

# AWI Quarterly

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## SPOTLIGHT

### A Sustainable Future for Animals and Us

AWI couldn't achieve all we do without the support of our members, and as we move into the second half of 2024, we can celebrate our successes, continue our important work, and look forward to future opportunities to help animals. One such opportunity involves our membership in the World Federation for Animals (WFA). Founded in 2020 and comprising more than 60 groups from around the world, WFA works to integrate animal welfare into the United Nations' sustainable development agenda, including international health, food, and environmental mechanisms, and trade and development finance rules.

In May, AWI's executive director and CEO, Susan Millward, and general counsel, Robin Jacobsohn, participated in

WFA's inaugural General Assembly in Copenhagen. The two-day meeting was hosted by Animal Protection Denmark, with a keynote speech by Dan Jørgensen, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, and a video address by Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization. In addition to official business—approval of WFA statutes, election of board members, and signing of the pledge “A Promise to Animals and Our Future”—the meeting provided an opportunity for organizations around the globe to share information and experiences and form new alliances.

Susan and Robin played particularly active roles in two workshops conducted during the General Assembly: “Developing Our Shared Vision and Strategy for Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development” and “Policy Advocacy—Expanding Our Advocacy Toolbox.” They also attended a panel discussion on the “Future of Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development from a Regional Perspective,” with representatives from North America, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Latin America, and Africa addressing the unique regional challenges they face in advancing animal welfare.

Through our participation in WFA, AWI is helping ensure that humankind's vision for sustainable development encompasses a better world for people and animals alike. 🐾

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ABOUT THE COVER

These cows are being raised on pasture. Most farmed animals in the United States, however, exist within cramped, barren industrial settings, with few legal protections. In the near-complete absence of federal laws governing the on-farm treatment of animals raised for food, a scattering of states have enacted laws intended to provide various forms of protection. According to an AWI examination of records, however, actual enforcement of these laws remains spotty. Turn to page 12 for our analysis of such laws and their enforcement, as well as our recommendations for establishing stronger protections for farmed animals. Photograph by Olha Rohulya.

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## US SPENDING PACKAGE DELIVERS WINS FOR ANIMALS

Narrowly averting a government shutdown, Congress adopted a \$460 billion spending package in March that included multiple wins for animals. Among them: prohibiting the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program from using chemical poison devices such as M-44 "cyanide bombs" and Compound 1080 for predator control; blocking horse slaughter facilities from operating in the United States; expressing concern about mink farms as potential sources of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and avian influenza; directing the USDA to work with producers to develop disaster preparedness plans covering farmed animals; funding grants to assist domestic violence survivors who have pets; and defeating amendments that would have threatened the survival of two of the world's most endangered whales: the North Atlantic right whale and Rice's whale.

## GEARING UP FOR NEXT YEAR'S SPENDING CYCLE

For the upcoming fiscal year, beginning October 1, AWI provided members of Congress with a list of priorities covering the welfare of companion animals, farmed animals, marine mammals, and other wildlife. We also submitted testimony to the House and Senate appropriations committees and circulated lawmaker sign-on letters to the committees on important animal welfare issues.

Thirty-three senators and 173 representatives signed on to letters—led by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)—highlighting measures to bolster enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and the



BYRDYAK

Horse Protection Act and supporting continued funding for grants to aid domestic violence survivors and their pets. A bipartisan letter led by Reps. Don Beyer (D-VA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) requesting full funding for the Endangered Species Act was signed by 137 representatives. Fifty-three representatives joined a letter led by Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) in support of funding the Marine Mammal Commission, the Prescott Grant Program (to help stranded marine mammals), and the Unusual Mortality Event Contingency Fund. Letters led by Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)—joined by 120 representatives and 26 senators—urged inclusion in fiscal year 2025 legislation of a permanent prohibition on the domestic slaughter of horses.

Seventy-seven representatives and 15 senators signed on to letters—led by Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV), David Schweikert (R-AZ), and Steve Cohen (D-TN) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)—requesting wild horse and burro management reforms. The reforms

would ensure that the Bureau of Land Management expends a significant portion of its budget on proven and safe fertility control methods to keep herds in their natural habitat, as well as bar the use of risky surgical procedures to curb population growth.

Forty-seven representatives joined a bipartisan letter led by Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) requesting that livestock operations be required to have disaster preparedness plans in place to protect their animals as a prerequisite to receiving federal compensation for losses incurred during extreme weather events and natural disasters. AWI also worked with lawmakers to advance appropriations language calling for (1) stronger enforcement of the Twenty-Eight Hour law—the main federal statute to protect farmed animals during transport; (2) increased oversight of the handling of birds at slaughter; and (3) shifting the poultry industry away from killing animals via ventilation shutdown plus heat, an inhumane method used widely during the ongoing avian influenza outbreak to destroy flocks exposed to the virus. (See page 11.)

## NEW HPA REGULATIONS MAY FINALLY HOBBLE HORSE SORERS

A historic win for equine welfare was achieved in May when the US Department of Agriculture finalized long-awaited Horse Protection Act (HPA) regulations to protect Tennessee walking horses from the brutal practice of horse soring—whereby horses are intentionally injured on their legs and hooves to create painful areas that “enhance” their gait for competitions. These reforms represent the first major upgrade to the HPA in over 50 years, after similar regulations were frozen in 2017 by the Trump administration. Among other updates, the improved regulations will eliminate the ineffectual industry self-policing scheme, prohibit use of the pain-inflicting devices associated with soring, and bolster the ability of inspectors to detect evidence of abuse. The new rule takes effect on February 1, 2025.

## CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT REINTRODUCED

The Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 8164/S 4206) was reintroduced in May by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), with AWI’s strong endorsement. This bill would ban the private possession of nonhuman primates.

Primates’ needs are irreconcilable with the realities of captive life as pets. All too often, owners faced with the reality of an aggressive, active animal in their home will mutilate and isolate primates in an attempt to “tame” them. The animals experience physical and psychological

suffering when confronted with unrealistic expectations that they will behave like perfectly trained pets or “little humans.” Primates also pose a serious threat to the people around them (as evidenced by the hundreds of reported injuries nationwide over the last few decades) and can carry life-threatening diseases that are communicable to humans, including Ebola, tuberculosis, and the Herpes B virus.

## ANTI-WILDLIFE LEGISLATION TAKES HOLD IN THE HOUSE

The House of Representatives continues to churn out anti-wildlife measures, passing bills at the end of April to increase wolf slaughter and to prevent efforts to remove toxic lead from public lands.

One of these bills (HR 764) would remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for gray wolves in the contiguous United States and would prevent courts from

overturning this action. Such a move would be disastrous for wolf recovery. Furthermore, attempts to use legislation such as this to interfere with the sober, scientific evaluation process firmly established under the ESA, and then shielding such interference from review by federal courts would set a dangerous precedent.

HR 615, meanwhile, would prohibit two federal agencies from regulating the use of lead ammunition or fishing tackle. An estimated 10 to 20 million birds and other animals, including threatened and endangered species, die each year from lead poisoning in the United States from these sources. Comparable alternatives, such as copper and steel ammunition, are widely available and effective.

*A bill passed the House of Representatives in April that would block efforts to protect raptors and other wild animals from lead poisoning.*



MARC SCHARPING

# *Seeking Justice for Marine Mammals Harmed in Foreign Fisheries*

**T**he United States imports approximately 70 to 85 percent of the seafood Americans consume—more than 6.1 billion pounds each year, nearly half of which is wild-caught. These finfish and shellfish are harvested from all around the world and imported into the lucrative US market from approximately 130 nations. Far too often, this influx of seafood comes at a great cost to marine mammals.

Each year around the world, more than 650,000 dolphins, whales, seals, and other marine mammals die or are seriously injured in fishing gear. Ensnared in nets, entangled in fishing lines, or snagged on fishing hooks, these animals are “bycatch”—collateral damage, as it were—of commercial fisheries targeting swordfish, tuna, other finfish, shrimp, lobster, and crab. Bycatch poses the single greatest threat to marine animals both in terms of welfare and species conservation.

Most marine mammals swept up as bycatch die—either drowning at the point of entanglement or dying onboard

before being tossed aside. Those who initially “escape” entanglement may experience serious abrasions, cuts, broken bones, and even amputations. Suffering for these animals can be prolonged, with some animals dying weeks or months after the encounter.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), enacted in 1972, US fisheries are required to meet certain delineated standards that are designed to minimize bycatch of marine mammals. Foreign fisheries wishing to enter the US market must operate under similar bycatch prevention standards. Specifically, the MMPA requires the US government to “ban the importation of commercial fish or products from fish which have been caught with commercial fishing technology which results in the incidental kill or incidental serious injury of ocean mammals in excess of United States standards.”

