



AWI

Quarterly

Summer 2006 Volume 55 Number 3



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AWI Quarterly
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ABOUT THE COVER

Unlike some species, the highly adaptable and intelligent raccoon thrives in human-developed areas. Unfortunately, because of this ability to flourish in environments as diverse as urban cities and the untouched wilderness, the small mammal is often blamed for wildlife-human conflicts. Raccoons are omnivorous and will eat most foods, which is typically the cause of the conflict. Simple steps, such as securing trashcans and feeding companion animals indoors, usually prevent the problem from occurring in the first place.

When raccoons are already present, sometimes homeowners merely need to mildly harass the animals using techniques such as placing a bright flashlight or loud radio in the den site, and then seal any entrances to get them to move on and stay out. However, in the spring and summer, it is necessary to make sure the raccoons leave with their young in tow. With some patience and a bit of research on humane, non-lethal methods for dealing with a particular species, it is not difficult to solve wildlife-human conflicts (see story pages 10-13).

Will the United States Abdicate its Leadership in Protecting Whales?

This year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting was pivotal (see story page 14), because it was the first at which pro-whaling countries were in the majority since before the institution of the moratorium 20 years ago. However, the meeting next summer in Anchorage, Alaska will be decisive. The United States is a key player in the IWC, and the way it addresses whaling issues—particularly over the next year—may well determine the fate of these majestic marine mammals.

The United States was a vocal advocate for the moratorium on commercial whaling, adopted in 1981 and implemented five years later. Yet, unfolding events appear unfortunate for the whales, since Alaska will not be a whale-friendly venue. The quota for Bowhead whales hunted by the state's aboriginal Eskimos is due to be renewed, and the US government is committed to defending these whalers, seemingly at any cost.

Additionally, Japan has already announced it intends to thwart US attempts to secure this quota. Clearly, the country hopes to broker a deal with the United States. Despite its vehement opposition to Japan's uncontrolled and increasing whaling, the United States continues to negotiate with the pro-whaling nation.

As we approach the next IWC meeting, the United States must address each whaling-related issue independently. There must be transparency in the actions and positions taken by our government. Trade sanctions and diplomatic pressures against Japan, Norway and Iceland—the whaling nations making a mockery of the IWC—should be used to bolster our position. An upsurge of people across the country must encourage the Bush Administration to “Save the Whales” by working to stop current whaling and opposing any move toward commercial whaling sanctioned by the Commission. 🐾

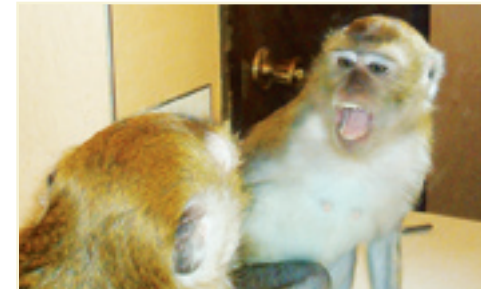
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please write the US Secretary of Commerce, urging him to recommend that President Bush impose trade sanctions against Japan, Norway and Iceland for their persistent and expanded whaling practices.

Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez
Office of the Secretary, Room 5516
US Department of Commerce
14th & Constitution Ave. NW
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Animal Welfare Institute
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Polly Schultz

With the guidance of Oregon Primate Rescue's Polly Schultz, a 4-year-old cynomolgus monkey named Annie came to recognize herself in the mirror (see story page 6).



Alisa Schulman

The Bryde's whale is under threat by Japan's "scientific" whaling. The country pressured the IWC to lower protections at this summer's annual meeting (see story page 14).



Cornucopia Institute

Horizon Organic Dairy prides itself on "clean living cows," but the conditions in its large-scale operation deprive animals of any real access to pasture (see story pages 18-19).

