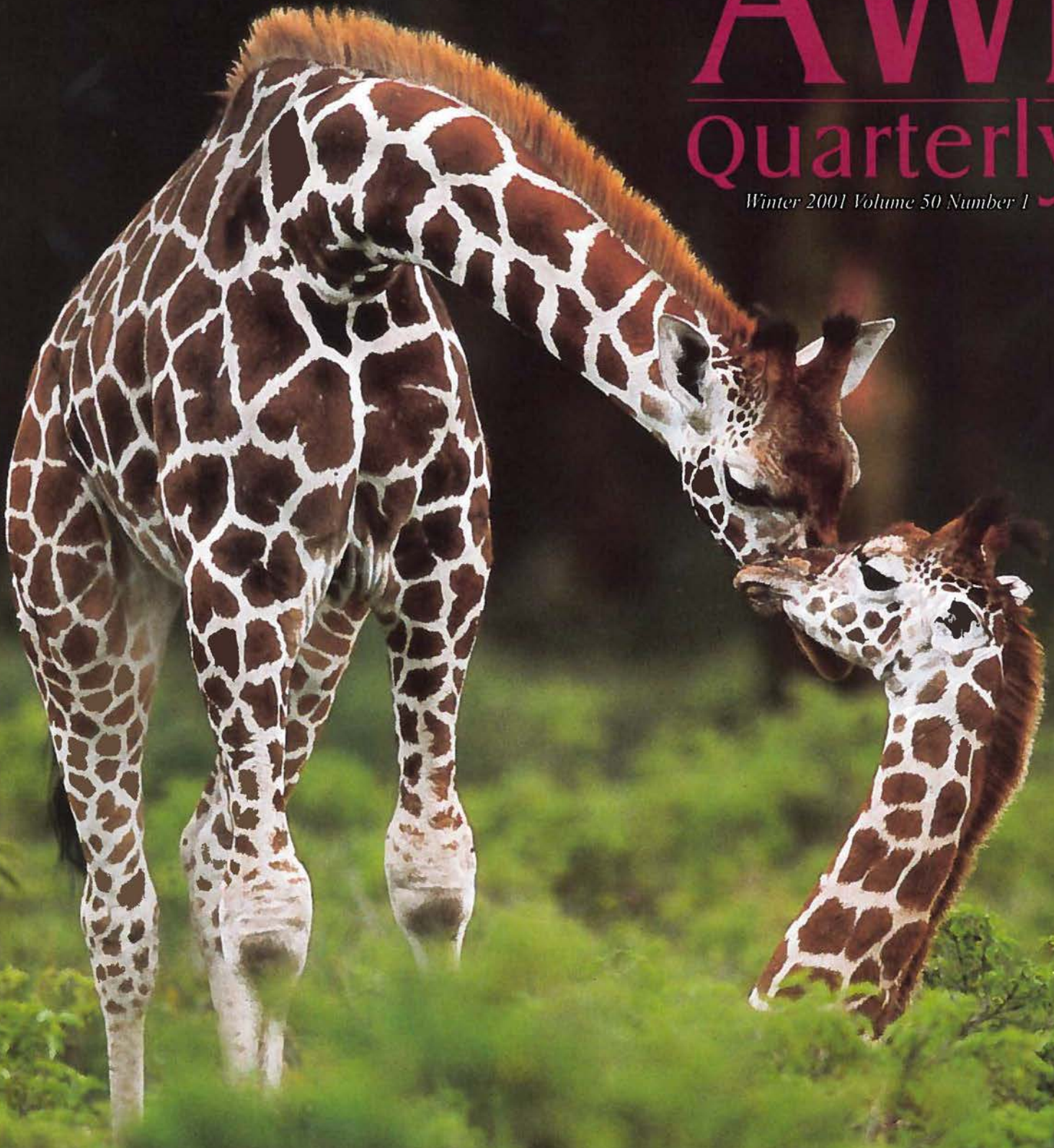


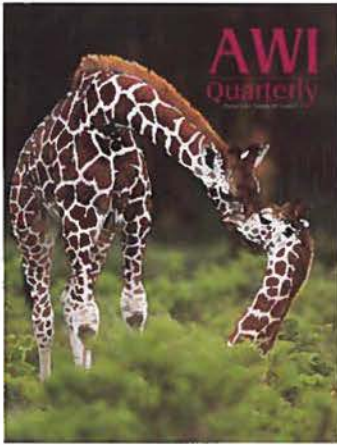
# AWI

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## Quarterly

*Winter 2001 Volume 50 Number 1*





## ABOUT THE COVER

While winding through the forested area of Lake Nakuru National Park in Kenya, photographer Mark Thomas rounded a corner to see just the heads and necks of two young Rothschild's Giraffes poking up above the bushes while they rested. Thomas writes: "After a while one of the young giraffes decided to stretch his legs a bit and go visit his mother. But before leaving, the giraffe walked over to give a young friend a gentle greeting as if to say 'are you coming with me?'" Although the giraffe, the tallest mammal on earth, is not globally threatened with extinction, it is among the species of wildlife being systematically destroyed during the current political unrest in the African nation of Zimbabwe (see story on page 11).

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## Clinton Decides Against Sanctions

Before leaving office, President Clinton decided against imposing trade restrictions on Japan under the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act for expanding its so-called "scientific whaling" to include Brydes and Sperm whales. The Act authorizes the President to impose sanctions on any government that "diminishes the effectiveness" of international fisheries treaties. Although the US has joined the majority of International Whaling Commission member countries in criticizing Japanese "scientific" whaling as thinly disguised commercial whaling, Clinton ignored the recommendation of his Commerce Secretary, Norman Mineta, and worldwide criticism of Japan's actions. The outgoing President did not believe that "import restrictions would further our objectives at this time." 🐾

## Norway Announces Plan to Sell Whale Meat and Blubber to Japan

Norway has broken a longtime agreement with the US against international sale of whale products by issuing a permit allowing long-time whaler Steiner Basteson, a Member of the Norwegian Parliament and Head of the High North Alliance, to trade in whale parts with Japan. Norwegian whalers have killed an increasing number of minke whales recently.

On January 17, 2001, Norway's leading newspaper *Aftenposten*, contained numerous articles on the Norwegian government's decision to lift the ban on international trade in whale meat and blubber. Under the headline, "A Day of Joy, Say Whalers" one article notes, "the export ban's fall calls forth jubilation among whalers and purchasers." Norwegian Pål Arntzen exclaimed: "the blubber mountain can now be converted to cold cash."

Another whaler, Olav Olavsén, adds: "it is high time to increase the catch...the year's quota of 549 minke whales could have been raised to 2000 animals....You have to also consider selecting other whale species. The fin whale population is large, and the hunting of that can provide business and make life in small settlements even more interesting." 🐾

**ACTION** As a protest against Norway's vigorous pro-whaling stance, boycott Norwegian salmon. The salmon farming industry floods the American market with massive amounts of farmed salmon. Refuse to buy it and urge friends to refuse it in restaurants, supermarkets and seafood stores. Norwegian farmed salmon is also heavily polluted with Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) a well-known threat to human health.



# Animal Welfare Institute QUARTERLY

Winter 2001 Volume 50 Number 1

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Douglas Faulkner

Additional funding from the Congress for the USFWS hopefully will help ensure young manatees, such as the ones pictured, will be able to play without being injured or killed by speeding boats. See story page 20



Matt Rossell

These two infant rhesus macaques, separated from their mothers by experimenters at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, cling to each other for comfort in the absence of their mothers' care. See story page 14

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# The Water Keeper Alliance Institutes Legal Attack on Pig Factories



On December 6, 2000, at press conferences in Washington, D.C. and Raleigh, North Carolina, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of the Water Keeper Alliance announced the launch of a broad legal assault against America's large pig factories. The Water Keeper Alliance and a coalition of supporters have turned to private attorneys and law firms to pursue enforcement of environmental protection regulations. This is necessary, said Kennedy, since "Federal environmental prosecution against the meat industry has effectively ceased because Congress has eviscerated the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement budget while the political clout of powerful pork producers has trumped state enforcement efforts. This collapse of environmental enforcement has allowed corporate hog factories to proliferate with huge pollution-based profits."

The plaintiffs are seeking enforcement of state and federal laws, including the federal Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Clean Air Act. Kennedy added: "What we are dealing with here is a crime.... And they should have to stop today so we can get back to the family farmers and the tried and true way of preserving America's landscape and waterways." Describing the confinement of sows in crates so small they cannot walk or turn around, Kennedy called pig factories "extraordinarily cruel." Jan Schlichtmann, a renowned environmental attorney, referred to modern hog factories as "animal concentration camps."