Yet for over 50 years, the United States has, by and large, ignored this requirement. AWI and partner organizations, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources



Defense Council, have been leading the charge to get the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to follow the MMPA's mandate to prohibit seafood imports from foreign fisheries with subpar marine mammal protection standards.

With the 2016 adoption of "MMPA Import Provision" regulations, NMFS finally began taking the necessary steps to implement this critical component of the law. These regulations require foreign fisheries to provide evidence that their bycatch prevention standards measure up: Importing nations must apply for and obtain from NMFS a "comparability finding"—a determination that their standards compare favorably to the standards imposed on US fisheries under the MMPA.

However, in order to provide such nations with additional time to assess marine mammal stocks, estimate bycatch, and develop regulatory programs that mitigate that bycatch, the MMPA Import Provision regulations provided a five-year exemption period, after which NMFS was supposed to determine which foreign fisheries met US standards. Rather than adhere to this deadline, however, NMFS has granted itself three extensions to make its determinations, with the result that implementation of this vitally important rule has now been delayed until January 1, 2026. In its November 2023 notice announcing the most recent delay, the agency indicated it may also substantively amend the Import Provision regulations.

In the meantime, AWI and its partners have sought to learn as much as possible about the information NMFS currently possesses pertaining to its evaluation of foreign standards. On February 24, 2022, we submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking comparability finding applications purportedly submitted to NMFS by the governments of Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

Well past the statutory due date, NMFS provided five interim, ultimately incomplete releases of records, unlawfully withholding or redacting more than 600 records. NMFS asserted a number of exemptions to justify its withholding or redactions, including those related to privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, individual personal privacy, and interference with enforcement proceedings, which do not actually apply to the records sought. Further, NMFS failed to provide other documents responsive to the FOIA request. On February 23, 2023, AWI and partners filed an administrative appeal of NMFS's response to the FOIA request, to which NMFS failed to respond.

Thus, on April 4, 2024, AWI and partners sued NMFS under FOIA in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York over the agency's inadequate response to our request for materials pertaining to the import rule. Our lawsuit asks the court to find that NMFS's failure to timely respond to the administrative appeal was unlawful and to order NMFS to promptly provide us with all records responsive to the FOIA request.

Compelling NMFS to release these documents will allow us to gain greater insight into the information the agency has received from foreign fisheries for the purpose of making comparability findings—that is, determining whether the efforts of these nations to prevent marine mammal bycatch are sufficient to justify access to the US seafood market. 🐬

PLIEDO



*Iberian orcas are ramming boat rudders in what appears to be a dangerous form of play. Efforts to discourage this “faddish” behavior seek to protect both boaters and orcas.*

## ATLANTIC HUMPBCK DOLPHIN LISTED AS ENDANGERED

On February 20, the National Marine Fisheries Service announced its decision to list the highly imperiled Atlantic humpback dolphin as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NMFS’s decision came in response to a petition filed by AWI, the Center for Biological Diversity, and VIVA Vaquita.

Atlantic humpback dolphins feature distinctive humps on their backs topped by rounded fins. They inhabit the shallow coastal waters of West Africa, ranging from Western Sahara south to Angola, and feed primarily on mullet and other nearshore fish. Less than 3,000 are estimated to remain. In 2017, the International Union for Conservation of Nature changed the Atlantic humpback dolphin’s status on its Red List of Threatened Species from “vulnerable” to “critically endangered” and declared the species at “an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.”

The species is most threatened by fishing net entanglement, but also faces impacts—including noise—from coastal development and other human activity. The market in West Africa for Atlantic humpback dolphin meat also appears to be growing. Although their habitat lies outside US jurisdiction, an ESA listing can still play a vital role in staving off extinction—prohibiting US trade in the dolphins, promoting funding for conservation within their range, increasing global awareness, and fostering international cooperation and the sharing of scientific expertise.

## WORKSHOP ADDRESSES IBERIAN ORCA INTERACTIONS WITH BOATS

Since 2020, a critically endangered population of orcas living in the waters of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) has been interacting with vessels, primarily sailboats, ramming and damaging the rudders and sometimes disabling navigation. Seven

vessels have sunk due to the orcas’ actions. (See *AWI Quarterly*, winter 2023.) Despite the serious damage it can do to boats, this behavior appears to be play from the orcas’ point of view; the interactions should not be considered aggressive attacks. Regardless, the game is dangerous—for the whales and mariners—and the latter are eager to find a solution, before more damage is done.

AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose, with other orca experts and regional government authorities, participated in a February workshop in Madrid to discuss management measures that might mitigate and potentially end these interactions (which resumed this year with the onset of the spring sailing season) without harming the whales. The workshop’s goal was to identify two or more effective—and safe—measures that could be made available to the regional boating community as soon as possible.

This spring, researchers in Portugal and Spain launched studies to test several potential measures identified at the workshop. If the measures succeed in taking the fun out of the game, orca experts expect the behavior to fade away, as other “fads” have in other orca populations. A report from the workshop was presented to the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee this spring, and its recommendations will be considered by the IWC at its meeting later this year.

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SAYS SO LONG TO SQUALID SEAQUARIUM

Miami Seaquarium has been operating on Virginia Key in Miami-Dade County, Florida, since 1955. In March, the Miami-Dade authorities announced they would be terminating the lease agreement with the Seaquarium and gave the facility six weeks to vacate the premises.

The Seaquarium is the infamous facility where the orca Lolita—aka Tokitae—was held for 53 years in a tiny tank, before her death in August 2023. Since 2021, the Seaquarium has received a number of negative inspection reports from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the USDA agency responsible for ensuring zoos and aquariums maintain certain minimum standards. Dolphins have died after violent fights, animals have been fed rotten food, and enclosure infrastructure is literally falling apart. Local authorities finally had enough and told The Dolphin Company, the Mexican-based owner of the Seaquarium, to close up shop. The company is challenging the eviction notice in federal court.

## GRAY WHALE UNUSUAL MORTALITY EVENT DECLARED OVER

In March, the National Marine Fisheries Service publicly announced that the unusual mortality event (UME) it declared in 2019 involving eastern North Pacific gray whales is over. In consultation with the federal Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events and outside experts, NMFS determined that the increased stranding rate that triggered the UME declaration is no longer occurring.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, a UME is defined as a stranding event that is (1) unexpected, (2) involves a significant die-off of any marine mammal population, and (3) demands immediate response. If the UME working group determines that an event meets one or more of the seven UME criteria, it forwards a recommendation to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's assistant administrator for fisheries to declare a UME, prompting protection efforts.

The die-off that triggered the UME determination began in December 2018 and continued until November 2023, with peak strandings taking place December 2018 through December 2020. It involved 690 known strandings throughout the eastern North Pacific gray whale migratory route and resulted in a 46 percent population decline.

Necropsies of dead whales identified malnutrition as a common cause of death and did not detect the presence of underlying infections. Leading up to and during the UME, gray whales in Mexico

were also observed to be in poorer condition compared to prior years. A UME investigative team of scientists concluded that localized ecosystem changes—including both access to and quality of prey—in the northern Bering and Chukchi seas contributed to the poor nutritional condition observed in live and stranded gray whales. This malnutrition led to increased mortality during the whales' annual northward migration from Mexico to Alaska and to decreased production of calves.

While fewer strandings is welcome news, AWI is concerned that the UME may have been declared over prematurely, since most gray whale strandings occur during the northbound migration in the spring. Indeed, in 2024 there have already been at least 15 stranding along the US coast, 19 in Mexico, and one in Canada. Moreover, what appears to be a sizeable decline in gray whale calves—based on data collected in Mexico—suggests that something remains amiss with this species and that ongoing annual counts of adults and calves are needed to monitor the population.



ANDREA IZZOTTI

# Decoding the Minds and Hearts of Animals:

## Dr. Temple Grandin Awarded AWI's Schweitzer Medal

*"In a world where the treatment of animals is often overlooked or undervalued, Dr. Grandin stands as a beacon of compassion, empathy, and innovation."*

—Sandra Eskin, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety

Dr. Temple Grandin's pragmatic approach to giving farmed animals a life worth living has defined her advocacy efforts over the past half century. From squeezing herself into a stock chute at her aunt's ranch, to developing animal welfare scorecards for fast-food giants, to designing cattle corrals that reduce stress and improve productivity, she is exceptionally attuned to animals' needs.

