



AWI Quarterly

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AWI Quarterly

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ABOUT THE COVER

Backlit and buoyant, a humpback whale calf glides through sun-dappled waters off the coast of Tonga. The young calf and his mother will stay here during the austral winter and spring months. Come summer, they'll head for feeding grounds along the Antarctic coast. Slow swimmers who hug the shoreline, humpbacks proved easy targets for commercial whalers in the early 20th century and were hunted nearly to extinction. In 1966 the International Whaling Commission imposed a ban on commercial hunts of these whales, though they are still hunted by aboriginal communities.

Two articles in this issue speak to the future of the oceans' whales. The first, on page 6, offers one woman's view on differing cultural perspectives regarding whales and dolphins. The other, on page 10, discusses the U.S. government's responsibility to impose trade sanctions on Iceland for whaling and trading whale products in defiance of international law.

Photo by Scott Portelli

AWI Turns 60

"The Animal Welfare Institute has been established by a group of persons interested in the humane treatment of all animals."

Those were the first words to grace Vol. 1 No. 1 of AWI's *Information Report*—a publication launched in 1951 to announce the organization's formation and report on its efforts to improve animal welfare. Chief among that group of persons (though she would never assert it herself) was Christine Stevens, our founding president and "the mother of the animal protection movement" in America.



AWI archives

AWI's Ben White, dressed as a sea turtle, leads a march protesting WTO, World Bank and IMF free trade policies.

For 60 years now AWI has been advocating for reasonable, practical measures to alleviate suffering inflicted on animals by humans. For over 50 of those years, until her death in 2002, Christine remained at the helm. From an early emphasis on the need to improve the deplorable conditions under which animals used in research were housed and handled (a need that—despite some improvements—continues today), our work has expanded to include efforts to save the world's whales, expose the cruelty of factory farming, oppose the use of steel-jaw leghold traps, protect wild horses, safeguard endangered species, and more.

Thirty years after that first issue, an expanded *Information Report* became the *AWI Quarterly*. (Not long before that, AWI also hired a college intern by the name of Cathy Liss, who worked her way through the ranks to eventually follow Christine as AWI president.) With this issue, the *Quarterly* marks exactly thirty years publishing under the "new" title. Whether this is your first issue or you've been with us for decades, we thank you for your support and for reading along. There is much work still to be done, and we plan to continue so long as there are animals who suffer needlessly and more humane choices to be made. 🐾



AWI archives

AWI Founder Christine Stevens (at left) drums up support for whales in the nation's capital.



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Above Left: A pasture-raised pig in North Carolina comes in for a close-up and a quick shower (Mike Suarez).

Top Right: A red fox scans the horizon. When the USDA “manages” wildlife, foxes often fall victim (Krista van der Voorden).

Bottom Right: A northern rockhopper penguin. A disastrous South Atlantic oil spill has clouded the future of this already endangered bird (Nicholas Le Maitre).





John and Kristi Gatt

Spanky (right) and Stella at home. Spanky needed emergency care after a concealed trap snapped shut on her paw.

TRAP NEAR TRAIL SPELLS AGONY FOR PET

“The most horrible sound you’ll ever hear.” That’s how Kristi Gatt described the howl of pain and terror her dog made when a steel-jaw leghold trap clamped down on her paw in North Carolina’s Croatan National Forest. Kristi and John Gatt were walking their dogs, Stella and Spanky, along a well-traveled trail in late February when Spanky triggered a hidden trap, set for furbearing animals just off the path. The couple had to work together to free the dog, who in her panic and pain severely bit them both. It is unfathomable, says Kristi, that private trappers are allowed to set dangerous traps “on or near a path without any notice to the remainder of the public that uses that forest.” According to Master Officer Steve Long of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, warning notices are not posted because people might steal the traps. Long asserts that the traps aren’t “designed” to harm animals—a claim belied by both the dog’s reaction and the emergency veterinary bill the Gatts had to pay afterwards. 🐾

Dog/Human Bond Goes Way Back

A RECENT ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY supports the notion that humans have considered dogs part of the family—in life and in death—for a very long time. The respectful manner in which a Husky-like dog was buried 7,000 years ago in Siberia strongly suggests he was valued not just as a useful animal to have around, but as a true member of the clan.

Dog skeletons have previously been unearthed from much earlier human burial sites. The unique aspect of this

Class B Dealers Flunk Animal Welfare (Again)

IT’S HAPPENED YET AGAIN, just as we predicted. Another USDA-licensed Class B dealer operation has been indicted by the federal government following a two-year investigation into purported illegal activities. The Pennsylvania dealers, Floyd and Susan Martin of Chestnut Grove Kennel, have been charged in U.S. District Court for their alleged illegal acquisition and sale of hundreds of dogs to laboratories for experimentation. If convicted, they could be fined up to a million dollars and imprisoned for up to 50 years.

In a news release announcing the unsealing of the indictment against the Martins, the U.S. Department of Justice asserts that “the defendants conspired to circumvent federal regulations... by stealing the identities of multiple individuals and falsifying federal documents.” U.S. Attorney Peter Smith said, “This kind of alleged conduct constitutes a cruel fraud on dog owners and mistreatment of animals as well as showing a flagrant disregard for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s program to ensure that such animals are treated properly and safely.”

Aside from the Martins, there are just eight other dealers still engaged in an outdated, notorious business supplying randomly acquired dogs and cats to research facilities. Of these eight, five are currently under investigation for possible violations of the Animal Welfare Act. 🐾

discovery, however, is that the dog was apparently laid to rest with mortuary rites similar to those given the humans. Among other things, he was laid carefully in the grave on his right side, and buried with important objects, such as a long spoon made of antler. Professor Robert Losey of the University of Alberta, who led a study of the site, says the evidence of a carefully orchestrated burial given to the dog (not just involving the dog in a human burial) indicates that “... the people burying this particular dog saw it as a thinking, social being, perhaps on par with humans in many ways.” 🐾

SEAL SITTERS MAKING SURE PUPS HAVE SPACE

Seal Sitters Marine Mammal Stranding Network is a non-profit group of volunteers in the Pacific Northwest trained by NOAA. During seal pupping season—from mid-June to September—nursing mother-pup pairs, juveniles, and adult seals seek rest and community onshore. Newborn seal pups are very vulnerable. Off-leash dogs and humans are the main threats to these pups, who are often alone on the beach for several hours while their mothers are far out fishing in the Salish Sea. If the mother returns to find the baby surrounded with curious people, she may abandon her pup.

When a pup is spotted, neighbors call Seal Sitters or NOAA. Seal Sitters volunteers cordon off the pup with “Protected Marine Mammal” tape and watch from a respectful distance. Using binoculars, they scan for propeller gashes or behavioral signs of internal injuries or

distress. The volunteers politely keep people and dogs 100 yards away from the seal pups, as recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region. They also explain seal conservation to beachcombers, and invite them to join Seal Sitters. 🐾

To learn more about making your beach safe for wildlife, visit www.sealsitters.org.



Three-week-old seal pup, “Pebbles.” For over two weeks, Pebbles hauled out daily near a busy West Seattle boat ramp.

© 2010 Robin Lindsey

Mystery Dolphin Deaths

AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER of young bottlenose dolphins have stranded along shores of the Gulf of Mexico in recent months, and last April’s catastrophic blowout of

BP’s Deepwater Horizon oil rig is being eyed as the culprit. In just two months, 80 dead dolphins, including 42 calves, were found along the coasts of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida. The typical gestation period for a bottlenose dolphin is one year, with births usually taking place in March and April. One theory, therefore, for the large number of dead calves is that their mothers were exposed to oil during pregnancy, leading to aborted, stillborn, or premature calves.

Scientists are trying to determine causes of deaths, a task made difficult by the fact that oil hydrocarbons do not persist in the animals’ cell tissues. In April, however, it was reported that some of the dolphins who have washed ashore after the spill had oil on their bodies—some of which has been traced to the BP spill. Indirect effects from the spill also cannot be ruled out; the massive amounts of oil and dispersants released during the spill caused changes in ocean temperature and prey availability, and disrupted the habitat in ways that may never fully be measured. 🐾



A staff member of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies takes tissue and organ samples from a dead baby dolphin who washed ashore at Gulfport, MS.