Attorneys who are committed to "civilizing" industrial hog operations stood with Mr. Kennedy and coalition members at the press conference. Coalition members and press conference speakers included family farmers Terry Spence and Rolf Christen of Citizens Legal Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), Sierra Club representative Scott Dye, Leland Swenson, President of National Farmers' Union, Brother David Andrews of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) and Diane Halverson, Farm Animal Advisor of the Animal Welfare Institute.

Following are excerpts from the statement made by Diane Halverson. "Industrial hog producers have driven independent farm families out of business, and in doing so, have decimated

the culture of humane husbandry that once characterized American farming. Traditionally, farm families took joy in good stockmanship and pride in the robust health of their herds. Industrial agriculture, on the other hand, calls animals into existence, and before it kills them, makes them suffer.

"For the corporate investor the animal is not a sentient creature, but a 'production unit.' The corporation is intent on three things: maximizing the number of 'production units' in each building; eliminating the need for husbandry skills among workers; and minimizing the number of workers. To do this, sows on the industrial farm are permanently confined in coffin-like crates, unable to walk or even turn around. All

pigs are denied bedding in order that their manure can be liquefied for easy handling; this liquefaction makes it possible to concentrate huge numbers of animals on one site. Liquefied manure, running into streams, seeping into groundwater and emitting toxic gases, causes the environmental and public health problems discussed today. It is inevitable that a system which grossly violates the biology of the animals inside the factory will wreak havoc on everyone and everything outside of the factory.

"Sow deaths are common inside factory sow operations. The death rate of some herds is as high as 20%. The factory system is characterized by widespread routine application of antibiotics to promote growth of piglets, promote sow productivity and to prevent outbreaks of disease in the hostile conditions of the factory. The *World Health Organization* (WHO) has identified the routine, subtherapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture as a major contributor to antibiotic resistance in humans. WHO recommends switching from industrial management of animals to more extensive, enriched housing methods to reduce the distress caused to the animals and thereby reduce the need for antibiotics.

"AWI is proud to support the effort announced today, to expose and rein in an industry characterized by callous disregard for society, our environment and animals." 🐾

*Above photos: Attendees included attorneys fighting the hog producers and representatives of organizations supporting the legal battle. Among others pictured here: Sue Jarrett, Global Resource Action Center for the Environment; Scott Dye, Sierra Club; Terry Spence, CLEAN; Leland Swenson, National Farmers' Union; and Brother David Andrews, NCRLC.*

*Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., President of the Water Keeper Alliance, and Diane Halverson holding a pig display.*



# National Gathering Calls for Humane, Sustainable Hog Farming

On January 11, 800 people from across the US and Canada packed the New Bern, North Carolina Riverfront Convention Center to discuss strategies for combating pig factories and promoting humaneness and sustainability in pig farming.

The "Summit for Sustainable Hog Farming" was organized by Nicolette Hahn, Senior Attorney for the Water Keeper Alliance, Rick Dove, Board Member of the Water Keeper Alliance and Gary Grant, Chair of the North Carolina Hog Roundtable. The day-long event included presentations from fishermen, environmentalists, religious and labor leaders, family farmers, scientists, public officials, attorneys, community activists, and animal welfare advocates.

Poignantly, neighbors to industrial pig operations described from personal experience how pig factories fouled their houses and backyards with stench and toxic gases so intense they became ill. In chilling testimonials, they detailed incidents of intimidation, even threats of violence and death, which they received from pig factory owners or operators.

The Summit's animal welfare discussion featured presentations by Paul Willis and Sue and Kelly Ryan, family farmers who allow the pigs they raise to behave naturally, in accordance with the Animal Welfare Institute's Humane On-Farm Pig Husbandry Standards. A video prepared by the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) in cooperation with the Water Keeper Alliance showed the Ryan family farm and emphasized the value of preserving the culture of humane family farm husbandry that is being decimated by animal factories. Mike McConnell, Chairman of Niman Ranch, urged attendees not only to fight against the growth and pollution of pig factories but also to press their grocers to carry meat from humane, sustainable family farms rather than factories. Niman Ranch is the first marketing company to require that farmers whose hogs they purchase follow AWI's humane

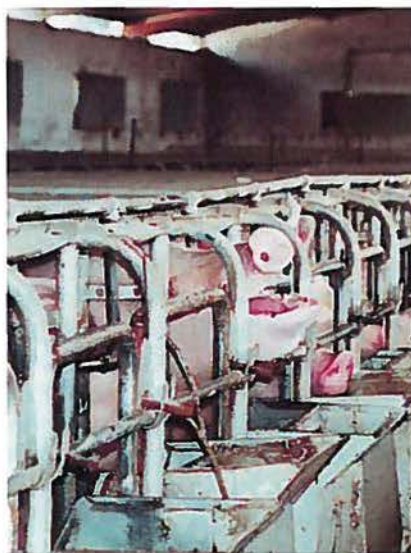
husbandry standards. Actress Rosemary Harris, winner of a Tony, an Emmy and a Golden Globe award and an Academy Award nominee, spoke on behalf of animals in a video presentation recorded in Los Angeles where Ms. Harris was filming the movie "Spiderman." Ms. Harris called on consumers to insist on meat from humane, family farms, saying that it is the plight of the sows confined to crates, unable to walk or turn around, that moves her most. A North Carolinian herself, Ms. Harris urged North Carolinians to take the lead in prohibiting animal factory practices, just as Sweden has done in Europe. Marlene Halverson, humane farming consultant to AWI, described the long history of ethical approaches to farming with animals in Sweden and their potential for serving as models for humane, sustainable farming in the US. AWI's Farm Animal Advisor, Diane Halverson, showed how factory production of pigs violates the nature of pigs, and how this leads, inevitably, to environmental and human health catastrophes. The suffering of animals in factories was also

## *Water Keeper Alliance*

The Water Keeper Alliance is the umbrella organization for the fifty-eight River, Sound and Bay Keepers located throughout North and Central America and Europe. The Water Keeper Alliance protects and restores waterways—including those ravaged by pollution from animal factories—using a variety of methods, including litigation. To learn more about the Water Keeper Alliance or to view presentations delivered at the Summit, visit the organization's website at [www.keeper.org](http://www.keeper.org).

addressed in Rick Dove's video presentation which included footage of gross cruelty to pigs in a North Carolina factory, where workers beat and dismembered conscious sows. In Mr. Dove's

*Continued on page 7*



*Pigs on industrial farms are confined to metal crates so small they cannot even turn around. Unnatural conditions in the factory thwart a pig's natural instincts, and stereotypies, repetitive behaviors such as bar-biting shown at left, are common.*

# The Kingdom of the Pigs

BY VANGELIS STOYANNIS

The traveller heading from the city of Trikala towards the Pindos mountain range (Southern Alps) sees the imposing passage of the “Gate” opening in front of him. Through this passage—which looks like a wound opened by the sword of a Giant during the mythical times—Lethe, the river of Oblivion, flows towards the plain which emerged from the bottom of the inner sea. Through this Gate, 13 centuries before Christ, the servants of Aesculapius passed, bringing the miraculous mountain herbs to the father of Medicine. Through this Gate nations and civilizations, merchants and invaders passed towards the plain. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the Doric Nation, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. the Roman Legions passed, heading towards Pidna for the battle which determined the fate of the Macedonian King Perseus.

The mountains, the Gate and the plain. The cradle of the 32 greek nations, their passage towards history and the place where the discovery of agriculture and stockbreeding gave birth to civilization. The Gate, of legends and history, is a place of rare beauty, imposing and ancient which, when you get closer, makes you feel the unbearable burden of history on your shoulders. The Gate leads also to the ancient kingdoms of the farmers, who cultivated wheat for the first time, and the stockbreeders who utilized the acorns, chestnuts and the rich mountain grasslands in order to feed their herds of goats, sheep, pigs and small cows. People still cultivate wheat in the plain and still pasture their animals on the mountains.

November 2000. A few kilometers on the right of the Gate, on the mountain roots, on the line where the short mountain range of Hasia connects Pindos with Olympus and marks the plain towards the north, there lie the stockbreeders’ villages: Pialia, Megarhi, Oihalia, Diasselo, Eleftherohori.

Since the ancient times, Pialia has been a village of pig breeders and shepherds. Each family owns about 30



Vangelis Stoyannis

*A wild boar with four domestic free-range pigs on a mountain-top pasture.*

female pigs and 200 sheep or goats. The village of Pialia is a place where the 21<sup>st</sup> century meets the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Today the village, built on the foot of the mountain, lives simultaneously in two ages. The families living at the side of the plain breed their pigs in small, industrial-type farms. The families living at the side of the mountain, breed free ranging pigs in the forest. Their farms are simply small, wooden constructions, under ancient walls (possibly the walls of the ancient kingdom). There, they enclose the female pigs when they give birth in order to keep the newborns safe from wolves and bears until they are a month old. Then, the young pigs and their mothers are freed into the forest. Apart from some corn that they give to the animals in order to get them used to returning to the farm at night, the animals feed on what they find in the ancient forest: roots, acorns, chestnuts, and mushrooms.

