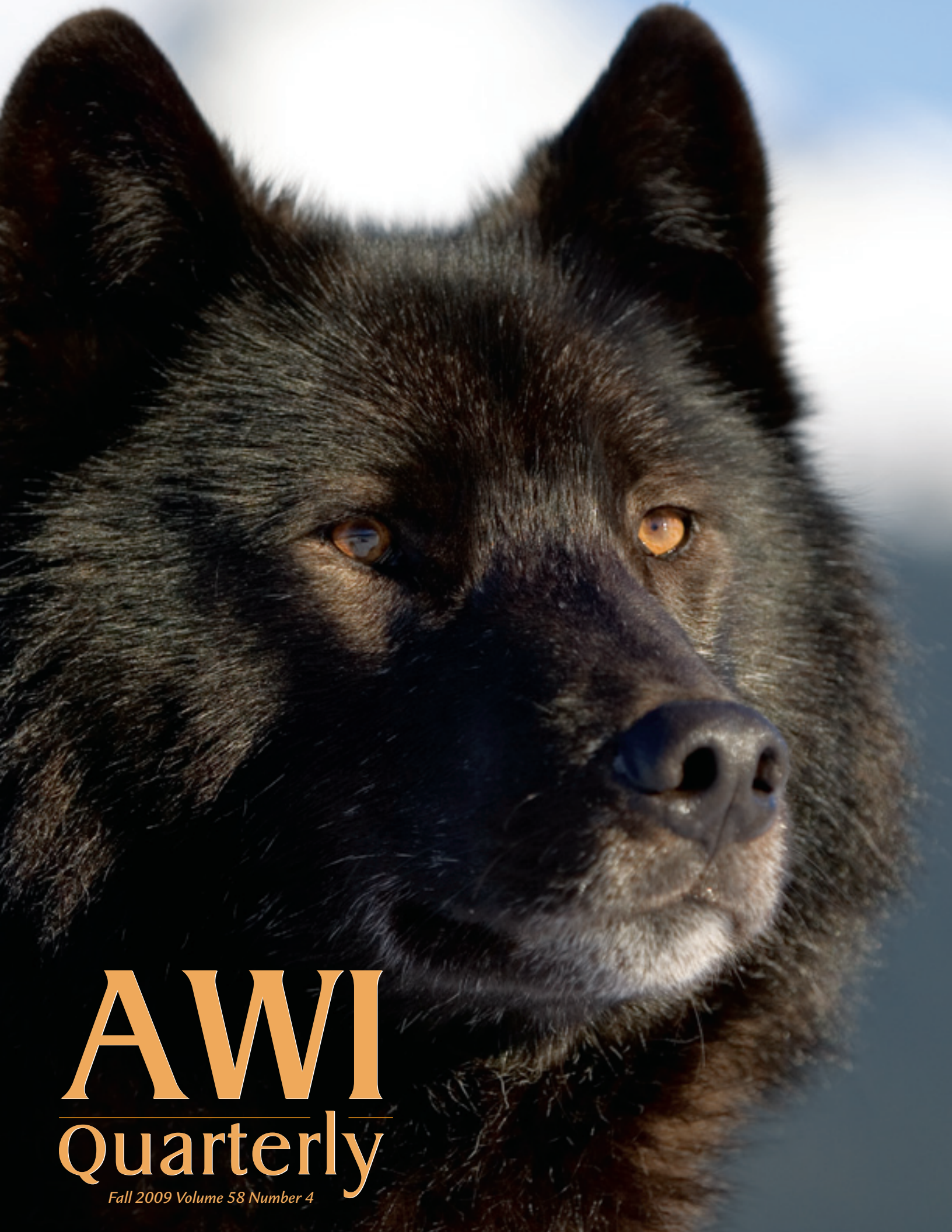




# AWI

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# Quarterly

*Fall 2009 Volume 58 Number 4*

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ABOUT THE COVER

Forced from the shelter of surrounding mountains when the rest of his pack was trapped by humans (nearly 400 wolves were killed at ranchers' behest by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services in 2008 alone), this young wolf, a year old at the time, and his mother, acclimated to strands of civilization and a diet of small prey at lower latitudes. When his mother was killed by a passing car, the solitary orphan, tentative at first, sought solace with local dogs and even their owners. Returning eventually to the mountains, he proves each winter that the bonds he formed with civilization are unbreakable, journeying back to visit the canines and humans who once fed his soul. See page 20 for more.

Photo by John Hyde

NEW FEDERAL INITIATIVE FOR  
WILD HORSES AND BURROS

On October 7, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced a new initiative for the management of America's wild horses and burros. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and BLM Director Bob Abbey introduced the new plan, claiming that it will make the management of these animals more sustainable, enhance their conservation, and provide a better value for the taxpayer.

Specifically, the new plan includes the potential establishment of wild horse preserves on productive grasslands in the Midwest and East where non-reproducing herds of wild horses and burros would live out their lives. It proposes Secretarial orders and/or Congressional designations to showcase the unique qualities of wild horses on certain lands in the West. And it suggests new strategies for the management of existing herds including the aggressive use of fertility control and the manipulation of herd sex ratios. Components of the new initiative were outlined by Secretary Salazar in a letter to Senate Majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

The BLM developed the new plan in response to the failure of current strategies for wild horse and burro management, resulting in nearly as many animals held in short and long-term holding facilities as are roaming Western rangelands. The BLM claims the new initiative is needed because there are too many horses and burros on public lands, the lands can't support them, and they hope to reduce the costs of caring for the 32,000 wild horses in confinement. While AWI agrees with the latter point, we reject the two previous ones. To become operational, the new initiative will require a Congressional amendment to the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.

AWI welcomes the effort made by the BLM to address the decades of mismanagement of America's wild horse and burros but reserves judgment on the new plan pending the release of far more details. 🐾



Linda Mirro

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY



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**Above Left:** Cattle and farmers benefit from a return to traditional grassfed farming. (Photo by Mike Suarez); **Top Right:** The endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales rely on a disappearing food source. (Photo by Center for Whale Research); **Bottom Right:** National Park Service has deer in its sights as lethal control takes hold in national parks. (Photo by Brian Tang/hardrain1.com).

**Correction:** The photograph of an alligator in the summer issue of the Quarterly (Volume 58 Number 3) was incorrectly identified as a crocodile.





USFWS/AP Photo

*Veterinarians and biologists inspect dead walrus on a beach near Icy Cape on the Chukchi Sea in Alaska's North Slope region. An estimated 3,500 live walrus had been seen in the vicinity in the days prior to the grisly find.*

## Walrus Deaths Attributed to Sea Ice Reduction

SCIENTISTS HAVE REPORTED THAT TRAMPLING by other walrus in a stampede likely caused the deaths of 131 walrus found on a beach in Alaska's North Slope in August. Attributing a reduction in available sea ice to global warming, the scientists hypothesize that extraordinary numbers of walrus had crowded onto the shoreline, then stampeded when they were alarmed. Walrus routinely come ashore but over the past two years exceptionally large herds have been observed, with previous mass casualties from stampeding only being observed on the Russian side of the Chukchi Sea.

According to the preliminary report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, necropsies of 71 carcasses revealed mostly young animals with extensive bruising in the muscles of the neck and chest. Walrus calves weigh only 100-160 pounds and are vulnerable to trampling by heavier adults if startled by disturbances such as hunters, predators or planes. Since walrus cannot swim continuously, they depend on sea ice platforms for breeding, nursing, resting and foraging. The discovery of the dead animals and the growing threats to walrus from climate change, as well as from increasing oil exploration, has prompted the Service to consider listing the Pacific walrus as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. 🐾

## Obama's Ocean Task Force

PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS ANNOUNCED the creation of a 23-member federal task force to establish a comprehensive U.S. Ocean Policy that "will incorporate ecosystem-based science and management and emphasize our public stewardship responsibilities." Led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality, members of the task force include the Navy, Coast Guard and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The Task Force has been divided into five working groups on public engagement, policy, governance, implementation and marine spatial planning. An initial report came out in September and includes prescriptions for the content of a unified Ocean Policy. Public meetings have been held and a blueprint for implementing the Policy is scheduled for publication by year end.

AWI welcomes this ambitious initiative, and we hope that it will result in a roadmap for saving our oceans. While we depend on the oceans for food, energy, raw materials, trade, health, recreation, and security, we have a responsibility to protect and preserve marine ecosystems and their inhabitants. To date, our actions have brought about the near collapse of marine ecosystems. Climate change is causing ocean acidification, sea level rise, storms of increasing severity, loss of polar ice caps, and fundamental changes in ecosystem structure and function. Further, the introduction into the oceans of contaminants, disease, alien species, noise, and debris; overfishing; harmful algal blooms and dead zones; increasing vessel traffic; adverse effects of oil, gas, and mineral extraction; and ill-managed coastal development also pose serious risks to marine ecosystems.