A renowned animal behaviorist and autism activist, Dr. Grandin has authored hundreds of scientific articles and textbooks, consulted with agricultural companies both large and small, and educated and mentored thousands of students as a professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University. Dr. Grandin was among the first scientists to call for the phasing out of gestation crates for pregnant sows, and she is a strong proponent of transparency and auditing of animal agriculture practices.

In 2010, *Time* magazine named Dr. Grandin as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in the "heroes" category. In 2015, the World Organisation for Animal Health honored her with its Meritorious Achievement Award.

On March 14, at a ceremony in Washington, DC, AWI awarded the Schweitzer Medal to Dr. Grandin in recognition of her enduring advocacy for the humane treatment of farmed animals. Following introductory remarks by AWI's executive director and CEO, Susan Millward, Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) presented the medal to Dr. Grandin. Her "passion for relating to nonhuman animals has benefited billions of animals worldwide," he told the audience. USDA Deputy Under Secretary Eskin also spoke at the ceremony.

Shortly after AWI was founded, Dr. Albert Schweitzer—a famed scientist and humanitarian known for his philosophy focused on the value of all living things—gave the

organization permission to create a medal bearing his name and honoring his legacy. For nearly 70 years, the Schweitzer Medal has been a symbol of outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare.

Dr. Grandin has credited autism for providing her with a unique perspective in relating to nonhuman animals. "One of the things that I think has helped me in my work with animals is that I am a totally visual thinker. So the very first work I ever did, I looked at what cattle were seeing when they were going through the chutes at the feedlots to get vaccinated. ... I didn't know at the time that other people didn't think in pictures."

Throughout her long and storied career, Dr. Grandin has made it her mission to develop and encourage practical innovations to reduce the suffering experienced by the legions of animals farmed for food: "We owe them a decent life and a decent death, and their lives should be as low-stress as possible," she wrote in her 2005 bestseller, *Animals in Translation*. "That's my job." 🐾



*Millions of domestic birds continue to be killed via an extremely cruel method in an effort to contain bird flu. Meanwhile, the disease has jumped to cattle and infected dairy workers.*

## BIRD FLU AFFECTS MILLIONS OF ANIMALS, INCLUDING DAIRY COWS

Over two years have passed since the first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (or “bird flu”) was confirmed in the United States during the most recent outbreak, and the virus continues to wreak havoc on animal populations, domestic and wild. Worldwide, millions of wild birds are estimated to have died, and over 48 species of mammals have been infected.

In the United States, bird flu has triggered “depopulations” of poultry flocks, resulting in the mass killing of over 90 million birds, on farms in almost every state. Ventilation shutdown plus heat (VSD+)—halting airflow and boosting temperature until trapped animals die from heatstroke over several hours—continues to be used at an alarmingly high rate in such depopulations. Public records analyzed by AWI indicate that, from February 2022 through December 2023, at least 66 million birds—around 81 percent of those killed during this period—were killed in depopulations in which VSD+ was used for the entire flock or in at least one barn on the premises.

To add to this troubling situation, bird flu has now jumped to dairy cattle, raising concerns about food safety and transmission to humans. Since March, the bird flu virus has been confirmed in dairy herds in 12 states, and infections have been confirmed in three dairy workers—one in Texas and two in Michigan.



WE ANIMALS MEDIA

To limit the spread, the federal government has established restrictions on the interstate movement of cattle and begun testing milk samples for presence of the virus. A Food and Drug Administration study conducted in April found that one in five samples taken from the retail milk supply contained virus fragments, although the agency believes these fragments to be noninfectious.

## SHINING A LIGHT ON CO<sub>2</sub> PIG STUNNING

Mid-May marked the one-year anniversary of a rulemaking petition filed by AWI and allies asking the US Department of Agriculture to require the installation of cameras inside metal cages used to lower pigs into CO<sub>2</sub> gas stunning chambers (the most common slaughter method for pigs). Such a requirement is necessary to enable inspectors to monitor the gassing of pigs to determine whether it is humane, as mandated by the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

AWI has yet to hear from the USDA on the petition, but in recent months, there have been encouraging developments on this issue in other countries. In the United Kingdom, the documentary *Pignorant* revealed rare, undercover footage of pigs screaming and panicking as they were lowered into a CO<sub>2</sub> pit and began to experience the effects of the gas.

In Australia, following a similar undercover investigation, two major slaughter plants were investigated by meat industry regulators. One permanently ceased operations and was required to acknowledge its legal violations and pay regulators' costs to avoid criminal charges. The other was forced to make operational changes in order to remain in business. In addition, the Australian Meat Industry Council announced that, by 2026, all slaughter plants certified under the industry's welfare certification standards must install video monitors that film livestock handling from the moment animals arrive at a facility until the point of slaughter.

# AWI Report Details Feeble Enforcement of State Farmed Animal Welfare Laws

**L**egal protections for farmed animals in the United States are few and far between—especially while the animals remain on farms, prior to being transported to slaughter. No federal law explicitly regulates the on-farm treatment of animals (other than the small percentage raised organically). Instead, the scant safeguards that exist for the vast majority of farmed animals are a confusing assortment of state provisions that vary widely in their scope, strength, and enforcement.

Although all states have enacted animal cruelty laws that broadly prohibit animal abuse and neglect, most limit the extent to which such laws apply to animals raised for food. A minority of states, however, have enacted laws specifically designed to offer protections to farmed animals during the time they are on farms. These provisions generally fall into three categories: (1) minimum animal care standards (such as requirements for food, water, and veterinary care); (2) prohibitions on specific conventional industry practices (such as the use of cages for egg-laying hens or the extreme confinement of pigs); and (3) bans on the sale of products from producers that do not meet the state's care requirements (such as eggs from caged hens or pork from pigs subjected to extreme confinement).

In 2019 and 2023, AWI requested records from every state with specific on-farm animal protection laws or regulations to determine whether and to what extent they were being enforced. Encouragingly, between the two survey periods, the number of states with such laws and regulations rose from 16 to 18, and the number of provisions increased from 31 to 44. However, the records we received include evidence (often minimal) of enforcement activity involving only 12 of these 44 provisions, within 10 of the 18 states.

The following summaries briefly describe what our survey revealed about these 10 states' enforcement of the 12



provisions. For further analysis of the laws, regulations, and enforcement mechanisms in all 18 states, see our report, *Enforcement of State Farmed Animal Welfare Laws*, available online at [awionline.org/FarmWelfareStateLaws](http://awionline.org/FarmWelfareStateLaws).

## ALASKA

Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted minimum care standards in 2017 that cover all animals, including specific provisions for cattle and other ruminants and pigs. The records received from the DEC were in the form of emails showing that the DEC received 10 complaints between August 2019 and February 2023 from private citizens and employees of other state agencies. Of those, four complaints related to concerns about living conditions of reindeer, elk, horses, bison, and cattle. The records did not indicate the outcome of any of the complaints, and Alaska's response suggested general confusion regarding which state authorities had jurisdiction to investigate or enforce the care standards.

## ARIZONA

Arizona prohibits the in-state use of crates for gestating sows and veal calves, and requires that egg-laying hens be raised in accordance with the general animal care guidelines of the United Egg Producers trade association and—as of October 2022—given at least one square foot of space. Since that date, all eggs sold in the state must also come from hens housed in this manner. The Arizona Department of Agriculture did not release any records related to the enforcement of the crate prohibitions and reported no violations of its egg-laying hen standards. Regarding the sales ban, the records

indicated that, of 30 holds put on batches of eggs for lack of proof of compliance, 23 were withdrawn after compliance was demonstrated, four were released because the eggs were packaged prior to the law's effective date, two resulted in the destruction of the eggs on location, and one resulted in the eggs being returned to the producer.

#### CALIFORNIA

California has enacted more legal protections for farmed animals than any other state. Most recently, in September 2022, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) finalized regulations enforcing Proposition 12, a ballot measure that established minimum space requirements for breeding sows, egg-laying hens, and calves raised for veal. It also prohibited the sale of pork, eggs, and veal from animals raised in intensive confinement, regardless of origin. Despite the state's many legal requirements, however, the CDFA provided very little evidence of enforcement. The department indicated it was conducting one investigation into a violation of the Prop 12 egg regulations; it provided no records related to violations of any other farmed animal provisions.