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THE STRAIN OF SUSTAINING THE HUMAN POPULATION

Since the 1968 publication of Stanford University biologist Dr. Paul Ehrlich's classic book *The Population Bomb*, the potential consequences of the human population explosion have been a heated matter of debate. Today, the effects of overpopulation are merely becoming more and more apparent. Beyond the phenomenon's obvious impacts on human societies—poverty, hunger, disease and the breakdown of social structures—its effect on our environment and the world's animals is worsening. From problems such as the destruction of forest habitat to the die-off of coral reefs, our increasing population and consumption is largely to blame. Indeed, there is not an ecosystem on the planet that is not adversely impacted directly or indirectly by human population growth.

The latest figures from the United Nations (UN) predict the world's current population of over 6 billion people will rise to 9.1 billion by 2050, adding more than 80 million people each year. Can the planet cope with the ever-burgeoning human population?

While future technologies will provide some of the tools needed to feed, clothe and provide water to increasing numbers of people in both the developed and developing world, the space and resources required to sustain

such numbers are finite. And with only a fraction of the Earth's species identified, current human impacts on this planet's biodiversity are already unprecedented.

As noted by Harvard professor E.O. Wilson, one of the most respected biologists in the United States, "species are vanishing 100 times faster than before the arrival of Homo sapiens." The loss of forest habitats is devastating orangutans, the nearly extinct Sumatran tiger, gibbons, Asian elephants, a host of bird species and a variety of other forest-dwelling species around the globe. Throughout the world, amphibian populations—the modern day "canaries in the coal mine"—are in decline due to the effects of global warming, habitat loss and disease. Within the Kashmir region between Pakistan and India, disappearing forests have led to a change in bird migration routes, a significant decline in wild deer, and a reduction in snow leopards from an estimated 80 to merely 20.

In total, 484 animal and 654 plant species have gone extinct since the year 1600 because of human activity. In addition to species becoming extinct before we even learn of their existence, today it is estimated that up to 25 percent of all species may become extinct over the next 25 years. At present, 11 percent of birds, 20 percent of reptiles, 25 percent of amphibians, 25 percent of mammals and 34 percent of all fish species are threatened with extinction, according to the World Conservation Union. Habitat destruction is the biggest threat to these animals, and it is almost entirely anthropogenic. A report by the UN states that an average of 85 percent of original wildlife habitat has been lost in countries with a human population density of over 189 people per square kilometer. Even when human density was only 29 people per square kilometer, an average of 41 percent of original wildlife habitat was lost.

This problem is not just about population numbers, since our consumption of resources is the real concern. While people living in developed countries are known to use far more resources than people in developing countries, the expanding economies in the developing world are feeding an explosion in the number of people

enjoying increasingly consumptive lifestyles. This trend is placing an even greater demand on finite resources. While we cannot blame those with newfound wealth for wanting to live a Western lifestyle, the implications for the planet are severe. According to the UN, if the Earth's entire human population were to have consumption levels equal to the average American, it would take three Earths to supply the necessary resources.

For example, with world meat production having quadrupled to nearly 220 million tons annually over the past 50 years, significant quantities of land and water are necessary to grow the biomass needed to feed the world's livestock. Due to the inefficiency of converting plant products to animal protein, over 40 percent of the grain grown worldwide is fed to livestock. While the demand for meat from animals who are raised organically and humanely has increased, the world's growing appetite for meat has led to habitat destruction to create additional lands for grazing and livestock grain production. It has also substantially increased the number of animals raised in deplorable conditions on feedlots and other factory-style operations.

In the ocean, our insatiable demand for fish products is destroying marine species and habitats. Another recent UN report shows that in the past 42 years, the capture of wild fish has increased from 20 to 85.4 million tons. As a result, over 75 percent of fish populations are fully exploited or overexploited, not even taking into account the effects of mounting pollution levels. Many fish are captured by trawlers, who scour up to 5.8 million square miles of ocean bottom each year, resulting in millions of tons of bycatch. Meanwhile, bodies of water such as the Aral Sea have receded dramatically and become too salty to sustain fish populations, as the rivers feeding the sea are diverted for human use. For the same reasons, the headwaters of the Yellow and Yangtze rivers in China are drying up and threatening thousands of people and animals. Deserts everywhere are expanding; the Gobi Desert grows by 4,000 sq. miles each year, and in Nigeria, over 1,350 sq. miles of land annually become desert.