To address these mammoth challenges, including their cumulative impact, the Ocean Policy must be comprehensive and meaningful. It must call for restoration and reparation where damage has been done and precaution where risks of future damage may be unknown or unacceptable. It must call for coordination among stakeholders and it must engage, educate, and inspire the public about the wonders and values of the sea. It must ensure that we sustain the oceans, as they sustain us. 🐾

## NAVY WAR GAMES IMPERIL MARINE LIFE

The U.S. Navy has announced its decision to proceed with construction of a 500-square mile sonar testing range off the Jacksonville, FL coast. Over 470 exercises will take place there every year, involving submarines, ships and aircraft in simulated war games. The proposed location is next to the only calving ground of the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale and is home to a host of other marine animals. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has concluded that the "loss of even a single individual right whale may contribute to the extinction of the species" yet the Navy is intent upon proceeding, despite not having completed surveys of whales in the area or obtaining authorization from NOAA Fisheries Service for its operations.

Ship strikes are the single largest cause of death for endangered right whales yet Navy ships—exempt from speed restrictions recently implemented to protect these whales—will pass through the calving ground when traveling to the range from bases at Mayport, FL, and Kings

Bay, GA. Low flying aircraft are also a source of harassment to right whale mothers and calves who use these shallow, calm waters as a nursing ground each winter. The Navy's plans include deployment of non-explosive exercise torpedoes, target submarine simulators, and various forms of active and passive sonar. An assortment of debris will be introduced into the area and left behind, including 3,000 sonobuoys per year, exercise torpedoes and control wires, parachute assemblages, and ballast.

The Jacksonville range is one of many plans by the Navy to expand its training areas with virtually every U.S. coast affected. In all, the Navy anticipates more than 2.3 million 'takes' of marine mammals per year (in addition to injury and death, a Navy 'take' includes significant disruptions in marine mammal foraging, breeding, and other essential behaviors).

AWI opposes construction of the Jacksonville range and is urging NOAA to identify and impose strict measures to minimize impacts on and improve monitoring of affected marine animal populations. Such measures include establishing firm seasonal or geographic sonar exclusion areas to protect vulnerable species and habitat, which scientists have identified as the most effective available means of reducing harm. 🐾

## U.S. Court Approves Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales

IN JULY, A FEDERAL APPEALS COURT announced it would permit the U.S. Department of the Interior to move forward with new oil and natural gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, subject to an analysis of the environmental risks. The news came after an earlier court decision had blocked the Bush-era five-year offshore oil and gas drilling plan. The drilling plan, which also includes the Alaska outer continental shelf region, was originally rejected based on findings that a proper review had not been performed on the possible environmental effects of drilling. After Interior Secretary Ken Salazar requested clarification on the ruling, the courts said the decision only applied to Alaska and therefore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico were permitted. Leases were auctioned at the end of



NOAA

*Already teeming with oil platforms like this one off Mississippi which washed aground after Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf of Mexico is slated for more of the behemoths once the environmental reviews are complete.*

August, attracting the lowest bids in a decade. The impacted area encompasses 18 million acres, comes within nine miles of the shore, and stretches out as far as 250 miles. 🐾

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST ORCAS SURVIVING THE ODDS



Center for Whale Research

wrote to the Secretary of Commerce and Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, stating “[A]s federal scientists have previously recognized, and 300 independent scientists have echoed, removing the lower Snake dams is ‘the surest means’ to recovering at least four endangered salmon runs (two of which are Chinook), and will provide critical ancillary benefits, such as cooler water temperatures, to endangered non-Snake River salmon. Lower Snake dam removal would restore salmon abundance to 1.5 million acres of high elevation, low temperature, largely undeveloped, mostly protected lands. When coupled with sound harvest policies, appropriate land use, and hatchery/aquaculture reform, opening access to this inland habitat would allow Chinook numbers to increase to levels that would again sustain Southern Resident [whales], particularly during crucial winter months when they leave Puget Sound.”

The Pacific Northwest salmon populations also suffer from toxic pollutant poisoning which in turn affects the Southern Resident orcas. A study published in a 2009 issue of *Environmental and Toxicology Journal* found the orcas are consuming salmon that have remarkably high concentrations of persistent organic pollutants, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). Peter Ross, a scientist with the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, has said of the resident orcas “[T]hese are some of the most PCB-contaminated mammals on the planet.”

The manufacture and use of the pesticide DDT, and the manufacture and most uses of PCBs have been banned for decades. However these bio-accumulating toxins persist in the environment. Southern Resident orcas have been found to be nearly four times as contaminated with PCBs as the northern population. Researchers have found that the southernmost salmon had both the highest concentrations of chemicals and the lowest amount of body fat which results in the orcas having to eat far more of the contaminated fish to meet their energy needs, thus concentrating the toxins. The impacts of consuming contaminated fish are exacerbated on malnourished animals and the decline in salmon numbers is already affecting the Southern Resident orcas. In the summer of 2008, seven members of the Southern Resident population went missing, with some appearing malnourished when last seen. None have been seen since and all are now presumed dead.

The Southern Residents have always had it tough. During the late 1800s and early 1900s they were seen as competition for fish, which prompted deadly shootings by anxious fisherman. Later, in the 1960s through mid 1970s the unlucky whales fell victim to the captive aquarium industry. Cruel round-ups resulted in at least 13 deaths and 45 whales—almost half the population—shipped to

marine parks. The sole survivor of this round-up, Lolita, remains languishing at Miami’s Seaquarium.

Today the orcas of the Pacific Northwest, and their cousins throughout the world’s oceans, face additional challenges that could not have been imagined a century ago. Noise pollution, active sonar, shipping traffic and oil spills are all impacting them, in some cases resulting in their deaths. The U.S. Navy for example already uses part of the Southern Resident orcas’ habitat as an active sonar training range and even intends expanding its operations there.

Fortunately these ill-fated orcas have many friends. In 2005, in response to aggressive petitioning by concerned groups and scientists, the population—then numbering 89 individuals—was listed under both the ESA and Canada’s Species at Risk Act. With the ESA listing came a requirement for the creation of a recovery plan to address issues such as oil spills, pollution, salmon recovery and guidelines for boating in the vicinity of whales. In July of 2009, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed regulations under the ESA and Marine Mammal Protection Act for boating. The regulations will, among other things, prohibit vessels from approaching orcas in the Northwest U.S. region within 200 yards; parking in the path of whales for vessels in inland waters of Washington State; and entering a conservation area during a defined season.

There’s hope for these born survivors, but with so few remaining, hope for their survival must turn into action to ensure it. 🐾

THE LARGEST MEMBERS OF THE DOLPHIN family, orcas, also known as killer whales, are perhaps the most recognizable cetacean, with their distinctive black and white markings. These small, toothed whales inhabit temperate to cooler waters throughout the world. Today, most people know of this popular whale but many are probably unaware of the multiple perils confronting the mammals, especially those in the U.S. Pacific Northwest. There are three subspecies of these orcas: resident, transient and offshore, with different social structures, language and prey. Although their ranges overlap, they do so without aggression or intermingling among the groups.

Little is known about offshore orcas except that they can travel in groups of 30 to 60 individuals, and sometimes more. Transient orcas live in smaller groups, often of just five to seven animals, preying on smaller marine mammals such as seals, otters and sea lions. Resident orcas form the largest groups, or pods, which can number several dozen animals. They can even form associations of several coexisting pods. Sightings of the Pacific Northwest resident orcas occur more often than the other ecotypes because although they can roam up to 800 miles, or as far as California, they consistently return

to the same areas. These orcas follow their food, and for the Southern Residents, Chinook salmon constitutes a main ingredient of their diet.

Unfortunately the salmon are disappearing. According to the *Save Our Wild Salmon* coalition, every winter the Southern Resident whales move out to the northeastern Pacific Ocean from Washington State’s San Juan Islands and while traveling, feed on Chinook salmon from the Columbia River. Like all anadromous fish, Chinook salmon spend most of their adulthood at sea, migrating to the rivers to spawn. Once teeming with salmon and considered the premiere salmon-bearing river system across the globe, the Columbia-Snake River Basin’s salmon numbers have plummeted over the past century to less than 1 percent of their former tens of millions. This decline is largely due to dam construction and habitat loss, with 13 species of anadromous fish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The endangered status of salmon threaten the survival of the orcas, with local whale scientists much alarmed and up in arms. Ken Balcomb, Executive Director and Principal Investigator of the Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbor, Wash., and other scientists recently



Jeffrey Kreulen/www.flickr.com/photos/jtkreu

Several dams along the Lower Snake River, like Hell’s Canyon Dam in Oxbow, Oregon, have no fish passage facilities, which prevent salmon from migrating upstream, cutting off vital spawning grounds.

# “Living Cadavers”

## Replace Living Animals in Surgery Training

by Jonathan Balcombe

The replacement of live animal models with alternatives is an encouraging recent trend in medical education. Where the use of live animals was once standard practice in medical school curricula, today 152 of America's 159 medical schools (which include allopathic and osteopathic schools) have eliminated these methods in favor of more modern and effective alternatives.

One of the challenges specific to surgical training is the simulation of dynamic, living tissue. Available training models such as mannequins, computer models, virtual reality (VR), and ethically-sourced cadavers all offer valuable training opportunities, but (with the exception of some VR simulators) do not bleed, ooze or pulsate. A solution to that challenge has been developed by Dr. Emad Aboud, a neurosurgeon at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Elegant in its sheer simplicity, Aboud's system involves connecting a human or an animal cadaver to a mechanical pump. Plastic tubing is spliced onto the major arteries and veins, and artificial blood is then pumped into the vessels to fill the specimen's vascular tree. The other end of each vessel is coupled to a reservoir of “blood” (water mixed with food coloring works fine). The pump can be adjusted for both pulsation speed and pressure. Clear liquids can mimic cerebrospinal fluid when working with head and spine specimens.



