

AWI

Quarterly

Winter 2006 Volume 55 Number 1





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ABOUT THE COVER

The lesser long-nosed bat is one of six endangered bat species living in the continental United States (photo by Merlin Tuttle). Some plants depend almost entirely on this animal for pollination, making it a crucial player in many ecosystems. Unfortunately, many other bats are also at risk. In addition to those already listed as endangered, the US Fish and Wildlife Service considers at least 20 more species to be of special concern and likely in need of increased protection in the near future. Loss of habitat and other human causes are perhaps this creature’s biggest threat, and some wind farms may be contributing to the problem (see story, pages 4-6).

The Endangered Species Act is our country’s most important tool to preserve species on the brink of extinction, including these bats. For over 30 years, the landmark law has sheltered endangered or threatened animals and their habitats from profit-driven developers and corporations. However, this may change. A measure passed in the House of Representatives aims to strip the original Act of important protections (see story, pages 10-11).

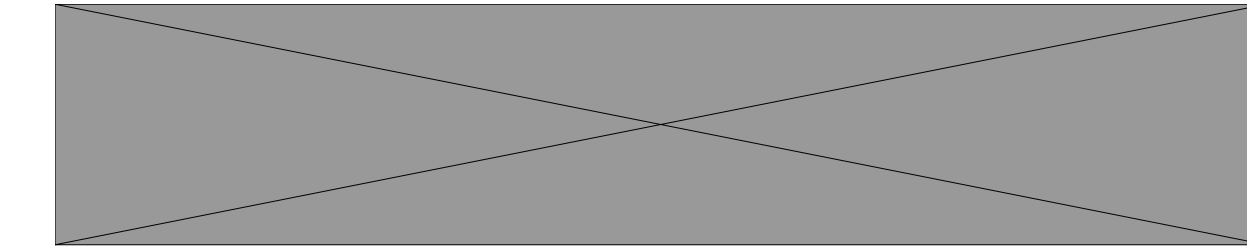
Federal Agencies Out of Step

In 2005, both Houses of Congress voted to stop horse slaughter by prohibiting taxpayer dollars from being used to fund the federally mandated inspection of horses slaughtered for human consumption (see story, page 12). Despite Congressional intent, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now considering a petition to establish a “fee-for-service” inspection system—surreptitiously submitted by the three foreign-owned horse slaughterhouses in the United States—that would enable the industry to fund its own inspections. The Society for Animal Protective Legislation, along with several other humane organizations, has retained the law firm of Meyer, Glitzenstein & Crystal to explore legal options against the agency. On our behalf, the firm wrote a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, encouraging him to halt this plan.

“It is beyond our imagination in the US Congress that the USDA would flout its mandate and spend tax dollars...working on ways to circumvent this law,” said Representative John Sweeney (R-NY). “It’s disturbing that an agency like the USDA feels it is appropriate to obstruct a law passed by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in Congress when [its] sole mission is to implement the law.”

Meanwhile, we are making headway in our battle against the US Forest Service (USFS)—a lawsuit on behalf of wild horses living in Arizona’s Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The Animal Welfare Institute and our co-plaintiffs (In Defense of Animals and the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros) were granted a temporary restraining order in early September to prevent the USFS from removing these horses from their habitat, including the officially designated Heber Wild Horse Territory. We have challenged the unsubstantiated USFS claim that the animals are “trespass horses” and not protected under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Our attorneys argued that the agency abdicated its responsibility to census and monitor horses in the area over the years as required by the Act, thereby invalidating its assertion that the animals are trespass.

Had the restraining order not been granted, these horses would have likely been purchased at auction by “killer-buyers” and sold for slaughter. Fortunately, the restraining order remained in place until a hearing for a preliminary injunction was held on Dec. 9. Several days later, US District Judge Frederick J. Martone issued an order granting our application for a preliminary injunction and enjoining the USFS from rounding up and removing these horses or awarding a bid for such removal until a final judgment is rendered. 🐾



Jim Peaco/National Parks Service

The gentle bison of Yellowstone National Park have once again fallen victim to Montana’s hunters (see story, page 7).



Rescued from slaughter in the Philippines, these dogs were placed in a nearby shelter (see story, page 15).



National Parks Service

Beavers are one of many wildlife species that may stand to gain from the new Christine Stevens Wildlife Award (see back cover for details).

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Wind Energy — Friend or Foe?

More studies are needed to combat fatalities.

With the rise in global warming making news headlines in recent months, supporting the development of renewable energy sources is a high priority for energy companies and environmentalists alike—and wind energy has become the fastest growing energy source in the United States. Yet wind farms located on ridgelines along the East Coast may operate at the expense of the lives of many bats and birds.

“I think any biologist or scientist who opposes the development of renewable energy would be acting hypocritical,” said Ed Arnett, a conservation scientist specializing in wind energy at Bat Conservation International (BCI). “But it all has to be done responsibly. There’s no impact-free energy. Most people know fossil fuels can harm our health and the earth with their toxic emissions, but the suffering wind farms cause bats and birds is a recent discovery.



Photos: Bat Conservation International

As part of an ongoing study, BCI's Ed Arnett inspects a bat who was just killed by a turbine at the Mountaineer Wind Energy Facility.

Bat Deaths Spark Concerns

Like birds, whose wind turbine-related perils have been publicized in recent years, some species of bats migrate south for the winter. As they pass the mid-Atlantic region, wind farms pose numerous death risks. In 2003, at the 44-turbine Mountaineer Wind Energy Center near a major Appalachian ridge in West Virginia, 475 bat carcasses were found, according to the organization SafeWind. But that's not even a conservative estimate, the researchers said; it's merely a small percentage of the actual total, which may have exceeded 3,000. The cumulative impact of the wind turbines on the East Coast could cause irreversible losses to several bat species over time, as 11 of the 46 known bat species have been found dead at wind farms over the past few years.

Arnett's group began on-site wind farm studies in summer 2004, but has not found a concrete solution to the problem—or even a true explanation for why it happens in the first place. “At this point, we just don't know,” he said, but added that possible future remedies may be discovered once researchers find out more about the bats' attraction to wind turbines. They may be attracted to the moving blades of the windmills or run into them while chasing a food source, he explained. The audible and ultrasonic sounds the wind turbines produce could also be attracting bats.

Still, these preliminary observations could be a savior for many bats in the mid-Atlantic region. “There are potentially predictable time periods when the most fatalities occur,” Arnett said. During the late summer and the fall, when bats begin to migrate, there appear to be more deaths, but studies need to look at other times of the year as well. Mortality rates seem to be higher following a storm front and whenever there is a low wind current, his group noted. “It suggests there may be

opportunities to curtail operations and reduce mortality during periods when higher deaths are predictable,” Arnett said of the patterns. Since low wind currents yield little wind power anyway, he said it could be a good solution for everyone.

Not surprisingly, “additional studies are needed” is the type of phrase often heard in connection with wind turbine-related bat fatalities. Deaths have also been documented outside of the United States—in Australia, Canada, Germany, Spain and Sweden at the very least—but the issue of bats and wind turbines has not been well explored, according to Greg Johnson of Western Ecosystem Technology, Inc.

In the United States, only about a dozen studies have been conducted, despite the fact that fatalities have been reported at almost every wind energy plant in our country, Johnson reported. And on the East Coast, at the heart of the problem, only two studies have taken place. That's a big reason groups

like BCI are working so hard—in 2003 they formed the Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the American Wind Energy Association and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the US Department of Energy. The cooperative worked proactively with the wind industry to understand the issues and solve problems related to bat deaths until it lost its industry funding last spring.