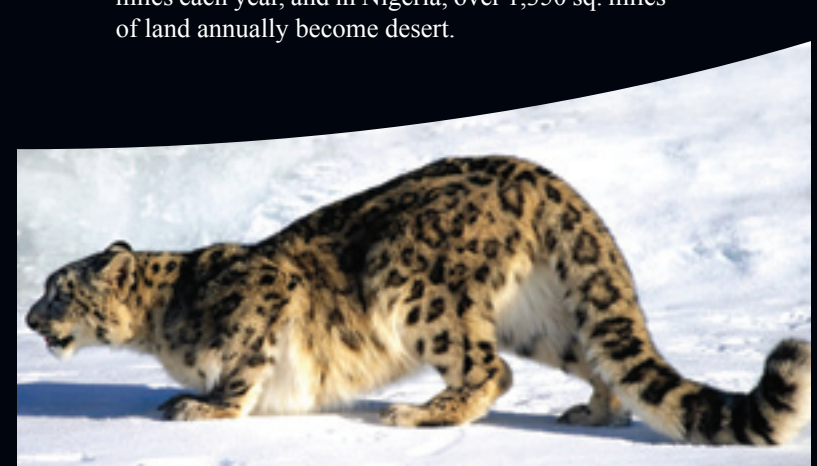
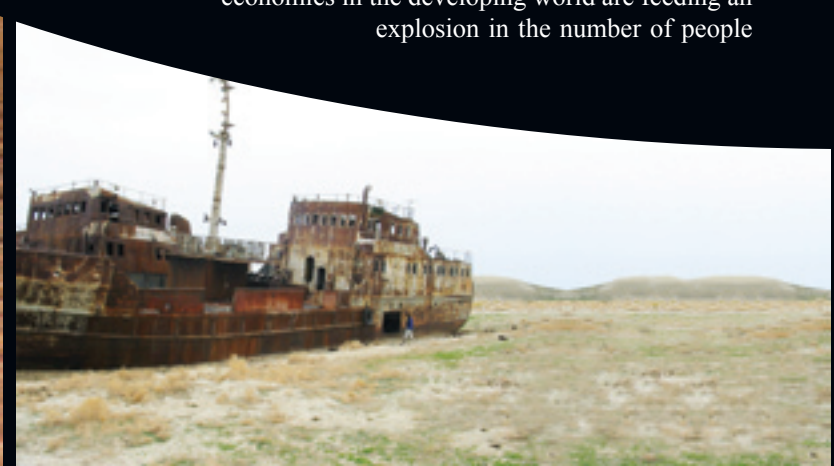
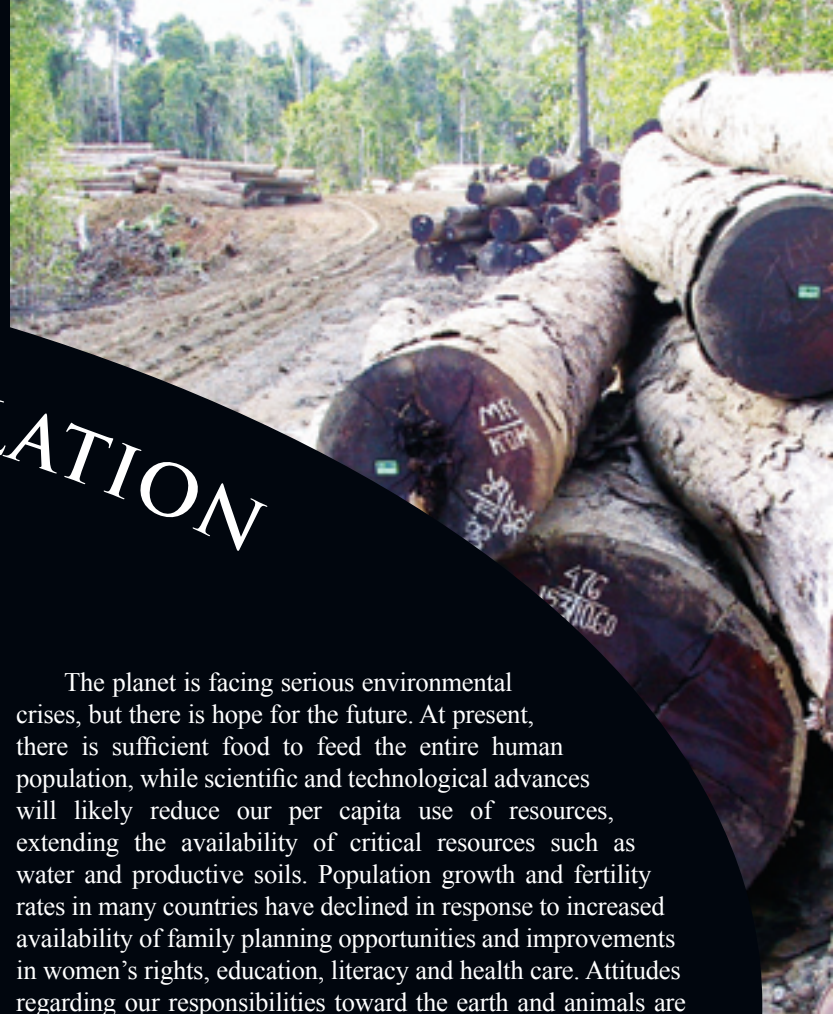
The planet is facing serious environmental crises, but there is hope for the future. At present, there is sufficient food to feed the entire human population, while scientific and technological advances will likely reduce our per capita use of resources, extending the availability of critical resources such as water and productive soils. Population growth and fertility rates in many countries have declined in response to increased availability of family planning opportunities and improvements in women's rights, education, literacy and health care. Attitudes regarding our responsibilities toward the earth and animals are also improving.

