



# AWI

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Winter 2004 Volume 53 Number 1





#### ABOUT THE COVER

On a brisk winter day, a young gilt on the Minnesota farm of Arvid and Lois Jovaag momentarily interrupts rooting for morsels with her companion to gaze at the camera. Soon, she will become a breeding sow and join the Jovaag's other sows to live in a cohesive social group. Unlike sows raised as youngsters in barren factory environments and housed in crates as adults, she has lived in free association with other pigs all her life. Her early social experiences will prepare her and her companions for a smoother integration into the larger group of sows they will join. In winter on the Jovaag farm, pregnant sows are housed indoors on fresh straw. In the summer, they live on wooded pastures. Although they are fed as a group, the enriched environment and social opportunities the Jovaags provide enable their sows to avoid the unresolved competition and excessive injuries recorded among group-housed sows in the recent study published by the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* and reviewed on pages 4-5 (photo by Marlene Halverson/AWI).

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## This Mad Cow Went to Market...

*With a brush of (perhaps false) bravado, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Ann Veneman defiantly declared plans to serve beef at Christmas dinner, while admitting the presence of mad cow disease in the US. Meanwhile, more than 50 countries from Australia to Venezuela have banned imports of American beef.*

The cavalier attitude with which USDA handled the situation is downright shocking, especially considering that the diseased cow's meat made it to market—the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports that meat from one of the affected cows was likely consumed by a family in Mercer Island, Washington. Frighteningly, no one really knows how many Americans may have eaten beef from sick animals.

The disease eats holes in afflicted animals' brains, undoubtedly causing tremendous suffering. Mad cow is a human-caused malady created by intentionally turning cows—natural herbivores—into cannibalistic carnivores. In 1997, feeding parts of cattle, sheep, or other cud-chewing animals to cows was banned. But the US Food and Drug Administration publicly has admitted that the ban is not actively enforced and some feed distributors are unaware that it exists. Regardless, regulations do not prohibit feeding cows to pigs and chickens who, when rendered themselves, are then fed back to cows.

Sadly, in the immediate aftermath of the mad cow hysteria, hundreds of cows were slaughtered prematurely, their shortened lives completely wasted and their carcasses dumped in a landfill. There are wiser ways to ensure a safe food supply: follow Europe's lead and ban the feeding of all slaughterhouse waste to livestock; follow Japan's lead and test all cattle for the disease.

USDA is prohibiting "downer cows"—animals too sick or injured to walk—from entering the food supply (immobility is also a symptom of mad cow disease). This decision may spare tens of thousands of these sentient creatures from being brutally dragged to slaughter. USDA must also require that they be expeditiously and humanely euthanized, while extending the ban to other farm animals, including sheep and pigs.

We have long fought the inhumane transport and sale of downed animals, only to be shunned by a greedy livestock industry and a shortsighted, beholden USDA. We had it right all along. Downers don't belong in the food market, and we didn't need this incident to prove that simple fact. 🐾



# Animal Welfare Institute

## QUARTERLY

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*Australia ships millions of sheep each year. Subject to extreme temperatures with limited food and water, all suffer and thousands die during transport (see story, page 7).*



*Playful Ethiopian wolf cubs are oblivious to the perils facing their species—including a dangerous rabies outbreak (see story, page 12).*

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# Will AVMA See the Light?

## Sows Should Not Be Confined to Crates

It has been estimated that about 70% of the almost six million breeding sows in the US spend three-quarters of their adult lives confined in narrow, two foot by six and one-half foot gestation crates or stalls, and the other one-quarter in equally narrow farrowing crates, constructed to limit their mobility in the presence of their piglets.

As a consequence of their confinement, and despite being given preventative doses of antibiotics and laxatives in their feed, crate-housed sows live fewer years and are subject to more maladies, including osteoporosis, lameness, muscle deterioration, mastitis and constipation, than their counterparts on humane farms. Industry scientists have estimated yearly sow death rates on some of the largest factory farms, which use crates, at a stunning 20% of the farm's herd.

This is the compelling background against which the ethical appropriateness of housing breeding pigs in crates must be evaluated.

In 2002, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) went on record supporting the use of gestation crates. In response to the furor created over this untenable position, the AVMA decided to reassess its stance and appointed a task force to conduct a review of the current scientific literature with a view to recommending an appropriate position.

The November 1, 2003 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA)*, referring to "the heightened interest in the welfare aspects of housing for pregnant sows," recommended for its readers' edification a "scientific article comparing injuries sustained by pregnant sows in individual versus group housing" by Anil, et al. To AWI's chagrin the study featured in *JAVMA* was so poorly designed it ensured that crates appeared to be better for gestating pigs than housing them in groups.

The study, which supposedly compared group-housing to crate-housing,

assessed the welfare of sows solely by tallying injury scores to quantify and compare pain in the two systems (sows single-housed in crates will not have the means or opportunity to injure each other). Additional parameters of welfare, such as bone loss, lameness, and incidence of mastitis, which also cause pain, should have been used; this would have been less obviously biased in favor of crate housing.

Even the authors acknowledged that the feeding system they chose for the group-housed sows, a single electronic sow feeder (ESF), had been cited for causing increased aggression and injuries (Van Putten, et al., 1990). In a 1988 article in the scientific journal *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, Dr. Van Putten described ESF systems as examples of "farming beyond the ability of pigs to adapt," because they require pigs, who normally forage and eat together as a social group, to line up and take turns entering the feeder. "Obviously," said Van Putten, "the remarkable improvements in knowledge, ob-

tained by applied ethological research, have not been taken into account in drafting concepts for computer controlled housing systems.... After all, it is an ethical point: either we choose to continue working against the nature of farm animals or, if we accept the introduction of a new era in pig farming, we welcome the opportunity to work with the animals by meeting their needs."

Anil and her cohorts listed options that might have reduced sow injuries in their group housing system such as providing a separate enclosure or solid walls for the ESF so sows outside the feeder could not see the sow inside; feeding a high fiber diet that might reduce appetite and aggression; and enriching the environment. However, they concluded that the "practicality and scientific value of these options are not yet known." This statement highlights another shortcoming of their research; they did not build on and extend the work of other scientists whose research has demonstrated the practicality and scientific value of those options.



Pregnant sows forced into uncomfortable positions by their crate "homes" at one of the nation's largest pig factories, a supplier to a major US fast food chain.

Photos: Diane Halverson/AWI



Crate-housed pregnant sows in this pig factory wait for their only feeding of the day—4 pounds of concentrate that most of them will have consumed in fewer than 10 minutes.

For example, Professor Peter Brooks, University of Plymouth, has described scientific research undertaken to minimize competition and fighting among sows in ESF systems. He recommended the very options that Anil, et al. listed, but dismissed as unproved: providing protection around the system for the eating sow, making bulk materials such as corn and grass silage continuously available to the sows and enriching the environment with straw bedding to satisfy sows' hunger and permit a wide range of behavioral activities.

