

AWI

Quarterly

Fall 2008 Volume 57 Number 4



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For subscription inquiries or other information, contact AWI at: P.O. Box 3650, Washington, DC 20027, phone: (703) 836-4300, facsimile: (703) 836-0400, email: awi@awionline.org, or visit AWI's website at: www.awionline.org.

ABOUT THE COVER

A 17-month-old Bengal tiger licks her brother's ear in the late afternoon of India's dry season at the Bandhavgarh National Park. The 105 square kilometer park is pristine wilderness for a variety of species, and boasts the highest known density of tigers in the entire country. While tigers in the wild may be at the top of the food chain, they are by no means immune to predation. Humans are severely threatening their populations today with poaching, habitat destruction and the desire for tiger parts in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Read more in the story on page 6.

Photo by Theo Allofs

Their Shells Won't Protect Them ... but state laws should.

CHINA'S INSATIABLE APPETITE for turtle meat has caused concern in Florida and Georgia, where the largely unregulated turtle trapping business has grown to meet the lucrative overseas demand. Evidence suggests that these freshwater turtles are being trapped in huge and unsustainable numbers, particularly since turtles take eight to 15 years to reach sexual maturity and reproduce.



Peter Paul van Dijk

This River Cooter is one of the many turtle species being exploited for meat consumed domestically and abroad.

Because of the rapacious trapping methods employed by China and other Asian countries that clamor for turtle meat, 75 percent of Asia's 90 species of tortoise and freshwater turtles now are threatened, and 40 percent of worldwide populations are at immediate risk of extinction, according to Conservation International.

The U.S. must not allow the same tragedy to befall its own turtles. Several states have banned commercial turtle harvesting altogether, and in mid-September, Florida passed a law to temporarily limit the state's softshell turtle takes to five per day for individual fishermen and 20 per day for those with commercial fishing licenses. With hundreds of harvesters in the state, this could still mean thousands of turtles can be legally taken each day.

A long-term plan—hopefully one with teeth—is expected to be brought before the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission within a year. The Commission estimates that 3,000 pounds of softshell turtles are currently exported from the state each week. Harvesters are paid approximately \$2 per pound and sometimes upward of \$135 per adult turtle.

Georgia is experiencing much the same dilemma with trappers targeting its turtle populations, but conservationists are asking the state to act before it's too late. The state is home to 19 species of freshwater turtles, six of which are protected by state law; but because harvesters aren't required to report their take numbers, state officials have no way to keep track of turtles taken or the harvest's impact on populations. Georgia's General Assembly is slated to address this issue when it reconvenes next year. In the meantime, the state's turtles remain under siege. 🐾

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY



14



11



26

Fall 2008

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 4

ANIMALS IN AGRICULTURE

- 14 Albert Schweitzer Ceremony
- 17 News in Brief

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

- 10 Monkey Misfortune Means Major Misgivings
- 10 Of Monkeys and Men

ANIMALS IN THE OCEANS

- 5 Sea Turtle Mourns Death of Friend
- 11 Swimming With the Fishes
- 18 Beleaguered Bottlenose
- 21 News in Brief

ANIMALS IN THE WILD

- 4 News in Brief
- 5 Mother Duck Doesn't Give Up
- 6 Tigers: On the Precipice of Extinction
- 22 Despite opposition, W.Va. Squirrel Flies Off the Endangered Species List
- 23 Fighting Tooth and Claw: The Nation's Wolf Controversy

COMPANION ANIMALS

- 5 Dogs Express Empathy When They Yawn
- 10 Puppy Mill Stops Churning
- 11 Polly Wanna Appeal?
- 28 Unleashing Creativity to Unchain Dogs

IN REMEMBRANCE

- 16 Brian Anselmo
- 16 John Hettinger

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE

- 11 Lawsuit Against Ringling
- 12-13 News from Capitol Hill
- 22 AWI Partners with Local Group to Protect Threatened Lynx
- 23 Another Stab at the Endangered Species Act

PUBLICATIONS AND FILMS

- 24 AWI Publications
- 26-27 Reviews

Above Left: AWI Schweitzer Award Honoree, Greg Fett, hand feeds one of the horses he rescued who was en route to Mexico for slaughter. The horse was so ill, Fett had to use an Anderson Sling to keep her standing. Though the horse died in spite of Fett's efforts to save her, the others are now healthy and up for adoption. (Photo by Jim Williamson/*Texarkana Gazette*); *Top Right:* These macaws, with visible health problems, impounded from a negligent parrot breeding facility in W.Va., were living in filthy, barren and cramped quarters. Despite seizure by a reputable sanctuary, a court ruling has rendered the birds' fates unknown. (Photo by Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary); *Bottom Right:* The film *Battle in Seattle* depicts the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle and those who fought for the welfare of sea turtles. (Photo by *Battle in Seattle*).



BACK FROM THE DEAD



Cl/Annette Olson and Heng Sokrith

Two hairy-nosed otters were discovered in the U Minh Ha National Park by Vietnamese field scientists in March. The species—thought to be extinct throughout the world in the '90s—is considered the rarest and least-known otter species in the world.

Notoriously shy and mostly nocturnal, the hairy-nosed otter struggles against the illegal international fur trade

and rampant habitat loss for its survival, and is defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as a species of global conservation concern. The otters live in peat swamp forests and remote, high-elevation streams, where their diet consists of fish, frogs, reptiles, snakes and insects.

"Finding hairy-nosed otters in the area will help build a strong case for conservation recommendations for the U Minh Ha National Park," said Nguyen Van Nhuan, research officer for the park's conservation program. "We will work closely with the national park to develop the best protection for endangered species like the hairy-nosed otter."

Some scientists involved in the otter's conservation are recommending a captive breeding program to reestablish populations. Perhaps the perceived second chance at saving the species will make a difference this time around. 🐾



Cl/Sterling Zumburn

This hairy-nosed otter is part of the rarest and most mysterious otter species in the world, recently believed to be extinct.

Seeing the Forest for the Eucalyptus

TEN YEARS AGO, the Australian government implemented the National Koala Conservation Strategy to deal with the many issues surrounding the conservation of the koala and its habitat. Today, the government is set to review the strategy that many believe is in dire need of an overhaul.

Deborah Tabart, C.E.O. of the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF), is part of the steering committee meeting to discuss the review this fall. Tabart hopes it will yield some meaningful

changes, including the koala's listing under Australia's central piece of environmental legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) (www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html).



iStockphoto

Though habitat loss claims the lives of more than 4,000 koalas each year, the threatened species is not currently protected under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The AKF is also pushing for stricter protection of the primarily private lands that are home to koalas. It estimates that over 4,000 koalas are killed each year, mostly from habitat loss. But by requiring little to no impact in major koala habitats, this heightened protection would also help defend over 400 other threatened species inhabiting the same areas.

The AKF believes the koala oversight is a result of narrow EPBC criteria and loopholes that allow the government to deny the listing request, despite significant population declines. In 2000, even the U.S. took initiative and listed the koala as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

To promote these overdue modifications and to spread the word about protecting Australia's unofficial ambassador, the AKF launched a Koala Campaigners program at www.savethekoala.com. You can also help the AKF in their mission by sending a letter in support of koala conservation to Australia's Environment Minister: The Hon. Peter Garrett A.M., M.P. Australian Labor Party, P.O. Box 6022 House of Representatives Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600. 🐾

Dogs Express Empathy When They Yawn

ALMOST ALL ANIMALS DO IT. Even birds and snakes. But up until recently, scientists thought that only humans and chimpanzees were capable of "contagious" yawning—where one yawns after seeing someone else yawn.

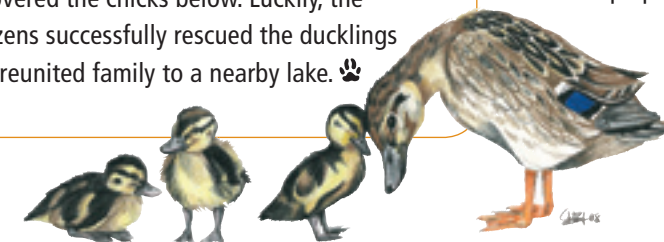
Some scientists feel that the infectious quality of yawns could be related to the ability to empathize, and recent human studies support this theory. But now a new study from the University of London (*Biology Letters*, Vol. 4, Issue 5) is shaking things up.

The research shows that canines have a strong tendency to yawn after observing a human yawn. In fact, the study found that dogs "catch" yawns at much higher rates than humans or chimpanzees. Could this mean that dogs empathize with humans, and that we have evolved over thousands of years to be attuned to each others' behaviors? Common sense would agree, but popular scientific opinion holds that dogs lack self awareness, long believed to be a prerequisite to feeling empathy.

