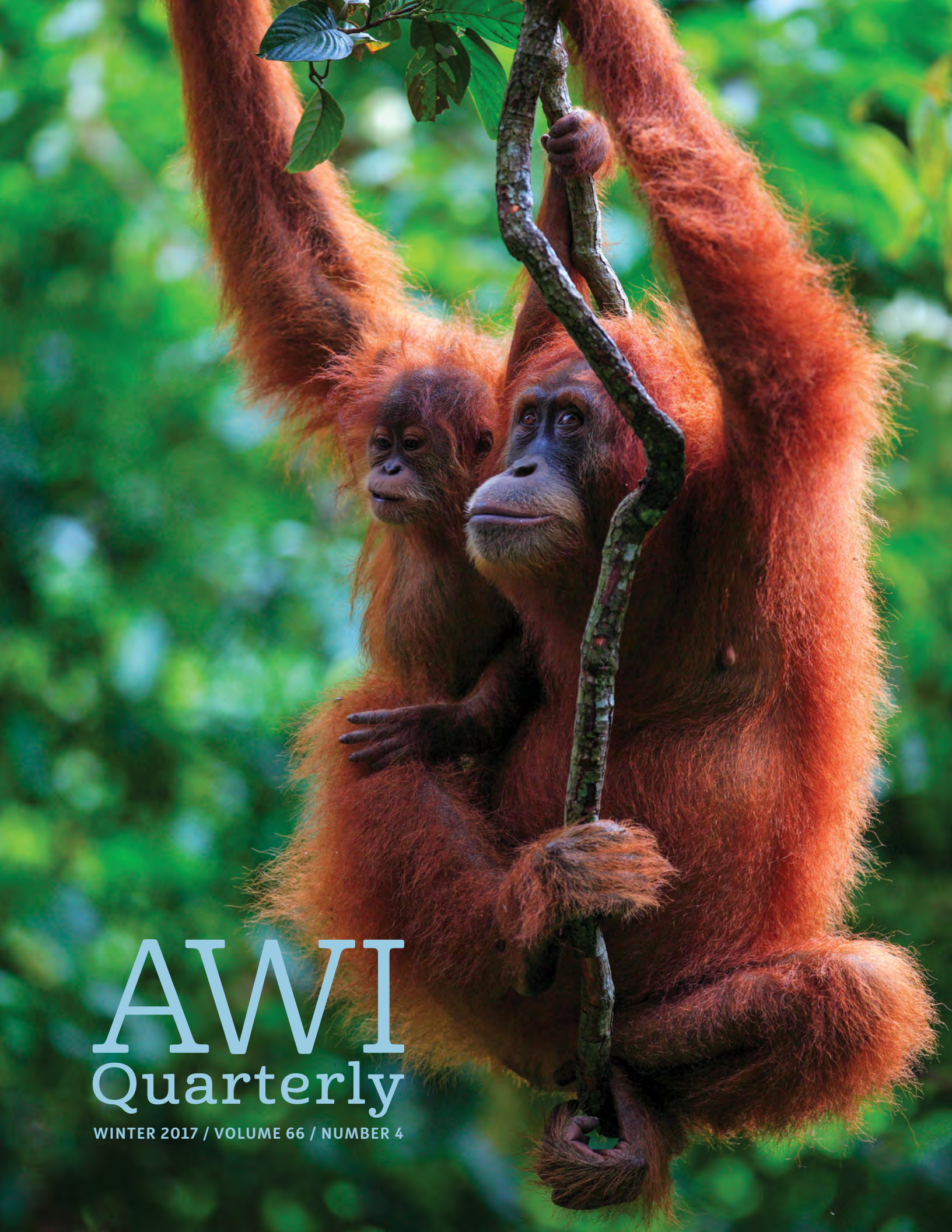




AWI Quarterly

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SPOTLIGHT

AWI Files Suit to Stop Deer Cull on Fire Island

AWI and Wildlife Preserves, Inc., filed suit against the National Park Service and the superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore (FINS) on November 29 over a wildlife management plan that calls for killing many of the seashore's white-tailed deer. The NPS is proposing to fence a section of FINS to exclude deer and then reduce their population through sharpshooting, capture and euthanasia, and public hunting. The fenced area includes land Wildlife Preserves once owned. Two deeds, in 1955 and 1966, transferred the "WP Tracts" first to another organization and then to the NPS.

A major issue with the NPS deer-killing management plan, however, is that the deeds came with a clear stipulation that the land must be maintained as a wildlife sanctuary. As

stated in the 1966 deed, the WP Tracts were to be kept "in their natural state and operated solely as a sanctuary and preserve for the maintenance of wild life, and its natural habitat, undisturbed by hunting, trapping, fishing or any other activities that might adversely affect the environment or the flora or fauna of said premises."

The deed restrictions aren't the only obstacles for the NPS plan. The deer cull also runs afoul of federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under NEPA, governmental agencies are required to take a "hard look" at the environmental impacts of any major federal action and consider reasonable and feasible alternatives.

The NPS obviously hasn't looked very hard—else it wouldn't have turned a blind eye to immunocontraception, a form of birth control that has proven effective in regulating the populations of many wild species—including deer. In fact, NPS, we invite you to turn to page 20 of this issue, where we discuss some of the latest, intriguing developments in immunocontraception use. Certainly, an alternative that employs humane birth control is both feasible and vastly more reasonable than mass animal slaughter within a wildlife sanctuary. 🐾

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Animal Welfare Institute

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ABOUT THE COVER

A 2013 UN report stated that from 2005–2011, over 1,000 orangutans were intercepted from wildlife traffickers. This is only a fraction of the ones taken or slaughtered, however. Poachers routinely kill mother orangutans to steal their babies for the pet trade.

But what happens when illegally obtained animals (orangutans and countless other species) are seized by authorities? Some are returned to the wild. Others remain in captivity. Some are simply euthanized. See page 16 for more on how best to ensure that deliverance from the smuggling pipeline really does mean an end of the ordeal for such confiscated animals. Photograph by Cyril Ruoso/Minden Pictures.



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Shelter from the Storm

AWI AIDS ANIMAL RESCUE AS HURRICANES PUMMEL VIRGIN ISLANDS

AWI isn't usually involved in disaster relief and recovery, but when there's a problem staring us in the face and we know we can make a difference, we act.

It started with a personal appeal from a resident of St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands: The island was devastated by Hurricane Irma—no power, no water, and no prospects for a quick recovery. The Humane Society of St. Thomas (HSSTT) had done an amazing job of securing the hundreds of dogs and cats in its care (some of whom were surrendered by evacuating owners and some of whom were already in the shelter). Shelter staff made sure they all were fed and exercised and then crated throughout the storm. As soon as it was safe—and under

the constraints of a 6 p.m. to noon curfew—volunteers returned to care for the animals. But with so much of the island's infrastructure destroyed and a projected recovery time measured in years, not months, it seemed unlikely that anyone would want to adopt a new pet any time soon. The animals just needed to get out.

Enter Virginia Beach resident Sali Gear. Sali has a special relationship with the Virgin Islands—she grew up in St. Croix and is on the board of the St. Croix Animal Welfare Center. Through her organization, Island Dog Rescue, she has brought hundreds of “island” dogs to the continental United States for adoption. Sali learned how dire the situation was on both St. Thomas and St. Croix following Hurricane Irma; an



SHEILA STAFFORD



AWI STAFF

Top left: Preparing for departure.
Top right: A “coconut retriever” (as island dogs are affectionately called) relaxes in Virginia after a long journey.
Bottom right: AWI's Ava Rinehart with an evacuee.

AWI STAFF



In the dark of night, crated cats and canines await transport out of the cargo area of Norfolk International Airport.

AWI STAFF



JENNIFER EPSTEIN WOLFF

Left: AWI staffers and others prepare to greet and inventory 300 arriving animals. Right: An island dog gets a little TLC the morning after the flight.

Near right: AWI's Brittany Horton greets a new arrival.

Far right top: At two in the morning, a busy scene at the airport in Norfolk. Far right bottom: At the farm where the animals were assembled, this dog is ready to exit the van and enter a new life.

AWI STAFF



AWI STAFF



LESA BEVAN



A volunteer veterinarian tends to one of many cats after they arrived at the farm.

email from an HSSTT volunteer reported, “The devastation from this thing is incredible.”

Sali also knew that, as a commercial pilot, she was in a unique position to help. Through her contacts at commercial airlines and with other pilots, she commandeered cargo space on every flight she could, shipping down generators, dog and cat food, additional pet crates, vaccines, and medical supplies to St. Thomas and St. Croix shelters, and shipping back as many dogs and cats as she could, often checked as baggage for people who just happened to be leaving the islands. She helped organize vaccination clinics for pets on the islands to get the required USDA health certificates that would allow them to travel stateside.

Just when it looked like the situation was stabilizing on the islands, the situation got far more critical. A *second* Category 5 hurricane—Maria—was barreling down along the exact path that Irma had carved out. Sali’s plan to fly the animals out over a period of time had to be scrapped. The animals needed to fly *now*. So Sali did what any pilot would do—she chartered a plane. And when AWI was asked if we could provide funding for it, we didn’t hesitate to say “yes.”

The morning of September 18, an Amerijet 727 with cargo capacity to carry 300 dogs and cats to safety flew from Miami to St. Thomas and St. Croix. On those two islands, swarms of volunteers selflessly delayed their own preparations for Hurricane Maria and formed convoys to crate and transport the animals from the shelters to the airports. The plane left St. Croix and flew nonstop to Norfolk International Airport, landing at 1:17 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, where it was met by around 50 volunteers, including four AWI staff members. For the next two hours, pallet after pallet of crated dogs and cats streamed out of the belly of the aircraft and each animal was inventoried, given water, and loaded into a private truck or van and driven to a temporary staging area at a farm in nearby Virginia Beach. There, you would never have guessed it was the middle of the night—another hundred or so volunteers, who had been preparing the farm all day, greeted the arriving animals, fed them, watered them, gave them walks, made sure they were checked out by a veterinarian, and cleaned their crates.