#### COLORADO

Colorado has prohibited the in-state use of gestation and veal crates since 2012. A violation of either prohibition is a misdemeanor; however, neither statute requires producers to affirmatively confirm compliance. Instead, enforcement occurs in response to complaints. Thus, unsurprisingly, there were no records of any violations.

In 2020, Colorado also enacted a law phasing out the in-state production and sale of eggs from caged hens. Regulations require farmers whose eggs will be produced or sold in the state to apply for and obtain a certificate of compliance. The state records officer indicated that the department had thus far received 154 applications and issued 75 certificates.

#### INDIANA

Indiana's Board of Animal Health (BOAH) adopted regulations requiring minimum standards of care for farmed animals in 2011. Records indicated that, between September 2019 and the end of 2022, BOAH conducted 149 welfare-related investigations, 39 of which resulted in oral or written

## Enforcement of State Farm Animal Protection Laws

| STATE      | TYPE OF PROTECTION           | YEAR(S) EFFECTIVE** | HOW ENACTED            | EVIDENCE OF STATE ENFORCEMENT? |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alaska     | Animal care standard         | 2017                | Legislation/regulation | Yes                            |
| Arizona    | Gestation crate ban          | 2013                | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Veal calf crate ban          | 2013                | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Hen housing standards*       | 2009/2022           | Legislation/regulation | No                             |
|            | Caged egg product sales ban  | 2022–2025           | Regulation             | Yes                            |
| California | Gestation crate ban*         | 2015/2021–24        | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Veal calf crate ban          | 2015/2021           | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Hen housing standards        | 2015/2021           | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Cattle tail docking ban      | 2010                | Legislation            | No                             |
|            | Caged egg product sales ban* | 2015/2021           | Legislation            | Yes                            |
|            | Veal sales ban               | 2019–24             | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Pork sales ban               | 2021–24             | Ballot measure         | No                             |
|            | Foie gras sales ban          | 2012                | Legislation            | No                             |

|               |                                                          |           |                        |     |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----|
| Colorado      | Gestation crate ban                                      | 2018      | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Veal calf crate ban                                      | 2012      | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Hen housing standards                                    | 2023–2025 | Legislation            | Yes |
|               | Caged egg product sales ban                              | 2023–2025 | Legislation            | Yes |
| Florida       | Gestation crate ban                                      | 2008      | Ballot measure         | No  |
| Indiana       | Animal care standards                                    | 2011      | Legislation/regulation | Yes |
| Kentucky      | Animal care standards                                    | 2014      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
|               | Veal calf crate ban                                      | 2018      | Regulation             | No  |
| Louisiana     | Animal care standards                                    | 2013      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
| Maine         | Gestation crate/veal crate ban                           | 2011      | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Hen housing standards                                    | 2010      | Nonbinding legislation | No  |
| Massachusetts | Gestation crate/veal crate ban/<br>hen housing standards | 2022      | Ballot measure         | No  |
|               | Veal sales ban                                           | 2022      | Ballot measure         | No  |
|               | Caged egg product sales ban                              | 2022      | Ballot measure         | Yes |
| Michigan      | Veal calf crate ban                                      | 2012      | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Gestation crate ban                                      | 2020      | Legislation            | No  |
| New Jersey    | Animal care standards                                    | 2011      | Legislation/regulation | Yes |
|               | Routine tail docking ban                                 | 2011      | Regulation             | No  |
| Nevada        | Hen housing standards                                    | 2022–2024 | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Caged egg product sales ban                              | 2022–2024 | Nonbinding legislation | No  |
| Ohio          | Animal care standards                                    | 2011      | Legislation/regulation | Yes |
|               | Veal calf crate limitations                              | 2018      | Regulation             | No  |
|               | Tail docking ban                                         | 2011      | Regulation             | Yes |
| Oregon        | Gestation crate ban                                      | 2012      | Legislation            | No  |
|               | Hen housing standards                                    | 2012      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
| Rhode Island  | Gestation crate ban                                      | 2013      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
|               | Veal calf crate ban                                      | 2013      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
|               | Cattle tail docking ban                                  | 2012      | Legislation/regulation | No  |
|               | Animal care standards                                    | 2014      | Legislation/regulation | Yes |
| Washington    | Hen housing standards*                                   | 2012/2024 | Legislation            | No  |
| West Virginia | Animal care standards                                    | 2015      | Legislation/regulation | Yes |

\*Statute and requirements were modified during the survey period. \*\*Years separated by a slash indicate multiple laws enacted on this type of protection. Years separated by a dash indicate a phase-in period for a single law.



warnings. Under the law, BOAH has the authority to impose penalties or seek court orders to ensure that minimum care standards were met. However, AWI received no record of either BOAH or law enforcement imposing any penalty or issuing any corrective order under the animal care standards. Instead, poor treatment of farmed animals was punished only when it amounted to a violation of the state's animal cruelty statutes.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts voters approved an initiative in 2016 prohibiting (1) confinement of animals in a manner that prevents them from “lying down, standing up, fully extending limbs, or turning around freely” and (2) the sale of products derived from animals so confined. In 2021, the legislature shifted enforcement authority from the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR); thus, during the survey period, both the AGO and MDAR held enforcement authority. In response to AWI's request for records, the AGO provided a single letter sent to Costco following a self-reported violation. MDAR said it had no responsive records.

#### NEW JERSEY

New Jersey has the most extensive history of enforcing farmed animal care standards. New Jersey Department of Agriculture regulations adopted in 1996 direct any state or local authority (such as the state veterinarian) that determines a severe violation has occurred to initiate enforcement or penalty proceedings. Records produced by the department indicate that, between September 2019 and the end of 2022, there were 129 farmed animal welfare investigations. Of those, 44 resulted in corrective actions taken by the department, including warnings and referrals to law enforcement for prosecution.

#### OHIO

Ohio established the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board in 2009. AWI and other animal protection organizations urged the board to enact strong standards, with some success: Veal crates and tail docking of dairy cattle were phased out by the end of 2017, and gestation crates must be phased out by 2025. The Ohio Department of Agriculture investigates complaints and enforces rules adopted by the board. Between September 2019 and March 2023, the department conducted 101 investigations, 36 of which resulted in notices of violation. Fines, however, were levied in only five cases.

#### RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island adopted minimum farmed animal care standards in 2016. In addition, it enacted laws prohibiting tail docking of dairy cattle and the use of gestation crates and veal crates in 2012 and 2019, respectively. During the survey period, the state's Division of Agriculture issued 12 notifications of intent to enforce; however, only one resulted in a finding of violation and a \$500 penalty.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia adopted minimum livestock care standards in 2015. The governing statute directs complaints to be filed with local law enforcement and forwarded to the state's Department of Agriculture and its Livestock Care Standards Board. In response to AWI's request, the state provided records indicating that, during the survey period, 10 complaints had been lodged relating to the care standards. However, the records contained no details of the investigations or their dispositions, because after (and likely in response to) the release of AWI's first survey, the West Virginia legislature passed a law exempting those records from public disclosure.

In sum, although several new laws have passed since AWI's last survey, there does not appear to be a significant increase in enforcement, and enforcement in many states continues to be lacking. All of these protection laws—whether minimum livestock care standards, prohibitions on extreme confinement, or sales bans related to such prohibitions—have the potential to improve the welfare of a significant portion of the billions of farmed animals raised in the United States. However, the way the laws are drafted (for example, whether they actively require producers to demonstrate compliance, or passively rely on the submission of complaints), and the extent to which they are enforced, can determine their efficacy. Animal advocates, legislators, and policymakers should look carefully at how states have crafted and implemented these laws, learn from their shortcomings and strengths, and use that information to inform the development of additional, impactful provisions in the future. 🐾

## AWI WINS EDUCATOR'S CHOICE AWARD

At the annual Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) Educator's Choice Awards in April, AWI took home the top prize in the category "Best Education Resources" for our suite of lesson plans aimed at teaching compassion and empathy for all living beings and respect for their habitats. The awards are voted on by humane educators from across the United States. AWI was also selected as a finalist in another category, "Best Book for Young Children," for *Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person*.