Ron Tribell/Axis Arts

Though not yet commercially available, the system has potential for widespread use owing to its flexibility and low cost. It has training application to all kinds of surgical procedures in all surgical fields, including endoscopic (e.g., bronchoscopy and colonoscopy) and endovascular (e.g., angiography, aneurysm repair) procedures; making and suturing incisions in skin or organs; dissecting soft, oozing tissues; ligation of severed vessels; vascular anastomosis (connecting two ends of a severed vessel); intestinal anastomosis; and transplantations. “Living Cadavers” can also be used to practice non-surgical techniques such as withdrawing blood and inserting central and arterial lines (used for obtaining cardiovascular measurements and long-term administration of medications).

Naturally, the method is equally applicable to animal cadavers. In fact, Aboud first tried the technique with a dead fox he removed from a roadside and later using a dog cadaver for laparoscopic and open surgical procedures. According to the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, nearly half of the nation's 28 veterinary schools still conduct terminal surgeries on animals, and Aboud is now seeking to expand his model's use in veterinary training. Ethical sources of animal cadavers include willed-body programs, animals who have died naturally or in accidents, and animals euthanized for medical reasons. Crucially, acquiring animal cadavers need never involve purpose-breeding or killing animals; thus, Class B dealers—who acquire animals from a variety of sources and then sell them to research institutions or veterinary schools—can and should be kept out of the loop.

Aboud's model is in regular use at the University of Arkansas and has been featured at training workshops and courses in neurosurgery across the U.S., as well as Germany, Finland, Syria and the Netherlands. His team is ready and willing to help with setting up the system at other surgical training facilities. “It's a win-win-win solution,” says Aboud, “providing advanced training at low cost with the promise of further replacing animals in medical and veterinary training.” 🐾

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## Rescued Parrots' Fate Still Uncertain

THE FLORIDA BREEDING FACILITY that has masqueraded as a sanctuary and received 31 macaws seized in Virginia (*AWI Quarterly*, Winter 2009), is liquidating and auctioning off all its birds and exotic cats. Readers may recall that the macaws were seized in Orange County, Virginia, as part of a cruelty investigation, and were sent to Florida in 2008. While the Virginia macaws are not included in the liquidation auction, this development raises disturbing questions about their fate. As far as we know, two macaws have already died at the facility. Their former—and possibly future—owners, Danny and Sally Crosswhite, have yet to fully reimburse the county more than \$19,000 in expenses, which they had agreed to pay in order for cruelty charges—which could have resulted in jail time—to be dropped and to allow for the possible return of the birds. Instead the Crosswhites have received multiple extensions from the court. Orange County Commonwealth's Attorney Diana Wheeler has said the Crosswhites will not automatically get the birds back if they pay up; they will have to petition the court, which will assess their ability to care for the macaws. AWI has asked Ms. Wheeler to seek the birds' return to the Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary (Project Perry), which is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association. Project Perry cared for the birds after they were seized and wanted to keep them, but the Crosswhites insisted they be moved to Florida. 🐾



## NEEDLE IN A FRUIT FLY

Move over, Charles Darwin. According to National University of Ireland pioneering biologist Kevin Kavanagh, because an insect's immune system—specifically its haematocytes—closely resembles one part of the mammalian immune system—or its neutrophils—using moths, caterpillars or *Drosophila* (fruit flies) instead of mice and rats just seemed like the next step—and a more humane one—in the evolution of drug research and testing.

“It was just a hunch when the project began in the late 1990s,” Dr. Kavanagh said by phone from his university office, acknowledging that “speed, reduced cost, and greater ethical

## Nepal's Rhesus Monkeys: Free But Not Yet Wild

IN 2003 THE NATION OF NEPAL decided to allow captive breeding of rhesus monkeys for research and export, despite monkeys being sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. Two facilities were established but only one amassed monkeys. From the start Nepal-based groups protested and even sued the government to block the plans. Monkey supporters held demonstrations in the streets of Kathmandu. A mountain guide carried a banner calling on Nepal to “Stop the Monkey Business” to the summit of Mount Everest. Meanwhile one US-supported facility in Lele had acquired over 300 monkeys.

In August Nepal's new Forest Minister, Mr. Deepak Bohara, ordered the Lele facility to be closed down and all 300 monkeys to be rehabilitated and released. A colony this large has never been released before, making such a feat the largest endeavor of its kind. Nepal-based animal groups are looking for funds and expertise for the unprecedented project and working to make sure the Minister's order sticks. 🐾



Gustav Photography

acceptance” are byproducts of the model. Because insects are much smaller with a shorter lifespan, results can be measured in a day or two, and at a cost of under \$0.32, as opposed to six weeks and \$80-\$130 in murine (rodent) specimens, he explained, noting the prevalence of the practice in the British Isles and Europe.

In the U.S., M.D. Anderson Cancer Center infectious disease specialist Dr. Dimitrios Kontoyiannis, whose pathogenic research with *Drosophila* under these conditions also spans a decade, calls the model “an emerging area in immunopathogenics, and for sure not yet mainstream.” Murine models, he says, are “laborious” and have “ethical implications,” though both Kontoyiannis and Kavanagh maintain that insects are typically used for the initial screen with testing ultimately validated in mice. Still, the practice, as it is, can preclude the use of hundreds or even thousands of mammals in a single drug test, a giant stride for mice and men toward more humane laboratory research. 🐾

# The Dark Side of the National Park Service

FOR MANY AMERICANS, A VISIT TO A NATIONAL PARK can be an enlightening and awe-inspiring journey. From the splendor of a sunrise at the Grand Canyon to the sheer beauty of Yellowstone and from the desolation of Death Valley to the history of Gettysburg, America's national parks have been set aside to protect some of the United States' most treasured landscapes and hallowed grounds. The U.S. was the first country to establish a national park beginning with Yellowstone in 1872, some 44 years before the National Park Service (NPS) was even created.

National parks include preserves, lakeshores, and historical parks all established for a variety of reasons—to protect and preserve history, unique geological features, areas of cultural importance, and wild lands and wildlife. For many, the opportunity to see a grizzly bear, a wolf, or a herd of bison in their natural habitat at Yellowstone is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Wildlife beware, however, as the NPS has seemingly embraced new policies that place persecution over protection.

Unlike public lands managed by other federal agencies, lands under the care of the NPS, with a few exceptions, are not open to extractive industries, livestock grazing, or hunting. For the NPS, conservation is its primary mission and trumps every other issue or use. This mission was enshrined in 1916, when an enlightened Congress had the foresight and wisdom to create the NPS to:

... promote and regulate the use of ... national parks, monuments, and reservations ... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

Unfortunately, the NPS has struggled over the decades to achieve compliance with this statutory direction. From the 1930s to the late 1960s, the NPS routinely manipulated wildlife populations within national parks to achieve the presumed “carrying capacity” of the land or to placate the interests of a burgeoning number of tourists. In Yellowstone, bleachers were erected for tourists to observe bears feeding in the park's garbage dump while bison and elk were routinely shot or captured live and shipped to other states to control their populations within the park.

In 1963 amid significant public outrage over the lethal control of wildlife within national parks, the government commissioned Leopold Report titled *Wildlife Management in the National Parks* was released, compelling the NPS to reassess its management policies. This report called for, amongst other recommendations, national parks to be managed as a vignette of primitive America and resulted in the Service's decision to accept natural regulation—nature dictating and influencing population and habitat dynamics and processes—as its preferred form of management.

The Leopold Report caused a seismic shift in the management of national parks, yet more than 40 years later the NPS continues to violate its own

mandate and make decisions that put the interests of visitors over conservation. In Yellowstone, policies that allow continued use of snowmobiles in the park and the capture of bison inside park boundaries for slaughter are just two examples of the NPS ignoring its mandate. As the NPS strays further from its mission, its wildlife management plans have become more deadly.

It started in 1995 in Gettysburg National Military Park when the NPS initiated a massive lethal deer slaughter to reduce the population in order to restore and protect the scenic elements that ostensibly reflected the landscape of Gettysburg in 1863. A similar plan was launched at Eisenhower National Military Park and to date, thousands of white-tailed deer have been gunned down by Service employees or hired sharpshooters.

What started as a trickle has now become a flood with the NPS in at least six more parks implementing or considering lethal deer or elk measures, ostensibly to improve vegetation conditions, protect imperiled species, and improve visitor experiences. In Point Reyes National Seashore in California, the NPS has initiated a lethal deer control plan while ironically embracing non-lethal immunocontraception to control its Tule elk population. In Colorado's Rocky Mountain Park, the NPS began a sharpshooting program to remove elk for decimating vegetation.

Catoctin Mountain Park, Md. and Valley Forge National Historical Park, Pa. are poised to begin wide scale deer sharpshooting programs. Indiana's Dunes National Lakeshore and Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. are considering whether to use lethal force to control their deer populations. In these cases, the plan involves teams of federal agents or trained contractors to invade the parks at night in late fall/winter to gun down unsuspecting deer feeding on piles of bait. In some cases, silencers will be used to minimize annoyance to nearby residents.