Habitats at Stake

The relationship between small songbirds, who have higher reproductive rates than bats (these small mammals only produce one pup per year), and wind farms has already been examined. Previously, it was believed that wind turbines posed an even greater risk to their welfare, but recent evidence suggests bats may be more vulnerable than birds at sites on the East Coast. Migration through this area is also a danger to the lives of birds, and of even greater

Altamont Pass:

A Death Trap for Protected Raptors

East Coast wind farms have been the most recent targets of criticism, but California's 50-square mile Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area is the deadliest of all for birds. The wind energy megasite produces 820 million kilowatt hours of pollution-free electricity annually—enough energy to power 120,000 homes for a year—while its 5,000 turbines kill 1,700 to 4,700 birds migrating through the mountainous region between the San Francisco Bay area and San Joaquin Valley. The California Energy Commission reported last year that between 880 and 1,300 birds who die after flying into the turbines are federally protected raptors, including red-tailed hawks and golden eagles. Facing legal threats, Altamont operators agreed to shut down half of their turbines for two months beginning Nov. 1. In January 2006, the other half was temporarily halted to minimize deaths this winter. 🐾



Bat Conservation International

Many West Virginia residents fear the construction of wind farms will destroy the area's natural landscape. The Mountaineer Wind Energy Facility was built on the densely forested Backbone Ridge.

concern is the disruption of birds' natural habitats due to the construction of wind farms.

Animals are not the only ones upset about the gigantic wind turbines marring the natural landscapes they call home; some nearby human residents aren't thrilled with the structures either, saying they destroy environments with their presence. The issue was discussed in Congress, when Representatives Nick Rahall and Alan Mollohan, both West Virginia Democrats, asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to look into the effects of wind turbines on migratory birds. "The issue is not a few windmills," Mollohan said in an interview. "It is thousands of windmills erected on every ridge." The GAO agreed to the request, but there has not been much progress.

The wind farm industry needs to have a good reputation to keep environmentalists as customers for its higher-priced form of energy. Dan Boone, spokesperson for National Wind Watch, says he fears that behind their apparent support, wind energy companies are not as concerned as they should be. But one thing is for sure: as wind energy grows in popularity, solutions to the issue of wildlife fatalities are needed urgently to ensure

this vital source of energy is animal-friendly. "We really ought to view wind energy as the first step to living sustainably on our planet," Boone said.

The option of offshore wind energy, currently in practice in Europe, may be an improvement, but could put marine mammals at risk—still, Boone thinks it may be a better bet, since it would be subject to legal policy under the National Environmental Policy Act. The reason bat and bird fatalities have been overlooked for so long is because they lack much real legal protection. Additionally, offshore wind turbines are placed far out in the ocean, where they are less of an aesthetic threat to natural landscapes.

Researchers agree that the best solution for now is to place wind energy plants in areas wildlife experts deem optimal for avoiding animal habitats. Using the "precautionary principal" (to err on the side of protecting animals), developers and companies must study locations before erecting turbines, making sure high-risk areas such as ridge tops are avoided. Our earth's health depends on sustainable energy, and if it is done responsibly, wind energy has the potential to provide a remarkable amount of "green" power. 🐾

Telecommunication Towers Threaten Birds

Unfortunately, any tall structure impeding the path of migrating birds, from wind turbines to large buildings, poses a risk to the animals' safety. Yet the masts of telecommunication facilities that relay cell phone signals cause the most deaths; millions of birds of around 230 different species die each year after colliding with the poles or being electrocuted. In fact, these are the main known causes of mortality in storks.

Like the mysterious wind turbine accidents, no one really knows why birds are attracted to the structures. Studies show that collisions tend to happen with the highest occurrence at night and in the fog or other bad weather. However, there is a solution: "bird-friendly" alterations to power lines such as plastic caps and tubes can prevent deaths, and they can be fitted quickly and cheaply to existing pylons, poles and cables to prevent or reduce electrocution (guidelines are available at www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/tblcont.html).

Telecommunication towers may harm birds in more problematic ways as well. Researchers in Madrid recently released a study claiming electromagnetic fields emitted from these towers have caused problems for the white stork in Spain. These birds tend to build their nests at high altitudes in places with high electromagnetic contamination, including mostly urban areas. Exposure affects the birds' reproductive activity, and some populations have declined as a result. We are encouraging federal funding for research on the biological effects of cell tower emissions, as both animals and humans could be at risk. 🐾

Yellowstone's Bison Under the Gun, Again

One, two, three, four, five... It took at least 24 minutes and four bullets for the first Yellowstone bison to die.

The victim was grazing on public lands and showed no fear as a 17-year-old hunter approached to point-blank range before taking his first shot.

After he was hit, the bull bison attempted to rejoin his herd mates grazing only feet away, while the hunter and his entourage stood nearby. Once down, after several agonizing shots, the bison continued to struggle. Meanwhile, the herd began to surround him, only to be hit with stones thrown by the hunter and his family. The bison's suffering finally ended after almost half an hour, and he was butchered.

This was the scene on the early morning of Nov. 15 as Montana, ignoring the lessons of history, began its first bison hunt in 15 years. As more of the animals became victims, the tragedy only escalated—with many bison taking up to an hour to die after being shot repeatedly. One took three hours to die. Another was shot while lying down. By mid-January, 31 bull bison had been killed by hunters.

The hunt soon became just a small part of what appears to be one of the deadliest years for the beleaguered bison of Yellowstone National Park. Soon after the New Year, nearly 600 bison—over 10 percent of the entire population—were captured by the National Park Service and sent to slaughter without testing for *Brucella abortus*, in a direct violation of the government's own bison management plan. The only survivors of this massacre were a few dozen calves destined for a controversial quarantine experiment.

During this same week, a herd of bison was nearly killed because of an unnecessary hazing operation (in which the animals are harassed into moving to a certain area) carried out by state and federal agents near the western boundary of the park. While they were chased across the frozen surface of Hebgen Lake, the ice collapsed and 14 bison fell in the frigid waters. Two bison extracted themselves immediately, as the remaining

12 struggled to survive. In a blatant display of incompetence and callousness, the agents did nothing to aid the animals for nearly two hours. Eventually, 10 exhausted survivors were removed from the icy waters. Two bison drowned.

These are just a handful of over 3,500 bison who have been killed by hunters and government officials since 1985. Why kill such a peaceful, unsuspecting species? The answer is that it supposedly prevents the transmission of *Brucella abortus*, the bacterium that causes brucellosis in cattle. Yet the reality is that the risk of transmission is virtually non-existent, and only pregnant bison pose even a theoretical threat. More importantly, there has never been a confirmed case of brucellosis passed from bison to cattle under natural conditions—and without cattle present during the winter months, there is no risk from bison occupying lands beyond the western park boundary.