Those are strange pigs, not like those bred in the industrial farms. Their owners crossbreed pigs of ancient races with wild boars they

catch on the mountain, the result being that almost every farm breeds its own race of animals. Their productivity and output are extremely close to the output of improved hogs which are bred at the industrial farms of the plain. The health level of those animals could produce a nervous breakdown of the veterinarians and antibiotic salesmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These are stockbreeders who live in two ages. Their houses have the comforts of a 21<sup>st</sup> century house, they themselves use mobile phones and go to their farms in modern pick-up trucks. They still bake their bread, however, on woods according to the ancient way and throw coins in the coffins of the dead, in order for them to be able to pay the ferryman who will take them to the other world.

The answer to the question of the contemporary traveller, how those people survive together with their animals in the age of industrial stockbreeding, is simple.

They base their survival on memory. Here come the inhabitants of

the near villages, those who insist stubbornly to cultivate wheat in 4 hectare fields, in order to buy pigs, sausages and pork meat for their Christmas table. From here the families of the plain buy small pigs which they will breed at their houses for Christmas. Ancient people, keeping still alive the ancient tradition. The pig-fatlings in December, to honour the Goddess of Agriculture Demetra, survived through the Christian age together with the Christmas customs of the Greeks. The stockbreeders of free ranging pigs survived as well. It is not by chance that such stockbreeding farms still survive at the ancient places: in Pialia, at the ancient kingdom of hogbreeders; at the foot of Olympus, the mountain of the Gods; in Arcadia, at the mythical kingdom of Lycaon; in Thrace, at the ancient kingdom of Diomedes; at Vermion, the cradle of the ancient Macedonians. That is, where memory still transforms the places into ways.

Perhaps such places show us the solution to the tragic dead-ends of the contemporary industrial stockbreeding, with the inhuman breeding conditions, the antibiotics and the products of dubious quality. Perhaps the solution for our modern problematic societies also lies here, through the activation of people's memory.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C., when Ulysses returned to Ithaca after his 10 years of wandering, he couldn't go to his palace. The King's palace was invaded by suitors who wanted to kill him in order to marry his wife and change things in his kingdom. Homer, the blind poet, says that the King found shelter at the house of Evmeos, his loyal pig shepherd, where he prepared his strategy.

Is this just a coincidence or does the blind poet give a lesson, 33 centuries after his era? Perhaps, after all, the voyages and adventures Ulysses suffered because he defied the Gods is a symbol of contemporary corporate man who, confused, breaks natural laws.

Is returning a solution? Nobody knows. The fact is that in Greece, at the place which once was a way, the descendants of Evmeos, the loyal pig shepherd, still survives. 🐾

*Continued from page 5*

words, "If we solve all of the environmental problems dealing with industrial hog raising, including stopping pollution, gaining restitution for pollution and solving the neighborhood odor and health problems, but we don't solve the issue of humane treatment of animals, then we haven't solved the problem of hog factories."

A captivating keynote address was given by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. who, in addressing the extreme confinement and physical abuse suffered by pigs in factories, said: "The way that we treat animals—somebody at sometime is going to be punished for that—we as a nation or somebody. Because you can't treat another work of the Creator with the kind of indignity that we are allowing to go on in this state or others without there being some kind of karmic retribution at some point in history. I think all of us understand that, and particularly the family farmers here who understand the notion of stewardship and how an animal should be treated with dignity if we want dignity for ourselves."

The Metropolitan AME Zion Church Choir, Washington, N.C. opened the Interfaith Prayer Service that followed Mr. Kennedy's address. Sister Evelyn Mattern of the North Carolina Council of Churches led the crowd in this prayer by St. Basil the Great (329-379): "O God, enlarge within us the sense of fellowship with all living things, even our brothers and sisters the animals, to whom you have given the earth as their home in common with us. We remember with shame that in the past we have exercised our high dominion with ruthless cruelty so that the voice of the earth, which should have gone up to you in song, has been a groan of pain. May we realize that they live, not for us alone, but for themselves and for you, and that they love the sweetness of life." 🐾

### *North Carolina Hog Roundtable*

The *North Carolina Hog Roundtable* is a coalition of state-wide, community, and neighborhood organizations, with over 65,000 members collectively, that are working toward reform of corporate pig raising. The Roundtable focuses on pig factories' threats to public health, the environment and property values and has a particular concern for the disproportionate impact of industrial pig operations on poor and minority communities.

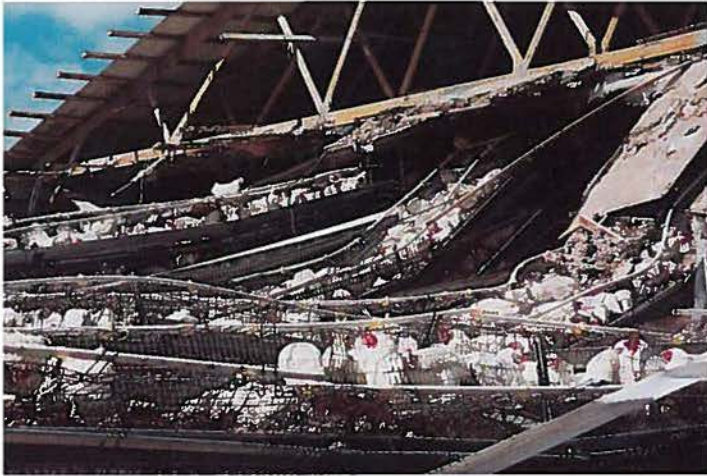
## *European Commission Proposes Improvements in Welfare Conditions of Pigs*

**T**he European Commission approved, on January 16, a proposal which will, if accepted, prohibit the confinement of 6 million pigs during "most of their pregnancy to individual stalls which severely restrict their freedom of movement. The proposal also sets out rules to improve the living environment of pigs and piglets in general, setting requirements for living spaces, floor surfaces, and proper feeding systems. New requirements for training of pig handlers are also introduced. In addition, the Commission is proposing tougher regulation of noise and light levels, access to food and materials for rooting, timing of weaning of piglets, flooring surfaces, and the prohibition of the worst types of routine mutilations.

"The new rules will be introduced gradually over a more than 10 year period to allow industry time to adjust buildings to higher pig welfare standards. The rules are proposed to come into force in 2012, while some key provisions will apply to new holdings as of the first of January 2002." 🐾

Quotes are from *Europa*, the European Union's website. For the full text of the report on intensive pig farming and the 1997 scientific opinion on it, visit [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/oldcomm4/out17\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/oldcomm4/out17_en.html).

# Mother Nature Exposes the Cruelty Inside Factory Farms



Mercy for Animals

Over a million hens trapped inside tiny wire cages in what was left of tornado damaged buildings.

BY WENDY SWANN

Who does not like to think that the food we eat is from the idyllic farms portrayed in children's books? Unfortunately, the reality is that the majority of animals used for food are raised using intensive husbandry practices. Of the more than 8 billion animals killed for food in the US in 1997, 300 million were laying hens, and when a tornado ripped through Croton, Ohio on September 20, the public received a unique opportunity to see firsthand the intensive and cruel practices of industrial egg production. The tornado struck Buckeye Egg Farm, one of the world's largest egg factories. The company's 15 million hens produce over 2.4 billion eggs a year.

Twelve of the company's 150 warehouse-type buildings, some as long as two football fields, were damaged. Each building holds 80,000–100,000 hens packed into battery cages. Each cage is half the size of a newspaper and holds six hens. Hens in factories cannot express their natural repertoire of behaviors, and as if the painful debeaking, eye and foot trauma, ammonia fumes, light depriva-

tion and other atrocities of the factory farm are not cruel enough, after the tornado hit Buckeye over one million birds were either crushed in the wreckage or trapped and suffered slow deaths from starvation, dehydration or exposure to the elements.

More than 600,000 hens trapped in the destruction were dumped alive into containers. Many suffocated or were crushed to death when load after load of chickens were piled on top of

each other. Those that survived the initial dump were euthanized with carbon dioxide. Eventually they were all sent to rendering plants. The remaining mix of twisted metal, building debris and close to 300,000 bird carcasses was discarded at a county landfill.

*Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm*, a farm animal sanctuary near Pittsburgh, and *Protect Our Earth's Treasures* (POET), in Columbus, Ohio, were instrumental in the intensive rescue and relocation of over 3,000 hens. Cayce Mell, Jason Tracy, along with their six-month-old son Aidan, and other *Ooh-Mah-Nee* staff repeatedly drove to Ohio. Aidan peacefully supervised the rescue and allowed his parents to save as many birds as possible. Cayce negotiated with Buckeye executives on behalf of the hens, and now *Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm* is the permanent home for 1,500 of the "liberated ladies."