AP Photo/The Sun Herald, James Edward Bates



An Ocean Apart:

a cross-cultural perspective on cetaceans

BY MARIKO TERASAKI

Large-scale commercial whaling began in the 17th century for Western countries such as the U.S., U.K., and the Netherlands. According to Paul Greenberg, the author of *Four Fish*, “if you are from Europe and born before 1960, no matter how much of an environmentalist you may consider yourself, there is a high likelihood that you have eaten whale.” Similar to postwar Japan, postwar Europe was drawn to the use of whales, and sperm-whale products were not made illegal in the U.S. until the early 1970s.

When I think of the current American perspective on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), I think *Whale Wars*, and I think *The Cove*. For the slightly older crowd, perhaps Jacques Cousteau specials or the “Save the Whales” movement of the 1970s shaped their views. Regardless,

there has been a seismic shift from how Americans viewed whales in the 17th century to how they view them now—from commercial marine resources to beautiful, endangered majesties.

With regard to dolphins, my own perspective formed from *Flipper* and my summer internship assisting dolphin trainers at the Minnesota Zoo during college. I know that my perspective is one of many other American perspectives, and though most of us are against commercial hunting of whales and sourcing dolphins from cruel drive hunts, there are many people who are unaware or apathetic about cetacean issues.

On the other hand, when I think about the Japanese perspective on cetaceans I think, “whale bacon.” My grandmother tells me that whales do not taste as good as they used to. As a child, my mother ate whale meat for school lunches. I often hear the phrase, “Oh, they are so cute, AND they taste good!” about animals that Americans typically would not consider food.

I think most whaling experts, both Japanese and non-Japanese, would agree that community-based

whaling and dolphin hunting took place in many small fishing villages in Japan thousands of years before large-type coastal whaling began. More organized whaling developed in the 17th century, lasting well over 300 years until the global moratorium on commercial whaling came into effect in 1986. It is safe to say that Japanese hunting of cetaceans is a long-standing tradition.

It makes sense then, that the majority of the Japanese population is pro-whaling. According to a nationwide internet survey conducted in 2008 by the Nippon Research Center, 66 percent of those polled believe that Japan should at least whale along the Japanese coast, if not also in the high seas. As Shigeko Misaki, a longstanding interpreter for the Japanese delegation to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) wrote, “The general perception of whales by the Japanese people is that whales are part of the marine food resources” (ICR, 1993). The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry leaves no doubt on where Japan officially stands:

Our country aims to reopen commercial whaling. Whale





products are an important food source, and as any other natural resource, they should be utilized based on the best science available. In addition, dietary habits and food culture have been shaped according to the history of each region and environment, and a sense of mutual understanding is necessary.

As a Japanese American, I am in a constant flummox to tune in to both aspects of my identity. Unfortunately, whaling and dolphin hunting have become increasingly polarized issues. It seems at times that the “war” overshadows the “whale.” Offensively misguided comments from the “lovers of whales and dolphins” and “defenders of culture and tradition” are flung at each other across the internet—neither attitude is particularly welcoming when caught in the middle. In January, AWI posted a message on its Facebook page to oppose the development of the Kyoto Aquarium, which will presumably source dolphins from the Taiji drive hunts made infamous by the movie *The Cove*. One avid dolphin advocate commented, “...I am tired of these Japs.” At that moment I realized that without respect and without cultural sensitivity—even for those whose views are in conflict with our sense of morality—the best of our intentions may not lead to fruitful dialogue or meaningful progress. Because the moment I read her comment, my

heart clenched and I wanted to call her names.

My cousin is 27 years old and currently works at an architecture firm in Tokyo. She recently moved back to Japan after graduating from college and architecture school in the U.S. She knows little about whaling. To my surprise, given her alma mater (a *very* liberal East Coast college) and her year-long stint in New Zealand (a country whose population is ardently anti-whaling), she is vehemently pro-whaling. After watching an episode of *Whale Wars* in her college dorm room, she was disturbed by the way the television show portrayed her countrymen. Given her indifference toward animals, she understandably takes the side of the fishermen, whalers, and dolphin hunters, many of whom struggle to preserve their way of life.

The potential problem with radical activism is that it requires no empathy or thought beyond its own agenda. Supporters of fervent anti-whaling groups, despite the potential good they have done for the lives of individual whales, may not be able to fathom the scope of their influence



Cameron Creinin

Mariko Terasaki and her dog, Woolfie. Now a wildlife research assistant at AWI, Mariko grew up in Elkhorn, NE, surrounded by animals. Many members of her extended family live in Japan. Her grandmother lives in the town of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture—among the hardest hit by the March earthquake and tsunami.

on people like my cousin whose loyalties lie with her country, not with antagonistic foreigners. Whalers and the rest of Japan are not at war; in fact, they are of one—generally—united nation and by picking a fight with one, they are picking a fight with the other at a much larger scale.

In October of 2010, an AWI colleague and I visited Taiji as a side trip to our attendance at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on

Illustration by Cameron Creinin



Biological Diversity in Nagoya. After our visit, on our way out of the small fishing town of three thousand, we chatted with our elderly taxi driver. He was aware of the presence around his hometown of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (a direct action group opposed to the hunts). He casually asked us if we were members. He was not aware or very concerned about the recent controversy over the high mercury content of the dolphin meat. He did not eat much of it, he said, as it did not taste as good as whale meat, and whale meat didn't taste as good as the other kinds of meat now readily available. He didn't care much for animals—dogs or cats or dolphins. At the same time, he thought that dolphin hunting might as well end, and it was time for the thirty or so fishermen to move on. For him, whaling was a tradition, but not a requisite for his Japanese identity. On that day, he was happy to talk to us as guests, but I worry that the more he learns about how foreigners portray his town, he may lose his breadth of perspective. He had not seen *The Cove*, and in that moment, I hoped he never would.

In 1957, a former chief gunner of Toyo Whaling Company erected a monument for right whales in Hakodate, Hokkaido, my mother's home

prefecture. He was 83 years old, full of remorse and guilt. I wish our fervent Facebook supporter, my cousin, and anyone who believes that pro-whaling sentiment is ubiquitous in Japan could stand before the monument and read the inscription:

We engaged in whaling for 26 years from 1908 and we took 2,000 some whales. Although among the groups of whales were mothers and calves, many were taken. The guilt of taking the precious lives of these whales was truly regrettable. I have for some time preached the need to formally acknowledge this

regretful act, and my desire to do it grew stronger since the passing of my wife. ...

The mercilessness of this world is felt even stronger now in my old age. My wish is to commemorate the spirits of all living things and I therefore erect this monument to wish for the peaceful resting of all whale spirits taken by humans.

In order to find solutions to a complex problem, there is a need to search beyond the obvious boundaries of “right” and “wrong” so often portrayed by the simplified media versions of reality. As an advocate for animal welfare and conservation of endangered species, my conclusion will be the same. I want all commercial whaling to end, and I want the inhumane slaughter of whales and dolphins to end—regardless of where, and regardless of who is killing what species. However, advocating for a conclusion that could affect people's lives and livelihoods requires sensitivity and a respectful approach; because I want to believe that being an advocate does not mean we have to sacrifice our own integrity or another's dignity. 🐾



jsteph

A monument to whales in Hakodate, Japan, erected in 1957 by a remorseful former whaler.



How My Class Grew to Love Sharks

By Bill Brooks, Sixth Grade Teacher in Irvine, California

AS A TEACHER, I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR LESSONS I can teach that have a purpose. I want my students to work in real-life situations and solve real-life problems as much as possible. In September, my sixth grade class became very interested in sharks after watching the movie *Sharkwater*, which graphically depicts how sharks are fished alive and thrown back into the ocean to die a slow death. We did research, and we learned that roughly one-third of the world's shark species are in danger of extinction. Students also learned that, as apex predators, sharks play an integral role in the overall health of the ocean.

Six of my students formed a leadership team for a project they named "I Love Sharks." The team and the class began work on the project. They contacted Dr. Andrew Nosal, a shark researcher at Scripps Institute of Oceanography to find out more about sharks. He shared with them film clips of the ways sharks have been portrayed in film. He sent them background music played when sharks are shown, and students found the music sinister in nature. They created a PowerPoint presentation using music and film clips in order to educate others to love sharks instead of fear them. In addition, they developed a website called ilovesharks.org that has science, writing, and math lessons for middle school teachers to use to teach about the unique adaptations that sharks have.

Our school in Irvine, California has a large Asian population, and students soon discovered that there are several restaurants in our community that serve shark fin soup. They debated whether or not to contact the restaurants or to try and educate the public as well as to



Lisa Turner



Bill Brooks

Eastshore student Cade Turner sells "I Love Sharks" t-shirts to raise money for shark preservation.