As the sun rose that morning, rescue groups from all over the East Coast began arriving to escort the animals on the next leg of their journey to find new homes. The Pittsburgh Aviation Animal Rescue Team flew a small plane down and took 22 dogs and cats for placement in western Pennsylvania. More animals traveled by van to rescue groups in the Boston area. By Wednesday afternoon all but five animals had been moved out to other rescue organizations.

The animals got off the islands with little time to spare. That night, Hurricane Maria began battering the Virgin Islands, destroying what little Irma had left. Residents described it as “a different kind of destruction” with a 9-foot storm surge that flooded everything. The St. Croix shelter was completely destroyed—roofs blown away, heavy metal cages smashed and blown into the road. The one part of the shelter that survived was the relatively new veterinary clinic, but shelter staff were later forced to weld the clinic door shut to prevent looting.

Island Dog Rescue pulled off the nearly impossible to get these pets out of harm’s way and we are honored to have played a role. As Sali says, it takes a “pack” to get things done. 🐾

To donate to help rebuild the St. Croix shelter, please visit www.tinyurl.com/y77r7xym

KATRINA'S LESSON LEARNED: ANIMALS NO LONGER EXCLUDED FROM STORM EVACUATIONS

Reports of the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria dominated the media this past September. In the midst of all that, particularly notable were the scenes of residents being hauled up by helicopters, trudging through waist-high water, or floating down rivers that once were streets—while clutching their companion animals. What a difference a few years and a federal law have made.

At the end of August 2005, Hurricane Katrina led to overwhelming damage in Louisiana, especially in New

Orleans, and nearly 2,000 people died across five states. Rescue efforts were intense and frantic during the storm. However, pets generally were not included in those operations, and many people refused to leave them behind, thus putting themselves in danger. Nearly 50 percent of those who chose to stay put during Katrina did so because they did not want to leave their pets. Others, believing they would be back in a few days, left their animals locked inside without enough food or water. Some survived, but many succumbed to starvation.

It is difficult to know the exact numbers, but the lack of preparation for Katrina appears to have resulted in the stranding of between 100,000 and 250,000 pets and the deaths of between 70,000 and 150,000. Pictures of abandoned pets quivering on rooftops, hiding in attics, or swimming in infested waters spread across social media. The country was particularly moved by the image of a young boy crying hysterically as his small white dog was ripped from his arms. Pets weren't permitted on the bus he was boarding and the boy's parents made



A woman ferries her dog to safety through Houston streets inundated by Hurricane Harvey.

the wrenching decision to leave their beloved dog behind.

Even within clouds so dark and gray, there was a silver lining: No one wanted to see pets suffer again as they did during Katrina. Something had to change. So Representative Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) introduced the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act in September 2005. With overwhelming support, it became law in October 2006 (PL 109-308). The PETS Act amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to require that state disaster preparedness and evacuation plans address the needs of people with pets and service animals. It also authorized the use of federal funds for pet-friendly emergency shelters when needed. States must adhere to these rules in order to receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Under these new guidelines, more than 30 states enacted statutory instructions for the evacuation, rescue, and recovery of pets during a disaster. Although each state's mandates are different, most address the following key issues: animal care and response teams, evacuation shelters, and identification of rescued animals. There are even a few states that extend the plan beyond companion animals to include livestock, zoo animals, and wildlife.

After the PETS Act became law, Louisiana took significant steps to ensure future disasters would not be so catastrophic for animals and their owners. The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association organized a response team of volunteers to help during a crisis. The state government arranged for pet transportation and shelters, and established guidelines for identification in the event of an

emergency. When Hurricane Gustav made landfall in September 2008 and New Orleans was evacuated, animals were among the top priorities. Hundreds of miles from the disaster area, shelters were erected at fairgrounds and elsewhere. The Red Cross loosened its policy on pets and even set up a temporary refuge for pet owners near the shelters.

More recently, the new law's value was underscored during Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which caused major damage and displacement in Texas and Florida, respectively. The statute in Texas covering emergency protocols was amended in 2009 to include animal care. It required the government to develop plans for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary sheltering of pets and service animals in a disaster. Animal rescue groups enhanced their disaster divisions by increasing water rescue resources and offering specialized water training.

Before Harvey arrived, organizations around the country took in shelter pets from the storm area to make room for the displaced pets to come. During evacuation efforts, it was common to see pictures of rescued people sitting in boats with wet dogs in their arms. Cats and dogs weren't the only ones saved; pigs, cows, and horses were also helped to safety.

During Harvey, people moved quickly and efficiently, but not everything worked flawlessly. At first, the Red Cross, which was operating one of the largest evacuation shelters, at Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center, wouldn't admit animals, so the evacuees sat in the rain with their pets. After a public outcry and intervention by a local official, the Red Cross changed its mind and set up a separate section within the center for evacuees with pets. When emergency shelters did not take in animals, there

were separate areas or off-site housing for them, with pets and owners being assigned identification numbers to facilitate reuniting them later. Even with all these efforts, however, thousands of animals were thought to be displaced or missing. After the hurricane subsided, shelters opened up hubs to reunite displaced pets with their owners.

Florida amended its disaster plan in 2006 to require that pets be included in evacuation strategies during an emergency. Pet-friendly shelters were established ahead of time, and animals were preemptively evacuated before Irma hit. Some locations filled up before the storm, but other arrangements were quickly made. Some farm animals were housed in county jails after inmates were evacuated. Some of the more fragile zoo animals were placed in bunkers while many of the large animals were housed in their sleeping quarters. Zoo keepers argued that moving them would have caused significant stress, which could be fatal to some.

The country has taken steps in the right direction, but issues remain. To close a gap that still exists in emergency preparedness, US Representatives Dina Titus (D-NV) and Dan Donovan (R-NY) have reintroduced the Animal Emergency Planning Act (HR 3792). This bill would ensure that commercial operations such as research institutions, zoos, breeding facilities, and other entities licensed or registered under the Animal Welfare Act have disaster plans in place that adequately provide for evacuating and caring for their animals. 🐾

AWI URGES USDA TO STOP RELICENSING ANIMAL ABUSERS

AWI has battled with the US Department of Agriculture for years over its practice of automatically renewing the licenses of puppy mills, roadside zoos, and others who are habitually out of compliance with the standards of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Finally recognizing that its current system perpetuates animal suffering, the USDA solicited input on changing its licensing regulations. AWI has urged the department to make several changes, including denying license renewals to anyone with a history of noncompliance with the AWA or who has been convicted of animal cruelty. Having now received nearly 47,000 comments, the vast majority of which supported AWI's position, the USDA should propose new regulations that will promote compliance with, rather than defiance of, the Act.

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES ANTI-WILDLIFE BILLS

For 45 years, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) has succeeded in its mission to protect individual marine mammals, as well as entire populations, from harassment, injury, and death due to human activities. Unfortunately, legislation currently under consideration poses immediate threats to this law. HR 3133 would dismantle core elements of the MMPA that limit harm to marine mammals. Not only would it fast-track permits to harass marine mammals in the course of industrial activities such as oil exploration and drilling, but it would also require automatic approval of such permits if government scientists haven't completed their review by an arbitrary deadline. Protections guaranteed to marine mammals under the Endangered Species Act would also be eliminated.



JAMES MARVIN PHELPS

Because vocal opposition to HR 3133 was hampering its progress, the House Natural Resources Committee added it to another bill it approved and sent to the House floor. HR 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act, prioritizes energy development over marine mammal conservation. This bill also transfers all MMPA permitting authority to the Department of Interior, which not only lacks the expertise to monitor threats to most marine mammals, but is also overly zealous in its efforts to accommodate the oil and gas industry, regardless of the implications for the ocean environment.

The energy bill, unfortunately, was not the committee's only assault on wildlife protection laws. In September, it approved HR 3668, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act. Among its many anti-wildlife provisions, this bill would transfer management of wolves in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin to those states; redefine "hunting" in order to open millions of additional acres of public lands to cruel and dangerous trapping; prohibit the regulation of toxic lead hunting and fishing gear; prevent a review of the impact of management

activities in national wildlife refuges; and curtail two important habitat conservation programs.

Both HR 4239 and 3668 await action by the full House.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL HORRIBLE FOR HORSES

In September, the House passed HR 3354, an omnibus appropriations bill that would harm animals in a variety of ways. Among the amendments not allowed to come to the floor for a vote: one that would prohibit the USDA from inspecting horse slaughter plants (without which, they cannot operate in interstate commerce) and one to ban the killing of wild horses and burros as a means of population control. Conversely, four amendments to weaken the Endangered Species Act were approved. The Senate never took up this bill, however, so the government is operating under a stopgap "continuing resolution" that does not include these provisions.



Making a Splash: Animal Advocates Flood Capitol Hill to Shore Up Support for MMPA

On November 15, a coalition of nine environmental and animal protection groups, including AWI, hosted a Lobby Day and reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate—and defend—the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) on its 45th anniversary. Scientists, business leaders, local government officials, and marine advocates from coastal states came to DC to walk the halls of Congress and ask legislators to resist efforts by the fossil fuel industry to weaken the MMPA.

The day began at 8 a.m., with the intrepid teams of citizen lobbyists—each with a leader experienced at meeting with federal legislators—gathering to get their assignments. Actor and singer Miranda Cosgrove and Representative Don Beyer of Virginia energized the MMPA defenders with their inspirational messages, praising those who came from as far away as California (like Cosgrove) and Oregon for their commitment to protecting marine mammals.

Dr. Naomi Rose (pictured above) of AWI led the Florida contingent, a key state in the battle against opening up the Atlantic coast to seismic surveys for oil and gas deposits. The state has several marine mammal friends, including Senator Bill Nelson. Other Florida legislators, however—such as Representative Daniel Webster, who has voted to weaken the MMPA—promote extractive industries at the expense of whales and dolphins.

