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ABOUT THE COVER

Franz Lanting captured a mother and baby bonobo playing what humans know as the “airplane” game, in which a parent holds the child aloft on his or her feet as though the child is soaring through the air, carefully maintaining eye contact with one another as they play. Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*), also referred to as Pygmy chimpanzees, are humans’ closest genetic relatives. They live in a peaceful, matriarchal society but cling perilously to life in the lowland tropical forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)—land ravaged by civil war and the evisceration of the earth by multinational companies seeking profit in the DRC’s natural riches. They are also at risk from the bushmeat trade, which results in the slaughter of mothers and the sale of orphaned infants into the pet trade. Concrete population figures are scant, but as few as 5,000 bonobos may exist in the wild. Immediate action is vital to preserve this species. (See story pages 10-12.)

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Special Treatment for the Military?

The Defense Department is seeking dangerous, sweeping legislative changes to exempt military activities from key provisions of vital laws protecting animals and the environment. If the bill becomes law, the US could not place “the conservation of public lands, or the preservation or recovery of endangered, threatened, or other protected species found on military lands,” above the need to instruct soldiers “through realistic training on military lands and in military airspace.” The Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act could be undermined, while the Navy could flood the oceans with potentially deadly sonar more expeditiously.

The armed forces refer to the restriction of military land use by environmental and other regulations as “encroachment.” For example, as urban sprawl expands, cities displace lands otherwise inhabited by wildlife; when available habitat is marginalized in this way, lands used by the military may contain the critical habitat necessary for some threatened and endangered species’ recovery.

However, conservation and military training clearly are compatible. According to Congressional testimony, military land in the Southeast US is managed to protect the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker by restricting—not eliminating—training exercises in the area. A bombing range in Arizona employs biologists who monitor the presence of endangered Sonoran pronghorn antelope. The Air Force admits that between 1999 and 2001 only three percent of live bomb dropping missions were cancelled “because of the proximity of pronghorn antelope.” In Fort Hood, Texas, heavy artillery training is conducted in essential nesting habitat for two endangered songbirds, the golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo—25 percent of the land is managed for the species’ recovery, while 75 percent is used for unfettered live weapons fire.

Most of the laws circumvented by the draft bill already contain provisions to exempt Defense activities when such an exemption is vital to national security. The national security exemption in the Endangered Species Act, for one, has never been invoked. So after years of working cooperatively with the government agencies charged with enforcing America’s wildlife and environmental protection laws, it is fairly obvious that the military really doesn’t need any new special treatment. 🐾



Animal Welfare Institute

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This lucky polar bear, "Alaska," was freed from cruelty in a circus. While she now plays with a huge red ball in a large pool at the Baltimore Zoo, six polar bears still languish in Puerto Rican heat. Meanwhile, polar bears' arctic home is at risk by oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (See stories, pages 6-7.)



Hawksbill sea turtles are still "critically endangered," says the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, but hawksbill products continue to be sold illegally across the globe. (See story page 14.)

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Global Development: Benevolent or Villainous?

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

In Johannesburg, South Africa this summer, government representatives and nongovernmental leaders from across the globe will convene the World Summit on Sustainable Development to discuss the future direction of global development. Delegates to the meeting will examine issues including global poverty, women's role in society, protection of the environment and natural resources, and the eruption of the bubbling human population, currently tallying over six billion people and expected to rise to somewhere between nine and eleven billion people by 2050. More people results in more pressure on the already fragile environment and the inevitable destruction of entire ecosystems and a terrible loss of biodiversity. It means more wild animal extinctions and more animal cruelty. Distinguished Harvard Professor and Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson laments that we treat the environment "with such unnecessary ignorance and recklessness" and notes "When we destroy ecosystems and extinguish species, we degrade the greatest heritage this planet has to offer and thereby threaten our own existence."

The World Summit, sponsored by the United Nations, will examine the human impact on Earth and how to develop an integrated approach toward sustainable development. The goals are to establish a political declaration on the need for sustainable global development, create a specific plan of action toward that end, and build partnerships to achieve these short and long-term goals. It follows ten years after Agenda 21 was created at the Rio Earth Summit. The comprehensive Agenda 21 document acknowledges the need to combat deforestation and sets out goals to manage forests, to establish a comprehensive plan for sustainable agriculture

and rural development, to conserve biodiversity, and to protect the oceans and coastal environments.

A number of difficult issues will be before the delegates to the Summit. Human poverty is a pervasive global problem—the Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development notes that over 1.1 billion people live in absolute poverty across the globe. That is one out of every six people on the planet. Moreover, 113 million children of an age to attend primary school in developing countries do not receive a basic education (this figure does not account for illiterate, uneducated children in wealthier nations such as the United States). Without education, children will grow up to have more and more offspring, adding additional weight to the increasingly overpopulated world in which we live.

This population enlargement creates greater poverty and hunger. Unfortunately, the way in which hunger is addressed may come at an imperiling global cost. For instance, while fishing has fed people across the globe for millennia, overfishing and increases in illegal catches systematically have reduced fish populations. Some species already are commercially extinct, facing biological extinction in the (near) future without sufficient cautionary decisions. Intensive agricultural expansion could provide food more cheaply to those in need. However, we know in the United States that intensive animal factories, such as those built for hogs, lead to air pollution, poisoning of water wells and nearby streams, and unbearable cruelty to the confined animals. Agricultural and rural development should focus on sustainable, small-scale humane family farming, not large-scale corporate animal factories.

As industry moves into local communities, whether for agricultural development or other manufacturing, forests





Dave Curry/EIA

Accelerating global deforestation destroys vital habitat for countless threatened and endangered species.

often are destroyed, wiping out the vibrant species of plants and animals that previously sought sanctuary among the trees. The alarming rate of global deforestation hits hardest in the developing countries, notably those in Africa and South America where much of the world's most diverse and richest concentrations of wild animals exist. Illegal timber harvests increase the chances that forests will be felled unsustainably, enriching the wallets of the wealthy while leaving local people and wildlife further impoverished. Ecosystem and species decimation has disastrous consequences for humanity. Who knows how many life-saving plant species are destroyed in untapped areas because of indiscriminate corporate greed?

When various industries expand, so too does industrial pollution, which causes environmental degradation and exacerbates climate change. Global temperature shifts impact agricultural production adversely and increase the spread of disease, both having disproportionate impacts on the poor. Furthermore, unrestrained industrial expansion causes monumental urbanization and creation of bigger and bigger cities, which wipe out the natural environment and its denizens. Instead of creating sustainable local communities, wildlife, wild places, and unfortunate humans succumb to monstrous urban sprawl.

The live wildlife indigenous to many of these poor regions of the world can be an economic asset if approached properly. Some advocate the expansion of wildlife trade (live animals such as reptiles or parrots and animal parts such as skins or hunting trophies) as a means to alleviate poverty. The United Nations Environment Programme, for example, prepared a document on the interrelationships between Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the World Trade Organization. Within the document, which was made available during one of the World Summit Preparatory Sessions, wildlife trade is advocated because allegedly "the potential economic value of these species can be translated into tan-

gible economic benefits for populations whose livelihood depends on wildlife." The more appropriate "sustainable" approach is to cultivate an understanding that live animals in their natural habitats are worth more to local communities than slaughtered animals or animals that are captured cruelly and shipped abroad. A live elephant, for instance, can bring benefit to a community in Africa for decades through well-administered ecotourism. The recent Commission Chairman's report acknowledges appropriately that "Actions are required to promote sustainable tourism development in order to increase the benefits from tourism resources for the population in host communities, and maintain the cultural and environmental integrity of the host communities."

