



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ANIMAL WELFARE  
INSTITUTE





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INSTITUTE

*72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REPORT*

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



# WHO WE ARE

Since 1951, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), a nonprofit charitable organization, has worked to reduce animal suffering caused by people.

We seek better treatment of animals everywhere: in agriculture, in commerce, in our communities, in research, and in the wild.

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# OUR APPROACH

We advance our mission through strategically crafted policy and legal advocacy, educational programs, research, and engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, educators, other NGOs, and the public.

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# TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE

*AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild animals. We work to strengthen national and international wildlife protection and foster humane, nonlethal solutions to conflicts with wildlife.*



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## ENDANGERED SPECIES

Johanna Hamburger, D.J. Schubert, and Sue Fisher represented AWI at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in November in Panama to urge greater protections for wild animals in international trade. CoP19 was a highly successful meeting, with a record number of terrestrial and marine species receiving CITES protections, including over 150 glass frog species, nearly 100 sharks and rays, 50 turtles and tortoises, a number of other reptiles, and several songbirds. Efforts

to ease trade restrictions on certain elephant and rhino populations were blocked, and protections were strengthened for several heavily trafficked species of pangolin. The parties also established a working group to consider the role of CITES in reducing the risk of international wildlife trade causing future public health emergencies.

AWI hosted side events at CoP19 to brief national delegates on matters relevant to CITES—one on promising efforts to combat illegal snaring and trapping of wildlife and another on actions desperately needed to save the vaquita porpoise. Also, as we've done at every CoP since 1994, AWI presented Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards at a Species Survival Network reception to individuals, organizations, and agencies around the world that have made extraordinary contributions to the fight against wildlife trafficking. This year's honorees hailed from China, India, Kenya, Malawi, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In June in Geneva, D.J. represented AWI at the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the CITES Animals Committee, which authorized formal reviews of significant trade and captive breeding of certain listed species to ensure CITES compliance and adequate protections.

## WILDLIFE KILLING CONTESTS

Wildlife killing contests are gruesome events—typically targeting native carnivores such as coyotes and foxes—in which established hunting principles are abandoned and hundreds of animals may die in a single weekend as participants compete for cash and prizes. AWI serves on the steering committee of the National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests. This year, the coalition notched another victory against such bloody and senseless spectacles by securing

passage of a bill in the New York State Legislature banning most forms of wildlife killing contests in the state. This follows our successful efforts in recent years to obtain similar bans in Colorado, Maryland, and Washington, and continues our momentum to get such laws passed across the nation.

## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

In March, AWI announced eight recipients of Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards—grants of up to \$15,000 to develop humane solutions to human-wildlife conflicts and less invasive wildlife study methods. The funded studies involve nonlethal beaver management, mapping alpine prey species, effects of indoor stimulation on predatory behavior in cats with outdoor access, optimizing artificial roost sites for bats, studying urban coyote populations, mitigating light pollution impacts on migratory seabirds, tracking rehabilitated and released sea turtles, and monitoring endangered orca populations.

## WILD HORSES

AWI and allies filed a lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Wyoming in May against the Bureau of Land Management after it finalized a disastrous management plan to eliminate millions of acres of habitat for wild horses in Wyoming. The BLM is eliminating designated herd management areas (HMAs) for wild horses in the state's "Checkerboard" region due to a grazing association's opposition to wild horses in these HMAs—despite the fact that livestock in the area already vastly outnumber wild horses. The government's plan would decimate Wyoming's wild horse population, remove herds that are beloved tourist draws, and set a uniquely dangerous precedent whereby the BLM could simply remove established horse populations and eliminate habitat at the behest of private special interests.







# COMPANION ANIMALS

*AWI promotes strong enforcement of laws to protect companion animals. We develop resources to help law enforcement officials prosecute animal abusers and help social service agencies address the relationship between animal cruelty and family violence.*

## *PETS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS*

Since 2006, over three dozen US states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have passed laws expressly authorizing inclusion of pets in protection orders. When these laws started gaining momentum around the country, AWI began publishing guides for advocates of domestic violence survivors with pets. The guides summarize the jurisdiction's law and protection order procedures and provide links to the necessary forms and instructions. This year, AWI added 18 new guides to the library, and AWI's Dr. Mary Lou Randour was lead author on an article published in the journal *Violence Against Women* examining the use of these laws to protect survivors and their pets.

The Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, enacted in 2018 with support from AWI, established an Emergency and Transitional Pet Shelter and Housing Assistance Grant Program for entities that aid domestic violence survivors with pets. In April, AWI's Nancy Blaney gave livestream presentations to recipients of these "PAWS grants" to brief them on available resources and updates to the law.

AWI's Safe Havens for Pets project maintains the nation's only directory of "safe havens" that accommodate pets of domestic violence survivors. AWI research has further identified and mapped areas of the country where such services are severely lacking, and we have called attention to these areas via media outreach in hopes of educating the public and policymakers and motivating efforts to close these gaps. This year, a vastly expanded social media presence has also allowed us to shine a brighter spotlight on emerging safe havens as we continue to build and strengthen the safe havens network.