Perhaps the best part of all this research is that scientists are questioning their concepts of animal emotions, and may one day prove what the rest of us have known all along. 🐾

Mother Duck Doesn't Give Up

THIS SUMMER, six mallard ducklings got sucked into a drain and trapped in a sewer in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. The mother duck persistently followed her babies' "cheeps" by listening through manhole covers as the six were swept along underground. She crossed busy streets, a metro line, two school playing fields and hospital grounds. A mile later, she stopped over a manhole cover and waited for several hours until local residents discovered the chicks below. Luckily, the concerned citizens successfully rescued the ducklings and drove the reunited family to a nearby lake. 🐾



iStockphoto

Sea Turtle Mourns the Death of Friend

LOCALS AND TOURISTS at the Laniakea Beach in Hawaii took a particular liking to a green sea turtle and affectionately named her Honeygirl for her distinct amber-colored shell. She was the largest female in a bale of approximately 20 sea turtles who frequent the beach.

This past summer, however, Honeygirl was tragically killed and mutilated. Her remains were discovered partially buried in the sand, and she was identified by a tag on her flipper. Word spread quickly about her death, and soon a memorial with her photograph was set up on the beach where visitors left flowers and leis.

One particular visitor took everyone by surprise: As if to pay his final respects, a large male turtle named Kuhina from Honeygirl's bale crawled up on the beach, stopped directly in front of the memorial, put his head on the sand and stayed there for several hours. Honeygirl was estimated to be between 30 and 40 years old, just in her prime. Killing an endangered sea turtle is a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. To date, the perpetrator has not been found. 🐾



John Goodrich/WCS

Tigers: On the Precipice of Extinction

THE POPULARITY OF TIGERS is rivaled by few other species. While relatively few humans have ever seen tigers in their natural habitats, tigers have a visible presence in our culture. Whether it's Tigger cavorting with Winnie the Pooh or Tony the Tiger hawking cereal, many children are exposed to tigers before they can walk or talk. Tigers are mascots of our sports teams, and a Tiger prowls many of the world's golf courses in pursuit of birdies and eagles—Tiger Woods, that is.

Tigers are also found locked up in many of the world's zoos, forced to perform unnatural acts in circus shows and are all too often privately owned pets. It's no wonder that tigers are frequently ranked as the most popular species on the planet.

Unfortunately, the tiger's popularity has not translated to the species' protection in the wild, where they exist on the precipice of extinction. Historically, there were at least nine subspecies of tigers whose range encompassed habitat in the Russian Far East, Eastern and Southern China, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent, including the Indus River Valley in Pakistan. The

Bali, Caspian and Javan tiger subspecies have all gone extinct in the past 50 years, while the remaining subspecies barely cling to existence.

The South China tiger is nearly gone with an estimated 20 to 30 living in the wild from a population that only 40 years ago may have been as large as 4,000. Wild Amur or Siberian tiger, Malayan and Sumatran tiger populations are estimated to consist of only 400 to 500 animals each, while the Bengal and Indo-Chinese tiger respectively number less than 2,000 and about 1,000.

In total, scientists estimate that only some 4,000 tigers exist in the wild—a far cry from the 100,000 tigers believed to roam the lush forests of Asia at the turn of the 20th century. India is considered the remaining stronghold for the species, yet recent comprehensive population censuses suggest that the population consists of only 1,400 animals, down from an admittedly imprecise estimate of 3,600 in 2002. The world's remaining wild tigers persist under constant threats from poaching, habitat degradation and loss and increasing conflicts with a burgeoning human population.

POACHED PARTS

Despite the efforts of dedicated game wardens, poachers continue to kill tigers at an alarming rate to feed the insatiable black market for tiger pelts and parts. Tiger pelts are usually sold whole to ignorant and uncaring tourists, used to decorate homes or used as bribes to secure promotions. Tiger parts, including the eyes, bones, reproductive organs and claws are in demand as ingredients for concoctions used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

Though empirical scientific proof is lacking, some adherents of TCM cling to the belief that consuming parts of the tiger will improve their vigor, cure disease and make them more virile. Tiger penis is believed to cure impotence; tiger bones are used to make tiger wine, which purportedly strengthens muscles, tendons and bones and treats pain and inflammation. Though there is any number of modern and animal-free traditional medicines available to treat such ailments, some refuse to consider alternatives to tiger parts out of tradition, ignorance or outright callousness for how their choices will impact wild tiger populations.



Save the Tigers Fund

Battery cages like these house farmed tigers in a prison-like existence until they are slaughtered for their parts to be used in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

While many TCM practitioners refuse to use imperiled wildlife parts in their products, there remains a sufficient demand for wild tiger parts to drive the illegal killing and trade. The severity of tiger poaching is alarming: In only a handful of years, poachers have eliminated or decimated tiger populations in Sariska, Namdapha and Panna tiger reserves in India. These reserves used to be touted as a model for tiger conservation by India's government, but a loss of political will and a reduction in enforcement efforts provided poachers with the opportunity they needed to either wipe out or severely reduce tiger numbers in many of India's reserves. Fortunately, as a result of enhanced protection efforts, tiger populations have rebounded in India's Ranthambore tiger reserve, where the tiger population had previously been devastated by poachers.

These are just a fraction of known tiger poaching cases. All too frequently, poachers driven by the potential lucrative reward will kill, butcher and sell their victims with little fear of apprehension. In many cases, tiger poaching is a product of insufficient patrols, a lack of resources or a failure of the local or national government to demonstrate the political will to save this iconic species. The lack of severe judicial penalties for those caught and convicted of killing tigers is another fundamental problem enabling tiger poaching to continue.

TIGERS BELONG IN THE WILD, NOT ON FARMS

Some have suggested that the mass production of tigers in captivity will save wild tigers by providing a ready supply of tiger parts to satisfy demand for tiger skins, penises, bones and other parts. Tiger farms are much like livestock factory farms, and are most prevalent in China, where



Chapagain D./Wildlife Conservation Nepal

These black market tiger pelts were seized by the Nepalese army in September 2005.

over 5,000 tigers are estimated to be warehoused. Most are raised in miserable conditions, with several tigers confined in tiny cages with no effort made to meet their physical or psychological needs. Others are put on display in larger pens, entertaining throngs of tourists who squeal in delight or horror as the tigers torture live prey like chickens, goats and calves through their incapability to achieve a kill.

Though some contend that farmed tigers could be used to reestablish wild populations, nearly all experts disagree, citing genetic and disease concerns associated with reintroducing farmed tigers into the wild. Furthermore, most agree that it would be exceedingly difficult to train farmed tigers how to efficiently kill live prey, be cautious of humans and otherwise successfully survive in the wild.

Tiger farm owners, who stand to profit handsomely, are pressuring the Chinese government to reverse its 1993 ban on the sale or trade in tiger body parts. Despite a recent directive by member nations of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) recommending China retain the ban, the jury remains out on what China will do. Most consider the ban to have been of critical importance in helping in the recovery of Russia's tiger population, while ensuring the persistence of other tiger populations.

While some argue that flooding the market with parts from farmed tigers will reduce the demand for wild tiger parts, most experts assert that legalizing the trade will increase poaching of wild tigers and push the species close to extinction. These experts report that the arguments made by proponents of tiger farms fail to account for the preference of wild tiger parts over parts from farmed tigers. There is also a great disparity in the cost of raising a captive tiger to adulthood, which is several thousand dollars, versus killing a wild tiger, which costs only as much as a bullet, trap, snare or poison.

SHRINKING HABITAT

Tiger poaching, while severe, is hardly the only threat to the species. Habitat degradation and loss is adding to its demise. Today, according to a comprehensive report on the conservation status of wild tigers commissioned by the Save the Tiger Fund, wild tigers only occupy 7 percent of their historic range. Moreover, in the past decade, tiger range use has declined by 40 percent due to expanding human populations, logging, mining, infrastructure developments (e.g., roads and dams) and other exploitative practices. On the Indian subcontinent, only 11 percent of original tiger habitat remains. Some of the development projects that have harmed tiger populations and their habitat were and may continue to be



Tigers are poached or farmed for the use of their various parts in the mystical practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Practitioners believe the parts have curative effects on disease, ailments, impotence and the like.

funded by international aid and development organizations like the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility.

Considering India's growing prosperity and its burgeoning human population, which is predicted to increase by 620 million people by 2050, impact to the country's remaining natural areas is likely to escalate. Without habitat of sufficient size, adequate tiger prey and protection from high-density human populations and extractive industries like logging and mining, wild tigers are doomed.

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

Is there hope for wild tigers? Is it possible that future generations will be awestruck by the experience of observing a wild tiger in its natural habitat, instead of having to settle for stuffed tigers on display in natural history museums?

Yes, it's possible.

Considerable efforts are being made by governments, conservation organizations and scientists to augment and expand protections for wild tigers and their habitats. The government of India, for example, has recently initiated a new campaign in an attempt to restore its beleaguered tiger populations. It is increasing enforcement efforts within tiger reserves and has begun to capture and relocate tigers from relatively healthy and viable populations to start new populations in previously occupied reserves decimated by poachers. Law enforcement efforts to combat tiger poaching are being improved and expanded both nationally and regionally, increasing ability to investigate, pursue, apprehend and prosecute

poachers and criminal syndicates involved in the illegal cross-border tiger trade.