Life on earth is balanced fragily. The UN reminds us that more than one billion people lack safe drinking water, that infant mortality is ten times higher in developing countries than wealthy countries, and that "in 1996, 25 percent of the world's 4,630 mammal species and 11 percent of the 9,675 bird species were at significant risk of extinction." The outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg must include recognition of the interrelationship among poverty, population growth, environmental destruction, wildlife decimation, and massive cruelty to animals. An integrated approach toward remedying these debilitating global ills will increase the chances of holistic healing. We must take great care not to address hunger by polluting the environment with animal factories that also cause animal cruelty; and not to address poverty by fouling the air, increasing the temperature of the earth or cutting down the life-giving forests, subsequently wiping out the myriad species within the forest havens. Dr. Wilson correctly notes that our salvation comes by embracing an "environmental ethic," which, in his words, "is the only guide by which humanity and the rest of life can be safely conducted through the bottleneck into which our species has foolishly blundered." 🐾



United Poultry Concerns

Laying hens, cruelly crowded in wire battery cages, are never released till they are slaughtered. Intensive egg factories create massive pollution of air and water and fly infestation for neighboring communities.

Opposite page: Elephants are worth more alive than dead as tourism revenues from photographic elephant safaris can bring money to local communities for decades. Birdwatching and whalewatching are other examples of economically beneficial ecotourism.

Abrupt About—Face in ANWR Warnings

A March 2002 United States Geological Survey (USGS) report reveals the potentially dire consequences that might result from petroleum exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's (ANWR) northern coastal plain. The report, *Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain Terrestrial Wildlife Research Summaries*, adds fuel to the raging, fiery debate in Washington about opening additional parts of ANWR to oil drilling. ANWR was established in 1960.

The extensive USGS report that examined 12 years of data exposes potential threats to Porcupine caribou, muskoxen, polar bears, and snow geese from opening one specific area, known as "The 1002 Area" to oil drilling. The Porcupine caribou population in this area of the refuge is already declining; it may reach its lowest population level in the next three to seven years. Oil pipelines in this caribou's calving areas potentially would displace the animals during calving season, reducing chances of survival for offspring. The animals would be forced out of the areas with the rich vegetation necessary to meet their dietary needs sufficiently. Furthermore, these caribou would be pushed into areas with a greater density of pred-

ators such as grizzly bears and wolves.

Muskoxen habitat also could be affected by drilling, and the extensive USGS report notes that these animals are also declining in the area. The muskoxen live in the coastal plain of ANWR year-round. According to USGS, "Muskoxen in the Arctic Refuge are vulnerable to disturbance from activities associated with petroleum exploration and extraction because of their year-round residency, their small population numbers and their need to conserve energy for the 9 months of the winter if they are to successfully reproduce." While 368 muskoxen were counted in "The 1002 Area" in 1968, an estimated 168-212 were found between 1996 and 2001.

Polar bears in the area are also exposed to risk from oil drilling and related activities including road building, particularly because the area of ANWR sought for exploration is a region where polar bears den.

Finally, the report notes that snow geese build their fat reserves in ANWR's coastal plain in preparation for their over 1,000 mile migration from Canada to Mexico; industrial development there could displace geese from prime feeding habitats.

STOP PRESS!

The Washington Post has revealed that a hastily-prepared subsequent report, commissioned by President Bush's Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, downplays the potential impacts of oil drilling on caribou in the study area. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) told the *Post* "There have been numerous government reports telling the Bush Administration what they didn't want to hear, namely that drilling in the Arctic will forever mar this unspoiled wilderness. Now they've rushed through a study telling them what they do want to hear, but an objective scientific review would show it to be lacking." Environmental ally Senator John Kerry (D-MA), a fierce opponent of oil drilling in ANWR, asserted, "The new Administration report shows that President Bush and the oil industry are unyielding in their fight to drill in ANWR despite the risks."

Despite this ploy, the Senate rebuffed attempts to open ANWR to drilling, at least temporarily. On April 18, 2002, Senators Lieberman and Kerry successfully defeated an amendment to a comprehensive energy bill pending in the Senate to allow drilling in ANWR. The debate, however, is far from over and oil drilling proponents promise to raise the issue repeatedly in varied forms. The House of Representatives version of the energy bill already includes a provision to drill in the Refuge, and a Conference Committee will ultimately reconcile the differences in the two bills. 🐾



Alaska's Inupiat Eskimos call muskoxen "oomingmak" (animal with skin like a beard). Oil exploration would threaten these magnificent hairy animals in the northern coastal plain of the ANWR. Photo by Jo Keller/USFWS.



"Alaska" explores her new surroundings in the Baltimore Zoo, drastically different from the inhumane circus cages from which she was freed.

Saving the Suarez Seven

On March 6, 2002, US marshals and representatives from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service confiscated "Alaska," one of the polar bears languishing in the Suarez Brothers circus, currently stationed in Puerto Rico. As we reported in the last issue of the *AWI Quarterly*, Suarez kept seven polar bears, noted for their naturally frigid arctic habitat, in a traveling menagerie that visits Caribbean nations with incredibly warm climates.

The circus's records for this particular bear clearly were fraudulent as the circus used information for a bear who already had died years earlier in a German zoo—a case of ursine identity theft. "Alaska's" new home, after a 30-day quarantine period, is in the Baltimore Zoo, providing much-needed companionship to the zoo's formerly solitary polar bear, "Magnet."

Meanwhile, the remaining "Suarez Six" continue their insufferable stay in Puerto Rico where temperatures rise to 113°F while the circus waits to see if the Fish and

Wildlife Service will grant an export permit to leave the US and head to the island nation of St. Maarten. Unfortunately, the United States Department of Agriculture has ignored its responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act and its own policy on animal care and appears unwilling to confiscate the polar bears, despite repeated violations of the minimum standards of care mandated under the law. Even misdemeanor cruelty charges brought against the circus by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources could not free the "Suarez Seven," as the judge ruled in favor of the circus on February 28, 2002.

While the circus sweats out the decision of the Fish and Wildlife Service on granting the export permit—in the face of mounting public pressure against the circus—Congress again has weighed in on the side of the polar bears. On March 12, 2002, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and 38 of his colleagues in the House of Representatives introduced The Polar Bear Protection Act of 2002, "to make

"It has been stated by the Suarez Brothers Circus (and their two veterinarians) that these polar bears are 'acclimated to the tropics' because they were born in captivity and they have traveled constantly, a few times to the tropics. I would like somebody to explain to me, how, in only 10 or 20 years, the Suarez Brothers Circus and their veterinarians have changed all the structural and functional adaptations in these bears which has taken Nature (Natural Selection) more than 50 million years of evolution to develop for Arctic life...To presume that these animals are 'acclimated to the tropics' to obtain permits and justify deficiencies in the maintenance, care, and husbandry of the polar bears represents an insult to the intelligence of any honest veterinarian, zoologist, scientist, or any person with genuine interest in wildlife."

*—Dr. Pedro E. Nunez Sepulveda,
Veterinarian in Puerto Rico*

sure that the other six bears are not forgotten and that polar bears will not suffer like this in the future." Among the original cosponsors is Puerto Rico's Resident Commissioner, Anibal Acevedo-Vila. The legislation simply prohibits anyone from knowingly making "available any polar bear for use in a traveling show or circus." "The bottom line is that the circus is just not an appropriate place for a polar bear," said Congressman Blumenauer. "We have the power to stop this outrage, end the cruelty and prohibit future mistreatment of these amazing animals." 🐾

Forcibly Breaking the Maternal Bond

BY CATHY LISS

Harry Harlow became famous in the 1960s for providing “scientific” evidence for the obvious fact that taking monkeys away from their mothers (maternal deprivation) is an extremely distressing experience for the young. Harlow focused exclusively on the infants’ reactions of distress, depression, and consequential development of behavioral pathologies, and seemingly overlooked that the mother also suffers distress when the two are separated permanently for experimental reasons. The procedure is inhumane and should not be condoned by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees.