Dr. Ingvar Ekesbo has described the Swedish deep-bedded group housing systems (see "A Successful System for Housing Pregnant Sows in Groups," page 6), enriched with straw and equipped with individual feeding stalls that allow sows to eat at the same time. Contrary to the claim by Anil, et al. that individual feeding facilities are expensive for producers, these systems are cost-effective and provide good welfare. Deep straw beds save on labor costs for cleaning. They compost and provide warmth in winter. Individual feeding stalls provide an alternative lying area for sows, who like to get away from the straw beds when the weather is warm, and serve as a restraining area when the farmer needs to administer medical treatment or wants to close in the sows to clean the pens.

Anil and her colleagues contended that fighting is a permanent feature of dynamic groups, yet Swedish farmers learned ways to promote peaceful relationships in dynamic sow groups, such as housing new sows together where they form stable subgroups before farmers introduce them into established sow groups. In Anil's experiment sows remained in gestation crates for 10 days before they were introduced to the established group. Rather than entering as a stable subgroup, new sows entered the established sow group as separate individuals, increasing the likelihood of conflicts and injury.

Unfortunately, the authors of the *JAVMA* article do not appear to have had sufficient knowledge of scientific and practical advances in group sow housing to design a system that could provide a fair and unbiased comparison between individual and group housing. Instead, their study repeated what is known from earlier studies: sows housed in groups with a single ESF on fully slatted floors without environmental enrichment have high injury rates.

It cannot be concluded from Anil, et al. that it would be unwise or premature to support a resolution banning gestation crates. Effective alternatives to crate housing of pregnant sows exist and render crate housing of sows obsolete,

as well as morally objectionable.

AWI urges the AVMA membership and task force not to accept studies on their face value but to scrutinize carefully the authors' assumptions, methodology, and command of the scientific literature. This is particularly critical on such a politically charged issue as sow housing, which calls into question a clearly cruel method of housing with scientifically dubious origins that nevertheless has been embraced and fiercely defended by the pork industry. 🐾

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please contact humane veterinarians in your area and encourage them to write to the American Veterinary Medical Association. The Association needs to hear from its own constituency about the importance of changing the current AVMA policy that supports barbaric, barren crates for housing gestating sows. The AVMA should be asked to support systems that specifically allow sows to engage in natural behaviors including rooting in natural substrate such as straw and socializing with other pigs. The address for the AVMA is 1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173. The fax number is 1-847-925-1329, and the e-mail is [avmainfo@avma.org](mailto:avmainfo@avma.org).





Left: Deep-bedded group sow housing on a Swedish pig farm (photo by Marlene Halverson).

Above: A pregnant sow in the deep-bedded building at University of Minnesota (photo by Dr. Rebecca Morrison).

## A Successful System for Housing Pregnant Sows in Groups

In August 1997, an Alternative Swine Systems Task Force (ASSTF) was created at the University of Minnesota. State legislation had been introduced to fund research on technologies to deal with noxious odors from the state's industrial-style pig farms. Family farm advocates reasoned that if any tax dollars were to be spent on odor research, it was only right that some of them should be devoted to demonstrating pig rearing systems that were already environmentally friendly. Led by Minnesota's Land Stewardship Project, they convinced the legislature to appropriate funds to study better systems, among them the Swedish deep-bedded group housing systems for swine (see Fall 1994 *AWI Quarterly*). The ASSTF was created to see that the legislative directives were carried out. Marlene Halverson, AWI's farm animal economic advisor, who first advocated the Swedish deep-bedded systems in the US for welfare reasons, serves on the task force as one of its original members.

After several years of planning, examples of the Swedish systems of deep-bedded group housing for gestat-

ing sows and for lactating sows and their litters are operating at the University's West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) at Morris, Minnesota. (The group housing system for sows and their litters will be discussed in a forthcoming *Quarterly*.)

In 2001, a hoop structure was built to house the Swedish system for gestating sows. Preferred by farmers, this housing system is based on the sow's biology and natural social behaviors and has been used in Sweden for nearly three decades. Along one length of the structure is a row of individual feeding stalls, one for each sow in the group, that the sows can enter at will. The stalls can be locked behind the sows while they are eating, allowing sows to be fed individually, eliminating competition for feed, and ensuring that each sow gets a full ration. This feeding method satisfies normal sow preferences to eat simultaneously as a social group. Behind the feeding stalls is a deep-straw bedded lying and activity area with nearly 30 square feet of space for each sow. New straw is added daily, providing natural material for occupation and munching between

meals. Sows are kept in stable groups. New sows are only introduced to an existing group in stable subgroups of six or more new sows, never singly. This permits sows to form and maintain normal avoidance relationships that minimize fighting and promote peaceful group relations. These accommodations to the sows' natural behaviors demonstrate the Swedish farmers' philosophy of "fitting the system to the animal, rather than the animal to the system."

Before leaving for a new post in Australia this May, Dr. Rebecca Morrison, the University's former sustainable swine scientist reported "we have been overwhelmed by the success of this alternative housing system for gestating sows...and we have received many positive comments from the stock people working with the sows."

Swedish farmers' experiences raising pregnant sows in groups in this system as well as the results at WCROC demonstrate that group housing of pregnant sows is successful when the natural behavior and biology of sows are both understood and accommodated in the design. 🐾

## The Cormo Express: Australia's Latest Live Export Shame



This trading of live animals is inhumane and must end. At the very least, journey length should be limited and contingency plans instituted.

BY CAROLE DE FRAGA,  
COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING

Australia's international trade in live animals reached new heights of notoriety recently when 57,937 sheep on the *M.V. Cormo Express* were rejected by Saudi Arabia on the grounds they were diseased. The sheep then spent an additional eight weeks at sea amid frantic negotiations by the Australian Government and industry with over 30 countries in search of an alternative port. Ultimately the public were led to believe that the animals were on their way back to Australia when an agreement already had been reached with the East African State of Eritrea, which accepted the animals as a gift of food aid coupled with substantial food for the sheep and funds to cover associated costs. Officially, 5,691

sheep who left Australia on 6 August died during transport.

While somewhat relieved that, after 11 weeks at sea in cramped conditions and exposed to extremes of temperature and humidity, the animals were on dry land, observers, one of them a veterinarian sent by the international non-governmental organization Compassion in World Farming (CIWF), documented: dead sheep and a foul smell on board the ship, sheep leaving the ship with legs dirty from manure, stressed sheep in the hot and humid port, sheep lying down and panting in the hot and arid feedlot, sparse shade (a mixture of large thorn bushes and added cover), many lame animals including one with a possible fracture.