The Florida group had professional divers, students, scientists, community organizers, and a city mayor who was

also a veteran of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. This diverse group was able to emphasize that fisheries, the military, and many others are as concerned as environmentalists about the possibility of an Atlantic coast echoing with seismic airgun blasts and eventually dotted with oil platforms, drills, and pumps. As for Florida's all-important tourism industry, the prospects of an oil spill are terrifying.

As one citizen lobbyist repeated at every office visited, “Florida is what it is—attracting visitors from around the country and the world—because of its natural resources, including its whales, dolphins, and manatees. Harming these forever for a few years of oil profits makes no sense for the state at all.” Ten hours (and almost eight miles of walking!) later, more Florida legislators than before might just agree with that view.

The day ended with a packed reception, attended by members of Congress and their staff, regulatory officials, and marine advocates. The program featured more passionate calls to protect marine mammals from Cosgrove, as well as from Dr. Lee Talbot, one of the original authors of the MMPA and still an active conservationist in his 80s, and Representative Jared Huffman of California, an amazing champion of the environment and its wildlife. AWI will work hard to ensure Florida and all the states say no to drilling and a resounding yes to defending marine mammals! 🐬

TRADER JOE'S SHUNS MEXICAN SHRIMP TO HELP SAVE VAQUITA

On October 11, the Trader Joe's grocery chain announced that it would stop sourcing shrimp from Mexico in response to a request from the Boycott Mexican Shrimp campaign, led by AWI, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The vaquita porpoise is nearly extinct due to decades of entanglement in gillnet fishing gear for shrimp and, more recently, other species (including the endangered totoaba fish) in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California. AWI and allies are urging retailers and consumers to say no to shrimp from Mexico, in order to pressure the Mexican government to take stronger steps to protect the animal—including a permanent ban on all gillnet fishing, removal of illegal nets from the water, and significantly increased enforcement efforts.

Trader Joe's announcement received wide coverage in the Mexican media. AWI is grateful to Trader Joe's and to the thousands of people who heeded our call to contact the company and urge it to join the boycott. For more information on how to support the campaign, including a contact list of

retailers that still purchase shrimp from Mexico, please visit www.BoycottMexicanShrimp.com.

AWI AT ARCTIC CIRCLE ASSEMBLY

Every October, Iceland hosts the Arctic Circle Assembly, a gathering of representatives from governments, nonprofit organizations, indigenous communities, scientists, and industry. AWI's Kate O'Connell joined more than 2,000 people from 50 countries at the 2017 meeting.

The assembly addressed climate change impacts on the Arctic, including the effects of warming waters on whales and the communities dependent upon them. Dr. Marianne Rasmussen of the University of Iceland described the challenges that changes in whale distribution around Iceland present to the country's thriving whale watch industry.

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission hosted a session on sealing, centered on the European Union decision to ban imports of commercial seal products. (See

the *AWI Quarterly*, summer 2014.) Representatives of Inuit communities and the fur industry discussed plans to lobby European politicians and the public for the ban's removal.

The shipping, oil, and fishing industries touted new commercial opportunities in the loss of Arctic sea ice. However, other attendees noted that heavy fuel oil leaks, increased entanglements in fishing gear, and seismic testing for oil and gas all pose threats to Arctic marine mammal and fish populations. Given these concerns, AWI and others are calling for the Central Arctic Ocean to be designated a Marine Protected Area.

USFWS DENIES PROTECTION TO PACIFIC WALRUS

On October 4, the US Fish and Wildlife Service ruled against adding the Pacific walrus to the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Although the Obama administration ruled in 2011 that the species warranted protection, it did not immediately designate the species as threatened or endangered. Instead, the walrus was placed on a candidate list.

The final decision by the USFWS was not based on any new science that suggested the walrus was more secure now than six years ago—in fact, sea ice, on which walrus depend for all their vital behaviors, has receded at a record pace over the past two years. Rather, the decision was based on arbitrarily limiting how far into the future population trends could be projected when making listing decisions.

The Pacific Walrus population declined by 50 percent in the last two decades of the 20th century. Today, the sea ice that is such a critical component of their lives is rapidly shrinking. Yet the USFWS decided that the animal does not merit Endangered Species Act protection.



USFWS/JOEL GARLICH-MILLER

Orca Triomphe:

France Bans Breeding of Cetaceans

IN 2010, Tilikum, an orca held by SeaWorld Orlando, killed Dawn Brancheau, his trainer for the previous six years. Since that tragic event, the campaign to end the captive display of cetaceans has gathered tremendous steam. The release of the documentary *Blackfish* in 2013 generated what is now popularly called the *Blackfish* Effect; musical acts canceled performances at SeaWorld parks, long-time business partners terminated their relationships with SeaWorld, and late night hosts mocked the company's image.

All of this resulted in a decline in visitorship and revenue, leading in March 2016 to SeaWorld's voluntary termination of its much-vaunted orca breeding program. CEO Joel Manby stated that "the idea of having orcas under human care was not a positive thing" to the general public anymore. Because SeaWorld also vowed to no longer acquire orcas from other sources, this will be the last generation of orcas displayed at SeaWorld's parks. Within months of the

company's paradigm-shifting announcement, the California legislature passed a bill that codified this corporate policy into state law. (See *AWI Quarterly*, winter 2016.)

Historically, anti-captivity advocates sought to ban outright the practice of displaying captive cetaceans. But with the passage of the California statute, it has now become clear that prohibiting the breeding of captive cetaceans is more politically palatable—it allows the industry to transition from one business model to another over time, which attracts the support of legislators who might otherwise oppose a purely "animal rights" proposal that has no regard for economic realities. Advocates in other jurisdictions have paid attention.

California is the only US state currently displaying cetaceans to decide to phase out that display. South Carolina banned cetacean captivity years ago—but it had no captive cetaceans at the time and no real plans to allow them. Now France, which has three dolphinariums, is the first country to pass a breeding ban—a major milestone. (Other nations



Orcas perform at Marineland Antibes in the South of France.

have banned the display of cetaceans, but like South Carolina, they didn't have them to begin with.)

The French *arrêté* (variously translated as decree, ordinance, or bylaw) passed in early May. Among other things, it (1) ends the captive breeding of cetaceans, (2) prohibits the display of any cetaceans not held at the time the ban was enacted, and (3) establishes a series of operational and maintenance standards that all cetacean facilities must meet. This means that the facilities currently holding cetaceans may continue to do so until these animals age and die, and may also continue to use them in educational “demonstrations.” However, the *arrêté* establishes strict controls on content and presentation, ending the more theatrical elements of a traditional dolphin show or performance. Dolphinariums also cannot replace any animals that die. Over time, therefore, the display of the two species currently in France, bottlenose dolphins and orcas, will end.

While, ideally, all of these cetaceans would be placed in a sanctuary, the reality is that cetacean seaside sanctuaries are still in the development phase. So politically and economically, the breeding ban makes sense and means, at least, that no more cetaceans will be condemned to the inhumane conditions provided by concrete tanks. The continued welfare concerns of this last generation of cetaceans in France can also be addressed in the near future, as sanctuaries become operational.

France last revised its regulations regarding the maintenance of captive cetaceans in 1981, and pressure to update these provisions had been increasing. The effort gained significant momentum, however, after a ferocious Mediterranean storm in October 2015 flooded Marineland Antibes, in the French Riviera, where both dolphins and orcas (as well as sea lions, polar bears, and other wildlife) are held. Days after flood waters contaminated the orca tanks, a male named Valentin died, almost certainly as a result of the disaster.

The government consulted with animal nonprofits, as well as the industry, as it developed new standards. Yet, for the most part it appeared—despite vigorous lobbying by animal groups—that the proposal would favor the industry more than the animals. The death of Valentin did not seem to influence the government's thinking much, if at all. One Voice, a small group AWI has worked with before, invited Dr. Naomi Rose, AWI's marine mammal scientist, to visit two of the three French dolphinariums in October 2016. This was an effort not only to address the regulatory process but also to focus attention on Planète Sauvage, a facility whose dolphin exhibit was particularly troubling. One Voice hosted the visit of another cetacean expert, Dr. Ingrid Visser, in June 2016, when she expressed concerns about the dolphins at



Orcas aren't the only marine mammals stuck in unsuitable habitat at Marineland Antibes. This polar bear has little shelter from the Mediterranean sun.

Planète Sauvage. As a result, One Voice filed a complaint with government authorities about the conditions there, started a petition, and pushed for improvements to the standards.

At Planète Sauvage and Marineland Antibes, Naomi saw enclosures that were old-fashioned, several conditions that should have resulted in citations and fines (but apparently did not), and animals who showed various signs of stress and possible health problems. She prepared a report for One Voice, which noted in particular that one dolphin at Planète Sauvage, a 6-year-old male named Aïcko, was emaciated and behaving erratically. She expressed urgent concern for his welfare. Tragically, eight days after Naomi's visit, Aïcko died. One Voice used this report in both its specific complaint against Planète Sauvage and in its lobbying of the federal government.

When imminent publication of the *arrêté* was announced on May 3, animal advocacy groups still thought it would favor the industry and were preparing to mount vigorous opposition. However, when it was published in its final form on May 6, it surprised everyone by including the breeding ban!

Of course, the industry expressed outrage at this unexpected reversal, despite the ability of the three dolphinariums to continue making money from displaying these animals well into the future, given the relatively young ages of many of the cetaceans in captivity in France. By July, the dolphinariums had filed a legal challenge. Naomi prepared a statement that was submitted with other documentation by One Voice in a successful effort to prevent a temporary suspension of the breeding ban while the legal challenge proceeds. The full hearing on the merits of the challenge will hopefully happen by the end of this year. AWI will report on developments as they occur. 🐾



AWI SCORES BIG WIN FOR CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

Carnivores in California can breathe a little easier, after AWI and allies reached a settlement with the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program in November that will result in numerous protections for predators and other wild animals in the northern part of the state. The victory stems from a lawsuit filed in June by AWI and other organizations.