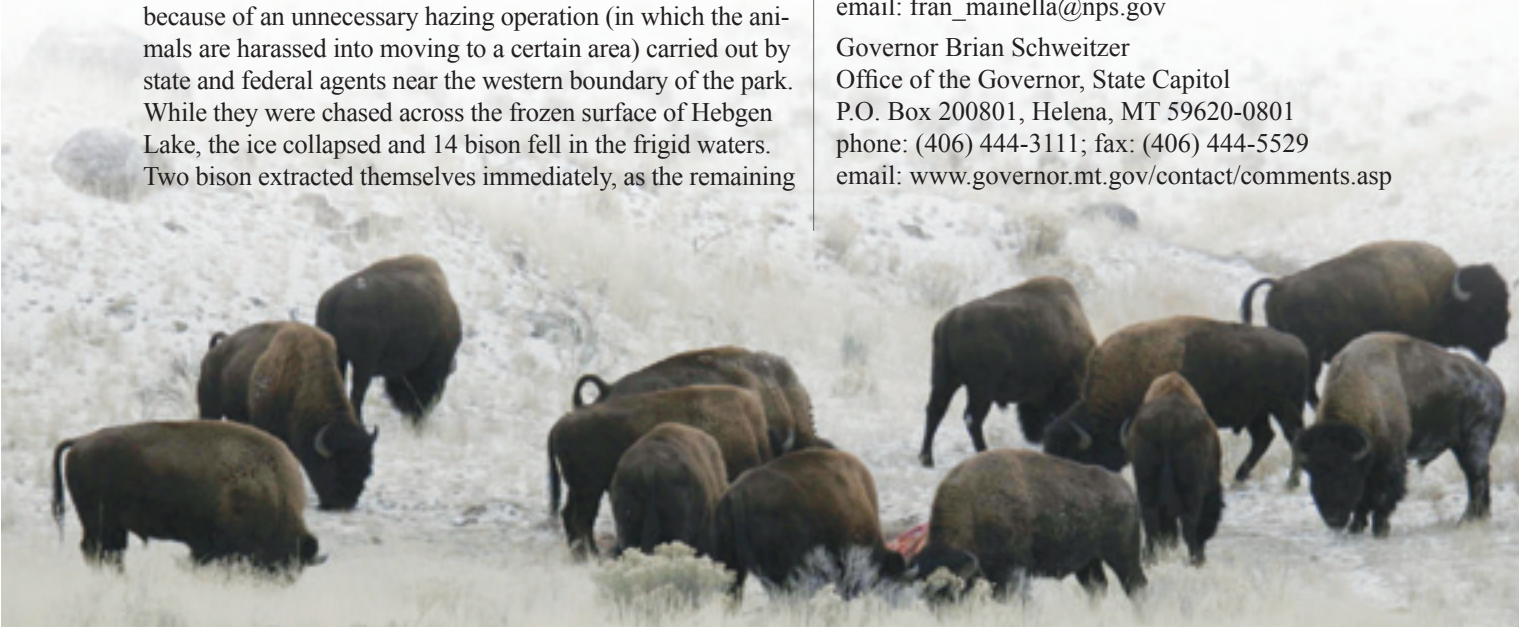
In the months to come, hundreds more bison may be killed by hunters or brutally captured and shipped to slaughter for no reason except to placate the cattle industry. Sadly, with each bison killed, a little bit of the majesty of Yellowstone—America's first and most famous national park—dies as well. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Visit www.awionline.org/wildlife/bison/index.htm for more information on the hunt. Please contact these officials to express your opposition to the hunting, capture and slaughter of Yellowstone's bison.

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email: www.governor.mt.gov/contact/comments.asp



Yellowstone bison surround a fallen member of their herd—the first victim of this season's hunt—after hunters tried to scare the animals away by pelting them with rocks (photo: Buffalo Field Campaign).

... Animal news from around the world

UK Bill Holds Promise

On Oct. 13, England and Wales introduced a bill to modernize animal welfare standards. The unprecedented measure requires owners of all vertebrate animals to provide a suitable environment and diet, the ability to express normal behavior, and freedom from pain and suffering. The Animal Welfare Bill would replace the Protection of Animals Act of 1911 and bring together over 20 additional pieces of legislation. 🐾

Monsanto Invents Pig

Monsanto Corporation, notorious for pioneering the use of genetically engineered crops, has a new invention up its sleeve. Last February, it filed a patent application at the World Intellectual Property Organization—not only on pig breeding methods, but also on the actual herds of pigs it has created. Monsanto is infamous for not caring about the environment and this action proves it certainly does not care about the livelihood of most farmers. If a patent on Monsanto’s pig breed is granted, the corporation can legally prevent farmers from breeding pigs who fit the description in the patent claims if they do not pay royalties. This type of corporate control could be devastating to independent family farms. 🐾

Loss of a Staunch Crusader

Animal rights movement pioneer Ethel Thurston died in early January at the age of 94. For the last three decades of her life, she ran the American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research and the company Beauty Without Cruelty—inspiring a new generation of activists and working to make the world a better place for animals. 🐾



Bryant Austin/nmca.org

Southern California’s diminishing otter population includes a group of several clever animals who have managed to trick government scientists by returning to the habitat from which they were displaced.

Otters Win Relocation Battle—For Now

Many otters from Southern California are swimming in “forbidden waters,” despite relocation efforts made several years ago by a group of government biologists. The scientists moved the animals north from Anacapa Island to Monterey, Calif. under a federal plan to preserve the species and protect shellfish divers from natural competition. Yet within less than half a year, dozens of the otters had returned to their original habitat. Now the government may abandon its program to acknowledge the fact that the intelligent creatures will not stay within the boundaries imposed for them by man. Environmentalists are also pressing authorities to allow the otters to go where they want, hoping that it will help the species recover. Subjected to hunting over the years, the Southern California otter population has dwindled to about 2,700 animals. 🐾

Legacy of Cruelty Continues at UCSF

To settle a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) legal complaint alleging 75 Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations, the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF) agreed to pay a \$92,500 fine in September, avoiding the presentation of evidence for federal violations in open court hearings. USDA claims the violations took place in UCSF animal research labs between 2001 and 2003 and included horrific acts such as performing a craniotomy on a monkey without post-surgical pain relief and performing surgery on a ewe and her fetus without post-surgical pain relief. A stipulated penalty of \$2,000 was also paid in 2000 for other AWA violations, and the poor conditions in the university’s labs have been documented since the 1980s. Several of the university’s top investigators were cited as violators in this new case, yet UCSF has never formally admitted to the cruelty going on behind its laboratory doors—the first step in fixing this decades-old problem. 🐾

The Animal Welfare Act: Government Report Finds that both the USDA and Research Labs Fall Short

Oversight of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is conducted by the Animal Care Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Following are highlights from an audit conducted by USDA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG), titled “APHIS Animal Care Program Inspection and Enforcement Activities” and released to the public on Oct. 20, 2005.

LAX ENFORCEMENT AT EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Educating into compliance appears to be the USDA’s mantra in regards to the Animal Welfare Act. The agency believes “fines and stipulations can at times promote hostility,” and it can get the thousands of zoos, circuses, animal dealers, research facilities and airlines to comply with the minimum requirements of the federal law by treating them as “customers.” Education is fine, but the USDA must not use it in lieu of decisive enforcement action.

While the audit found most APHIS employees are highly committed to enforcing the AWA, it cited a precipitous drop in enforcement action against AWA violators by the Eastern Regional Office. The Eastern office sent over 200 cases of suspected violations to the USDA’s Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) in Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003, but this number plummeted to 82 in 2004. Similarly, it declined to take action against 126 of 475 violators referred to and investigated by IES (in contrast to 18 of 439 declined by the Western office). The Eastern office issued only 38 stipulated fines to violators during those same years (143 were issued in the West).

Treating repeat violators with impunity is endangering animals and people. For example, a zoo in the East with a history of AWA violations committed yet another when a 4-year-old boy was bitten by a non-human primate and required over 100 stitches.

No enforcement action was taken. In the audit, it was noted that the percentage of repeat violators is already twice as high in the East as in the West.