However, what good news may exist is not reason for complacency, and there are steps we can all take to improve the situation. Reduce your consumption of products and energy. Walk or use public transportation instead of driving, purchase organic and locally produced products, avoid overpackaged goods, and select energy efficient products. Avoid becoming part of the "throw-away society" by reusing, repairing and refurbishing products you purchase, and recycle what you can. While reducing our use of resources will not solve the overpopulation crisis, it will minimize our human footprints on the environment. 🐾

Photos, clockwise from top left:

- 1) Orangutans are rapidly losing their forest habitat.
- 2) Twenty percent of reptiles are threatened with extinction.
- 3) Mass-produced chickens are kept in intensive confinement so corporations can profit heavily from the world's growing demand for meat.
- 4) Logging is desecrating wildlife habitats.
- 5) The snow leopard population in the Kashmir region has been reduced by 75 percent because of deforestation.
- 6) Irrigation diversion slowly drained the Aral Sea, killing fish and other inhabitants.
- 7) Asian elephants are yet another species being harmed by the loss of forests.

Credits, clockwise from top left: 1) Orangutan Foundation 2) Rémi Fonters 3) Compassion Over Killing 4) Dave Currey/Environmental Investigation Agency 5) Rocco Stanzione 6) P. Christopher Staecker 7) Jeff Gynane



Annie is a 4-year-old cynomolgus monkey who was born in a captive breeding facility. Her mother died while giving birth, so Annie was isolated from other monkeys and fed mechanically for the first five months of her life. During this time, she was rarely touched and received little, if any, nurturing. The breeding program may have focused on producing a smaller monkey breed known as the “Pocket Java,” since Annie has a very small bone structure. This breed often encounters an array of health issues, which may be attributed to the inbreeding process used to reduce their natural size.

The breeder did not know how to deal with Annie’s problems, so she was shipped to our rescue facility when she was 5 months old. She also exhibits multiple abnormal behaviors, including pulling and eating her own hair. Annie goes beyond “aggressive” and seems to hate all other monkeys to whom she has been exposed. Likewise, other monkeys despise her and would probably kill her due to her small size, combined with her inappropriate combative behaviors. Therefore, she is housed without a conspecific companion. A psychologist who observes Annie’s behaviors said if Annie were a human child, she would diagnose her with high-functioning autism.