The settlement prohibits Wildlife Services from aerial gunning and any use of body-gripping traps such as strangling snares and steel-jaw leghold traps within wilderness areas. It also requires the program to analyze the environmental impacts of its killing activities throughout 16 California counties. Pending completion of that study, several measures must be implemented to protect wildlife in the region, including a ban on the use of M-44 cyanide devices, den fumigants, and lead ammunition. Wildlife Services must also take steps to protect California's endangered gray wolves from being

accidentally harmed or killed in traps set for other carnivores.

This is the latest in a series of victories to curb Wildlife Services' lethal wildlife management activities in California. In August, a California court ruled that Monterey County's renewal of its contract with Wildlife Services violated the California Environmental Quality Act. Last year, we reached a settlement with Mendocino County through which its own contract with Wildlife Services was terminated.

MYANMAR ELEPHANTS BEING SLAUGHTERED FOR THEIR SKIN

An emerging black market for elephant skins is putting new pressure on elephant populations in Myanmar. Poaching has long been a problem in the country. But in the past, ivory was the draw and males the primary target. (Among Asian elephants, only the males grow prominent tusks.) Now, with skins a coveted commodity, females and calves are falling victim,

as well. Myanmar's government has indicated that demand for skin and body parts for use in traditional medicine has spurred a tenfold increase in poaching in recent years.

Asian elephants are endangered, and commercial trade in the animals is prohibited under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Myanmar is home to approximately 1,400–2,000 wild elephants—second only to India. Perhaps 5,000–6,000 more live in captivity, many traditionally used as “timber elephants” to transport felled trees out of difficult terrain.

Local and national nonprofit organizations have been working to train and equip ranger squads to combat this new poaching epidemic and are calling for greater international efforts to crack down on the markets—especially along the Myanmar-China border—where elephant skin is sold.

VIETNAM TO BANISH BEAR BILE FARMS

This summer, the Vietnamese government agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the nonprofit Animals Asia to finally end bear bile farming in the country. On bile farms, the bears, primarily Asiatic black bears and sun bears, are locked in tiny cages their whole lives. Several times a day, bile is extracted via painful procedures for use in traditional medicines. Bile farming was officially outlawed in 1992, but a giant loophole allowed people to continue to keep bears as “household pets.” Another law passed in 2005 to outlaw bile extraction but, again, people could keep the bears they already had. The MOU commits the government and Animals Asia to work together to rescue the estimated 1,000 bears still kept for their bile and ensure an end to private possession of bears.

Assessing the Efficacy of Foxlights in Reducing Wolf-Livestock Conflict

by Suzanne Stone

Few conflicts are more challenging than wolves and livestock depredation encounters in the western United States. For centuries, wolves have paid the ultimate price for the presence of livestock on the landscape, resulting in their complete eradication from the West by the 1930s.

Now that wolves are being restored to their western habitat, the United States is again spending millions annually to kill wolves to protect livestock. Killing predators only briefly reduces predator numbers, with serious consequences to the proper functioning and health of ecosystems.

There are much better and more humane ways to address human conflicts with native predators. One of these new tools is the Foxlight, invented by Australian Ian Whalan to protect his lambs from foxes. Their unique features, including random flashing lights that automatically turn on at dusk and stay on throughout the night to make it appear that humans are patrolling, make Foxlights useful in remote livestock grazing situations.

After I was introduced to Ian in Australia by dingo researcher Dr. Brad Purcell, I brought Foxlights to the United States to determine if they could help keep wolves

away from livestock, thus allowing more wolves to survive. My study was conducted with funding provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI.

The ODFW agreed to allow me to test Foxlights in the field. However, the field test site, the Mount Emily pack territory in the Blue Mountain range, presented a serious challenge, as that wolf pack had already killed 15 sheep and one livestock guard dog in five attacks occurring in 2014 and 2015. While dogs are good deterrents most of the year, under some circumstances, such as when wolves are protecting their pups in dens, they perceive dogs as a threat to their pups and will kill or drive them away from their den sites.

On June 26, 2015, three or more Foxlights were placed on the perimeter of the sheep bedding grounds used by three sheep bands in the area. From the time the Foxlights were installed until August 4, 2015, no further sheep were killed by wolves at that location, despite continued documented wolf presence.

While the constant exposure to any protection method reduces the wolves' wariness, Foxlights appear to have successfully stopped wolf and sheep

conflicts for more than a month. Due to the lengthy exposure to Foxlights, wildlife managers urged the sheep owner to consider switching to an alternate deterrent, such as keeping sheep in electrified night pens. The sheep owner refused and, as expected, the wolves eventually lost their fear of the Foxlights and began killing sheep again. Since the sheep owner refused reasonable deterrents to protect his sheep and because the grazing season was ending in late September, however, Oregon wildlife managers elected not to kill the Mt. Emily wolves. If Foxlights had not been used, it is almost certain that the Mt. Emily wolves would not have survived the summer grazing season.

The ODFW and other state wildlife agencies are now recommending Foxlights as a valuable short-term deterrent to help protect livestock from wolf depredation. While wolf exposure to the devices should be limited to maintain their effectiveness for longer periods, Foxlights are another effective tool to allow wolves and livestock to peacefully coexist on the landscape. 🐾

Suzanne Stone is a senior representative of Defender of Wildlife's Northwest Program, specializing in wolf conservation.



SUZANNE STONE

Random flashing lights produced by the Foxlight tell predators "Better move on. Someone is out here watching over the sheep."

One of 101 smuggled pangolins seized by authorities in Indonesia peers through the bars of a cage. The rescued pangolins were to be released into a national park. Not all confiscated animals are so fortunate.

TAKING CARE OF CONFISCATED ANIMALS: A CITES SOLUTION?

For some wild animals, getting rescued from traffickers is just the start of another ordeal.



Nobody really knows precisely how many live wild animals are seized from poachers and smugglers around the world each year. The number, though, is easily in the millions. Nor does anyone really know what becomes of all of these animals.

For the most part, “disposal” of confiscated wild animals (yes “disposal” is the current, internationally accepted term) is a matter of individual national laws or agency policies. One country may opt to put seized parrots in a responsible and professionally run wildlife rescue center. Another may deposit them in any zoo willing to take them. Yet another may turn around and sell them at auction. Some countries will summarily euthanize the birds, regardless of their health. And some avoid the problem altogether by simply ignoring illegal trade—even acknowledging they won’t seize animals held illegally if they don’t have a proper place to put them.

Clearly, there is no consistency of policy or action at the international level. But it is also increasingly clear that illegal international trade is among the primary drivers of species endangerment and the motivation for enormous cruelty to animals.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is presently trying to address the problem—or at least to define its scope and magnitude. In recent months, the CITES secretariat in Geneva called upon the treaty’s 183 member countries to provide information concerning how many live animals they seize, the species, and what they do with them after they are confiscated. That information is now with the secretariat, which is analyzing the data. Public reports regarding conclusions and recommendations are expected soon.

For the moment, however, there are several glaringly obvious priorities:

Government wildlife law enforcement agencies should be held to at least the same animal welfare standards currently required of legal animal traders.

Government licensing agencies, under CITES, must obligate animal traders in their country to take adequate care of the live animals they are trading. Traders must be required to ensure that “any living specimen will be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment” of the animals being traded.

But no such conditions apply to government agencies that seize live animals from traffickers. Granted, most government wildlife officers are attentive to the care of animals in their custody. But not all of them are. There have been cases of abuse, incompetence, and neglect.

Government officers must be held to at least the same standards that businesses must meet. This is especially applicable to confiscated animals, who were recently in the possession of criminals unlikely to have been attentive to their welfare. Legal traders work under a system that involves multiple monitors—CITES inspections, veterinary inspections, airline controls, etc. They know they are being watched, so they must make some effort to comply with animal care standards. Smugglers, on the other hand, notoriously abuse animals. They cram them into suitcases. They use every imaginable disguise. Sometimes they drug the animals and/or tape their mouths shut to keep them quiet. Often, the animals are wrapped with duct tape, or stuffed in socks, or bound with cords, so they won’t wiggle around during transit.

The animals are already traumatized, and there is dire need for the inspectors to start applying very high welfare standards immediately. Unfortunately, there is no international norm that requires this. Many countries have commendable standards, but not all. CITES is the mechanism to create and apply a uniform standard of care for seized animals worldwide.

An international network of CITES-credentialed wildlife rescue centers and sanctuaries should exist.

Wildlife law enforcement agencies in nearly all developed countries have ready access to domestic networks of rescue centers and sanctuaries. So when US Customs and Border Protection officers intercepted an American citizen trying to enter the United States at 1:30 a.m. with a Bengal tiger cub, they quickly placed the seized animal in the hands of competent care. Similarly, when New York State Department of Environmental Conservation officers seized an eight-week-old arctic fox pup being offered for sale on Craig’s List, the officers quickly located a sanctuary with a credentialed wildlife rehabilitator, and placed the pup in good hands. Dutch officers at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol seized 15 sungazer lizards smuggled out of Africa in August, and placed these animals with a competent caretaker. (Sungazers look like little dragons. Due in large part to a fascination with the dragons that populate the pages and pixels of *The Hobbit*, *Game of Thrones*, and other works of fantasy, sungazers are now smuggled in large numbers.)

But what happened to the four lion cubs seized in Pakistan on August 13, 2017? Or the 10,000+ pangolins seized every year across Africa and southern Asia? Or the thousands upon thousands of iguanas, songbirds, turtles, capuchin monkeys, and other animals seized by authorities in some of the most impoverished and remote locations around the world?

If people who care about animals want government agencies to be responsible and seize wildlife that is kept or trafficked



SURVANTO/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES

A wildlife trafficker cut the bottoms of water bottles so he could stuff them with more than 20 critically endangered yellow-crowned cockatoos. Though the plot was foiled, many of the weakened birds later died.

illegally, there must be corollary acknowledgement of a need for an efficient and effective network of rescue centers and sanctuaries that have the infrastructure, professional training, and compassion to provide care for those animals. Because illegal trade in wildlife has globalized, it is important that such networks also have an international perspective, global standards of care, and global cooperation for the rescue and placement of confiscated wildlife.