## DISSECTION ALTERNATIVE PLANS NOW AVAILABLE

AWI recently added several dissection alternative lessons to the collection of free educational materials available on our website, as well as to our page on the Teachers Pay Teachers website. These plans, which cover frog, rat, and fetal pig anatomy and body systems, were created by Elisabeth Ormandy, a scientist and nonprofit leader who generously provided them

for AWI to share with educators in need of alternatives to once-living specimens. The workbooks can be used in conjunction with paper models and dissection apps or on their own. The plans, as well as other lesson plans, books, and materials, are available at [awionline.org/teaching-resources](http://awionline.org/teaching-resources).

## AWI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

AWI is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's AWI Scholarship, helping students pursue career opportunities focused on improving animal welfare:

**Siraj Gandhi** of New Jersey, who helped shut down a local park's three animal exhibits that had appalling living conditions.

**Emily Comar** of Washington, DC, an intern who planned educational activities for the Smithsonian Institution's National Insect Day.

**Robert Berlage** of Illinois, a nature center volunteer who helped create an innovative opportunity for high school students to design animal enrichment activities.

**Rebecca Rhodes** of Washington, who completed the rigorous requirements of the Leaders for Ethics, Animals, and the Planet (LEAP) training program.

**Julia Jackson** of North Carolina, who has taken on a range of projects to benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat and volunteered at companion animal rescues.

**Janelly Villalobos** of Indiana, who organized an event for the Nala Fund that raised thousands of dollars to provide financial assistance for medical care of companion animals.

**Claire Lignore** of Oregon, a long-time shelter volunteer and now youth mentor, whose future aspirations include helping to protect endangered species.

**Rylan Garrett** of Virginia, who has received his veterinary assistant certification and who, at age 12, organized a community recycling program and now volunteers at a wildlife rehabilitation center.

**Katherine Fournier** of Missouri, who has raised awareness of lead poisoning in birds and hopes to combine science and public policy to generate meaningful improvements for animals in her career.

**Cathrine Lamprecht** of Florida, who recruited fellow students to work with rescue animals and handle other shelter tasks at her local humane society.

**Luke Andersen** of Missouri, who is known in his rural community as the person to call when animals need help—from saving calves born in dangerously cold temperatures to assisting law enforcement officials in safely removing horses from roadways.

**Claudia Metge** of South Carolina, who has worked as a shelter volunteer for three years and fosters cats and kittens at her home.

For more information on the AWI Scholarship, see [awionline.org/scholarship](http://awionline.org/scholarship).



REELIDEAL IMAGES

# Low-Stress Livestock Handling to Deter Predators

by Dr. Naomi Louchouart, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In the Northern Rocky Mountains, ranchers raising livestock on public lands often advocate the use of lethal control measures to protect their livestock and control large carnivores. While large carnivore attacks on livestock are far from the primary threat to livestock health, the perception of them as a malicious force on the landscape has put the return of these predators at risk. Federal and local governments in the United States and Canada have allowed lethal control to various degrees to ostensibly reduce the risks of attacks on livestock.

But is lethal control really the best way to stop large carnivore attacks? A group of researchers led by Drs. Lily van Eeden, Jennifer Miller, Ann Eklund, and Adrian Treves published a metareview in *PLOS Biology* in 2018 examining the literature on different forms of livestock protection from large carnivores. They found that in 45 percent of cases, lethal control either did not change or actually increased the risk of attacks by carnivores on livestock. The scientists called for additional research on carnivore deterrence methods to improve livestock and carnivore coexistence.

Using funds from the Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, I was able to conduct the first gold-standard study on one such method of carnivore deterrence in Alberta, Canada. In this study, I collaborated with Dr. Adrian Treves of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Joe Engelhart, an Albertan rancher, to develop an experiment testing a nonlethal method of range riding known as low-stress livestock handling (L-SLH) that focuses on the cattle, not the carnivores. The method was first developed by Dr. Temple Grandin and Bud Williams as a way

to reduce the stress livestock experience on the range and improve their health while deterring carnivores.

Mr. Engelhart is one of the few ranchers in North America employing L-SLH. To maintain low stress in his herds, he monitors his cattle often, encourages them to stay closely bunched, and allows them to determine the pace as they move between pastures. This method allows the cattle to act more as a wild herd and minimize their own vulnerability to predator attacks. Traditionally, ranchers move their cattle as quickly as possible between pastures. This causes them to resist herding, which is counterproductive to protecting them from carnivores.

In this study, we hired additional range riders and designed a randomized controlled experiment to test the effectiveness of L-SLH at deterring a suite of large carnivores: wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and coyotes. Of our eight treatment and control herds, all were subject to routine observation by Mr. Engelhart approximately every nine days while our treatment herds were observed every one to three days by two newly trained range riders. All eight herds were subject to treatment and control conditions during the study.

While no livestock were lost from either our treatment or control herds during the experimental trials, carnivores were consistently observed around all herds. We found that thousands of cattle can be safely grazed on public lands using L-SLH. This gold standard experiment demonstrates that L-SLH, even with a smaller number and relatively inexperienced riders, can keep livestock safe from predator attack under conditions that are less stressful for them. This benefits the livestock and promotes peaceful coexistence with native carnivores. 🐾



# A LUXURY WE CAN'T AFFORD:

## Seeking to Extinguish Trade in Exotic Skins

It's no skin off *their* backs. That's why the multibillion-dollar, luxury fashion accessories market continues to peddle shoes, wallets, gloves, purses, and belts made from exotic animal skins to those consumers who still desire such goods and can afford the hefty price tag. Every year, millions of crocodiles, alligators, lizards, snakes, and other wild animals are brutally killed to manufacture high-end products intended to serve as conspicuous indicators of exalted style and status.

Across three continents, animals slaughtered for their skins routinely endure horrific abuse at production facilities linked to major fashion houses, including some that tout their animal welfare records. Although nearly every major designer and retailer has stopped using skins from foxes, minks, seals, and other furbearers—and far fewer people are willing to wear such products due to highly publicized cruelty investigations and the massive carbon footprint of fur farms—major fashion brands still routinely use exotic skins from other animals. LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton (the world's largest luxury goods conglomerate) and fellow holdouts Hermès, Prada, and Kering (which produces the Balenciaga, Gucci, and Yves Saint Laurent brands) continue to profit from profoundly cruel products that threaten the very existence of an increasing number of species.

AWI recently joined a coalition of animal welfare and conservation organizations determined to topple the cruel and unnecessary exotic-skins industry. The coalition is urging compassionate consumers to never buy or wear exotic skins, to educate others about the culture of lawlessness and immense suffering inherent to the exotic-skins trade, and to pressure companies through petitions and other methods to sever ties with the industry.

### Miserable Life, Miserable Death

Investigative footage obtained by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has repeatedly revealed that alligators raised for their skins are often packed together in pools of fetid water, which is not only inhumane but also a breeding ground for disease. Similarly, crocodiles by the thousands are confined to concrete pits from birth until slaughter, and are denied even the most basic comforts, including clean drinking water and veterinary care.

Both alligators and crocodiles held in facilities that supply the fashion industry are typically electroshocked, are stabbed in the back of the neck, or have a metal rod jammed into and down their spinal canal. They are then skinned—sometimes while still alive.

Most snakes in the exotic-skins trade are captured from their natural habitat. Others raised in captivity are forced to spend their lives in small, barren boxes or cages. To make them easier to skin, workers often inflate live and unstunned snakes with air or water using a compressor. They are also commonly nailed to trees and slit open from end to end while alive. Due to their slow metabolisms, it can take them anywhere from hours to *weeks* to die.

Industry workers have been documented bludgeoning struggling lizards before hacking their heads off with machetes. Since decapitation does not cause instantaneous death in lizards, their brains are able to register physical pain and psychological stress after decapitation.

More recently, workers at two Thai facilities were observed pinning struggling pythons down by the neck, bashing them



on the head with a hammer, and ramming metal hooks through their heads. One of the facilities claimed to hold 15,000 snakes, including 2,000 females used for breeding.

### Regulatory Limits

Although the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) requires certain aspects of international trade to be carried out in a humane manner, the global agreement is limited in scope and only applies to listed species. Additionally, the wildlife trade's complexity and lack of transparency often make it exceedingly difficult to discern whether the animals were captive-bred or wild-caught, and how they were handled and killed.

Illegal trade in exotic skins is rampant, with poor policing, weak penalties, and a lack of accountability throughout the supply chain. For example, while trade in anacondas and crocodiles is covered by CITES, it is estimated that for every animal legally bred in captivity for the exotic-skins trade, another will be illegally taken from the wild. Of the top six countries exporting reptile skins (Colombia, Indonesia, the United States, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Argentina), five are also the top sources of illegal skins.