But other efforts are essential if wild tigers are to survive. China must begin to phase out tiger farms and not rescind its ban on the tiger parts trade. Penalties for those convicted of illegally killing or trading in tigers or destroying tiger habitat must be stiffened to act as a deterrent against future crimes. Illegal logging and other extractive industries satiate the domestic and international demand for raw materials, but are responsible for the rampant destruction of tiger habitat. Some of the raw materials and the products manufactured from such materials are shipped throughout the world for sale, including in the United States, making us all unwitting participants in the destruction of tiger habitat and, by extension, in tiger extinction. Law enforcement efforts must be substantially expanded to root out and prosecute all involved in the illegal trade in tigers, from local poachers to middlemen to buyers, from criminal syndicates to corrupt officials to consumers of tiger parts and products. Governments must set aside and protect additional core tiger habitat containing abundant tiger prey, including buffer zones and corridors. Finally, education must be underscored to increase the public's support for tiger conservation and to reduce demand for tiger products.

But why save wild tigers?

For one, their value extends far beyond their beauty or cultural significance. Protecting wild tigers means protecting the vast wild places that tigers require to survive. The protection of large expanses of forest habitat in turn provides clean water, clean air and natural flood control to the benefit of local human populations. Furthermore, with their need for extensive and intact habitat, saving wild tigers subsequently protects an array of other species. Wild tigers also provide a reliable source of income through eco-tourism opportunities for those who desire to observe this majestic species in its natural habitat.

Why save wild tigers? Because we must—for the tiger, for ourselves, and for future generations who should not be relegated to seeing tigers only in cages or on a cereal box. 🐾

For more information, visit www.eia-international.org/campaigns/species/tigers and www.savethetigerfund.org



In the last decade, tiger habitat has plummeted by 40 percent as a result of mushrooming human populations, the expansion of industry and exploitative practices.



Best Friends

Kara Seamen, a volunteer rescuer, holds Sunshine who was bred so many times her abdomen has become distended in pregnancy.

PUPPY MILL STOPS CHURNING

Approximately 1,000 dogs were seized from the Whispering Oaks Kennels in Parkersburg, W. Va., on August 23, where they were found living in deplorable conditions. The majority were dachshunds, though poodles, King Charles Cavaliers, yorkies, shih tzus and Lhasa apsos also suffered from neglect.

The dogs were crammed together, four or five to a wire mesh cage in decrepit sheds. Despite the oppressive 90-plus-degree heat, few had access to fresh water or shade from direct sunlight. The stench of ammonia wafted from the feces-encrusted cages, where dogs were forced to breed litter after litter for sale.

When placed on the grass, many of the dogs stumbled around, unable to walk after having spent their entire lives on wire mesh flooring.

Kennel owner and operator, Sharon Roberts, did not have a current USDA license at the time of seizure, but was able to sell her dogs via the internet and ads in local newspapers and *Dog Fancy Magazine*. Roberts agreed to give the dogs up when faced with jail time and fines for every dog on the property. She also signed an agreement barring her from ever operating another dog-breeding facility. Though Roberts has avoided animal neglect charges, she may still face citations for environmental violations.

Fortunately, with the help of the Humane Society of Parkersburg, which spearheaded the rescue, all of the dogs will find new, loving homes. 🐾



Clay Myers/network.bestfriends.org

This mother dachshund is forced to raise yet another litter in a cramped, wire mesh area above their own accumulating feces.

Of Monkeys and Men

TONKEAN MACAQUES are known for their uncanny display of ethics during conflict resolution, when a third macaque will intervene to quell a scuffle between two fighting peers. Ironically, the lapse in ethics comes from officials at a French university, where a colony of macaques were used for research. On Sunday, August 31, the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg euthanized a colony of macaques, unbeknownst to keepers and scientists at the facility.

The university stated that because the colony was infected with the herpes B virus—which employees knew since the early '80s, without incident—the disease could spread to humans who came in contact with the animals. The university conceded this threat was highly unlikely, but maintained the excuse to mask their callous disposal of macaques they no longer deemed useful.

The sudden and clandestine decision came after a five-year-long battle over the macaques' fate between the university and the ethologists studying the colony; at one point, there was talk of relinquishment to a sanctuary.

Numerous scientists expressed shock and disdain over the culling decision, calling it unethical. The university maintains that the decision was made after careful consideration and in the best interest of its employees. Unfortunately, this dispute will not be resolved by the macaques' superior ability to arbitrate. 🐾

Monkey Misfortune Means Major Misgivings

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST Charles River Laboratories literally heated up this spring, when 32 of its research monkeys in Sparks, Nev. baked to death as a result of erroneous climate control.

The lab says no other primates were harmed in the accident and that steps are being taken to prevent similar accidents from occurring. While the lab says they reported the problem immediately to the USDA, they claim they refrained from alerting the public in fear of precipitating violent attacks from extremists on employees. Of course, the lab's allegations are a feeble attempt to divert attention from the gruesome deaths. 🐾

Polly Wanna Appeal?

A VIRGINIA COURT RULING did more than just ruffle a few feathers this summer over a negligent parrot breeding case—it actually put the recovering birds back into the neglectful breeding industry from which they came.

On May 12, Orange County Animal Control Officer Patricia Dahl found 31 macaws abandoned in a field. The birds were kept in filthy, rusted, barren cages, stacked one on top of another, with little protection from the elements. The macaws themselves were dirty and in terrible shape, many with skin lesions and missing feathers from self-mutilation.

Volunteers from the Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary (CVPS) assisted in removing the birds and placing as many as they could in foster homes.

Owners Dan and Sally Crosswhite were charged with 27 counts of animal cruelty and four counts of animal neglect. The assistant prosecutor rejected the Crosswhites' first ploy to have the birds "released" to a bird breeder masquerading as a



Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary

The Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary rescued 31 macaws from a parrot breeding facility, where they were suffering from severe skin conditions and self-mutilation.

sanctuary. But then the Commonwealth's attorney, Diana Wheeler, authorized an identical deal! It even allows the Crosswhites to get the birds back in 18 months, all charges dropped, if they reimburse the county more than \$19,000 in vet bills by January 2009.

CVPS and the volunteers were unsuccessful in their efforts to maintain custody of the birds. The macaws were moved from the accredited sanctuary and foster homes in Virginia, where they were starting to recover, and turned over to the Gabriel Foundation (GF). The Foundation then relocated the birds to one of its "parrot caregivers" in Florida, a commercial breeding facility called Luv Them Birds, whose owner sits on the GF board.

While Judge Edward Carpenter insisted that the charges against the Crosswhites be reinstated with jail time and fines if any of the conditions are not met, requests from the CVPS to visit the birds were denied. 🐾

Lawsuit against Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Finally Goes to Trial

FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT YEARS NOW, AWI has been part of a monumental legal effort against Ringling Bros. and its parent company, Feld Entertainment, for their brutal treatment of Asian elephants under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These elephants are chained most of the day and night, and are pierced and beaten with bull hooks—long clubs with sharp metal points on the end.



AWI

The highly anticipated trial is scheduled to commence on October 20 before the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan in federal court for the District of Columbia, and is expected to last three weeks.

We look forward to finally having the opportunity to present the wealth of evidence we have amassed over the years, including eyewitness testimony, video footage, photographs, government documents and internal Ringling Bros. documents illustrating the inhumane treatment of elephants by the defendants. 🐾

Swimming with the Fishes

FOLLOWING A RECENT STAFF RESTRUCTURING, the Georgia Aquarium announced its new marketing strategy: to display new animals every 90 days in order to achieve an annual attendance of three million people by 2011. As the world's largest aquarium, it has received considerable attention since opening in 2005.

The aquarium appears determined to house rare, exotic animals, no matter the cost. Two beluga whales and two whale sharks have already perished there. Despite the fact that whale sharks are a species under threat, and those in captivity tend to die prematurely, the Georgia Aquarium quickly replaced the fish with more of their species, even allowing visitors to swim with the sensitive animals. A nine-foot manta ray is the newest addition to the collection, a sign that the aquarium has no intention of letting up, misguiding the public's perception of animals as commodities to be freely traded, exploited and sacrificed. 🐾

Horse Slaughter

WITH LAST YEAR'S CLOSURE of the country's three remaining horse slaughter plants under state law, no horses were slaughtered in the U.S. this year. However, in the absence of a federal law banning the practice, tens of thousands of American horses continued to be exported to Canada and Mexico, where they were brutally slaughtered for human consumption overseas. Despite strong Congressional and public support for the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 311/H.R. 503), which passed out of committee in the Senate and gained the support of more than 200 U.S.

Representatives in the House, the legislation has languished under the threat of a hold by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID).

Just before the legislative year's end, House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) and Representative Dan Burton (R-IN) introduced the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598), which would criminalize the horse slaughter business. Animal Welfare Institute's (AWI) Federal Policy Advisor, Liz Ross, testified before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security in favor of the bill, which was passed out of the full House Judiciary Committee in late September.