Although ethically unacceptable, maternal deprivation studies still are practiced to investigate in even greater detail all possible distress responses resulting from maternal deprivation. In the last two years, eight maternal deprivation studies involving 23 different researchers at seven institutions have been published in scientific journals. In all eight studies rhesus macaque babies were taken away from their mothers shortly after birth. They were reared singly for several weeks and subsequently pair- or group-housed with other mother-deprived infants. Various parameters of the mother-deprived infants were then compared with those of mother-reared infants. The following quotes summarize the rationale behind the investigations and the scientific “discoveries” made.

- “Previous research has linked maternal deprivation in infant monkeys to subsequent social deficits. Little is known, however, about the development of social competence in monkeys reared with limited peer interactions as compared to mother- and peer-reared monkeys....These findings indicate that impoverished early rearing experiences, such as adult absence and varying degrees of social isolation, are useful predictors of future social success in rhesus monkeys.”

- “Although monkeys with early maternal and social deprivation show later behavioral and affective deficits compared to their maternally-reared counterparts, the extent to which these differences may be captured by subjectively-measured personality ratings remains relatively unexplored....We examined the influence of early social deprivation on personality.” Findings were not conclusive.

- “Infant monkeys reared in peer groups or with inanimate surrogates show deficits in social and affiliative behavior compared to mother-reared counterparts....The purpose of this investigation was to assess the effect of different rearing conditions on responsiveness to and acquisition of a simple psychomotor task early in development....Taken together, these data provide a framework for further assessment of individual and between-group differences in responsiveness of animals with different rearing experiences.”

- Statistical analysis “showed a trend for peer-reared monkeys to have smaller brains than mother-reared....Further study is needed to illuminate a possible relationship between rearing condition and brain volume.”

- “The experience of control over environmental outcomes during infancy is essential for development of mastery motivation, self-efficacy, and optimism....We developed an apparatus to provide singly-housed, surrogate-peer reared infants with control or no control over treat delivery.... Due to the success of the pilot study, these apparatuses will be implemented in future studies.”

- “The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of early rearing and stress-induced rise of plasma cortisol collected during infancy as biological predictors of adult alcohol consumption in nonhuman primates....These findings suggest that early rearing experiences...are useful psychobiological predictors of future high alcohol consumption among nonhuman primates....Many unanswered issues remain regarding the cause and effect relationships between vulnerability to stress, cortisol production, and alcohol drinking.”

- “Antidepressants are widely used in treating depression and other behavioral problems in children and adolescents. Little is known about the long-term effects of these agents, particularly on physiological systems....Regardless of the underlying mechanism(s), the present study indicates that prophylactic treatment against the negative consequences of social separation with antidepressants in rhesus monkeys (prior to 1 year of age) was associated with a significant alteration in several immune parameters 5 years later....These results



The Following Facilities Are Still Conducting Maternal Deprivation Experiments:

- Laboratory of Comparative Ethology, Poolesville, MD
- Laboratory of Clinical Studies-Primate Unit, Poolesville, MD
- National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Bethesda, MD
- Laboratory of Neurogenetics, Bethesda, MD
- University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO
- Evanston Northwestern Healthcare Research Institute, Evanston, IL
- University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS

Baby rhesus macaques deprived of their mothers cling to each other in their desperation.

should be considered when prescribing commonly used antidepressants for treatment of childhood disorders.”

• “Clinical depression is often characterized by a loss of interest or pleasure in formerly enjoyable activities [anhedonia]....All maternally-deprived animals displayed consistent affective display confusion, huddling, fearfulness, agitation and, in one case sham self-biting throughout the course of experimentation....We conclude that maternally-deprived rhesus monkeys do not display gustatory signs of anhedonia, but rather of insensitivity to gustatory stimuli....It will be of interest in future studies to determine if a similar phenomenon can be demonstrated in rodents.”

Forcefully separating a primate mother from her baby causes severe distress in both mother and infant and in human and nonhuman primates. Similar maternal deprivation routinely occurs at dairy factory farms where calves are removed from their mothers, subjecting both the cow and calf to extreme psychological distress. It is questionable that the scientific rationale and findings of the studies mentioned here justify the psychological suffering they inflicted on rhesus macaque mothers and their infants. 🐾



Greg Morton/Media Group, UBC

These contented rats observe a camera for the first time. They enjoy riding to the maze in this open cage and the reward they receive at the end of the maze.

Environmental Enrichment for Rats

BY DR. EMILY PATTERSON-KANE,
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Most scientists strive to maintain research animals under hygienic conditions. Recently, some scientists' concern with animal behaviour and well-being has increased. Discussions about the role of animals in science have broadened, including topics such as scientist-animal relationships and people's emotional reaction to the killing of research animals.

One outcome is that many researchers provide more stimulating living conditions for their animals, “environmental enrichment.” Research is being conducted to determine which environmental features are important to animals, by measuring their behaviour and preferences. This approach helps us design habitats that allow animals to satisfy their needs and perform their natural behaviours.

My personal research has shown that as colony-dwelling animals, rats require contact with their own kind; as small burrowing animals they want a secure nest-box more than a novel object to investigate; as a prey species they prefer cages that don't leave them stranded out in the open.

While a number of organizations globally promote effective environmental enrichment, many factors slow the implementation of enriched conditions in our laboratories. Traditional husbandry methods are relatively slow to change. Meanwhile, the increasing use of small, individu-

ally ventilated cages limits the amount of beneficial space, social contact, handling, and other enrichment that can be provided easily.

Providing high-quality care for research animals is sometimes difficult, requiring one to attain new information, weigh various options, and make changes that may seem inconvenient. Nevertheless, the momentum for improved animal welfare in animal-centred science is building. Animal sciences must honour the ethical values of our society... including the valuable opinions of our rats. 🐾



Greg Morton/Media Group, UBC

Old pigeon cages with shelves and nestboxes make ideal group cages for rats.



Bonobo: Messenger of Peace, Victim of War

BY SALLY JEWELL COXE,
BONOBO CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Witness the bonobo. Bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) were the last great ape to be studied by modern scientists and unless protections are enforced immediately, they could be the first to go extinct. These rare apes inhabit the central Congo Basin, the second largest rain forest on Earth and the area of greatest biodiversity in Africa. Found only in one country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a resource-rich region now ravaged by civil war and foreign occupation, bonobos face an ironic fate. Distinguished by their peaceful, matriarchal society and loving nature,

bonobos have become victims of human violence.

Bonobos are being hunted in greater numbers throughout their habitat, and little is being done to protect them. The population, small to begin with, is fragmented and decreasing. No one knows how many bonobos survive. Estimates range between 5,000 and 20,000, but there is insufficient evidence to support any claims. We do know that bonobos have disappeared from several areas where they formerly lived unthreatened. Traditional taboos, which once protected bonobos, are breaking down in the face of economic desperation and human population pressure. More and more bonobos are being killed, both for sustenance and for profit in the commercial bushmeat

trade, which is ravaging wildlife across central Africa.