Convicted of cruelty to animals in Germany, the owner of Buckeye Egg Farm, Anton Pohlmann, is banned for life from owning

animals and operating there. With the purchase of Ohio farmland in 1980, Pohlmann brought his deplorable record of inhumane treatment of animals and environmental degradation to the US. In Ohio, Buckeye's environmental violations include contamination of waterways with manure and fuel oil resulting in fish kills. Legal violations include exceeding the allowed number of hens and constructing facilities without authorization. The company was fined for poor worker conditions, and a federal raid revealed 36 undocumented workers. In January 2001, Buckeye was fined \$1 million—to be paid over six years—by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for pollution and fly-infestation problems.

Pohlmann plans to rebuild the structures destroyed by the tornado, sell or lease his factories in Ohio and start a new operation in Eastern Europe. His son Stefan is starting a poultry operation in the Czech Republic.

*Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm* is completing a documentary on the rescue which will be available to interested parties. To contact *Ooh-Mah-Nee*, call 724-925-2241 or e-mail [oohmahneefarm@aol.com](mailto:oohmahneefarm@aol.com). 🐾



Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm

Free at last! The rescued hens enjoy the pasture at Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm. At night they go into the straw bedded barns for warmth and safety.



*Wrens have musical songs compatible with some of the most admired human music.*

## Biomusic's Contributions to Science

The prestigious, broad-based journal, *Science*, has published two articles on biology and music, as anticipated in *AWI Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 3. Unquestionably, the exploration of the connections between song and communication among various animal species has taken off. The *Science* article inspired *The New York Times*, *The London Daily Telegraph*, *The Boston Globe* and Chile's *La Tercera* to write about biomusic; the BBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, National Public Radio, National Geographic Channel and the Discovery Channel have broadcast interviews with biomusic scientists and musicians.

Patricia M. Gray, Bernie Krause, Jelle Atema, Roger Payne, Carol Krumhansl and Luis Baptista jointly analyzed the music of humpback whales and many different species of birds as well as amphibians and insects.

In "Enhanced: The Music of Nature and the Nature of Music" the authors note: "Even though they are capable of singing over a range of at least seven octaves, humpbacks use musical intervals between their notes that are similar to or the same as the intervals in our scales... Most surprisingly, humpback songs contain repeating refrains that form rhymes. This suggests that whales use rhyme in the same way that we do: as a mnemonic device to help them remember complex material."

With regard to birds, they write: "Advances in audio technology allowed the late Luis Baptista to draw fascinating parallels between bird song and human music. For instance, when birds compose songs they often use the same

rhythmic variations, pitch relationships, permutations, and combinations of notes as human composers."

The article concludes:

"It is not known when the ancient art of making music first began. But, if it is as ancient as some believe, this could explain why we find so much meaning and emotion in music even though we cannot explain why it makes us feel the way it does. Such an impenetrable vagueness about this most basic of human creations seems to signal that the roots of music lie closer to our ancient lizard brain than to our more recent reasoning cortex, that music has a more ancient origin even than human language."

Mark Jude Tramo, Director of Harvard University's Institute for Music and Brain Science, devotes his article, "Enhanced: Music of the Hemispheres," to analysis of brain structures and experimental evidence. He writes, for instance, of the demonstration of musical competence early in life: "By 4 months of age, babies prefer consonant musical intervals (major and minor thirds) to dissonant musical intervals (minor seconds). Even if an infant's preference for consonant intervals has been influenced by 6 to 7 months of exposure to music in the womb, it is likely that the human brain enters the world primed to extract the spectral and temporal regularities that characterize popular music."

Last year's biomusic symposia and the concert in the National Academy of Sciences auditorium have catapulted the serious study of biomusic into the scientific mainstream, leading humans to recognize the interrelationships of other brains, other sounds and other acoustic abilities besides our own. It brings home, through the power of music, the need to preserve the planet and its magnificent biodiversity. 🐾

## How Old Can a Whale Live to Be?

In all likelihood, with continued protection against the whalers' harpoons, the magnificent whales we work so diligently to save will outlive every one of us! New scientific studies corroborate the keen observation of native elders in the farthest northern outpost of Inupiat communities regarding the amazing ages to which bowhead whales can live.

To quote from the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, "Ancient Swimmers" article by Paul Rogers, December 20, 2000, "...Scientists in Alaska and at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif., have estimated the ages of three bowhead whales killed by Inupiat Eskimos in northern Alaska at between 135 and 172 years old.

"At the time it was killed, a fourth bowhead whale was believed to be a stunning 211 years old, the researchers concluded.

"The ages were determined by studying changes in amino acids in the lenses of the whales' eyes.

"Yet adding a layer of corroboration, Inupiat hunters in Barrow and other villages along the frozen northern coast of Alaska have found six ancient harpoon points lodged in the thick blubber of freshly killed bowhead whales since 1981. The harpoon points are made of ivory and stone, two materials not used by native Alaskan whalers since the 1880s, when they were introduced to steel harpoons.

"For decades in Barrow, a remote town of 5,000 people with no access by highway, Inupiat elders have spoken of whales that several generations of hunters had seen and recognized, based on markings." 🐾



Elephant Listening Project

## The Elephant Listening Project

BY MELISSA GROO

The forests in west and central Africa are thought to contain as many as 300,000 elephants—half of all African elephants. These elephants are at risk due to many pressures including poaching, forest fragmentation, fragile park management, and ongoing illegal trade in ivory. Reliable information about the size, health, and status of forest elephant populations is much needed but hard to obtain because of the dense forest undergrowth. Traditionally the only means of assessing their numbers has been by systematic counting of dung piles.

In 2000, biologist Katy Payne and colleagues launched the Elephant Listening Project (ELP) in order to develop an acoustic method of censusing this African elephant subspecies. Almost two decades ago, Katy had discovered that elephants' calls are sometimes infrasonic, of such low frequency that they register below our level of hearing. She subsequently carried out studies on infrasound use by African savanna elephants, and determined that low-frequency calls are able to travel long distances, enabling separated group members to coordinate their movements in the same direction, and elephants in reproductive condition to locate one another from afar.

Could acoustic monitoring be used as a conservation tool for forest elephants? Katy Payne and her colleagues thought the possibility intriguing, and in spring 2000, ELP launched an expedition to learn what elephant calls could tell us about population size and health.\* This effort was based on historical work in the Bioacoustics Research Program at Cornell University that makes it possible to locate and record sources of sound from

arrays of microphones, and process large amounts of data automatically.

The ELP team successfully completed a three-month field season in two African forest areas: Kakum National Park in Ghana, and Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in the Central African Republic. The data ELP collected revealed that the rate of calls at the clearing consistently rose as the number of elephants did. This was extremely important because it meant that elephants' calls could be a statistical indication of elephant numbers. The data also confirmed that infrasonic rumbles carry at least two kilometers through the forest; therefore, monitoring large areas becomes possible. Further analysis of the data may yield information about the relationship of call types to the group composition and reproductive activity of forest elephant populations.

Future ELP research will seek to refine this method and apply it to other elephant populations, such as the even more endangered Asian Elephants (whose population numbers roughly 30,000). Additionally, ELP will be looking into whether acoustic monitoring may also act as a means of detecting and locating crop-raiding elephants, and/or the gunshots of poachers. 🐾

\*ELP's pilot year was sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



Elephant Listening Project

*Photos: In Dzanga Bai, Central African Republic, a forest elephant mother and her calf share a mineral-rich water hole. Maternal leadership is essential to the survival of elephant offspring.*

# Animals Caught in Zimbabwe's Anarchical Land Grab

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

Twenty years after gaining independence from Great Britain, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has put the wheels of civil war in motion, encouraging black veterans of Zimbabwe's war of Independence to occupy farmland owned by whites.

It has been reported in Zimbabwe that many of these "war veterans" are too young to have been walking, let alone fighting, during the war, but the title "war veterans" has now become an ironic shorthand in Zimbabwe for anyone who intimidates farmers and invades their land. The result of this new internal fighting has been increased bloodshed for both human and nonhuman animals.

Reports out of the embattled nation in sub-Saharan Africa are replete with dire revelations of land invasions and wildlife and livestock depredation:

- Owners of one of Zimbabwe's top game sanctuaries, Imire Game Park, were informed on November 14 that the government intends to seize the land. The park is home to impala, highly endangered black rhinos, elephants, buffalo, lions, leopards, giraffes, and hippos.—*The Daily News, Zimbabwe, November 17, 2000*

- "One farm alone has seen the violent death or maiming of more than 300 plains game, four cheetah, a leopard, a wild dog, four rhino and several elephant, caught in poachers' snares or shot by automatic weapons."—*Mail & Guardian, South Africa, November 8, 2000*

- War veterans are reportedly eviscerating livestock for meat while the animals are still alive. According to one report, "A few weeks back, at Tarara farm, a heifer suffered a gruesome death when suspected war vets removed its udder, gouged its eyes and cut off its lips before ripping its stomach and removing an unborn calf."