CITES is perhaps the best organization to coordinate such an effort. Nearly all countries of the world are members of CITES, and each member country has a national governmental agency responsible for CITES affairs. The involvement of governmental agencies is important because this is linked to law enforcement as well as to legal considerations such as confiscation and establishment of licensing criteria.

CITES already has a mechanism for regulating and monitoring businesses that breed endangered species for commercial profit. Go to the CITES website and browse through the “National CITES Authorities.” Pick any country—the United States, for example. Under the US information page there’s a tab for “CITES Registers.” Inside that, there’s a sub-tab for “Captive Breeding Operations.” Click on that and you’ll find dozens of commercial operations authorized to breed endangered species for commercial export. Most of the American operations are selling captive-bred falcons. Click on Thailand, and you’ll find a list of saltwater crocodile breeders. Over in the Philippines, you’ll find cockatoo breeders. A South African is breeding cheetahs and many African grey parrots. In Mauritius, they have operations breeding radiated tortoises.

Before being listed on the various country pages, each of these businesses had to have demonstrated compliance with

various CITES-required technical criteria, such as verification of legal origin of the breeding animals and verification that the facility has achieved second generation (f₂) offspring. An inspection office in another country can thus simply and quickly check if an import of falcons from America originated in an authorized breeding facility.

If it’s so easy to do this for businesses that trade in animals, why can’t something similar be done for rescue centers and sanctuaries that care for confiscated animals? CITES could set up a system for accrediting these facilities based on uniform criteria that would assure everyone worldwide that they meet basic, agreed-upon standards. The accredited rescue centers and sanctuaries could then be listed on the CITES website, just as approved businesses are. A cross-referencing system could list various species. A click on a particular species would then lead to a list of facilities worldwide that are accredited to receive and care for animals of that species.

If CITES can apply computer technology to help businesses engaged in legal wildlife trade, it should be able to apply that same technology to help officers seeking to place seized wild animals.

There should be an international agreement on who “owns” confiscated wild animals.

In most cases, when a country confiscates contraband (e.g., explosives, drugs), that contraband belongs to the government of the confiscating country. The same holds true when otherwise legal items (e.g., jewelry, electronics) are confiscated because someone tried to smuggle them to avoid paying customs duties.

Under CITES, however, there is a most curious situation in which ownership rights are determined by whether an animal is alive or dead. According to Article 8 of the treaty, a country that seizes a contraband live animal must offer to return that animal to the country such animal came from. This suggests that the country of origin retains some rights to that animal. But the provision does not apply to “parts and derivatives”—all the furs, skins, tusks, horns, and other anatomical parts—that may be seized. Thus, if officials in Australia seize a live Indian pangolin, they must contact India and offer to return the animal. But if they seize scales or even an entire carcass, there is no obligation to notify and return.

This seeming inconsistency should be reconsidered and addressed. Certainly there are welfare considerations in returning live animals to their homeland. But there are also welfare considerations to be addressed when grappling with all those furs, skins, tusks, and horns. Each of those items was

once part of a living animal; if illegal trade in these items is not effectively controlled, horrendous killings of many wild animals will continue to supply this vile trade.

This is particularly true when a government sells confiscated wildlife items. Several countries, including the United States, have legally authorized themselves to sell confiscated wildlife (live or dead). In the United States, the law is 50 CFR 23.78, which identifies “sale of certain Appendix II or III specimens” as an acceptable “disposal option.”

Some people consider legal sale of a confiscated wild animal to be a type of “legal laundering.” One day the animal is illegal contraband, seized from a smuggler. The next day, by government fiat, it becomes a legitimate item of sale. Usually, government sales are auctions, and items offered are sold at prices substantially below market values. Such bargain-basement prices tend to enhance profits and stimulate the wildlife trade.

The combination of legal and illegal trade (for most species, it doesn’t make much difference. It’s the net number extracted from natural habitats that counts) already imposes an enormous strain on biological diversity and species conservation. Lumping the two together and selling confiscated animals in legal trade is a type of cruelty to nature.

Several other issues exist. One is compilation and analysis of data from confiscations: What species were involved? Where

did the consignment come from? What smuggling techniques were used to avoid detection? Who benefited financially from the smuggling?

Improving the compilation of this data—on an ongoing basis with a constant analysis—would help identify the “hotspots” from which the animals are poached and why those particular hotspots are being targeted by poachers. Analysis can also identify smuggling routes and thus help improve customs intelligence and interceptions. Questioning of arrested smugglers can reveal information about higher-level criminals who are profiting financially from the illegal exploitation of wildlife. Good analysis can help suppress this criminal trade and alleviate some of the cruelty that it imposes.

There should also be a better assessment of the conservation considerations. Certainly there is sympathy for the notion of restoring confiscated parrots to their native tropical habitat. But what are the consequences? There almost always are health risks with animals that have been held by traffickers—and detecting exotic sicknesses in seized animals can be a very expensive process. Should authorities risk the health of a large population of wild animals by releasing seized individuals back into their native habitats? Perhaps it is wiser to maintain rescued animals in a humane sanctuary for the rest of their lives.

Perhaps it would be wise to suggest long-term confinement be imposed upon the traffickers, as well. 🐾

This baby orangutan was one of three snatched from their Sumatran forest habitat in Aceh and destined for buyers in the city of Pekanbaru, Indonesia.



EPA APPROVES IMMUNOCONTRACEPTIVE FOR DEER MANAGEMENT

The Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision to approve ZonaStat-D to manage deer populations was all the buzz at the 8th International Conference on Wildlife Fertility Control, held in Washington, DC, in mid-July. Approval of this immunocontraceptive vaccine is a major victory for scientists who have spent years trying to find humane and effective ways to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

Dr. Allen Rutberg, a speaker at this year's conference and an expert on immunocontraceptive vaccines for wildlife, is excited about what this decision means for the future of his discipline: "The EPA registration of ZonaStat-D is a huge step in moving deer contraception from research to management. For years, opponents have argued, 'well, [contraception] is still experimental,' as a way to postpone any serious discussion of using it for deer management. No more."

A critical component of the EPA approval is that it allows for delivery of ZonaStat-D via dart or hand. GonaCon, another EPA-approved immunocontraception used for deer management, can only be administered by hand, making it less practical for regular use. With a treatment approved for dart delivery, Dr. Rutberg believes, "pressure will mount on the state wildlife agencies to come up with procedures for communities and land owners to follow that allow local management of deer with contraceptives."

With more than 10 countries represented at the conference, presentations ranged from research trials on deer, horses, and donkeys to squirrels, kangaroos, wild boars, elephants, and more. The need for diverse delivery systems was a common theme

throughout the presentations. For example, while dart delivery appears effective for some species, it is not a viable solution when treating squirrels. For invasive gray squirrels in the United Kingdom, an oral delivery system needs to be developed that can be administered to gray squirrels but kept away from native red squirrels. Similarly, when studying oral delivery of fertility control to wild boars in Texas, the delivery device must discriminate between boars and nontarget animals such as raccoons. The immunocontraceptive delivery systems proposed to address the myriad species are as varied as they are creative. Of course, none of that matters if we are not given the green light to move beyond the research stage and actively start using immunocontraception to control wildlife populations.

As human settlements encroach further into wild ecosystems, we will continue to see an increase in human-wildlife conflict and a greater clamor for wildlife population control (overlooking the fact that we are seeking to control their population even though we are the encroachers). Nonlethal options such as ZonaStat-D help fulfill society's increasing desire to see wildlife humanely managed. Kudos to the EPA for taking this important step and extra praise for the researchers who work to ensure that we have nonlethal tools that allow wildlife to thrive in an increasingly overcrowded world. At AWI, our only sadness is that our good friend Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick, one of the scientists most responsible for developing and promoting immunocontraceptive vaccines, didn't live to see this day. He passed away in December 2015. (See *AWI Quarterly*, spring 2016.) 🐾





Wayne Lotter

Wildlife has lost yet another champion. Wayne Lotter, 51, a vigorous leader in efforts to suppress wildlife crime, was murdered in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on August 16.

Nearly nine years ago, Lotter joined with Krissie Clark and Ally Namangaya to create the PAMS Foundation, an extraordinary organization that has had exceptional impact against poaching and trafficking gangs—especially ivory dealers in Tanzania.

Lotter was a ranger in his native South Africa before moving to Tanzania, the most serious elephant poaching hotspot in Africa. There, he crafted a unique partnership between PAMS and Tanzania's elite National and Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit (NTSCIU) that has resulted in the arrest of more than 2,000 poachers and wildlife trackers since 2012, and a conviction rate of 80 percent.

PAMS provided ongoing training for NTSCIU officers, as well as quality professional equipment. Lotter was admired by many for his energetic and persistent efforts to achieve "intelligence led" law enforcement. He demanded long hours of surveillance to make absolutely certain they were investigating the right person, and that they had acquired enough evidence needed for a successful prosecution.

As a consequence, NTSCIU made a number of high-profile arrests, such as Boniface Methew Malyango, an ivory dealer

who preferred the pseudonym *Shetani Hama Huruma*—Swahili for "the devil has no mercy." This particular devil is now incarcerated in a Tanzanian prison, where he is sentenced to remain until 2028. Another high profile case is that of Yang Feng Glan, the notorious "Queen of Ivory." Yang's conviction is essentially assured at this point and her attorneys are seeking merely to negotiate the least onerous sentence.

On the night of August 16, Lotter was riding in a taxi from the airport to his hotel when another car blocked his path. Two men jumped out of that car, opened the taxi door, and shot Lotter, point blank. Many believe this to be a contract killing commissioned by criminal gangs associated with the illegal ivory trade. In October, three people were arrested and charged with the murder.