LOW FINES NOT A DETERRENT

The USDA gives a 75 percent discount to nearly every AWA violator “as a means of amicably reaching an agreement on the amount of the fines and avoiding court.” For example, five gorillas and a rhinoceros died because of apparent failures by a zoo. The Texas exhibitor, initially fined \$22,500, was offered a discounted fine of only \$5,600 to avoid a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Other concessions may be offered, including the use of part of the fine to improve the facility so that the amounts actually paid are a fraction of the original assessment.

During the Fiscal Years of 2002 to 2004, APHIS issued 181 stipulated fines—totaling a mere \$275,061, or an average of only about \$1,500 per fine. The OIG report suggests these reduced fines are generally not effective (76 percent continued to commit AWA violations) and should be eliminated for all repeat violators and serious offenses. The USDA was also encouraged to increase fines by basing them on the number of animals affected per violation, not merely the number of violations.

MAJORITY OF RESEARCH FACILITIES FAIL TO COMPLY

From Fiscal Years 2002 to 2004, the number of research facilities cited for violations of the AWA steadily increased from 463 to 600. In addition, the audit noted that when fines are ultimately assessed, they are often so low they are inconsequential for multi-



APHIS

A rabbit used for experimentation is inspected.

billion dollar research facilities. A university cited for 12 serious veterinary care violations and the death of two animals was originally fined \$37,675, but settled the case by paying \$9,400—a pittance in light of assets totaling \$6.2 billion. Subsequently, the USDA has had to repeatedly investigate the university for additional violations.

Unlike the other entities covered under the AWA, the USDA does not have the authority to stop a research facility that is violating the law from conducting its business of experimenting on animals. Therefore, the OIG report recommends legislative change to increase the fines that could be assessed for registered research facilities—from \$2,750 to \$10,000.

Additionally, the report says mandatory oversight bodies are not effectively monitoring animal care activities or reviewing protocols. One laboratory’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approved a protocol for antibody production in approximately 80 rabbits, but over one thousand were actually used. Training for IACUC members is suggested.

We will keep watch to ensure the USDA implements OIG’s recommendations. Please contact the Animal Welfare Institute or visit www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33002-03-SF.pdf for the full report. 🐾

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT UNDER ATTACK



Above: The Florida panther is a highly endangered subspecies of mountain lion; due to habitat destruction from urban and agricultural development, fewer than 50 survive. Protection under the ESA is essential in preventing the extinction of this imperiled animal and its environment (photo: Brian F. Call). The grizzly bear is a threatened species, but sadly, the ESA listing of the Yellowstone National Park grizzly population is currently at risk (photo: AWI).

You hear about them, but to see one in the wild is rare. Many are charismatic and popular, such as the grizzly bear and the Florida panther, while others are obscure and unknown, like the humpback chub and the pallid manzanita. Whether mammal, plant, fish, crustacean or arthropod, they all share a common trait—they are species whose continued existence is largely due to the protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Some, like the US population of only 30 Sonoran pronghorn, remain precariously balanced on the brink of extinction. Others, like the American bald eagle—though still classified as a threatened species—have made a remarkable recovery from near disappearance. Yet abroad, the endangered Bengal tiger remains at risk due to habitat destruction and illegal hunting to fuel an illicit trade. And the American alligator is no longer protected by the ESA, as its numbers have recovered to the point that its future seems secure.

The ESA is a safety net for over 1800 species, including nearly 600 foreign species. Considered one of the strongest environmental laws in the world, it requires federal agencies to make every effort to protect and recover imperiled US species and their habitats. Over its 32 years of existence, the ESA has been remarkably successful in preventing the extinction of 99 percent of protected species. Unfortunately, the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s implementation of the ESA has been lackluster, frequently requiring litigation to force the agency’s compliance with the law and to challenge scientifically fraudulent listing decisions. According to a recent report by the Center for Biological Diversity, at least 85 species have gone extinct without ever being afforded ESA protections, including 24 species whose listings were delayed.

The protection mandated by the ESA to facilitate species recovery has made it a frequent target of developers, ranchers and extractive industries. They criticize the effectiveness of the law, claiming that it impairs development and access to our natural resources. Those statements, regardless of their legitimacy, have led to a weakening of the ESA through regulatory changes. This has allowed—among other things—agreements with landowners permitting land development, regardless of the long-term implications to protected species. Not satisfied with such administrative changes to the ESA, those opposed to the law have continued their efforts to seek assistance from anti-environmental politicians on Capitol Hill to legislate its destruction.

One of these politicians is Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA), a rancher from central California who has been determined to undermine

the ESA since his election in 1992. In September 2005, relying on factual misrepresentations, Pombo and his colleagues succeeded by a vote of 229 to 193 in achieving his objective of demolishing the law with the passage of H.R. 3824, misleadingly named the “Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act” (TESRA) in the House of Representatives. Far from providing any recovery benefits to threatened or endangered species, TESRA eliminates the requirement to designate critical habitat for listed species, allows the Secretary of the Interior (instead of scientists) to determine what constitutes the best available science in making listing decisions, removes the mandate to achieve species recovery, and exempts state agencies from ESA consultation requirements upon the adoption of conservation agreements. TESRA also requires the government to pay landowners, developers, extractive industry and others for the loss of the value of any proposed activity if it is prohibited by the ESA. This would set a precedent of paying landowners to comply with federal law while also bankrupting the endangered species program by allowing landowners to extort maximum payments from the government.

Since the battle to protect the ESA was lost in the House, the stakes for threatened and endangered species could not be higher in the Senate. Already, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) has intro-

Summary of Listed Animal Species (as of January 2006)

Group	Endangered		Threatened		Total Species
	US	Foreign	US	Foreign	
Mammals	68	254	11	20	353
Birds	77	175	13	6	271
Reptiles	14	64	22	16	116
Amphibians	12	8	9	1	30
Fishes	74	11	42	1	128
Clams	62	2	8	0	72
Snails	24	1	12	0	37
Insects	36	4	9	0	49
Arachnids	12	0	0	0	12
Crustaceans	19	0	3	0	22

duced S. 2110, the “Collaboration and Recovery of Endangered Species Act” (CRESA). Like Pombo’s legislation, it is intended to undermine the protectionist mandate of the ESA. If passed, CRESA would make habitat protection requirements completely discretionary, eliminate mandatory timelines for listing decisions, allow developers to destroy one species by protecting another, give industry interests final say over species recovery plans, and provide tax breaks to developers to comply with the law.

More moderate bills are expected to be introduced as well, but with the passage of Pombo’s bill in the House, any bill passed by the Senate could be combined with TESRA—threatening

the integrity of the ESA. The lynx, the manatee, the California condor, the Devil’s Hole pupfish, the Cumberland sandwort and the hundreds of other protected species (as well as species awaiting listing) cannot afford a weaker ESA. The motives of the wealthy developers, ranchers, extractive industries and their political allies must not be allowed to jeopardize the life-saving protections of the ESA. Only through massive public involvement and protest during the Senate’s deliberations will the ESA have any chance of being preserved. 🐾

Article by D.J. SCHUBERT, a wildlife biologist with 20 years of experience who recently joined the AWI staff.



From left: Previously only covered by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, orcas in the Puget Sound have been granted much-needed ESA protection (photo: Center for Whale Research). The Antioch Dunes evening primrose is one of nearly 600 flowering plants listed by the ESA (photo: FWS). The bald eagle, our national emblem, is an ESA success story. However, continued protection is necessary to preserve existing populations (photo: FWS).

