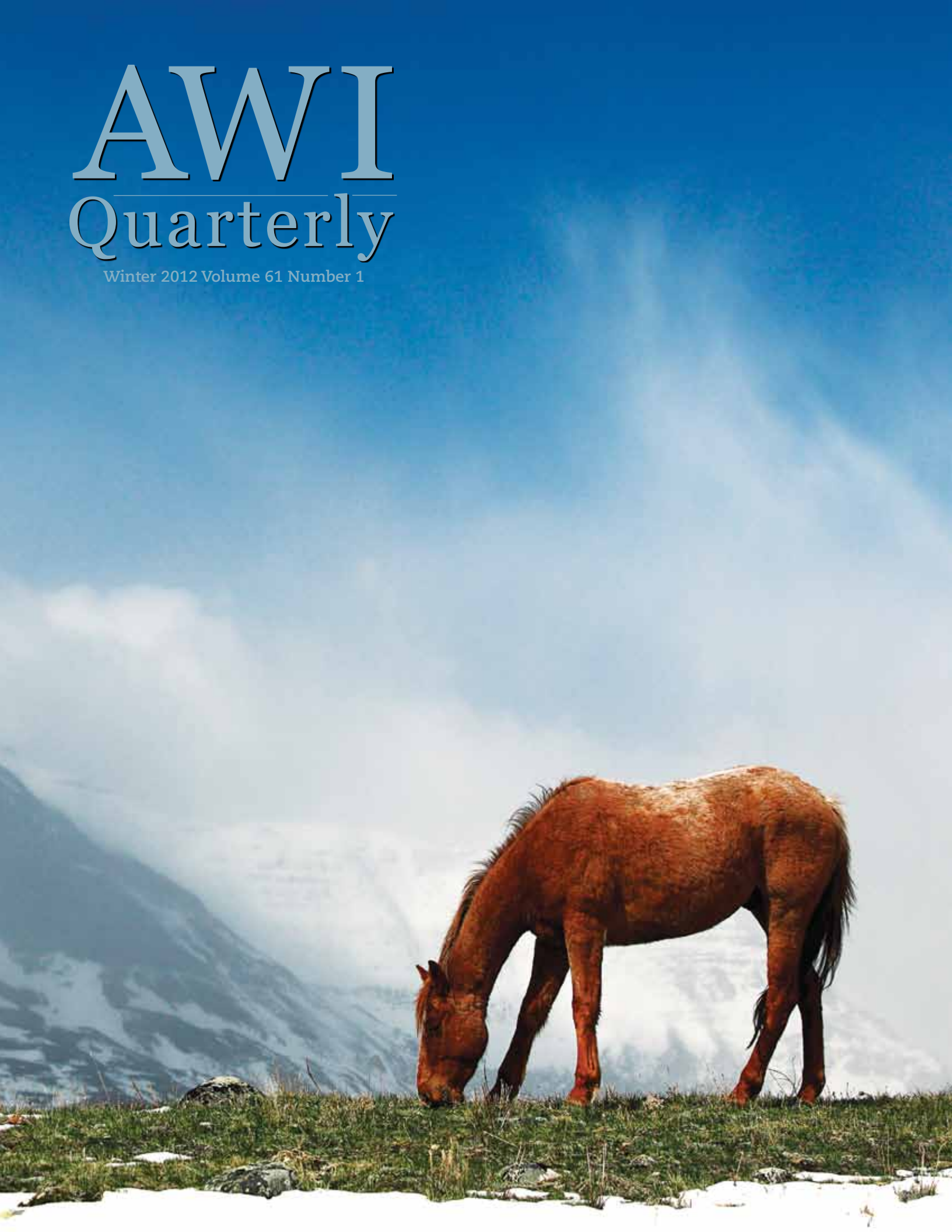


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ABOUT THE COVER

A wild horse grazes near Glacier National Park in Montana. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other federal land managers are required by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to protect wild equines. The BLM instead routinely rounds up and displaces wild horses from traditional rangelands in order to appease private ranching interests.

Last year, in response to questions raised by AWI and others over BLM's management priorities, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) initiated an independent evaluation of the science, methodology, and technical decision-making approaches of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. On January 27, at a meeting held in Spokane, Washington, AWI wildlife biologist D.J. Schubert provided testimony to the NAS committee tasked with reviewing the program.

Photo by Todd Klassy

RECORD FINE ASSESSED AGAINST RINGLING BROS.



H. Powers

A tiger forced to perform banal "tricks" at a Ringling Bros. show.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey—the "Greatest Show on Earth" according to its slogan—has a new distinction that probably won't appear in its promotional materials: The circus company has been slapped with the largest fine ever under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) against an exhibitor.

After years of claims made by AWI and others that Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey mistreats its animals and fails to meet minimal requirements of the federal Animal Welfare Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has taken notice. On November 23, 2011, Ringling's parent company—Feld Entertainment, Inc.—entered into a settlement agreement with the USDA to pay a civil fine of \$270,000 for alleged violations of the AWA.

On several occasions from December 2007 through August 2011, the USDA conducted inspections of Feld Entertainment's animals, facilities and records, and investigated alleged acts of noncompliance with the AWA. Inspection reports reveal evidence of several apparent violations of federal law, including the following incidents:

- 1) circus handlers forced an elephant to perform when she was ill and required medication for pain,
- 2) an adequate diagnosis and treatment plan had not been made for an elephant with chronic lameness—nor had assurances been made that the elephant received prescribed treatments, and
- 3) enclosures for elephants and tigers were in such poor condition—with broken, protruding wires and rusty, deteriorated and jagged edges—that they posed a threat to the animals.

While Feld Entertainment remains true to form by denying that it has violated any federal animal welfare laws, it threw in the towel rather than fight the damning evidence, and has agreed to pay the hefty fine. 🐾



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- 6 Schweitzer Medals Awarded to Prosecutors Who Display Their Mettle in Defense of Animals

Above Left: A Goodfellow's Tree-Kangaroo, native to Papua New Guinea. Extensive logging, mining, oil exploration, and agriculture have obliterated much of this endangered animal's habitat (Richard Ashurst).

Top Right: A chimpanzee at a research facility. Later, he was "retired" and taken in by the Save the Chimps sanctuary in Florida (Save the Chimps).

Bottom Right: A pair of Gold Laced Wyandotte hens explore their territory at Animal Welfare Approved Windy Ridge Natural Farms in Alfred, New York (Mike Suarez).





Nansen Weber/Arctic Watch

A beluga whale comes up for air and a view. In south-central Alaska's Cook Inlet, a small genetically distinct population of belugas hangs on after nearly being hunted out.

COOK INLET BELUGAS RETAIN ESA PROTECTION

A federal judge in November upheld the listing of Alaska's Cook Inlet beluga whales as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), rejecting a bid by the state of Alaska to overturn it. Chief Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia wrote that beluga whales in Alaska's Cook Inlet were "nearly wiped out by a catastrophic spree of subsistence whaling between 1994 and 1998" by Alaska Natives. While there are four other beluga whale populations in Alaska, Cook Inlet belugas are a genetically unique and geographically isolated population and thus are considered to be a "distinct population segment" for listing purposes under the ESA. The whale's population decline has been so severe that in 2006, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature placed the Cook Inlet beluga—which number between 350 and 400—on its "red list" of endangered species. In connection with the ESA endangered designation, these belugas are afforded 3,016 square miles of marine and estuarine environments, considered by scientists to be essential for the whales' survival. 🐾

NMFS Leaves Thorny Skates on Thin Ice

THE UNITED STATES has prohibited the landing and possession of thorny skates in U.S. waters since 2003. Despite this, their numbers have dropped precipitously, to a point alarmingly below the threshold needed to ensure the species' survival. In an effort to protect this highly imperiled relative of rays and sharks, AWI petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in August to list thorny skates under the Endangered Species Act.

Disappointingly, the NMFS recently issued a negative "90-day finding" on the petition. Although the NMFS conceded that the most recent three-year average of population estimates represents an all-time low for thorny skates, the agency relied on a modest uptick in numbers in 2009 and 2010 and a reported decrease in the mortality rate of bycaught skates as ostensible evidence that the current regulations are working. AWI is not convinced and is examining all options to fight for the continued survival of thorny skates. 🐾

Shark Numbers Plummet as Fishing Continues in Senegal

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2008, an estimated one out of every 100 sharks caught around the globe was killed off the coast of Senegal. While estimates of the annual number of sharks caught worldwide vary widely (ranging from 10 to 100 million), what is known is that Senegal is the main African exporter of shark products. In 2000 alone, Senegal exported 37 metric tons of shark fins. However, the West African shark fin trade, which began in the 1970s and exploded in the 1990s, began to plummet in 2003—not for lack of effort but for lack of sharks. Nevertheless, thousands of Senegalese fishermen still depend on the unsustainable trade. One man who had been fishing for 30 years acknowledged the severe drop but told a reporter, "We are obliged to catch small sharks. We know it's not good but if one person doesn't, the next will." 🐾

Cracked System: Video Reveals Cruelty of Factory Egg Operations



A still from an undercover video shows a chick being debeaked.