AWI continued its scrutiny of the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program and denounced reports that the agency was contemplating the killing of tens of thousands of wild horses in long-term holding facilities. AWI also provided information to the Government Accountability Office, which is working on a report on the program at the request of House Natural Resources Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV), who has been critical of how the Agency has managed the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

In addition to its direct legislative activities, AWI bolstered its equine protection efforts via its continued leadership of the Homes for Horses Coalition, which held its second annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on July 22. The formation of a unique partnership with the National Black Farmers Association (NBFA), through which at-risk horses will be placed on NBFA farms, also strengthened AWI's effort to make horse slaughter a thing of the past. 🐾

Visit www.Every5Minutes.org



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Shark Finning

IN JULY, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously voted in favor of H.R. 5741, the Shark Conservation Act of 2008, which tightens enforcement of the 2000 Shark Finning Prohibition Act. A Senate companion bill (S. 3231) has also been introduced by Senator John Kerry (D-MA). Since the original bill's passage in 2000, the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning—when the fins of a living shark are removed and the animal is thrown back into the ocean to die—has been illegal in the U.S., but enforcement has been hampered by loopholes in the ban. The Shark Conservation Act will close these loopholes. 🐾

Research Industry Clings to Random Source Dealers

AWI HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME supporter of the Pet Safety and Protection Act (S. 714/H.R. 1280), designed to prohibit brokers called Class B dealers from selling stray and illegally acquired dogs and cats to experimental laboratories. While these transactions are regulated by the Animal Welfare Act, Class B dealers regularly violate the law, putting profit before the welfare of the animals. Although modified versions of the Pet Safety and Protection Act were included in both the Senate and House FARM bill, the conference committee removed it and inserted language calling for a “study” of the issue. This last minute change compelled AWI to withhold its support from the bill that was ultimately passed as part of the larger FARM package. “Studies” are a common means to delay taking action. A wealth of documentation already exists on the need for a ban on this trade. 🐾



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Many illegally acquired dogs and cats are sold by Class B dealers to laboratories for experiments.

Whaling

A WEEK BEFORE Congress was due to recess for August, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) introduced a bill to amend the Whaling Convention Act—a law that implements the rules of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The bill's intent was to allow the U.S. to unilaterally self-allocate quotas of whales for aboriginal subsistence whaling purposes outside of the IWC. In the past, pro-whaling interests within the IWC have blocked passage of these quotas in an attempt to thwart the U.S.

While a seemingly innocuous move, the passage of the bill would signal the death knell of the 82-member IWC, which sets quotas for killing whales. This subversion would open the door for other IWC member nations to pass domestic legislation bypassing the treaty and its specific rules. Only days after the Stevens bill was introduced, Greenland—a territory of IWC member Denmark—announced its desire to self-allocate humpback whale quotas outside of the IWC.

While the Steven's bill did not survive the committee mark-up stage, its resurgence in the 111th Congress is a possibility. 🐾



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Japan, Norway and Iceland continue to evade the international ban on whaling, killing more than 25,000 whales since the ban took effect in 1986.

Tracking Animal Cruelty

UNDER THE ANIMAL CRUELTY STATISTICS ACT (S. 2439/H.R. 6597) the U.S. Attorney General and federal law enforcement would be compelled to track and maintain data on animal cruelty in order to facilitate analysis and prevention of such crimes. Given the strong link between violence toward animals and violence toward humans, the legislation would benefit both animals and people. AWI has worked with sponsors of the legislation and voiced support for the bill when it received a favorable hearing before a House subcommittee in July. 🐾



MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION

AWI recently issued its 2008 “Legislative Booklet,” which gives an overview of the organization's legislative work since the group's founding in 1951. Before AWI was established, only two federal laws existed to protect animals. Since then, we have worked diligently to enact and strengthen fundamental animal protection laws, including the Animal Welfare Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In recent years, AWI has headed efforts to ban horse slaughter, crack down on shark finning, end the use of pets in research and more. 🐾

You Can Make a Difference

DID YOU KNOW that the Animal Welfare Institute's Compassion Index (CI) website is your one-stop resource when it comes to online animal advocacy? The CI gives constantly updated information on positions taken by members of Congress on key measures affecting animals, both good and bad. The CI also allows users to correspond directly with members of Congress, learn more about the legislative process, track legislation, contact media outlets and much more. Get active for the animals today by visiting the CI at www.compassionindex.org. 🐾



The Measure of the Man ...in Hands



David Brody

Even though he probably owns one, Greg Fett doesn't need a white cowboy hat to show he's on the side of the good guys

"YOU TAKE AN OLD REDNECK country bumpkin from Genoa, Arkansas, and you bring him to Washington, D.C., and you dress him up ..." That's how Animal Welfare Institute's (AWI) Schweitzer Award honoree, Greg Fett, sees the sequence of events that followed his rescue of 11 horses on their way to slaughter.

When a livestock trailer in need of a new tire crawled into the Texarkana, Ark., tire shop Fett manages in March, Fett had no intent of making quick work of the repair. Noticing the sickly state of the horses—one of whom was pregnant, another who was too lame to stand, trampled beneath the hooves of the others—Fett immediately contacted authorities who then came to arrest the driver of the trailer and his passenger on charges of cruelty in transport.

Fett then went on to provide temporary care to the horses who were later seized by the authorities. He also nursed the pregnant mare back to health and assisted in the birth of her foal less than two weeks after the incident. Today, the two horses live in greener pastures with Fett,

his wife Michelle, and their two daughters Whitney and Francesca. The other 10 horses are also doing much better, and are up for adoption at ARTEX Animal Welfare Association in Texarkana, Ark.

Oddly enough, Fett's intervention was history repeating itself. Less than two years earlier, another trailer transporting horses to Mexico for slaughter broke down near Fett's tire shop.

"It was absolutely gut-wrenching to see the abuse," Fett recalls during the D.C. award ceremony held in his honor on September 16.

(Pictured left to right) AWI General Counsel Tracy Silverman, ARTEX Animal Welfare Association President and Founder Dixie Wilson, Schweitzer Award recipient Greg Fett and AWI President Cathy Liss.



David Brody

Though his 2006 rescue efforts were unsuccessful, since local authorities ultimately let the horses proceed to slaughter, Fett's repeat performance won him the prestigious Schweitzer Award from AWI.

Cast in the honor of the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, a 20th century pioneer for animals, the medal is given to individuals for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare.

In granting permission to use his name, Schweitzer wrote, "I would never have believed that my philosophy, which incorporates in our ethics a compassionate attitude toward all creatures, would be noticed and recognized in my lifetime." Indeed, since 1955, the award has been bestowed on prominent recipients like Jane Goodall, Rachel Carson and Sen. Bob Dole.

Presented this year by Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) of the House Judiciary Committee, the medal went to an otherwise ordinary man. "Greg is not a political figure, nor does he brag about his scientific prowess," Conyers announced before calling Fett to the podium. "He's just a citizen trying to do the right thing."

Besides sponsoring legislation that advanced civil liberties and combated violence against women, Conyers is also known as a champion for animals, who has garnered a perfect rating on AWI's Compassion Index. In fact, the day following the ceremony, the Chairman passed his Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act out of committee. The legislation would legalize the slaughter of American horses both in the U.S. and across our borders in Mexico and Canada.

Upon receiving the award from Conyers, Fett told the audience he was "blown away" by the honor. Uncomfortable alone in the spotlight, he brought Dixie Wilson, founder and president of ARTEX Animal Welfare Association, up to the podium with him, explaining that Wilson had provided invaluable care and treatment of the seized horses.



David Brody

Left: Chairman John Conyers (D-MI), sponsor of the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act, presents honoree Greg Fett the Schweitzer medal for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare.

Below: (Pictured left to right) Dixie Wilson, Greg Fett and Chairman John Conyers.



David Brody

"I saw an extraordinary young man," Wilson says, "and as I saw him struggle and work with the mare that we were, at best, fighting against the odds to save, I knew then the measure of the man."

The applause of nearly 200 AWI members, animal activists and legislators concluded the speeches and segued into an elegant outdoor buffet. Both the ceremony and reception were held at the new AWI offices in D.C. The organization intends to move from its current location in Alexandria, Va., and occupy the series of row houses later this year.

"We're coming here to Capitol Hill specifically, because we mean business with Congress, and we want to be within arms' reach," AWI President, Cathy Liss, told attendees.

And while the Washington pomp and circumstance may have been a rare experience for a self-described country bumpkin, the measure of the man in the cowboy hat was clear ... even to those who measure in hands. 🐾



ARTEX Animal Welfare Association

Fett cares for the mare he saved from slaughter, as well as her foal who was born just weeks after the rescue.

Brian Anselmo

Gone Much Too Soon

WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED at the death of our dear friend and colleague, Brian Mitchell Anselmo. Brian passed away unexpectedly on September 2 at 28 years of age. His *joie de vivre* and sense of humor were a breath of fresh air to those of us fortunate enough to know him, and he will be sorely missed.

Brian brought enthusiasm to his work as an auditor-advisor in AWI’s Animal Welfare Approved program. A compassionate and dedicated young man, he was eager to help animals and the family farmers who raise them. Brian was zealous in his joint missions of conserving rare breeds and improving the lives of farm animals. He pursued these tirelessly in his day-to-day husbandry of standard bred chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese pastured on the Kansas farm of his close friend, mentor and business partner, Frank Reese.

Brian leaves behind his father and mother, Jerry and Mary Ellen Anselmo; sisters Lori Anselmo and Julie Sano, brother-in-law Richard Sano; nephews Massimo and Luca Sano; business partner and friend, Frank Reese, and his two dogs, Carmella and Izzie.