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please contact your Senators and ask them to oppose TESRA and CRESA (S. 2110).

The Honorable (name)
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressional Switchboard:
(202) 224-3121

Permanent Slaughter Ban: Our Ultimate Goal

H.R. 503/S. 1915

Following impressive votes in Congress, an amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill was signed into law to prohibit the federal funding of slaughterhouse inspections—which is required for the meat sold for human consumption. If the US Department of Agriculture does not intervene, horse slaughter at the three remaining slaughterhouses in the United States will come to a halt in March for the remainder of the government's fiscal year.

This gives us time to fight for a permanent end to the cruel practice by seeking adoption of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. The Act was reintroduced as H.R. 503 in the House of Representatives by Congressional Horse Caucus co-chair John Sweeney (R-NY), Representative John Spratt Jr. (D-SC) and Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY). In the Senate, the bill was reintroduced as S. 1915 by Senator and veterinarian John Ensign (R-NV) and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

Meanwhile, public disdain for horse slaughter is growing. After a recent federal ruling against the Texas law prohibiting horse slaughter, the Tarrant County district attorney filed an appeal in their effort to close the two Texas slaughterhouses. Additionally, the Texas Zoning Board of Adjustment in Kaufman, Texas has ruled unanimously that the town's horse slaughter plant is a nuisance, citing smell and discharge into the city's sewer system as major factors. Barring an appeal by the slaughterhouse, this may force the plant to close its doors. 🐾

email alerts

To stay informed on what you can do to help with pressing legislative issues, sign up to receive e-Alerts at www.saplonline.org/action.htm. Often your urgent help is needed, but a tight deadline precludes a regular mailing. Our eAlerts ensure that you are always up-to-date on the important actions you can take, as well as the latest animal protection news.



Habitat for Horses, Inc.

Minutes before being chased down the final chute, these horses await a cruel death at the Dallas Crown slaughter plant in Kaufman, Texas. The bloodied white horse shown above is a typical sight at these disturbing and shameful facilities.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ask your Representative and Senators to cosponsor the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 503/S. 1915) and to request hearings for the bill.

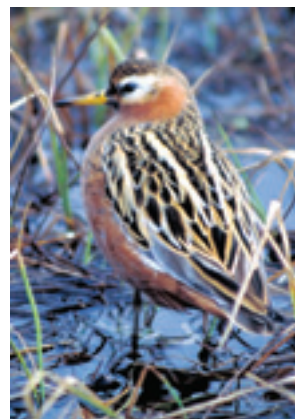
The Honorable (name)
US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable (name)
US Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Arctic Refuge Saved from Destruction

In a late 2005 move to push through a provision for controversial oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) attached a provision to a must-pass defense spending bill that provided money for troops in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and avian flu research. Thankfully, Stevens and his fellow supporters lost out after the measure fell four votes short of the required 60 votes needed to end the filibuster and force action. Following the defeat, Senate leaders reworked the legislation without the ANWR drilling provision.

Stevens has fought for drilling in the refuge for many years, and he is unlikely to give up now. However, Congress is clearly taking notice of America's cries to protect the last great arctic wilderness from drilling, and the refuge seems safe for now. 🐾



USFWS

The red-necked phalarope is one of many unique species living on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; this habitat must be preserved.

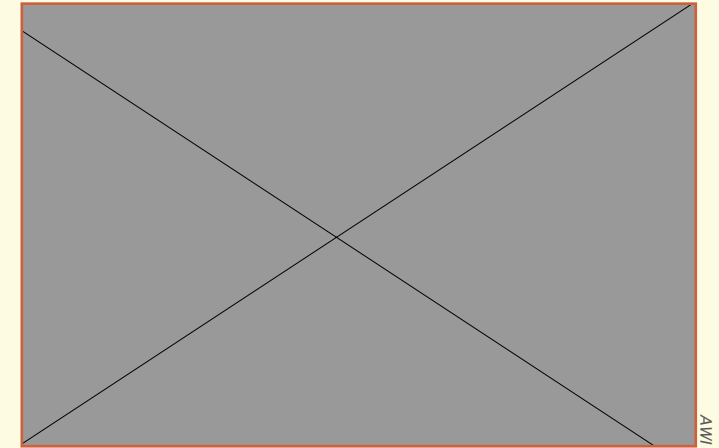
Trade Agreements and Their Threat to Critters Everywhere

by LORI WALLACH

Public Citizen Global Trade Watch Director

The infamous 1999 World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Seattle, during which the world watched “turtles and teamsters” marching in protest together, highlighted the direct hit that animal welfare and wildlife conservation policies take from free “trade” policies. Over the years, the agriculture rules found in the WTO, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and now the more recent Central American Free Trade agreement (CAFTA) have promoted the intensification and spread worldwide of the factory farm model.

Communities seeking to counter the brutal factory farm system, with its documented abuse of animals in massive consolidated livestock operations, its wipeout of small farmers and its consolidation of livestock production, are finding the laws they pass locally are being attacked as trade illegal—even though they apply to local, domestic conduct rather than trade in anything. Indeed, WTO, NAFTA, CAFTA and the entire alphabet soup of “trade” agreements that deliver the corporate globalization system explicitly forbid the consideration of the processes of how animals are raised or how fish are harvested. Under these pacts, “process and production” standards, such as animal welfare laws or sustainable fishing rules, are dubbed “illegal discrimination,” even through they treat domestic and foreign products the same.



AWI

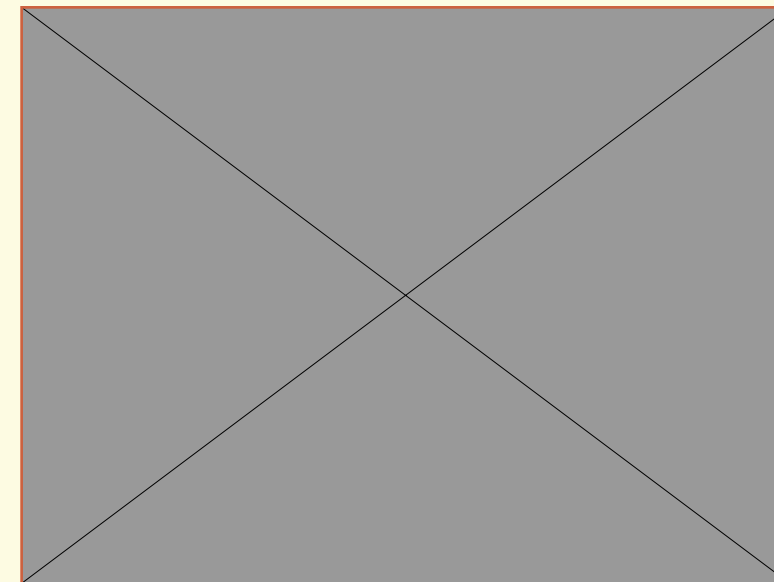
Free trade policies favor agribusiness corporations that own large factory farms around the world. In these confinement systems, pigs are often restricted in cramped crates.

If this isn't troubling enough, recently passed trade agreements like CAFTA, a six-nation expansion of NAFTA to Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua, will make the situation worse. CAFTA's service sector rules gave away countries' control over marine exclusive boundaries—meaning Central American countries' laws limiting off-shore drilling and factory shop fishing in territorial waters are illegal under the agreement, except in Costa Rica,

which took an exception. Moreover, under CAFTA, laws limiting or forbidding beachfront development are illegal, and the rise of hotels and tourism is likely to devastate remaining marine habitats. The agreement even excludes the very limited clause under NAFTA that gave precedence to certain Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the vital Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, when there is a conflict.