—*The Zimbabwe Standard, November 5, 2000*

- A black rhino was caught and killed in a snare in the Save Conservancy where over 1,500 animals have been reported killed in the past six months. "Locals say some of the conservancy owners have even resorted to slaughtering their own wildlife and selling the meat to recover the money they invested on the conservancies, before they are closed down."—*The Herald, Zimbabwe, November 9, 2000 and African Eye News Service, South Africa, November 12, 2000*

Some of the snares, which strangle and starve their unwitting victims to death, including animals within reserves, are made by ripping apart the wire fences that protectively enclose the land. Game wardens are helpless and the police are either impotent or are in cahoots with the violent usurpers of the territory.

With each massacre, wild animals disappear and so too do the dollars that could have otherwise been brought to the region through ecotourism. According to the October 8, 2000 *Zimbabwe Standard*, "Tourism in the Chiredzi district has come to a standstill, losing in



Craig Davies/Africam Radio

excess of \$2 million because of massive poaching on Mungwenzi Ranch."

Meanwhile, the London *Sunday Times* reported in July that Mugabe is financing part of his government's activities by selling almost a million dollars worth of elephant ivory to China. According to the report, "The Cargo, flown to Beijing via Libya in May, is thought to have been part payment for thousands of Kalashnikov rifles that were flown into the Zimbabwean capital at the same time."

Land distribution in Zimbabwe is inequitable, and the vast majority of "communal" black farmers were originally allocated marginal, dry land that is unsuitable for farming. However, the unfettered free-for-all in Zimbabwe is unlikely to ensure the long-term protection of arable land in the country and it is already clear that the effects on wildlife have been catastrophic. Zimbabwe is in a state of violent disarray, which, if not contained immediately, could prove irreversibly disastrous for both its wildlife and its people. 🐾



Craig Davies/Africam Radio

Above: This black rhino's foot was caught in a wire snare, causing a deep gash. Game scouts were able to dart the rhino and provide appropriate veterinary surgery. Now, unlike so many others whose wounds have been fatal, this rhino is up and walking around again.

Left: This baby elephant was caught around the neck by a wire snare. The harder the elephant tried to become free, the tighter the snare constricted. The area around this victim was well trampled as the rest of the herd apparently stayed in attendance until the calf tragically died.

# Fight to Save Orangutans Intensifies

BY DAVE CURREY

*In the Spring 2000 AWI Quarterly (Vol. 40, No. 2), we published a graphic account of the perils encountered by the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) team in the Borneo area of Indonesia. You may want to reread Dave Currey's harrowing description of beatings, kidnap attempts and a hairbreadth escape from thugs organized to prevent EIA's efforts to save the orangutans and their forest home. This can also be viewed by going to our website at [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org) where you will find AWI Quarterly archives under "Publications."*

- As precious resources are running out, these protected wild areas are becoming more valuable because unprotected areas have already been demolished. Forests provide valuable timber and, below the surface, valuable minerals and coal, diamonds, bauxite and iron ore, so the land becomes targeted by large mining or forestry companies, and other political pressures kick in. In Indonesia, where the EIA and its campaign partner, Telapak Indonesia, have been fighting to save Tanjung Puting National Park, they call this "money politics." We call it corruption.
- We've persuaded the World Bank and IMF and other donors to Indonesia to raise the illegal logging of Tanjung Puting at every opportunity, and they've taken it on as a test case for the Government of Indonesia to prove it will deal with forestry corruption. We've been dealing with the new democratically elected Government. But the logging is worse now than when we started.

- We've heard that Abdul Rasyid, the timber baron that we've named repeatedly in reports, on TV and at press conferences, is under intense pressure and has started to bribe people in very high places. An Army General has just threatened the official who is investigating Rasyid.
- We're assured that the government is investigating Rasyid and will stop illegal logging. We apply some pressure, set deadlines, and give the Minister the latest information from the Park. Our network of contacts keeps us updated with information on a daily basis. We have no doubt that we have support from the international community and some parts of government, but that's not enough.
- Under the lens of Japanese NHK television, the British Ambassador had breakfast with us and said he had discussed Tanjung Puting with the President. We were invited to have lunch with the President at the palace before our next press conference. This, of course, was great news because it meant that our work was reaching the top.
- A crew from CBS's "60 Minutes" filmed our activities and focused on the violence carried out by Rasyid's company thugs. They told us what they had heard and asked us what security arrangements we had in place. Jakarta was packed with rumors of street riots and serious civil unrest. "You've caused Rasyid some serious problems—don't forget that," they warned.
- At lunch the President listened intently, expressed genuine concern and showed he knew about Tanjung Puting by naming Abdul Rasyid as the timber baron responsible for looting the Park. He even set up a press conference in the Palace and asked the Minister to tell the press what we had discussed. He endorsed our campaign with his remarks but said he couldn't attend the press conference because there were too many difficult questions the press wanted to ask about other issues!
- Abdul Rasyid has had his boats carrying illegal timber seized. The government has promised it will act. But the only way to judge the success of a campaign is whether illegal logging in the Park has stopped, the orangutans are once again protected and the timber baron is behind bars. None of these goals has yet been achieved.
- EIA and Telapak followed the Indonesian government to their annual donor review meeting held in Tokyo. Guided to our seats by the Head of the World Bank in Indonesia, we were able to get our strongest possible message to the seven Indonesian Cabinet Ministers in the room. "We are not giving up—live up to your promises and save Tanjung Puting National Park. Now!" 🐾

*Ronnie, an adult female in her thirties, lives free in the forests of Tanjung Puting National Park in Central Kalimantan, Borneo. She has just given birth to her third offspring. Even in this "protected" area, illegal loggers are cutting down the orangutan's food trees. Just three months ago, over 1000 of the trees in Tanjung Puting were illegally logged.*

Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel/Orangutan Foundation International

**ACTION** Please write to the Indonesian Ambassador, 2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036, urgently requesting his government stop illegal logging in Tanjung Puting National Park immediately and prosecute Abdul Rasyid.

# Coulston Rejected but the Death Toll Rises

*“Coulston Foundation has NO PLANS to close its doors....Coulston Foundation is actively pursuing the contract for the maintenance of the National Institutes of Health-owned chimpanzees and INTENDS TO WIN THE RFP [Request for Proposal].”*

—October 1, 2000 internal memo from *The Coulston Foundation* President Ron Couch to employees

When the National Institutes of Health (NIH) took title to 288 chimpanzees owned by The Coulston Foundation (TCF) last May, it appeared that Frederick Coulston’s chimpanzee empire was ready to collapse. But remarkably, when NIH issued a request for proposals to care for those same 288 chimpanzees, guess who submitted a bid... The Coulston Foundation. Although NIH refuses to admit that there are serious, persistent animal welfare problems at TCF, clearer heads prevailed and TCF’s bid was rejected in early October. According to *Science* magazine, October 13, 2000, “an outside review committee had found [TCF’s] proposal unacceptable.”

But while NIH requested and considered bids to care for these chimpanzees, they inexplicably were left at TCF’s facility and in TCF’s care. Now, only 287 chimpanzees remain. On September 11, 2000, In Defense of Animals (IDA) reported that Ray, a ten-year old chimpanzee and one of the 288 whose title was transferred to NIH, died “after allegedly being left sick for days without receiving veterinary care.”

Had NIH awarded TCF the contract to care for these 288 287 infected chimpanzees, it would have been a travesty for these sentient creatures and would have further undermined public confidence in the decision-making abilities of the US government. Eric Kleiman, IDA’s Research Director, suggests, “This rejection should be the death-knell for this abysmal lab.”

In fact, TCF has been on the verge of financial ruin for years and would be bankrupt if not for infusions of personal funds from CEO Frederick Coulston and substantial taxpayer-funded federal handouts by NIH that continue to prop up the lab. A financial assessment by NIH’s National Center for Research Resources as recently as April 1999 reveals the dire fiscal straits at TCF. According to the review, TCF at that time



People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

had \$800,000 in unpaid bills and vendors were not renewing contracts with the company. The report continued to assert that TCF “has no realistic expectation of an influx of operating capital” and that based on the lack of cash flow “it appears unlikely that it can continue operating for much more than two or three months longer.”