Brian’s funeral took place at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Kansas City. There were more than



Brian Anselmo and pal Izzie.

a thousand people in attendance, with many standing outside the door who could not be seated. We grieve the loss of a special, promising colleague who was already such an exemplary model for other farmers. Brian’s important work will continue to impact the welfare of animals and the farms and communities that they inhabit, and his life will continue to inspire us. Donations in his memory can be sent to the nonprofit Standard Bred Poultry Institute. 🐾

John Hettinger

Devoted Horseman and Welfarist

IT IS WITH HEAVY HEARTS that we announce the passing of horseman and humanitarian, John Hettinger, who died at 74 years of age at his New York farm on September 6.



John Curry

One of the nation’s leading advocates for the humane treatment of horses, John was the first person to join the Animal Welfare Institute’s

John Hettinger on his N.Y. farm.

national campaign to end horse slaughter in 2001. Since that time, he never wavered in his commitment, only growing stronger in his determination to end horse slaughter. John was also a leading Thoroughbred industry figure who always stated that his “best friends have four legs.” Over the last few years, he created a horse sanctuary on his beautiful 800 acre farm. With stalls always filled with enrichment items and music pumped through the barn, it was easy to see the horses were his top priority. “Some people like horses, but they love racing,” Hettinger once told a *New York Times* reporter. “I’m not like that. I like racing, but I love horses.” The Animal Welfare Institute sends its deepest condolences to his lovely wife Betty and his children and grandchildren who always shared John’s respect for animals and nature. The family suggests that sympathies be sent in the form of donations to the Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue, a 501(c)(3) organization. 🐾

BON APPÉTIT?

Those who believe “you are what you eat” may be left with a bad taste in their mouths from the recent FDA decision to consider genetically altered animals for human consumption. Since genetic engineering is far from a precise science, less than 1 percent of genetically altered animals are considered successful experiments; the other 99 percent suffer excruciating congenital conditions, such as crippling arthritis, liver and kidney damage, protruding eyes, ulcers, diarrhea and reproductive difficulties and mutations. While companies may be able to produce faster growing fish, Mad Cow-resistant steaks and low-cholesterol eggs, they will not be required to label their product as genetically engineered, rendering it indistinguishable from natural products, but not identical. Genetically altered animals’ milk, blood, urine and semen would also be used to produce pharmaceuticals consumed by humans, which would not be labeled as such. Data on the safety of these modifications for both animals and humans would remain confidential. The FDA may even opt to allow these altered products on the market prior to safety review, without the consumer’s knowledge. Toasting to health at mealtimes just took on new meaning. 🐾

HORMEL SUPPLIER ELICITS SQUEALS OF HORROR

A three-month undercover PETA investigation of an Iowa-based Hormel supplier revealed disturbing findings: Severe abuses included pregnant sows brutally kicked, beaten and sodomized with metal rods; piglets’ heads slammed against the concrete floor and left in a pile to die; pigs’ eyes poked out with clothespins, and spray paint shot up a nursing sow’s nose for over 30 seconds. MowMar farmhands’ sadistic and systematic cruelty was made public in September, along with documented violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which regulates the safety of products for human consumption. MowMar executives are naturally “surprised and outraged” at the abuse, while it is hoped that the 18 workers implicated will be prosecuted. PETA’s Vice President, Bruce Friedrich, told the Associated Press, “This isn’t about one farm, of course—it’s about a culture of cruelty that exists every place we go undercover on a factory farm or slaughterhouse.” Given the growing list of exposés by animal protection groups—including the largest beef recall in U.S. history this past February—American consumers are asked to carefully consider the origins of what they put in their shopping carts and stomachs, as well as the operations those purchases fund. 🐾

FARM BUREAU “CREATES BELIEF;” PERPETUATES LIES

Extensive media coverage of a cascade of animal welfare violations, both on the farm and at slaughter, has fed an already growing public awareness of the cruelty of factory farming. In an attempt to improve the industry’s image without actually addressing animal welfare concerns, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has hired public relations firm Osborn and Barr Communications, whose motto is appropriately “WE CREATE BELIEF.” The firm runs campaigns for Posilac (the controversial dairy growth hormone), genetically modified crops and biased industry “seals” like the “Swine Welfare Assurance Program.” By providing several “educational statements” in a before-and-after survey, AFBF persuaded participants that intensive confinement is humane and in the best interest of the animals. The very heart of the AFBF campaign is mere propaganda to re-characterize factory farms as “family farms.” The website is rife with references to families and multiple generations involved in production (though practices have clearly changed over the years!) and includes footage of the families down on the farm. One sequence shows a woman describing how much she cares for the animals in her massive confinement operation; she stands hypocritically before pigs, all with docked tails and housed indoors on concrete slat floors. The sows are restricted to gestation stalls and farrowing crates. While AWI doesn’t expect the public to recognize the tell-tale tongue-rolling of a distressed sow in the AFBF’s own footage, we do hope they can see through the Bureau’s thinly veiled hogwash. 🐾



Hiroya Minakuchi/Minden Pictures

BELEAGUERED BOTTLENOSE

The unrelenting capture and sale of wild dolphins in the Solomon Islands

Tourists visit the Solomon Islands for the sun, the sand and the sea—a tropical picture of perfection. Favored by scuba divers and adventurous travelers, the South Pacific archipelago has also seen its share of history, from being a protectorate of the United Kingdom for over a century, to witnessing the ravages of World War II, to finally becoming an independent nation in 1976. Through the ages of political turmoil, an indigenous tribal society has managed to endure.



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A seafaring people, Solomon Islanders have relied on the ocean's bounty for centuries, including its variety of dolphin species. A small number of tribes developed traditions of hunting dolphins using small boats and noise to drive them to shore. People on the island of Malaita prize certain species of dolphins for their teeth, since they are used as currency, as well as in bridal dowries. To a lesser extent, dolphin meat is also valued.

Sadly, the methods of capture and killing have always been brutal. Fishermen scan the sea for pods of dolphins; once one is spotted, they are driven ashore using herding

techniques passed from generation to generation. When in the shallows, the dolphins are held beneath the water and mud and drowned. Otherwise, they are stabbed and slashed. The teeth are then extracted and the bodies are cut up for distribution among the rest of the tribe.

DEALING WITH DOLPHINS

Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, however, were never sought by native hunters. The local version of the popular aquarium dolphins most of us are familiar with, their meat is believed by natives to be poor quality and their teeth not valuable. Relatively recently that changed when a Canadian named Christopher Porter decided to exploit the dolphin hunts. In 2003, he offered fishermen cash to capture live bottlenose dolphins to sell to a Mexican aquarium. An unknown number of dolphins were captured as local fishermen sought to make some quick cash using their traditional dolphin driving skills.

As a result, 28 dolphins were exported to Mexico, precipitating a black eye for the organization that governs such trade, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). At the time, the Solomon Islands was not a party to

CITES, and therefore unable to be penalized. The debacle led to a ban on the export of dolphins from the Solomon Islands, and later on both the export and import of cetaceans by Mexico in 2005.

Despite the ban, Porter arranged for more captures and exports in 2005—this time to the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas. Though a rumored deal was made by Wildlife International Network (WIN)—a company founded by ex-SeaWorld employees—and dolphins were captured, Hurricane Katrina put a kibosh on the transaction before the dolphins could be shipped. Kerzner International Limited, the owner of the Atlantis facility, seized the opportunity to instead obtain free dolphins and the accompanying good publicity. It offered to “rescue” over a dozen dolphins that had been displaced from a Gulfport aquarium by the hurricane. While the deal for the Solomon Islands’ dolphins was off, the fate of those captured remains unknown.

TRAGIC Over“CITES”

But Porter's efforts were far from derailed. Two years after his initial deal with Kerzner went sour, Porter tried his luck again, since the integrity of the Solomon Islands ban hadn't survived a change of government and was now rendered virtually meaningless. In another deal involving the same players and a WIN subsidiary, Florida-based Ocean Embassy, Inc., 28 dolphins were exported from the Solomon Islands to the Atlantis Resort in the United Arab Emirates, another Kerzner facility.

In June 2007, the Solomon Islands joined CITES just as news emerged (ironically during a CITES meeting), that more dolphins had been captured. AWI and other



Michael Pitts/InMind Pictures

groups, including the Cetacean Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, made repeated appeals to the CITES Secretary-General, Willem Wijnsteckers and the governments of the Solomon Islands and United Arab Emirates. We even appealed to Emirates Airlines, which had been hired to transport the animals. Apart from the fundamental issue of the ethics of removing dolphins from the wild and flying them half way around the world for a lifetime of captivity, we thought we had CITES on our side.

Under CITES, the export of dolphins requires verification by the Scientific Authority of the exporting country that removal from the wild will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. Yet this basic regulatory mandate cannot be met with any dolphin species from the Solomon Islands, because the current status of dolphin populations in the region is unknown. Unfortunately, our protests went unheard, and in October 2007, the Solomon Islands exported 28 dolphins to the Dubai Atlantis facility without any objection from Wijnsteckers.