Unfortunately, since the landmark Public Citizen litigation in the early 1990s that allowed environmental and animal welfare groups to be included in the official US trade advisory system, the sorts of provisions being included in these “trade” agreements have only become more anti-animal and anti-habitat. How can we change this race to the bottom? Only by more intense campaigning to increase the accountability of US trade policymakers in Congress and the Administration.

Please visit www.awionline.org/freetrade.htm to read this article in full. To learn more about free trade and the Public Citizen Global Trade Watch, visit www.tradewatch.org. 🐾



Puck Lo

Protesting the greed-driven free trade policies that may destroy their livelihood, independent Korean farmers drop to their knees on the streets of Hong Kong outside of the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference. Some activists experienced trouble with local police, and over a dozen Korean farmers were put in jail during the conference.

One More

Pieces of metal, wood and glass from houses that once lined Banks Street danced in the wind blowing over the muddy roads of New Orleans. Unfamiliar noises would become commonplace after just a few hours of navigating through the desolate streets. As I knelt down to leave food and water for surviving animals in the area, I heard a screeching, piercing noise through the uninhabited commotion. Was it the cry of a cat? There was just no way to tell amidst all of the other eerie sounds, so I scanned the area, hoping to uncover the source of the noise.

After not seeing anything, I completed my food and water drop and began to walk away—until I heard the noise once again. This time, it was a bit louder. I paused, turned back and scanned the area for a second time.

With thousands of animals at risk in New Orleans, trying to save as many as possible was an endless labor of love.

At the base of a dark alley, two tiny celadon eyes suddenly lit up in the darkness. Among piles of trash and debris, there stood a scrawny black cat. Banks, as I would later call him, was just the first of several animals I helped rescue in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the flood of New Orleans and Hurricane Rita.

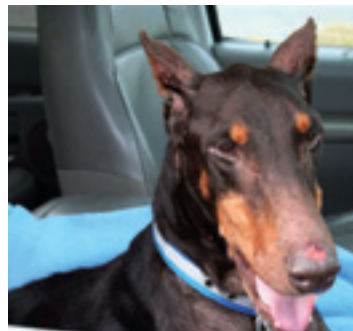
Each day in New Orleans presented unique challenges. Mine began at 5:30 a.m., when I met with the other search and rescue volunteers for our daily assignments. Every morning, we received the addresses of approximately 200 residences where animals had been left behind by their owners. Yet

as diligent as we were in our efforts to visit as many as possible, we could never get to them all. Breaking into a property and searching through all of the rubble for animals was an arduous undertaking. Moving quickly through our assignments was further complicated when we spotted an animal while en route to a specific address. We constantly faced the moral dilemma of whether to spend time attempting a rescue or to continue on to the next address on our list.

Darkness signaled the conclusion of search and rescue efforts each day, but it was not the end of the day for me. I

just couldn't stop. I couldn't sleep knowing that there was work to be done. My home base, the shelter at the Lamar-Dixon Exposition Center in Gonzales, La., was operational and housing hundreds of rescued animals. One more animal to walk, one more animal to pet, one more animal to play with, one more animal to give a toy or a treat, one more animal to clean up after... It was an endless labor of love, and when I finally dragged myself to my van to go to sleep, it was only because I didn't want to risk burning out either physically or mentally.

There were many highs and lows during the time I spent in New Orleans, but the one thing that will stick with me forever is the loving and grateful eyes of the animals we saved. Thankfully, I will be able to see a pair of them every day for years to come because I took Banks home with me. He will always serve as a reminder that we really did make a difference. 🐾 —by TRACY SILVERMAN



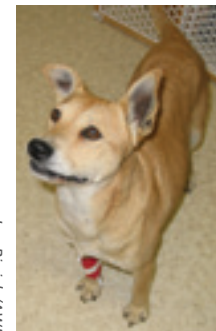
Southern Animal Foundation



Jen Rinick/AWI



Jen Rinick/AWI



Jen Rinick/AWI

From left to right: Leibchen was abandoned for over seven weeks; her family returned and left her out with the trash because of her grave condition. Fortunately, neighbors brought her to the Southern Animal Foundation. She is now in a Gulf Coast Doberman Rescue foster home. Jen Rinick rescued a rabbit who was pregnant and has since had babies. Tansey and Toulouse were also brought back from New Orleans by Jen. Like many animals who were rescued, Tansey was suffering from a severe heartworm infestation.



AWI

After returning from her volunteer efforts in New Orleans, Tracy Silverman comforts her rescued cat, Banks. He is enjoying his new home.

“We went along looking for dogs, listening for barking. If there were dogs in the house, we’d break down the doors.”

— Julia White

Our Role in Disaster Relief

With funding from the Animal Welfare Institute, Julia White (following in the footsteps of her father, Ben) participated in the first round of animal rescue efforts after Hurricane Katrina. In late September, just as many volunteers were getting ready to go home, AWI's Tracy Silverman and Jen Rinick arrived to provide additional support. Jen spent an entire month administering food drops

and using box traps to round up animals who had become skittish and afraid of people. “It was a lot of work, but it was gratifying work,” she said. “People just didn't realize how many animals were still out there.” Jen saw dogs with their teeth completely worn down from gnawing to free themselves from the homes in which they were left, a Doberman who had clung to life for weeks only to be

left out with the trash to die (see caption above), and even an Australian monitor lizard who had survived in a flooded home. We donated much needed box traps, catchpoles and gloves to Louisiana and Mississippi rescue groups. Currently, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation is pressing Congress for legislation to address the needs of animals during and following disasters. 🐾

Illegal Dogmeat Trade Thrives in the Philippines

While eating dogs is illegal in the Philippines, the dog meat trade still exists in some areas. Last fall, an undercover investigator (whose name must be withheld) funded in part by the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and substantially by the Companion Animal Protection Society, traveled to the village of Baguio, where the trade is most concentrated, with the dangerous goal of uncovering this practice.

To break into the scene, he worked with Linis Gobyerno, a local organization dedicated to ending government corruption, but soon learned it was hard to find anyone he could trust. The investigator obtained information from locals that led him to believe dogs were slaughtered at the Baguio City slaughterhouse—and he was later able to film dog meat in a market. The investigator learned that, despite its illegality, the popularity of the meat within the indigenous population has caused officials to turn a blind eye.

Overcoming hardships such as being told he would have to pay for raids by law enforcement, the investigator continued to reveal dishonest actions. “I interviewed and videotaped government and police officials from Baguio, Tuba and La Trinidad, including city mayors and police chiefs who would either say that dog eating is legal or would admit that it's illegal but tolerated in their area,” he said.

While rescuing dogs was not originally part of the plan, the investigator contacted Manila police about the case of dog eatery owner Sonny Comilles, and they eventually conducted a raid in which 50 dogs were saved from the La Trinidad slaughterhouse. Because La Trinidad lacks a dog pound, the dogs were sent to the Baguio City Pound to be held.

“The vet told me that rescued dogs are often put up for auction, where they can go right back to slaughter,” the investigator said. After offering money, he finally talked the vet into accepting the emaciated, dehydrated and overcrowded dogs. They were held as evidence, and many were euthanized due to illnesses.

Still, he considers the operation to have been effective. “The documentation of corruption in the Philippines makes for strong evidence,” the investigator said. “Despite the unfortunate nature of Linis Gobyerno and the negative turn of events from corrupt officials, the dog meat trade was successfully confirmed.” AWI hopes to use this information to work toward ending the dog meat trade in the Philippines.