Unlike their close relatives, the chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) who have a male-dominated, competitive society and actually wage territorial wars against each other, bonobos have a matriarchal culture, bound by cooperation, sharing, and the creative use of sex. Bonobos live in large groups where peaceful coexistence is the norm. Females carry the highest rank and the sons of ranking females are the leaders among males. Alliances among females are the central unifying force.

Bonobos show how a complex society can be ordered successfully by cooperation, rather than competition. They demonstrate many qualities we humans need to emulate to ensure our



Deep in the heart of the Congo, legends linger about an elusive, “almost human” shadow, an ape so much like us that some indigenous people believe it is trying to become human. This mysterious ape has been shrouded from the allure accorded its cousins, the chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans. In fact, most people do not even know it exists.

own survival, and that of our planet.

Dubbed “the sexy apes,” bonobos truly exemplify the 1960s credo, “make love, not war.” They make a lot of love and do so in every conceivable fashion. Sex transcends reproduction in bonobos, as it does in humans. Bonobos are bisexual, or as psychologist Frans de Waal contends, “pansexual.” Sex permeates almost all aspects of daily life. Encounters, both with the same and the opposite sex, serve as a way of bonding, sharing, and keeping the peace. When neighboring groups of bonobos meet in the forest, they greet one another sexually and share food instead of fighting. Unlike other apes, bonobos frequently copulate face to face, looking into each other’s eyes.

Bonobo anatomy is strikingly sim-

ilar to that of our early human ancestor, Australopithecus. Bonobos walk bipedally more easily and more often than other apes. The Mongandu people of the Congo forest tell a story that goes like this: One day, all the animals went to God to ask him to give them tails. God said that the animals to receive tails are those who don’t stand upright. The bonobo, along with the other animals, respected this law. When they were coming in line to take their tails, the bonobo felt the need to scratch his back. He forgot God’s law and walked as he was scratching himself, standing up on two feet. Seeing this, God chased him and said, “Go away, because you are not an animal that can have a tail. Indeed, you are a man.”

The uncommon social structure,

sexual behavior, and intellectual capacity of bonobos reveal compelling clues about the roots of human nature. Highly compassionate and conscious beings, bonobos blur the line between animal and human. Much of what we know about the bonobo mind and emotion is thanks to two very special individuals, Kanzi and his sister Panbani-sha, who currently live at the Georgia State University Language Research Center near Atlanta. Under the tutelage of Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, these bonobos have learned to understand spoken English and they can communicate using a sign language. The bonobos speak by pointing to lexigrams or symbols on a keyboard that correspond to words.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

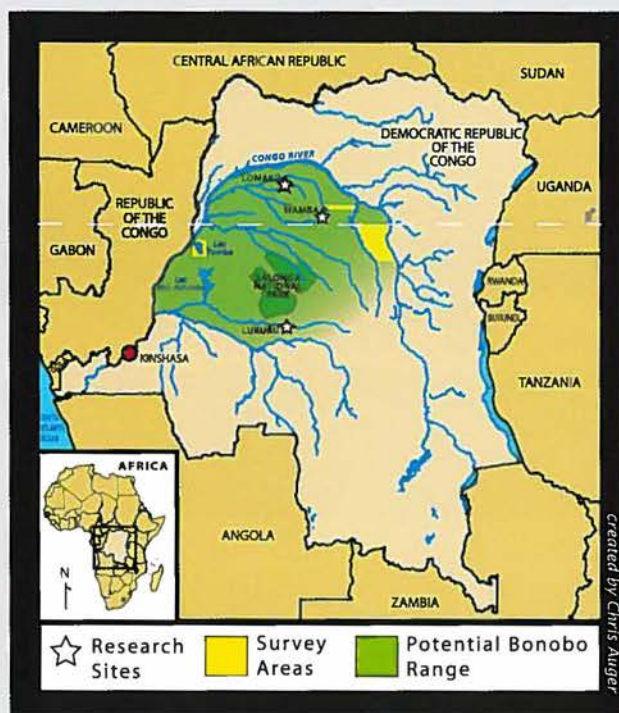
Kanzi and Panbanisha have certainly been my best teachers, and they have inspired my work for bonobo conservation more than anything else. Getting to know them has been one of the most exhilarating and humbling experiences of my life, and I will always be grateful to Sue Savage-Rumbaugh for opening her door to me. The first day I had direct contact with Panbanisha several years ago, we went for a walk in the forest surrounding the lab. Panbanisha loves to play hide-and-seek, and she wanted to hide with me. We found a secluded spot on the riverbank and huddled together under a bush. Panbanisha kept very quiet and still. When the researcher on the prowl yelled, "Panbanisha, where are you?" she turned to me, her eyes alert and cautious, as if to say "shhh, don't move!" I experienced the same kind of intimate camaraderie I did as a child, hiding out in the woods with my best friend avoiding imaginary foes.

When we stopped to rest and have a snack, Panbanisha began to groom me, combing my hair with her fingers, inspecting the contours of my face. When she discovered a cut on my wrist, she pointed to it, furrowed her brow and made soft "whu" sounds with a doctorly air of concern. Then she said "hurt" on her keyboard. Once she was convinced that this "hurt" was not "bad," she proceeded to bite off all my fingernails! Quite the manicurist, Panbanisha peeled a twig making a sharp point, then used it to clean under what remained of my nails, carefully attending to each finger, one by one. This is bonding bonobo-style. I was awed and honored to be accepted by Panbanisha and as happy as she was to have made a new friend.

Now, Panbanisha has reached maturity and has two babies of her own. The depth of her consciousness and intelligence is palpable; you can

sense it merely by looking into her eyes. It is clear to all who know her and Kanzi well that they are capable of much more than they have demonstrated so far, even in ground-breaking scientific tests.

Likewise, in the wild, it is clear that bonobos have a complex communication system, which they use to coordinate their movements through the forest, breaking into small groups for foraging during the day and then regrouping at night. When bonobos gather in the trees to make their night nests, they fill the twilight with a symphony of soprano squeals. Their high-pitched vocalizations sound like the



voices of exotic birds, compared to the more guttural hoots of chimpanzees. Indigenous Mongandu people who live among bonobos at the Wamba research site still use a whistle language in the forest that is eerily reminiscent of the bonobo calls.

We can learn much from bonobos, and we stand to lose enormously if these loving, intelligent apes are allowed to disappear.

Thankfully, there is hope. After six years of civil war, the peace process is finally moving forward in the DRC, and it is now possible to resume con-

servation work in the bonobo habitat. There is an urgent need to raise awareness globally and mobilize conservation in the DRC. As the Congo War abates, concerted efforts can begin to protect bonobos and their habitat and to position the apes as a national treasure and icon of peace.

YOU CAN HELP!

Every donation makes a difference. Please contact the Bonobo Conservation Initiative: 2701 Connecticut Ave., NW #702, Washington, DC 20008, (202) 332-1014.

The Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC and Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. In partnership with other groups, the BCI is launching a major international campaign to save bonobos before it's too late.

BCI works on in-situ conservation efforts such as a coordinated bonobo survey, establishment of new protected areas, community conservation and female empowerment, and an "Adopt-a-Bonobo" Campaign to support orphan bonobos.

BCI promotes education and awareness through our website, www.bonobo.org, a multimedia awareness campaign, digital radio in DRC, and the hosting of an International Bonobo Summit and Bonobo Peace Concert.

We continue to work with the DRC government and UN agencies to enforce laws against hunting and to position bonobos as a flagship for the Congo and icon of peace.