A RECENT UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION of several Sparboe Farms egg facilities revealed the unconscionable treatment of chickens on factory farms. The film, produced by the animal rights group, Mercy for Animals, depicts cruelties inherent to the conventional factory system:

thousands of birds crammed into tiny cages, desiccated remains of birds left in cages with living birds, male chicks thrown into trash bags to suffocate to death, painful hot blade debeaking of chicks, sick and injured animals denied proper veterinary care, and workers roughly and callously handling hens. As a result of the Mercy for Animals investigation, as well as its own inspections, the Food and Drug Administration sent a warning letter to Sparboe for 13 food safety violations. In the aftermath, several companies (including McDonald's and Target) dropped Sparboe egg products. In a damage control effort, Sparboe joined United Egg Producers (UEP), an industry group that requires producers to meet

minimum animal welfare standards. Unfortunately, this is little more than a token gesture; the UEP Certified program allows some of the worst practices captured in the film, such as confining hens in battery cages and hot blade debeaking of chicks. Sadly, Sparboe is not an exceptional case; most of the practices recorded in the film are common in battery cage systems, which house 95 percent of all laying hens in the United States. To watch the *Mercy for Animals* video, visit www.mcdonaldscrueity.com. 🐾



Images courtesy of Mercy for Animals

Scientist Michael C. Appleby says debeaking probably causes long-term pain "in a way similar to other amputations."

AG-GAG BILLS BACK ON THE AGENDA FOR 2012

Undercover investigations by animal advocates are an increasingly important tool in exposing the disturbing realities of factory farming. However, a number of states have begun to consider legislation aimed squarely at the messenger rather than the broken system. These bills, dubbed "ag-gag" bills, would criminalize any recording of a farm's operations taken without the express consent of the farm's owner. Of course, most states already have laws against trespass, invasion of privacy, and defamation to protect individuals against unlawful activities. Ag-gag legislation attempts to overreach those protections by criminalizing activities that would be lawful in most any other setting.

In 2011, ag-gag measures were introduced but not passed in Florida, Iowa and Minnesota. In 2012, a number of states again introduced bills that would criminalize on-farm photography, including Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Indiana and Nebraska. A similar bill introduced in Florida has already died in the legislature. This legislation is certainly alarming: they would criminalize legitimate documentation of animal abuse, food safety violations, occupational health and safety violations, or any on-farm filming for almost any other reason. Should any of the bills pass, they would still face serious constitutional hurdles: the targeted conduct may well be protected by the First Amendment. 🐾



Investigations of animal fighting, hoarding, puppy mills, and other cases of animal abuse unveil instances of the most shocking brutality. The length and extent of the torture these animals endure is difficult to imagine.... Thankfully, there are people like our award recipients who show us every day that we're also capable of great compassion, and that it's that compassion that can bring an end to cruelty and injustice.

—Laurie Robinson, Assistant Attorney General at the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, speaking at the Albert Schweitzer Medal Award ceremony, Nov. 14, 2011

SCHWEITZER MEDALS

Awarded to Prosecutors Who Display Their Mettle in Defense of Animals

ALBERT SCHWEITZER ONCE SAID, “... all of us must feel the horror that lies in thoughtless torturing and killing.” In November, at the Hill Center in Washington, D.C., AWI awarded the Albert Schweitzer Medal to three state prosecutors who not only feel the horror, but aggressively confront those responsible—meting out justice to individuals who cause animals to suffer via acts of willful maliciousness, severe neglect, or the more organized and systematic brutality of animal fighting. These three attorneys—Michelle Welch, Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Raj Prasad and Amy Slameka, Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys for Wayne County, Michigan (which encompasses Detroit)—each received the Albert Schweitzer Medal in recognition of their unflagging pursuit of criminal convictions against perpetrators of animal cruelty, as well as their pioneering efforts to call attention to these crimes and establish strong animal cruelty and animal fighting prosecutorial programs within their jurisdictions.

Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, head of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of

Justice Programs, presented the medals. In introducing Robinson, AWI President Cathy Liss noted that “Under her leadership, the Office of Justice Programs has become a potent force in combating interpersonal violence and illegal activities that endanger our communities, by addressing illegal activities that victimize animals—activities that often go hand-in-hand with or serve as a precursor to crimes against people.”

In her address to the crowd before presenting the awards, Robinson spoke of the need to “instill in practitioners—law enforcement officers, victim advocates, animal control officers—a heightened sense of urgency about violence against animals.” She reminded those present that what is at stake goes beyond the individual cases: “[T]he co-occurrence of animal abuse and some forms of criminal behavior demands that we make understanding this link part of our approach to fighting crime in our society. And in moral terms, beyond the association with interpersonal violence, our actions to condemn and end violence towards animals serve as a kind of barometer of how far we’re willing to go to bring an end to suffering in this world.”

AMY SLAMEKA AND RAJ PRASAD

Photos by Randy Sager



LISTENING TO Amy Slameka and Raj Prasad talk, it is abundantly clear that they care deeply about their work and the abused animals who make it necessary. Slameka told a *Detroit Free Press* staff writer who interviewed the pair in connection with their receipt of the award that, “We take each case to heart. We take each case of animal abuse very seriously.... We’re very passionate and compassionate about it.” Prasad added that “These animal cases tug at your heartstrings; you have these truly innocent victims ... who can’t speak for themselves.” Slameka and Prasad have made it their mission to make sure these victims do not suffer in silence.

One case in particular brings up a wellspring of outrage and emotion for them: In 2010, a case was presented to them in which two young men were captured on video (taken via their own camera phones, in fact) burning alive a pit-bull mix dog in front of several witnesses and children. On the video, one of the defendants pours gasoline or lighter fluid on the dog. The other ignites her, then runs after the dog laughing as she races frantically to escape the flames and howls in pain before collapsing to die. Slameka

and Prasad saw to it that both men went to prison, rather than receive probation or less stringent jail time. The case ended successfully, but the vision of the tortured dog lingers on in their psyches.

Slameka joined the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office (WCPO) in 2001. Prasad came on in 2005. Currently, Prasad is the chairman of the

Prosecutors Committee and serves on the Legislative Committee for the State Bar of Michigan’s (SBM) Animal Law Section. Slameka serves as a council member for the SBM Animal Law Section, and serves on the SBM Character and Fitness Committee. She is also a board member of the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

On their own initiative, Slameka and Prasad teamed up in 2008 to form the Animal Protection Unit (APU), a potent animal crimes division within the Prosecutor’s Office that coordinates efforts to bring animal cruelty cases to the fore and make sure they are given the attention and resources they merit. The APU assists in the investigation and prosecution of all crimes in Wayne County involving animals, and also evaluates situations in which animals are injured during the commission of other crimes such as home invasion and domestic violence.

A central focus of the APU is to combat the underground criminal community that breeds, trains, houses and sells fighting animals. The same year the APU came into existence, a prime opportunity presented itself to

put the unit to the test. In 2008, the Wayne County Sheriff Department Narcotics Enforcement Unit received information that a sizable dog fight was going to take place in Detroit. The Department was able to place an undercover officer in the midst of the action. Slameka and Prasad advised on preparation of an anticipatory search warrant that was executed seven minutes into the fight.

When over 50 arrests were made in connection with the incident, the Prosecutor’s Office swung into action. To date there have been approximately 45 convictions. That conviction-to-arrest ratio for the APU is no anomaly. Since its inception, it has achieved an eye-popping 98 percent conviction rate. Today, the APU is staffed by four assistant prosecutors who juggle their time handling cases within the unit with their responsibilities in other divisions—making the conviction rate all the more impressive. Their work not only ensures that cruelty to animals is recognized as a priority law enforcement issue in Wayne County, but also serves as a model and inspiration for other jurisdictions around the country.



Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA)—long known for his defense of animals in Congress—speaks with the Schweitzer Medalists at the ceremony.

MICHELLE WELCH



IF YOU HAVE AN ANIMAL LAW

question in Virginia, your best bet is to get in touch with Michelle Welch. Chances are, she'll know the answer. In her role as assistant attorney general in charge of all animal law-related issues in Virginia, Welch dispenses training and advice to a lot of people—including local law enforcement authorities, animal control officials, and prosecutors throughout the Commonwealth. She speaks frequently at vet schools and to many other groups, and is in demand at conferences both in and out of Virginia, including those of the Virginia Animal Control Association, Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (for which she is

a board member), and the Animal Law Conferences of the American Bar Association (for which she serves as vice-chair of the Animal Law Committee).