Since then, CITES countries have made their concerns known. The issue has been raised and discussed within the organization, but the process is extremely lengthy, and more dolphins are at risk in the meantime. After the Dubai export, the Solomon Islands took the lack of action by the Secretary-General as a green light and announced that it would sanction the capture and export of 100 dolphins per year. Several dolphin capture outfits have subsequently sprung up. It is even rumored that deals have been struck with aquariums in Taiwan, Panama and Thailand, as well as a Singapore resort that will also house a Universal Studios theme park. AWI wrote to NBC Universal Studios in March of this year, urging it to pull



Torsten Blackwood/Alamy/Getty Images

A Brazilian DC-10 air freighter is loaded with dolphins at Henderson International Airport near Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands. The live-transport of marine mammals by air is understandably highly controversial and long-term impacts to the individual animals is unknown.

out of the deal or use its influence to stop the import of Solomon Islands dolphins. It too has refused to act.

The Conservation Union Cetacean Specialist Group continues to work on this issue. In August, it organized a workshop comprising marine mammal scientists and other experts from the region to review Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin population studies. The workshop concluded that for the dolphin population of the Solomon Islands to be able to sustain a capture rate of 100 animals per year, at least 5,000 animals are needed; but given the limited data available, a population of far below that figure is estimated. The workshop recommended that captures halt pending in-depth assessments to determine actual population numbers. The Solomon Islands, however—despite promising CITES that it would halt captures and exports if the practice proved to be unsustainable—is ignoring the opinions of the world’s leading marine mammal scientists. Even more shocking is the attitude of the CITES Secretary-General Wijnsteckers, who seems to be ignoring them as well.

A MAN WITH A MISSION

The Solomon Islands dolphins do have one local champion: City Councilman Lawrence Makili has been bravely speaking out against their capture for years, despite constant pressure from the dolphin traders and their associates. He has also championed the issue of illegal logging in the Solomon Islands, understanding similarly that once a resource has been overexploited, it is gone forever.

“I am fully aware that it is not safe to do what I am going to do,” Makili has said of his efforts to save the dolphins, “but I believe that one has to bear the consequences in order to put things right.”



A Malaitan Eagle Force militiaman guards 30 wild-caught dolphins in Honiara. Twenty-eight of these animals were ultimately flown to Cancun, Mexico for a life of confinement and entertaining tourists.

Makili has also expressed a desire to preserve his unique homeland and its serene beauty, explaining that using the natural world responsibly can bring financial reward to all of a country’s people, not just a privileged few.

On August 19, days before the Conservation Union’s workshop in Samoa, Makili was abducted from his home by a gang of men, driven several kilometers out of town and brutally beaten. He suffered numerous broken bones in his face, a broken arm and cracked ribs. He says he is lucky to be alive. But the culprits have yet to be found.

We share Makili’s belief that the beating is the result of his outspokenness over the pillaging of his country’s wildlife. A reward has been offered for the arrest and conviction of Makili’s attackers, though this will not end the dolphin captures. Only the Solomon Islands or CITES can do that, helped by the public when they refuse to patronize aquariums that confine wild-caught dolphins. 🐾

Torsten Blackwood/Alamy Images

Marine National Monument: Useless Without Funding

IN RESPONSE to the massive amounts of debris littering the area, two years ago, President Bush declared almost 140,000 square miles around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The area constitutes one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world and is home to an almost pristine reef ecosystem. There are more than 7,000 marine species, of which approximately half are unique to the Hawaiian Island chain.

The uncharacteristic move was hailed by environmentalists as an enormous step forward in ocean conservation. Unfortunately, the situation for this biologically significant region has not improved since the monument’s creation; in fact, debris removal along with government funding for the area has dropped to their lowest levels since 1998.

Derelict fishing gear and plastic materials therefore continue to accumulate at a rate of 57 tons per year, threatening sensitive coral reefs, sea turtles, endangered monk seals and other diverse and rare species. Animal Welfare Institute’s colleagues at Kahea, a native Hawaiian and environmental group, have pointed out that the draft 15-year Monument Management Plan published earlier this year falls short of the level of protections that were promised when the Monument was created.

In August, the president proposed granting national monument status to three more areas in the Pacific Ocean, including the Northern Mariana Islands and Rose Atoll in American Samoa. Hopefully, sufficient funding will be provided to ensure protection of marine life in these additional regions of the Pacific. 🐾



This school of Hawaiian squirrelfish in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands swims in protected waters, yet continues to be threatened by massive amounts of pollution, including litter, fishing gear and other debris.

NOAA

The Vanishing Vaquita

WHAT IS PLAGUING THE SHY VAQUITA porpoise who inhabits the northern part of the Gulf of California, Mexico? It’s not pollution, global warming or other environmental threats. It’s gillnets.

Though the killings are unintentional, the vaquitas are nonetheless drowning in fishermen’s gillnets at a rate of 20 to 30 animals per year. Since there are believed to be only 150 of these small cetaceans living in the Gulf, with a slow population growth rate, immediate action is critical. Should the species become extinct, it will be the second cetacean after the baiji to vanish solely from the actions of man. International scientists are working with the Mexican government on an Action Plan that they hope will lead the porpoise away from the threat of extinction. Aspects of the plan to be implemented later this year include a scientific expedition to collect baseline data, buying the fishermen’s boats and helping them to start new businesses and compensating fishermen who steer clear of the vaquita’s key habitat. To aid the cause, the Mexican government is allocating almost 20 million dollars toward the Action Plan. 🐾



Endangered Right Whales Still Await Protection

AFTER YEARS OF DELAY by the Bush administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) finally released regulations expected to reduce the likelihood of vessels colliding with North Atlantic right whales. The regulations require vessels of 65 ft and over in length to reduce speed to 10 knots in areas within 20 nautical miles of the U.S. Atlantic seaboard. Right Whales are large, slow moving and highly migratory; as a result, encounters with ships are one of the leading causes of right whale fatalities. NMFS originally proposed mandatory speed restrictions within 30 miles of the eastern seaboard, however, extensive lobbying by the shipping industry cut the impacted area down to 20 miles. Also disappointing is the fact that these regulations are set to expire in 2013 unless NMFS can prove their value. Because right whales need emergency help, these long-awaited regulations are welcome, but they may not be enough to save the species. 🐾

You Can Make a Difference

- Please write to the CITES Secretary-General asking that he properly enforce the provisions of CITES and stop supporting the capture and trade of wild dolphins in the Solomon Islands.
- Please write the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands telling him you will not visit his country until it ends the capture and export of its dolphins by reinstating the ban. You can also appeal for a thorough police investigation into the abduction and assault on Hon. Councilor Lawrence Makili.

Secretary-General Willem Wijnsteckers
CITES Secretariat
International Environment House
11 Chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Chatelaine
Geneva, Switzerland

Hon. Derek Sikua, Prime Minister
National Parliament of Solomon Islands
P.O. BOX G19
Vavaya Ridge
Honiara, Solomon Islands



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AWI PARTNERS WITH LOCAL GROUP TO PROTECT THREATENED LYNX

Despite their protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Canada lynx continue to be incidentally caught, injured and sometimes killed in Maine by leghold and Conibear traps, whose use is permissible by the state's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. In order to stop the agency from violating Section 9 of the ESA, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and the Wildlife Alliance of Maine (WAM) filed suit against them in August.

The Canada lynx has been listed as threatened under the ESA since 2000, and is acknowledged in Maine as a species of special concern. Documented in the state since the 1800s, lynx were subject to a year-round open season and a state bounty until 1967, when state legislature closed the season due to the species' increasing rarity. But even when lynx are not targeted by trappers, they remain vulnerable to traps set to catch other furbearers,

including bobcat, coyote, fox, fisher and marten.

Today, Maine's resident lynx population is estimated at a mere 200 to 500 individuals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that trapping has accounted for 86 percent of lynx mortalities nationwide; the 2007 season alone saw at least eight caught in a one-month span in Maine. On top of this, Maine's snowshoe hare populations—lynx's main source of prey—have declined by 50 percent in the last two years, further threatening lynx survival.

Last year, a lawsuit filed by another wildlife advocacy group led to a consent decree with the state, putting certain trap restrictions in place. But in spite of this measure, the species continues to be trapped. In fact, more lynx were trapped in the one-month period after the restrictions took



Dreamstime

effect than during the entire previous trapping season. Furthermore, these figures only include the trapped lynx who were reported—perhaps the tip of the iceberg compared to the unreported take.

Fortunately, other regions have made headway in the courtroom. In March, a federal court ruled that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources violated the ESA as the proximate cause of numerous lynx takings. Much like the current suit underway in Maine, this case set precedent that it is the state wildlife agencies' responsibility to protect endangered species from activities that it authorizes and regulates, such as trapping.

AWI wildlife consultant, Camilla Fox, is spearheading the current case along with Daryl DeJoy, executive director of WAM. Fox served as an expert witness in the two previous trials in Maine and Minnesota, and will serve as an expert witness in this case as well. As the trapping season opens in October, AWI and WAM will be seeking injunctive relief to stop further incidental trapping of lynx. 🐾

Above: The threatened Canada lynx often fall victim to traps set to catch other furbearers.