## *ANIMAL CRUELTY CRIMES*

In March, AWI hosted a meeting of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, the planning body for the APA's annual National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference. Nancy co-chairs the council in addition to serving on the National Sheriffs' Association's Animal Cruelty and Abuse Committee and the Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association Committee on Animal Cruelty and Humane Law Enforcement.

Throughout the year, AWI continued to hold virtual and in-person workshops in Ohio to help educate professionals in both social service and humane law enforcement fields about the state's new cross-reporting law (requiring each to notify the other about incidents involving interpersonal violence or animal abuse in the home). Workshops were also held in other states to raise awareness about the link between animal abuse and other crimes and how cross-reporting policies aid prevention and timely intervention in cases involving abuse.

## *COMPANION HORSES*

AWI co-leads the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), a network of nearly 500 equine rescues and sanctuaries that promotes the welfare and protection of equines. In December, we launched a revamped HHC website that provides an array of resources to assist the work of these organizations, including a comprehensive directory of facilities that take in at-risk horses. Throughout the year, we hosted webinars on equine welfare issues, including how to provide specialized care for wild horses in captivity, work with law enforcement on cruelty cases, and improve barn safety to avoid life-threatening dangers to the animals housed inside.



# FARMED ANIMALS

*AWI seeks an end to cruel methods of housing, handling, transporting, and slaughtering farmed animals. As an alternative to factory farming, we promote pasture-based farming systems that allow animals to express natural behaviors.*



## ORGANIC WELFARE STANDARDS

AWI has long pushed for the adoption of comprehensive welfare standards governing the treatment of animals raised under the National Organic Program. In the final week of the Obama administration in January 2017, welfare regulations were finalized and readied for publication. These regulations included many of AWI's recommendations for space requirements, access to vegetation, and prohibition on cruel physical alterations. However, before the new rules could go into effect, they were withdrawn by the Trump administration. When the Biden administration took office in January 2021, AWI

began pushing for reinstatement of the welfare regulations and worked with other animal advocacy organizations to generate thousands of public comments in support of this move. The campaign proved successful when, in August 2022, the US Department of Agriculture finally announced a plan to revive the regulations.

## DISEASE RESPONSE

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, a.k.a. bird flu, returned to the United States in early 2022. By June 2023, it had been confirmed in 325 commercial and 511 backyard flocks in 47 states, resulting in the “depopulation” (mass killing) of 59 million domestic birds who had potentially come in contact with the disease. In many cases, an exceedingly cruel method known as ventilation shutdown plus (VSD+) was used, in which a barn's airflow is cut off and the temperature raised to over 104°F, leaving trapped birds to die from heatstroke over several hours. According to AWI's analysis of USDA records, between February 2022 and March 2023, nearly 77 percent of birds depopulated in commercial flocks were killed using VSD+ alone or in combination with other methods.

In June, AWI petitioned the USDA to change its animal disease regulations to require that producers have audited emergency response plans in place—including strategies to humanely depopulate flocks—in order to receive taxpayer-backed compensation for animals lost during a disease outbreak. We are also lobbying state veterinarians to use depopulation methods that cause the least amount of suffering.

## SLAUGHTER

In a renewed effort to reduce foodborne illnesses, the USDA has outlined a new initiative that would enhance testing and

monitoring to detect and prevent *Salmonella* contamination during the poultry slaughter process and potentially set an enforceable *Salmonella* standard for final products. AWI is urging the USDA to adopt policies that would both reduce the incidence of inhumane handling of birds at slaughterhouses and the risk of *Salmonella* poisoning in humans.

An estimated 90 percent of the pigs killed in the United States each year are slaughtered using carbon dioxide gas—known to cause animals to scream, gasp, thrash, and convulse before dying. Yet USDA inspectors are unable to determine whether slaughter plants using CO<sub>2</sub> gas are complying with the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, because inspectors are unable to observe animals after they are lowered into CO<sub>2</sub> chambers. In May, AWI led a coalition of animal protection groups in submitting a rulemaking petition to the USDA to require slaughter plants to install cameras inside CO<sub>2</sub> stunning systems.

## FOOD LABEL CLAIMS

For several years, AWI has campaigned for stronger policies to prevent the misleading use of high welfare and sustainability claims on animal product packaging. This year, AWI released *Deceptive Consumer Labels*, the third edition of our report on USDA oversight of such claims. This edition summarizes major problems with the USDA's label approval process that we identified through our review of approximately 100 labeling claims over the past decade. We also helped generate a letter from four US senators to the USDA, citing our report and urging the department to address misleading meat labels. In June, the department announced plans to strengthen the substantiation process for these claims.





# HUMANE EDUCATION

*AWI encourages educators to teach about biological and ecological processes in a manner that instills a greater respect for animals and avoids methods that treat animals as insentient, disposable commodities.*

## *EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS*

AWI continues to increase the visibility, accessibility, and adaptability of our educational resources that promote understanding of and empathy for animals. This year, AWI distributed 11,000 publications to teachers, animal shelters, and literacy programs across the United States (including Puerto Rico), and as far away as Nepal. Spanish language versions of coloring and activity pages that reinforce responsible care for companion animals were added to prior lesson plan translations. Through our storefront on the Teachers Pay Teachers website, educators can now also assign interactive, digital versions of AWI's books and lessons to students.