Moreover, the international wildlife trade can lead to outbreaks of zoonotic (animal-borne) diseases. “Wet” markets, where live animals—including wild species—are sold for human consumption, are breeding grounds for zoonotic pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, which caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The farms that supply exotic skins can pose similar risks due to cramped quarters, stressed animals, and extensive human contact with the animals.

### Day of Reckoning?

Removing wildlife from landscapes can plunge ecosystems into disarray. Reptiles play a critical ecological role. They consume rodents and insects that can harm agricultural production and transmit disease to humans, and in turn are consumed by birds of prey and other predators. They also reduce carrion, control insect populations, and help maintain plant diversity by spreading seeds and cycling nutrients through ecosystems.

Trapping devices used to catch reptiles, including snares and nets, often capture nontarget species as well, which can further erode ecosystem health. Considering the myriad other threats to reptiles, including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, climate change, disease, capture for the pet or venom trade, and killing for food or out of fear, the extirpation (local extinction) of many species is all but assured without dramatic, immediate action.



Top: Crocodile pens in Zimbabwe. Bottom: Stacks of salted alligator skins in Texas. These images are stills from an undercover PETA video, online at [vimeo.com/487892574](https://vimeo.com/487892574) (WARNING: includes graphic, disturbing scenes of skinning process).

Fortunately, a day of reckoning could be coming for exotic-skins fashions, similar to what precipitated the downfall of the fur industry. Many fashion brands—including Chanel, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Diane von Furstenberg, Victoria Beckham, Jil Sander, Vivienne Westwood, Tory Burch, Marc Jacobs, and Brooks Brothers—have refused to use exotic skins. Likewise, Helsinki Fashion Week, Melbourne Fashion Week, and Stockholm Fashion Week have banned exotic skins from runways.

Caring consumers can help keep this momentum going by choosing durable, sustainable alternatives such as vegan leather made from eco-friendly plants, refusing to purchase items from companies involved in the cruel exotic-skins trade (while encouraging friends and family to do the same), and visiting AWI's Action Center at [awionline.org/skins-trade](https://awionline.org/skins-trade) to send a clear message to industry holdouts that wild animal parts have no place in fashion. 🐾



WYOMING GAME AND FISH

## Howl for Justice for Tortured Wyoming Wolf

Earlier this year, a horrific scene of torment and death unfolded in Daniel, Wyoming. According to multiple news reports and videos posted online, over the span of hours, a man named Cody Roberts terrorized a young female wolf by relentlessly chasing her with a snowmobile and running her over with the machine, resulting in such grievous injuries that she struggled to maintain consciousness. This man then taped her mouth shut, transported her crippled body to his home and then to a bar, where he paraded her around, holding her sagging torso and drooping head up for photos while he smiled and laughed. Finally, he dragged her outside and killed her.

We can only imagine her sheer terror as she battled exhaustion, desperately and futilely attempting to outrun a machine capable of speeds of over 100 mph; her all-consuming agony as the snowmobile pummeled her body, likely inflicting deep wounds, broken bones, and internal bleeding; her confusion and misery as Roberts subjected her to hours of heartless ridicule and further pain; her fear and hopelessness in her final moments before she was brutally killed.

We lament the life she should have had, and the family she left behind. She should have spent that day, and all her days to come, playing with her family, roaming her territory, hunting with her pack, and, when she matured, possibly finding a mate and becoming a mother. That day, her pack lost a daughter, a sister, an aunt. Perhaps they witnessed what happened to her, helpless and unable to save her. Perhaps they will never know what happened to her, their searching howls returned only with silence. Inevitably, her pack will suffer without her, as all members of this highly social species have an important role to play in ensuring the health and safety of their family.

Roberts tortured and killed this young wolf for no reason beyond his own perverted amusement, and because he could.

Local prosecutors declined to bring cruelty charges, citing inapplicability of the state's anti-cruelty statute. In the end, Roberts received a mere \$250 fine for illegally possessing warm-blooded wildlife.

Although state officials condemned Roberts's actions, Wyoming's management of gray wolves has perpetuated such sickening practices. Across 85 percent of Wyoming, wolves can be killed in virtually unlimited numbers by virtually unrestricted methods, including with vehicles, helicopters, strangling snares, and bone-crushing steel-jaw leghold traps.

Please honor this young wolf's memory, and the lives of all wolves at risk of a similar fate, by taking the following actions:

- Contact the Wyoming Governor's Office (307-777-7434; [sara.dirienzo1@wyo.gov](mailto:sara.dirienzo1@wyo.gov)) and the Wyoming Legislature's Agriculture Committee and its Travel, Recreation, and Wildlife Committee via the Wyoming Legislative Service Office (307-777-7881): Request a ban on snowmobiles and vehicles as a hunting method, humane management of gray wolves, and stronger anti-cruelty statutes that cover predatory animal abuse.
- Contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (307-777-4600; [wgfd.wyo.gov/contact-us](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/contact-us)): Urge support for a ban on snowmobiles and vehicles as a hunting method and for humane management of gray wolves.
- Contact the Wyoming Tourism Office (307-777-7777; [tourism@wyo.gov](mailto:tourism@wyo.gov)): Inform them how this incident and gray wolf management policies negatively impact your plans to visit and spend money in the state.

Thank you for helping create a better future for Wyoming's wolves. 🐾

## CRITICAL NEPA REGULATIONS RESTORED

The Biden administration released its final phase II rule updating regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), our country's basic charter for the protection of the environment. This completes a multi-phased process to restore this foundational law, which was dramatically weakened in 2020 under the Trump administration.

The new regulations reinstate informed agency decision-making, transparency, and public involvement to their rightful places in the NEPA process. They require federal agencies conducting NEPA analyses of proposed projects to consider their ramifications for threatened and endangered species and habitat, climate change, and environmental justice, while also requiring meaningful consultation with impacted communities, including Native American tribes.

The move restores the public's ability to raise concerns about destruction of wildlife habitat and loss of biodiversity, declines in air and water quality, and harm to public health, particularly in communities of color, which for

decades have disproportionately shouldered the burden of toxic pollution in their neighborhoods. AWI routinely relies on this law to provide input on administrative rulemaking and engage in litigation involving wildlife management.

## NEW ESA REGULATIONS FALL SHORT

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have released new Endangered Species Act regulations that reinstate some critical protections for imperiled species and their habitats, yet fail to reverse many of the dangerous rollbacks implemented by the previous administration.

The new regulations confirm that economic factors should not be considered in listing decisions and restore broad automatic protections for threatened species as they wait for the USFWS to promulgate protections tailored to the species. Unfortunately, the rules still allow for piecemeal destruction of essential habitat, do not ensure adequate consideration of the full scope of a project's consequences, permit offsite mitigation to compensate

for onsite harm to species, and do not fully restore important expert consultation requirements. These deficits leave species vulnerable to ever-increasing threats, particularly from habitat loss exacerbated by climate change.

## PARTIAL PROTECTION FOR AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

The US Fish and Wildlife Service released a final rule that provides important additional Endangered Species Act protections for imperiled African elephants. However, the agency failed to prohibit the import of wild-caught elephants for display in zoos, along with sport-hunted elephant trophies.

The capture and removal of wild elephants from close-knit family herds is traumatic for both the captured individuals and the remaining herd. Elephants are highly unsuited to captivity and inevitably suffer in zoos, which cannot meet the complex cognitive and social needs of the species. Trophy hunting also harms the structure and viability of wild elephant populations. And while trophy hunting proponents often tout its supposed contributions to conservation and local economies, studies show these claims to be vastly overstated.

Nevertheless, the final rule does contain many improvements to current US elephant import policies, including (1) requiring exporting range states to provide information about their elephant conservation efforts; (2) requiring all US facilities receiving live elephants to be "suitably equipped to house and care for them"; and (3) by 2026, allowing non-ivory elephant imports only from countries with domestic laws that conform to requirements under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.



DWUSSMAN

# AWI Supporters Underwrite New Life for Animals Retired from Laboratories

In AWI's November 2022 Giving Tuesday campaign, we asked our supporters to contribute to our fundraising drive on behalf of verified sanctuaries that care for and rehabilitate animals retired from laboratories. In addition to proper enrichment, shelter, food, and regular veterinary care, these animals are often in need of socialization as they adjust to a new life away from the confines and stresses of the laboratory.