Sharks and Civics: Students from Bill Brooks' Eastshore Elementary class meet with Assemblyman Don Wagner (R-Irvine) in his office to discuss AB 376, California's proposed shark fin ban.

propose a shark fin ban in the city of Irvine. They chose the latter, and I think the most exciting day of the project was when the Monterey Bay Aquarium contacted the team and class to ask if they would be the student group to help pass California Assembly Bill 376,

which bans shark fins in the state. The leadership team is planning on traveling to Sacramento to attend the hearing process. In the meantime, they have posted persuasive letter writing materials on their website so that they can get other sixth grade classrooms to write letters in support of this bill. They have personally met with their assemblyman Donald Wagner on AB 376, and they plan to attend two environmental fairs.

Working on our shark project has been one of the more memorable events of my teaching career, and I'm pleased my students are part of the solution that will help ensure the health of our oceans. 🐾

WILL THE US STAND UP TO ICELAND OVER WHALES?

A POWERFUL U.S. LAW ALLOWS the president to impose trade sanctions on nations whose citizens undermine conservation agreements. The Pelly Amendment of the Fishermen's Protective Act (22 U.S.C. §1978, as amended) or "Pelly Amendment" *requires* the Secretary of Commerce to certify to the president when citizens of a foreign country are conducting fishing operations that diminish the effectiveness of an international fishery conservation agreement. Similarly, the Secretary of the Interior must certify when foreign nationals are engaged in trade that diminishes the effectiveness of an international program for endangered or threatened species.

After certification, the president can impose sanctions—directing the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit the importation of any products from the offending country for any duration to the extent allowed by World Trade Organization and other trade rules. Certification is a persuasive tool that has been used on



Scott Porcelli/Wildlife Photographer

A minke whale swims off Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Since 2009, in open defiance of the international whaling treaty, Icelandic whalers have killed over 415 minke and endangered fin whales.

dozens of occasions, sometimes multiple times against the same country. Actual trade sanctions have only been imposed once, against Taiwan in 1994, for its trade in rhinoceros and tiger products. In other cases, nations have come into line without the need for sanctions.

Pelly certification over whaling and trade in whale parts has a long history, with all three of the remaining commercial whaling nations—Norway, Japan and Iceland—having been certified on one or more occasions in the past 30+ years. Iceland's history in this regard is particularly messy. In 1982 members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), including Iceland, agreed to a moratorium on commercial whaling, which came into force in 1986. After abiding by the moratorium for several years but also conducting lethal "research" on whales, Iceland left the IWC in 1992. In 2002 it rejoined, but with a reservation to the moratorium. The reservation was objected to by 19 other parties to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), including the U.S. Iceland recommenced lethal "research" whaling in 2003 and the following year was certified by the Secretary of Commerce for undermining the effectiveness of the whaling convention. President Bush declined to impose sanctions, favoring non-trade actions and diplomatic approaches, which had no discernable influence on Iceland's behavior.

Iceland killed a total of 200 minke whales between 2003 and 2007. It announced at the conclusion of its fourth year of "research" that it would also resume commercial whaling, and not just on minke whales, but on endangered fin whales, as well. It allocated itself a commercial whaling quota of 9 fin and 30 minke whales for the 2006/7 season and 40 minke whales in 2008. It

then dramatically increased the quotas in 2009; over the past two years, Iceland has killed 141 minke and 274 fin whales—the latter being over three times more than the IWC’s Scientific Committee says is sustainable.

Iceland’s trade in whale products presents a similarly shameful picture. International trade in vulnerable wildlife is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In response to the passage of the commercial whaling moratorium, CITES listed all great whales, including fin and minke¹ whales, on its Appendix I. As a result, international trade in their parts or derivatives for primarily commercial purpose is prohibited between CITES parties. As with the whaling convention, CITES rules allow parties to take reservations to CITES decisions and not be bound by them, although the CITES Secretariat has warned that “reservations undermine the effectiveness of Conventions.” Iceland lodged a reservation to the great whale Appendix I listing when it joined CITES in 2000. Despite the CITES trade ban in whale products, Iceland has engaged in international trade in whale meat, oil and/or other products to several countries. These trade partners include not only other CITES parties that hold reservations to the ban (Norway and Japan), but also—illegally—to parties without reservations (Denmark, Latvia, Belarus) and non-parties (Faroe Islands).

The domestic market for whale meat in Iceland—whose population is roughly that of Pittsburgh—is saturated. It is not surprising therefore that its exports of whale meat have expanded in parallel with its increased catches. In the last three years exports have skyrocketed. In 2010 alone, Iceland exported nearly 800 tons of whale products, worth almost US\$11 million.

Iceland’s escalating whaling and international trade clearly demonstrate that more than six years of diplomatic efforts to curtail its rogue behavior have failed. The U.S. has acknowledged that the Pelly Amendment “has been one of our most effective tools in the effort to conserve the [great] whales”² yet it isn’t being applied. In

November 2010 the U.S. publically chastised Iceland for its behavior and meanwhile has initiated other diplomatic efforts. To avoid a repeat of history, however, more must be done and the law must be applied. In December 2010 AWI and 18 other groups petitioned the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior, presenting strong evidence to justify recertification of Iceland and recommending trade sanctions. It is time for the Obama administration to use this powerful tool provided by the Pelly Amendment to hold Iceland accountable for its open defiance of international law. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please contact the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior and urge them to (1) certify under the Pelly Amendment that Iceland is diminishing the effectiveness of both the ICRW and CITES, and (2) recommend to President Obama that he impose long overdue trade sanctions until Iceland ceases unlawful commercial whaling and international trade in whale products.

Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke
1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230
email: PublicConcerns.whales@noaa.gov

Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar
1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240
email: feedback@ios.doi.gov

Some points to include:

- Iceland’s continued, and expanding, commercial whaling under its reservation to the commercial whaling moratorium is conducted without IWC approval and oversight.
- Iceland’s catch limits do not follow the IWC’s agreed procedures, and the quota for fin whales—an endangered species—far exceeds what the Scientific Committee considers sustainable.
- Iceland’s commercial whaling is conducted in defiance of objections to its reservation recorded by 19 nations that are parties to the ICRW.
- Iceland’s escalating exports of whale products, including to non-parties and parties without a reservation to the listing, diminishes the effectiveness of CITES trade controls.

¹With the exception of the West Greenland population of minke whales, which remains on Appendix II.

²H.R. Rep. No. 95-1029, 95 Cong., 2d Sess. (1978), reprinted in 1978 U.S.C.A.N. 1773-1775, 1780.



James Carlson/APHIS

Filthy feedlots combat disease by loading cattle up with antibiotics. Providing cattle with pasture can eliminate the issue.

House Bill Aimed at Ending Antibiotic Overload

REP. LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY) reintroduced the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA), H.R. 965 on March 9. By ending the prophylactic use of antibiotics in farm animals to stimulate growth and compensate for inhumane conditions, PAMTA would both promote improved treatment of animals and preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics for fighting human diseases. 🐾

AWI on the Hill to Testify for Anti-Cruelty Initiative

ON MARCH 11, AWI SENIOR FEDERAL POLICY ADVISOR Nancy Blaney testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies in favor of continued funding for the Department of Justice's National Animal Cruelty and Animal Fighting Initiative. The initiative supports programs that help prosecutors and other law enforcement officials handle animal cruelty cases. AWI also submitted testimony requesting continued funding for enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, Horse Protection Act, and Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, as well as additional funding across multiple agencies for combating white-nose syndrome. 🐾

SENATE BILL SEEKS STRONGER RESPONSE TO WILDLIFE DISEASES

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)—citing grave concern over the devastating effect white-nose syndrome (WNS) has had on hibernating bats in New Jersey and across the U.S.—introduced S. 357, the Wildlife Disease Emergency Act, on February 15. This bill would allow the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the governors of affected states, to declare a wildlife disease emergency and marshal the resources of federal, state, and local governments, Indian tribes, nongovernmental entities, and others in a rapid, coordinated response to the crisis. Under the bill, a disease may be declared an emergency if the cause is (1) a newly discovered pathogen or known disease expanding its geographic reach, species affected, or recognized impacts; (2) poses significant threats to the sustainability of a wildlife species; (3) is spreading rapidly; or (4) poses a significant threat to the health of a functioning ecosystem in a priority landscape.

In introducing his bill, Sen. Lautenberg said, "We must ensure that the Fish and Wildlife Service and environmental scientists have every tool available to them as they fight devastating wildlife diseases like white-nose syndrome. ... Without a quick response, white-nose syndrome could have a ripple effect that hurts the economy, environment, and public health."