## *CONFERENCES*

Regina Terlau-Benford represented AWI at a number of education conferences this year, including two new venues for AWI: the North Carolina Science Teachers Association conference in Winston-Salem in November and the Association of Professional Humane Educators conference in Minneapolis in April. As in years past, AWI also exhibited at the National Science Teachers Association national conference in Atlanta in March to promote animal-friendly science, including dissection alternatives. Participating in such events allows us to connect in-person with educators seeking new ways to teach children about animals and provides insight on ways to expand and optimize our teaching resources.

## *EDUCATION POLICIES*

Last year, AWI compiled and published a list of state laws that govern the use of animals in K-12 classrooms as a reference tool for anyone researching humane education requirements, including policies regarding dissection choice. Recent developments in the arena of plant-based meal policies

spurred us to include an additional section to highlight states that now require schools to offer vegetarian or vegan options. School nutrition programs have long been considered a factor in the development of children's food choices, and providing plant-based options may help normalize the reduction and replacement of foods derived from animals.

## *YOUTH ADVOCATES*

AWI provides scholarships to students pursuing careers aimed at improving animal welfare. For the 2023-24 cycle, we increased the amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and awarded scholarship to 14 deserving high school seniors. Applicants have demonstrated their dedication to helping animals by, among other things, starting school clubs focused on animal welfare, working at animal sanctuaries, creating a humane education library, and campaigning to save a state park. They include aspiring veterinarians, biologists, environmental scientists, zoologists, wildlife rehabilitators, and nonprofit leaders.

Since 2010, AWI has also partnered with the Humane Education Network for the "A Voice for Animals" contest, offering cash prizes to high school students from around the world who submit essays, videos, or photo essays that explore strategies to protect imperiled species and mitigate animal suffering. For this year's competition, contestants were invited to write about animals in their area and solutions to local issues such as invasive or endangered species, or human-wildlife conflicts. Among the entries awarded prizes this year were descriptions of efforts to aid migratory birds, rescue horses, reduce plastic and noise pollution in oceans, help companion animals affected by the housing crisis, and fight exploitation and trafficking of wildlife.



# MARINE LIFE

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*AWI works around the globe to prevent inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine species and destruction and degradation of their habitats.*



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## COMMERCIAL WHALING

At the International Whaling Commission's 68<sup>th</sup> meeting (IWC68) in Slovenia in October, AWI was represented by Kate O'Connell and D.J. Schubert (with AWI's Sue Fisher also participating as part of the UK delegation). Our IWC68 team provided research and technical advice to members weighing complex issues and was active across all items on the agenda in furtherance of our campaign to end the last, stubborn vestiges of commercial whaling by Japan, Iceland, and Norway. We also helped advance several important operational changes and financial reforms needed to alleviate a

severe budget crisis that had threatened to derail the IWC altogether, joined other organizations in briefing a key IWC working group on welfare concerns related to Icelandic whaling, and provided funding to bolster the IWC's efforts on behalf of small cetacean welfare and bycatch mitigation. In April and May, D.J. joined Dr. Naomi Rose in representing AWI at the annual IWC Scientific Committee meeting, whose report will help guide decision-making at IWC69 in 2024.

## MARINE MAMMAL CAPTIVITY

In June, Naomi participated in an event at the European Parliament organized by Dolphinaria-Free Europe to build awareness of welfare issues involving the approximately 300 whales, dolphins, and porpoises held for display and research in the European Union. During the year, Naomi also worked with coauthors and peer reviewers to put the finishing touches on the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity*. Naomi has been lead author of this comprehensive report that, since 1995, has analyzed the evidence and presented the many science and ethics-based arguments against holding these wide-ranging and complex species in zoos and aquariums.

## ESA PROTECTIONS

In April, the National Marine Fisheries Service announced a proposed rule to list the Atlantic humpback dolphin under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The announcement came in response to a listing petition filed in 2021 by AWI, the Center for Biological Diversity, and VIVA Vaquita. Following a positive "90-day finding" on the petition, triggering a full status review, the agency "determined that the Atlantic humpback dolphin has a high risk of extinction throughout its range and warrants listing as an endangered species."

An ESA listing could raise the profile of this little-known species, prompt funding for essential research, and foster international cooperation to improve conservation efforts.

## FISHERIES

"Blue fish tick" eco-certifications from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) are meant to convey to consumers that the certified fisheries are operating sustainably. In June 2022, AWI, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) formally objected to MSC's certification of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery on the grounds that it is entangling and killing critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, in violation of the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. MSC accepted our conclusion, and announced in November that it was suspending certification of the fishery. In March, AWI and NRDC launched a new "The Future Is Ropeless" campaign at the North American Seafood Expo, and hosted a series of webinars for key seafood retailers and suppliers on ropeless fishing systems that can prevent deadly entanglements of right whales and other marine mammals.