I spend much of my time working with Annie, and her extensive enrichment program involves a great deal of creativity. She frequently observes me applying makeup, combing my hair and doing other activities in front of the mirror. When I first introduced Annie to the mirror,



I See Myself

Oregon Primate Rescue founder Polly Schultz works with a cynomolgus monkey who demonstrates self-awareness by recognizing her own mirror image.

she tried to “kill” her image. I would briefly disapprove of her behavior using vocal and facial expressions, and then quickly make play faces and friendly vocalizations to her image in the mirror. When she stopped acting like a bully, I would then playfully interact with her along with her image.

A few months ago, I first noticed Annie looking in the mirror and examining her own teeth. She used her finger to pull her lip down to get a better look at them, with her face close to the mirror. Annie noticed a small piece of raisin stuck to her tooth and used the mirror to direct her fingers to remove it. She did not reach to the raisin image in the mirror; she reached to the raisin piece stuck to her tooth and removed it as she looked in the mirror.

We put a red dot on Annie’s forehead recently while she was anesthetized for medical procedures, and then later took her to the mirror.

She moved her face very close to the mirror and looked at the dot for some time. Then she reached up to the dot on her forehead while still looking in the mirror and tried to groom it off. A few days ago, I quickly stuck a small white paper dot to the top of Annie’s head while we were playing together, and she did not notice it. At the mirror once again, she saw the white dot and removed it. Later in the day, we were at the mirror again, and I observed her searching the top of her head using the mirror. She appeared to be looking for another dot!

I have made progress in changing Annie’s mood from “rage and anger” to “playful and silly” under various circumstances by not responding with an

aggressive *or* submissive reaction to her behaviors. I ignore her and engage only in a playful way with other creatures or objects, and I maintain that behavior until she joins me. Annie’s negative behaviors are slowly changing, and my hope is that someday I will find the right match for her and be able to house her successfully with another monkey. 🐾



Photos: Polly Schultz

Above: Annie plays with a strand of Schultz’s hair before looking in the mirror and finding a dot placed on her head. Right: The self-aware monkey notices and removes a dot on her forehead as she acknowledges her reflection.

View from the Top

Researchers Evan MacLean and Sheila Roberts Prior of Duke University reveal what’s wrong with the traditional double-tier primate caging system.

Although animals living in the lower row of double-tier cages often endure unfavorable living conditions, this housing system remains the status quo for laboratory primates. Relegating monkeys to lower cages is ecologically inappropriate because their natural tendency is to seek higher ground for sleep, rest and refuge from threatening situations. Confining primates to the ground level prevents them from expressing this instinctually motivated behavior, and animals may consequently experience unnecessary fear and anxiety. Additionally, lighting conditions in the lower row are dramatically more poor than those in the upper row. Most primates are diurnal animals, so it is important to provide them with access to a well-illuminated space.

Although the environmental differences between the upper and lower row have been well documented, we know relatively little about how primates respond to this variation. Several reports have documented that captive primates spend the majority of their time in the uppermost section of their enclosure. However, it is difficult to determine whether this preference is for higher elevation, better illumination or both. Understanding how each of these factors influences monkeys’ subjective well-being will inform questions of how best to house laboratory primates.

In a recent study funded in part by a grant from the Animal Welfare Institute and the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animals Testing, our team investigated how rhesus and long-tailed macaques allocate their time between the upper and lower rows of a double-tier cage when illumination at both levels of the cage is manipulated. In a baseline condition, we examined where monkeys spent their time under normal lighting conditions. In a second condition, we tested



space, we expected the monkeys would spend the majority of their time in the upper row during the baseline condition, but reverse this preference with reversed lighting.

Across both conditions, monkeys showed a strong preference for the upper-row cage, indicating that elevation is more important than illumination in guiding location preference. Although monkeys did increase the amount of time they spent in the lower row during periods of reversed lighting, the trend was not significant. Nonetheless, we do not interpret this result as evidence that sufficient lighting is not important to captive monkeys. Rather, we believe that the monkeys’ consistent preference for the upper row reflects the paramount importance of access to elevated space. We question whether we would have observed a greater preference for illumination if our experimental conditions permitted activities for which illumination is likely to be important, such as grooming.