Responding to the news that sheep had arrived in Eritrea, CIWF's Joyce D'Silva said in correspondence to Australia's UK High Commission that "... the whole appalling tragedy must surely render it imperative that the Government undertakes a major review of policy and takes into account the inherent uncertainties of the long distance transport trade and the consequent disastrous effects on the welfare of so many sentient beings. A trade in meat is the only humane solution."

Australia's live sheep trade with Saudi Arabia is currently suspended. The trade was also suspended some 13 years ago when Saudi Arabia rejected 11 shipments and the death rate climbed to an average 6% on transport ships. At that time, the trade ceased for almost ten years. Australia typically exports more live sheep to Saudi Arabia than to any other country. In 2002, Saudi Arabia bought 31% of Australia's 6,062,923 exported sheep. That same year 73,700 sheep, 2,081 cattle and over 3,000 goats died during transport. While the majority of deaths occur at sea due to starvation and salmonellosis, in 2002, more than 17,000 sheep and cattle died because of the heat and humidity. Furthermore, most animals are exported for slaughter to countries with no or ineffective animal welfare laws.

This current crisis highlights the inherent cruelty of the trade in live animals and the intermittent disasters that cause additional animal suffering and mortality. Animals Australia is heading a hard-hitting national campaign to stop the live trade and CIWF is adding vital international support. So prominent is the topic that it is fast becoming an Australian federal election issue.

For further information contact: [www.animalsaustralia.org](http://www.animalsaustralia.org) and [www.ciwf.co.uk](http://www.ciwf.co.uk). 🐾



# The “Taiping Four” Gorilla Scandal

BY SHIRLEY MCGREAL,  
INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE

The “Taiping Four” are young gorillas who had the misfortune to be caught up in the international live animal trade. They are now sitting behind the scenes at Taiping Zoo, Malaysia, awaiting a decision on their fate. Captured as babies in the rain forests of Cameroon, they were delivered by smugglers to Ibadan Zoo in Nigeria, which was running an international baby gorilla trafficking scam—providing the wild-caught babies with certificates that they were born at Ibadan Zoo.

Ibadan Zoo itself owned only one gorilla, an elderly female. Somehow she produced strings of babies—or so officials of Ibadan Zoo would have us believe!

Taiping Zoo in Malaysia was anxious to obtain gorillas. However, gorillas are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and all commercial trade is strictly prohibited.

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) first learned about these gorillas in March 2002. A visitor to Headquarters showed us photographs of several baby gorillas, which he claimed had just arrived at Taiping Zoo. IPPL immediately sent an investigator to Malaysia. She verified that the four baby gorillas had arrived, but the zoo direc-

tor would not let her see them. A keeper told her that he had traveled to Nigeria to help arrange the deal, but was forced to leave Nigeria empty-handed because the gorillas had not been delivered to Ibadan Zoo from Cameroon.

A later investigation showed that six gorilla babies had reached Ibadan earlier, but that all had died. This is not surprising. Baby gorillas are caught by the shooting of mother gorillas carrying babies. The babies cling to their dead mothers and are easy to retrieve. Baby gorillas have a very low survival rate. Most die of stress-related ailments.

IPPL was able to obtain copies of many crucial documents related to the shipment. These included a CITES export permit for five “captive-born” gorillas (it seems that one baby scheduled for export died). A South African Airways air waybill showed that the airline had carried the animals from Lagos to Johannesburg, and on to Asia.

IPPL immediately started a protest campaign. Nigeria and Malaysian authorities were deluged with letters and postcards demanding an investigation. The Nigerian and Malaysian press covered the case, as did the Associated Press, which confirmed that

the gorillas originated in Cameroon and were NOT born at Ibadan Zoo.

Malaysian authorities finally decided to confiscate the gorillas and send them to Pretoria Zoo in South Africa. The decision was questionable. After all, South Africa was involved in the original shipment and is not a gorilla habitat country. Further, there is an excellent sanctuary at Limbe in Cameroon, which takes care of 12 rescued gorillas.

During the CITES conference held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2002, Dr. Imeh Okopido, Nigeria’s Minister of State for the Environment, asked for details of the shipment which I provided. Outraged, he held a press conference at which he denounced everyone involved in the shipment. He asked, “Are we to believe that the gorillas were born by immaculate conception?” During the CITES conference Minister Okopido and the head of the Cameroon delegation co-signed a letter calling for the gorillas to be sent to an African rescue center.

Minister Okopido also announced that he was going to ask President



Twigs is a gorilla confiscated from a Lebanese businessman who had kept her as a pet. She has now settled in a new life at the Limbe Wildlife Center in Cameroon.

Obasanjo of Nigeria to establish a Presidential Commission of Inquiry to investigate the “Taiping Four” case and other smuggling incidents involving Nigeria.

The Commission did a thorough job identifying participants, including the animal dealer Tunde Oduyoya whose 1999 fax to the world’s zoos offering baby gorillas for sale had caused an international scandal; Dr. Dora Akinboye, the former director of Ibadan Zoo; Mathew Akusu, the veterinarian who signed the gorillas’ health certificates;

and several government officials including Engineer Usman who signed the export certificates. It called for all of them to be prosecuted for their crimes.

Meanwhile the gorillas remain at Taiping despite many requests for them to be sent to a sanctuary in Cameroon. On 27 August 2003, Mr Tanyi Myianbor, Cameroon’s Minister of the Environment, became exasperated at the delays and filed an official request for the gorillas to be sent to Cameroon. Their fate is still not resolved. 🐾



Photos: courtesy of IPPL



Left: One of the four gorillas smuggled from Nigeria to Malaysia in January 2002: her fate still hangs in the balance, will it be a zoo in South Africa or a sanctuary in Cameroon?

Above: Limbe Wildlife Center animal caregiver with an armful of gorillas, all rescued from trade.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- **Nigeria** should prosecute those identified as wildlife criminals by the Nigerian Administrative Panel of Inquiry on the Illegal Wildlife Trade. Write: *Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, Federal Secretariat, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja, Nigeria.*
- **Malaysia** should abandon plans to send the gorillas to Pretoria Zoo in South Africa, and be urged instead to release them to a rehabilitation center in Cameroon. Write: *Dato’ Seri Law Hieng Ding, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Aras 1-7, Blok C5, Parcel C Pusat Pentadbiran Persekutuan 620502, Putrajaya, Malaysia.*

## An Ounce of Prevention

Monkeypox entered America by way of exotic species imported primarily for the pet trade (see Summer 2003 *AWI Quarterly*). After more than 70 people contracted the disease and approximately a dozen people required hospitalization including two children who needed intensive care, the federal government temporarily banned import of a small number of exotics who were known to contract monkeypox.