The AWI-cofounded Make Stewardship Count coalition also presses for a stronger MSC Fisheries Standard—the set of measures by which MSC evaluates fisheries. AWI helped review the latest standard on behalf of the coalition, which released "scorecard" assessments of various elements of the standard in May. Coalition efforts this year helped inspire a number of changes to the Fisheries Standard, including improvements to MSC's process for designating endangered, threatened, and protected species and adoption of a mandatory "Fins Naturally Attached" policy for landing sharks to combat the scourge of shark finning at sea.







# ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

*AWI fosters species-appropriate housing, compassionate care and handling, and minimization of fear, distress, and pain for animals in research. We promote research methods that reduce the total number of animals subject to experimentation.*

## *FOSTERING REFINEMENTS*

September 2022 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AWI's Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF). For two decades, this online forum—which continues to draw new members every month—has enabled animal technicians, animal care personnel, researchers, veterinarians, and students to discuss important issues affecting the care and use of animals in research and share innovative ideas and proven techniques for improving their welfare. This year, conversations revolved around a host of topics as varied as reducing aggression among socially housed vervet monkeys, using music as enrichment for pigs, sourcing of large enrichment objects for primates, housing for axolotls, and adoption of animals after studies. AWI also curates an extensive online database of published scientific articles and books on topics related to improving or safeguarding the welfare of animals used in research. By year's end, this frequently updated resource provided users with nearly 9,000 references on a host of issues related to the welfare of these animals.

Every year, AWI awards Refinement Grants to support original research projects aimed at improving the welfare of animals in laboratories. Grantees this year are conducting studies on (1) less aversive ways to administer anesthetics to mice, (2) the safety of compressed newspaper pulp as burrowing substrate for naked mole-rats, (3) measuring stress levels in lemurs via saliva samples rather than intrusive blood draws, and (4) how the quality of primate housing affects compassion fatigue among animal care staff.

## *OUTREACH*

In October in Louisville, AWI's longtime president, Cathy Liss, hosted an exhibit at the annual American Association for

Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting—the world's largest gathering of animal research professionals from academia, industry, and government. Cathy (who retired from staff in December and now chairs the AWI board of directors) has attended this meeting for many years, speaking with attendees and distributing AWI publications on ways to reduce pain and distress and better meet the psychological and physiological needs of animals used in research.

In November, AWI's Dr. Joanna Makowska showcased AWI's activities on behalf of animals in research in a livestream presentation during the Latin American Congress of Alternative Methods for Use of Animals in Education, Research and Industry. In December, Joanna was a panelist in a livestream plenary session during the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research annual conference. Her presentation focused on creating more natural environments for rodents in laboratories.

## *LIFE BEYOND LABS*

AWI believes that animals who can be retired at the conclusion of their time in research should be. For our November Giving Tuesday campaign, AWI asked supporters to contribute to a fundraiser to help worthy rescue organizations care for and rehabilitate former laboratory animals. The campaign was an overwhelming success, with compassionate citizens contributing \$58,000 of the \$70,000 we distributed to three sanctuaries caring for monkeys, pigs, rabbits, and other animals formerly used in research.

## *INCIDENT RESPONSE*

In September, AWI filed a complaint with the National Institutes of Health Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare



(OLAW) over allegations that mice used in research at the University of Missouri–Kansas City had been suffering from severe neglect, including some dying from dehydration while others were left for days in flooded cages. OLAW substantiated some of the allegations and claims they have been resolved. AWI, however, continues to investigate.

In June, AWI filed a complaint with OLAW over Baylor University's reported misuse and mistreatment of rats in an undergraduate Learning & Behavior Lab course. Previously, we contacted the university, which adjusted some course materials and procedures but did not indicate it had resolved fundamental issues affecting the rats' welfare.

## RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

This year, in-depth investigation and analysis by AWI's Eric Kleiman provided support for searing, widely published stories illustrating ongoing ineffectual Animal Welfare Act (AWA) enforcement by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS): In December, AWI provided commentary for a Reuters article discussing Office of Inspector General investigations into—and criticisms of—the agency's enforcement failures. That same month, *National Geographic* published "Toothless and 'paltry': Critics slam USDA's fines for animal welfare violations"—the article's headline quoting AWI commentary within concerning the agency's entrenched unwillingness to levy fines sufficient to actually deter abuse. The article concluded by citing our call for a complete overhaul of the system. In March, Reuters disclosed that a federal grand jury had subpoenaed top APHIS officials to determine why they failed to intervene to end abuse at a horrendous Virginia dog-breeding site. In June, a *National Geographic* article excoriated the USDA for reportedly renewing the exhibitor license of SeaWorld Orlando after inspections uncovered serious animal welfare issues and even after SeaWorld failed to fully comply with a request for records to aid further investigation.