Despite opposition, W.Va. squirrel flies off the Endangered Species List

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE removed the West Virginia northern flying squirrel from the Endangered Species List. The species was first listed in 1985 after losing much of its habitat to logging. This announcement has been met with opposition from numerous scientists and wildlife advocates involved in the issue, due to the fact that officials still do not have an accurate population estimate, nor have they met recovery goals. Officials state that 80 percent of the squirrel's habitat is located on national forest or state-owned land, but without the protections offered by the Endangered Species Act, the squirrels will be at risk from hunting, as well as habitat loss from logging and climate change. 🐾

FIGHTING TOOTH AND CLAW: The Nation's Wolf Controversy

GRAY WOLF presence continues to spark controversy in Alaska (see Spring and Summer 2008 *AWI Quarterly*), particularly now that the state's governor, Sarah Palin, is running on the Republican Presidential ticket this fall. On August 26, Alaskans voted down a state ballot initiative that would have ended Alaska's brutal aerial wolf hunting program.

"We faced an approximately \$750,000 campaign from our opponents—including Safari Club International and a \$400,000 state-funded campaign approved by Governor Sarah Palin and the Alaska legislature," says Nick Jans, co-chair of Alaskans for Wildlife, which spearheaded the measure.

A federal bill now in Congress called the Protect America's Wildlife (PAW) Act would bring an end to Alaska's aerial hunting program and prevent programs like it from spreading to places such as the Greater Yellowstone region.

Last year, however, Gov. Palin announced the state would pay

wolf hunters \$150 per wolf if they presented the left forelegs of wolves taken from any of several designated control areas. Wildlife advocates challenged the program as a state bounty, and a judge agreed, ordering that the payouts to stop.

In June, the state issued a press release announcing that it had successfully killed 28 wolves from a helicopter near Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to boost caribou numbers for hunters. But newspaper reports revealed that 14 of the 28 wolves killed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were only pups. Conservation groups challenged the action as "denning," the illegal killing of young wolves.

Alaska is not isolated in its cruelty. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan had also begun to move toward more ardent and lethal wolf management plans, with Wisconsin officials even laying the groundwork for a public trophy hunt. Montana, Wyoming and Idaho planned their own public wolf hunts for this fall to drastically reduce populations, but wildlife advocacy



These Wyoming gray wolves are illustrative of the many others shot from planes in regions across the U.S., including Alaska, where aerial wolf hunts are encouraged by Gov. Sarah Palin.

organizations challenged the de-listing of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains and gained the court's support. Federal protections were then reinstated for gray wolves in the region.

Late in September, a federal court returned gray wolves to the Endangered Species List in the western Great Lakes region, recognizing that their populations had not yet significantly recovered. The order nullifies newly established state policies allowing people in the Great Lakes area to kill wolves attacking livestock or pets. It also bars the states from permitting hunting or trapping of wolves. 🐾

Another Stab at the Endangered Species Act

SINCE THE 1970S, Endangered Species Act protections have been instrumental in bringing species back from the brink of extinction, including the whooping crane, red wolf and sea turtles. Now, proposed modifications to the law would drastically alter the process used for decades to review the impacts of federally approved and/or funded projects on protected species.

Currently, before a project such as a dam, highway or mine can be built, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service are consulted to assess the impact of the project on protected species. The agencies can require mandatory or recommend voluntary changes to the project, if necessary, to mitigate its impacts.

The administration, however, is proposing to replace this expert oversight by allowing other federal agencies like the U.S. Forest

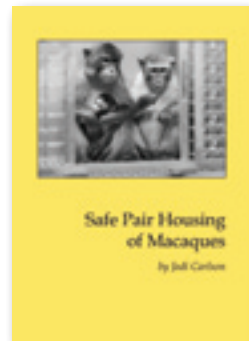
Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service, to unilaterally decide whether a project would harm imperiled species. The proposal would also give federal agencies a pass on considering the impacts of projects that contribute to climate change on protected species like the polar bear, which the FWS added to the list in May. The FWS is expected to make a final decision before the end of the year. 🐾



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Safe Pair Housing of Macaques

By Jodi Carlson
AWI, 2008
ISBN: 978-0-938414-93-3
48 pages



Safe Pair Housing of Macaques, by Jodi Carlson, D.V.M., associate research scientist at the Yale University School of Medicine, is now available from the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). Those working with macaques in a research facility can receive a complimentary copy of the 52-page book; others may purchase the book for the cost price of \$1. Please contact AWI if you are interested in this publication. 🐾

Environmental Enrichment

By Viktor Reinhardt
AWI, 2008
ISBN: 978-0-938414-92-6
130 pages

In this third edition of *Environmental Enrichment and Refinement for Nonhuman Primates in Research Laboratories* the collection of photographs has been expanded from rhesus macaques to include all nonhuman primates. Twenty-five primatologists, animal technicians and veterinarians have contributed photos to this new book. The text has been revised and the discussion of the relevant literature updated.

This new edition has been prepared with the aspiration that the photos and the supportive scientific data will inspire animal care personnel, veterinarians and biomedical investigators to allow themselves to feel compassion for the animals with whom they work and to have the courage to translate these feelings

Factory Farming: The Experiment That Failed

By Various Authors
AWI, 2008
ISBN: 978-0-938414-13-1
158 pages



Volume II of *Factory Farming: The Experiment That Failed* has been published as a continuation of the first book from 1987. The latest volume covers AWI's *Quarterly* writings on farm animal issues from 1987 to 2008, giving a thorough look into the biggest national and international welfare issues that have impacted farm animals over the last two decades. The table of contents makes it a great reference book, covering slaughter, transport, litigation, policy, food safety, positive and negative developments on the farm and more. The book is an excellent resource for gaining a better understanding of the issue and its progression over time. Combined, the volumes are a testament to AWI's longstanding commitment and persistent efforts to improve the welfare of farm animals. Contact AWI for your \$2 copy; members receive one free. 🐾

into action. Promoting animal welfare in the laboratory not only benefits the animals, but it enhances the work moral of the people in charge of them while improving the scientific quality of research that is conducted.

Those working in a research facility can receive a complimentary copy; others may purchase the book for \$3. 🐾



BEQUESTS

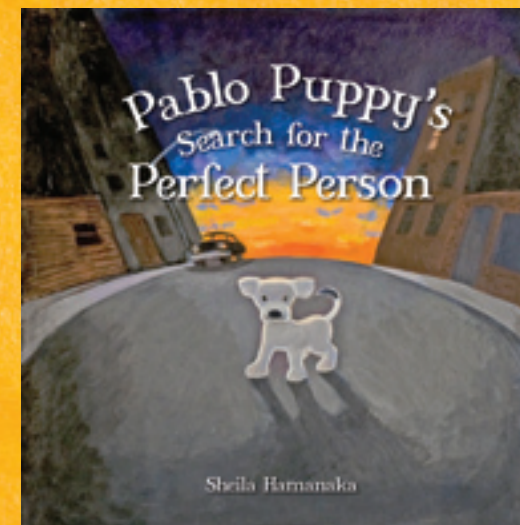
If you would like to help assure AWI's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

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

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax-deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

More than Puppy Love

AWI's new children's book on dog care teaches kids a lesson in love in a diverse world.



wrote the book to model how children need to care for a puppy or dog they want to adopt, but adds that it isn't meant to be a complete or thorough guide to dog care. Instead, she aims to convey "the 24-7-365 nature of living with a dog," says Hamanaka.

Natasha describes to Pablo how the perfect person feeds you, walks you, never yells and gives you a bed to sleep in.

Why do people go to all this trouble? "They do it out of love," says Natasha.

Of course, nobody's perfect. People, like dogs, also come in all different types. So all the characters are different sizes, shapes, ages, ethnicities and abilities. As a family is about to leave with the newly adopted Pablo, the little girl notices that Natasha looks awfully sad and realizes that this old dog will surely miss her little friend.

Happily, the girl and her grandmother decide to adopt Natasha too. "The little girl and her grandmother are sensitive to the feelings of the older dog and are

aware that dogs experience feelings of attachment and loss just as much as people do," explains Hamanaka, who wanted to inform young readers (and their parents) about the large numbers of older dogs available in shelters who also make "perfect" companions and deserve just as much love and respect as puppies do.

One complimentary copy of this full color paperback is available to all librarians, pre-K through third grade teachers and active AWI members. For additional copies, or if you do not fall under these categories, the book can be purchased for \$4, including shipping and handling. 🐾

There are many books available today on how to find the perfect dog, but there is only one that tells us how a dog can find the perfect person.

The Animal Welfare Institute's latest book for young children ages 4 to 8, *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person* is the heartwarming story of a lost little puppy who is taken to a shelter where he meets an older dog named Natasha. They become fast friends, and soon Natasha, with her many years of experience, enlightens Pablo about how to find "the perfect person" to adopt him.