Welch provided advice to U.S. Attorney's Office lawyers in the sentencing phase of the high-profile Michael Vick dog fighting case. In the aftermath of the case, Welch was a part of the team in the Virginia Attorney General's Office that provided leadership for a new comprehensive animal fighting law. As a result, the legislature passed one of the toughest animal fighting laws in the nation, outlawing everything to do with animal fights and also making organized cockfighting a felony in Virginia.

Welch's dedication to the defense of animals does not stop at the office door. In addition to her leadership roles in the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies and the American Bar Association, she is also the vice president of the Virginia Animal Fighting Taskforce, a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the animals in the Commonwealth of Virginia by assisting in enforcement of animal cruelty and fighting laws, providing

resources and personnel especially to jurisdictions in particular need, and organizing animal rescue and transport services during natural disasters and other large scale emergencies throughout the entire



Proud daughter, Emily, was on hand to see her mom receive the award.

country. On top of that, she's a senior faculty member for the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA), chairs the APA's Animal Law Curriculum Advisory Committee, and teaches animal law on an adjunct basis at the University of Richmond Law School.

In accepting the Albert Schweitzer Award, Welch spoke of her favorite children's book, *Miss Rumphius*, by Barbara Cooney. The story is one in which a young girl takes to heart her grandfather's admonition to make the world more beautiful. "In my world view," says Welch, "everyone is supposed to do one thing: make the world a better place. I strive to do that by making sure that hunting dogs have full bellies, roosters don't have to fight; by taking pitbulls away from dog fighters and making sure every animal is protected. This award inspires me to keep doing what I love to do: protecting the animals." 🐾



Partners for the prosecution: Amy Slameka, AWI's Nancy Blaney, Raj Prasad, Michelle Welch, and U.S. Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson, who presented the awards.

Photos by Randy Sager

FEDS SADDLING UP TO FINALLY ENFORCE HORSE PROTECTION ACT?

THE FEDERAL HORSE PROTECTION ACT OF 1970 (HPA) is supposed to protect Tennessee Walking Horses and other gaited breeds from “soring,” the practice of applying chemicals or mechanical devices to horses that inflict pain in order to cause the exaggerated gait so prized by segments of the show horse industry. A 2010 report by the USDA’s Office of Inspector General, however, detailed many serious shortcomings in enforcement that have allowed widespread abuse of show horses. Separately, the American Veterinary Medical Association notes on its website that USDA inspectors attended fewer than 10 percent of the events between 2008 and 2011 but still managed to document over 2,300 violations.

Further, in the years since the law was passed, indictments for breaking the law have been virtually nonexistent. However, a number of prosecutions in 2011 gave hope that the USDA and the Department of Justice may finally be taking these crimes more seriously. Four individuals in Tennessee pleaded guilty to various charges relating to HPA

violations, financial crimes, and witness tampering. Each faces jail time and fines, with sentencing scheduled for February 2012. Unfortunately, another individual in Alabama who also pleaded guilty to violating the HPA received only two years probation. In the Tennessee case, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee issued a statement that read, in part: “As human beings, we have been given dominion over the earth and its creatures, and we must exercise that privilege by being good stewards of this gift. Maiming and mutilating horses for sport and profit betrays that charge of stewardship.” 🐾



A young Tennessee Walking Horse

Mary B.



USFWS Midwest Region

Gray wolves trot single file through deep snow. This photo was taken by Dr. Doug Smith, project leader of Yellowstone’s wolf reintroduction program. Aerial gunners take aim from a similar vantage point—but with a vastly different agenda.

Aerial Assault on Animals Flies Under the Radar

IN MID-DECEMBER, the advocacy group, WildEarth Guardians, settled a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought in federal court against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to obtain reports related to the aerial killing of wildlife. Thousands of animals, including wolves, coyotes, and numerous other species are killed via aerial gunning permits each year. In a typical scenario, gunners in airplanes chase these animals to exhaustion and then shoot them from the air—sometimes leaving them not dead but wounded and suffering. The vast majority of this occurs under the direction of the Wildlife Services program of the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The Airborne Hunting Act (AHA) generally prohibits shooting or harassing any bird, fish, or other animal from aircraft. However, state and federal governments are allowed to issue permits for aerial gunning in defense of “land, water, wildlife, livestock, domesticated animals, human life, or crops.” While the law requires state agencies issuing such permits to file annual reports with the Secretary of the Interior containing crucial information—including species and number of animals killed—the records obtained indicate that most agencies fail to do so, leaving aerial gunning virtually unmonitored. As a result of the lawsuit, the USFWS is sending a letter to all states in 2012 notifying them of their AHA reporting requirements. 🐾



Friend or Food?

South Korea's Cruel Dog Meat Trade

by Rosalyn Morrison

The two years I spent teaching English in South Korea proved to be a wonderful and enriching experience. I met many warmhearted and generous people who were only too willing to help a naïve American learn the social conventions—at least enough to get by in such an unfamiliar cultural landscape. (Before taking the job, I had never set foot in South Korea.)

Nevertheless, there is one vision of South Korea that left me deeply shaken—and that is the abominable way in which dogs in that country are treated. Every country has its own unique perspective on the relationship between humans and animals. It is all too easy to dismiss the practices of others as illogical or abhorrent. For the typical Westerner, eating dogs certainly qualifies as one of those practices we find strange and unsettling.

However, cultural biases aside, there is no getting around the fact that many dogs are treated miserably in South Korea. The manner in which a vast number of them

are killed for food should shock the conscience of all—not just those offended by the idea of treating man's best friend as food.

Before I left for South Korea, many friends and family members asked if I was going to Korea to eat dog meat. Laughing it off, I figured that it was a myth that dogs were still frequently eaten in one of the most developed countries in the world. To my dismay, once I got there I quickly discovered that this was indeed not a myth. Every year, according to International Aid for Korean Animals (IAKA), a non-profit organization founded by South Korean native Kyenan Kum (now living in the United States), 2 million dogs are killed for food—often in an extremely brutal manner and for dubious health benefits.

South Korea has grown exponentially in the past half-century from an impoverished nation to one with a high-tech industrialized economy. South Korea in the 1950s was a poor, rural country severely damaged by the aftermath

of the Korean War and 36 years of Japanese occupation. The annual per capita income was \$79, and the country critically depended on foreign aid. Often referred to as a miracle country, few expected South Korea to achieve what it has today.

Despite this phenomenal growth, for many years South Korea remained a homogeneous society with relatively little attention from and interaction with the outside world. Even today, with an almost nonexistent tourism industry, South Korea often feels like the underdog in relation to its more globally connected neighbors, China and Japan. A highly uniform society can have pros and cons, and one of the biggest cons in South Korea is an obsession many still have with “pure” blood. It remains extremely rare to see a Korean with a “waegookin,” or foreigner, as a partner. This obsession extends, unfortunately, to dogs as well—as evidenced by the near-universal disdain for mixed-breed dogs.

Purebred dogs, on the other hand, are highly sought after, particularly small dogs such as Toy Poodles, Pomeranians, and Yorkshire Terriers. Many Koreans treat these dogs as fashion objects. A high-priced dog is a status symbol—something to flash around your friends to show you can afford to indulge in such glitzy “objects.” On the downside, these toy dogs quite often are treated as mere commodities—to be quickly disposed of once they are no longer seen as cute and luxurious. In fact, South Korea has a severe abandonment problem. Former pets roam the streets, often still wearing frivolous sweaters, their cheeks painted as pink as a Chanel blush, their tails tinted green.

But these dogs have it easy compared to dogs of mixed breed. Dogs of uncertain pedigree are referred to as “dong-gae”—which literally means “dung dog.” They never stand a chance of living even a temporarily pampered life as do the small purebreds. When driving or walking around Jeollanam-do, the rural countryside region where I lived during my first year in South Korea, I often saw dog meat farms consisting of rusty, brown cages stacked on top of each other, filled with big yellow dogs. Akin to the gruesome manner in which pigs and chickens are raised for meat in factory farms, dogs raised for meat exist under extremely cruel and uncomfortable living conditions. These innocent dogs never feel the grass underneath their paws until the time comes when they are dragged out of a cage to meet their grim destiny. The dogs are often butchered right in front of the others.

Top: In South Korea's Jeollanam-do region, a truck passes by with its cargo of caged dogs bound for slaughter. Bottom: Puppies peer out from their filthy cage at a dog farm.

Many South Koreans would like outsiders to believe that the yellow mixed dogs are the only dogs eaten as dog meat. This is not so. In truth, once “beloved” pets turn into a nuisance and a dent in the owners’ wallet, they often are unceremoniously disposed of in the streets, to be picked up by the dog collector, thrown into small wire cages with three or four other dogs, and driven to Moran market—the largest dog meat market in the nation.