We were elated by the response, as a multitude of compassionate individuals sent in donations. With an additional \$10,000 kicked in by AWI, we were able to distribute a total of \$70,000 to three worthy organizations. Here is how the funds were used by these entities to address the physiological and psychological needs of these animals and provide them with much-deserved TLC:

**Primates Incorporated (Westfield, WI)** offers sanctuary for monkeys coming from research facilities, private homes, and the entertainment industry. With the Giving Tuesday contribution, they were able to build two new outdoor enclosures, three elevated walkways, and socialize three monkeys from labs into bonded pairs (with the addition of a fourth monkey from the pet trade).

“Thank you so much for your generous contribution to cover costs relating to caring for monkeys from laboratories—for helping make this happen and for all that you do for animals!”  
—Amy Kerwin, Primates Incorporated president and founder

Hanu and Rocky (top) and Ganesh and Junior (bottom) enjoy life in the open air at Primates Incorporated.



**New Life Animal Sanctuary (Lake Elsinore, CA)** cares for and rehabilitates animals from laboratories, including pigs and rabbits, and is one of the only sanctuaries that takes in rodents used in research. In 2023, they were able to secure the release of 12 rabbits, two dogs, and three mini pigs from laboratories. The funds they received from this campaign helped cover expenses for transport, medical care, spay and neutering, and all the basics for these newcomers; food, bedding, and enrichment for all their residents for several months; and the maintenance and upgrades to enclosures necessary to keep the animals safe.

“Many, many thanks to AWI for a very generous grant last year. And thanks to all of your wonderful supporters!”

—Gina Lynn, New Life Animal Sanctuary executive director and founder



One of two surgical tables purchased by Peaceable Primate Sanctuary for their new Primate Wellness Center.

**Peaceable Primate Sanctuary (Winamac, IN)**

takes in macaques and baboons from university labs, roadside zoos, and private owners. The donations received allowed them to purchase a surgical light, two surgical tables, an X-ray table, and cabinets for their newly constructed “Vie Bonum” Primate Wellness Center.

“This building and new medical equipment will elevate the care for our retirees. You have no idea how grateful we are for your support; we owe AWI the biggest thanks.”

—Scott Kubisch, Peaceable Primate Sanctuary director and founder

AWI thanks all those who donated to the cause so that these animals can live out their lives in a peaceful, nurturing environment among others of their kind. 🐾

## AWI ANNOUNCES REFINEMENT RESEARCH AWARD AND IMPLEMENTING REFINEMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

AWI is pleased to announce the most recent recipients of the Refinement Research Award, which funds research projects that develop or test novel refinement methods, and the inaugural Implementing Refinement Grant, which funds the purchase of equipment or training to enable the implementation of existing refinement methods, to improve the welfare of animals used in research.

### Refinement Research Award Recipients

**Dr. Robert Gerlai of the University of Toronto Mississauga** for developing new handling methods to reduce stress and anxiety in zebrafish.

**Dr. Kristina Horback of the University of California, Davis** for studying the impact of enriched housing on the learning ability, social behavior, and overall welfare of laboratory-housed sows.

### Implementing Refinement Grant Recipients

**Dr. Sarah Baert of the University of Guelph** to establish a positive reinforcement training program that allows rats to live in a free-range system and be caught and handled easily.

**Dr. Courtney Glavis-Bloom of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies** to purchase touchscreen computers to promote enrichment and measure cognitive decline in marmosets.

**Anna Jimenez and Dr. Marie-Chantal Giroux of McGill University** to purchase transparent handling tunnels as a less-stressful alternative to picking up mice by their tails.

**Dr. Kathy Lapointe of the University of Montreal** to develop and implement



FILIN174

a physical therapy program to reduce muscle atrophy and increase psychological stimulation among cats, dogs, and horses used for teaching at the university's veterinary school.

**Rochelle Moore of the University of Utah** to purchase a 3D printer to print custom caps that cover and protect cranial implants and surrounding tissue in rhesus macaques.

**Dr. Catherine Schuppli of the University of British Columbia** to purchase larger cages and enrichment activities for rats and mice to engage in burrowing, climbing, and exploration.

Applications for the next Refinement funding cycle will be available in late summer/early fall 2024.

## ONLINE MARKETPLACE MAY HELP REDUCE ANIMAL USE

A new global online marketplace that allows researchers to sell unused animal samples to other labs is being launched. Called aRukon, the free platform was created by biomedical

researcher Dr. Javier Burgos of Spain's Jaume I University, who wants samples sitting unused in laboratories' storage and freezers to be utilized by other researchers. In addition to reducing waste and costs, the program aims to reduce overall animal use in research. Scientists can sell a variety of animal samples—from fluids to whole organs—at a price of their choosing, but that price should be substantially less than the cost of purchasing a "new" animal, according to Burgos, to discourage profit. For a commission, aRukon will transport the sample to the buyer.

The platform will require sellers to attest that their samples were attained in compliance with their country's animal welfare laws. Each sample will be accompanied by information about the animal from which it was taken (e.g., species, sex, age), the organ from which it was obtained, and the procedures performed on the animal.

As of March, scientists from 30 universities, research centers, and companies in Spain, and two outside of Spain, had already signed up.

# SOCIAL HOUSING STATUS OF PRIMATES IN LABS:

## *Effects on Compassion Fatigue*

by Lace E. Logan, Dr. Lara K. Ault, and Dr. Keith W. Burton

This study, which was funded by a Refinement Grant from AWI, examined the impact of nonhuman primate social housing status on compassion fatigue in laboratory animal care professionals, who are at an elevated risk of experiencing this condition. Compassion fatigue is a consequence of stress that results from caring for suffering individuals, leading to a gradual erosion of empathy and compassion.

The study explored how animal care professionals' understanding of nonhuman primate social housing may influence compassion fatigue. The extent of participants' understanding of social housing was assessed via a series of questions probing their knowledge of the impacts of social housing on the welfare of nonhuman primates; for example, whether social housing "is necessary for psychological health," "harmful," "increases chronic stress," or "decreases chronic stress." Forty-five National Primate Research Center employees were surveyed.

The hypothesis that animal care professionals working mostly with single-housed nonhuman primates would experience higher levels of compassion fatigue could not be tested because only four participants worked with more (i.e., greater than 50 percent) single-housed primates than social-housed primates. However, when comparing individuals who worked with a lower percentage of social-housed primates to those working with a greater percentage of social-housed primates, it was found that those who worked with more social-housed primates had a better understanding of nonhuman primate social housing ( $p = .04$ ), and that a better understanding of nonhuman primate social housing was associated with higher levels of compassion fatigue ( $p = .002$ ).

Finally, the scores for compassion satisfaction, which is the pleasure one derives from the work that one does, were overwhelmingly high among participants. All participants scored average or high on the compassion satisfaction scale, indicating that many animal care professionals find their work fulfilling and meaningful.

This study suggests that people working in areas with more single-housed animals are less exposed to the benefits of social housing and thus may be less aware of its importance for psychological and physiological health. The results also

suggest that as people become more knowledgeable about the importance of nonhuman primate social housing, they could be more heavily impacted by caring for them.

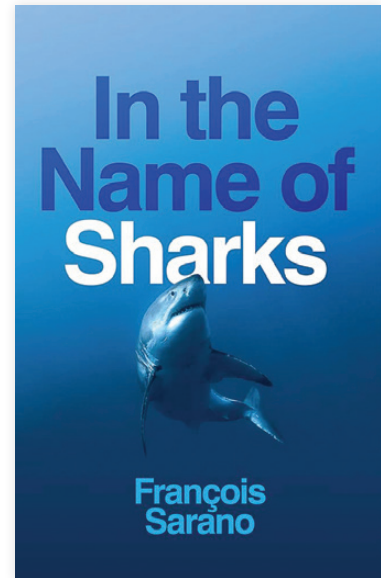
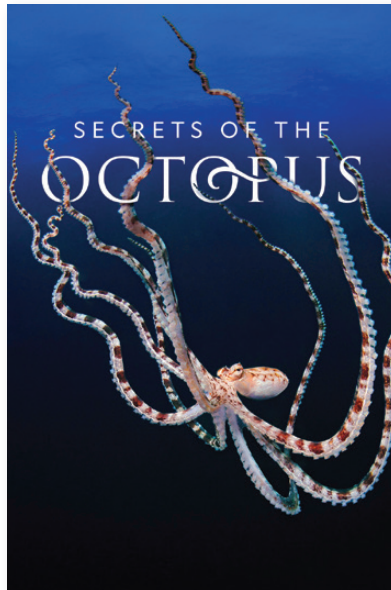
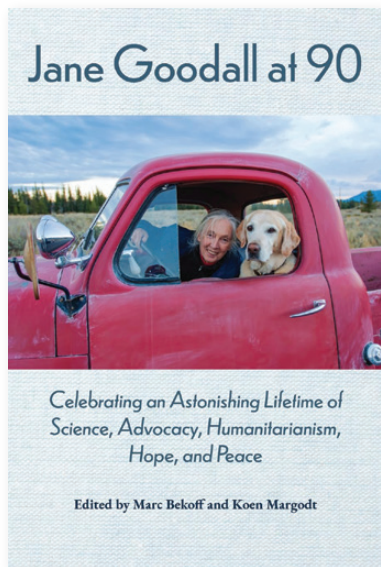
This study has certain limitations, such as a homogenous sample that hindered testing the second hypothesis. It also relied on self-reported data, which may not always be completely accurate. Additionally, we acknowledge that individuals who left the profession due to compassion fatigue may not have been included in this study population.