Children's book author and illustrator Sheila Hamanaka says she

BATTLE IN SEATTLE

Runtime: 98 minutes

"WTO TALKS COLLAPSE WITHOUT AGREEMENT"—Headlines like this appeared in newspapers, following five days of demonstrations that took place on the streets of Seattle in 1999 to protest the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference. Some 50,000 protestors from distinct walks of life, including animal advocates, environmentalists, union members, small farmers, child and slave labor activists flocked to Seattle with one goal—to stop a new round of WTO trade negotiations.

After reading about the protests that consumed Seattle and the serious concerns of the protestors—concerns that are still relevant today—Ireland-born Stuart Townsend was inspired to write and direct *Battle in Seattle*. The fictional docu-drama consists of an all-star cast (Charlize Theron, Woody Harrelson, Ray Liotta) that shows the lives of eight main characters and explores a variety of perspectives.

The film follows the evolution of the demonstrations from a mostly peaceful exercise in civil disobedience to a dangerous riot. On the first day, protestors block intersections and entrances to the Seattle Convention

Center, preventing delegates from entering and ultimately shutting down the opening ceremony.

Amid peaceful protesting, a fringe group of anarchists gets violent and vandalizes the city. Overwhelmed and ill-prepared to handle the sheer volume of protestors, the mayor concedes to pressure from state and federal leaders and eventually goes back on his word to respect the protestor's First Amendment rights. After he declares a State of Emergency and unleashes the National Guard, the situation quickly turns chaotic. The police use the excessive force of tear gas and rubber bullets on people, more than 600 of which were arrested. The protestors remain undeterred. WTO negotiations eventually collapsed when African delegates walked out of the conference after their concerns over affordable healthcare were ignored.

Throughout the film, actual protest footage is beautifully blended with reenactments of the demonstrations. Considerable effort was made to obtain original props and costumes, including the sea turtle costumes made by the late Ben White, the former international coordinator for the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI). Ben designed the costumes and, with the help of volunteers and AWI staff, constructed 240 that were worn by protestors.

Ben was determined to draw attention to animal protection issues and used sea turtles as the icon of the clash between the U.S. and the WTO over the U.S. Turtle-Shrimp law: A handful of Asian nations had sued the U.S. in 1998 for banning



The late AWI International Coordinator, Ben White, leads the turtles protesting the WTO in Seattle.

shrimp imports from countries that did not employ Turtle Excluder Devices (trapdoor in shrimp nets from which sea turtles can escape if accidentally caught). The WTO ruled that the U.S. was unfairly discriminating among exporting countries. This ruling significantly weakened the U.S. sea turtle law and caused the deaths of thousands of sea turtles, demonstrating how the WTO puts profit before all else and allows foreign countries to overturn numerous existing domestic laws.

Although highly dramatized for Hollywood and more focused on the right to freedom of speech than free trade issues, this film educates present and future generations about the mercenary nature of the WTO.

"How do you stop those who will stop at nothing?" asks a protester in the film. Townsend is asking viewers to consider this question themselves and, by way of the film's nonfictional ending, empower them to believe there is an achievable answer.

Visit www.battleinseattlemovie.com for more information. 🐾



André Benjamin plays Django, a character who appears to be based on Ben White.



The Lizard King: The True Crimes and Passions of the World's Greatest Reptile Smugglers

By Bryan Christy
Twelve, 2008
ISBN-10: 0446580953
239 pages; \$24.99

AFTER READING THIS CAPTIVATING TRUE STORY, you may never look at a reptile in the pet store—or perhaps any animal in a pet store—the same way again.

Freelance writer Bryan Christy details the world of a lizard kingpin and his colossal global network, tracing the path of animals from their homes in the wild to pet stores and zoos millions of miles away.

Christy illustrates the multimillion dollar business of wildlife trafficking and the commercial reptile trade through the life and crimes of notorious reptile smuggler, Mike Van Nostrand, and the federal agent who tries to stop him.

In 1989, Van Nostrand transformed his family's small Florida import-export business into Strictly Reptiles, Inc., operating a massive reptile smuggling operation, where the most endangered species are the most lucrative. This meticulously researched tale

is told from the perspective of both the smuggler and the agent, revealing the frustrating and disturbing details of both professions.

Christy exposes the many shortcomings and loopholes of wildlife trade laws and the limited capacity of enforcement agents. Offenders are rarely prosecuted for these "minor" crimes, which take a backseat to more serious crimes.

But despite what some may think, the crime of animal smuggling is anything but victimless. Many animals are transported inhumanely: sewn into luggage, taped to the smuggler's body, or stuffed into boxes. The seemingly legal trade of wildlife is also chronicled; wild-caught animals are accompanied with falsified permits stating they are captive-bred.

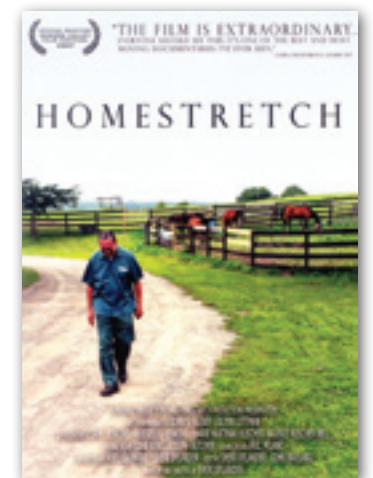
Appropriately, just in time for the book's release, Strictly Reptiles was once again in the news, convicted in July for selling 1,000 undersized turtles. Almost 7,000 turtles and tortoises were seized by government agents; the court ordered the company to pay a \$5,000 fine, and placed it on two years' probation. 🐾

HOMESTRETCH

www.homestretchthemovie.com

Runtime: 53 minutes

A BEAUTIFUL AND COMPELLING documentary about the ability of humans and animals to assist each other in the most remarkable of ways, *Homestretch*, by Sheri Bylander, tells of a unique program whereby prisoners and rescued Thoroughbreds are teamed up to their mutual benefit. The film documents the fate of losing racehorses, many who are rescued from slaughter, and the lifesaving rehabilitation they can share with prisoners on their way back to society. Not only do the prisoners learn respect and empathy by caring for the often skittish and overworked animals, but they learn valuable skills to carry them into a new life after imprisonment. A moving piece, through and through. 🐾



Unleashing Creativity to Unchain Dogs

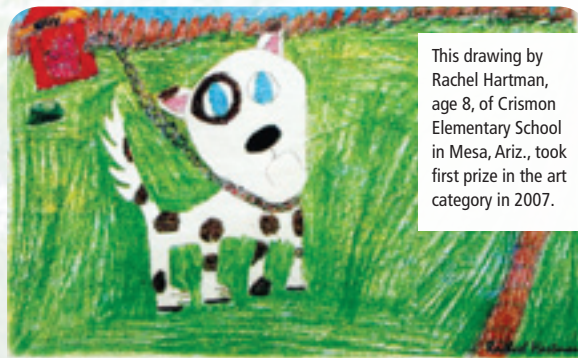
By Debra J. White

A DOG NAMED JOEY is tethered by a chain day after day, night after night in his owner's backyard. Harriet, a very clever cat, moves next door and takes an immediate interest in Joey's plight. How does the story end? Will Harriet be able to free Joey? How will he feel if she succeeds?

More than 2,000 third graders across Maricopa County, Ariz., were asked by their teachers earlier this year to come up with an ending to the tale and craft their conclusions in both words and pictures. The storytelling and art contest called Breaking the Chain is an educational project of the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition. Begun in 2004, the contest continues to spark awareness and empathy in children about the sad fate of chained dogs in Arizona, where summer temperatures routinely top 100 degrees.

In a number of the stories, children wrote that other animals came to the rescue of Joey, one in the form of a police dog, another as an "army of mice" who chewed through the chain until it broke. Renae Lynk of Westpoint Elementary School in Surprise, Ariz., broke the mold and wrote that Joey died—a sad ending that is often all too real. The girl's poignant story tugged at every judge's heart, and by unanimous vote, she won first prize in last year's contest in the essay category. Her story ends, "His head dropped to the floor once again. One day was finally his last. As the sun set and the moon rose, he fell asleep. The next morning he did not wake."

There are millions of dogs just like Joey in backyards and empty lots across the United States, who typically receive inadequate amounts of exercise, water, veterinary care, socialization



This drawing by Rachel Hartman, age 8, of Crismon Elementary School in Mesa, Ariz., took first prize in the art category in 2007.

Animals are people too, they need everything we need. Especially love. 

and love. Sometimes these dogs suffer from strangulation on their tethers or their necks become festered and maggot-ridden from embedded chains.

Dogs who are continuously chained and therefore denied socialization can become aggressive and bite—a result of chaining that tragically affects children. According to Dogs Deserve Better, a national advocacy group to end chaining, 214 children in the United States were either killed or severely injured by chained dogs between October 2003 and June 2008.

Conditions, however, are improving. At least 25 communities across the U.S., including Tucson, Ariz., Jefferson County, Ky., Miami, Fla., and the state of California have passed legislation that either restricts chaining or bans it altogether. And the numbers continue to grow.

Not only does Breaking the Chain teach empathy for animals, but for some, the contest has instilled a sense of compassion for each other as well. In a society with so much violence, it's hard to argue with that.

For more information, visit www.pacc911.org or contact Debra J. White, contest founder, at whitedebraj@yahoo.com. 



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