Eric's investigative research also contributed to hard-hitting pieces in *Science* and the *Wall Street Journal* this year regarding the international trade in primates for research: In November, *Science* reported that Cambodian wildlife officials and representatives of a major supplier of Cambodian primates had been charged with conspiring to smuggle wild-caught long-tailed macaques into the United States. *Science* named Inotiv—the world's largest dealer of primates for research—as one of two recipients of these monkeys. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in March that heightened US Fish and Wildlife Service scrutiny over the provenance of imported primates is affecting supply and dimming the financial outlook of Inotiv and others that reap huge profits from dealing and using animals for research. In May, a *Science* article on this issue included AWI commentary—in response to a National Academies report calling for increased domestic breeding—that the supply crisis should instead force scientists and government agencies to more seriously consider (and invest in) alternatives to animals in research and not treat increased domestic breeding as a panacea.





# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

*AWI has been a leader, at both federal and state levels, in securing landmark laws aimed at shielding animals from cruelty and needless suffering. We work to ensure diligent enforcement of these laws and fight efforts to roll back hard-won animal protections.*



## 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS: KEY VICTORIES

The 117<sup>th</sup> Congress closed on some significant victories, as bills AWI championed and worked hard to shepherd through Congress became laws. One of the most hard-fought and heralded wins came in early December, with passage and presidential signing of the Big Cat Public Safety Act. This landscape-altering legislation officially ends the dangerous and abusive trade in pet big cats in the United States, as well as the exploitative cub-handling attractions at disreputable roadside zoos—whose facade of cuteness hides a vicious cycle of breeding and selling off (or quietly disposing of) older cubs as they age out.

That same month, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. This bans the domestic sale of shark fins—ending legal US involvement in a trade that is depleting the oceans of sharks while proliferating the unfathomably cruel practice of shark finning.

Important victories were also achieved through the 2023 version of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) signed in late December. Key among them was the bill's incorporation of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act—phasing out the use in federal waters of large mesh drift gillnets that entangle and kill vast numbers of nontarget marine species, including whales, dolphins, and sea lions.

In the same bill, the Bureau of Land Management was directed to use \$11 million of its Wild Horse and Burro Program budget for implementing and developing humane fertility control options so that more wild equines can remain in their natural habitats. Prohibitions were also renewed on the operation of horse slaughter facilities and the licensing under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) of “Class B” dealers to sell randomly sourced dogs and cats for research use.

The CAA directed the US Department of Agriculture to reissue a proposed rulemaking to address badly outdated regulations governing the care and handling of marine mammals in captivity. For farmed animals, it directed the USDA to (1) reform its process for approving animal-raising claims on food packaging, (2) work with producers to develop disaster plans to protect farmed animals during extreme weather events, and (3) provide training to Food Safety and Inspection Service personnel in humane handling regulations.

## 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS: BILLS INTRODUCED

Since the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress got underway in January, a number of AWI-backed bills have been introduced:

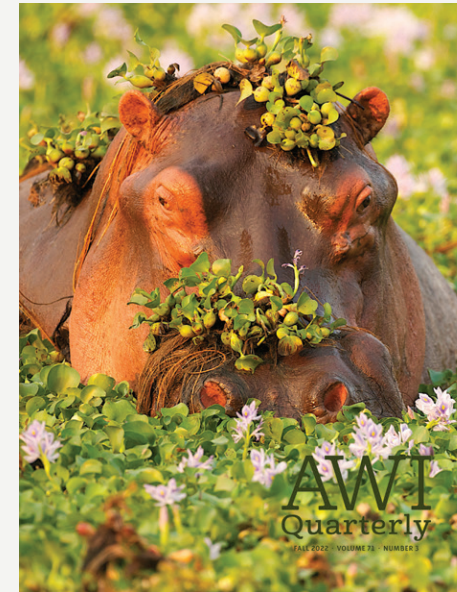
- The Pet Safety and Protection Act (HR 208) would put a permanent end to the licensing of Class B dealers under the AWA (ending the need for stopgap measures through the appropriations process).
- The Emergency and Disaster Preparedness for Farm Animals Act (HR 243) would require producers to have plans in place to protect livestock from the harmful impacts of adverse weather events as a prerequisite for receiving taxpayer-backed aid for losses suffered in those events.
- The SAFE Act (HR 3475/S 2037) would permanently protect American horses from slaughter on US soil or outside the country.
- The Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act (HR 3656) would prohibit costly and inhumane helicopter roundups of wild horses.
- The Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (HR 3859) would ensure that all AWA license holders comply with that law's minimum animal care standards or lose their licenses.
- The Mink: Vectors for Infection Risk in the United States (Mink VIRUS) Act (HR 3783) would phase out US mink farms within one year and establish a grant program to reimburse farmers for the full value of their operations.
- Canyon's Law (HR 4068/S 1940) would ban the use of lethal M-44 “cyanide bombs” to kill wildlife on federal public lands.





# AWI QUARTERLY

*The AWI Quarterly magazine is distributed to more than 60,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, veterinarians, laboratory personnel, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this fiscal year.*



## FALL 2022 VOLUME 71, NUMBER 3

Sanctuaries in three countries are providing TLC to rescued apes with an assist from AWI. We provided funding to allow a sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build a nursery for young chimps rescued from the pet and bushmeat trades and entertainment facilities. We helped a Canadian sanctuary purchase food and medicine for chimps formerly used in research. And we helped create chimp habitat and expand orangutan space at a rescue center in Florida that takes in animals from the pet trade, entertainment industry, and research facilities.