In a letter to Sen. Lautenberg supporting his legislation, AWI and other organizations pointed out that "New and emerging diseases pose a critical and growing threat to the health of wildlife." The letter praises the Lautenberg bill because it "addresses serious gaps in wildlife disease emergency response," and will "facilitate scientific discoveries and inform decision-making in the early stages of an outbreak," when the expenditure of funds may avert a full-blown crisis and avoid even larger expenditures in the future.

AWI recently participated in congressional briefings on WNS sponsored by Sen. Lautenberg and Rep. James Moran (D-VA). 🐾

In Many States, Attempts Afoot to Undermine Animal Welfare

THE FIGHT TO EXTEND OR DENY PROTECTIONS for animals takes place in state capitals as well as on Capitol Hill. The high-profile confrontation this year is in Missouri—again. Last year, Missouri voters approved Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, a ballot initiative addressing the most egregious cruelties of that state’s puppy mill industry. This year, the Missouri legislature—at the behest of the powerful breeding industry in the state—is trying to “fix” Proposition B by basically gutting it. As of this writing, the bill to do this is with the governor.



In order to churn out cute puppies for pet shops, the breeding industry imprisons dogs in bleak, barren cages, with little regard for their welfare.

Missouri is not the only state where assaults on animal welfare are being mounted. South Carolina legislators have introduced bills (H 3687/S 643) to again allow the captive display of marine mammals other than whales, porpoises, and dolphins. One Maine bill (LD 101) would allow killing coyotes with wire neck snares; another (LD 1072) would establish a bounty on coyotes in the state.

Some dangerous bills don’t address animal welfare per se; rather, they limit the public’s right to know about animal abuse and do something about it when their elected officials won’t. After gruesome photo/video exposés of the treatment of cows, pigs and chickens

at factory farms, the livestock industry has decided it is better to shoot the messenger than heed the message. In at least three states, efforts are underway to criminalize the undercover filming of farm animal cruelty. An Iowa bill (HF 589) to prohibit the recording of such videos has passed the House and awaits action in the Senate. Penalties include fines up to \$7,500 and five years in prison. Similar legislation is being considered in Minnesota (HF 1369/SF 1110) and Florida (SB 1246).

Other bills would do an end run around the rights of citizens to pursue animal welfare improvements through ballot initiatives. A Texas bill (HB 334) would create a livestock care standards board that empowers the animal agriculture industry to develop self-serving standards for raising farm animals. An Oregon bill (HB 3006) would create a dairy industry advisory board that could unduly influence the legislature on dairy animal welfare issues. A pair of bills in Washington (SB 5487/HB 1813) would establish a certification program for commercial egg laying operations in the state—not so much to inform consumers as to codify inhumane conditions and undermine a proposed citizen ballot measure to ban confinement of hens to battery cages. The respective versions of the bill have passed both Senate and House, but have not been reconciled as of this writing.

These are only a representative sample of a number of efforts in various states to ward off reform, roll back animal protection measures, or sanction new forms of animal abuse. Anyone concerned about animal welfare should monitor and weigh in on such bills in their own states. 🐾



Laying hens are stuffed tight into tiny battery cages. The agriculture industry hopes to keep them there.

In NC, Raising Pigs Right Means Keeping Up with the Joneses

A lot of pigs live in Duplin County, North Carolina—

nearly 2.3 million according to the USDA's 2007 Census of Agriculture, more than any other county in the U.S. (and more than the entire pig population of most states). The vast majority of Duplin County pigs endure a considerably grim existence. Rain or shine they stay indoors, in cramped pens over concrete slats, packed together by the thousands within huge Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

Not so on Jeremiah and Jessica Jones' GrassRoots Pork Company farm in southeastern Duplin County, near the town of Beulaville, about 40 miles from the coast as the crow flies. GrassRoots pigs are raised outdoors on 100 acres, where they can feel the earth under their feet and the sun on their backs. They roam, forage, root and wallow on open pastures—rotating over the course of the year from grass fields to corn fields to woodlands. And while mother pigs in factory farms are confined to steel crates so narrow they cannot even turn around, on the Jones' farm they have access to much cozier farrowing shelters on open fields, with heat lamps and bedding.

The hog industry arrived in force in North Carolina in the 1990s—motivated in large part by generous subsidies and tax exemptions, coupled with a relaxation of zoning and environmental regulations. From 1992 to 1998, the pig population of North Carolina rose from 2 to 10 million. As North Carolina became the second largest pork-producing state (behind Iowa), Duplin County itself rose to #1 among U.S. counties, becoming the de facto hog industry capital of America.

Aside from the poor animal welfare associated with factory farming, studies (Ejimakor, 2006, e.g.) suggest that the influx of industrial operations is hardly an economic bonanza to the communities in which CAFOs have been sited—with much of the real money flowing out of the community and low-wage jobs manned by transient workers moving in. Industrial hog facilities are also notoriously bad neighbors from an environmental, human health, and olfactory perspective.

As the industry expanded, most of the traditional, pasture-raised pig farms in the state went by the wayside.



Outdoor life suits
GrassRoots pigs.



But even as most of the pork production in the region fell in step with the Big Ag adage “Get big or get out,” Jeremiah and Jessica elected to try a more hands-on, natural approach.

Jeremiah, who was born in California but returned to his North Carolina roots as a boy, previously worked on his uncle’s pig farm—an independent confinement operation. Jeremiah went on to earn multiple degrees from North Carolina State’s Agricultural Institute and in 2004, he and Jessica selected several purebred hog breeds and established GrassRoots Pork Company. Today, their 50-sow “farrow-to-finish” operation is thriving. Their current breeding stock is composed primarily of Duroc, Chester Whites, and Berkshire crosses—breeds ideally suited to pasture-based systems.

GrassRoots Pork is also certified under AWI’s Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) program. AWA is a free certification for family farms raising their animals high-welfare, outdoors on pasture or range, and is considered by the World Society for the Protection of Animals to be the “most stringent” farm animal welfare standard in the U.S. Getting AWA certification was part of Jeremiah and Jessica’s direct marketing strategy. “It gives our customers proof of what they’re buying,” says Jeremiah.

Still, going it alone and going small in a county where the average CAFO is said to house over 4,000 pigs is a bit of a David and Goliath prospect. The Joneses and other like-minded farmers in the region felt they were at a distinct disadvantage in terms of might and marketing. In order not to be squeezed out like so many others, Jeremiah got together in 2007 with some of the few remaining pasture-based producers in the state and formed the North Carolina Natural Hog Growers Association (NCNHGA), a farmer-owned marketing cooperative to develop and enhance direct market sales of pasture-raised pork.

Jeremiah serves as NCNHGA president, from which position he helps direct the organization’s efforts to develop new markets and adopt best practice standards. A centerpiece of those standards is that all NCNHGA farms (about 25 strong, and growing) must be Animal Welfare Approved.

According to Jeremiah, making AWA certification a membership requirement is a natural outgrowth of what the group stands for. NCNHGA farmers who have prior experience with industrial pig operations felt the AWA seal



Jeremiah and his dog, Cotton, at GrassRoots Farm.

would leave no room for doubt about how their pigs were raised. “We find that people want to know how we manage our animals,” Jeremiah says. “Our farmers wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Last year, Jeremiah was nominated for a Glynwood Farmer Harvest Award. Glynwood is a nonprofit organization based in Cold Spring, New York, dedicated to sustainable agriculture and farmland preservation. The Farmer Harvest Award recognizes individuals across the country who are doing innovative work to increase access to fresh, locally produced food and support regional agricultural systems that benefit local communities. In October, it was revealed that Jeremiah had won.

In announcing the award on its website, Glynwood noted Jeremiah’s determination to get all NCNHGA farms Animal Welfare Approved and adds “Thanks to the collaborative model of NCNHGA and the hard work of Jeremiah Jones, North Carolina hog farmers have been able to remain profitable while continuing to practice sustainable and humane agriculture.”

Indeed, Jeremiah and Jessica Jones, together with the rest of the NCNHGA farmers, aim to show that raising pigs on pasture and paying attention to animal welfare is not some quaint tradition of the past—but rather a healthier, more economically and personally sustaining model for the future. 🐾



Piglets enjoy digging in the dirt.

Photos by: Mike Suarez

INDUSTRIAL CHICKEN:

SOWING BREEDS OF DESPAIR

Industrial chicken farming—whether for meat or egg production—is notoriously inhumane. Chickens raised for meat live in crowded, windowless barns, induced into a state of semi-torpor, while those raised to lay eggs are stuffed into cramped cages, existing under conditions so stressful they have their beaks mutilated to prevent pecking each other to death.