Wayne Lotter is survived by his wife Inge and their twin daughters Cara Jayne and Tamsin, as well as by his parents Vera and Charles Lotter, all of whom live in South Africa. Despite this tragic loss, felt by many, many people, the careful foundation built by Lotter will allow the PAMS-NTSCIU partnership to continue the work to which he dedicated his life. 🐾

Pictured above: Wayne Lotter (left) with Elisifa Ngowi, head of Tanzania's National and Transnational Serious Crimes Investigation Unit, at a 2016 ivory burn in Kenya.

A Coordinated Community Response to Animal Abuse

Meredith is a new animal control officer. She has been directed to visit a particular home on multiple occasions because of complaints from neighbors of dogs barking or running loose. During each visit she has spoken with Andrea, who lives in the home with her partner, Joel, and three dogs. Meredith has observed that the dogs do not seem well cared for; they have matted fur, one looks as though she has a skin condition, and all are thin. Meredith has offered Andrea suggestions and help with taking better care of her dogs and Andrea has seemed agreeable to the suggestions. During one visit, Meredith noticed that Andrea had a black eye. Another time Andrea had her wrist wrapped, as though she had a sprain. Meredith received training on the link between animal neglect and abuse and domestic violence, so she is aware that she should look for signs of domestic violence when making home visits.

However, she is not certain exactly what her next steps should be.

Should Meredith approach Andrea about her concerns? If so, how? What factors should she be considering? What agencies should be involved in this situation? These are some of the questions being raised and discussed by an AWI-led initiative to encourage cross training and communication between animal control/humane law enforcement agencies and domestic violence groups.

AWI assembled a panel presentation entitled “Making the Case for Incorporating Animal Abuse into the Family Violence Paradigm” for the 22nd International Summit on Violence, Abuse & Trauma, in September in San Diego. The composition of the panel—Glenna Tinney, a domestic violence advocate; Dan DeSousa, director of San Diego Animal Services;

and Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour of AWI—underscored the theme of the presentation: the need not just to cooperate but to collaborate, to understand how best to work together to ensure the safety of all family members. The audience included representatives of law enforcement agencies, domestic violence and child welfare service providers, mental health professionals, and violence prevention advocates. Mary Lou reviewed the research that definitively makes the case for a close and important connection between animal cruelty and other types of violence. Glenna stressed the value of coordinated community response (CCR), a domestic violence response model that relies on coordination between law enforcement personnel, advocates, health care providers, child protection services, media, clergy, and local businesses to produce a system that works better and faster for victims.



ALEXANDR SAMOYLUK

AWI has resources to assist all groups working in the nexus of animals and family violence. AWI maintains a zip-code searchable database of “safe havens”—sheltering services that help victims of domestic violence place their companion animals out of harm’s way so that they may seek safety for themselves. Also available on the “animals & family violence” section of the AWI website (www.awionline.org/animals-family) are suggested steps for safety planning for pets, questions to ask domestic violence victims about their pets, and questions to ask children who may have been exposed to animal abuse or other abuse in their homes.

AWI proposes that two more groups be added to the CCR model: animal control agencies and veterinarians. Thus far, only Georgia has a CCR team that includes veterinarians and animal control agencies.

Dan provided many examples of the benefits to domestic violence agencies and their allies from collaborating with animal services. As seen in the opening case study, animal service officers can often gain entry to a home where law enforcement may not; typically they are viewed with less suspicion and are trained to use an educational rather than confrontational approach. When visiting a home to inquire about a pet-related complaint, an animal control or humane law enforcement officer may notice other things in the home that raise suspicions: a child with bruises, a woman with a fractured arm. The welfare of animals and people alike would be enhanced by providing these officers with training by domestic violence advocates on how to approach such a situation so that the person in question is helped and not put in further danger. By the same token, domestic violence agencies may need the help of an animal services agency in removing or relocating a pet while other family members seek safety.

Nancy discussed the ways in which public policy is catching up with research and experience to strengthen laws dealing with animal cruelty and provide better resources to domestic violence victims and their companion animals.

This message of the need for and value of a coordinated community response toward all types of violence was reinforced by a similar panel put together by AWI for the annual training conference of the National Animal Care and Control Association in October in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This time, Nancy and Glenna teamed up with Michelle Welch, senior assistant attorney general for Virginia and chief of the attorney general's animal law unit, to talk about cross training and cross reporting and demonstrate how to put that into practice.

While cross training and communication between animal control agencies and domestic violence groups does occur, it is not yet as systematic and consistent as it could be. Heightened awareness that a link exists between domestic violence and animal abuse is

an important first step, but domestic violence experts must also train animal control agencies, other animal welfare groups, and veterinarians on the dynamics of domestic violence situations so there can be informed assessment of the risks involved in making any kind of intervention.

Likewise, domestic violence advocates and service providers are encouraged to recognize the special bond between domestic violence victims and their pets, ask questions about pets at all stages of their interaction with victims (e.g., "Do you have a pet?" "Do you need help with finding a place to keep your pet safe?"), and be prepared to provide assistance when needed. Domestic violence agencies should get to know their local animal services provider, whether an animal control agency, humane law enforcement agency, or shelter. Having an established relationship before an emergency will enable all parties to more effectively help domestic violence victims and their pets. 🐾





MARTIN HEIGAN

PAIR OF PRO-PACHYDERM BILLS INTRODUCED IN MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts is considering two bills that would, together, benefit both captive and wild elephants. H 418/S 1898, introduced by Representative Lori Ehrlich and Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, would prohibit the use of elephants in traveling animal acts. H 419/S 450, introduced by Rep. Ehrlich and Senator Jason Lewis, would restrict trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn in the state.

Elephants in circuses and other traveling shows are often kept chained for days at a time and suffer cruel and physically violent methods of training and control. Should H 418/S 1898 pass, Massachusetts would follow other states that have enacted laws to end abuse of animals in entertainment. In 2016, California and Rhode Island banned the use of bullhooks—devices that resemble a fireplace poker with sharp metal points—to strike elephants during training. In 2017, Illinois and New York outlawed the use of elephants in traveling shows

altogether, as the Massachusetts bill seeks to do. This movement away from conscripting creatures who belong in the wild for our entertainment is not limited to land animals, either: Last year, California enacted a law to phase out orca captivity in the state. (See *AWI Quarterly*, winter 2016.)

H 419/S 450, on the other hand, looks to protect elephants, as well as rhinoceroses, who remain in the wild. With certain exemptions, the bill would prohibit the purchase and sale of elephant ivory or rhino horn in Massachusetts. While federal law currently restricts the import, export, and interstate commerce in these wildlife products, it does not address trade that takes place solely *within* an individual state. For this reason, seven other states (California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington) have enacted laws to restrict or ban the sale of ivory and rhino horn within their borders. At an October 3 hearing before the Massachusetts legislature's Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, AWI

Elephants aren't the only pachyderms that would benefit from passage of H 419/S 450 in Massachusetts. The bill would ban the sale of not only elephant ivory but also rhino horn in the state.

testified as to why H 419/S 450 and similar bills are needed to help reduce the demand for ivory and horn—which is having devastating impacts on elephant and rhinoceros populations in Africa and Asia.

CALIFORNIA CLOSES PET SHOP DOORS TO COMMERCIAL BREEDERS

Shelter animals in California just got a huge helping hand from lawmakers in Sacramento. The Golden State has become the first in the nation to ban the sale of commercially bred pets in pet stores. By January 1, 2019, stores in California will be prohibited from selling any dog, cat, or rabbit unless the animal was obtained from a shelter, rescue group, or public animal control agency. Pet stores will be required to maintain and display records documenting the source of each animal for sale.

The legislation (AB 485) was authored by Assemblymembers Patrick O'Donnell and Matt Dababneh. After passing the Assembly by an overwhelming 55-11 margin in May, it fared even better in the Senate—where it sailed through in a unanimous 38-0 September vote. On October 13, Governor Jerry Brown signed it into law. Following the Senate vote, Asm. O'Donnell thanked his Senate colleagues for their vote and for “defending the voiceless,” adding that “AB 485 gives so many shelter animals the chance to find their forever homes, while simultaneously cutting off the outlet for puppy mill animals into our state.”

OHIO BALLOT INITIATIVE SEEKS TO SQUELCH STATE'S PUPPY MILLS

AWI has joined the "Stop Puppy Mills Ohio" coalition of animal welfare groups, rescues, shelters, and Ohio citizens to launch a ballot initiative aimed at clamping down on puppy mills in the state.

Ohio is a notorious stronghold for such unsavory operations; it is second only to Missouri in the number of federally licensed commercial dog breeding facilities, and until 2012 it had no meaningful animal care standards for them. The Commercial Dog Breeders Act was enacted that year, requiring high-volume breeders (those who sell 60 or more dogs and produce at least nine litters in a single year) to be licensed and inspected. The Ohio Department of Agriculture, however, has indicated the law is difficult to enforce. Nearly 900 breeders are on the department's "action list"—meaning that they may meet the threshold but aren't currently licensed or inspected. Countless dogs in Ohio puppy mills continue to live bleak lives in cramped, dirty, stacked wire cages, with no ability to move about comfortably or socialize. Puppy mill mothers exist only to breed, until their bodies give out after multiple litters.

The ballot initiative, if it passes, will institute a number of breeding facility welfare reforms. It will require larger enclosures that are not stacked and that have solid flooring. It will mandate basic veterinary care, access to exercise areas, proper food and drinking water, socialization with other dogs and humans, and more. Any breeder selling 15 or more dogs a year in Ohio (including out of state breeders who sell dogs in Ohio) will be required to meet these reasonable, humane standards. Pet stores and other commercial operations selling

dogs to consumers in Ohio also will be required to source dogs from breeders who meet these standards.

To qualify for the November 2018 ballot, the coalition needs 400,000 signatures of registered Ohio voters. To learn more about the issue, the ballot initiative, and what you can do to help end cruel puppy mills in Ohio, visit www.stoppupmillsOhio.com.