Your contribution will help to protect bonobos in their natural environment and raise awareness about these amazing apes worldwide. Every project that the BCI undertakes benefits not only bonobos and the biodiversity of the Congo Forest, but also the local people and prospects for peace. 🐼

The Reign of Terror Continues in Zimbabwe

In previous issues of the *AWI Quarterly* we reported on the disastrous wildlife poaching that has occurred rampantly during the recent violence in Zimbabwe. Black “war veterans,” incited by Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, have been violently seizing white-owned farm land, killing humans and wildlife in the process. In one of the most recent incidents, according to Reuters, a white farm owner was allegedly trying to escape his land when he was dragged from his car, tied to a tree, and shot. Wild animals including elephants, hippos, rhinos, cheetah, and others, are consistently shot or snared, primarily for their meat.

AWI recently learned that domestic livestock and people’s companion animals are under assault as well. Meryl Harrison, Chief Inspector and National Coordinator of the Zimbabwe National Society for the Protection of Animals, is criss-crossing the country trying to rescue these innocent victims of the Zimbabwean hostilities.

Cattle, sheep, and goats are indiscriminately slaughtered or abandoned. On one farm, the owners left behind hundreds of pigs with enough food

for two months but the pillagers sold the feed, leaving the animals to starve. Piglets on that farm are reportedly dying each day. “Dozens of pigs had died and the starving surviving animals were feeding on the rotting carcasses,” reads a report from February 3, 2002. Through Meryl’s indefatigable efforts, 84 pigs were saved (though she paid to rescue 100), but over 500 remain.

A group of people in one incident stoned a young female dog named “fox” and left her for dead. Only three months old, her spine was crushed by the rocks that slammed against her. She died shortly after being reached by Meryl. In some instances, dogs and other pets are abandoned when landowners are forced to escape their property. One farmer said that looters had bludgeoned one of his two cats right in front of him.

However, even some of the worst cases ended in successful rescues by Meryl and her associates. One rescued dog had an axe embedded in her back while another, “Zulu,” was used by looters to hunt and “had his throat torn open by a warthog,” Meryl reports. In another case, missing dogs were reunited with their owners: “After

some time the most emaciated dog I have ever seen arrived at the village. I knew immediately from the description we had that he was the other missing dog. He came straight to me, sat down and his warm amber colored eyes stared at me. He was covered in ticks, every vertebra on his back stood out but he could still wag his tail. The settlers themselves offered to lift him into the back of our truck. A few hours later after a vet check he was reunited with his overjoyed owners.”

President Robert Mugabe was sworn in for another six-year presidential term on Sunday, March 17, 2002, in Harare, Zimbabwe. Clearly, the manner in which Mugabe has waged his two-year land redistribution campaign has alienated his country from the rest of the world and caused remarkable domestic suffering to people and wildlife. When we initially reported on the situation in Zimbabwe in the winter 2001 issue, we concluded that an unending violent chaos in Zimbabwe “could prove irreversibly disastrous for both its wildlife and its people.” Now we have to add livestock and pets to that list of victims.



YOU CAN HELP RESCUE ANIMALS IN ZIMBABWE!

Donations to assist Meryl’s essential animal welfare work in Zimbabwe can be sent marked “ZIMHELP” to the NSPCA at PO Box 1320, Alberton, 1450, SOUTH AFRICA or contact the NSPCA on 011-27-11-907-3590 for details on how to donate. 🐾

Left: Lucky dogs arrive at the rescue center set up to receive all displaced animals in this area.

Right: Meryl tries to save as many pigs and other animals as she can.

Hawksbills Still Critically Endangered

More than 2,700 items of jewelry made from hawksbill sea turtles were confiscated from local artisans in Costa Rica at the end of 2001. Didiher Chacon of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network helped coordinate the operation to rid the local tourist markets of these items. Chacon noted that Costa Rica, a nation that has opposed moves to reopen international commercial trade in hawksbill products, "should set an example by stopping all illegal commerce of hawksbill products within our borders... the open and illegal commerce of hawksbill products in Costa Rica is a shame to our authorities."

Hawksbill sea turtles are found throughout tropical and subtropical areas and have nesting beaches in at least 60 countries and were once killed in large numbers for the international trade in their shells, which were used to make a variety of ornamental "tortoiseshell" objects. Since 1975, hawksbills have been protected fully from international commercial trade by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This protection has been a vital tool in ensuring their continued survival.

However, the turtles are under constant assault by those who wish to resume profiting by the slaughter of sea turtles and international commercialization of their products. Cuba has proposed to CITES that it again be allowed to trade in hawksbill sea turtle shells (for sale to Japan). Such proposals have so far been defeated, including during the deliberations of the Parties to CITES in 2000.

Failing under CITES' political and scientific processes, traders and profiteers in sea turtles have developed a new tactic: they

question the biological status of the species, a key factor used to determine whether a species should have CITES protection. Since 1996, the hawksbill sea turtle has been listed as "Critically Endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)—a listing status reserved for the world's most endangered species. Recently, those in favor of sea turtle trade challenged this listing. For the first time in its history, the IUCN convened a Standards and Petitions Subcommittee to consider the challenge. The Subcommittee upheld the hawksbill sea turtle listing as "Critically Endangered," noting that there may have been an overall population decline over a period of three generations.

The petitioners are well-known turtle trade advocates, Graham Webb and Nicholas Mrosovsky. Webb works for an Australian-based company, Wildlife Management International, which provides "wildlife management services around the world." Mrosovsky is a physiologist at the University of Toronto, Canada.

No longer can there be any legitimate scientific arguments about the biological status of the species. Hawksbills clearly require the highest level of protection by CITES and nations throughout Latin America and elsewhere should follow the Costa Rican lead and crack down on the illegal trade in hawksbill sea turtle products. 🐢



Rings and bracelets made from endangered hawksbill sea turtles are confiscated from various stores around San Jose, Costa Rica and surrounding towns.

Bequests to AWI

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

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

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

Turtles, Tortoises & Terrapins: Survivors in Armor

By Ronald Orenstein

Firefly Books 2001; ISBN: 1-55209-605X; 308 pages

While turtles may have evolved fairly little over the past 200 million years, our knowledge about them has increased dramatically. Dr. Ronald Orenstein's new book presents a remarkable amount of wisdom in an eminently readable volume. He takes us on a global journey detailing the unique features of hundreds of different turtles: Australia's rare western swamp turtle, the South American matamata turtle, which resembles "a pile of dead leaves," Africa's carnivorous helmeted terrapin, and all species of sea turtles.

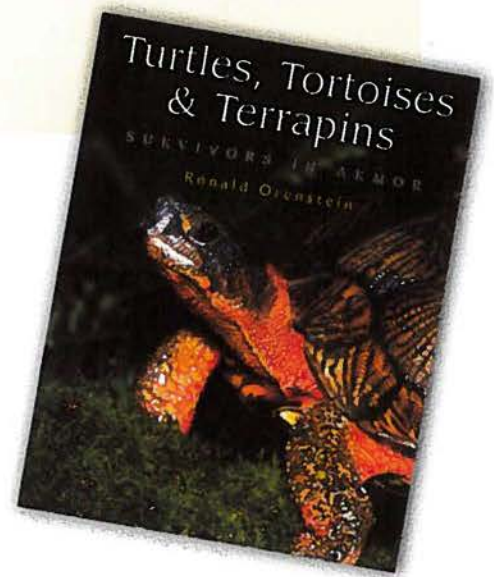
Many questions about turtles are explored. How do they breathe in their restrictive shells? What do they eat? How do they handle temperature extremes? What are their courtship rituals? How do they fend off predators?