An oft overlooked aspect of the industrial model, however, is that the chickens trapped in the system not only endure horrible living conditions, but are actually bred in a fashion that perpetuates the cruelty. Furthermore, breeding decisions made by industry affect the ability of independent farmers to make more compassionate choices.

Industrial imbalance: Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

For meat chickens, the industry's breed of choice is the Cornish Cross (also known as "Cornish-Rock," as it is a cross between a Cornish and a white strain of Plymouth Rock). White-feathered and stocky, the Cornish Cross was developed with one key aim in mind: to produce a bird who reaches market weight as rapidly as possible.

Cornish Crosses are inactive birds who basically sit and eat, grow quickly, and provide a lot of breast meat.

In fact, Cornish Crosses put on weight faster than their bodies can bear. Bred for a high muscle-to-bone ratio, their bones are not strong enough to support their top-heavy bulk. They are thus prone to joint

leaving them susceptible to disease. Industrial operations must rely on preventative antibiotics to maintain productivity—a practice risky to human health as it promotes the



Cornish Cross chickens. The bird in the foreground has a broken leg. Such injuries are common for birds of this breed, who grow too big and fast to support their own weight.

and ligament problems, and are often lame. It is not uncommon for the birds to die of sudden heart failure even before they reach slaughter weight in six weeks. Selective breeding for growth—at the expense of other traits—often means their immune systems are compromised, as well,

development of antibiotic-resistant strains of sometimes lethal bacteria.

Notwithstanding its advantages as a fast and fulsome grower, the Cornish Cross is not, however, a prodigious layer. To produce eggs, the industry turns to another breed—the Leghorn. Leghorns are smaller

and svelter than Cornish Crosses. In fact, the Leghorn is one of the smallest standard breeds. But what Leghorns lacks in stature (and placid temperament—they are considered nervous and flighty), they make up for in egg-laying capacity. Leghorn eggs are large and white and the chickens have an excellent feed-to-egg conversion ratio. Leghorn hens also have less “broodiness” tendency than most breeds (broodiness being the perfectly natural instinct to sit on the eggs they lay—which sends a biological signal to stop laying for awhile). Leghorns just keep laying—a little over 23 eggs a month, every month until they are spent.

Leghorn males, however, are left in limbo. Very few are needed to maintain breeding stocks. They can't lay eggs, obviously, and it isn't efficient to raise such relatively scrawny birds to adulthood for meat. So from an industry perspective, they are worthless—and they are eliminated. In 2009, an undercover video shot at a large U.S. egg hatchery showed hundreds of tiny male chicks moving down a conveyor belt, at the end of which they were dropped—alive—into a grinder. According to the narrator, nearly 150,000 male chicks met their deaths this way each day at the facility. This method of culling males—termed “maceration”—is standard practice within the layer breeding industry.

Pasture-based farming caught in the “Cross” hairs

Family farmers wishing to raise meat chickens on pasture face a dilemma. Because of the enormous influence of the industry in determining breeding stocks, farmers find Cornish Crosses the easiest to come by—and often

the only choice available locally. But AWI's Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) high-welfare farming certification program will not certify pastured poultry farms that raise Cornish Crosses. The problem is not with the farmers, many of whom do the utmost to improve the welfare of their birds. The problem is with the breed.

Cornish Crosses are not bred to thrive on pasture. They are not adept at ranging and foraging, and have poor tolerance for heat. On his website, *TheModernHomestead.US*, pastured poultry farmer Harvey Ussery says he no longer keeps Cornish Crosses in his flock. He describes losing 22 such birds during one unseasonal temperature spike within two hours. Before he was aware of their distress, his birds had sat in the shade of a pasture shelter, panting and eventually dying—rather than walking six feet for a drink of water outside the shelter.

Even if you hover constantly over your birds so as to avoid such mishaps, you still have birds who are programmed to grow too big for their bones. Some pastured poultry producers try to dial down this growth by providing smaller rations than would be given in an industrial setting. While this approach might reduce heart failure and lameness, it can lead to other welfare issues. Reducing the quantity or quality of food for birds bred to eat a high nutrient diet and grow quickly might indeed slow growth. It might also result in chronically hungry birds.



Compassion In World Farming

A “Hubbard JA57” developed in France for pasture-based farming. This breed is more robust and less likely to suffer from leg and heart problems compared to the Cornish Cross.

Breeding high welfare back into chicken farming

AWI continues to fight against the systemic cruelty of factory farming—a system where billions of birds suffer; where untold millions of “useless” male chicks are callously killed on a weekly basis. When it comes to meat chickens, the industry long ago crossed the line from selective breeding into Frankenstein territory—using mismatched parts to create an animal who looks like a chicken... but isn't fully equipped to be one. The Cornish Cross is a chicken literally designed for an impoverished existence.

To promote high-welfare pastured poultry production, AWI's Animal Welfare Approved program is taking a different approach. Rather than attempting to fit a very round bird into a square peg (or pasture), the AWA program is working with breeders and hatcheries to increase the availability of heartier breeds. Chickens on pasture should be robust birds who retain the physical attributes necessary to range and forage successfully—in other words, birds who have not been robbed of the tools they need to act like chickens. 🐾

If Unfit to Travel, Farm Animals Should Avoid the Voyage

THE NUMBER OF BEEF AND DAIRY

cattle exported from the U.S. in 2010 to countries other than Canada and Mexico more than quadrupled over the previous year. Live animal exports are up dramatically, especially cattle, as countries like Turkey and Kazakhstan try to establish breeding herds. Moreover, exports are projected to remain high in the coming years.

While some exported animals are flown to their destination, others are subjected to ocean journeys that can last weeks. Last year alone, more than 20,000 pregnant dairy cattle left from the east coast on ocean voyages to Turkey lasting more than two weeks. Calves have been born during some of these shipments, suggesting that either the cows were too far along in their gestation to be safely and humanely transported, or that they gave birth prematurely, which could be an indicator of stress.

During transport, many stressful experiences—including inadequate ventilation, noise, motion sickness, and heat stress—severely impact animal welfare and



Compassion in World Farming

USDA should ensure animals are fit for the trip before they are booked for passage.

make the animals more susceptible to illness and disease. Mortality is known to be much higher in lengthy sea transport than in domestic truck transport. While AWI recommends that no animals be transported such long distances and for such long periods, if they are, it is critical that only fit animals make the journey.

To ensure that only healthy and fit animals are subjected to the rigors of international transport, AWI and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) have petitioned the USDA to adopt “fitness to travel” requirements for all farmed animals exported to any

foreign country except those traveling overland to Canada or Mexico. AWI and WSPA are recommending that the USDA employ the fitness requirements included in the animal transport standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (or “OIE”).

Unfit animals, according to OIE, include those unable to stand or bear weight on all four legs, are blind in both eyes, have unhealed wounds, are extremely young, or are pregnant and in the final stage of gestation. The birth of calves during some of the cattle shipments strongly suggests that USDA inspectors are not following the OIE’s internationally-recognized fitness requirements.

Many of America’s biggest agricultural trading partners, including Canada, Australia, and members of the European Union, have already enacted fitness to travel standards. Implementation of such requirements by the U.S. will help harmonize national laws pertaining to international transports, reduce animal suffering, and protect both human and animal health. 🐾

The fitness to travel petition is available on the “Farm Animal Policy and Public Comment” page of the AWI website.



Charlie Brewer

Uneasy passage: Up to 5,000 cattle at a time might spend weeks crossing the ocean by ship, in spaces above or below deck.

Reducing *Anxiety* for Rabbits in Research

RABBITS CAN BE AFFECTIONATE COMPANIONS.

They are not, however, naturally predisposed to feel at ease around humans. In a laboratory setting, in particular, being approached and subsequently scruffed by an unfamiliar human is likely to induce fear and stress responses—and possibly skew research data.

Participants in AWI's Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum recently shared their personal experience concerning the most practical and effective ways of getting rabbits to trust their human handlers.

Many forum participants advised avoiding startling noises—but added that making *some* noise helps let them know who and where you are:

From day one, staff announce their presence by knocking on the door before entering the animal room and vocalize/talk to the animals to habituate them to their presence and voice. As part of the husbandry procedure, all of the cages are opened at the same time and left open during the presence of the husbandry staff in the room. ... As the days go by, entering the room induces less and less fear behavior (mainly frantically running around the cage or going into hiding) and more and more animals are seen sitting at the front of the cage.