Korean law is fuzzy on the legality of the dog meat trade. According to the Korean non-profit, Korea Animal Rights Advocates (KARA), “It is technically illegal to process dogs like livestock and use dog meat as any kind of food product. However, it is not illegal to breed, or raise, or slaughter dogs for dog meat.” In addition, South Korea’s Animal Protection Act—which should be used to penalize animal abusers—isn’t enforced, despite being recently revised with stronger penalties. With no substantive restrictions to curb the sale of dog meat, it is sold in restaurants throughout the country. The government estimated over a dozen years ago that well over 20,000 restaurants—counting those that were unregistered—offered dog meat.

Photos by Rosalyn Morrison



Most horrifically, there is a widely held belief that in order to produce tender meat, dogs should have high adrenaline levels right before they die. To achieve this, dogs are sadistically made to experience extreme fear and suffering in the lead up to their deaths. Dogs are commonly killed via bludgeoning, hanging or electrocution. Some dogs are hung and then beaten while they are still alive. Others are hung and then a blow torch is used on them while they are still alive to remove their hair. At the open-air markets, dogs are electrocuted and then their necks are broken—all in plain sight of nearby pedestrians.

Why dog meat? It turns out, the attraction is not just a matter of taste or availability. IAKA's website says that, "Even during desperate times... the consumption of dog was not a dietary tradition. Like anywhere else, dog was eaten only as a last-ditch resort to avoid starvation. Then sometime in the last century the practice was taken up by a few older men for mythical health benefits regarding virility."

Consumption of dog meat also increases during Korea's scorching hot summers, as there is a belief that eating dog will keep one cool. I often saw chained or caged mixed dogs whom I had befriended disappear in July, coinciding with Bok days, the three hottest days of the summer according to the lunar calendar.

In 2002, the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup was hosted by South Korea—provoking fresh international scrutiny over South Korea's dog meat industry. Ahead of the competition, FIFA's president, Joseph Blatter, called upon the organization's vice president, Dr. Chung Mong-Joon of Korea, to take "immediate and decisive measures to put an immediate end to this cruelty." In an open letter to Dr. Chung, Blatter said the dog trade damaged South Korea's international image and that the World Cup was an "appropriate moment for Korea to show the world that it is sensitive to vociferous worldwide public opinion and that it rejects cruelty." In addition, a coalition of animal welfare and conservation groups from 12 Asian countries asked the South Korean Government to make a clear commitment during the World Cup to enforce and improve animal protection and to permanently put an end to the dog meat industry. A joint investigation was set up by government officials to try to create a better system to prevent animal abuse. However, a number of Korean officials and politicians support dog eating and have no interest in changing the system. Not surprisingly, little came of the investigation.

In January 2005, according to KARA, local animal protection groups discovered that the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OGC) under the prime minister had been covertly studying a new policy on how the government could regulate dog meat. Perceiving this as a move to sanction the cruel practice instead of eradicating it or even truly reforming it, the groups began a campaign to prevent the government from pursuing this policy. Later that same month, the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries told all groups to stop sending petitions because the OGC was not going to pursue its proposed "dog meat sanitation" management policy any further.

And yet, on March 9 of that year—in a complete reversal of what local animal protection groups were told—the prime minister announced a new dog meat sanitation management policy, intended to regulate the sale of dog meat in South Korea. However, according to Kyenan Kum, the plan was not carried out due to renewed international uproar.

Meanwhile the controversy continues. Fortunately, there are a number of animal welfare groups working diligently to end the dog meat trade in South Korea, in addition to IAKA and KARA. For many years, these organizations have been campaigning to build awareness of the atrocities associated with the dog meat trade, as well as aiding private shelters in South Korea by donating food and funding for development projects and advocating for the implementation of stronger laws and penalties against the abandonment of pets.

Another point of encouragement is that younger Koreans tend to shy away from eating dog meat, due in part to the influence from the wider world regarding dogs' roles as companions in society and not as food. Meanwhile, South Korea has been chosen to host the Winter Olympics in 2018. Many Korean animal advocates see this as an opportunity to once again focus international light on the practice—and in so doing finally bring an end to the deplorable dog meat trade. 🐾

WHAT YOU CAN DO

For more information and to lend your support to the fight to end the cruel dog meat trade, visit the websites of the following organizations:

International Aid for Korean Animals
<http://www.koreananimals.org>

Korea Animal Rights Advocates
<http://animalrightskorea.org>

Korean Animal Protection and Education Society
<http://www.kapes.or.kr/> (in Korean)



Flyeon-Hee Kang



Maggie McElhenny



Maggie McElhenny



Alexandra Alberg

Lucy Lu's Story

While living in Korea, I saw dogs and cats every day on short 3-foot-long chains or stuck in wire cages without food, water or sufficient shelter. I knew something had to be done. Determined to save at least one dog's life, I searched the Internet to find a shelter near my home.

When I visited Chonnam National University's animal clinic/shelter in Gwangju, it was immediately clear that this shelter was unable to withstand the sheer magnitude of the region's many stray dogs. Cages were stacked from floor to ceiling in every room. After venturing through several rooms, I locked eyes with a small yellow puppy staring quietly in her cage. I immediately pointed to her and the vet took her out of her cage to play with me. She was overjoyed to be out of the tiny crate that had held her for weeks. I brought her home the next day and named my little yellow puppy Lucy Lu, (or "LuLu" for short).

With Lucy Lu as my partner, I have engaged with thousands of people spreading the message that dogs and cats—no matter the breed—deserve our unconditional love. Koreans' reactions and opinions towards Lucy Lu differed dramatically according to the region. In Seoul, many people expressed awe at Lucy Lu's beauty and intelligence. But in my small, rural farming village in the southwest region of Jeollanam-do, barely half of the people accepted her. They could not understand why I treated a mixed breed with love and compassion. Some of them described her as "dong-gae" (dung dog)—a common insult in reference to her mixed breed status.

Determined to change this entrenched disdain for mixed dogs, Lucy Lu and I did not give up. Lucy Lu was named the Ambassador Dog of Korea in 2011 by the Korean Animal Protection and Education Society for her continuous effort to prove that mixed breed dogs warrant the same love and attention as pedigrees.

With my current position at AWI, Lucy Lu will once again take up her ambassadorial duties. I'm proud to campaign for Korean animals in the political capital of America with Lucy Lu at my side. 🐾

-Rosalyn Morrison

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS KEEP UP ASSAULT ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA FORESTS

JUST UNDER TWELVE YEARS AGO, AWI reported on the efforts by the Guiye Waiye Environment and Conservation Group (GWECG) to counter extensive destruction of wildlife habitat in Papua New Guinea (PNG) (see “Trouble in Paradise,” AWI Quarterly, Spring 2000). Since that time, valuable forestlands have continued to be commercially logged and permanently lost. With massive-scale logging and mineral exploration, many species’ habitats and local communities are being overrun.

It is estimated that between 6 and 8 percent of the known animal and plant species in the world live in PNG—including many that are found nowhere else on Earth. A remarkable 1,100 new species have been discovered there in the last decade alone. PNG’s rich biological diversity includes birds-of-paradise, thousands of medicinal plants, and the highest diversity of tree-dwelling marsupials—including the Matschie’s tree kangaroo.

Wood consumption by the United States and other industrial countries plays a significant role in

PNG’s rampant deforestation. One-fifth of tropical plywood originating from PNG and neighboring countries is exported to the United States. The bulk of that wood passes through China, which imports over 80 percent of PNG’s timber to manufacture inexpensive furniture for the American, European and Japanese markets. Studies reveal that approximately 70 percent of China’s timber imports from the region derive from illegal logging.

These operations are facilitated by the use of local shell companies in service to foreign parent corporations. Such shell companies shield the parent from accountability under PNG’s laws, which simultaneously are being weakened by government officials beholden to the foreign interests. Instead of protecting its natural heritage, the PNG government has relaxed regulatory standards, financed private resource exploitation projects, and fostered a culture of regulatory corruption.

Coinciding with the devastating impact on wildlife, such widespread renegade logging operations in PNG are destroying resources vital to indigenous communities. About 79 percent of PNG’s population depends on its biological bounty for food, medicine, income and building materials to sustain their livelihoods. The government also has leased 5.6 million hectares of forest to logging companies under special agreements that circumvent the nation’s explicit laws protecting communal land ownership rights.

Even foreign operators that legitimately obtain logging licenses rarely comply with applicable environmental standards. In June of 2011, the Malaysian timber company, Concord Pacific, was assessed a \$100 million fine to be paid out to four forest tribes for large-scale illegal logging and environmental destruction. Furthermore, large forests and critical habitat for many endangered species are being cleared for palm oil cultivation (used to produce foods, cosmetics and other products). These plantations have



Top: A logger stands atop the substantial stump of a felled tree. Middle: Activists painted “forest destruction” on barges of illegally harvested timber. Bottom: Another section of forest being cleared.

caused severe river pollution from toxic pesticides and partially destroyed the sole habitat of the world's largest butterfly, Queen Alexandra's birdwing.