Notwithstanding NIH’s own internal assessments of TCF and the fact that TCF management has routinely misled NIH, The Coulston Foundation continues to receive supplemental awards from NIH to prevent it from crumbling completely. According to NIH’s list of “Grants and Awards for Fiscal Year 2000,” TCF President Couch is listed as receiving two awards totaling \$ 1,214,614 for the year. It’s hard to imagine a private business failing when millions of dollars from American taxpayers are floating the facility year after year. But NIH turns a blind eye to the law that requires it to suspend or revoke funding for any facility—such as TCF—that has failed to correct multiple animal welfare deficiencies despite being given far more than reasonable time to comply. If NIH is going to pay for the long-term care of these chimpanzees, it should allow TCF to go belly up and transfer both title to the more than 600 chimpanzees there (including the remaining 287 to which NIH already took title) and the federal funds used to support them to an appropriate animal sanctuary where they will receive needed veterinary treatment and the compassionate care they deserve. 🐾

*Above photo: Hundreds of chimps languish often in poor conditions in laboratory cages across the US. These animals can live into their 50s. With passage of the CHIMP Act in Congress and the ongoing deterioration of The Coulston Foundation, every chimpanzee may eventually receive an appropriately peaceful retirement.*

# Monkeys Suffer in Solitary Confinement at Oregon Primate Center



Matt Rossell

*This is one of hundreds of infant rhesus macaques prematurely taken from their mother at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center (ORPRC). In the wild these babies would stay with their mothers for three years, but that does not fit into the financial equation of "monkey farming" at ORPRC.*

**M**att Rossell worked as a primate technician at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center (ORPRC) but left after more than two years, frustrated with the facility's failure to provide for the welfare of the primates. A detailed log and two hours of video documentation obtained by Matt were submitted in an Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) complaint to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to demonstrate apparent violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act including the mandate for a physical environment adequate to promote the psychological well-being of primates.

Matt's videotapes depict many of the **more than 1,200 primates who are confined to single cages** at ORPRC. The animals exhibit behavioral pathologies typical of primates isolated in this way. The tapes show rhesus monkeys at the laboratory who are self-mutilating and engaging in compulsive rocking and self-clasping behaviors. In one sequence a single-caged baby rhesus monkey is crouched over, rocking, and self-clasping—behavior indicative of psychological distress caused by being isolated from his mother and deprived of any other companionship.

USDA investigated the complaint and responded in

## All Laboratory Animals Deserve Protection

**T**he federal Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 set minimum requirements for handling, housing, and care for dogs, cats, primates, rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs in the premises of dealers and in laboratories. In 1970 the Act, renamed the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), was amended to extend protection to all species of warm-blooded animals. However, the regulations promulgated for enforcement of the law arbitrarily excluded birds, mice and rats from the definition of animals, thus denying these species the protection to which they are entitled. There are no concrete figures, but it is generally agreed that approximately 95% of all animals used for research and testing are birds, mice and rats. The vast majority of laboratory animals have been left outside the law!

Birds, mice and rats used for experimentation do not benefit from the routine, unannounced inspections conducted by US Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinary inspectors. When USDA veterinarians inspect research facilities they specifically overlook the care of birds, mice and rats. Nonetheless, from time to time, inspectors have noted horrors during their inspections including the following:

"During the inspection of the unmarked paper bags in the freezer, I discovered a moribund Long-Evans rat that was

barely breathing. The frigid condition of this animal and the fact that it was surrounded by chewed plastic bags containing other dead rats, indicated that it had been in the freezer for some time, possibly a day or more. The rat slowly recovered as it warmed.

"Had this incident occurred involving a species covered by the Animal Welfare Act, the University would be liable for serious violations of sections pertaining to the IACUC [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee], euthanasia, provision of appropriate veterinary care, and training of personnel. The fact that the animal confined in the freezer was a rat and therefore not a covered species in no way diminishes the seriousness of this egregious lack of humane care for this animal. To me, this disturbing event raises grave concerns regarding the function of the IACUC and the delivery of veterinary care."

In response to a lawsuit brought by the Alternatives Research and Development Foundation et al., USDA settled the case last fall by agreeing to initiate the process for extending the AWA's coverage to these other animals. Shortly thereafter, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), a long-standing opponent of the AWA that represents research facilities and animal dealers, interceded.

a January 5, 2001 letter to ALDF that “many of the individual items listed in the complaint consisted of information which could not be verified and therefore could not be considered as violations for the purpose of initiating enforcement action.” However, regarding environmental enhancement: social grouping “was an area of major concern of the investigative team....ORPRC is being required to develop procedures for ensuring that appropriate efforts are made to socially house all nonhuman primates, and that exceptions to this requirement are appropriately considered and documented. These procedures will be submitted to APHIS for approval.”

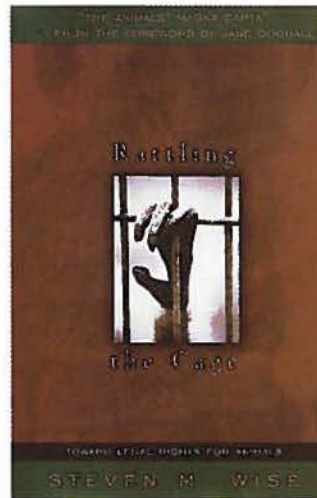
“Another area of concern for the team was the feeding of produce and the filling of enrichment devices on a regular basis. Records indicated that these tasks were receiving a low priority based on the availability of time and personnel.... We will be focusing additional attention on this area during future inspections.”

The letter also acknowledged that the former head of the Division of Animal Resources had resigned [though he’s now been hired by the Washington Primate Center], the former colony manager was permanently reassigned, more employees had been hired by the institution, and a plan of action was being implemented to correct the problems that were identified. We hope that ORPRC will embark on a serious effort to provide their long-suffering primates with better housing, care and enrichments and that USDA will be diligent in ensuring that this is the case. 🐾

Dr. Henry Foster, founder and chair of Charles River Laboratories, Foster’s attorney son, and Frankie Trull created NABR in Trull’s living room more than 20 years ago. Foster made clear the commercial value of promoting use of the maximum number of laboratory animals: “If you read the papers, everything seems to have carcinogenic effects. But that means more animal testing, which means growth for Charles River...so you can see why we continue to be enthused and excited.” (*The Wall Street Transcript*, May 21, 1979) Charles River has continued to expand since that time, recently opening a Gnotobiotics operation producing about 2,000 female mice per week and a new facility the company describes as “dedicated to the contract breeding and management of genetically engineered (transgenic, knockout and mutant) mice and rats.” If the Act encompasses birds, mice and rats, in addition to providing humane care and treatment, researchers will have to consider alternatives to the use of these animals—this objective conflicts with animal dealers’ interest in maximizing the sale and use of animals in experimentation.

Regrettably NABR convinced US Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) to attach a mandate to USDA’s annual appropriation from Congress preventing the agency from conducting any activity related to birds, mice and rats during this fiscal year!

Much of the biomedical industry appears to be rallying behind NABR and, unfortunately, we anticipate a sustained effort by NABR and their cohorts to deny basic protections to the millions of birds, mice and rats subject to experimentation in the United States each year. 🐾



## *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*

By Steven M. Wise  
362 pp. Cambridge, MA:  
A Merloyd Lawrence  
Book/Perseus Books.  
\$25.

*Rattling the Cage* is a seminal study on the need to provide animals with legal rights within our man-made legal framework. Creatively developing from the shadows of traditional

theoretical animal rights writings, it provides a sensible blueprint for challenging the current paradigm that refuses to recognize non-human animals’ rights.

Steven M. Wise, attorney, Harvard Law professor and long-time animal activist, supports his theory by applying the logic of traditional jurisprudence to a previously unrecognized legal arena. Wise suggests that certain non-human primates should be provided with rights of “personhood” instead of the centuries-old tradition of “thinghood.” Wise posits that since chimpanzees and bonobos share over 98 % of human genetic code, it is illogical to exclude them from human legal protection. Furthermore, since they exhibit qualities, such as complex feelings, advanced mental capabilities, learning and teaching skills, they should be treated as our true next of kin. Wise wonders how the legal system can deny rights to any living, breathing, and feeling creature such as a chimpanzee or bonobo whose intelligence is comparable to that of a five-year-old human child. If we are a society of laws, then we cannot logically or credibly deny extending those laws to chimpanzees and bonobos, he writes.

Wise diligently traces the historical roots of human discrimination towards animals: from the earliest legal writings onward, animals have been considered mere “things” with no other purpose than to serve humans. Wise discusses the “thick impenetrable wall” of “thinghood” that has been artificially and intentionally built between humans and animals from the beginning of known civilization in Mesopotamia, through many centuries, including the classic period of Greece and Rome, the development of all Western religions, the Enlightenment, the American Revolution and even through the age of Darwinism.

The fact that Wise’s argument only endorses “personhood” for certain species should not detract from the book’s importance and impact. Each positive legal gain helps certain animals and incrementally advances us toward the goal of helping them all. This book’s messages and practical directions are vital to all animals; *Rattling the Cage* should enhance attorney’s legal training and enable them to protect animals within our legal system in more creative, functional, and successful ways. 🐾

# Chinese Government Pardons 500 Bears



Animals Asia Foundation

*Andrew at the Sanctuary (above) and (below) in transit from the bile factory.*

Across China, captive Asiatic black bears (also called “moon” bears) spend each lonely day with metal catheters inserted into their gallbladders, perpetually “milked” for the precious bile inside—it is a life of miserable solitary confinement in cages 6 feet long and just over 2 feet wide and 2 feet high. But thanks to Jill Robinson and the Hong Kong-based *Animals Asia Foundation*, 500 of the nearly 7,000 bears on such Chinese bear “farms” are being freed to a sanctuary to live the remainder of their lives at play and in peace.