SIGN THE LINE FOR FELINES: ARIZONA BALLOT INITIATIVE COULD END TROPHY HUNTING OF WILD CATS

AWI is endorsing an effort by Arizonans for Wildlife (AFW), a coalition of nonprofit organizations and Arizona state legislators, to collect signatures for a ballot initiative that would outlaw trophy hunting and trapping of bobcats, mountain lions, lynx, jaguars, and ocelots in the state. The measure would not restrict

the killing of wild cats who threaten personal safety, property, or livestock. To get the initiative on the November 2018 ballot, AFW must collect at least 150,642 signatures.

"If passed, this initiative will spare thousands of Arizona's wild cats from a cruel death at the hands of trophy hunters and trappers, who chase down these animals with packs of hounds, and trap them with barbaric steel-jaw, leghold traps and snares," says Kellye Pinkleton, AFW's campaign director. "It will also spare the dependent kittens, who are often left behind as a result of trophy hunting, from an agonizing death by starvation, predation or exposure."

For more information on the ballot initiative and what you can do to help, visit www.azforwildlife.com.

An ocelot in Arizona. AWI has joined a coalition seeking to get a ballot initiative before Arizona voters in 2018 that, if passed, will abolish trophy hunting and trapping of wild cats in the state.





AWI Exposes Whitewashing of Animal Abuse at USDA Research Labs

When AWI discovered in July that the first unannounced inspection of the US Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) resulted in four citations for lack of adequate veterinary care, inadequate handling of animals with heat distress, and lack of adequate separation among pigs—all causing significant animal suffering—we were appalled. After all, it was the January 2015 *New York Times* exposé of this facility that ignited a public firestorm and led Congress to withhold 5 percent (\$57 million) of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) budget because of the USDA's "wholly inadequate public response" to the allegations and the department's delinquency in providing Congress with necessary information.

Subsequently, the ARS was pressured into allowing the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to begin conducting unannounced inspections at all ARS facilities, even though these labs are not subject to APHIS jurisdiction.

In August 2015, APHIS began to conduct pre-compliance reviews of all ARS labs, walking them through how to "successfully operate under the inspection framework." Yet, the *very facility* that had caused the firestorm could not come close to passing its first inspection.

But MARC was not alone. AWI has discovered what we believe are systemic animal welfare issues at multiple ARS labs. As of November 13, APHIS had documented 16 citations at 12 of ARS's 35 labs. But the numbers don't give the full story; the nature and severity of the incidents—and the response by the ARS—are even more telling.

Role of the IACUC

Proper oversight by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at each research facility is crucial to the entire concept of animal welfare compliance. As Senator

Opposite page: An employee feeds quail in an Agricultural Research Service lab. Evidence uncovered by AWI indicates that the agency is attempting to gloss over disturbing evidence of animal abuse at such facilities. Photo by USDA.

Robert Dole, who sponsored the 1985 Amendments to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that created the mandate for IACUCs, stated, “Veterinary inspectors from the US Department of Agriculture cannot be present on a daily basis. However, their enforcement capability can and should be enhanced by the Institutional Animal Committee.” The USDA stated in the *Federal Register*, after citing Senator Dole’s comments above, that “the Act ... relies on the facility to monitor its own house.”

At ARS facilities, IACUC reviews involve forms containing 11 checkboxes indicating various aspects of compliance. One box seeks to confirm that an attending veterinarian (AV) is on hand to ensure that “an adequate program of veterinary care has been established” and that “animals are observed daily, unless less frequent observation is specifically approved by the IACUC.”

Another box seeks confirmation that “animals are not abused and are handled in a manner that is expeditious and careful not to cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, stress, physical harm or unnecessary discomfort.”

APHIS inspections directly contradict IACUC reviews

In the span of four months—May through September 2017—APHIS documented “critical” citations at four separate ARS labs, all involving horrible animal suffering and deaths. One of these citations was documented on May 18 at the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory in East Lansing, Michigan, where 15 ducks were found dead on May 12 due to dehydration. A necropsy report showed the severity of signs “would be consistent with multiple days without access to water.”

This incident is deeply disturbing, but perhaps the most damning evidence of oversight failure comes from the three other labs receiving critical citations from APHIS. At these facilities, the ARS IACUC review forms were all checked off to indicate everything was in order—even though the review forms were dated within days of inspections documenting horrific deaths.

A July 26 inspection at the Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory in Logan, Utah, noted that 32 quail chicks were found cooked to death earlier that month. The room had overheated to 130 degrees, which can cause “hyperthermia,

pain, suffering, and death.” Inspectors stated that they could not determine if daily observation and monitoring of animal health was being conducted for all animals, and that the records for animals being treated were not complete.

Yet a spotless IACUC review for this facility was dated a mere two days after the critical APHIS inspection. The Logan *Herald Journal* quoted a USDA official saying that it was “in the realm of possibility” that corrections were made in two days. This is absurd, given that the inspection report gave a December 26 correction date for the systemic veterinary care issues found, a five-month span that evidently contemplated an extended rectification process.

At Fort Keogh, a rangeland beef cattle research facility in Miles City, Montana, an August 25 IACUC review was stellar. On September 7, however, APHIS inspectors found a dehydrated calf at 11:45 a.m. who was weak, lethargic with sunken eyes, and unable to rise when prompted. Treatment for coccidiosis had ended two days prior, and the lab had not contacted the AV about the calf’s condition. Inspectors were told at 4:00 p.m. that the calf had died. The inspection report *even included an IACUC citation*, stating that “the IACUC did not conduct appropriate reviews of animal activities for all protocols to ensure that investigators are following the approved protocol.”

A September 19 inspection at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa, noted that 22 young turkeys (“poults”) approximately two weeks old were found dead on September 1, several others appeared severely depressed, and 16 more died by September 2 (38 dead out of a flock of 53). The temperature was 64 degrees, far too cold for poults. Pathology reports found dehydration and exhaustion caused by malnutrition. The lab’s IACUC had not been notified of these deaths. The inspection noted that the facility was understaffed. Yet, an “all is well” IACUC review was dated August 31, one day before the poults were found dead or dying.

Obviously, these ARS IACUC “reviews” are a sham, making a mockery of animal welfare compliance and the law, not to mention transparency toward the public. What is clear is that the current situation, where APHIS conducts inspections at ARS labs but has no enforcement authority, is simply untenable. Agricultural research animals are already among the animals excluded from the minimal protections of the Animal Welfare Act. In light of these enormous loopholes and lack of real oversight, AWI strongly believes that the AWA must be amended to allow meaningful enforcement actions—and concomitant deterrence—at all federal research facilities that experiment on warm-blooded animals. 🐾

MONTICELLO



The grim conditions chickens already endure on factory farms are sometimes exacerbated by intentional acts of cruelty. Seven employees at a Tyson facility were convicted recently after undercover video showed them abusing birds.

CALIFORNIA FOIE GRAS BAN BACK ON TRACK

In a unanimous opinion, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision striking down California's ban on foie gras. The production of foie gras requires gavage, the forceful and often violent overfeeding of ducks or geese via a tube inserted into their throats, which causes an enlarged, fatty liver. Fowl raised for foie gras live short, painful, and sick lives.

The ban passed the state legislature in 2004 and took effect in 2012. But restaurateurs and foie gras producers sued, and won; a district court judge ruled in 2015 that foie gras was an "ingredient" in poultry products and therefore the California law was preempted by the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA). The appellate court disagreed. In the court's decision, Judge Jacqueline Nguyen wrote that the law banned a method of production, not an ingredient, adding that "the PPIA and its preemption clause do not stand in the way of society's evolving standards regarding animal treatment."

Plaintiffs filed for a rehearing *en banc* by the Ninth Circuit, urging the full court

to rethink the ruling that the state law is not preempted. Unfortunately, until the appeals process is exhausted, foie gras will remain on the menu of some California restaurants.

TYSON WORKERS CONVICTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

Seven workers at a Tyson factory farm in Virginia were recently convicted of cruelty to animals after an undercover investigation revealed severe mistreatment of chickens. In a video, the workers could be seen throwing, punching, kicking, swinging, and shoving chickens into sheds and cages. One excerpt even depicted a worker running over chickens with farm equipment. All seven of the workers received suspended sentences and were banned from work with animals for a period of at least one year.

Despite the positive outcome in this case, convictions under cruelty statutes are still rare, and punishments are often minor even when the actions involve intentional acts of shocking cruelty. AWI supports stronger enforcement of state animal cruelty

laws and wider application of such laws to cover treatment of animals on farms. Unfortunately, most of the cruel treatment farm animals are routinely subjected to is legal—exempted as "generally accepted practices" under state animal cruelty laws. And there are no federal laws governing the conditions under which farm animals are raised—a state of affairs AWI also seeks to rectify.

FIRST AMENDMENT FELLS UTAH'S AG-GAG LAW

A federal district court in Utah has ruled the state's "ag-gag" law is unconstitutional. The law made it illegal for an individual to use false pretenses to gain access to or surveil an agricultural operation. Proponents of the bill contended the law was necessary to ensure the safety of farm workers and animals, but the court found the ban violated the First Amendment's protection of free speech, noting that "suppressing broad swaths of protected speech without justification" was not a constitutionally permissible means to protect agricultural interests.

Several states have implemented similar ag-gag laws in response to undercover investigations that revealed rampant mistreatment of farm animals. These laws seek to silence whistleblowers and allow factory farms to hide inhumane conditions at their facilities. This ruling is a win for animals and their advocates in Utah, and it provides encouragement for ag-gag challenges in other jurisdictions.

Clean Plate? Lab-to-Table Meat Detours Around Animal Cruelty

Of the 9 billion land animals raised for food in the United States each year, less than 1 percent live out their lives on pasture, breathing fresh air. The vast majority reside instead within overcrowded warehouses, barely able to move or engage in natural behaviors. This industrial-scale farming causes terrible animal suffering, and has taken a tremendous toll on the environment, as well. According to a 2013 UN Food and Agriculture Organization study, animal agriculture accounts for 14.5 percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. It is also responsible for massive amounts of deforestation and water use.