In conclusion, this study highlights the importance of considering the welfare of laboratory animals and understanding the impact on animal care professionals' mental health. By addressing these factors, employers can work to reduce compassion fatigue and create a more positive working environment for animal care professionals. 🐾

*Lace E. Logan is a senior research assistant/pairing specialist at Texas Biomedical Research Institute and a PhD student at Texas State University. Drs. Lara K. Ault and Keith W. Burton are associate professors in the Department of Social Sciences at Saint Leo University.*



TEXAS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



## JANE GOODALL AT 90

Marc Bekoff and Koen Margodt (editors) / Salt Water Media / 250 pages

In celebration of Dr. Jane Goodall's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in April 2024, Drs. Marc Bekoff and Koen Margodt encouraged her friends, family, and colleagues to pen 90 tributes to the esteemed primatologist and activist. Their call was answered by a diverse cast—from “every habitable time zone in the world and every continent except for Antarctica”—including Goodall's grandchildren, English musician and astrophysicist Sir Brian May, *Animal Liberation* author and Australian philosopher Peter Singer, and American actors Leonardo DiCaprio and Joaquin Phoenix.

The book covers the gamut of Goodall's personal interests, from her wonderful sense of humor to her penchant for single malt scotch to her indefatigable appetite for world travel. Multiple tributes praise Goodall's decision to buck convention by naming her animal research subjects.

Others note her talent for interacting on a deeper level with everyone she meets. “There are no ‘supporting roles’” in Jane's world, writes Marlon Reis, an animal advocate and first gentleman of Colorado. “Every being, every place, is a fully realized character.”

The breadth of Goodall's contributions, as detailed throughout the book, is truly astonishing. Stephan Margolis, who previously headed the Los Angeles Police Department's organized crime unit, describes Goodall accompanying him on a ride-along in the city to offer an ethologist's perspective on human violence. Despite her remarkable professional achievements, Goodall is characterized as an eminently relatable, salt-of-the-earth personality. As Tiong Piow Lim, president of Roots & Shoots Malaysia, explains in his tribute, “Dr. Jane speaks of two Janes. Iconic Jane, famous scientist” and “Real Jane” who “is constantly trying to catch up with Iconic Jane.” This book celebrates Goodall's love of all the world's creatures and the hope she inspires through action.

## SECRETS OF THE OCTOPUS

2024 / National Geographic / Three episodes

Older than the dinosaurs, so incredibly alien, and masters of disguise, octopuses take center stage in National Geographic's docuseries *Secrets of the Octopus*. Produced by award-winning filmmaker James Cameron and narrated by actor Paul Rudd, the three episodes don't disappoint, with incredible photography, beautiful locations, and interesting commentary from experts.

The first installment, "Shapeshifters," focuses on octopuses' incredible ability to alter their body to suit the situation. Although they are colorblind, they can change colors and patterns in an instant as a camouflage tactic, to confuse predators, or to appear more intimidating. They can change shape to fit into incredibly tight spaces or impersonate other animals in a flash, such as when mimic octopuses contort their limbs into the shape of a predatory flounder. Some octopuses can even change their skin's texture—from smooth to rough or even tufted.

The second episode, "Masterminds," explores octopuses' incredible ability to solve problems and use tools. This is especially impressive considering that octopus mothers die shortly after their eggs hatch, leaving their rice-sized young to learn independently how to hunt, avoid predators, and find shelter. The coconut octopus collects and manipulates shells for protection; such future-oriented tool use is known to occur in only 1 percent of the animal kingdom. Some octopuses will even come to shore—risking a temporary departure from the relative safety of their marine environment to "crawl" many meters over rocks in search of superior hunting grounds.

The final episode is titled "Social Networkers." Although most octopuses are largely solitary, some routinely interact with each other and other species for their collective benefit—such as partnering with certain fish to flush out prey for both. And all octopuses must eventually find mates. For algae octopuses, the process involves a series of complex rituals. Octopuses reproduce using a "mating arm" or hectocotylus—a long tentacle that the male reaches out to the female to deliver a packet of sperm along a channel.

The series ends by discussing how octopuses sleep and likely dream, with color changes depicting different sleep cycle phases. Scientists speculate that for octopuses—as with humans—sleep and dreams play an important role in consolidating memories, helping them become the amazing, adaptable, and ingenious survivors that they are.

## IN THE NAME OF SHARKS

François Sarano (author), Stephen Muecke (translator) / Polity / 261 pages

Dr. François Sarano's *In the Name of Sharks* uses powerful language, suspense, and tension to evoke a visceral response from readers and deepen their empathy for sharks. The author laments the media's role in misrepresenting the animals as nothing more than killing machines, even though so much of their lives is unknown to us. Sarano isn't just a scientist who reads about sharks from afar; he has swum alongside them. His affection for sharks is obvious in his vivid descriptions that transport the reader into the ocean's depths.

These independent fish with distinct personalities are deserving of our protection. At a time when overfishing poses a serious threat to the ocean's biodiversity, a quarter of all shark and ray species are listed as threatened or endangered. This book delivers more than a simple message about sharks and their role in maintaining delicately balanced ecosystems; it calls attention to how the planet and human health are inextricably linked.

Sharks offer a window into the past, before humans began exploiting the oceans. Protecting some of the Earth's most ancient creatures reminds us where we came from. Sarano's frequent use of photography, diagrams, and pop culture references inspires raw emotion, without human prejudice or misconceptions. Ultimately, the reader is left with a seed of hope amid the global biodiversity crisis. This book isn't just about sharks; it's about how we can overcome our fears of the unknown. It's about understanding the "other" and forging connections across species.

## 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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## AWI'S CHRISTINE STEVENS WILDLIFE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2024

The Christine Stevens Wildlife Award—named in honor of AWI's late founder and president for over 50 years—provides grants of up to \$15,000 to help fund innovative strategies for humane, nonlethal wildlife conflict management and study. Since the award program's launch in 2006, AWI has contributed over 1.1 million dollars in funding in support of over 110 research projects in North America. This year, over 40 applications were received encompassing species ranging from bees to whales and issues such as lead poisoning of raptors, more humane ways to track beavers, and testing a new tool to mitigate deer-vehicle collisions. The 2024 Christine Stevens Wildlife Award grant recipients are as follows:

**Dr. Nevé Baker**, University of Minnesota, for using environmental DNA to monitor biological communities supported by beaver engineering in agricultural areas.

**Dr. Carlos Delgado Martínez**, National Autonomous University of Mexico, to develop tools to promote coexistence of beekeeping and wildlife in Calakmul, Mexico.

**Katelyn Depot**, McGill University, to test noninvasive techniques to monitor the diet of the tufted puffin, a declining seabird species.

**Dr. Emily Fairfax**, University of Minnesota, to assess electronic tags to track beavers.

**Dr. Myra Finkelstein**, University of California, Santa Cruz, to determine if feathers can be used to noninvasively assess health effects from lead exposure in eagles.

**Anmol Karan and Shaurya Jain**, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, to test the effectiveness of biosonic and ultrasonic repellent strategies to help prevent deer-vehicle collisions.

**Dr. Susan McRae**, East Carolina University, to use scent lures to increase the effectiveness of trail cameras to noninvasively monitor eastern black rails, a threatened marsh bird species.

**Dr. Valeria Vergara**, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, to develop a collaborative underwater noise monitoring and mapping initiative to improve protection of at-risk species. 🐾