My first defense was always background noise—radio or television, at a low volume. My rabbits developed a preference for a particular station on the radio. This helps small noises become less threatening. ... I, too, never stop talking in a rabbit room, low and calm.

When possible, letting them initiate contact also fosters trust:

When we house rabbits on the floor I will sit in the pen with them, talk to them so they get used to my voice and let them approach me on their time. I let them sniff and climb over me and will touch them only after they start making contact with me (unless I have to for some reason).

As with other animals, coupling gentle human contact with food treats is a sure way to get in a rabbit's good graces:

Our rabbits love Bio-Serv Fruity Gems (dried pineapple and papaya). I start giving them treats in their food hopper. Then I will offer treats through the cage bars, then open the door and place them in my hands, then pet them while they eat.

We like to hang hayballs in our cages. ... Eventually it was easy to give them a pat on the head or a stroke along their backs as they were trying to get the hay and they wouldn't dodge our hands. ... This does take a few minutes each day but it is worth it to see them engaged with their environment and relaxed when a hand comes into their cage.

Overall, the comments made clear that handlers wishing to ease fear and facilitate easy interactions with the animals try hard to promote a “no surprises” atmosphere that respects a rabbit's natural wariness. Making rabbits less “jumpy” isn't the only benefit. Gaining their trust and keeping them calm may make research data more trustworthy, as well. 🐾



THE DOWNSIDE OF CUTENESS

The goggle-eyed, photogenic slow loris is paying a high price for its comical and cuddly appearance; people want to get their hands on one. Pet fads are nothing new—from the spike in Chihuahua sales after the Taco Bell® marketing campaign of the 1990s to the more recent run on “Spiderman” lizards (*Agama mwanzae*), whose skin coloration closely resembles that of the superhero’s garb. As a unique pet, the slow loris has long been sought after, despite a ban on its international trade mandated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Five species of slow loris (also known as “night-monkeys”) are native to South and Southeast Asia. A marked resurgence in their popularity has been observed after several YouTube videos showing adorable pet lorises went viral. (The pet trade in these animals is anything but adorable—slow lorises often



Dan Bennett

A caged loris awaits an unknown fate in Southeast Asia. Many such animals are stolen from the wild and sold internationally as pets, despite a CITES ban on the trade.

have their teeth yanked out before being sold.) The videos are igniting demand the world over, much to this diminutive primate’s peril. 🐾

Coyote Kill Quashed in California

IN JANUARY, THE CITY COUNCIL of Arcadia, California voted unanimously to cancel a contract with a private wildlife removal firm to snare and kill coyotes within the city. Public outcry against the contract—which cost the city \$30,000 a year and resulted in the death of 20 coyotes—prompted the council to hold a special “study session” and, ultimately, to terminate the program.

Prior to the decision, local residents gathered signatures calling on the council to end the contract and instead adopt a long-term coexistence and management plan such as those successfully implemented in Marin County, CA, Denver, CO, and Vancouver, BC. Says AWI wildlife consultant and Project Coyote executive director, Camilla Fox: “We commend the City Council for making the right decision to stop a coyote snaring program that is ultimately ineffective, ecologically unsound, and ethically unjust. We have offered our services and resources to the City to help them move forward with a long-term proactive public outreach program to inform residents about how to coexist with coyotes and other urban wildlife and reduce negative encounters.” 🐾

Atlanta Piano Dealer Strikes Wrong Note with Illegal Ivory

THE OWNER OF AN ATLANTA PIANO IMPORT/EXPORT company was sentenced in March for illegally smuggling internationally protected elephant ivory into the U.S. Pascal Vieillard and his company, A-440 Pianos, were each ordered to pay \$17,500 and given three years probation, with the condition that all imports by the company will be monitored for the duration of the sentence.

According to reports, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials from its Southeast Regional Office were tipped off by the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, which had received an inquiry about trade from the company. A subsequent raid on an incoming shipment of pianos by A-440 Pianos uncovered piano keys made from elephant ivory hidden in a crate labeled as furniture and personal effects. 1,710 individual pieces of elephant ivory were seized and confiscated.

Elephants are endangered and are protected by an Appendix I listing within CITES, which prohibits international trade in these animals or their body parts. 🐾

South Atlantic Oil Spill May Doom Endangered Penguins and Other Wildlife

A MAJOR SPILL OF HEAVY FUEL OIL from a wrecked freighter has fouled the waters surrounding one of the world's most important bird nesting sites on a remote South Atlantic island. On March 16, the *Oliva*, a Maltese-registered cargo vessel carrying a load of soybeans from Brazil to the Philippines, ran aground and sank off Nightingale Island. The island is part of the Tristan da Cunha Group—a British Overseas Territory and World Heritage Site. Shortly after the 22-man crew was rescued, the *Oliva* broke up and sank, releasing all or part of its 1,650-ton load of fuel oil into the pristine waters.



Trevor Glass

Nightmare on Nightingale: A heavily oiled northern rockhopper penguin next to a relatively clean companion. As these flightless birds swim out to feed, they encounter the oil slick encircling their home.

by oil, and that half of the penguins emerging from the water were oil-covered. According to the International Bird Rescue Research Center, five days after the spill about 20,000 rockhopper penguins were “confirmed oiled.” Oiled seals were also observed, along with oiled albatrosses and other birds.

The *Prince Albert II*, an expedition ship that tours Antarctica, was one of two vessels in the area that

The remote island group is home to the second largest concentration of sea birds in the world. Over a million birds are estimated to breed on tiny Nightingale Island alone, including more than 100,000 pairs—nearly half of the global population—of northern rockhopper penguins, one of the world's most threatened penguin species.

Trevor Glass, Director of Tristan da Cunha's Department of Conservation, reported that in the days following the wreck, the 1.2-square-mile island was completely encircled

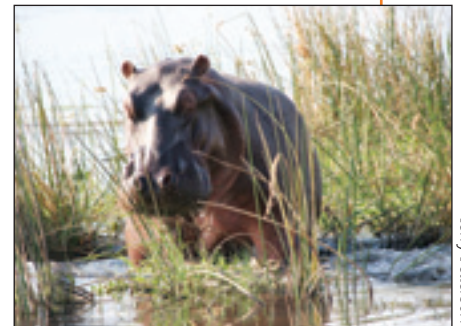
witnessed the aftermath of the wreck and helped rescue the crew. The Ocean Foundation's Dr. David Guggenheim, a guest lecturer aboard the *Prince Albert II*, observed the scene and said “If you had to pick the worst spot in the world to dump so much oil, this would be it.”

The Ocean Foundation has established a Nightingale Island Disaster Penguin and Seabird Rescue Fund to assist teams working to rescue and rehabilitate endangered penguins and other seabirds at Nightingale and nearby islands. To contribute and to obtain more information about the disaster, visit OceanDoctor.org. 🐾

ZIMBABWE CHOOSES DEAD ANIMALS OVER GOLDEN EGGS

The Zimbabwe National Wildlife Authority, in March, auctioned off sport hunting packages for big game to local and foreign hunters. The packages include rights to kill elephants, lions, hippos and leopards. Other sub-Saharan African nations make several millions of dollars each year from tourists wanting to see live animals in their natural habitats. Zimbabwe, however, will pocket considerably less, if this auction mirrors the last one in 2009, which netted \$1.5 million for the government.

The hunting packages are touted as a way to cull excess animals—a short-sighted approach (and not entirely believable rationale) given reports that even as these hunts are officially sanctioned, uncontrolled illegal hunting for bush meat and trophies is on the rise on lands owned by government officials of President Mugabe's ZANU PF party. 🐾



Terry Featherborn

A hippopotamus stands in grass at the edge of the Zambezi River. The Zimbabwe government is auctioning off sport hunting packages to shoot hippos and other “trophy” animals.

GRIM ANNIVERSARY: EIGHTY YEARS OF ADC ACT



BY CAMILLA FOX

THE ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ACT (ADC Act) was signed into law in 1931. The 80th anniversary of its passage this past March was hardly a cause for celebration; rather, it is an anniversary of mourning for each one of the millions of coyotes, foxes, wolves, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, badgers, Canada geese, cormorants, black birds and other animals labeled as “pests” who have been killed since this Act came into force.

The ADC Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to “conduct campaigns for the destruction or control” of animals considered threats to agriculture/ranching operations. Eighty years ago, this Act codified the federal government’s willingness to engage in predator control in the service of private economic interests. Under this arcane law, government agents continue to trap, snare, poison, and shoot any animal who “may” harm livestock, aquaculture, or agricultural crops.