The book is replete with more

than 300 beautiful color photographs that illustrate variations in shell shape, neck length, and colorations. There are close-ups of turtle hatchlings emerging from their shells and even a shot of an Australian broad-shelled turtle breathing underwater, air bubbles rising toward the surface.

Turtles are at grave risk. They succumb to habitat loss, pollution, predators, and the international trade in turtles for food and their shells. "The international trade in wild-caught pet turtles condemns many animals to slow and miserable deaths," Dr. Orenstein writes.

While he asserts that turtles are "victims of almost the entire catalogue of abuses we heap on our environment," there is hope that with action by international conventions, passage of specific protective laws, and education of the public, turtles



can be saved. Dr. Orenstein correctly contends that "wild species in their natural environments are resources to be husbanded and protected, not mines to be pillaged."

When asked for whom the book is intended, the author simply responded, "turtle lovers." Anyone who is not yet in that category surely will be after reading this magnificent book. 🐢

Reptiles as Pets: An Examination of the Trade in Live Reptiles in the United States

By Joseph Franke, M.S. and Teresa M. Telecky, Ph.D.

The Humane Society of the United States 2001; ISBN 0-9658942; 146 pages

Are you considering adding your home to the roughly four million in the US containing a reptile or amphibian as a companion? Read *Reptiles as Pets* first. The international commercial trade in these delicate creatures involves high mortality, individual animal cruelty, and human health risks.

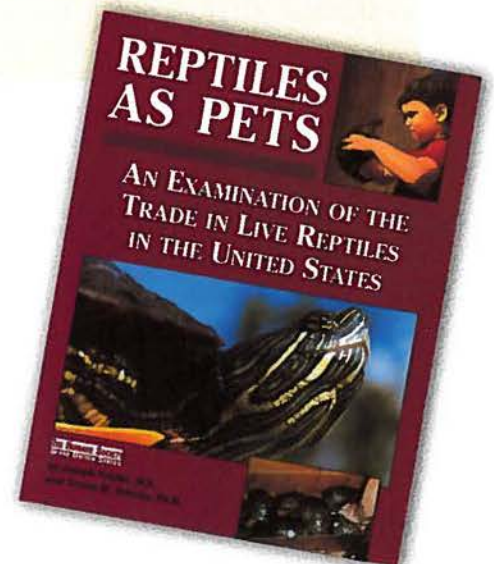
The trade in live reptiles, amphibians, and related products is estimated to be a two billion dollar business annually in the US. Impulsive pet store customers especially are vulnerable to reptile purchases. *Reptiles as Pets* contends that some major retailers "place their reptile cages near the front of their stores in high-traffic locations in order to entice the impulse buyer. Additionally, many of the cages are placed low to the ground, making

them more visible to children."

Reptiles and amphibians often are cheap to purchase but housing and related equipment are expensive. Thus, when animals die, people buy replacement pets, having already invested in the housing apparatus.

Injury and death to reptiles in trade begins at capture and continues through transport. Animals may be shipped cruelly in containers stacked on top of one another, sometimes with little or no water, with thin wooden dividers that can collapse, crushing animals on the lower rows. Well over 80% of those who survive to a buyer's home may die within the first year.

Our health is also jeopardized. Reptiles are reservoirs for salmonella bacteria, which can be transmitted to humans; snakes have been known to



attack humans in their own homes, often with fatal results.

Reptiles as Pets is full of useful data, informative charts and graphs, and real-life stories which highlight the myriad dangers of reptile pet ownership.

Buyer beware! 🐢



Preserving Poland's Family Farms

BY TOM GARRETT

If London is a city of pigeons, Warsaw in winter, before the return of spring migrants, is a city of crows. Saski (Saxon) Park, in downtown Warsaw, contains a full range of European corvids. Jackdaws swirl around the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Rooks strut and caw. There are Alpine choeghs, acrobatic fliers with curved, yellow beaks and magpies with iridescent tails. Flocks of European jays, large, noisy birds with brown, black and white markings often appear; the smaller corvids, nutcrackers and starlings, are abundant. All give a wide birth to the formidable 20 inch, gray and black hooded crows, the common crow of northern Europe and dominant species, save one, in matters corvine. Ravens themselves, are not urban birds. But jogging in first light on a Sunday morning, I finally saw a pair of ravens sitting together on the park's highest monument, regarding me, it seemed, silently and wisely.

The profusion of bird life in Poland's capital is no anomaly. Poland's forests, untouched river floodplains, vast tracts of preserved marshes, millions of hectares of farmland unpoisoned by pesticides or herbicides, are home to over 200 avian species driven to rarity or extinction in Western Europe. There is no better gauge of the ecological health of Poland vs. Western Europe than the status of the white stork. More than a quarter of the world's remaining white storks—over 40,000 pairs—nest in Poland compared to 3-4,000 in Germany, 400 in Austria, less than 100 in France, 8 in Denmark and none in Belgium. For some birds, the Greater Spotted Eagle perhaps, and the Great Snipe, dependence is absolute; they survive as Poland endures.

While Poland remains an oasis, it is an oasis besieged. All that Poland has sheltered from the ecological havoc beyond its borders—undammed rivers, virgin temperate forests, an aquatic ecosystem larger than Belgium, a traditional, peasant based agriculture—is acutely at risk from European

Union (EU) demands of economic subjugation as the price for Poland's accession to the EU and from an interlocking phalanx of multinational corporations and banks.

With foreign takeover of Poland's industry all but consummated and once powerful unions impotent, the corporate-bureaucratic assault is aimed at the 25% of Poland's population living on farms and in tiny rural villages. The aim of the EU converges precisely with the designs of multinational agribusiness: "modernize" Polish agriculture by driving 1.2 million of the nation's two million farm families off the land, thereby facilitating replacement of traditional agriculture by industrial agriculture.

Poland runs the risk of meeting the same fate as the United Kingdom. There, almost as a template for what is now happening in Poland, EU guidelines were used as a pretext for shutting down the great majority of the UK's small slaughterhouses. By wiping out small slaughterhouses, the small shops relying on them were denied a source of supply and small farmers who sold to them were denied a market.

As multinationals took over, the average length of time animals waited in trucks to be slaughtered increased seven fold. There was a vast increase in the export, import, and suffering of live animals. Food poisoning, almost unknown in the UK, increased dramatically. Outbreaks of mad cow disease, swine fever, and finally foot and mouth disease ravaged the island. In the wake of the foot and mouth disaster, livestock were reduced to smoldering pyres and British tourism took a 15 billion pound loss.

It is upon the struggle for rural Poland, pitting the massed power of banks and bureaucracy against indefatigable farmers that the environmental future of the nation hinges.

Beating Back Big Agriculture

In September 1999 Smithfield Food's CEO Joe Luter made a grandiloquent promise to "repeat Smithfield's American success in Poland." AWI responded by bringing a delegation of Polish farm leaders to the US to see firsthand what lay ahead

if Luter succeeded. Horrified at what he saw, Andrzej Leper, the head of Poland's formidable Samoobrona (Self Defense) farmer's union, vowed to halt the Smithfield invasion. In July 2000, in an interview in the *Washington Post*, Luter admitted that his effort to establish "vertically integrated pork production" in Poland had been stopped in its tracks.

Undeterred, Luter telegraphed his next move: Smithfield's future in Poland, he said, depended on the Polish government making the difficult political decision to close thousands of "backyard slaughterhouses" with which Animex, Smithfield's subsidiary, was forced to compete.