Mining is also practiced in PNG without environmental oversight. Mineral deposits, including oil, copper and gold, account for 72 percent of export earnings and 82 percent of gross domestic product for PNG. Even more than timber, the United States has an insatiable thirst for fossil fuels; crude oil is the largest U.S. import from PNG.

Mining projects like those along the Ok Tedi and Fly rivers are responsible for mercury pollution and other persistent contamination, as chemicals used for processing raw materials find their way into groundwater and nearby rivers. Open-pit mining also generates large quantities of solid waste in return for the small amount of minerals rendered. Recently, the Australia/U.K.-based BHP Billiton Corporation paid indigenous people living along the Ok Tedi and Fly rivers \$28.6 million in an out-of-court settlement for damage caused by mining operations.

New roads built for the mines also fragment wildlife habitat and open up previously unreachable areas to human development. Such impacts are not limited to terrestrial species. For example, gold mining in the Fly River catchment contributes a massive pollutant load that drains directly into the Gulf of Papua, causing habitat damage for marine species, including the Papuan epaulette shark.

In the face of these threats, GWECG continues to spread awareness about the vital importance of PNG's soils, forests and species, and the foreign companies and practices that threaten their existence. The organization operates locally without much outside support, establishing eco-tourism programs to provide economic incentives for local communities to protect their environments. As GWECG's founder, Peter Gundu, explains, "With so many natural resources, leaders in PNG's government are not managing PNG properly for the benefit of our people and the future young generations."

Ultimately it is the people of PNG who must control the management, development and protection of the nation's forest resources. PNG communities own 97 percent of the land, which makes it difficult to set large tracts of land aside for conservation and helps facilitate exploitation of

the land by foreign companies seeking to manipulate and mislead the communities. Groups like GWECG are better able to encourage people living in these areas to conserve because their projects link the value of sustainably managed resources to improved living standards, thus empowering local landowners to be more engaged in the conservation of their own land.

Despite the continuing loss of primary forests, there have been some gains in forest conservation. PNG now has 44 terrestrial protected areas, comprising 1.6 percent of its total land area. In addition, in May

of 2010 the Governor of PNG's Southern Highlands Province called for a moratorium on new forestry licenses to ensure there are enough resources available for future generations. In response, Forest Minister Timothy Bonga stated that a review of the Forestry Act was long overdue and promised to bring amendments to parliament for landowners to be equity partners in projects.

Key to any preservation effort is the work of groups like GWECG to educate individual landowners concerning what they stand to gain from preservation of PNG's environment, critical habitats, and biodiversity. To find out more and support GWECG's grassroots campaign, please contact: Peter Gundu, Coordinator, Guiye Waiye Environment and Conservation Group, P.O. Box 463, Kundiawa Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea, or peter.gunda@yahoo.com. 🐾



Nathan & Jenny

Dwindling space for giant butterfly: Clearing forests for palm oil plantations cuts into the only home of the Queen Alexandra's birdwing.



Electus Parrot, Qihui de Hanabi



Michele Cunneen

Increased cage height for rabbits is one of the improvements incorporated into the new *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

NIH Finally Accepts New Care and Use Guide

ON DECEMBER 1—almost one year from its publication date—the 8th edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* was accepted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A great deal of controversy has surrounded some of the new requirements in the *Guide* (see page 2 of the summer 2011 issue of the *AWI Quarterly*). For those whose research is regulated under the *Guide*, the four most contentious changes (and the most likely cause of the delay) are: (1) social housing is now considered the “standard” housing condition for all species; (2) minimum size for rodent breeding cages has increased; (3) cage height for rabbits has increased; and (4) social housing is now firmly required for primates. (Social housing for primates should have been required under the Animal Welfare Act since 1985, but this was not uniformly enforced. By the terms of the new *Guide*, lack of caging is expressly ruled out as an acceptable justification.)

Along with the acceptance of the *Guide* from the NIH came 29 FAQs from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare to help the regulated community interpret the new rules. Nineteen of these were updates to previous explanations, while 10 were new FAQs. Unfortunately, most of these FAQs are disappointing from a welfare perspective in that they allow “performance” measures of compliance. While performance standards are not inherently bad, they do provide those less committed to practicing the best animal care and research an opportunity to use procedures that may not be true to the intent of the reforms, or in the best interest of the animals. 🐾

POSITIVE STRIDES AT AALAS MEETING

The 62nd National Meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)—the largest research animal-specific conference in the United States—was held in San Diego, California, October 2-6, 2011. AWI was there and engaged many research professionals and laboratory staff in conversations regarding how to provide the best care for animals in research. We also distributed more than 1,000 books and magazines on humane handling and care of animals in research.

As touched on in the summer 2011 issue of the *AWI Quarterly*, there has been an increase in interest in using dipyrone (metamizole) in rodent models of inflammation where pain relief is not yet incorporated into the standard of care. At the AALAS meeting, many visitors to the AWI booth showed great interest in hearing more about it. Since that meeting, three labs have contacted AWI Laboratory Animal Consultant Michele Cunneen to report that they have conducted at least one preliminary experiment using dipyrone—with promising results. They all plan to explore the use of dipyrone in rodent models of inflammation further. If your institution tries it, please let Michele (Michele@awionline.org) know your results!

At the meeting, one encouraging example of the increasing emphasis on incorporating principles of the “3R’s” (replacement, reduction and refinement) to reduce animal suffering was a presentation by Abbott Labs on its creation of a full-time “alternatives coordinator.” This individual is assigned to take all the ideas staff members have about replacement and reduction of animals in experiments, and refinement of methods, and create a multidisciplinary team to evaluate and implement such ideas. In the less than a year that the coordinator has been in place, Abbott has tackled three 3R-related projects, all of which showed some benefit. The most impressive of these involved fine-tuning the analytical methods and techniques for a particular experiment, which resulted in reductions in the number of mice used for pharmacokinetic studies ranging from 50 to 88 percent (depending on the project area). 🐾

NIH Temporarily Halts Research with Chimpanzees

“MOST CURRENT USE OF CHIMPANZEES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IS UNNECESSARY” according to a landmark Institute of Medicine report titled *Chimpanzees in Biomedical and Behavioral Research: Assessing the Necessity*. The report, released on December 15, 2011, also recommended that the necessity of research with chimpanzees (whether biomedical, behavioral, or involving comparative genomics) be assessed against set criteria.

Commissioned by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the report was produced by a committee of medical and scientific experts convened by the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine. The committee used the following principles to develop criteria to evaluate research with chimpanzees:

- 1) *The knowledge gained must be necessary to advance the public’s health;*
- 2) *There must be no other research model by which the knowledge could be obtained, and the research cannot be ethically performed on human subjects; and*
- 3) *The animals used in the proposed research must be maintained either in ethologically appropriate physical and social environments or in natural habitats.*

Within an hour of the report’s release, NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins accepted the recommendations in the report and suspended all new research with chimpanzees



A chimpanzee named Henrietta huddles into a corner of her enclosure at a research facility.

until its suggestions can be implemented. Current research that doesn’t conform to the new rules will be phased out. At present NIH funds 37 projects with chimpanzees, and Collins believes that about half of the research will fail to meet the new criteria.

Approximately 937 chimpanzees are maintained in five facilities in the United States. The report applies only to the 600 or so of these animals who are owned or involved in projects supported by the NIH. Many of these chimpanzees are old and have been retired from research. The issue of research with chimpanzees drew widespread attention in late 2010 when NIH started moving some of the older chimpanzees from a retirement facility in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to a San Antonio, Texas, research facility. This movement of chimpanzees has been suspended, and Collins has stated that the Alamogordo animals will not be drafted back into research for the foreseeable future.

An important message of the report doesn’t relate to chimpanzees at all, but rather to all animals who are undergoing experimentation and testing. If a thorough overview was done of all of the research with animals other than chimpanzees, would the findings be similar—i.e. is there a significant amount of research that perhaps shouldn’t be conducted? Certainly it would appear that all protocol reviews should be more rigorous. Further, the same three principles that guided the committee on chimpanzees ought to apply to research on all animals. 🐾



Images courtesy of Save the Chimps

Now 45, Henrietta (at left) is retired from research. Here, she relaxes in the company of two other chimpanzees (Conner and Lupe) at the Save the Chimps sanctuary in Fort Pierce, FL.

CHICKENS and EGGS HANDLED with CARE at WINDY RIDGE NATURAL FARMS



The Koegels. Clockwise from top: Kathy, Tim, Lucas, Doneta, Vianna; with dogs Kiko (left) and Onyx—both rescues.