This inadequate, short-sighted approach fails to deal with the larger and potentially more deadly threat posed by other diseases carried by exotic wildlife, imported in vast numbers from across the globe. In addition, the plan is proscriptive rather than preventative: it addresses disease outbreak after its arrival in the US instead of keeping diseases from ever entering the States.

In an effort to tackle this issue, AWI President Cathy Liss offered the following resolution at the annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association in October 2003 where it was duly adopted.

*The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the Secretaries of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Interior and appropriate state agencies work together to identify the need and develop strategies to control the importation and interstate movement of exotic and wild animals, and to recognize and prevent the introduction of exotic diseases in order to safeguard both humans and animals from exotic, emerging, and resurging diseases.*

The response, if any, from federal agencies remains to be seen; hopefully, it won’t follow a deadly epidemic. 🐾



# The Corporate Corruption of Science



Photos: courtesy of NOAA

*Still threatened in most of the US, bald eagles thrive in Alaska. Hundreds died in Prince William Sound following the Exxon Valdez oil spill.*

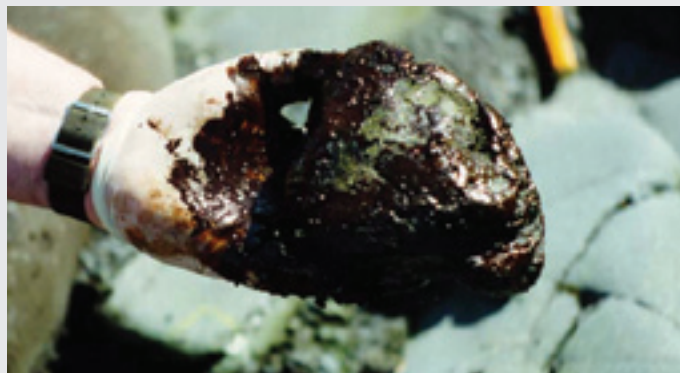
BY JEFF SHORT,  
RESEARCH CHEMIST

During the last half of the twentieth century, science expanded from being the foundation of technological progress, to becoming a source of guidance for ameliorating the resulting impacts. The marriage of science with public policy holds the promise of enlightened legislation, but only as long as science avoids being corrupted in the process. The scientific process assumes the highest standard of honesty from participants. But science is now routinely at the center of controversies where economic incentives to influence scientific opinion toward a consensus favorable to commercial interests are often irresistibly large. Without effective reforms, this may well lead to the neutralization of science, leaving resolution of these controversies to market forces with potentially disastrous consequences for the environment.

Although commercial interests have always sought favorable scientific opinion, the first large scale efforts began with the mid-twentieth century tobacco industry. Mounting evidence that their products were addictive and lethal prompted their sponsorship of “scientists” paid to present studies in industry journals and conferences that superficially appeared to conform to scientific principles but were actually rigged. These tactics were highly successful, allowing the industry to delay regulation for nearly half a century. The overwhelming evidence

accumulated by government-supported scientists eventually led to regulation. While this might argue for the robustness of the scientific process, it also prompted adoption of increasingly sophisticated tactics, and not only by tobacco. Beginning in the late 1980s, tobacco’s allies advanced the common theme of “sound science,” which translated into standards of scientific proof that modern epidemiology or environmental science could rarely meet. This reflected a strategic shift from emphasis on specific issues, to a more general indictment of the legitimacy of the scientific process. The implicit targets of this campaign were largely government-supported scientists, who are the source of most of the data inimical to industry. Failure to meet the high standards of “sound science” implies the practitioners are not “sound scientists,” regardless of the preponderance of evidence produced, and ignoring the fact that environmental and human health issues are intrinsically more complex than eighteenth century physics. After the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, these new tactics found an enthusiastic proponent in Exxon Corporation.

Exxon has tried to portray the region impacted by the spill as having already been polluted by other sources, and in any case as fully recovered by the early 1990s. Their position is likely motivated by the “re-opener” clause of the civil settlement between Exxon and the governments of Alaska and the United States, which provides for up to \$100 million in additional payments to cover restoration costs of any unforeseen damages. To support their position, Exxon has supported a host of studies by their consultants and launched a campaign to intimidate and discredit publicly-supported scientists whose studies are contradictory. Tactics have included misrepresentation of government data, manipulating agendas of scientific meetings, abuse of the scientific peer-review process, shadowing government field studies and groundless allegation of scientific misconduct.



*Belying Exxon’s claims of rapid recovery, relatively fresh and toxic oil persisted for over a decade on the beaches that were hardest hit by the spill, such as this oil at Sleepy Bay in 1999.*



*The Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred during the annual spring migration of waterfowl to Prince William Sound. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds, including these murre, died from oil coating.*

These attacks are possible for three reasons. First, Exxon is so powerful economically that a substantial proportion of the active participants in the small field of oil pollution research find that it pays well to advance company policy. These consultants are often asked to peer-review contributions to scientific journals, and the anonymity of the process provides an open door for abuses. Economic clout may also be an effective tool for manipulating the agendas of scientific meetings (e.g. by ensuring that Exxon-supported scientists always speak after government scientists to facilitate rebuttal). Second, while unethical, it is not illegal to publish knowingly false information in a scientific journal, provided the funding source is private. Numerous safeguards are in place to prevent publicly-supported scientists from lying in print, but these simply do not apply to their privately-funded counterparts. Third, unlike government scientists, the data and records of privately-funded scientists may be kept secret, so their research contributions may escape the scrutiny necessary to expose scientific fraud.

This has created a very tilted playing field. It could be made more level by finding ways to hold privately-funded scientists to the same standards of public accountability as government scientists. For example, editors of scientific journals could insist on public access to records as a condition of publication,

as some already do. These editors could also formally recognize the government’s definition of scientific misconduct, and they could establish procedures for evaluating claims of misconduct fairly. Government scientists who commit scientific misconduct already risk criminal sanctions, but these are probably not appropriate for privately funded scientists. However, a permanent ban on publishing in scientific journals, publicly announced, might constitute an effective and appropriate sanction on all scientists who transgress, because scientific credibility depends crucially on publication in respected journals.

In addition, government scientists need protection from punitive abuses of the Freedom of Information Act. All scientists need to evaluate their data and formulate their professional conclusions in private and without interference, but having announced those conclusions to the public in the form of a peer-reviewed scientific contribution, they should permit public scrutiny of their supporting data, whether in government, academia or industry. Currently only intramural government scientists may be forced to release data prematurely, without the opportunity to examine it for errors or interpret it—academic scientists supported by government grants are explicitly exempted. These exemptions should be extended to government scientists.