Given the green light by the Act, the USDA’s euphemistically named Wildlife Services (WS) program conducts a quiet, relentless war against North America’s wildlife. Few Americans have heard of the WS program. Even fewer know that their tax dollars pay federal agents to shoot wolves, coyotes and other predators from low-flying aircraft and to set poison bait and snares to trap and kill them.

In 2009 alone, WS killed more than 4 million animals in the U.S., including 115,000 mammalian carnivores; close

to 90,000 were coyotes. Much of this killing takes place on public lands throughout the West. Each year, roughly \$120 million are spent on this senseless and ecologically reckless program. State and county governments are provided incentives to contract with WS through matching cooperative funding agreements.

The WS program has even been used to bypass state wildlife protection laws. A recent case in point: California law bans the use of poison, and severely restricts the use of snares, leghold or metal-jawed traps. Nevertheless, the California Department of Fish & Game (DFG) is paying the USDA \$600,000 under a three-year contract to use such methods to capture and kill mountain lions who prey on endangered bighorn as well as domestic sheep. Even though USDA is doing the bidding of the state agency, DFG and USDA assert that the federal agents are not bound by California law.

When reports filtered in that WS agents were killing mountain lions inhumanely and indiscriminately, without regard to actual threat, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)—a national non-profit alliance of local, state and federal scientists, law enforcement officers, land managers, and others dedicated to upholding environmental laws—blew the whistle. In addition, PEER’s Legislative Council issued a legal opinion concluding that federal employees in this case are bound by state law. (This opinion was requested of California State Senate Natural Resources



From left to right: A red fox on the alert. A coyote maimed and killed in a steel-jaw leghold trap: The federal government still uses these traps to trap and kill wildlife; such traps are banned or severely restricted in eight U.S. states and 80 countries. A fox strangled in a primitive neck snare: Such snares frequently capture non-target animals as well, including endangered species and pets. “Controlled” coyotes: Each year USDA Wildlife Services kills tens of thousands of coyotes with leghold traps, snares, poisons, and bullets.

Chairwoman Fran Pavley. The opinion carries no weight of authority, however, and it is unclear as of this writing whether it will influence mountain lion killing under the DFG/USDA contract.)

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

Not all jurisdictions have elected to continue employing WS “help” controlling predators. A dozen years ago, Marin County, California, was spending \$60,000 a year on a lethal coyote control program on behalf of sheep ranchers in the county.

When citizens began to protest the indiscriminate use of traps and the use of dangerous poisons such as Compound 1080, the Marin County Board of Supervisors voted to cease contracting with the federal agency and instead adopt a community-based program known as the Marin County Strategic Plan for Protection of Livestock and Wildlife—the first of its kind in the nation and a plan still in place today. The cost-share program relies solely on non-lethal predator deterrent methods, including livestock guard dogs and llamas, improved fencing, and night corrals.

In 2007, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner Stacy Carlsen, who oversaw implementation of the plan, told *Bay Nature* magazine that during the first six years

of the program, sheep losses fell and the program cost the county over \$10,000 a year less than the old one. This innovative model sets a precedent for encompassing a wider range of community needs and values, where both agriculture and protection of wildlife are deemed important by the community.

A NEW PARADIGM

Greater understanding of the ecological importance of native carnivores and increasing public opposition to lethal “control” have led to growing demand for humane and ecologically sound conservation practices. Despite shifting public attitudes and values, however, traditional predator/wildlife management techniques persist, leading to increasing tension between conservationists and management institutions. This tension is reflected in increased litigation, legislation, and public ballot initiatives.

On this 80th anniversary of the Animal Damage Control Act, it’s time for Congress and the Obama administration to reform the Act—or do away with it altogether. We need a new paradigm in the way we coexist with native carnivores and other wildlife—one that recognizes their important ecological roles and right to exist. 🐾

Analyst for Animal Welfare: Mary Lou Randour, Ph.D.

HER PARENTS TOLD HER that they noticed it about her when she was quite young—around four years old. They characterized their observation this way: “We should have bought you a soap box.” Some would call her

opinionated, or even stubborn. Luckily, the times changed and these kinds of people became known as “activists.”

Mary Lou Randour has been an activist in one way or another since she can remember. Her introduction to the animal protection movement, as it was for so many, was Peter Singer’s book, *Animal Liberation*. The year was 1992 and she cannot forget the disruptive—and then transformative—effect it had on her. Confronted and overwhelmed by the enormity of animal suffering at human hands, she knew she had to act. At the time, she had been practicing clinical psychology for about 15 years.

At first, she volunteered at the Doris Day Animal Foundation (DDAF), arranging her clinical practice to make time for that. Then she was introduced to Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, where she served on the Board and worked part time. Continuing to volunteer at the DDAF, Mary Lou gradually transitioned from volunteer status to full-time animal protection employee. She worked at DDAF for 10 years, then another five years with the Humane Society of the U.S. before joining AWI in January, 2011.

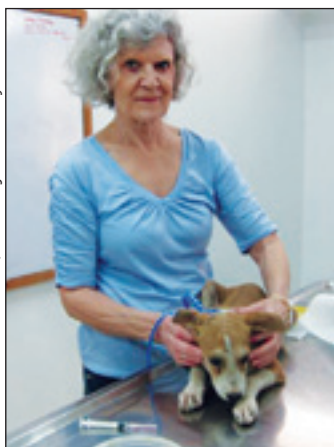
Mary Lou uses her training and skills as a psychologist to focus on the link between animal cruelty and other crimes, especially interpersonal violence. She networks with other professional groups to identify common goals for policies and programs that address this significant relationship. For example, during her time with DDAF, she partnered with AWI’s Nancy Blaney (then with the Doris Day Animal League, a sister organization to DDAF),

initiating an effort to require the FBI to include animal cruelty crimes in that agency’s national crime reporting database. Nancy and Mary Lou continue that work at AWI.

Mary Lou co-authored the handbook, *A Common Bond: Maltreated Children and Animals in the Home*, with Howard Davidson, founder and head of the American Bar Association’s Center for Children and the Law. She also is involved in projects with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and domestic violence prevention groups.

Some of Mary Lou’s “extracurricular” activities include leading a seven-year effort to establish a division of human/animal studies in the American Psychological Association (APA), which concluded with the creation of a Section on Animal-Human Interaction in APA’s Society of Counseling Psychology. Currently she is working with a small non-profit group, Casa de Orientacion y Desarrollo

Universidad Autonoma, School of Veterinary Science



Mary Lou calms a jittery patient at the Universidad Autonoma School of Veterinary Science in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Fourth year vet students at the school are learning spay and neuter techniques.



Cameron Creinin

Mary Lou Randour (left) and Nancy Blaney: Former colleagues find each other again. When both worked elsewhere, they teamed up to strengthen tracking of animal cruelty crimes. Now Mary Lou has joined the AWI staff and their partnership resumes.

Real in the Dominican Republic, which this summer—in partnership with the Veterinary School of Universidad Autonoma and World Vets—is leading a rabies-spay-neuter campaign in Santo Domingo. 🐾

Safe Havens

Help People and Pets Escape Abuse

At times it may seem difficult to locate the “win/win” in a situation. Not so when it comes to recognizing the link between animal abuse and domestic violence—and using it to combat both. Animal protection and domestic violence agencies multiply their effectiveness by partnering on the important issue of animal abuse and its close association with domestic violence and other forms of interpersonal violence.

Over the past twenty years, a growing body of research has firmly established a significant link between domestic violence, child abuse, and animal abuse. In multiple studies, roughly half to three-quarters of battered women report that their pets had been threatened, harmed, and/or killed by their partners. Pet abuse was identified as one of the four significant predictors for intimate partner violence in a “gold standard” study by nationally recognized domestic violence researchers at The Johns Hopkins University. (Walton-Moss, Manganello, Frye and Campbell, 2005). Children exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk of psychological maladjustment, including a higher risk of becoming perpetrators or victims. Pet abuse is an early indicator of such maladjustment.

Research has uncovered another important association between domestic violence and animal abuse: From one-fifth to one-half of battered women delay leaving a dangerous situation out of concern for their pets’ safety.

In response to this need for domestic violence victims to find safety for their pets as well as themselves, many “Safe Haven for Pets” programs have emerged throughout the U.S. Safe Havens for Pets are secure places in which victims can shelter their pets while they and their children seek safety. The structure varies between communities: Some employ a network of foster cares; others use available kennel space of the local humane society. Some are independent nonprofit organizations, while others are formal partnerships between domestic violence agencies



Laura Gilmore

Victims of domestic violence are reluctant to leave beloved animals behind with the abuser. Safe havens for pets help victims break free.

and animal agencies or groups. In all cases, confidentiality of the pet’s location is highly guarded in order to protect the pets and their family members.