While there are still questions regarding the importance of light, our results support the notion that elevated space is among the most important features of a captive primate’s environment. Accordingly, we encourage housing primates in upper-row cages whenever possible. If circumstances require some animals to be housed in the lower row of double-tier cages, we recommend providing regular access to tall, well-illuminated exercise cages equipped with high resting surfaces. At our facility, we rotate access to exercise cages daily to ensure all animals housed have regular access to the benefits of an elevated, well-illuminated living environment. This allows animals to express their instinctive need for access to the arboreal “safe” dimension of their living quarters. 🐾

An improved cage for monkeys, as shown above, provides access to both the top and bottom levels, as well as species-adequate illumination. Unfortunately, the typical method for housing primates stacks two cages on top of each other. Those in the bottom cage are forced to live close to the ground in a crepuscular environment to which they are not biologically adapted.

where monkeys spent their time when the illumination levels were reversed. We hypothesized that if elevated space was more important to the animals than sufficient illumination, the monkeys would spend the majority of their time in the upper row across both conditions. However, if sufficient illumination was more important than elevated

Trap Not Soft on Animal Victim

Recently on a California beach at Vandenberg Air Force base, 10-year-old Harley joined the growing list of domestic animals harmed by steel-jaw leghold traps. Charles Wilson was walking his beloved companion when the dog stepped into the jaws of a “padded” leghold trap buried in the sand, without any warning signs or flags. According to Wilson, Harley screamed “bloody murder” when the jaws clamped down on his paw. The dog was in such distress that he bit Wilson’s hand as he attempted to free Harley’s paw. “He is the most loving and kind dog and had never bitten me before,” Wilson said. “He was helpless and in so much pain that he just panicked.”

Wilson could not open the jaws of the trap, but was able to rush Harley to the local fire department, where firefighters pried the trap open with a crow bar. One of twelve set to catch coyotes on the beach, the trap was placed in an area commonly used by people and their pets. In California, the use of leghold traps is illegal, but an exception is made for “federal, state, county or municipal employees or their duly authorized agents in the extraordinary case where [it] is the only method available to protect human health or safety.” The traps were removed from the beach shortly after this incident. 🐾



Harley, a chow-pomeranian mix, is a recent victim of the cruel and indiscriminate steel-jaw leghold trap.

Studies in Animal Intelligence Break Boundaries



Josefine Kalbitz/MPI-EVA

Do apes share our ability to plan ahead? A new study showing bonobos and orangutans can select, transport and save a suitable tool for future use is making scientists rethink cognitive evolution.

Anticipation

PRIMATES AND BIRDS Scientists have long believed future planning is beyond the capabilities of animals, but studies published in May issues of the journal *Science* show that a variety of animals can—and do—think ahead. Usually, studies of animal intelligence involve immediate gratification, but new research at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany shows both bonobos and orangutans remember to carry the right tools to retrieve treats one to 14 hours later. And according to an experiment at Cambridge University, resourceful scrub jays were observed hiding food a second time when they thought a rival was watching. The Cambridge team reported that the scrub jays remembered which birds watched them hide food and used this knowledge to minimize the risk that one of these observers might pilfer their caches. Anticipating future needs by remembering past events contradicts the notion that such cognitive behavior is uniquely human. 🐾

Name Calling

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS Marine biologists at the University of St. Andrews studied a group of bottlenose dolphins in Sarasota Bay, Fla. and found that not only do the animals appear to convey information about themselves by their whistles, but they also seem to recognize each others’ unique whistle. To make sure that the dolphins weren’t simply identifying one another by the tone of the sounds, researchers played synthetic versions of the signature whistles of other dolphins through underwater loudspeakers. Many of the dolphins turned around more frequently when they heard the synthesized whistle of a relative than when they heard the call of an unrelated companion. They also tended to ignore the synthesized whistles of dolphins they did not know. Scientists believe this ability occurs in other species of dolphin as well, and names are assigned shortly after birth. What is perhaps most remarkable about this study, published in the May 12 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, is it shows humans and dolphins share the characteristic of recognizing themselves as individuals with separate identities. 🐾