To protest this issue, please write the Honorable Albert F. Del Rosario at Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, 1600 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. 🐾



Law enforcement officials in the Philippines often allow the illegal dog meat trade to go unnoticed.

Breaking Old School Habits

Seven Ways to Bring Biology Class *Back to Life*

"Yuck"

"Ick"

"Cool"

"Gross"

THE REACTIONS VARY, but almost every American teenager has had the experience of cutting up a frog or fetal pig in biology class. Initiated in the 1920s, dissection was seen as an important hands-on learning experience, impossible to duplicate any other way. It was—and to many biology teachers still is—a rite of passage.

"Humane methods of biology instruction are not only available but more valuable," says Dr. Barbara Orlans, a bioethicist and physiologist at Georgetown University. Still, many educators persist in doing dissections. Orlans, a long-standing member of the Animal Welfare Institute's Scientific Committee, says it's time for change: "High school and undergraduate dissection should go."

In the 1970s and '80s, a growing sensitivity emerged over the way animals should be treated and the rights of students who object to dissection. Eventually, 11 states passed laws that protect a student's choice to opt out. But of greater significance is the fact that veterinary and medical schools across the country have made tremendous advances in teaching biology, resulting in fewer dissections—perhaps as much as an 80 percent reduction, according to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM). This is due in part to technology, which has taken giant leaps forward in offering affordable, state-of-the-art 3-D imaging, CD-ROMs, computer software, videotapes and realistic models as viable (and in many cases superior) alternatives.

With so many high quality, cost-effective and humane alternatives, it just doesn't make sense that most high schools and undergraduate colleges and universities haven't followed suit.

Why are these students still performing routine frog and fetal pig dissections to learn about basic human anatomy when the institutions that train doctors, nurses, veterinarians and paramedics are taking a more practical and enlightened approach?

Professor Lynette A. Hart of the University of California, Davis has been delving into this question with her colleagues Mary W. Wood and Hsin-Yi Weng for several years. She heads up the UC Center for Animal Alternatives at the School of Veterinary Medicine and is working on a pilot program to provide administrative guidance on the use of animals in pre-college education. In a soon-to-be-published article (see resources below), the authors explain what they see as the key roadblocks that stand in the way of mainstreaming dissection alternatives in high school biology courses.

First, Hart and her colleagues are stunned that the controversial topic of dissection is "seldom mentioned within science education research, national curricular standards and science frameworks." The second barrier is a lack of resources. In this era of never-ending budget cuts, Hart maintains that high school science resource centers that were in place only a decade ago are gone today. These centers provided teachers with a constant flow of living protozoa and multicellular organisms, as well as software and equipment, throughout the school year. The third hurdle is motivational. Striving to inspire their students via experiential learning, time-crunched teachers gravitate toward what is familiar and nearest at hand.

So what can be done? In seeking answers to this question, we've interviewed a high school biology teacher, an ethologist, a bioethicist, a director of a humane education organization and several college professors. Here's what they suggest as simple yet important ways to put back the life in life sciences:



I. Talk about it

Many of these experts agree that biology needs to include a discussion of animal ethics. "I'm sympathetic to teachers who want students to have contact with the internal anatomy of an animal," says Dr. Jonathan Balcombe, an ethologist with PCRM, "but why is it that how that animal was obtained, where it came from and how it was killed are never discussed?" He continues, "If students and teachers were to witness the ghastly procurement of these animals, classroom dissections would fast become an endangered exercise."

II. Invest in technology

One computer program features 30 separate views of the dissected human heart prepared by a cardiac surgeon. The new interactive CD-ROM Digital Frog II includes an anatomy module, dissection module and an ecology module. These and other models, simulators, videos and multi-media programs quickly become cost effective, as they are used class after class, semester after semester. According to Nick Jukes, coordinator of InterNICHE, a not-for-profit international organization that acts as a clearinghouse for alternative educational materials, "Powerful new software can support effective understanding of structure and process in ways that make conventional dissection and animal experiments look amateurish."

III. Stimulate interest in the human body

Inspired by pre-med and medical courses but tailored to fit a high school or college student's needs, self-experimentation is an important part of the alternatives market. Students usually work in small groups to perform processes on themselves—for example, the relation of heart function to aerobic exercise. "It's interactive, hands-on and involves data analysis. It can even include hypothesis testing if the teacher structures it that way," says George Russell, a biology professor at Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y. who regularly engages his students in activities like this one. Look for packages by Biopac and Iworx.

IV. Create web-based teaching resources

"My dream is to see eight software lessons free on the web to provide a backbone for excellent instruction worldwide in high school biology," says Professor Hart. She envisions smart, sophisticated software using videogame technology, easily accessible to all teachers, that covers eight basic laboratories on the skeletal-muscular, respiratory, digestive, nervous, reproductive, circulatory, hearing and visual systems. "It could revolutionize biology laboratories in many classrooms," she says.

V. Bring back high school resource centers

Orlans and Hart can't stress enough how valuable the resource centers once were. "Biology is the study of life," says Orlans. "When teachers use live organisms in the classroom, students learn far more." The centers were a one-stop source for live protozoa, bacteria, fungi, ants, earthworms, spiders and other creatures shared by teachers. These centers provided responsible animal care and also included equipment designed for experiments on humans. Parents, teachers and students need to push for their return.

VI. Find ethical sources

Veterinary schools often have donor programs in which a person wills their deceased pet to a school for dissection. Dr. Balcombe feels that this could be done in colleges and high schools, too. "As a community service, veterinary students could volunteer to come to class to discuss the animal's anatomy and any health issues the pet had. Then the animal has a name, a biography, and this means so much more. It means there is respect for the animal."

VII. Teach animal awareness and compassion

Peg Cornell, a high school biology teacher at Corvallis High School in Corvallis, Ore., has taught for 16 years and says she sees a difference in students' views toward animals. "There's more awareness now that animals have emotions, language and intelligence." The connections children make with the natural world last a lifetime, she explains. Professor Russell says, "Perhaps what the world needs most is compassion and a deep sense of caring. Biology teachers have an obligation to help our young people develop these capacities."

With all we know today, it's time to recognize that killing and harming animals for educational purposes is not in the students' best interests. There are so many better ways to learn. 🐾

Resources

In Print

- The Use of Animals in Higher Education* by Jonathan Balcombe, Humane Society Press, 2000
- "Three Barriers Obstructing Mainstreaming Alternatives in K-12 Education" by Lynette A. Hart, Mary W. Wood and Hsin-Yi Weng, ALTEX, 22, Proceedings 5th World Congress 2005
- Animal Care from Protozoa to Small Mammals* by F. Barbara Orlans, Addison-Wesley, 1977

On the Web

- www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Animal_Alternatives/main.htm
- www.interniche.org

Illustration: Shawn Gould/natureartisans.com

BLACK MARKET

INSIDE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES TRADE IN ASIA

By Ben Davies
Ten Speed Press, 2005
ISBN: 1932771220
176 pages
\$29.95

Faithful readers of the *AWI Quarterly* are already familiar with the illicit trade in wildlife, the suffering these animals endure and the threat it poses to their species, but this book is still worth reading—its stories must be heard.

Gut wrenching accounts of the trade in wildlife parts and products are told in each tragic tale. As one story after another unfolds, the enormity of the disaster wrought on these ill-fated, endangered species becomes overwhelming.