For victims of domestic violence and their representatives, rapid and easy access to information about Safe Haven programs is a crucial element in establishing safety for both animals and humans at risk. Yet, no directory exists of the Safe Havens programs in the U.S.

AWI aims to change that. For the last year, AWI has led the “Safe Havens Mapping Project.” The end goal is to identify every Safe Haven for Pets program in the U.S., to obtain up-to-date contact information, and to make this information searchable by zip code to a wide variety of organizations—local, state, and national domestic violence organizations, humane societies, law enforcement, victims of domestic violence, or anybody who wants to help victims of domestic violence find shelter for their pets. 🐾

If you are interested in knowing more about the Safe Havens Mapping Project, contact Mary Lou Randour or Nancy Blaney at AWI.

The Elephant in the Living Room— Exposing Exotic Pet Ownership in the US

Opening at select theaters throughout the U.S. in April 2011

THE ELEPHANT IN THE LIVING ROOM is a compelling documentary that examines the little-known yet widespread problem of exotic pet ownership in the U.S.—in particular the practice of making pets out of dangerous wild animals such as lions, tigers, elephants, bears and venomous snakes. Director Michael Webber adopts a non-judgmental tone as he profiles two people on opposite sides of the issue: Terry Brumfield, a gentle man who raises and maintains a deep affection for his pet African lions; and Tim Harrison, a Dayton, Ohio police officer/firefighter/paramedic who is also executive director of Outreach for Animals—an organization that feels wild animals should be left in their natural habitats.

Recently, Michael answered some questions from AWI about his film:

How did you get involved in this issue?

I read books on the subject of exotic animal pets and they happened to be written by Tim Harrison, the Ohio police officer. I realized that this was the “elephant in the living room.” I was like “Wow, this is happening all over the place and nobody knows it,” and I came up with that concept.

Later in the conversation, Michael adds that doing the film wasn’t always easy. Tim Harrison received death threats after writing the books and needed armed body guards. His other subject, Terry Brumfield, was threatened and warned not to talk to Michael. “One of the big reasons,” he surmises, “is that it’s a multi-billion dollar industry. A big industry like that is not going to go down without a fight.”

What was the most surprising thing you learned making the film?

I think initially, the most surprising thing was the lack of laws in some states. I learned that in the county where I live in Ohio, I have to have a license to keep my dog, an animal that has been domesticated for thousands of years, but I can actually stick an elephant in my backyard—or a tiger or lion—and there is nothing that anybody can do about it.

The other thing that was shocking to me was the availability of the animals. You think about these majestic animals that are endangered in the wild, and here in the United States, there are so many of them I would be crazy to buy a tiger or a lion because I could get one for free. And the



reason there is a surplus is because they are overbred by the dealers and trainers. Once they become sexually mature and a year or two old, the owners don’t want them anymore so they are trying to give them away. They try to find a home for the mature animals so they can get another younger one.

Can you describe the legislation in Ohio regarding exotic animals?

Last year the outgoing governor of Ohio signed an executive order to ban the sale, purchase and ownership of dangerous exotics. That executive order needs to be filled by the new governor, Governor Kasich. You would think that it's common sense that people shouldn't keep a tiger

in their backyard or a Gaboon viper in their house, much less completely unregulated. It’s not like that. It’s a real debate and there is every reason to believe that he actually won’t sign it. It’s possible that Ohio could remain the wild, wild west like many other states where there is no state regulation whatsoever on the ownership of dangerous exotics. 🐾

Go to TheElephantInTheLivingRoom.com for more information.

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Refrain from purchasing or keeping an exotic animal or any other wild animal as a pet.
- Call officials in your state and inquire about its laws relating to exotic animal ownership. Encourage the adoption of a ban on dangerous exotic pets if none is in place.
- Watch *The Elephant in the Living Room* and encourage others to do so.
- Stay tuned for a new television series that Michael Webber and Tim Harrison are working on to educate even more people about the problem with dangerous exotics in the U.S. On continuing and expanding the work, Michael says, “I don’t think you can do something like *The Elephant in the Living Room* and then just walk away from it and be done with it.”

KIDS & ANIMALS: Drawings from the Hands and Hearts of Children & Youth

Text by Marc Bekoff, Foreword by Jane Goodall
Children, Youth & Environments Center,
University of Colorado
Free; Available online at: www.ucdenver.edu/CYE

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPERT MARC BEKOFF, in partnership with Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program and the Children, Youth and Environments Center at the University of Colorado Denver, has produced a colorful new online book in which young children express how they feel about animals and the natural world.

Roots & Shoots programs around the globe asked local children—in words and drawings—to complete the statements “I have a dream that ___” and “I am thankful for ___.” The resulting book is filled with

sweet, guileless pictures of favorite animals, coupled with heartfelt declarations expressing each child's unique vision of a harmonious relationship between humankind and our animal neighbors.

Says author Bekoff: “Our goal is that this book will inspire other young people to draw and write about their feelings for animals and to put their own ideas into action to care for animals, protect their habitats, and promote compassion, empathy, coexistence, and peace.” Teachers of young children should indeed find *Kids & Animals* inspirational, and a useful icebreaker to open discussions and activities focusing on conservation and humane education. The book can be viewed, downloaded and printed from the internet at no charge from the Children, Youth and Environments Center website: www.ucdenver.edu/CYE. 🐾



Bones of the Tiger: Protecting the Man-Eaters of Nepal

By Hemanta Mishra
Lyons Press
ISBN: 978-1599214917
Paperback, 256 pages, \$16.95

HEMANTA MISHRA, a field biologist with the Nepalese government, offers an extraordinarily detailed account of against-the-odds efforts to save the tigers of Nepal. Mishra delves into history, politics, legends, field research, hunting, poaching and tiger behavior to show that protecting a species is not merely a straightforward process of identifying and reducing threats. It is, rather, a complex juggling of interests and attitudes, from those of villagers to diplomats. The book chronicles how certain events such as tigers preying on people (which appears to occur mainly in direct response to human encroachment) dramatically shifts the dynamic, affecting the future not only of individual animals but of the entire species. *Bones of the Tiger* on the whole offers a uniquely up close and personal perspective on what it will take to keep tigers in the wild. 🐾



BEQUESTS

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

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, 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 in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.




Animal Welfare Institute

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Meatless Monday Campaign Catches On

A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE, organizations, and corporations all over the world are designating a meat-free day each week in an effort to cut overall meat consumption. The effort is part of a campaign that seeks to reduce the negative impacts of excess meat consumption on human health and the environment—not to mention the significant impact on billions of animals raised for food in factory farms.

“Meatless Monday” launched in 2003 as a non-profit initiative by The Monday Campaigns, a non-profit public health initiative in association with Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Syracuse Newhouse School of Public Communications. The campaign provides information and materials to those who want to adopt meat-free days.

Big names—even entire cities—are starting to join in. In 2009, Ghent, Belgium, became the first city in Europe to sponsor a meatless day each week (on a Thursday, actually). On that day, Ghent restaurants and food providers are promoting meat-free menu options, and town residents are encouraged to opt for vegetarian meals. In February, 2011, Oprah announced her Harpo Studios would institute Meatless Mondays, while encouraging her millions of viewers to try it.

The French multinational Sodexo, one of the largest food services companies in the world and the supplier to a large number of schools, hospitals, worksites, and government agencies in the U.S., is now lending its support to the Meatless Monday movement, as well. In January, the corporation introduced the initiative in 900 hospitals across the country. Beginning this fall, over 650 colleges, 500 school districts, and 150 private schools served by Sodexo will also participate.



Compassion in World Farming

An overweening appetite for meat in the U.S. has fueled an exponential rise in factory farming and its associated atrocities. Reducing meat consumption (while also demanding better treatment of animals raised for food) is a way to curb the cruelty.

Some 56 billion animals are raised for food each year—the vast majority of whom are raised on factory farms. Indeed, large-scale factory farms evolved primarily to feed America’s enormous appetite for meat. Reducing meat consumption could ease our reliance on factory farming, with its relentless pressure to raise ever more animals under increasingly inhumane conditions. Tipping the scales toward truly higher-welfare farming, on the other hand, would contribute to more sustainable land use and help reduce animal suffering. 🐾

More information about the Meatless Monday campaign can be found at www.meatlessmonday.com.