elephant contraceptive program.

Technology Transfer

From the beginning of this project in 1995, it was made clear that the elephant "problem" was an African problem, and the involvement of North American scientists was only advisory in nature. Consequently, the grand design of this huge endeavor was to avoid "conservation imperialism" and to teach the Africans to be self-sufficient in the event the project worked. Dr. Henk Bertschinger, a professor of theriogenology at the University of Pretoria, traveled to the Science and Conservation Center in 2003 to

be trained to make the PZP vaccine with his lead technician. His group produced enough vaccine by the end of 2003 to treat hundreds of elephants, and at least five game parks have been added to the list of parks managing their elephants with this humane approach.

The remaining task is to overcome resistance from those who prefer culling elephant populations and to turn to the technology of fertility control to keep South Africa's elephant populations healthy and in concert with their habitats. Some may still press for their death, but it is clear that a kinder and gentler approach to managing these magnificent animals does exist.

These projects were made possible with support from the Science and Conservation Center, US Fish and Wildlife Service's African Elephant and Rhinoceros Conservation Fund and the Humane Society of the United States. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A South African National Parks official recently told news media culling could soon resume at Kruger as a quick fix to curbing the elephants' population size. Please send letters in support of non-lethal population management to South Africa President Mbeki at:

The Presidency
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, South Africa 0001

It is worthy to include a footnote that as far back as 1992, the late Christine Stevens, founder of the Animal Welfare Institute, promoted this concept and was a moral force in bringing the idea to the attention of both Africans and the aforementioned research team.



Kangaroos Unsafe in the Outback

Australia's own wildlife is killed in record numbers

The kangaroo is the most famous symbol of the “land down under,” but Australia is not doing its part to protect its greatest animal celebrity. Kangaroos are a mere commodity; Australia exports 3 million of their skins each year to be made into Adidas soccer shoes, golf gloves and other sporting goods marked as “K leather.” Their meat is marketed as a gourmet delicacy, but it is realistically most often made into pet food. Viewed by the country’s government as a “renewable resource,” kangaroos are given virtually no protection under Australian law. A death quota in the millions is set for them each year, and six species are indeed already extinct. Others, such as the red kangaroo, are declining rapidly.

The marsupial many local farmers unfairly deem a “pest” faces unthinkable brutality. Hunters routinely blind kangaroos with bright spotlights, freezing them in place to make them easier targets. In addition to being furtively tracked and killed in the immense outback, their still-dependent young are often pointless casualties. Whenever a female kangaroo is killed, her joeys are decapitated or abandoned.

But this is not the only way hunters disrupt the structure of the animals’ society. They often kill the fittest males, leaving female kangaroos less options for mating. The result is a weakened gene pool and a generally younger, smaller species; the average age of a red kangaroo, for example, is 2-years-old, whereas less than half a century ago it was 12, the Vegetarians International Voice for Animals has reported. The government has convinced the Australian people that kangaroo herds are in “plague proportions,” but their current population of about 20 million is less than half of what it was only three years ago. “In a recent survey of overseas visitors, one quarter of people surveyed didn’t see the wild kangaroos they wanted to,” commented Pat O’Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia.

Photos: Wildlife Protection Assn. of Australia

Kangaroos already have to deal with the stress of the droughts and wildfires in their country, and yet thousands are killed by hunters each year. Many are merely injured by bad shots, then left to die in agony by irresponsible people who do not care about the animals’ welfare. Australia is sending a very mixed message by continuing to promote the kangaroo as an emblem of its country, yet permitting—and even encouraging—shockingly inhumane treatment of this animal. However, convincing proponents of kangaroo culling to believe this argument is difficult. “Adidas is the biggest threat to kangaroos, and it refuses to listen to any arguments against using the skins—because they are cheap,” O’Brien said.

Over half of the mammal extinctions in the past two centuries have occurred in Australia, and some kangaroo species could be next on this country’s list. Like many animals before it, the kangaroos’ numbers have made it a target—recall the story of the passenger pigeon if you believe they are not worth protecting, and look at the red kangaroo today to see culling’s effects. AWI asks our readers to please avoid purchasing kangaroo meat, leather and Adidas products. Please write Australian Federal Environment Minister Ian Campbell at Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, Australia 2600. Be sure to let him know the killing of kangaroos and the trade of their skins and meat will not be tolerated! 🐾



The End of the Beginning

A Patriot Victory in the Polish Sejm

Outnumbered Poles routed an invading Bolshevik army at the gates of Warsaw in mid-August 1920, a victory celebrated as *The Miracle of the Vistula*. Another remorseless foreign invasion of Poland, that of multinational agribusiness, was decisively defeated in the Polish Sejm on March 4, 2005. Multibillion dollar corporations abetted by international banks and supported by Poland’s corrupt post-Communist government were routed by citizens defending their villages and homes. This battle involved an obscure law called the Fertilizer Act. In 2001, Smithfield Food Inc. lobbyists quietly amended the Act to reclassify liquid animal feces from “sewage”—subject to rules applying to human sewage—to “fertilizer.” American-style effluent spraying was sanctified as “an acceptable means of application” and effluent storage became unregulated.

Smithfield and Danish interests in Poland operated with reckless impunity in 2002 and 2003, setting up 24 huge hog factories in northwestern Poland alone. Czechy is typical of afflicted communities. Here, “Prima,” a Smithfield front, brought hogs to a former state farm adjacent to the village and filled lagoons with liquid feces a few hundred feet from the nearest houses. Townspeople are burdened with constant stench, and plagued with clouds of flies in the summer. The water tastes foul; children suffer from respiratory ailments and sore eyes; dysentery, in a community that had hardly heard of the malady, is at third world levels.