Dr. Constance Woodman, program manager for the USDA Conservation Innovation Grants program at Texas A&M University, used an AWI Refinement Grant to analyze the safety of various plastics for potential use in making 3-D printed enrichment items for animals housed in laboratories. Her chemical testing confirmed the safety of four plastics for use as raw materials to custom print hutches, exercise devices, climbing structures, and other items that could offer physical and mental stimulation and more species-appropriate living spaces to animals in research.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) stood by for the better part of a year as horrific inspection reports emanated from an Envigo beagle-breeding facility in Virginia. Eventually, the US Department of Justice and the Virginia Attorney General staged a dramatic intervention—taking decisive action that resulted in the rescue of about 4,000 dogs and shuttering of the nightmare facility. APHIS's chronic inertia in the face of severe and ongoing suffering clearly indicates that the federal government's Animal Welfare Act enforcement apparatus is broken.

The USDA is proposing regulations to address the power disparity between vertically integrated poultry companies and their contract poultry growers. Lack of transparency regarding contract terms and compensation leaves many growers feeling deceived and struggling to stay solvent. The regulations would require companies to

clearly disclose crucial information regarding the obligations and constraints imposed on the grower. AWI submitted comments urging that these disclosures include details related to bird health and company animal welfare policies that could affect how growers handle birds under their care.

AWI is helping the nonprofit Animals Asia construct a second bear sanctuary in Vietnam, primarily to house Asiatic black bears rescued from bear-bile operations. Although Vietnam outlawed bear-bile extraction in 2005, many farms have continued to operate illegally. In 2017, Animals Asia entered into a cooperative agreement with the Vietnamese government to end the country's bear-bile industry and rescue the approximately 300 bears remaining on bile farms. The new facility will provide Animals Asia with the capacity to ensure no bear is left behind.

In July, Canyon's Law—a bill to outlaw the use of M-44 "cyanide bombs" to kill predators on public lands—received a hearing in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. Canyon is an Idaho boy who accidentally triggered an M-44 on BLM land near his home. The blast of cyanide left Canyon with lingering health effects and killed his dog, Kasey, who died in agony. At the hearing, Canyon's father, Dr. Mark Mansfield, asked, "How many pets must be killed, how many children poisoned, and how many families traumatized before meaningful federal action is taken?"





## WINTER 2022

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 4

In November, by a resounding 304–111 vote, the US House of Representatives passed the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act. This AWI-backed bill would end the barbaric practices associated with soring—the act of intentionally injuring a horse’s hooves and legs to cause pain and induce an exaggerated gait during walking horse competitions. In the Senate, the bill garnered 53 sponsors—more than half the chamber. Behind-the-scenes maneuvers, however, have thus far stymied efforts to bring the PAST Act to the Senate floor for a vote.

During the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Slovenia, AWI awarded the Schweitzer Medal to Jennifer Lonsdale in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the advancement of animal welfare. IWC chair Andrej Bibič presented the medal. Lonsdale has been a fierce ocean advocate for nearly four decades. In 1984, she co-founded the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) to investigate and campaign against environmental crime and abuse. Her advocacy at the IWC for protection of whales, dolphins, and porpoises helped make cetacean welfare a core focus of the organization.

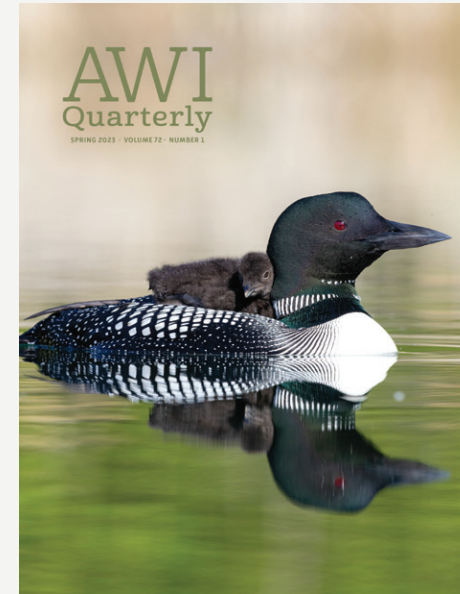
In a November letter, AWI urged the Defense and Health and Human Services Departments to “re-evaluate their reliance on, and support for, providers of animals for research that have demonstrated an inability or unwillingness to ensure that those animals are treated humanely and are not the product of illegal trafficking operations.” This followed news that foreign employees of industry giant Inotiv’s principal primate supplier had been federally charged with conspiring to smuggle wild-caught macaques from Cambodia into the United States, and reporting by *Science* that Inotiv was one of two recipients of the animals.

Paige Singer of Rocky Mountain Wild used a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI to monitor the movement of wildlife through Colorado’s East Vail Pass. Using remote cameras, the ongoing study has collected data on a number of species,

including American marten, bighorn sheep, black bear, bobcat, coyote, elk, moose, mule deer, porcupine, snowshoe hare, red fox, and raccoon. The data is being used to inform the design of three planned structures—one overpass and two underpasses—to allow wildlife to safely cross I-70.