Photos by Mike Suarez

NESTLED IN THE WESTERN NEW YORK COMMUNITY OF ALFRED, Windy Ridge Natural Farms is a pasture-based poultry farm that raises its laying hens in accordance with AWI's Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) standards. In contrast to laying hens in factory farm operations, the chickens at Windy Ridge are not confined to cramped cages. The birds—mostly Rhode Island Reds and Gold Laced Wyandottes—spend their days on the grass, foraging for insects and clipping green shoots. They seek shelter under airy hoop houses (think wire-frame Quonset huts), with access to perches and other amenities designed to let chickens feel like chickens, not cogs grinding together in a very big machine.

The interest of owners Tim and Kathy Koegel in food raised naturally is derived in no small part from their own experience as a family. They bought the property

that would become Windy Ridge Natural Farms in 2000. It represented a return-to-roots homecoming for Tim, who grew up on a family farm in Alfred before venturing out into the wider world. Not long after the land was purchased, however, and even as the Koegels were trying to determine what their farm would grow and how they would grow it, one of their daughters developed a rash that doctors couldn't decipher.

When conventional or alternative medicine couldn't solve the mystery, Kathy set off on a six-month course of independent research which led her to conclude that the source was a food allergy to sulfites—the same sulfites found in a wide variety of highly processed foods. Removing the sulfite-laden foods from her daughter's diet made the rash go away. It also made the whole family far more conscious about what they were putting into their bodies, and how a system focused on cheap, fast production above all else was not good for anyone—least of all the animals bound up in the system. The experience steered the Koegels not only toward organic, but toward farming in a way that placed the animals in a more natural setting.



Last year, Windy Ridge received a \$5,000 Animal Welfare Approved Good Husbandry Grant that allowed the farm to expand its flock and upgrade the facilities. Specifically, it enabled Tim to refine his design for special mobile hen housing for laying hens—complete with a feeder, watering system, lights and a de-icing device, some of which are powered by solar panels and marine batteries.

Tim says he has been developing hen houses over the course of several years that are highly functional and designed with the birds' accommodation and comfort first and foremost. "The main house offers an abundance of perch space, placing the birds higher for their psychological comfort as well as their physical comfort. It's warmer up higher in the winter, breezy and cooler in the summer. It also offers plenty of in-house nesting space." Tim said the grant gave him "an opportunity to utilize more innovations and create an environment for the birds that surpasses even my best previous efforts."

By attaching the wire-frame hoop houses to the main houses, Tim says he can offer a comfortable, protected space while alleviating much of the mud and droppings that would otherwise end up in the main house, and provide extra lighted shelter space when the winter days get shorter. "It is great for the farmer because it offers expanded living space for the birds at a greatly reduced cost over the main house." He shares the model with other producers, "so that they can adopt our ideas and innovations, either in whole or in part, to improve the humane aspects of pastured layer operations nationwide." Both consumer and producer education have become important parts of the farm's mission.

In expanding their operation, the Koegels are also reaching out to urban customers. Over the summer Windy Ridge teamed up with AWA on a pilot project creating a supply chain of AWA farm products into New York City.

The first phase of this project launched in mid-June at Dickson's Farmstand Meats in Manhattan's Chelsea Market.

The pilot proved to be a big success. Dickson's regulars started asking if Windy Ridge eggs were available. "Many times the eggs would sell out quickly," noted AWA Farmer and Market Outreach Coordinator Brigid Sweeney. In December, it was announced that Windy Ridge and Dickson's had entered into an agreement whereby Dickson's would carry Windy Ridge eggs on an ongoing basis.

The laying hens of Windy Ridge Natural Farms are blissfully unaware of their popularity in the Big Apple. For them, it is enough that they have a fan in Alfred. Tim speaks openly and often of treating animals on the farm with "reverence and respect," framing it on the farm's website in terms of a transcendent responsibility: "I believe that we must be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us including the environment, the animals and our bodies. I believe in the

organic system and humane practices because it is the best for the consumer, the animal, the environment, the farmer and our collective future." 🐾



The mobile hen house, shown here, can be wheeled out to the choicest pasture areas.

At left, chickens forage outside the attached mobile hen house and hoop house. Tim Koegel's innovation of attaching the hoop house to the main house creates an expansive "covered patio" that provides a well-lit shelter area during inclement weather.



NOT SO

"Inspired by Iceland"

ICELAND IS A STUDY IN CONTRASTS.

Known as the “land of fire and ice,” its lava fields, glaciers and craggy, mountain-ringed fjords make the country one of the top eco-tourism destinations in the world. A half-million tourists visited Iceland in 2010, an impressive number given that the country’s population is only 300,000.

The ocean around Iceland teems with life and is home to a wide variety of ocean fauna, including 23 species of whales and dolphins. Since the first whale watch tours in Iceland were offered in 1991, Iceland’s whale watch industry has had one of the sector’s highest growth rates. More than a dozen companies offer visitors an opportunity to see minke and humpback whales, as well as dolphins. Off shore, fin whales, sperm whales, and even the majestic blue whale can be found.

The rapid rise of whale watching in Iceland coincided with the country’s decision to stop whaling in 1990. In 1992, Iceland also withdrew from the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This latter move, coupled with the earlier suspension of commercial whaling and rise in whale watching, led some to conclude that Iceland had abandoned efforts to defend its whaling industry and had decided instead to embrace the economic benefits of living whales.

Unfortunately, Iceland’s whaling industry had not given up. The first inkling of trouble came in 2000, when Iceland joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),

but took a reservation to the Appendix I listing of whale species—signaling its intent to restart whaling and international trade in whale meat. In 2002, Iceland rejoined the IWC, announcing that whaling would resume under a reservation to the whaling moratorium.

A year later, after over 13 years without whaling, the Icelandic government issued whaling quotas. The first minke whale was killed in August 2003. Quotas for the endangered fin whale followed in 2006, and the industry was “off and hunting” on a scale not seen in the northwest Atlantic for decades. Iceland’s 2010 body count was the highest in decades, with 148 fin and 60 minke whales killed.

With so much whale meat and blubber on hand, Iceland ramped up its international trade. Since 2006, it has exported more than 1,500 tons of whale meat and other products, mainly to Japan. In addition to exports, the minke whaling industry endeavored to increase domestic sales. The Hrefnuveiðimenn company began marketing minke whale meat in trendy, aesthetically inviting, vacuum-sealed packages. Recipes by well-known Icelandic chefs were featured in radio, television and print ads, and the meat was offered to restaurants and supermarkets at low cost to encourage sales.

According to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCCS), these efforts appear to have paid off. More than 100 restaurants, shops and supermarkets around Iceland sold whale meat in 2010 compared to only 50 in 2007. As domestic availability increased, tourists were also targeted.

In autumn 2011, representatives of AWI and WDCA discovered meat from minke whales—who are listed on CITES Appendix I—on sale at



Alex Chiang

Minke whale meat dish, at a restaurant in northern Iceland.

the “Inspired by Iceland” duty-free store in the departure area of Keflavik International Airport. Hrefnuveiðimenn whale products were openly offered for sale. No information was available explaining that whale meat is banned from international trade for travelers from all countries save those few pro-whaling countries such as Norway and Japan which have—like Iceland—lodged a reservation to the CITES whale listings. Store employees were captured on video telling U.S. citizens that they could legally import the product into the United States with a veterinary certificate stating that the product was Icelandic livestock, and free from hoof-and-mouth disease!

Additional research revealed that the shop had been selling the whale meat to tourists since July. The Inspired by Iceland airport store

is owned by “10-11,” a prominent Icelandic supermarket chain. According to the company’s CEO, Árni Pétur Jónsson, the minke meat had been one of its best selling items over the summer.

AWI and WDCA urgently shared their findings with the U.S. and U.K. governments, and then with the media. The news went viral, and caught the attention of the Icelandic media when both the U.K. Foreign Office and the U.S. Department of State posted travel advisories warning travelers that citizens of the U.K. and U.S. faced possible imprisonment or hefty fines if they brought home whale meat.

Within days of these warnings, the 10-11 company removed the minke whale meat from the airport shop. CEO Jónsson said that the decision had been a commercial one, “as the issue became hot in a very short time and we have been in receipt of emails from a number of travel agents who were indirectly threatening that they would try to avoid Iceland.” Despite this clear victory, whale products remain on sale to tourists in supermarkets throughout Iceland with nary a warning about the illegality of exports.

The sharp contrasts that define Iceland are obvious in its relationship with whales. Tourists board whale watching boats in Reykjavik harbor

less than fifteen feet from harpoon-mounted fin whaling vessels. Then, after spending hours enjoying the spectacle of whales in the wild, whale watchers walk off the pier and pass by numerous restaurants serving whale meat. Shockingly, according to a 2009 study by the University of Iceland and the Elding Whale Watch company, though 76 percent of those surveyed who participated in a whale watch indicated opposition to whaling, 19 percent said they had tried whale meat, and others said they would do so simply out of curiosity.