But while the corporations, confident of government collusion, assailed the countryside, they were weakening politically. Catholic Radio Maryja launched a crusade against the invasion. Local resistance intensified; Members of Parliament (MPs), against a backdrop of plunging support for the government, were besieged with complaints.

In January 2004, Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) consultant Marek Kryda attended a church-sponsored meeting to plan a counter attack. A few days later, opposition deputies amended the Fertilizer Act in the Sejm Agriculture Committee. In a brutal, day-long debate in the Sejm Chamber, member after member rose to attack Smithfield and excori-

ate the Agriculture Ministry. Eventually, the minister accepted amendments requiring liquid manure “must be kept in closed and sealed containers that do not allow any environmental pollution,” and that it must be applied on fields according to “best agricultural practices.” Another amendment prohibited the practice of exporting effluent or dumping it alongside the roads.

After accepting the amendments, however, the Agriculture Ministry ignored them. Nothing changed. Almost a year after passage, Marek walked into the Agriculture Committee to hear Deputy Agriculture Minister Josef Pilarczyk tell the members that all that was needed to comply with the Fertilizer Act was a *layer of straw scattered on the surface of open lagoons*. Chairman Mojzesowicz turned to Marek, who testified that only 30 percent of Smithfield and Polandanor hog factories have applied for the “integrated permits” required by the European Union, and only 15 percent have received them; hence, the majority are operating illegally. Hearing this, the committee passed an amendment mandating solid hard covers over all lagoons. The bill was sent on to the Senate.

In the Senate, industry found an ally in Senator Henry Stoklosa, one of the most powerful and sinister men in Polish politics. Stoklosa is Poland’s largest domestic hog factory owner. With his interests at stake, he threw his legendary influence—built up over 16 years as a Senator—into the fight. The Senate returned a bill to the Sejm specifying Pilarczyk’s formula of compliance via a layer of straw.

Word spread that the “fix” was in and the battle over. But Marek and fellow AWI consultant Jurek Duszczynski were far from beaten, and Chairman Mojzesowicz was furious over attempts to intimidate him. Several normally stalwart MPs voted with Stoklosa, but the chairman, iron faced, retained control of the majority of his committee. The Senate bill was rejected; the original language mandating solid covers was restored.

At this point, industry elected to take the bill to the Sejm Chamber before we could mobilize with our slender resources. However, Marek and Jurek worked around the clock to notify citizens across Poland, and Radio Maryja issued hourly bulletins. The effort to override the Agriculture Committee in the Chamber failed dismally—every major opposition party stood solidly against the government. The final vote was 232 to 168 in favor of the committee bill.

A battle won; a war yet to be fought. 🐾

Full-length articles by Tom Garrett can be found at www.awionline.org/tg/tom.htm.



This effluent contaminates the water supply for a Polish city of 400,000 people.

Katarzyna Miel

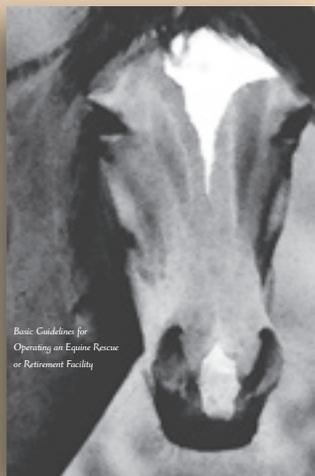


Edyta Sikora

Marek Kryda, Robert Kennedy Jr., Tom Garrett and Jurek Duszczynski visit a Polish village where local citizens battled a Smithfield hog factory near the town school for years.

— story by TOM GARRETT

An American Symbol Worth Saving



The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) recently partnered with the Doris Day Animal League to produce *Basic Guidelines for Operating an Equine Rescue or Retirement Facility* with the aim of ensuring the proper care of horses in the growing number of rescue organizations around the country. Free copies are avail-

able for horse rescues and those interested in opening a facility. Rescues are required to meet local, state and federal laws pertaining to the humane treatment of horses, and our publication provides a basic blueprint for starting and operating a facility.

Individuals can make a difference, too. From documenting and reporting horse

abuse to donating to the cause, any efforts will help. Thanks to the generous support of John R. Murrell and the Murrell Foundation of Dallas, Tex., AWI has rescued 12 thoroughbreds, two standardbreds and one saddlebred from a Pennsylvania kill pen. The horses are doing well in their new adoptive homes, following veterinary care and rest. 🐾

AWI Conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Smithfield Foods Inc. expanded to the Romanian market last year by purchasing an intensive pig breeding farm and one of the country's biggest refrigerating storage companies. Smithfield is currently conducting advanced negotiations over the purchase of additional farms and meat processing plants in Romania.

In response, AWI recently organized an international conference on the impact of industrial agriculture on food, the environment and animal welfare. The event was held last February in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with the support of a local university and the Romanian Alliance for Animal Protection.

The Institute believed it was necessary to inform Romanians of industrial agriculture's implications, and this meet-

ing was a natural solution. Through the participation of both foreign and local participants, all facets of industrial farming and its impacts on the land, people and animals were depicted during the two-day conference.

During the discussions, Romanian farmers had the opportunity to ask farmers from the United States and Great Britain questions on how their problems can be solved. Academic staff from the university and politically involved participants also found out how they can fight to defend Romanian agriculture.

Meaningful sessions conducted by a diverse list of speakers brought the truths behind industrial agriculture to light. AWI is confident that many Romanians are now aware of the atrocious reality of this business. 🐾



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