AWI has provided extensive commentary to the NPS on its proposed killing plans identifying deficiencies in its proposals and advocating non-lethal solutions, including

immunocontraception, to humanely resolve alleged deer conflicts and impacts.

Fundamentally, the NPS has forgotten the lessons of its past and has re-embraced the bullet, perceiving it to be the solution to an alleged, yet unproven, problem with deer or elk overabundance. In doing so, it makes a mockery of the very laws established to protect park wildlife and ignores the policies of conservation first and natural regulation. What species is next to be targeted by the NPS? AWI is monitoring this issue of growing national concern closely and will do so until the NPS foregoes killing for existing unique, innovative, and effective non-lethal ungulate management strategies. 🐾

For more information, visit the Wildlife Management section of the Animals in the Wild pages of our website at [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org).



Jim Peaco

*In Rocky Mountain National Park the National Park Service has authorized the killing of elk to reduce the population size due to alleged adverse impacts to park vegetation.*

# DOWN ON THE GOOSE AND DUCK FARM

AS THE FALL AND WINTER SEASONS are coming upon us, so is the demand for warm winter jackets, bedding and other heat preserving items. While we know fur garments can be the cause of much animal cruelty, not a lot of thought is given to how goose and duck down—in everything from clothing to comforters, pillows and upholstered furniture—is being harvested.

Down, the soft layer of feathers closest to a bird's body, is sourced in two main ways, either as a by-product of birds who are killed for their meat or by live-plucking. The latter method is extremely painful to birds, but is still practiced in the world's largest down producing countries: Hungary, Poland and China. Birds may be plucked up to four times during their lives. After that they are slaughtered or suffer still further in foie gras production. It takes about 75 birds to provide enough down to fill one comforter.

The live-plucking business has long been successfully concealed from the general public. Many European citizens were first introduced to the industry by watching the much publicized television program "Kalla Fakta," a two-part Swedish investigative documentary<sup>1</sup> that was broadcast in February of this year. It captured the disturbing practice at a Hungarian goose farm. The tape shows birds on their backs screaming and struggling to free themselves from their tormentors as their down is ripped from their bodies at rapid speed. Afterwards, several birds are left paralyzed on the ground with large flesh wounds. The birds with big gaping wounds are then sown back



TV4 Sweden, Kalla Fakta undercover footage of live birds having their down ripped from their bodies.

together with needle and thread on site by the workers themselves and without any anesthetic. The documentary estimates that as much as 50-80 percent of all down on the world market is plucked from live birds. The European Down and Feather Association and the China Feather and Down Industrial Association refute this fact. They argue that the percentage is much smaller and that the live-plucked down is more expensive and mainly exported to Japan where it is especially sought after.<sup>2</sup> However, IKEA, a large Swedish corporation, conducted its own investigation after the documentary aired and verified the high numbers.<sup>3</sup> Consumer reactions in Europe have been strong. European companies trading with down products have vowed to review their existing policies and the Commission of the European Union (E.U.) is examining the present regulations—live-plucking is already illegal in the E.U. but there are no sanctions to enforce the law. Although live-plucking is not an industry practice here, the U.S. imports down from the major down

producing countries.<sup>4</sup> The following companies are selling down products obtained by live-plucking: *Cuddledown.com*; *Hungariangoosedown.com*; *DeWolfsondown.com*; *Laytners.com*; *Downandfeathercompany.com*; *Comfortersgoosedown.com* and *Absolutecomfortonsale.com*. Surprisingly, many companies actually highlight the fact that the feathers used in their products are obtained from birds who are not killed, suggesting that live-plucking is a preferred alternative. This distorted statement ignores the torture inflicted on the fully conscious live birds. Other companies are less forthcoming regarding the source of their down or they may not even know where the down originates because products have been moved through a number of middlemen.

Given the difficulties in accurately identifying the true origin of down, we suggest you avoid purchasing these products. There are synthetic alternative materials to down, including, but not limited to Thinsulate, Primaloft, Thermolite, and Polarguard. The benefits of these alternative synthetic materials are that they are water resistant, machine washable, easy to care for, completely hyperallergenic and are typically less expensive. In addition, they will provide insulation when wet and dry quickly after coming into contact with water. Most importantly however, they are cruelty-free. 🐾

## Smithfield Stalls

IMPRISONING MORE THAN ONE MILLION BREEDING SOWS in the U.S., gestation crates used by Smithfield Farms are severe forms of punishment designed with one goal in mind: increased profit. In 2007, AWI identified Smithfield's announcement to phase out gestation crates as a hollow public relations stunt, validated by the company itself in July when it maintained, "Due to... operating losses...we have delayed capital expenditures for the program such that we no longer expect to complete the phase-out within 10 years..." Despite annual revenue exceeding \$12 billion, Smithfield has shelved the \$300 million project which has significant animal welfare implications.

Designed to minimize labor and feed costs, gestation crates cause physical and psychological disorders, are conducive to disease and can ultimately result in unhealthy food for humans. They are individual, long, narrow, barren crates atop hard slats in which sows endure the majority of their abbreviated, joyless lives. They thwart sows' intellect and social nature. On a factory farm, a breeding sow is impregnated, confined in a gestation crate for her nearly four-month pregnancy, transferred to an equally barren crate to deliver her piglets, re-impregnated and returned to the gestation crate. If not pregnant or nursing young through the bars of their crates, sows are slaughtered.

Compassionate consumers don't buy Smithfield's public relations pretense or their products. The company confusingly has more than 50 brand names some of which market turkey and peanuts. To boycott them, visit: [http://www.smithfieldfoods.com/our\\_company/view.aspx](http://www.smithfieldfoods.com/our_company/view.aspx). 🐾

## WHICH CAME FIRST, THE GENTLE HEN OR THE CAGE?

EGG-LAYING HENS in confinement bear some of the worst abuses the agricultural industry offers. To the detriment of their own well-being, hens are bred for increasing egg production. In an attempt to further maximize production and minimize costs, birds' beaks are cut off and they are caged. Confined to cages, hens suffer deprivation, torment, aggression, cannibalism and death.

Regrettably, a team of government and academic scientists misguidedly seek to justify cages and have developed so-called gentler laying hens who "display far less aggression than their commercial counterparts." Birds selected for breeding were chosen for "production traits" as well as their lack of "competitive interactions."



Though researchers observed reduced "mortality losses among the birds without the usual beak-trimming," creating more docile hens does not eliminate the inherent harm of confinement. The real solution to end the suffering and cage induced aggression and mortality is to release hens and provide them adequate space to express natural behaviors such as stretching their wings, walking, nest building and dust bathing. 🐾

<sup>1</sup>Kalla Fakta (02-01-09 and 02-08-09), TV4: part 1: <http://anytime.tv4.se/webtv/?progId=729261&treeId=90227&renderingdepartment=2.757> and part 2:<http://anytime.tv4.se/webtv/?progId=730985&treeId=90227&renderingdepartment=2.757>  
<sup>2</sup>Finding the Truth About "Live-Plucking" & "Harvesting" <http://www.idfl.com/articles/IDFLLivePlucking11Feb2009.pdf>  
<sup>3</sup>Kalla Fakta (follow-up 05-10-09), TV4: <http://anytime.tv4.se/webtv/?progId=758409&treeId=90227&renderingdepartment=2.757>  
<sup>4</sup>United States Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service (US trade imports): <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ustrade/USTImHS10.asp?QJ=>

# All In the Pleasant Open Air:

## Animal Welfare Approved Farmers Spearhead Return to Raising Cattle on Grass



Mike Suarez

IN THE MID-20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, the United States underwent an agricultural revolution that went largely unnoticed by the general public when the ability of science to industrialize farming overtook the knowledge and expertise of working farmers. Led by a few industry “visionaries,” farm animals were moved out of the pastures and into the warehouse, creating the unnatural and callous system that is now known as factory farming. For cattle, a species deeply entwined with human survival, this meant the rise of the feedlot and grain-finishing system.

Feedlots are the antithesis of cattle’s natural environment. In addition to being confined to a barren pen, feedlot cattle—uniquely evolved to eat grass—are fed a diet of carbohydrates and growth stimulants designed to promote an unnaturally quick and harmful weight gain, artificially cutting the amount of time needed for a calf to reach slaughter weight. Feedlot cattle must be administered antibiotics or ionophores (chemical compounds used as antibiotics or growth promoters) to fight a number of diseases that fester in a feedlot environment including bovine respiratory disease, feedlot bloat, and subacute acidosis. From the moment calves arrive at the feedlot, they are thrust into a system that strips them of their natural behaviors and instincts in the never-ending quest to stock the neighborhood supermarket with the cheapest beef possible.

However, not all farmers are willing to cede control of the care and raising of their cattle to an industrial system that leaves them open to disease and distress. Animal Welfare Approved farmers are quiet revolutionaries in the growing movement to ensure that farm animals live out their lives on pasture. For these farmers, the return to traditional grassfed practices represents far more than a savvy marketing move, it brings them back to a more holistic and thoughtful relationship with the animals they raise.

AWI interviewed four Animal Welfare Approved cattle farmers and asked them to talk about the

rewards of farming with the animals in mind, the challenges of turning away from a conventional system and what the future holds for pasture-based farming. Will Harris credits pasture-based farming with strengthening his relationship with his animals. Dr. Patricia Whisnant’s veterinary training gives her a sound scientific basis for her appreciation of the health benefits for the animals. Don Davis is committed to raising cattle who are best suited for his land, benefiting both the cattle and wildlife. Bill Stuart resisted the pull to transition his farm to an industrial system and is now seeing a resurgence of interest in the farming traditions his family has followed for generations.