According to the Icelandic Whale Watch Association (IceWhale) and the Icelandic Travel Industry Association (SAF), the whaling industry is having a negative impact on their industry. The number of tourists opting to go on a whale watch dropped 10 percent from 2009 to 2010. To make matters worse, the Hrefnuveiðimenn company is hoping to offer “whaling” watching tours in summer 2012.

Iceland is a beautiful country with a rich history and spectacular land and seascapes. Unfortunately, its ongoing slaughter of whales diminishes its attractiveness to those who care about whales. For those who do visit Iceland, enjoy the live whales but don’t contribute to cruelty by consuming whale meat or other whale products. 🐾

THE WARNING ON THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE READS:

“ALL PERSONS ARE BARRED FROM IMPORTING WHALE MEAT TO THE U.S. EVEN THOUGH WHALE MEAT IS SOLD THROUGHOUT ICELAND, THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO BRING BACK WHALE MEAT INTO THE U.S. ANY IMPORTATION OF WHALE MEAT TO THE U.S. WILL RESULT IN THE SEIZURE OF THE GOODS AND POSSIBLE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION. PENALTIES INCLUDE JAIL TIME AND FINES OF UP TO \$10,000.”

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1138.html





Tom Gill

Caught in the Crosshairs: Effective Immunocontraception Faces Political Fire

In this two-part series on wildlife immunocontraception, AWI discusses the practicalities and politics behind this emerging humane technology. In the first article (AWI Quarterly, Fall 2011), AWI provided background information about immunocontraception with a focus on its use as an alternative to lethal control of white-tailed deer. In this article, AWI compares two leading vaccines, explores successful immunocontraceptive field studies, and examines the politics that continue to hinder the development and application of immunocontraceptive vaccines.

In part one of this series, AWI looked at two immunocontraceptive vaccines used to humanely control reproduction in captive and suburban wildlife populations: porcine zona pellucida (PZP), a natural

vaccine produced by the Science and Conservation Center based in Billings, Montana, and GonaCon™, a synthetic vaccine developed by scientists affiliated with the National Wildlife Research Center of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Although PZP has been remarkably successful in controlling reproduction in a multitude of species, including white-tailed deer and wild horses, the USDA has spent substantial funds on the study of GonaCon™ as an alternative. The “competition” to determine who can develop the more effective and long-lasting vaccines has likely benefitted both research camps, and both vaccines show promise as a method for non-lethal control of suburban wildlife populations.

To briefly compare the two vaccines: While both PZP and GonaCon™ cost very little per dose, GonaCon™ is synthetic and simpler to manufacture (logistically,

practically, and from a regulatory standpoint) than PZP, which is produced from a natural product. However, GonaCon™ is more expensive and less practical to *apply* since it generally requires the capture of the target animals, while PZP can be delivered remotely through darts and bio-bullets. GonaCon™, when used on captive animals, has demonstrated a multi-year level of efficacy based on a single-shot of the vaccine. However, when tested in the wild, the efficacy of GonaCon™ declines substantially. Although PZP as a single, two-shot treatment has increased efficacy over time compared to GonaCon™, to retain its effectiveness on a long-term basis, animals currently have to be “boosted” annually, which adds to the time, costs and logistical difficulties of administering PZP.

In response to such difficulties, technologies for longer-lasting single-shot vaccines have emerged, and both PZP and GonaCon™ have been altered to boost the duration of effectiveness in wild horse and white-tailed deer populations. Scientists—including those at the Science and Conservation Center, Allen Rutberg of Tufts University’s Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and John Turner at the Toledo University School of Medicine—have had particular success employing the PZP vaccine to control white-tailed deer populations at several study sites.

Perhaps the most successful demonstration of the value of PZP in deer management has occurred at Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS) in New York. The National Park Service (NPS) conducted a deer fertility control project on Fire Island from 1993 to 2010. The birth of fawns on the island fell dramatically within the first few years of PZP use, with several hundred deer treated each year. Efforts focused on deer living in densely populated urban areas where, in time, the deer population decreased by nearly 70 percent.

The published results demonstrate that PZP is highly effective in inhibiting fertility, reversible, safe to use in pregnant animals, has no significant short- or long-term health effects, and does not pass through the food chain—all important criteria for an effective and acceptable fertility control agent. Furthermore, the ability to deliver PZP remotely without capturing and tagging animals makes PZP an easy-to-use and humane immunocontraceptive agent.

Field projects elsewhere have shown similar reductions, with fertility reduced by 72 to 86 percent.

On Fripp Island, South Carolina, for example, the deer population was halved—from 2005 to 2010. Not surprisingly, the health of individual deer improved as deer density declined and remaining deer had access to more forage, while females avoided the rigors and physiological costs of reproduction.

In the fall of 2010, however, the NPS suddenly terminated the immunocontraception program on Fire Island. Eventually, FIIS Superintendent K. Chris Stoller claimed that halting the use of immunocontraception was necessary to transition from a “research project” to a white-tailed deer “management plan.” Developing this plan will entail consideration of other alternatives, presumably including lethal control, to manage the island’s white-tailed deer—a population that had been successfully controlled using immunocontraception for nearly two decades. Indeed, by terminating this project, the NPS appears to be undermining the benefits achieved through immunocontraception research, in that the deer population will be allowed to resume unchecked growth while the management plan is developed. Why did the NPS not allow the immunocontraception project to continue at FIIS while



Healthy deer following a successful immunocontraception trial involving PZP on Fripp Island, SC.

it prepared a management plan? Is there an assumption from a legal standpoint that research and management must be mutually exclusive?

This is not the only example of a PZP success story being abruptly cut short without explanation. The Fripp Island project and the Metro Parks project in Columbus,



Jen Goelitz

Treating does like this one with PZP can inhibit overcrowding while giving her a chance to thrive.

Ohio (1995–2003), were both terminated by state wildlife agencies concerned that the projects were becoming more about “management” and less about “research.” The Fripp Island project was originally supported by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources before it terminated the effort, and the department has reported that it may still consider the use of GonaCon™ on the island.

The sudden halt of these successful projects is likely the result of vehement political opposition that still exists in some quarters to the use of immunocontraceptives for wildlife. State wildlife agencies, as well as hunters and allied organizations, see deer contraception as a threat to the tradition and culture of hunting (or the revenue generated by hunting), even though it has only been proposed for use on deer populations unable to be efficiently or safely controlled through hunting. There is also trepidation about trying new management techniques that do not coincide with the way things have always been done. Simply put, as the old saying goes, “it is tough to teach an old dog new tricks.” Indeed, many of these agencies and organizations have engaged in a campaign of obstruction, misinformation, and outright deception to derail the development, expansion and field validation of immunocontraception. Sadly, such efforts have slowed the

testing of deer immunocontraceptive agents in urban and suburban areas dramatically.

Given the culture, politics, and economics involved, it is of little surprise that this controversy seems to be confined to deer management. Based on published research, the use of PZP is steadily increasing in wild and domestic horses, zoo animals, bison (domestic and wild) and elephants. Last year the number of zoo animals successfully treated with PZP to limit reproduction doubled. In reference to wild horses, sanctuaries, tribes, and the Bureau of Land Management are all expanding their use of PZP to control fertility. Expressing a viewpoint that is perhaps shared by many others, one scientist quipped, “states are open to using contraception on species like pigeons until that same contraception is proposed for a ‘game’ animal, like geese, because it could threaten the sale of hunting licenses.”

For now, deer contraception research projects are largely moving forward on federal land where state wildlife agencies have limited authority. However, as touched on above, federal agencies such as the NPS are also obstructing the use of this humane technology and purposefully creating stringent wildlife contraception criteria to deter the immediate application of immunocontraception. In its place, the NPS has allowed sharpshooters—under cover of darkness, using night-vision equipment and weapons equipped with silencers—to invade our parks and mercilessly slaughter deer attracted to artificial bait piles.

Despite such tactics, there remains a public demand for an effective, efficient, and low-cost immunocontraceptive agent. With a burgeoning human population, wildlife and wildlife habitat are being lost at an accelerating pace. As humans continue to spread over the landscape, they are increasingly coming into conflict with wildlife. While, in an ideal world, people would respect and enjoy wildlife and allow natural factors to control their abundance, lethal control of wildlife is the current reality. Immunocontraception is a tool that can be used to alter this reality—to resolve conflicts while avoiding the cruelty of lethal control. Indeed, as societal norms and values change to embrace humane wildlife management, those stuck in the past should take note of a science-powered alternative coming their way. 🐾

CALIFORNIA CITY PURSUES GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY WITH LOCAL COYOTES

The City of Calabasas, in the Santa Monica Mountains northwest of Los Angeles, has decided it will no longer use city funds to finance the killing of coyotes. This past December, the City Council approved a coyote management plan that accepts the coyotes as natural neighbors and sets forth steps designed to minimize negative interactions with humans.