Robinson and her remarkable organization have signed an agreement with the China Wildlife Conservation Association in Beijing and the Sichuan Forestry Department to close the most deplorable bear farms in Sichuan with a goal of expanding the initiative to other Chinese provinces and promoting the manufacture and use of syn-

thetic or herbal alternatives to the application of bear bile in medicines and cosmetics.

The caged bears suffer unfathomable cruelty and endure appalling infections from the catheters. According to Robinson, “None of the bears on these farms had free access to water... small indents for the feeding tray, directly under the bears’ chins forced them to lie on their stomachs whilst eating, so that bile would be easier to extract.” Years in the cage caused horrific wounds, she states. “Most of the bears exhibited severe stereotypic behavior and many displayed head wounds from banging their heads against the bars of the cage in a pathetic attempt at stimulation, or had broken and worn down teeth from biting the cage bars.”

But now, with Robinson’s team of caregivers, the rehabilitation has begun and over 50 bears have already reached their haven. The bears are arriving at a temporary rescue center where veterinarians have begun operations to repair the gaping wounds from the steel catheters. Bears will then begin physiotherapy to strengthen their muscles so they may eventually play with their freed comrades. Appealing delicacies such as raisins, honey sandwiches or ice cream are used as positive incentives to help the bears along.

AWI shares *Animals Asia Foundation*’s hope that one day no bears will languish as bile machines, incarcerated and exploited daily. There is a fear that once the Chinese government allows release of these 500 bears



Animals Asia Foundation

*The Animals Asia Foundation is working towards the rescue of 500 bears. Confiscated from horrific bear farms in China, the first 63 bears were received on trucks in rusting cages. The bears ranged in age from cubs to middle and old age. Three legged Andrew, pictured here, is the first freed Moon Bear. He had to undergo surgery to mend the wound in his stomach from the steel catheter used to draw his bile. Now, he is able to live the remainder of his life in relative freedom.*

from the “worst” farms, China will claim to have solved the problem and seek international approval to export bile from the bears who remain in the farms that have not been closed down. We will fight vigorously to prevent this from ever happening. The reality of the current situation, however, is that this is an unprecedented opportunity to improve dramatically the lives of 500 magnificent creatures who, for many years, have suffered untold misery and pain to satisfy human greed. 🐾



Animals Asia Foundation

*Surgery is performed to remove metal implants and repair the bears' degraded bodies. Months of physiotherapy and care lie ahead to restore their physical and mental health.*

**ACTION** Animals Asia Foundation needs help to ensure that this ursine liberation is a success. The bears will need veterinary care, nutritious food, play equipment and toys, and sweet, tempting treats. To help rehabilitate them, please contribute to AAF through its web site at [www.animalsasia.org](http://www.animalsasia.org) or by sending donations to:

*Animals Asia Foundation, Hong Kong Headquarters Office,  
P.O. Box 82, Sai Kung Post Office, Sai Kung, Kowloon, Hong Kong*

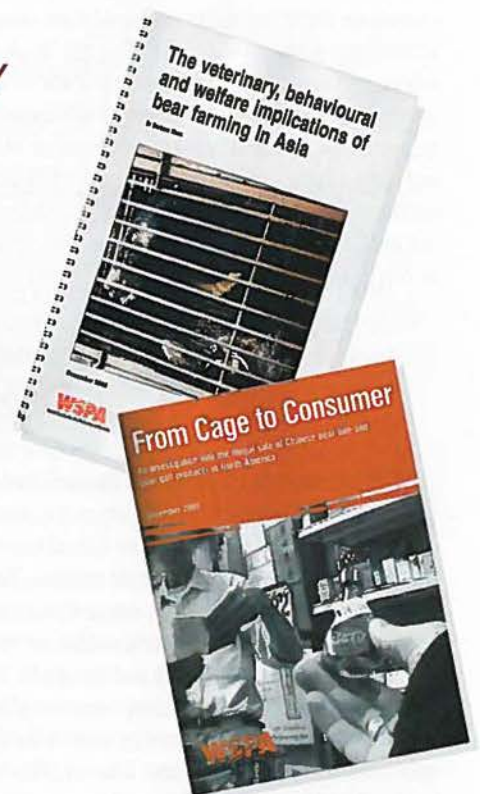
## Reports Highlight Cruelty and Illegality

Two new reports by the *World Society for the Protection of Animals* (WSPA) highlight the ongoing, hideously inhumane treatment of bears in Chinese bear farms and the black market underground trade in bear parts in North America. Their findings support the long-held belief shared by AWI, WSPA and others that more must be done immediately to end the global trade in bear parts.

*The veterinary, behavioural and welfare implications of bear farming in Asia* is a painstakingly detailed review of the dreadful conditions on 44 dungeon-like bear farms. The report reveals unsuitable housing where bears are trapped in metal cages where they cannot rest comfortably or stand on solid flooring. “In some cases,” the report explains, “bears were housed in metal boxes into which small holes had been punched for ventilation.” Extreme behavioral abnormalities including self-mutilation also occur. Bears are subjected to alarming suffering including gaping sores, bone deformities, swollen limbs, and numerous other health problems. Poor young bear cubs are callously forced to learn and perform

unnatural tricks such as bicycle riding and tightrope walking to make money for the bear farm owners until the cubs are old enough to be confined for regular bile removal. This scientific evaluation undertaken by Dr. Barbara Maas provides incontrovertible evidence of the cruelty of bear farms and they must be closed down.

*From Cage to Consumer* confirms the availability of bear gallbladders and bile in markets in San Francisco, New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, and five Canadian cities. In many of the 32 shops investigated in the United States, bear bile ointments, pills, powder, and intact gallbladders were available for sale. Prices ranged from fifty cents for bear bile plaster to \$650 for a whole gallbladder. This WSPA survey correctly concludes: “Bears are tortured for their bile and killed for their galls by individuals who are making enormous profits through this trade.” As long as the US provides a legal market for bear parts, wild bears will be shot by poachers for their gallbladders and Asiatic black bears will be entombed in steel cages for their bile. 🐾



**ACTION** Help stop the bear parts trade and help bring an end to the Asian bear farming industry. Contact Adam M. Roberts at AWI and read more about WSPA's work protecting bears by visiting its web site at <http://www.wspa.org.uk>

## Bronx Reptiles, Inc. Slithers Through the Law's Grasp

The Lacey Act mandates that live animals be imported into the US humanely: "...it shall be unlawful for any person, including any importer, knowingly to cause or permit any wild animal or bird to be transported to the United States, or any Territory or district thereof, under inhumane or unhealthful conditions or in violation of such requirements." In 1995, negligent packing resulted in the annihilation of an entire shipment of Solomon Island frogs—all 73 of them—imported by Bronx Reptiles, Inc. In 1996, US Magistrate Judge Cheryl L. Pollack found Bronx Reptiles guilty of violating the Act and the following year imposed a \$10,000 fine and five years probation. Bronx Reptiles had been fined for similar violations on a number of occasions involving iguanas, boa constrictors, chameleons, geckos, and other species.

When the 1995 shipment arrived at New York's JFK airport, Inspector Leo Yen of the US Fish and Wildlife Service observed, "that the frogs were packed in a shallow container with no damp materials, no separate bags, and no water tray with sponge." During the trial, Peter Brazaitis, curator of animals at the Central Park Zoo, testified that, "it is critical that frogs and other amphibians be packed with a reservoir of water when transported so that their skin does not dehydrate." The Court agreed: "[d]epriving a frog of sufficient moisture is virtually a guaranteed death sentence for that frog, and in this case, the fact that every single frog in the shipment died certainly supports that conclusion."



Paddy Ryan of Pacific Island Books

Solomon Island frogs (like the one pictured here) can die easily in a poorly prepared shipment.

This conviction was overturned on appeal on June 30, 2000. Two judges decided that the importer must have knowledge that a live animal shipment would be packed inhumanely and that Bronx Reptiles had no such knowledge. Dissenting, Senior Circuit Judge Oakes recalled the legislative history in passage of the Lacey Act's humane and healthful transport amendments: "Congress plainly contemplated that United States importers would be in a position where they could be responsible for ensuring safe transport of live animals."

The Department of Justice refused to request a Rehearing after the conviction was overturned, despite the Fish and Wildlife Service's urging. According to the Service's memo, "This decision puts the Service at a distinct disadvantage in our ability to ensure that live wildlife are imported in a humane and healthful manner." 🐾

## Don't Order the "Sea Bass"

Chilean Sea Bass with Almonds and Pistachios in Garlic Sauce? Baked Ginger Snap Crusted Chilean Sea Bass with Kiwi Lime Sauce? Coast to coast, Chilean Sea Bass can be found on restaurant menus. But when eateries offer such fish, they actually serve Patagonian toothfish, a species being rapidly depleted in the Southern Ocean.