### What were your original farming practices and how do they differ from your current practices?

**BILL:** We’ve always been a pasture-based operation and our cattle have always grazed in season and been fed hay in the winter. The one major change we made in our operation was to finish our beef cattle strictly on grass and hay rather than finishing them on corn and other grains. We’ve saved a lot of money by grass-finishing our cattle. Eliminating grain lowered our cost inputs. Another reason we changed is because we wanted our cattle to have the best conditions possible and by eliminating corn, the cattle now eat what they were created to eat.

**WILL:** In the history of our farm, we’ve done the gamut of production, making the transition to a conventional operation in the late 1960s, when we stopped raising cattle for beef and began raising calves for the feedlot system. About fifteen years ago, we began the transition back to a grassfed operation, raising and finishing the cattle ourselves, on the farm.

**PATRICIA:** We farmed conventionally for years—mostly a basic cow-calf operation (keeping only a breeding herd of cows and weaning calves for the feedlot system), but we always kept a few cattle and finished them ourselves on pasture. Today, we grass finish all the cattle we sell.

### What made you change to a pasture-based system?

**DON:** We did a lot of research before starting our herd. DWD Longhorns started just as the movement away from confined feeding of animals was gaining recognition. “Humane” was starting to venture beyond just dogs and cats into third-party farm certification. Consumers were starting to demand products from farms that paid attention to the needs and natural behaviors of farm animals. We attended a conference on Holistic Resource Management and came away with many great ideas about range management. We were able to begin our new ranch in Tarpley, [TX] which had previously been overgrazed and under-managed, in a holistic way, managing and nurturing the health of the soil to benefit the Longhorns. A pasture-based system using high animal welfare was the right thing to do and one of the reasons we decided against a conventional system.

**WILL:** I learned all about running an industrial beef operation while I was in college and I kept on with the practice when I started farming. But over time, I found myself liking it less and less and I grew disenchanted with the system. I was pouring chemicals onto my fields, damaging land that has been in my family for 140 years. I was shipping a 500-lb. calf on a truck to a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO)

### Bill Stuart and his family on Stuart Family Farm.

### Don and Debbie Davis of DWD Longhorns.



Courtesy Stuart Family Farm



Courtesy Debbie Davis



Mike Suarez

*Animal Welfare Approved calves are raised with their herds and are never sent to feedlots.*

hundreds of miles away from where he was raised. On the truck, you had animals jammed together, the ones on the top tier defecating and urinating on the ones below. Often they had inadequate water for the trip. It became harder and harder to watch my animals leave, knowing that everything they would experience from that point on was completely counter to what was best for them.

**PATRICIA:** Raising grassfed cattle is good land stewardship. We practice a solar-driven pasture rotation that works with the seasons and land to produce forages that we use cattle to harvest. Living on the land you farm heightens your attention to the practices that are environmentally sound and are enhancing to the soil. We do all that we can to take care of the land, grow natural grasses and give our cattle, our wildlife and our family an environment in which we all thrive together.

*Has the change to pasture-based production impacted you and the animals?*

**PATRICIA:** Our family has really rallied around the farm. We work harder but we find it wonderful to have the opportunity for our joint endeavor to pivot around the center of something we feel a deep passion about—our family farm. Personally, the impact has been exciting, risk taking, challenging, overwhelming, rewarding, difficult and never dull. Our animals are allowed to live and grow in pursuit of their natural behavioral instincts; they have a higher level of welfare, better health, and are treated with care and respect. I believe this to be far different from their feedlot counterparts who suffer from innumerable health issues and need synthetic inputs to maintain them in an aberrant environment.

**WILL:** I really like what I do now. I enjoy raising my cattle. My herd is better off, my land is better off, and the people who purchase my products are better off. I'm leaving my farm in better condition for my daughters and that's important. When you have a family business, you want to create opportunities—but not an obligation—for your children to come back. My cattle are in better shape since I've returned them to pasture. I simply don't have sick cattle and don't need to give them antibiotics. I spend a lot more time with them now and I've become reacquainted with my herd.

**DON:** We are witnessing the success of our system. Our cattle are thriving in dry, dusty Texas. Wildlife is thriving on our ranch. Many people don't realize the positive relationship between a pasture-based operation and a suitable habitat for wildlife. Our land is healthier, the animals are healthier and that ultimately results in wholesome, uncompromised food for the community. We are finding a lot of spiritual fulfillment in what we are doing.

**BILL:** Pasture-based farming allows the animals to achieve harmony with nature by utilizing the sun's energy, which is transferred into green plants the cattle eat. When an animal is in harmony with nature it is living its best possible life and everybody wins.

*Why is pasture-based farming important for the animals?*

**WILL:** Cattle are ruminants, designed and evolved to walk over open pastures and eat grass and forage. When the switch to feedlots came about after World War II, it had nothing to do with the welfare of the animals. It was about

money and economics. Feedlot cattle gain a tremendous amount of weight in a short period of time, their movements are restricted and they are fed corn, which to a cow is like candy, and it makes them sick.

**PATRICIA:** Grazing on pasture fulfills the natural behavioral instincts of cattle. They enjoy better health with an appropriate diet and live in a low-stress environment.

**DON:** Ruminants evolved in a pasture environment. Their systems are designed to function best in a pasture environment. On pasture, they are healthier and use fewer resources. Pasture based farming is an animal centered production model that incorporates the well being of the animals, the land and wildlife. It honors the integrity of natural systems.

*If you could look into a crystal ball, what do you see in the future for high-welfare, pasture-based farming?*

**PATRICIA:** In a market where consumer confidence has been rocked by recalls, we are seeing a new consumer. This consumer is a partner in the process and is ultimately the one whose support for high-welfare, pasture-based farming matters most.

**DON:** We believe high-welfare is the future of food production. We need to concentrate on building a strong, healthy, sustainable food system for our communities.

**BILL:** Demand for products from pasture-based farms will continue to grow as consumers continue to become more aware of the conditions and practices of many conventional and corporate farms. They'll flock to farmers' markets and farm stores—the movement is in full-swing

and more farmers will want to give consumers what they are looking for, creating a better environment for their animals, their neighbors, and themselves. 🐾

*About the farmers:*

**DON DAVIS, DWD LONGHORNS, TARPLEY, TEXAS:** Although both were city kids, Don and his wife Debbie were only a generation or two removed from farming, spending weekends at the ranches of family members. Don and Debbie are proud to carry on the tradition of Don's great-grandfather and uncles, who participated in the old Texas cattle drives, raising genetically pure Texas Longhorns, a species exceptionally adapted to the Texas landscape.

**WILL HARRIS, WHITE OAK PASTURES, BLUFFTON, GEORGIA:** The Harris family has been farming in Bluffton since 1866 and despite being located in the heart of peanut and cotton country, they've always been cattle people. Five generations of the Harris family have made their living farming White Oak Pastures and Will now works with his daughters (the sixth generation), expanding the operation to include a slaughterhouse to increase viability and spare the animals the stress associated with transport.

**BILL STUART, STUART FAMILY FARM, BRIDGEWATER, CONNECTICUT:** Bill grew up on the farm his grandfather purchased in 1929. He studied meat and food science in college and worked for 10 years before returning to carry on the family tradition of raising beef cattle. Bill, his wife Deb, and their sons, raise their cattle in a way that is consistent with their natural habitat and behaviors to ensure their health and welfare.

**DR. PATRICIA WHISNANT, AMERICAN GRASS FED BEEF, DONIPHAN, MISSOURI:** A veterinarian, Patricia was drawn to farming through her mentor who ran a large animal veterinary practice. Her experience working with family farms and farmers and her husband Mark's experience growing up on a farm inspired them to begin a farm of their own. The Whisnants also run Fruitland American Meat, LLC, a small slaughter and processing plant specializing in grassfed production.

*Dr. Patricia Whisnant of American Grass Fed Beef, with her husband Mark and children.*

*Will Harris of White Oak Pastures.*



Courtesy of the Whisnant Family



Courtesy White Oak Pastures



According to voluntary surveys by USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, 83% of cattle feed lots administer antibiotics in feed and water for prophylactic use or growth promotion. These drugs are identical or closely related to antibiotics used in human medicine.

## Combating Antibiotic Overload

CONFINEMENT PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK in the United States would be virtually impossible without antibiotics. The practice of feeding farm animals low-doses of antibiotics in food and water originated in the 1950s in order to promote growth. It has since become standard practice, enabling industrial operations to suppress disease while rearing tens of thousands of animals in crowded and unhealthy environments.