AWI then invited Dr. Bartosz Winiecki, head of Poland's National Veterinary Chamber, an organization representing Poland's 10,000 veterinarians, Renata Beger, pig farmer and small slaughterhouse owner, and five colleagues for a tour of the American Midwest. After passing through the hog factory-blighted counties of northern Missouri, where one can drive for twenty miles without losing sight of identical metal hog sheds, our friends spent a few days in Iowa visiting family farms raising pigs humanely under AWI criteria. Upon her return to Poland, Ms. Beger immediately converted her hog barns to the deep straw. AWI next worked to introduce the Niman Ranch hog raising system to Poland. We worked with the Barka Self Help Foundation, which combats poverty by creating self-sustaining communities, to set up a model pasture and deep straw system of raising hogs.

While AWI demonstrated humane husbandry, "Big Ag's" Polish assault entered a critical phase. In August 2000, Luter met for three hours with Prime Minister Buzek, reportedly demanding that the small slaughterhouses be shut down. Ratcheting up the pressure, Smithfield began closing the packing plants it had acquired with such fanfare less than two years earlier. Thousands of workers lost their jobs.

In November, Chief Veterinarian Andrzej Komorowski presented the Polish Parliament with a "model law" drafted in his department within the Agriculture Ministry, designed,

he said, to "harmonize" Poland's Veterinary Act with EU regulations. He stated that no more than a third of Poland's 4200 slaughterhouses would "have a chance" to survive under the new regulations. Ultimately, 70% of Polish "meat production" would occur in 24 large slaughterhouses.

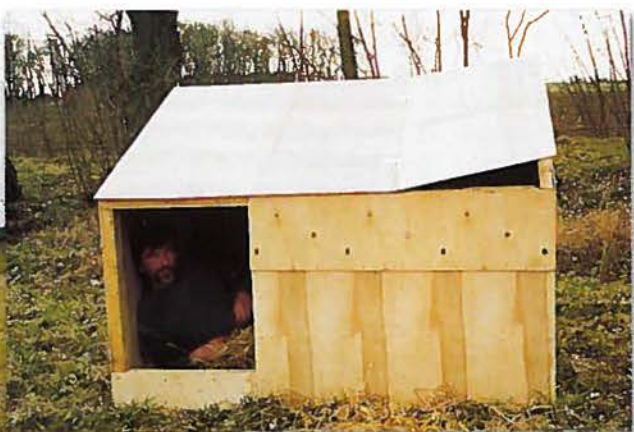
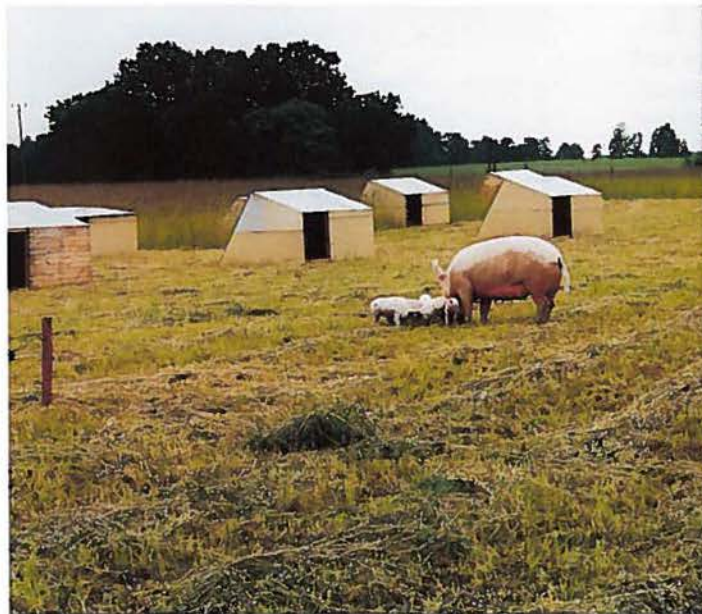
That Komorowski would emerge as a tool of foreign agribusiness surprised no one. He is under investigation—among other things—for arranging the "disappearance" of tens of thousands of tons of imported boneless chicken, that could not be legally sold in Poland, between Gdansk and the Ukrainian border.

In April 2001, the Agriculture Ministry brought a package of amendments before the Agriculture Commission of Poland's parliament. The bill was managed by SLD (post-communist) deputy Jozef Pilarczyk, a long-time supporter of foreign agribusiness. Despite fierce opposition, he succeeded in passing the bill in the Sejm. President Kwasniewski vetoed portions of the bill. Unfortunately, however, eclipsed by a battle over animal welfare, the Veterinary Act amendments survived to become law.

The Tightening Siege

In February 2002, I flew to Warsaw to join AWI's Polish consultant Marek Kryda and AWI International Committee member Dr. Agnes Van Volkenburgh at a conference on slaughterhouses jointly sponsored by Samoobrona and AWI. The conference was chaired by Renata Beger, now the Secretary of Samoobrona, and attracted 200 slaughterhouse owners and workers from throughout Poland.

Dr. Van Volkenburgh explained how "consolidation" of slaughterhouses in the US had not only opened the way to "vertical integration" and factory farming but vastly increased the suffering of animals who languish long hours in trucks waiting to die and are subjected to atrocities in the



photos by Diane Halverson/AWI

A 40 acre pasture, complete with a water system, movable hutches and a self feeder at Barka's 1,000 acre farm in western Poland. The hutches are filled with straw and large enough for a grown man to recline (see photo on right.)

plants. She pointed out that far from improving hygiene, “consolidation” led to a 500% increase in US food poisoning and that it made meatpacking the most dangerous occupation in America.

Dr. Jacek Leonkiewicz from the National Veterinary Chamber then rose to present a grim scenario. He described a situation in which the Ministry of Agriculture is moving, with complete impunity, to do exactly what foreign agribusiness wants: shut down virtually every small slaughterhouse in Poland. Very small slaughterhouses, with a capacity of under 7 tons per day, are to be eliminated arbitrarily. Veterinary regulations applying to the remainder, said Dr. Leonkiewicz, who has 20 years experience inspecting slaughterhouses, make no sense at all from the standpoint of hygiene or humaneness. They were, he said, deliberately designed to overwhelm smaller slaughterhouses with financially burdensome retrofitting and forced them to close.

Dr. Leonkiewicz stressed that EU is not responsible for the Polish regulations, especially the bias against small slaughterhouses, noting that in Hesse and other German states small slaughterhouses are subsidized to ensure that they remain open. He predicted that enforcement of current regulations would allow no more than 50 slaughterhouses, almost all large, foreign-owned industrial plants, to remain in operation.

Owners buttressed Leonkiewicz’s conclusions with first hand accounts. We learned that Jozef Pilarczyk, the new Vice Minister of Agriculture, had suddenly truncated the July 2002 deadline for applying for an extension of time to finish retrofitting. If his ruling stands, it means that over 2000 slaughterhouses unable to submit paperwork by March 1st have lost the opportunity and have little chance to survive.

We were left with no doubt that, as in Britain and the US, the centerpiece of the corporate takeover strategy—although other food processing has by no means been ig-

nored—is the “consolidation” of slaughterhouses. It was clear, too, that the Polish Ministry of Agriculture has become a virtual captive of foreign agribusiness and that the siege of Poland is rapidly tightening.