In his last book, *The Demon-Haunted World*, Carl Sagan made a passionate plea for keeping science honest, lest we fall into a modern version of the dark ages. Scientific reform has yet to achieve the attention it deserves, not least because scientists like to think of themselves as above all that. But without more effective safeguards, the process and indeed the products of science may become little more than a sophisticated form of advertising, and our ability to deal effectively with the host of environmental, human health and food safety problems that face us may become seriously compromised, with potentially tragic consequences. 🐾



*Marine mammal populations were hit hard by the spill. Thousands of sea otters (above), along with hundreds of sea lions and seals died from oil coating or from fume inhalation.*





Martha Harvey

Ethiopian wolves live in large, social family packs at altitudes as high as three to four thousand meters.

## Ethiopian Wolves Hit by Rabies Outbreak

The future is grim indeed for the rarest canid in the world. Fewer than 500 Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) cling perilously to life in the East African nation of Ethiopia. These endangered animals, closely resembling the coyote in appearance and size, have long been in decline from human agricultural settlements and diseases such as rabies and canine distemper, which are passed to the wolves by domestic dogs. As humans increasingly graze livestock in regions of historic wolf habitat, the land available for wolves decreases and the rodents on which the wolves prey are wiped out. Today, a rabies outbreak has added additional pressure and threatens to decimate even the most bountiful population of the wolves.

The largest number—roughly 250 individuals—live in the Bale Mountains National Park. It is from this population that the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme (EWCP) reports that 35 bodies have been recovered since September 2003, and many

more wolves are unaccounted for. The first potentially rabid wolf was spotted in August 2003, and ultimately, four wolves were found dead in October. As the death toll slowly mounted, diagnostic samples were rushed to labs including the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta for testing. Each sample tested positive for rabies.

In the early 1990s, the spread of disease and killing by humans wiped out two-thirds of the Bale population. According to the EWCP, “There are grave concerns that the current outbreak may become an epidemic that will spread throughout the whole Bale population and cause a similar crash in numbers.” After a decade of slow recovery there is a very real threat that the miniscule population of Ethiopian wolves will once again plummet.

The wolves are protected within the country under the Wildlife Conservation Regulations of 1974, and domestic dogs are prohibited from entering the National Park where the wolves live. However, an estimated

ten to twelve thousand people live inside the Bale Mountains National Park, most of whom have a companion dog. Government policy actually allows dogs to be shot if they enter the Park, although this is rarely enforced.

Vaccinating dogs against rabies goes a long way in protecting the dogs themselves, the livestock and people in the region, and, of course, the endangered Ethiopian wolf. It has helped keep this killer disease under control. The EWCP vaccinates roughly 2,000 dogs annually in an effort to prevent the contraction and spread of rabies and other canine diseases. Following this recent outbreak, permission has now been granted by the Government for the EWCP to vaccinate the wolves. As a result of the latest outbreak, according to recent reports, 40 wolves have now been caught and vaccinated.

Reducing human dependence on dogs, and therefore eventually reducing the number of dogs will be beneficial to the wildlife of the area. Dogs are primarily used to protect livestock and to clean up waste; helping the local communities to develop alternative ways of dealing with these issues is part of the EWCP’s agenda.

The Ethiopian wolf has become a symbol of the unique wildlife of the country. 2004 promises to be a pivotal year in the survival of the species. 🐾

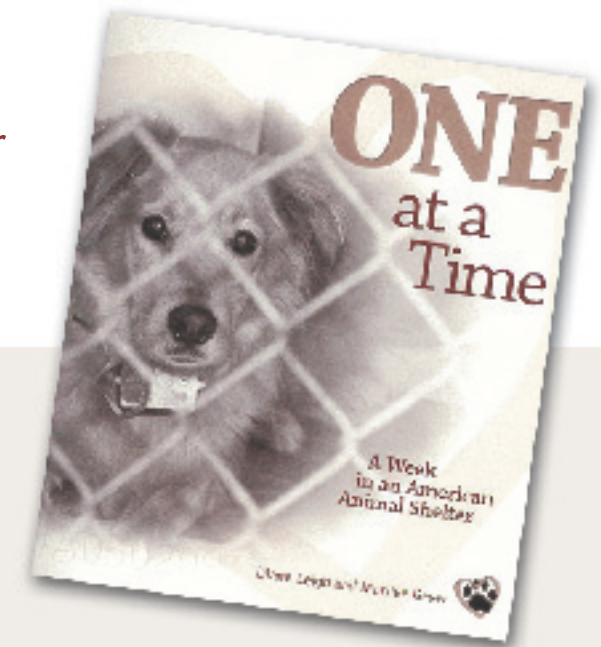


Wildlife/EWCP

Sadly, once a wolf contracts rabies, the only relief from the debilitating disease is death.

## ONE at a Time A Week in an American Animal Shelter

By Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer  
No Voice Unheard, Santa Cruz, CA 2003; ISBN: 0972838708  
160 pages with 75 black and white photos; \$16.95



- A065350, “SCRUNCHIE,” A MALE ORANGE TIGER KITTEN WITH WHITE ON HIS FACE, ADOPTED.
- A066769, “KELLY,” A SPAYED FEMALE REDDISH-BROWN GERMAN SHEPHERD MIX WITH SABLE POINTS AND WEARING A SILVER CHOKE CHAIN EUTHANIZED.
- A064462, “PEARL,” A SPAYED FEMALE PASTEL TORTOISE SHELL CAT, EUTHANIZED.
- A066723, “HANNAH,” A FEMALE BLACK LABRADOR RETRIEVER WEARING A RED CANVAS COLLAR, RECLAIMED.

In communities across America, animals in shelters are subjected to a life-and-death game of Russian Roulette. Some are reclaimed by their guardians, some are adopted by new loving families, and some are euthanized. It’s easy to hide behind intangible statistics: between eight and ten million animals spend time in shelters every year; half of them likely will be killed as a result of insufficient space and financial resources to care for them all.

But what happens when we get a glimpse at what shelter workers see every day? What happens when we actually *meet* some of these animals, see their faces, know their names, read their stories, and understand their fate? Diane Leigh and Marilee Geyer, former shelter workers themselves, bring us the tales of 75 individual animals in *One at a Time: A Week in an American Animal Shelter*. In the authors’ words, the book was written and these 75 stories told so that compassionate people “can begin to build communities that treat our animal friends with love and respect.”

How do dogs, cats, and other companion animals end up at shelters? Some are strays; some are lost; others are “surrendered” by their human guardians. Animals may be given up like used furniture when families move into a new apartment, get a partner

with allergies, or discover that they are ill-prepared and equipped to care for the animal. The authors consider this surrender “perhaps the most discouraging aspect of the homeless animal problem.” People who relinquish their animals show a lack of commitment “toward the animals they have taken into their lives; a disconnection from an animal as a living, feeling being; an unwillingness to be inconvenienced by an animal’s needs; surprisingly unrealistic expectations about how an animal will fit into day to day life; the quintessential attitude of disposability.”