Seventy-percent of antibiotics used in the United States are fed to cattle, pigs, and chickens that have not shown disease symptoms, but rather receive the drugs prophylactically. This practice, known as nontherapeutic use (in contrast to therapeutic use of antibiotics for treating sick animals on an individual basis), has contributed significantly to the development of new strains of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

The diminished efficacy of these antibiotics poses an urgent public health concern for animals, humans, and for children in particular, who are especially susceptible to antibiotic resistant infections. New infections are constantly being linked to industrial farming, including Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a disease causing 18,000 deaths each year in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

Representative Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and 46 House cosponsors and the late Senator Edward Kennedy and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and 3 Senate cosponsors moved to address this health threat through the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act of 2009, H.R. 1549/S.619, which would prohibit the nontherapeutic feeding of medically important antibiotics to livestock. Addressing the House of Representatives last March, Representative Slaughter stressed the importance of the bill, urging that “[u]nless we act now, we will unwittingly be permitting animals to serve as incubators for resistant bacteria.”

Though opponents of the bill allege that a ban would increase meat costs to consumers, in reality consumers already pay the price for industry’s reliance on antibiotics. In addition to being a major public health concern, antibiotic resistance increases healthcare costs by \$4 to \$5 billion a year.<sup>2</sup>

Fortunately, through the use of responsible, humane management practices, farm animals can be raised under conditions which obviate the need for the prophylactic feeding of antibiotics. By increasing reliance on vaccinations, diligently monitoring animal health, and most importantly, by phasing out stressful confinement housing systems which compromise animals’ immune systems and facilitate disease transmission, producers can manage animal diseases without resorting to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics.

AWI’s own Animal Welfare Approved label prohibits the use of nontherapeutic antibiotics. Instead, farmers maintain herd health through vaccination, pasture management, exceptional hygiene, and the reduction of stressors which weaken animal immune systems. The Animal Welfare Approved program requires farmers to provide sick animals with appropriate medical treatment but promotes the use of antibiotics only for individual animals that need them, rather than as a means of compensating for unhealthy and inhumane living conditions.

Please write to your Representative and Senators asking them to cosponsor the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act, H.R. 1549/S.619 and tell them that the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics on industrial farms jeopardizes human health while perpetuating a system of inhumane and irresponsible animal husbandry. The addresses can be found on the following page. 🐾

<sup>1</sup>Mellon M, Benbrook KL. Hogging It! Estimates of Antimicrobial Abuse in Livestock. Union of Concerned Scientists: Cambridge, MA, January 2001.  
<sup>2</sup>Stephen R. Palumbi. Humans as the World’s Greatest Evolutionary Force. Science 7 September 2001: 1786-1790

## PET SAFETY AND PROTECTION ACT

In an effort to stop experimentation on illegally acquired dogs and cats, Senator Daniel Akaka (D-AK) and Representative Mike Doyle (D-PA) are again sponsoring the Pet Safety and Protection Act. The measure, which we expect will be reintroduced as we go to press, will prohibit the sale of dogs and cats by Class B dealers, individuals who are notorious for their failure to comply with the minimum requirements under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The bill would close a loophole in the AWA that permits anyone who claims to have bred and raised a dog or cat to sell the animal for experimentation—an enforcement nightmare for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as it is virtually impossible to prove. Given that the May 29 National Academy of Sciences report found that “Class B dealers are not necessary for supplying dogs and cats for NIH-funded research,” we hope Congress will put a quick end to this illicit trade. 🐾

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help support these humane bills by contacting your Members of Congress; letters from constituents are invaluable. Although two of the three bills described on this page have not yet been introduced (this is why we have not provided bill numbers), it is helpful for Representatives to sign on as cosponsors of the legislation even before its introduction. Therefore, please ask your Representative to cosponsor each of the following:

1. Representative Lowey’s Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, H.R. 3710;
2. Representative DeFazio’s Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act; and
3. Representative Doyle’s Pet Safety and Protection Act

Letters to your Representative should be addressed to:

The Honorable (Full Name)  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

In addition, please write to your Senators asking them to sign on as a cosponsor of Senator Akaka’s Pet Safety and Protection Act. Letters to Senators should be addressed to:

The Honorable (Full Name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

## Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act

CONGRESSWOMAN NITA LOWEY (D-NY) has remained steadfast in her determination to end use of inhumane traps in the United States, but has shifted the focus of her legislation to our nation’s refuges. On October 1, she introduced H.R. 3710, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, a measure to end the use of body-gripping traps within the National Wildlife Refuge System. The legislation prohibits use of steel jaw leghold traps, Conibear killing traps, and neck snares within all 550 refuges, though the focus is clearly the 280 refuges that specifically permit use of these barbaric devices. As lands set aside to serve as a safe harbor for wildlife, it is appropriate to stop the cruelty inflicted by body-gripping traps within the refuges. A national Decision Research public opinion poll demonstrates that most Americans agree; 79% believe trapping on National Wildlife Refuges should be prohibited. 🐾



Raccoon caught by two front feet in a steel-jaw leghold trap.

## Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act

REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO, (D-OR) is expected to introduce the Compound 1080 and M-44 Elimination Act this fall. This bill would ban two deadly poisons—sodium fluoroacetate, commonly known as Compound 1080, and sodium cyanide, commonly known as M-44 devices—which are used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services program to kill thousands of coyotes and foxes perceived as threats to livestock each year. Banned by previous administrations, these poisons have been condemned as cruel, indiscriminate, and dangerous. Non-target victims include domestic dogs, birds of prey, and even humans. The FBI has declared both poisons as “highly toxic pesticides judged most likely to be used by terrorists or for malicious intent.” 🐾

# CARNIVORE MANAGEMENT IN THE U.S.: The Need for Reform

by Camilla H. Fox

Few Americans have heard of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (WS) program. Even fewer are aware that their tax dollars subsidize the killing of millions of animals every year under this program; between 2004 and 2007, WS killed 8,378,412 animals (Keefover-Ring 2009). Their crimes? Preying on sheep and cattle, eating fish in commercial aquaculture facilities and seeds in large-scale sunflower plantations, defecating on municipal lawns and golf courses, creating a "nuisance," and flying in the pathway of airplanes and airport runways to name but a few.

While the vast majority of species targeted by WS are birds (more than 4 million in 2008) the agency's predator control program has been

the focus of intense public and scientific scrutiny over the last fifty years as increasing scientific research calls into question the efficacy, ethics, and economics of killing tens of thousands of native carnivores at the behest of livestock ranchers and other agriculturalists.

The WS program, administered through cooperative agreements with states, counties, municipalities, and other entities, operates under the 1931 Animal Damage Control Act (7 USC 426-426c), which authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to "determine the best methods of eradication, suppression, or bringing under control mountain lions, wolves, coyotes, bobcats, prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels, jack rabbits, brown tree snakes, and other animals

injurious to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, wild game animals, fur-bearing animals and birds....The Secretary is also directed to conduct campaigns for the destruction or control of these animals." This Act, which remains virtually unchanged today, expanded the federal government's role in predator control, authorizing funding and Congressional support for killing native predators to benefit private ranchers (Di Silvestro 1985).

In 2008, WS killed more than 120,000 native carnivores in the U.S. of which approximately 90,000 were coyotes (USDA WS 2008). In addition to coyotes, more than 5,000 foxes, 1,883 bobcats, 528 river otters, 396 gray wolves, 395 black bears, and 373 mountain lions were killed that same year. Wildlife Services claims to educate clients about ways to reduce wildlife conflicts. It also claims to employ more non-lethal control strategies. However while one might think that the kill figure would gradually decrease if these methods were effective, the fact remains the number of native carnivores killed by WS has actually increased over the last decade. In 2005, the agency killed 99,346 carnivores while in 2008 the total number killed had increased to 124,414, a 25 percent increase over a three-year period. The agency's overall kill figure increased by 125% from 2.2 million animals killed in 2007 to close to five million in 2008, the majority of whom were birds killed with poison.

Despite claims that it has improved its target specificity in the methods it employs to kill carnivores and other animals, WS's annual kill tables say otherwise. In 2008, of the 124,414 carnivores killed by the agency, 48,000 were captured with leghold traps and snares and either died directly in the device itself or were killed after capture by a WS agent;

50,537 were shot by aerial gunners; 13,286 were killed with poisons; and 531 coyote and fox pups were killed by "denning" (the killing of pups in their dens either manually or with poison gas). Many of these methods are inherently non-selective and undoubtedly remove many non-offending problem animals—up to 81.3% according to one study that looked at lethal carnivore management programs across the globe (Treves and Naughton-Treves 2005).

Not all predators kill livestock (Treves and Naughton-Treves 2005) yet the dominant practice of predator management in the U.S. is based on the theory that by killing a large number of carnivores the "offending animal" will be among the casualties (Wagner 1988). Wagner (1988:113) suggests that the federal government's approach is "something of a sledge-hammer one: If enough coyotes are shot, trapped, and exposed to M-44s... their numbers can be reduced and the chances are that the offending animal(s) will be among those taken and the losses reduced."