The move culminates months of grassroots mobilizing by local citizens working with AWI and Project Coyote to end lethal control and formulate a humane management plan. The controversy arose when Calabasas resident Randi Feilich Hirsch learned that city tax dollars were being spent to trap and kill coyotes within her homeowner's association. Feilich Hirsch contacted AWI wildlife consultant and founding director of Project Coyote, Camilla Fox, for assistance.

On July 13, 2011, citizens went before the City Council, urging the city to stop trapping coyotes and presenting information about the ineffectiveness and cruelty of strangulation neck snares—a tool commonly used to kill coyotes. One day later, City Manager Tony Coroales announced a temporary ban on further killing and directed the city's Environmental Commission to review the issue.

Fox and Feilich Hirsch mobilized local residents, engaged the National Park Service, and worked with city officials to develop a new plan which emphasizes long-term education, reduction of wildlife attractants, and hazing of habituated coyotes—instead of trapping and

killing. In addition, Fox worked with Change.org's Stephanie Feldenstein to generate more than 9,000 signatures on an online petition calling for a permanent ban on city-funded coyote killing and for adoption of an effective, humane coyote management plan. Fox delivered the petition to the City Council and presented testimony demonstrating that indiscriminate trapping of coyotes is neither an effective nor humane solution to reducing real or perceived conflicts between people, coyotes, and domestic animals.

On October 12, the City Council voted unanimously in support of the resolution that prohibits city funds from being used to trap and kill coyotes and agrees to collaborate with Project Coyote and AWI in creating and implementing a humane coyote management plan. Fox has since worked closely with city officials in creating a model plan, which the City of Calabasas unanimously adopted on December 14.

"It shows that concerned citizens can speak up at the local level and make changes in city policy," said Feilich Hirsch. "We are optimistic that local residents will embrace this plan and become actively involved in coexisting with our wildlife neighbors." Calabasas Mayor Pro Tem Mary Sue Maurer said "With the expertise of Project Coyote, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the National Park Service, Calabasas residents and coyotes will mutually benefit and live more harmoniously together. I encourage all Californians who live alongside coyotes to learn more about these wondrous creatures and about ways we can coexist together." 🐾



Appropriations

Good News

AS FAR AS ANIMALS ARE CONCERNED, the catch-all bill that Congress passed at December's end to fund government operations through the rest of FY 2012 is as important for what it doesn't do as for what it does. Thanks to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is directed to spend at least \$4 million from its Endangered Species Recovery Fund on white-nose syndrome (WNS) research and response activities. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are also directed to prioritize research related to WNS, as well as inventory and monitor bat resources on their lands.

Dropped from the bill was very dangerous language that would have prevented judicial review of endangered species delisting rules for wolves in Wyoming, the Western Great Lakes region, and possibly elsewhere. (See *AWI Quarterly*, Fall 2011.) 🐾

Bad News

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS, Congress has opened the doors to restarting horse slaughter in the U.S. The bill to fund the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the rest of FY 2012 was stripped of language prohibiting USDA inspections of plants that slaughter horses for human consumption. As a result, in this time of runaway deficits and cutbacks in essential programs, and against overwhelming objections from the public, Congress has given the USDA the green light to resurrect an expensive and unnecessary program if foreign interests again decide to start killing American horses on American soil to satisfy foreign appetites. This development underscores the urgency of passing the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 2966/S. 1176). 🐾



Danny Barron

Thanks to Congress, a brutal American horse slaughter industry may resume—with taxpayer dollars funding the necessary USDA inspections.

UPDATE

Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mark Kirk (R-IL), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Scott Brown (R-MA) have introduced S. 1947, a companion measure to H.R. 2492, the Animal Fighting Spectator Act. The bill would make knowingly attending an animal fight punishable by fines and up to one year in prison (see *AWI Quarterly*, Fall 2011). 🐾

Bill Takes Aim at Circus Animal Abuse

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS...do not belong on the road! It is impossible for circuses and other traveling exhibitors to meet the very complex needs of wild and exotic animals. Circuses and other traveling shows subject the animals they exploit to unnatural environments, constant travel and long hours of cramped confinement, and cruel training techniques that often involve physical abuse. All this takes a toll on the animals and—combined with close proximity to the public—accidents can (and do) occur. Over 30 serious incidents have occurred since 2000—including deaths of both animals and trainers and injuries to audience members.

It is long past the time when society should have stopped subjecting animals to inhumane conditions for our supposed “entertainment.” Recognizing the serious need to lessen the misery experienced by these animals, Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) has introduced H.R. 3359, the Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act. H.R. 3359 would improve the well-being of wild and exotic animals by restricting their use in traveling shows. The legislation, which has 15 cosponsors to date, has been referred to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry. 🐾

Demand for Horns Herding Rhinos to Extinction

2011 WAS A GRIM YEAR FOR RHINOS. In November, the International Union for Conservation of Nature declared Africa's western black rhino officially extinct, and indicated that the northern white rhino is "possibly extinct," as well. The last Javan rhino in Vietnam was apparently felled by poachers, and fewer than 50 are estimated to remain in the wild, all in Java. Meanwhile, relentless poaching of rhinos in Africa continued, particularly in South Africa, where a record 443 rhinos were reported killed as of December 28, including 244 slaughtered in Kruger National Park alone. The slaughter took place despite renewed efforts by African governments to stem the killing by increasing the number of park rangers, police and soldiers patrolling the bush; making more arrests of suspected poachers; and handing down stiffer penalties—including jail time—for those convicted of rhino poaching or illegal possession of rhino horns.



Valentina Storti

*An introduced southern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) in Kenya. Poachers have apparently wiped out the northern white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*).*

The killing spree is directly linked to the rising value of rhino horn (now worth more than gold), largely driven by persistent but unsubstantiated belief in the medicinal value of the keratinous horns—in particular, a claim originating in Vietnam that rhino horn can cure cancer. 🐾

GROWING DECEPTION: FARMS MASK ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN WILD PYTHONS

According to a new study published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, breeding farms in Indonesia are being used to launder thousands of illegally caught snakes each year. Authors Jessica Lyons and Daniel Natusch of the University of New South Wales report that "at least 80% of the green pythons exported from Indonesia annually are illegally wild-caught," and that a vast number of these are processed as "captive-bred" to circumvent Indonesian and international law. Based on surveys of wildlife traders conducted between August 2009 and April 2011, the authors estimate that at least 5,337 green pythons—a protected species in Indonesia—are collected each year, primarily for the pet trade. The authors further report, "The general health of green pythons being traded was poor. We observed hundreds of snakes that were malnourished, showing symptoms

of disease and/or infection, or were dead." Lyons and Natusch provided a number of recommendations, including increased monitoring of breeding farms, education of consumers, and the use of egg shells to prove an animal was bred in captivity to reduce the threat of this illegal trade to wild snake populations.

In related news, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced in January a ban on importation and interstate transport of four non-native species of snakes and their eggs: the Burmese python, the northern and southern African pythons, and the yellow anaconda. These four snakes are believed to represent a grave threat to sensitive ecosystems. Burmese pythons (likely descended from escaped or released pets) have already established a foothold in the Everglades and prey on endangered native species.

The USFWS continues to evaluate whether to extend the ban to an additional five snake species—the reticulated python, boa constrictor, DeSchauensee's anaconda, green anaconda and Beni anaconda—as called for in a bill introduced in the House in January of last year (H.R. 511), a bill which AWI strongly supports. 🐾



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A Call for Grant Proposals: The Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

April 18, 2012 is the deadline to apply for grants toward the development of innovative strategies for humane, non-lethal wildlife management and non-invasive scientific research.

AWI is now accepting applications for its 2012 Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards. This award program, named in honor of the organization's late founder and president, provides grants of up to \$10,000 to help spur innovative and creative research on humane, non-lethal tools and techniques for wildlife conflict management and the scientific study of wild species in North America.

Habitat destruction and degradation, urban and suburban sprawl, and ongoing challenges posed by invasive species make conflicts between wildlife and humans inevitable. Homeowners, property managers, and biologists need effective, non-lethal, and humane strategies to deal with conflicts—whether the encounter involves coyotes, deer, Canada geese, bears, introduced species, or a host of other animals. Though humane techniques have been developed to address some situations, more are needed. Scientists and

animals would also benefit from the development of non-invasive methods that facilitate more efficient and effective studies of wild species.

The Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards were created to stimulate and support efforts to devise new techniques and strategies, test existing products, and develop educational tools, for the purpose of humanely defusing wildlife conflicts and establishing non-invasive wildlife research methodologies. With this award program we aim to honor Mrs. Stevens' legacy and inspire a new generation of compassionate wildlife scientists, managers and advocates.

For an online application form, as well as detailed application requirements, examples of successful applications, and AWI Quarterly articles written by past recipients, visit the AWI website at: www.awionline.org/csaward. Applicants must be based in North America and the proposed study must pertain to wildlife in North America. Only fully completed applications meeting these criteria and submitted online by the deadline will be considered. 🐾