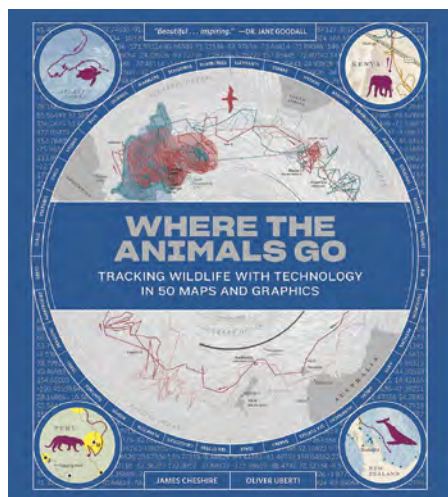
But new technology could soon change all this. A fledgling “clean meat” industry is looking to transform the way meat is produced by removing the animal altogether—growing meat straight from cells, eliminating the need for factory farming and all the harm that comes with it. Replacing animals with cell-grown meat would mean billions of animals would no longer languish on overcrowded industrialized farms. Additionally, clean meat doesn’t require use of antibiotics and has an exponentially smaller environmental impact than conventional animal agriculture. Memphis Meats, a San Francisco Bay-area start-up that is seeking to mass produce cultured meat and poultry, predicts it can deliver meat that will require *90 percent less* greenhouse gas emissions, land, and water than conventionally produced meat.

While this sounds like something that will occur far off in the future, production is already well underway. Last year, Memphis Meats rolled out the world’s first meatball from lab-grown animal cells. It has since done the same with fried chicken and duck. Meanwhile, another company, MosaMeat, based in the Netherlands, unveiled the very first cell-grown hamburger. These start-ups, among others, are focused on refining their products and decreasing production prices so that the cost to consumers will be the same or less than that of traditional meats. And this could happen extraordinarily fast; Memphis Meats estimates that their products will reach grocery stores by 2021.

Though it’s a relatively new industry, clean meat has seen astronomical growth and investment. Memphis Meats has caught the attention of billionaire investors Bill Gates and Richard Branson, the latter even claiming that he believes “in 30 years or so we will no longer need to kill any animals and that all meat will either be clean or plant-based, taste the same and also be much healthier for everyone.” Memphis Meats is also backed by DFJ, a venture capital firm that has previously invested in Twitter, Tesla, and SpaceX. The conventional meat industry itself is even jumping on board: Cargill, the world’s largest supplier of ground beef, announced this past August that it was investing in Memphis Meats.

Clean meat has the potential to be an incredibly appealing solution to one of the world’s most harrowing and complex problems. This industry is well positioned to change the entire face of meat production for the benefit of animals, the planet, and consumers. And with the demand for meat expected to increase by at least 65 percent by 2050, the timing could not be better. 🐾



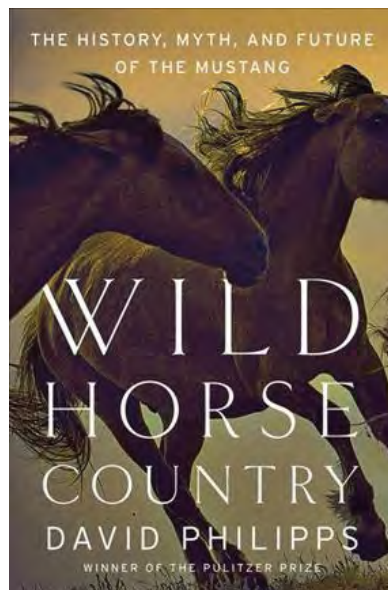


WHERE THE ANIMALS GO

James Cheshire & Oliver Uberti / W. W. Norton & Company / 192 pages

Where the Animals Go is a unique book that contains full-color maps with detailed tracking information for one after another animal species—from whales, elephants, and orangutans to turtles, ants, and plankton. The material is presented in the most beautiful and fascinating manner. Technology such as GPS, drones, satellites, and digital acoustic recording tags are benefiting animals and the people who study them by allowing the collection of data that may not have been possible before.

Individual animal movements and other behaviors are revealed: A loggerhead turtle who, despite almost 10 years in captivity, managed to migrate across the Atlantic to Cape Verde. Five Dutch terns who made the longest migration ever recorded—a 90,000 kilometer journey—from the Netherlands to Antarctica and back. A gray wolf in Croatia who traveled 1,000 kilometers, eventually settling in Verona, Italy, with a female, with whom he had multiple litters. The book follows the vertical updraft spirals made by griffon vultures, shows how crocodiles and pythons thwart forced relocation, and tracks the movement of individual elephants—identifying



those who have been harmed or killed or others whose behavior demonstrates their efforts to avoid being poached.

The window *Where the Animals Go* offers into these animals' lives is intriguing, as are the technologies used to open that window. Ultimately, it remains to be seen how this increasing wealth of information can (or will) be used to help ensure the animals' survival.

WILD HORSE COUNTRY

David Philipps / W. W. Norton & Company / 368 pages

Wild horses and settlers of the American west had a lot in common. They were tough, independent, and resourceful, with a deep need for freedom and open spaces. As more people migrated west, however, wild horses became victims of human progress. It's this story of wild horses that David Philipps adroitly describes in *Wild Horse Country: The History, Myth, and Future of the Mustang*.

Philipps effectively weaves together history, anthropology, legend, biology, politics, and ecology into a thoroughly entertaining book that traces the evolution of horses in



North America, their subsequent disappearance and return, and the rise of a horse culture among some Native American nations. The author reveals the consequences of changing American attitudes about a wild horse population that may have exceeded 2 million by the late 1800s. Once people began to perceive them as competition for livestock, however, they were increasingly treated as vermin and slaughtered, and their numbers plummeted.

Wild Horse Country is filled with interesting facts and anecdotes. The determined efforts of Frank Litts in the 1920s to destroy the Rockford, Illinois, slaughterhouse of Philip Chappel—where he processed horse meat to make Ken-L-Ration brand dog food—illustrate the conflict over our relationship with wild horses and their management. The life of Velma Johnston (a.k.a. Wild Horse Annie) is explored, from her childhood affliction with polio, to the fateful day in 1950 when she trailed a truck that was dripping blood from its cargo of wild horses destined for slaughter, to her years of advocacy culminating in the 1971 passage of the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

As wild horse numbers rebounded under the Act, their management became increasingly controversial and remains so to this day. The book describes the implications of the law for the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency now responsible for managing most wild horses, and for people like Joe Fallini, a Nevada rancher.

Philipps shows the cruelty inherent in the BLM's removal from the wild of hundreds of thousands of horses since 1971. He explains how, as wild horse adoptions declined, tens of thousands of these captured horses remain in government-subsidized long-term holding pastures. As their numbers swelled, the cost of their care increased, consuming an ever growing proportion of the BLM's budget. While conceding the difficulties the BLM faces, the author condemns the agency for its role in a number of wild horse slaughter scandals.

The book ends on a discussion of more rational solutions for wild horse management. The work of Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick and colleagues in developing the Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) immunocontraceptive vaccine is explored, as well as the

vaccine's successful use in several citizen-led campaigns to humanely manage wild horse populations, and the BLM's resistance to broader use of PZP. The book also examines the research by Dr. John W. Turner on the efficacy of letting mountain lions keep some wild horse populations in check at Montgomery Pass on the California-Nevada border.

Wild Horse Country is a valuable resource for anyone wishing to understand the considerable cruelty and mismanagement wild horses have endured and continue to endure.

SHARK LADY

Jess Keating / Sourcebooks Jabberwocky / 40 pages

When Eugenie Clark was growing up, smart girls had few career choices. Secretary? Housewife? Sure. Marine biologist? Not for girls, she was told. But Clark would not be deterred. Since her first visit to an aquarium at age 9, Clark's dream was to learn everything there was to know about her favorite animals—sharks. *Shark Lady* is a story of how one woman overcame misconceptions about both what girls can do and what sharks are like.

Clark's childhood fascination with marine life in general and sharks in particular carried over into her adult life. Despite little encouragement, and even a rejection from one university who thought it was a waste to educate girls, Clark eventually earned a PhD in zoology. Throughout her studies she was told that studying sharks was pointless because sharks were just "mindless killers." But Clark thought they were beautiful and she set out to prove they were smart, as well. Clark was the first scientist in the world to train sharks and even learned that they could remember their training for at least two months after. Her frequent scuba dives into open ocean also led her to find three new species of fish that had not been discovered before.

Beautifully illustrated, *Shark Lady* educates while it inspires. A "Shark Bites" section at the end contains "fin-tastic" shark facts to animate a future generation of marine biologists. Recommended by the publisher for ages 4 and up, *Shark Lady* teaches kids to follow their dreams, no matter what others say, and to see beauty where others may not.

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

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

Despite widespread opposition and controversy, President Trump's border wall is moving forward: Just five days after the president took office, an executive order authorizing it was signed. The order attempts to waive federal regulations designed to protect wildlife and the environment. Construction began in late September in San Diego on various wall prototypes.

National wildlife refuges are among the federally protected lands the border wall would intersect. Experts have estimated that more than 100 endangered species—including jaguars, ocelots, jaguarundis, Mexican gray wolves, desert bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelopes—will be put at risk.

Among the affected areas is the Rio Grande Valley—the only remaining US ocelot habitat and a major migratory corridor for hundreds of birds. The valley is also home to the nonprofit National Butterfly Center (NBC). The organization plants native species that attract butterflies throughout the continent where butterflies migrate. In July—without notice

to or permission from the property owner and without first complying with a myriad of federal laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Customs and Border Protection contractors started clearing significant portions of the NBC's property and began surveying for the wall. NBC director Marianna Treviño Wright demanded that they leave.

In October, the NBC sent a notice of intent to sue the Department of Homeland Security, alleging that the department violated private property rights, as well as the ESA and NEPA, by failing to study the many consequences of the wall on threatened and endangered species and failing to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine these effects and evaluate possible mitigation strategies. Lawsuits have also been filed by the California Attorney General and various other nonprofit organizations. Whatever the outcome of these suits, one thing is obvious: The border wall stands to be a huge hurdle for imperiled wildlife to overcome. 🐾