It was this very indiscriminate sledge-hammer approach to predator management that led to the extirpation of gray wolves, grizzly bears, and mountain lions from much of their former range by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Fox 2008). As bald eagles, wolves, swift and kit fox, and other imperiled species died by the thousands from poison baits, traps, and snares set for other species, scientists and conservationists pressed Congress to take notice and action. In 1963, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall commissioned Dr. Starker Leopold (son of Aldo Leopold) to chair a committee to investigate and make recommendations on the federal government's predator management program, then called "Animal Damage Control" (ADC). Out of this committee came the Leopold Report titled



*In 2008 close to 400 wolves were trapped and shot by the federal government through the USDA Wildlife Services' predator control program.*

USDA Wildlife Services

John Harrison

*Predator and Rodent Control in the United States*, which charged that ADC practiced indiscriminate and excessive killing of predators and posed a significant threat to imperiled species. Secretary Udall took the criticisms and recommendations seriously and accepted the Leopold Report as a “general guidepost” for Interior Department Policy (U.S. Congress 1966). Over the next five years, the agency went through a major overhaul to alter its public image with substantial changes implemented in the agency’s policies, philosophies, public messaging, and personnel. Even terminology was changed—into euphemisms—in an attempt to reverse



Canille Fox

*In some areas, coyotes are the largest carnivore and play a vital ecological role in maintaining the integrity and biological diversity of healthy ecosystems. Their removal can lead to an increase in meso-carnivores (foxes, skunks, raccoons, feral cats, etc.) and wreak ecological havoc.*

negative perception; “poison” was now called “toxicant” or “chemical compound”; “kill” became “reduction” or “removal” (Feldman 2007). However, despite the significant resources spent trying to improve public perception of and support for the agency, these superficial changes largely failed (Feldman 2007).

In 1966, Congressman John Dingell led congressional hearings on the federal predator control program which strongly condemned the government’s efforts to eradicate native carnivores and elicited the following condemnation (U.S. House of Representatives 1966):

It is well known that over the years predator controls actually practiced by governmental and private organizations have been considerably in excess of the amount that can be justified, particularly when total public interest is considered. In fact, indiscriminate trapping, shooting, and poisoning programs against certain predators have been so effective that it has resulted in reducing their number to such an extent that their continued existence is now endangered. In some cases, methods of control, such as poisoning, are producing secondary killings of certain species that are already on the endangered list.

In 1971, Secretary of Interior Rogers Morton commissioned the Cain Report (Cain et al. 1971). The Cain Report found that the predator control program:

...contains a high degree of built-in resistance to change...the substantial monetary contribution by the livestock industry serves as a gyroscope to keep the bureaucratic machinery pointed towards the familiar goal of general reduction of predator populations, with little attention to the effects of this on the native wildlife fauna. Guidelines and good intentions will no longer suffice. The federal-state predator control program must be effectively changed. It must take full account of the whole spectrum of public interests and values, not only in predators but in all wildlife. This will require substantial, even drastic, changes in control personnel and control methods, supported by new legislation, administrative changes, and methods of financing.

Among other recommendations, the Cain Report urged an immediate prohibition of all existing poisons used for predator control. Subsequently, the use of poisonous baits was banned in 1972 because of concerns about misuse and the widespread killing of non-target animals. Two decades later in 1994, the Thoreau Institute released an economic audit (O’Toole 1994) of the USDA’s Animal Damage Control Program and concluded that there was “...little legal or economic justification for continuing a federal animal damage control program. Few benefit from such a program and those who do ought to pay for the program themselves. In any case the federal government should not be involved in what are essentially state and local problems.”

But even Congressional directives failed to change policy. A 1995 Government Accounting Office report (GAO 1995) concluded that:

ADC personnel in western states use lethal methods to control livestock predators despite written USDA policies and procedures giving preference to the use of non-lethal control methods where practical and effective.

Past and present critics of the federal program argue that it perpetuates an endless cycle of conflict and killing with an emphasis on non-selective methods, that it lacks accountability to the public, needlessly kills millions of animals for the benefit of a relatively small number of ranchers and commercial agriculturists, and fosters a dependence on taxpayer-funded assistance instead of promoting effective long-term solutions to conflicts (O’Toole 1994; Fox and Papouchis 2005; Robinson 2005; Berger 2006; Feldman 2007; Fox 2008; Keefover-Ring 2009). Moreover, such programs generally fail to consider the ecological value of maintaining large carnivores and strongly interacting species and fail to manage for ecological effectiveness (Soulé et al. 2005). Soulé et al. (2005:175) postulate that the failure of many wildlife management agencies to incorporate a doctrine of “best conservation practices based on the best science,” is because such agencies still function under anachronistic laws and policies that are based on old and simplistic scientific concepts (i.e. predators are bad and need to be eradicated).

In response to such criticism, WS has put more resources into researching alternative methods through its research arm, the National Wildlife Research Center, and has acknowledged that public scrutiny of its programs and shifting public attitudes regarding the welfare of animals demands that “new, innovative solutions to these problems be identified and that each response to wildlife damage be conducted professionally, and in an ecologically valid and biologically sound manner,” (Clay 2007). While the research arm of the federal agency has spent significant resources toward finding non-lethal methods for reducing human-wildlife conflicts, the emphasis is still on lethal predator control as evidenced by the agency’s annual kill data (Table at right) (Fox 2008). Moreover, in a recent trap

inventory conducted by WS, the federal agency determined that it has more than 62,000 leghold traps in its possession, which are largely used for predator control. Until annual kill reports reveal a clear shift toward implementation of non-lethal controls in the field, public and scientific criticism will likely persist.

## PARADIGM SHIFT

Despite clear scientific evidence demonstrating the futility and counter-productiveness of indiscriminate lethal predator control, WS continues to rely heavily upon non-selective killing methods, thwarting contemporary ecological theory and conservation biology practice. An increasing number of scientists, however, have begun to speak out publicly against such an approach and their research demonstrates that maintaining native carnivores on the land is vital to healthy, fully functioning ecosystems.

But scientific evidence is not enough. What is needed is a new paradigm for the way we treat native carnivores—indeed all wildlife—one

| Mammalian Carnivores Killed by USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services (WS)<br>2008 |        |        |       |        |     |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-----|---------------|
|                                                                          | Trap   | Shoot  | Other | Poison | Den | Total<br>2008 |
| Badgers                                                                  | 507    | 72     | 2     | 0      | 0   | 581           |
| Black Bears                                                              | 305    | 88     | 1     | 1      | 0   | 395           |
| Bobcats                                                                  | 1,512  | 309    | 58    | 4      | 0   | 1,883         |
| Cats                                                                     | 915    | 340    | 15    | 5      | 0   | 1,275         |
| Coyotes                                                                  | 22,889 | 51,830 | 3,012 | 11,569 | 410 | 89,710        |
| Dogs                                                                     | 256    | 158    | 2     | 68     | 0   | 484           |
| Artic Foxes                                                              | 51     | 18     | 25    | 0      | 0   | 94            |
| Gray Foxes                                                               | 1,410  | 99     | 216   | 626    | 0   | 2,351         |
| Kit Foxes                                                                | 8      | 4      | 0     | 6      | 0   | 18            |
| Red Foxes                                                                | 1,265  | 589    | 8     | 585    | 121 | 2,568         |
| Swift Foxes                                                              | 2      | 0      | 0     | 27     | 0   | 29            |
| Mountain Lions                                                           | 151    | 222    | 0     | 0      | 0   | 373           |
| Minks                                                                    | 40     | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0   | 40            |
| River Otters                                                             | 527    | 1      | 0     | 0      | 0   | 528           |
| Raccoons                                                                 | 12,991 | 1,158  | 143   | 288    | 0   | 14,580        |
| Ringtails                                                                | 6      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0   | 6             |
| Skunks (All)                                                             | 7,998  | 917    | 65    | 106    | 14  | 9,100         |
| Weasels (All)                                                            | 1      | 2      | 0     | 0      | 0   | 3             |
| Gray Wolves                                                              | 216    | 178    | 1     | 1      | 0   | 396           |
| TOTAL                                                                    | 47,606 | 55,985 | 3,548 | 13,286 | 545 | 124,414       |

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that recognizes the ecological importance of these species as well as their intrinsic value as individuals. If the money and efforts used to kill predators were redirected toward cost-effective,

non-lethal methods, such as public education, better landscape development, improved fencing, and guard animals, conflicts could be significantly reduced without the need to kill indiscriminately.

Ultimately, wildlife managers will be forced to make this ethical shift as communities across North America demand humane solutions to wildlife conflicts that consider the importance of individual animals as members of a larger integrative community that includes both humans and non-humans alike. 🐾

Camilla H. Fox is a wildlife consultant for AWI, founding director of Project Coyote ([www.ProjectCoyote.org](http://www.ProjectCoyote.org)) and co-author of *Coyotes in Our Midst: Coexisting with an Adaptable and Resilient Carnivore*.



In 2008, close to 90,000 coyotes were killed by federal predator control agents, 36,454 of whom were shot from low-flight aircraft through the USDA Wildlife Services' aerial gunning program.

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You Can Make a Difference

Support federal legislation to restrict poisons used by WS to kill coyotes and other native carnivores. See page 19.

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Teddy Goldsmith  
(1928-2009)

WITH THE DEATH OF TEDDY GOLDSMITH on August 17, a towering tree has fallen in the thin remaining forest of visionaries and inspired amateurs who pioneered today's environmental and humane movements.

Teddy graduated from Oxford in 1950 disillusioned with what he had been taught and spent years, enabled by family money, reading voraciously and traveling with naturalist John Aspinall to "get it right." In Africa—subsequently Asia—he became convinced that tribal societies were the only truly sustainable societies. "The more I thought and read and saw," he said, "the more I realized how wide the problem was. Here were people talking about how these poor people needed development yet development was destroying them. And it became clear to me that this applied to wider society as a whole."