The long-lived fish can survive to be 80 years old but has a difficult time recovering from over-exploitation with its slow reproductive rate; this is compounded by the fact that unregulated, unethical pirate fishers take toothfish at unsustainable levels. The Honorable Warren Truss, Australian Fisheries Minister, in September stated that a vessel suspected of poaching Patagonian toothfish had been sighted in Australian waters: "The suspect vessel's crew attempted to conceal its identity by obscuring its name and registration number and when approached fled the scene."

The Antarctica Project reports, "If pirate fishing continues at its current rate, scientists estimate that the Patagonian toothfish could be commercially extinct in less than three years." The Project asserts that pirate fishers are responsible for

over eighty % of the total catch - valued at five hundred million dollars. Toothfish fishing also causes the slaughter of numerous non-target species. Over 300,000 sea birds have reportedly been killed after being hooked on the fishers' gear and drowned. This includes the majestic albatross—twenty species of albatross are listed on the 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

According to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), "The high level of illegal and unregulated fishing for toothfish... threatens stocks of toothfish through over-fishing, and populations of seabirds through incidental capture and mortality during longlining." Despite this recognition, however, the 23 participating CCAMLR governments still set toothfish fishing quotas at its October 2000 meeting. Mark Stevens of The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition lamented that the participants "all but ignored scientists warnings [about] the massive pirate fishing of toothfish in Antarctica's oceans." Stevens continued: "CCAMLR is simply making wild guesses when it comes to estimating how much toothfish pirate fishers are pulling out of the Southern Ocean ecosystem." 🐾

## Washington Bans Steel-Jaw Leghold Traps by Citizen Initiative

**O**n November 7th, Washington voters approved an initiative by a 55% to 45% count banning steel-jaw leghold traps and other body-gripping traps for commerce in fur or recreational trapping. The initiative also bans the use of Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide, two deadly poisons used by the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program to kill coyotes. The passage of I-713 marks the fifth time in the last six years that voters have passed an initiative outlawing cruel and indiscriminate traps. AWI's companion organization, *The Society for Animal Protective Legislation* (SAPL) was a major supporter of this effort. Unfortunately, a similar initiative, Measure 97, was defeated in Oregon. SAPL and other groups are assessing the idea of redrafting the measure in order to place it on the November 2002 Oregon ballot.

## New Policy Against Cutting of Old Growth Timber

**T**he Chief of the Forest Service, Mike Dombeck, spoke at Duke University on Conservation Investments for Future Generations. He listed four principal Forest Service goals and devoted specific attention to Old Growth, citing the views of Gifford Pinchot and Aldo Leopold. Only 3% of our ancient trees have escaped the timber industry's attack. It is vital that this small remnant of our once great forests be left standing. Unfortunately, the wide planks cut

**ACTION** Letters to the editor of your local newspaper are an excellent way of getting information to readers. Also write the new Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton, and urge her to keep Mike Dombeck in his job as Chief of the Forest Service.

from trees that are hundreds of years old are especially prized by the industry because of the high prices they bring.

Even if not reappointed, Mr. Dombeck, who would be a great asset to the Bush Administration, cannot be dis-

missed from his post till 120 days after the change of administration (May 19) under federal rules.

Mr. Dombeck emphasized new rules announced January 4 which reduce the enormous network of logging roads in public lands. These roads if put end to end would circle the earth 15 times!

All who want to see forest creatures thrive in their woodland habitat and everyone who supports conservation of the public lands need to express strong support for Mr. Dombeck's goal of barring the cutting of old growth timber and for the ruling that shrinks the network of logging roads. 🐾

During the last decade, voters have approved more than a dozen laws to protect animals through statewide ballot initiative processes, banning activities ranging from trapping to cockfighting to bear baiting. *Campaigns & Elections*, a non-partisan magazine devoted to election coverage, rated animal protection as the number one issue on state ballots across the country in the year 2000 elections.

Trapping wasn't the only subject on state ballots this year. Montana voters adopted I-143 to outlaw the shooting of animals on game farms, a practice known as "canned hunting" and to bar the creation of any new game farms, which are not only cruel to captive wild animals slaughtered for meat or antlers, but also spread disease to free-ranging native wildlife. Alaska voters approved Measure 6, restoring a ban on land-and-shoot wolf hunting originally approved by voters in 1996 but arrogantly overturned by the state legislature over Governor Tony Knowles objection.

Ballot measures continue to provide an important tool for citizens to adopt laws directly when state legislatures and executive agencies fail to heed the people's interest in protecting animals from cruelty and violence. 🐾

## In Remembrance of Congressman Bruce Vento (1940-2000)

The State of Minnesota, the United States House of Representatives, and wildlife across the globe lost a determined advocate when Democratic Congressman Bruce F. Vento succumbed to a rare form of lung cancer on October 10, 2000.

First elected to Congress in 1976, Congressman Vento supported animal protection efforts throughout his tenure in the House. In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, he voted to reduce funding for government-sponsored lethal predator control, to prohibit commercial and recreational trapping on national wildlife refuges, and for a bill banning sale of pornographic videos showing women in spiked heels crushing defenseless little animals to death, dubbed "crush" videos. He cosponsored bills to prohibit dragging debilitated livestock to slaughter, to prohibit interstate transportation of birds for brutal cockfights, to end the use of steel-jaw leghold traps in the United States, and to provide money to start a conservation fund to protect great apes. He expressed outrage over the barbaric practice of shark finning which he called "ethically and morally wrong." A strong advocate of endangered species protection, Congressman Vento concluded: "We have no greater duty as citizens of this great nation - this global community - than to understand, nurture, protect and be inspired by the biosphere balance that sustains life."

Former Vice President Al Gore said of Congressman Vento, "Bruce championed the preservation and expansion of national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges and other environmental treasures. His conservation legacy will endure for many generations to come." 🐾

## Flourishing Finish to the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress

**A** number of important bills were signed into law in the year 2000, hopefully signaling a move in our nation's legislative branch toward compassion and conservation that will carry through the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress and beyond.

In December, two significant bills were enacted. 1) The Shark Finning Prohibition Act effectively prohibits the ruthless practice of hacking off the fins of live sharks and throwing them back into the ocean to die in agony. 2) The Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection Act provides thirty million dollars from the budget of the National Institutes of Health to establish a national system of sanctuaries to provide for the long-term care of chimpanzees no longer needed in biomedical research. This legislation will enable a peaceful, appropriate retirement for chimpanzees exploited in American biomedical testing laboratories.

To conserve the rapidly disappearing great apes remaining in the wild, the Great Ape Conservation Act was enacted. The bill establishes a fund to support projects related to chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans and gibbons. Grants distributed under this Act are intended to stabilize the species' populations in the wild and ensure their long-term viability. Logging—both legal and illegal—is destroying these species' African and Asian forest homes. This loss of valuable habitat and the growing trade in the flesh of great apes, the "bushmeat trade," has already reduced many populations to mere remnants.

Other bills signed into law would help animals engaged in law enforcement: one ends the Department of Defense's practice of euthanizing military working dogs and instead facilitates their adoption; another provides for strict penalties against anyone who harms police dogs and horses used by Federal agencies. Still other successfully enacted legislation bans the sale of



garments trimmed with cat or dog fur and encourages acceptance of alternatives to animal testing.

The Congressional Appropriations process also has increased funding for animal protection by federal agencies. 1) Animal Care Inspectors for the US Department of Agriculture had a desperately needed budget increase of two million dollars to undertake their essential enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. President Clinton's initial budget request for this item was a five million dollar increase. Efforts will continue to secure this much-needed funding. 2) An additional \$500,000 was appropriated for the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect manatees, the marine relative of the elephant, and their habitat. The money will be used to increase on-water law enforcement to prevent illegal speeding by motorboats whose propellers wound and kill manatees. 3) Fish and Wildlife also received an additional \$7 million to hire new law enforcement agents and \$2 million for the wildlife forensics laboratory in Oregon.

Many bills will be revisited in the year to come. Among them legislation to end: 1) the despicable trade in bear gallbladders for use in traditional Chinese medicine, 2) the sale of dogs and cats to laboratories by random source dealers, 3) the use of the barbaric steel-jaw leghold trap, 4) the transport of game birds for cockfighting, and 5) the unjustified practice of paying to shoot a confined wildlife, referred to as "canned hunts." 🐾

*Above photo: The mountain gorilla is now being joined on the world's most endangered list by all its closest living relatives, except man. Expert predictions reveal that chimpanzees, orangutans and bonobos as well as all gorillas may be extinct within 20 years.*



### ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007

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