Each animal we meet in this moving volume is first presented through a large, poignant black and white photo. On the facing page is his or her saga. After a few pages, I found myself looking at the photo and then, after a hopeful pause with eyes closed, skipping to the end of the profile to discover the outcome. After a belligerent discussion with an uncooperative guardian, “Cisco,” a dog with a tendency to escape and run loose in the street, “was taken straight from the receiving area to the euthanasia room.” Tears. “Pumpkin Pie,” an orange tabby kitten, was adopted by her foster family, “so she could quickly get on with the business of enjoying her kittenhood.” A sigh of relief.

It is inexplicable that healthy animals full of potential happiness would

ever have to be euthanized or turned away from a full shelter to roam the streets in constant peril. This, however, is the sad reality of the current situation in America. *One at a Time* suggests ways to keep our companions from meeting a dismal fate: use microchips and tags for identification of dogs and cats; ensure access to pet parenting classes; reduce the pet overpopulation problem by spaying and neutering animals; and, of course, adopt animals from shelters.

Read the book and reaffirm your commitment to your beloved companion animals. Pass a copy along to your local legislators and urge them to increase funding for your community’s animal shelter, promote spay/neuter legislation, and crack down on unscrupulous animal dealers, “puppy mills,” and animal fighting enterprises.

We need to read these stories and understand the reality of pet overpopulation and homelessness. What becomes painfully obvious when considering these profiles is that each and every one of us can make a difference in the life of another innocent creature. Rather than become overwhelmed by the breadth and desperation of the problem, save an animal and bring a friend into your family. Or maybe two. 🐾

—by Adam M. Roberts



## A Busy Autumn for Congress

Before leaving Washington for the winter holidays, Congress acted on a number of important bills related to animal protection.

On December 19, President Bush signed the **Captive Wildlife Safety Act** into law. This important bill prohibits the interstate transport of exotic big cats such as tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars or cougars for private ownership as pets. Keeping these animals poses a serious risk to people, their companion dogs and cats, and the wild animals themselves. When the bill was approved by the House Resources Committee, its lead sponsor, Howard "Buck" McKeon, said: "These exotic cats are wild animals, hard-wired to hunt and kill, and they must only be handled by those equipped with the proper education and training."

Meanwhile, the United State Senate passed the **Marine Turtle Conservation Act**, which would enable as much as \$5,000,000 to assist in the global efforts to protect these endangered reptiles. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved the measure on October 17, "Because marine turtles are long-lived, late maturing, and highly migratory, they are particularly vulnerable to human exploitation and habitat loss." The House is considering the bill.

Meanwhile, Congress eviscerated decades of environmental law by granting the Department of Defense broad exemption from the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act through "riders" tacked onto the **National Defense Authorization Bill**. Prompted by a series of court victories of opponents of the Navy's Low Frequency Active Sonar, the change essentially allows the military to kill marine mammals anywhere on earth and alter endangered species habitat found on bases when they are deemed to interfere with military deployment or training. Instead of applying for an "incidental take" permit from the responsible government agencies, the military now need only win approval from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Not every Representative was snowed by the Pentagon. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) delivered a powerful rebuke on the floor of Congress:

*"Instead of addressing real threats to readiness, the administration and Congress is [sic] taking on an easier target, the dolphins...."*

*"The bill would take out one of the key provisions of the ESA by requiring that only critical habitat that is deemed necessary shall be designated. Without a definition of necessary, this invites abuse and applies to all Federal lands, not just the Department of Defense...."*

*"The bill also includes the Department of Defense proposal eliminating critical habitat designation altogether on lands owned or controlled by the military...."*

*"The authorization bill weakens the Marine Mammal Protection Act, weakening the current definition of harassment of marine mammals. It applies to all ocean users, not just the Department of Defense."*

*"Finally, it allows the Department to exempt itself from*



CMAAPC Database

*Young tigers belong in their wild jungle homes, not in backyard cages. No one should keep these exotic, potentially dangerous animals as pets.*

*the Marine Mammal Protection Act for anything necessary for national defense. It excludes any meaningful involvement of the wildlife agencies, the States, Congress and the public in review of these exemptions.*

*"Our military activities are the largest source of pollution in the country. We are the wealthiest and most powerful and most polluting country in the world. We ought to be able to figure out how to better address this problem without compromising the environmental survival of what we are fighting to protect."*

AWI works toward the day that "national defense" includes the protection of all life within our lands and waters. 🐾

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 857, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (see facing page), and to support House passage of S. 1210, The Marine Turtle Conservation Act.

Address Representatives as: The Honorable (full name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Visit SAPL's web page for information on other significant animal protection bills. Check [www.saplonline.org](http://www.saplonline.org) for updates and actions you can take to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill.

## Coalition Formed to Pass the Horse Slaughter Act

Building on the American public's growing opposition to the slaughter of horses, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL) has joined forces with a diverse group of organizations to form the National Horse Protection Coalition (NHPC). The NHPC consists of horse industry organizations such as Fasig-Tipton Co., Inc. (America's oldest Thoroughbred auction house) and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (the largest equine charity in the US) as well as national, state and local animal protection groups, equine rescue organizations and veterinarians from across the country.

While the NHPC's primary goal is to secure passage of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 857), there are plans to promote and work for stronger equine anti-cruelty laws where needed around the US. To this end, the NHPC has developed a website ([www.horse-protection.org](http://www.horse-protection.org)), which will provide access to state and federal horse cruelty statutes, equine welfare issues, as well as provide a directory of the countless equine rescue groups in the US. SAPL's Chris Heyde has been named Executive Director of the NHPC, and actress Bo Derek and two-time Kentucky Derby winning trainer Nick Zito are the Coalition's national spokespersons.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act continues to gain momentum in Congress, with more than 165 bipartisan cosponsors in the House. Major endorsements of H.R. 857 have come from Churchill Downs

Incorporated, the Utah Quarter Horse Association and, most recently, from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. Yet, despite strong support from Virginia residents and its Thoroughbred industry (the largest segment of Virginia's equine population), Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R), who chairs the House Agriculture Committee, continues to oppose this bill.