Over the past year, AWI partnered with the Sierra Club and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition to encourage the City of Bozeman, Montana, to take steps to address increasing incidents of human-bear conflicts. Bozeman officials agreed to implement a pilot project—initiating a “bear aware” education campaign and equipping residents in high-conflict neighborhoods with 50 bear-resistant bins for garbage. The *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* editorial board enthusiastically endorsed the effort, writing, “Amen. May this project be met with resounding success and be expanded citywide soon.”

After receiving oral and written testimony from AWI, the Hawai’i Board of Agriculture voted to approve regulations to protect cattle, sheep, and goats transported via sea vessel between the state’s islands. AWI—joined by nine other animal protection organizations, including five based in Hawai’i—had submitted comments in May 2022 to the Hawai’i Department of Agriculture advocating regulations to make sure animals slated for journeys are fit to travel, provided food and water for long journeys, given adequate ventilation within transport containers, and protected from heat stress during staging and travel times.



## SPRING 2023

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Last summer, AWI launched a partnership with the American Bird Conservancy and Kaua’i Forest Bird Recovery Project to save Hawaiian honeycreepers from extinction due to avian malaria, a disease transmitted by non-native mosquitoes. Thus far, we have supported multiple projects to build public support for conservation measures, including the development of a K–12 curriculum, a mobile app for exploring the birds’ natural history, a documentary showcasing the birds’ biological and cultural importance, and kits for public education and outreach events.

In January and February, AWI participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol—a regional agreement for the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean. AWI is on the Expert Working Group for the Marine Mammal Action Plan update and is engaged on numerous other fronts, including species listing proposals and establishment of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network to aid communication and resource sharing in furtherance of conservation efforts.

In January, AWI petitioned the USDA for policy reforms to remedy its consistent failure to respond to animal welfare violations at custom-exempt slaughter facilities, including animals being beaten, held in deplorable conditions, and deprived of food and water for extended periods. The petition calls on the USDA to revise its directive on custom-exempt slaughter to better protect animals, report suspected animal cruelty to state authorities, and close loopholes that allow facilities suspended for egregious humane handling violations to continue slaughtering animals.

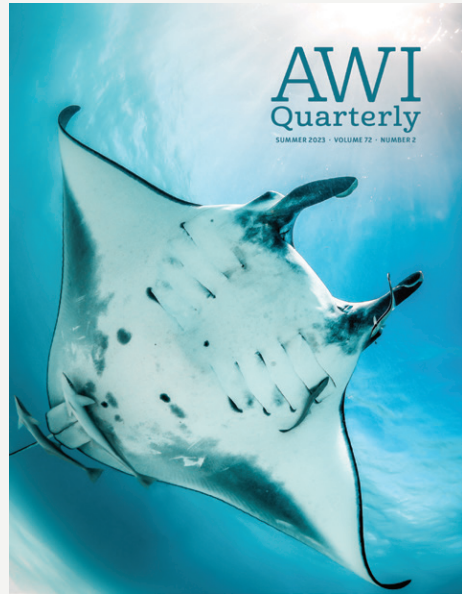
AWI’s Dr. Joanna Makowska asked members of the AWI Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum to share gratifying reforms they have instituted at their facilities to benefit the animals. Answers included pioneering efforts to move primates out of isolation and into social housing, conducting an in-depth study to discover

optimal nesting materials for rats, providing rabbits in formerly barren enclosures with stimulating toys, seeing inactive cats take enthusiastically to a new exercise wheel, and researching and introducing a digging substrate that satisfies key behavioral needs of naked mole-rats.

Each year, AWI’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Award program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to support scientific efforts to humanely resolve human-wildlife conflicts and develop less intrusive ways to study wildlife. From modest beginnings in 2006, the program has since provided over a million dollars in total to more than 90 field projects. The innovative researchers we’ve sponsored have demonstrated ways to protect property while allowing wildlife to be wild, to mitigate our own destructive impacts on wild habitat, and to increase our knowledge of wild species without harming individual animals.

After 20-plus years and multiple lawsuits, Animal Welfare Act protections will finally be extended to birds in the pet trade and in exhibitions. Certain breeders and exhibitors will now have to be licensed and inspected and meet care standards that include, most notably, providing psychological enrichment for their birds. On the down side, the standards are not as rigorous as the animal protection community had called for (e.g., no provisions to accommodate flight are required), and exemptions for less prolific breeders leave thousands of birds unprotected.





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The US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing changes to regulations governing African elephant imports under the Endangered Species Act. In March, AWI submitted comments on the proposal urging the agency to ban imports of live African elephants and elephant trophies altogether. Neither imports of live elephants for zoos nor trophy hunting offer any real conservation benefits. Furthermore, elephants suffer poor welfare in zoos, as such facilities cannot adequately emulate the habitats, diets, and herd dynamics of elephants in the wild.