Consumer demand for aphrodisiacs, traditional medicine, delicacies, pets and trophies fuels a hefty business derived from endangered wildlife, and the trade is rampant in Asia. All measures of animals are victimized: tigers, leopards, elephants, rhinos, bears, apes, monkeys, antelope, sharks, anteaters, birds, turtles, snakes and bats. Exploiters have found uses for all of them. The lucky ones are killed outright, while others spend their lives in cramped cages—or in the most ghastly cases of all, the most-demanded pieces of the animals’ bodies are removed while they are still alive.

This book contains over a hundred graphic and stunning depictions of the tragic consequences of the wildlife trade. The manner in which the photographers have captured the humans involved is intriguing. The immaculately dressed collector stands proudly between two massive elephant tusks, the likes of which are not typically found on any living elephant today. Yet in juxtaposition to the photographs of smirking killers are snapshots of the brave individuals who routinely risk their lives in an effort to stop the trade. Sadly, images of the enforcement officers are usually surrounded by the contraband, a grim reminder that despite heroic efforts, animals are still dying at an alarming rate. 🐾

—by Cathy Liss



Poachers cut overhead power lines and run the live wires along the ground to electrocute wildlife, such as these Great Asian one-horned rhinoceroses.

Black Market: Associated Press

Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating

By Jane Goodall,
Gary McAvoy and
Gail Hudson
Warner Books, 2005
ISBN: 0446533629
320 pages
\$24.95

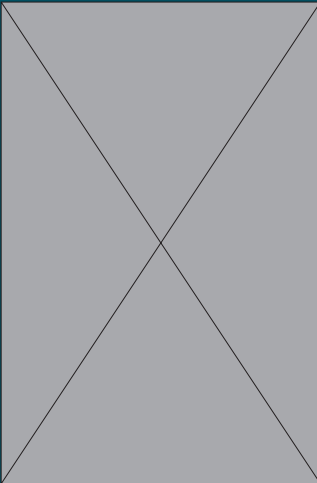
In *Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating*, renowned primatologist Jane Goodall inspires and empowers us to eat ethically and healthfully. She explains how our food is secretly laced with poison and pain by detailing the common practices of industrial agriculture, and she goes on to examine the consequences of these techniques—driving home the point that we are detrimentally disconnected from nature and our consciences. The book teaches us not only how to leave a small footprint on the Earth, but how to make that impression positive.

Goodall attributes many of society’s problems to the way food is produced. She scolds the US government for supporting an agricultural policy that makes some of the emptiest and most fattening calories the cheapest and most readily available. But there is hope—in the form of small, humane, organic, local, diversified, sustainable farms. Goodall says it is incumbent upon each of us to use our purchasing power to force those who raise animals and crops to do so in an ethical manner.

Due to the breadth of material presented in this book, some points would benefit from clarification. Such is the case regarding the overstatements of protections afforded to animals by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic label. This USDA certification pertains largely to what animals consume and does not guarantee access to fresh air and pasture and the ability to exercise. And while Whole Foods Market is making impressive efforts on behalf of animals, the duck supplier Goodall mentions still trims bills and does not give all ducks access to water for swimming. As Goodall notes, we should stay informed about the practices used by the farms and companies we support.

Sprinkled throughout the book are poignant vignettes and stories of people already making a difference. Considering the mass of information and resources *Harvest for Hope* contains, even the most educated readers will add to their knowledge. 🐾

—by Wendy Swann



An Update on Elephant Immunocontraception

While the debate over culling elephants in the Kruger National Park rages on, work on the humane control of elephants in South Africa continues. The project has expanded to include seven additional game reserves with populations ranging from 10 to 90 elephants. The most recent of these is the Welgevonden Game Reserve, which has 90 elephants; we were able to contracept

43 cows. The fact that this was possible proves that much larger populations can also be tackled. Additionally, we vaccinated the first three elephant cows at the Kapama Game Reserve with a “one-shot” vaccine in November 2005.

This vaccine formulation has been tested extensively on horse populations in the United States and brings a new dimension to contraception of elephants and other wildlife.

A single vaccination lasts approximately two years. The fact that we are working with captive elephants will allow us to monitor their antibody responses at regular intervals, giving us an early answer to the efficacy of the vaccine—instead of having to wait at least one entire gestation period of 22 months. Seven more cows will soon be immunized.

Another avenue we are following is immuno-control using a GnRH vaccine. Rather than

blocking fertilization, antibodies produced in response neutralize endogenous GnRH, which normally stimulates the release of the gonadotropic hormones that control male and female gonads. Females stop cycling and males stop producing sperm and testosterone. Still, the method is reversible—contrary to vasectomies, which have been carried out on four or five elephant bulls (one of whom died under anesthesia). So far, we have used the vaccine on 14 elephant bulls to control aggressive behavior. We now intend to test the vaccine as a contraceptive in elephant cows.

Contraception is the ideal solution for controlling elephant populations, and in the future, it will only become more effective. Yet even with the current technology, it is possible to control large populations of elephants. Our models indicate that even with a contraceptive efficacy of only 60 percent, the growth of an elephant population can be cut in half over a period of 15 years. This means the current population of about 13,000 in Kruger would grow to only 20,000, instead of the 28,000 mark it would reach if left unchecked. Officials in Kruger deny that this is a problem that can be solved humanely, but we will remain dedicated to proving them wrong. 🐾

Article by HENK BERTSCHINGER, a professor of theriogenology at the University of Pretoria.



Bertschinger (seated at right) and a colleague prepare elephant contraception darts. Paint darts filled with a pink dye make it easy to identify cows who have been hit.



Welgevonden Private Game Reserve

The Politics of Population Control

Bertschinger responds to the claim by South African National Parks Head of Conservation Hector Magome that elephant contraception does not work.

1. They did not even try it—we tried it. I had to lobby for years before they allowed us to do the first field trial, and even then, we were only granted permission after we had shown that there is homology between pig and elephant zona pellucida proteins used in the vaccine.
2. Our goal during the first and second field trials in Kruger was to see if the vaccine could contracept African elephants—not to see if a population could be controlled. We were able to prove that unvaccinated elephants had a significantly higher conception rate.
3. We have shown conclusively since then that we can contracept a small population of 60 elephants and bring about a zero population growth after only three years.

Bequests to AWI

If you would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’s future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, D.C., the sum of \$_____ and/or (specifically described property).

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

We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

Call for PROPOSALS



FWS

AWI SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR THE NEW CHRISTINE STEVENS WILDLIFE AWARD

We are pleased to announce a new grant program named in honor of Christine Stevens, the Animal Welfare Institute's founder and a dedicated defender of wildlife. For more than half a century, Mrs. Stevens relentlessly campaigned to ban the use of leghold traps and poisonous baits. She knew that these and other typical methods of management were cruel, unproductive and no longer acceptable to a growing public concerned with the welfare of all animals.

Ahead of her time, Mrs. Stevens was among the first to advocate the use of birth control vaccines for wild horses, skunks and elephants. She supported wildlife management programs that were "win-win" situations—for example, highway underpasses that enable wildlife to safely use their habitat, beaver bafflers that prevent beaver dams from causing flooding, or perching platforms that protect raptors from electrocution.

The Christine Stevens Wildlife Award aims to advance research in the often-overlooked area of non-lethal wildlife management. We hope Mrs. Stevens' determination to find humane and effective solutions will inspire a new generation of wildlife biologists. Each award will be \$10,000.

For instructions on how to apply, please contact D.J. Schubert at dj@awionline.org or (609) 334-1378. Open to North American residents only. Application deadline: May 20, 2006.

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