While SAPL works on the federal level, Texas continues to pursue legal efforts to close the two remaining horse slaughter plants in the state (see Fall 2002 *AWI Quarterly*) and Illinois is considering legislation outlawing horse slaughter as well (in anticipation of the scheduled reopening of the nation's third horse slaughter plant, which had burned down in DeKalb, Illinois in 2002). In November 2003, Chris Heyde submitted testimony on behalf of SAPL and the NHPC to the Illinois General Assembly supporting state legislation banning horse slaughter for human consumption. The bill passed out of Committee in late 2003, but was put on hold due to the sudden death of a key legislator. The bill's sponsor, Representative Bob Molaro reintroduced it in January 2004, and it is currently awaiting further action. 🐾

## John Gleiber Begins Sleeping Late...



*The dapper Mr. Gleiber in whiskers and furry ears at a "Party for the Animals" held in the Stevens' garden.*

There is a Washington legend that everything of importance that happens in this town takes place at dinner parties. John Gleiber heartily concurs. A chance remark made by his dinner partner, Christine Stevens, late Animal Welfare Institute president and founder, at the home of Society for Animal Protective Legislation Board Member Ceci Carusi, led to an invitation to tea the next day where Mrs. Stevens offered him a job. That was in 1975 and led to more than 25 years, which John thinks of as the happiest and most rewarding of his life. He began by sealing envelopes (the oldest mail room employee on the East Coast), which led to twin posts, Assistant to the Officers of AWI and Executive Secretary (later Secretary) of SAPL. He was part of an explosive growth in staff, program and financing and witnessed many epochal decisions and accomplishments. Recently retired, he is serving on the AWI/SAPL Board and is watching a new generation of dedicated staff members carry out Christine Stevens' mandate to save animals everywhere. 🐾



# The Global Captivity Challenge

In mid-October 2003 the Summerlee Foundation teamed up with Earth Island Institute to convene a three day workshop in San Francisco with one focus—ending the international business of taking whales and dolphins from their families to provide human entertainment. Forty-five of the most energetic activists from around the world attended to share stories of victory and failure, to take stock of the current situation, and to strategize. They agreed on long term goals: to stop any further captures anywhere in the world, rehabilitate and release all whales and dolphins possible, and provide a non-performing retirement sea-pen for those unable to make the leap to freedom.

Those attending have had some remarkable successes over the last twenty years. There are now no captive cetaceans in Great Britain. Traveling dolphin shows that once cruised the US are gone. The number of US facilities with captives has shrunk by about half. There is no longer a capture quota set by the National Marine Fisheries Service for each small coastal area around Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. Planned captures and transfers have been thwarted by quick attention by dedicated campaigners.

But not all of the news is so rosy. Whereas watching cetaceans perform in captivity seems to be losing its cachet, swim-with-the-dolphins and dolphin-assisted therapy programs are taking off like rockets, especially in the Caribbean and Asia. With many facilities boasting of a long waiting list of tourists eager to pay \$100 an



Helene O'Barry/Dolphin Project

*A captive dolphin's world view until he dies.*

hour to be nuzzled and pulled through the water by a dolphin, the economic inducement for hotels and amusement parks has become enormous. New facilities either planned or in operation are being challenged in Antigua, Vietnam, Mexico, Jamaica, Singapore, the Bahamas and Dominica through contacts with government officials, organizing local folk, and going after the financial backers. Two of the workshop attendees were responsible for blowing the whistle on the apparently illegal purchase of dolphins from Cuba to supply swim-with programs in the Caribbean islands and Cancun, Mexico. Both Dolphin Discovery and Dolphin Fantasies are run by Americans. Their purchase of Cuban dolphins is now under investigation.

The group realized the need for a global educational campaign to convince tourists that captive facilities are intrinsically cruel—that no captive space will ever be big enough for a whale or dolphin—and that by financing these facilities we are bankrolling the harming of creatures we love. New ventures were created to turn the tide: the forming and funding of quick response teams able to travel in a moment's time to the site of a new capture or slaughter to document these atrocities and inform the public, and the adoption of a central information gathering and dispersal system for sharing early alerts.

Now comes the hard work of translating good ideas into free dolphins and whales. 🐾

## 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.*

# Activists Battle Whale and Dolphin Slaughter in Japan

In a dramatic clash between cultures and global sensitivities, animal activists filmed the annual roundup and slaughter of hundreds of dolphins and whales by Japanese fishermen in Taiji, Japan. The fishermen argue that they are simply culling marine predators that compete with them for fish, and picking up a little cash from selling

tion. When the police arrived, it was the volunteers who were briefly taken into custody, but not before they were able to hide the gruesome videotape later released around the world.

The drive fishery slaughter in Japan has been going on for decades out of several ports, including Taiji, Iki Island and Futo. It received a



*A boatload of toxic Taiji dolphins en route to the fish market.*



Photos: Brooke McDonald/Sea Shepherd

Dolphin and Whale Action Network (IKAN) the number of dolphins captured or killed from 1963 to 1999 is at least 668,393 individuals. Some are sold as food despite sky-high levels of mercury, heavy metals, DDT, and PCB's in the meat. Most tested dolphin meat (much of which is fraudulently marketed as whale meat) has a toxic load of 10 to 500 times the recommended maximum intake level for human consumption.

The drama in Taiji escalated on November 18 when Sea Shepherd crewmembers Allison Lance Watson and Alex Cornelissen were arrested after releasing 15 dolphins before they could be slaughtered. They were indicted on December 9 for "forceful interference with Japanese commerce," fined and released.

AWI helped organize an international day of outrage at 22 Japanese consulates and embassies worldwide on November 4 and Dec 10. We join millions worldwide in demanding the immediate cessation of this brutal and unnecessary atrocity.

One courageous Japanese fisherman named Izumi Ishii from Futo quit slaughtering dolphins and has opened up a successful business taking people out to see dolphins and whales (see Spring 2003 *AWI Quarterly*). He is showing other fishermen how to make a good living without damaging the creatures involved. He can be reached through [www.bluevoicework.org](http://www.bluevoicework.org). 🐾

meat to the fish market and live "specimens" to public display facilities. To those standing vigil and millions worldwide, the ongoing massacre is an absolute horror—the biggest single intentional destruction of whales and dolphins in the world.

The killing started on October 6, when 60 dolphins were herded or driven into a bay by fishermen surrounding their pod and banging on pipes in the water (known as "drive fishery"). Sea Shepherd volunteers filmed the subsequent bloodbath from their perch on an adjacent hill before the fishermen noticed them and threatened to kill them and destroy their footage. They responded by calling the police for protec-

boost in the early seventies when Sea World was kicked out of Washington state for killing four orcas during a capture. Needing a new source for entertainers, public display facilities worldwide made a deal with the fishermen to buy the prettiest individuals from the pods before they are lanced to death. Buyers have been found in the burgeoning market in aquariums and swim-with programs in Asia.

Even though many Taiji villagers decry the interference in their "cultural tradition," the numbers of cetaceans involved is staggering: the annual Japanese quota is 22,000 a year. Taiji's share is 2,900 dolphins. According to our colleagues with the (Japanese)



# Keiko—Free at Last

Ten years ago I led a delegation to Mexico City to negotiate with the amusement park Reino Aventura to give up Keiko the orca whale to a coalition dedicated to his release. Keiko had just become the most famous whale in the world by starring in *Free Willy*. When I saw him, my heart fell. He was sway-backed like an old horse because he had starved himself to shrink his Icelandic blubber and stay alive. His teeth were worn to nubbins and his gums bled from chewing on the sides of his tank. Papiloma rash spread from his pectoral fins and his dorsal fin had the trademark captive orca droop.