With the war in Ukraine entering its second year, the ongoing loss of life and mass displacement has created a humanitarian crisis affecting tens of millions of people and untold numbers of animals. AWI continued to offer aid this year. Since the war's beginning, AWI has distributed nearly \$200,000 to 17 organizations on the ground providing food, shelter, medical care, and other resources for people with companion animals fleeing the country, as well as to animals in shelters, wildlife rescue centers, and zoos in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

AWI continued its partnership with the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance this year by providing support to three member sanctuaries: the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project in The Gambia, the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon, and the Vervet Monkey Foundation in South Africa. The former two care for primates rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, while the latter cares for vervet monkeys orphaned by hunters. AWI's support provides desperately needed food, medical attention, caregiving, enrichment, and enclosure maintenance for the primates in these sanctuaries.

A massive fire and explosion at a Texas dairy farm in April killed approximately 18,000 cows. AWI is pressing the National Dairy FARM Program—the industry's lead auditing and certification program—to amend its animal care guidelines to require compliance with the National Fire Protection Association's Fire and Life Safety in Animal

Housing Facilities Code (NFPA 150), require evacuation plans for animals housed indoors, establish tighter limits on the number of animals housed in one building, and encourage installation of fire suppression systems in animal housing areas.

In March, after nearly 20 years of planning and negotiations, governments of the world agreed to the final text of the High Seas Treaty—an effort to protect the roughly 45 percent of Earth's surface outside the jurisdiction of any country. Among other provisions aimed at curtailing harmful activities and sharing resources equitably, the treaty creates rules for establishing marine protected areas that could safeguard unique, biodiverse seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and other habitats critical to endangered marine mammals, declining shark species, bioluminescent lanternfish, and a host of other high seas species.

AWI spearheaded the reintroduction in June of the Mink VIRUS Act (HR 3783), a bill to establish a one-year phaseout of mink fur farms in the United States and create a grant program to reimburse mink farmers for the full value of their farms. Mink are kept in crowded, often unsanitary conditions on such farms, and a growing body of science indicates that mink are particularly high-risk "mixing vessels," producing dangerous variants of respiratory diseases that are potentially transmissible to humans—including COVID-19 and H5N1, a deadly strain of avian influenza.





STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2023	2022
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
REVENUES		
Contributions - Foundations and trusts	\$ 1,203,672	\$ 1,160,916
- Legacies and bequests	6,490,532	2,212,638
- Memberships and other	2,720,479	3,306,422
Tenants net rental income	151,229	106,862
Sale of publications and reports	15,211	14,907
Dividend income	275,036	125,508
Interest income	85,354	28,031
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities	1,247,452	(2,255,386)
Other income	1,443	33,341
	<u>12,190,408</u>	<u>4,733,239</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS	177,629	147,255
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>12,368,037</u>	<u>4,880,494</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services	5,709,509	4,468,863
Management and general	410,174	410,331
Fundraising	44,334	60,087
Total expenses	<u>6,164,017</u>	<u>4,939,281</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>6,204,020</u>	<u>(58,787)</u>
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Contributions	105,493	180,904
Net assets released from restrictions	(177,629)	(147,255)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>(72,136)</u>	<u>33,649</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	6,131,884	(25,138)
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	19,506,288	19,531,426
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 25,638,172</u>	<u>\$ 19,506,288</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND-RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 2,013,784	\$ 172,799	\$ 20,303	\$ 2,206,886
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	161,232	13,834	1,625	176,691
Employee benefits	191,421	22,592	1,930	215,943
Retirement plan	46,163	3,961	465	50,589
Advertising	51,606	770	2,533	54,909
AWI Quarterlies	308,366	-	3,133	311,499
Printing and publications (except for AWI Quarterlies)	225,734	4,298	7,170	237,202
Research, writing, and editing	25,049	630	-	25,679
Grants	1,270,250	-	-	1,270,250
Conferences, meetings, and travel	305,337	5,318	361	311,016
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for AWI Quarterlies)	14,790	322	12	15,124
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	71,554	14,388	482	86,424
Professional services	198,363	50,676	181	249,220
Memberships and subscriptions	93,564	9,150	3,065	105,779
Consultants	488,429	5,853	658	494,940
Internet services	72,220	5,339	627	78,186
Schweitzer Award	2,000	-	-	2,000
Occupancy costs	60,913	47,976	614	109,503
Bank and investment fees	1,051	41,478	-	42,529
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	5,601,826	399,384	43,159	6,044,369
Depreciation and amortization	107,683	10,790	1,175	119,648
Total expenses	<u>\$ 5,709,509</u>	<u>\$ 410,174</u>	<u>\$ 44,334</u>	<u>\$ 6,164,017</u>

A complete financial statement audited by Mayer Hoffman McCann CPAs is available from AWI and upon written request from the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Business and Professional Licensing Administration, Corporations Division, P.O. Box 92300, Washington, DC 20090





# ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

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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, DC, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax-deductible (FEIN: 13-5655952). 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*

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
awionline.org  
(202) 337-2332

@animalwelfareinstitute  
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