The Politics of Survival

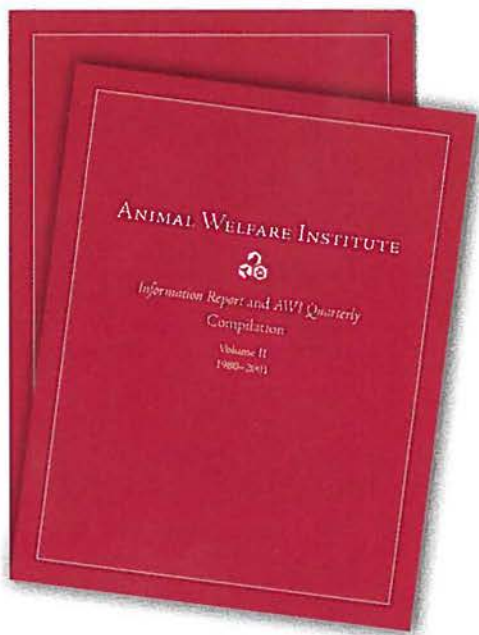
In the September 2001 parliamentary elections, the discredited Solidarity government was wiped from the political map and replaced by a post-communist (SLD) and peasant party (PSL) coalition. While there is no sign that the new government is an improvement over its predecessor, the election brought a breath of hope. Samoobrona took 53 seats in the 460 seat Sejm. Two other new parties, Law and Justice, formed expressly to combat governmental corruption, and the ultra-nationalist League of Polish Families gained 83 additional seats. These reform parties form a core of opposition to foreign takeover. With unemployment at 20% and government poll numbers plunging (the latest showed 63% disapproval), support for them is rapidly growing. The anti-corruption campaigns of Andrzej Lepper and Lech Kaczynski, head of Law and Justice, are a particular danger to companies like Smithfield. For all its money “Big Ag” is critically dependent on captive agencies and inside operatives.

Ultimately, the outcome of the struggle will depend on Polish farmers themselves, families who live on farms tilled sustainably, in many places, for a thousand years. Polish peasants carried out a fierce partisan campaign against the Germans and faced down the communists on the issue of collectivization. During the Soviet-Polish crisis of 1956, the greatest deterrent to Soviet invasion was a partisan campaign to thwart their supply lines to Germany. In 1999, farmers blockaded roads throughout Poland; at one point there were 2000 roadblocks. Poland’s farmers will not go gently into the good night. 🐾



Diane Halverson/AWI

Rare Polish spotted pig follows a caretaker at Barka’s Chudopczyce farm.

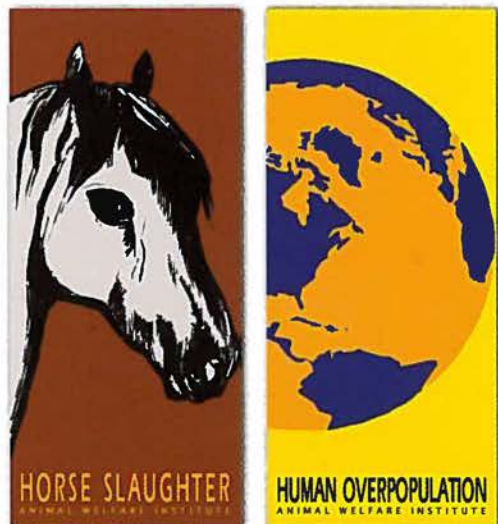


AWI Commemorates 50 Years in a Two-Volume Set

The Animal Welfare Institute has been publishing an informational newsletter about animal welfare and wildlife conservation for fifty years. In celebration of our golden anniversary (1951-2001), we have compiled all 50 volumes of the *AWI Information Report* and *AWI Quarterly* into a bound, two-volume set, comprising almost 1,800 pages.

The first *Information Report* was published in December 1951 and was four legal-size typewritten pages on blue paper. It announced that "The Animal Welfare Institute has been established by a group of persons interested in the humane treatment of all animals." It included a discussion of the conditions found on visits to laboratories, medical research and the humane movement, and the ethics of animal experimentation. Fifty years later, the *AWI Quarterly* is a twenty page, full color magazine. The last issue of our first fifty years, published in the fall of 2000, discussed commercial whaling, dolphin and primate protection, wildlife in Vietnam, slaughterhouse conditions and cruelty to pigs in hog factories.

Available at cost price, \$45, the set serves as a unique compendium of the history of AWI's battles for animals across the globe. For a historical retrospective on the progression of animal welfare issues between our first and fiftieth years, request a copy (prepaid, please) from AWI. 🐾



AWI Offers New Series of Educational Brochures

The Animal Welfare Institute has available four new color leaflets on conservation and animal welfare. "Bear Protection" describes the threats facing the world's remaining bear species, notably, the trade in bear parts. "Bushmeat" reveals the risk to wild species such as great apes, elephants, and antelopes from the commercial trade in their meat. "Horse Slaughter" describes the insidious ways in which horses are acquired fraudulently, slaughtered brutally, and sold greedily for human consumption overseas. "Human Overpopulation" takes a close look at the deleterious impact that human overpopulation is having on wild and domestic animals across the globe.

Each brochure is filled with useful, detailed information and color photographs. The brochures on bears and bushmeat were made possible through the generosity of the Edith Goode Trust.

At least one other brochure—"Farm Animals"—is due to be published this year as well.

Single copies are available free from AWI. For one, two, or three brochures send a self-addressed envelope with 34¢ postage (37¢ after June 30, 2002). For four brochures send a self-addressed envelope with 57¢ postage (60¢ after June 30, 2002). Contact AWI for larger quantities. 🐾

Operation Chicken Snatch

BY TARA L. GALLAGHER,
SUNCOAST SEABIRD SANCTUARY

Key West, Florida. Haven to a variety of life. So, it's not surprising that another unusual group has found Key West and has moved in with gusto.

Chickens. Yes, chickens. In recent years the chicken population has exploded due to the illegal sport of cockfighting. Excess and injured birds are dumped. The birds have procreated so there are at least 2,000 fowl fouling the tiny town, and many claim that is a conservative number. There are chickens on restaurant tables, in gardens and yards, blocking traffic, and crowing in the early morning. During full moons many complain that the roosters crow all night and run across rooftops. "Four years ago it was cute; there were just a few chickens running around, but now they've multiplied," said Janet Matheny, Operations Manager of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary of Key West.

Roughly half of the human population *does* think they're pretty darn cute and that everyone should leave them alone. Unfortunately, the other half wants them evicted. Permanently. Some feel so strongly that chickens,

especially roosters, have been turning up at shelters with 4-inch darts protruding from their bodies, pellet holes, and injuries resulting from being kicked, hosed, and even poisoned.

After discussions with representatives from both sides, it was decided to relocate the birds rather than have them destroyed. The plan was to capture as many chickens as possible, concentrating on roosters to cut down on procreation and the early morning wake-up calls. The Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores offered to relocate them to farms and homes (that wanted them as pets only) in rural areas. Operation Chicken Snatch was born. Key West city workers and Sanctuary employees banded together to "grab that chicken." Capturing the fowl was difficult. The wily creatures eluded their captors during the day. Ha! But at night they were nabbed as they perched on rooftops and trees dreaming chicken dreams.

The birds lived at the Key West Sanctuary and the local Humane Society until the travel date when each bird (hens and chicks together) was put into an individual cage. The ingenious cage design, utilizing a slatted fish crate turned on end so the birds could stand fully was designed and built by



Tara L. Gallagher

Ralph Heath, founder of the sanctuary, with his adopted Key West rooster.

Janet. Cages were complete with food, attached water dishes, and a piece of fruit. The long drive from Key West to Indian Shores was done at night to keep them cool, and there were frequent stops to mist the chickens with water and check their condition. To date, both Sanctuaries have relocated more than 800 birds, and the operation continues. Temporarily, the war has ceased and peace once again reigns over Key West.

For information on how to help our work, please contact us at: Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785, phone (727) 391-6211 or visit our website at www.seabirdsanctuary.org 



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