Keiko plays in Taknes Fjord—a long way from a concrete tank.



Photos: www.keiko.com

the illusion that they cannot.

Two years later Earth Island Institute, Warner Brothers, billionaire Craig McCaw and thousands of school kids pooled their

money and moved Keiko to a new tank at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. There he healed and wowed the crowds. When ready, he was airlifted to a sea pen in Iceland, where he lived for four years. Periodically he was taken on escorted “walks” out of sight of the shore. Finally, he just swam away one day, and headed, of all places, to one of the last major whaling countries—Norway. There he lived in Taknes Fjord and was much beloved by the local children.

Keiko’s death of pneumonia on December 12 tripped the PR machinery of the captive display industry—and Rush Limbaugh—to thunder that Keiko’s rehab and release was a frivolous failure because he still liked to hang around people.

Forgotten, apparently, was Keiko’s condition when I saw him in Mexico. Captivity was clearly killing Keiko. The average lifespan for orcas in captivity is about six years, as opposed to about thirty for wild males. Also ignored by the critics was the importance of this one individual in galvanizing the world to perform a kindness by alleviating his suffering. *Free Willy* taught us that captive whales have families and miss them. Keiko taught us that we can accomplish very difficult and expensive projects in the name of compassion. His dogged perseverance, and that of his sponsors, showed us that if Keiko could go this far, there is no reason that all captives should not be considered for release.

The struggle to stop the cruel business of whale captivity was changed forever by this one whale. I am grateful to have known him. 🐾

—by Ben White



Marchers wear dolphin hats as they walk during an FTAA demonstration.



Photos: ©2003 Brian F. Gill

## The New Miami Dolphins

BY BEN WHITE

I was born in 1951, the same year as AWI. My maternal grandparents had a small farm in tidewater Virginia. At least 80% of what they consumed came from their own land and waters or from their neighbors. If one of these neighbors mistreated his land, farm animals or family, community approbation could be swift. Being able to discriminate among suppliers was crucial to creating a system of basic compassion and responsibility.

AWI Quarterly readers are familiar with the fact that binding international treaties prohibit member countries from having laws that discriminate between products based on *how* they are produced. Despite huge historic success, the concept of using consumer conscience to improve treatment of animals and workers worldwide is considered inimical to the unfettered growth of corporate profit under the banner of “free” trade.

This theft of the ability of US citizens to make laws that extrapolate compassion is the common problem that brings advocates for labor, safe food, family farms, social justice and animal protection into the streets whenever government officials meet to further the reach of these trade pacts.

So it was on November 20, when the finance ministers of 34 countries in North, South, and Central American countries met in Miami to extend the draconian tentacles of NAFTA (the

North American Free Trade Agreement that covers the US, Canada and Mexico) across the entire hemisphere. This new system of trade rules, slated for completion in 2005, is called the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

AWI, in a reprise of our role deploying sea turtle impersonators in Seattle and dolphins in Cancun to oppose WTO, organized 150 Floridian animal protectors to don dolphin costumes. The dolphins joined about 25,000 other citizens opposing FTAA in marching through Miami between massive lines of heavily armed police. AWI’s Tom Garrett also marched 34 miles over three days with a group of farm workers from Broward to Miami, certainly setting a world record for distance walked with a dolphin costume on one’s head. AWI is striking alliances with campesino, food safety and family farm groups to oppose the factory farming encouraged by these trade pacts.

By the time the pepper spray cleared, the ministers ended up announcing a vastly watered down pact that allows any country to opt out of any provision of the FTAA that they find unpalatable; an arrangement immediately derided by business leaders as FTAA a la carte. For our part, we left Miami encouraged that the emerging strength of civil society will defeat these agreements, and we envision a fair global trading system that protects cultures and our fragile and besieged Earth. 🐾

## US Expands Hemispheric Trade Domination

The United States, continuing to envelop developing countries’ domestic markets, just concluded the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Costa Rica walked away from the negotiations.

Proudly, the Office of the United States Trade Representative has sent around an email containing statements of support for CAFTA. Not sure whether exploitive animal industries stand to benefit from the agreement? Don’t take our word for it; just see who supports CAFTA:

*“This is a great deal for the US cattle industry. We asked the US government to fight for trade initiatives that reduce barriers to access for US beef, and that’s exactly what we are getting with this new agreement.”*

—National Cattlemen’s Beef Association

*“The Central America nations wanted to exclude pork from the CAFTA but Ambassador Zoellick and Ambassador Johnson, supported completely by President Bush and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, did not let us down....”*

—National Pork Producers Council

*“...[This] agreement that will not only bring more stability to US poultry exports but provides a positive framework for growth in exports in the years ahead.”*

—National Chicken Council

*“The US/Central American Free Trade Agreement is a victory for the principles of free and open trade, and it should turn out to be a very positive deal for the turkey industry, for all agriculture in the United States and for all the nations involved in the agreement.”*

—National Turkey Federation 🐾



# ESA Listing for Tibetan Antelope Likely

**F**or nearly a quarter of a century the Tibetan Antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), popularly known as the “chiru” has received international protection under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). At long last, the United States Department of the Interior is acting to protect this imperiled species as “endangered” under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well.

On October 6, 2003 the Department of the Interior proposed to list the chiru as endangered, four years after the first request was submitted for such protection. The Tibetan Antelope is increasingly impacted by a number of human-induced factors throughout its home range, particularly in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The chiru has been displaced from its historic homes by the increasing development of roads and railways and rangeland use for the grazing of domestic livestock. Other activities such as mining (especially for gold) have destroyed vital chiru habitat and increased poaching. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, “illegal gold mining camps in the Arjin Shan Reserve in Xinjiang have served as bases for poachers and have provided them with essential logistical support and access.”

The biggest continuous threat to the chiru is poaching to supply the global market for the animals’ exceedingly fine hair, called “shahtoosh,” which is woven into expensive shawls. As a result, the species has endured a population decline of more than 85% in the past three decades. Without immediate action, the US government estimates that the chiru will go extinct in our lifetime.

A listing under the ESA would greatly assist wildlife law enforcement agents in the US. Although CITES prevents the importation of shahtoosh into the country, in order to prosecute someone trying to sell the products in America, one must prove that it was illegally smuggled—a difficult burden. Listing under the ESA would prohibit the domestic sale completely. We hope for a final decision to list soon. 🐾



IFAW/George Schaller

*Tibetan Antelope, clinging to life on the remote Tibetan Plateau, are killed for their fur, which is used to create some of the most valuable shawls on earth.*



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