In the late 1960s, after Bernard Lewis' exposure of the Brazilian government's genocide of Amazonian tribes, Teddy helped establish the Primitive People's Fund, now called Survival International. In 1970, assembling a group of similarly radical thinkers, he founded *The Ecologist* magazine and edited it—often single handedly—for the next 20 years. *Blueprint for Survival*, first published in *The Ecologist* in January, 1972 for the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, sold 750,000 copies in book form. In *The Stable Society* (1975) Teddy elaborated his opposition to capitalism and his conviction that a market economy is incompatible with ecological and social stability. *The Great U-turn* (1988) returned to this thesis, arguing that humanity can find a sustainable future only with "small, self regulating, self sufficient, self respecting societies." *The Way* (1993) was designed as a summary of his world view.

Almost every major environmental issue and trend within the movement bears evidence of Teddy's influence. He was a central figure in founding the world's first national green (initially People) party in the UK in 1973, inspiring similar parties across Europe. He grasped early in his life that the

very future of life on the planet depended on preserving of tropical forests, and he was an ardent supporter of the Chipko tree huggers who have expanded from the Himalayas to become India's most effective forest protectors. In the 1980s *The Ecologist* opened a hard hitting campaign against the grotesquely destructive (and invariably corrupt) big dam projects funded by the World Bank and other development agencies. Teddy opposed globalization, characterizing it in a seminal 1996 essay as a new



Teddy and Katherine Goldsmith at their self sustaining farm, once a refuge for religious pilgrims, in a Tuscan countryside little changed from Medieval times.

and pernicious form of colonialism via transnational corporations. He was an early and adamant foe of industrial agriculture and factory farms.

*The Ecologist* persists today—although only in electronic form ([www.theecologist.com](http://www.theecologist.com)). Health expert Pat Thomas replaced Teddy's nephew, Zac Goldsmith, as editor in 2007. Teddy and his wife Katherine, lived his last years in Sienna, Italy, an ancient Italian city, steeped in history and republican tradition, that they regarded as an enclave of stability. 🐾

—by Tom Garrett

# The Wauchula Woods Accord

## Toward a New Understanding of Animals

By Charles Siebert  
ISBN: 978-0-7432-9586-4  
208 pages; \$25

IN THE WIZARD OF OZ there is a scene in which Dorothy is in her house as it swirls in the tornado. She stands before her window and a cast of characters, friends and foes, whiz by outside the window as she begins a bizarre adventure. Siebert’s newest book *The Wauchula Woods Accord: Toward a New Understanding of Animals* reminds me of this scene. He takes the reader on an odyssey that explores what it is to be chimpanzee in a world of humans. Like the characters outside of Dorothy’s window, in Siebert’s book we meet many players and issues relating to captive chimpanzees. We meet chimpanzees retired from circuses, acting, biomedical research, and the space program, chimpanzees raised in homes as pets, chimpanzees murdered for escaping their confines, and a few orangutans.

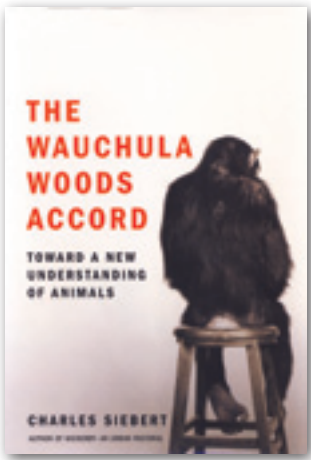
The reader floats through thought provoking issues often untouched in other books on this topic. Siebert describes chimpanzee-human hybrids (maybe real and mostly imagined) and surveys non-humans who have been on trial and their punishments (ironically, a guilty verdict implies a sense of morality). He delves into physiological similarities in brain structures of humans and other animals, their similarity of function and responsibility for higher order thinking. He explores the culling and poaching of wild elephants and the resulting chaos in their social order. The parallel between that and the degradation of human cultures wracked by war is startling. He describes trauma in humans, elephants, and chimpanzees and rehab for the lucky few. These issues explore the gap that humans have decided separates them from other animals. They expose human-imposed brutality on other species. We finally meet the keepers of chimpanzees: individuals who use them for entertainment or biomedical

experiments; those who pulled the trigger on escapees; those who liberated chimpanzees from torture.

Wauchula, Florida is the locale of the Center for Great Apes, home to chimpanzees and orangutans, many of whom are retired actors. It is here that Siebert parked himself outside of the cage of Roger, one of the residents. He uses this as the backdrop for his ruminations and for the journey he takes to various facilities—midwestern roadside zoos and southern sanctuaries. Siebert’s journey is of discovery and in this book he shares what he learns. Unfortunately he also shares some of what he hasn’t learned, his understanding of chimpanzee behavior. As a result his description of some of the chimpanzees he encounters makes them sound crazed and terrorized when really he has described typical chimpanzee behavior. He misidentifies chimpanzee community groups as “pods”; whales live in pods.

Siebert describes himself as an animal rights person—indeed how could he not be with what his book brings to light. His book puts us in a house, like Dorothy’s, swirling on a tornado of abuse and outside the window we see many ugly things and some hopeful things. When we’ve finished the odyssey, we close the book and see on the jacket cover a chimpanzee posing for a photograph. Eye catching, yes; it will sell books. How startling that despite meeting the former chimpanzee actors, illuminating the abuses, and writing the book, Seibert himself has contributed to the use of chimpanzees in entertainment. Hopefully the readers of this fascinating and important book will learn and actualize more of its message than its author. 🐾

—by Mary Lee Jensvold,  
*Chimpanzee & Human Communication Institute*



# Filling the Ark

## Animal Welfare In Disasters

By Leslie Irvine  
Scribner  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4165-5056-3  
230 pages; \$25

IN HER BOOK *Filling the Ark*, the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Associate Professor of Sociology, Leslie Irvine, asks the question “When a disaster strikes, who should enter the ark?” Indeed, a compelling question and one in which, to answer, we must contemplate how we truly view animals. Irvine discusses the value we place on animals: the high regard for our companion animals who are seen as part of the family, while others, such as those on factory farms, are often deemed nothing more than an inconvenient monetary loss during a disaster. An example of such distinctions is the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act which “requires states to include companion and service animals in their disaster response plans.” The Act, though certainly a step in the right direction, does not account for millions of other animals who “remain



invisible to us.” Irvine demonstrates how our determined “value” of an animal affects his or her likelihood of surviving a disaster.

Examining both man-made and natural disasters and the culminating affects to animals, whether in the laboratory, zoo, factory farm or our own homes, Irvine discusses the sociozoologic scale. The

system “ranks animals in a structure of meaning that allows humans to define, reinforce, and justify their interactions with other beings.” She delves into the “code of conduct” we have created and by which we judge animals for their ability or inability to adhere to our demands.

The author illustrates that humans are not the only victims in disasters and are often at fault for the perils animals suffer. She argues that it is our own decisions and actions that “make animals so vulnerable to disasters” and offers advice on the multiple ways animals may be made less vulnerable, not the least of which is to rethink “our uses of animals.” 🐾



## PABLO PUPPY GAMES

AWI is pleased to announce the availability of new humane educational on-line resources for children. Coloring pages, a matching game and a board game titled “Walking the Dog” can all be found at: [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org). The materials are an excellent accompaniment to our delightful book “Pablo Puppy’s Search for the Perfect Person” written by Sheila Hamaoka. Teachers and parents alike can download the material to provide a fun and engaging way to teach young children about compassionate care of dogs. For the board game, players take turns drawing cards and following the instructions as they “walk” their dog around the board until the last dog gets home safely. Responsible pet care such as always being kind to your dog, even when he makes a mistake allows the players to move ahead, while negative actions like teasing your dog require the players to move backward. Everyone wins by learning how to keep dogs healthy and happy! 🐾

## 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.



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## Birth Control Will Allow Horses to Continue Living a Wild Life

**THE DEBATE OVER WILD HORSES** on public lands has been raging for decades. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), charged with their management, has rounded up tens of thousands of wild horses since 1971. While many have been adopted out, vast numbers languish in holding facilities. AWI strongly disagrees with BLM over its management of these iconic animals on Western rangelands and, in particular, with its decisions to reduce wild horse numbers and the amount of habitat on which they can roam.

However, one issue with which we should be in agreement with the BLM is the usefulness of contraception as a means to control numbers of wild horses and to prevent needless suffering. Immunocontraception can be used to stabilize and reduce growth rates in wild horse herds. Reducing fecundity may spare wild horses from being doggedly chased for miles on end, captured, and manhandled during BLM roundups which, for most horses, results in a life of confinement or, even worse, slaughter.

Critics have expressed concern about the genetic viability of horses if contraception is used. While long-term monitoring under such conditions is imminent, immunocontraceptive agents generally don't cause sterility. In that respect, there is no reason to believe

Marty Felix



wild horse populations can't be stabilized and reduced while retaining the herd's genetic diversity.

Managing horses in this way does not mean that we surrender to those who prefer livestock on the range instead of the horses, nor does it mean that we do not continue to advocate for horses to occupy public lands as the law requires. It also does not mean we are giving up on efforts to restore wild horses to the more than 19 million acres from which they have been illegally removed. That must not only be a priority, but it could provide wild horses, including those in holding facilities, a second chance at freedom. However, it is up to us to recognize the current political reality for wild horses while continuing to advocate for wholesale improvements in their management. 🐾