Stringing Words Together

MONKEYS British researchers report that after three years of study, putty-nosed monkeys in Nigeria are able to string together a simple “sentence.” The monkeys combined different alarm calls into more complex call sequences, creating new meanings—a linguistic ability thought to be uniquely human. The study, from the May 18 issue of *Nature*, suggests basic syntax may be more widespread in primates than previously thought. 🐾

Grammar Skills

STARLINGS While linguists argue over the uniqueness of human language, European starlings at the University of California, San Diego, have demonstrated their ability to process complex grammatical forms by learning recursion, a pattern thought to be exclusive to humans. Take the simple sentence: “My dog is black.” In recursion, humans are able to recognize that same sentence in more complex forms, such as, “My dog, who ran into the house, is black.” A parallel situation was set up using songs composed of “warbles” and “rattles.” The study, published in the April 27 issue of *Nature*, shows the birds were not simply memorizing complex sequences, but could distinguish between different patterns. Essentially, they were applying rules to solve the task. “The more closely we understand what non-human animals are capable of,” said psychologist and starling study researcher Timothy Gentner, “the richer our world becomes.” 🐾



Tam Stuart



Jen Rinick/AWI

Groundbreaking studies show starlings can learn complex grammatical rules and sheep can choose the correct medicated food for what ails them.

The Right Medicine

SHEEP Observations of animals in the wild eating foods to self-medicate abound, but what about animals raised as livestock? Can they be taught to self-medicate? To answer this question, researchers from Utah State University fed sheep three different foods, each spiked with a substance that caused a different kind of illness—acid stomach, poor digestion or low calcium intake. After eating, the sheep were presented with three other foods, each blended with a single antidote for one of the ailments. Their report, published online in the May issue of the journal *Animal Behavior*, reveals these intelligent animals quickly learned to choose the right antidote and could remember the correct choice five months later. 🐾

“Living Fossil” Discovered in Laos

A previously unknown rodent has been discovered in a Laotian hunter’s market by Robert Timmins of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Locals call the animal a “rock rat,” but Western scientists have dubbed it *Laonastes aenigmamus*, meaning stone-dwelling enigmatic mouse. Researchers originally thought the animal was a new type of mammal, but they now consider it to be, “a fossil come to life.” The Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s Mary Dawson, a paleontologist, recognized the rodent as belonging to the *Diatomyidae*, a family that was thought to have been extinct for at least 11 million years. The animal is also important because it “represents tantalizing support for the theory that many mammals evolved in Asia and later colonized other continents, as its closest living relative is the gundis—a guinea pig-like rodent of northern Africa,” according to the March 2006 *Scientific American*. 🐾

Manatees Lose; Boating Activists and Developers Win

Last year’s death count for manatees was one of the highest on record, and while Florida state wildlife commissioners admit the species may suffer a 50 percent decline over the next 45 years, they say 80 percent must be at risk of being lost to warrant “endangered” status. As a result, the biased commissioners unanimously voted to remove the manatee from the state’s endangered list in June, bumping the imperiled species down to “threatened” status. In a further blow to manatees, officials have also said they will not prosecute those who report accidentally hitting one of the slow-moving mammals. 🐾

WILDLIFE

IN OUR BACKYARDS



For residents of New York City, Central Park is an oasis within the city's concrete jungle, where the hustle and

bustle of city life can be forgotten amidst the greenery. But for a coyote named Hal, the park became a death trap as he was doggedly pursued by ground and air until chased, cornered, sedated and finally captured over the course of two days in April 2006. After recovering at a wildlife rehabilitation facility, Hal's story should have had a happy ending with his release back into the wild. Instead, it ended in a tragedy when he died due to aggressive handling to attach an ear tag.

While his official cause of death was clear, Hal's demise began as soon as he was identified as an unwelcome canine guest in a human-dominated landscape. Because Hal had a name, his story became fodder for television news stations. Other large animals with teeth or claws, such as bears, lions and alligators, also attract media attention when they conflict with humans—often exacerbating society's fear of these creatures. Largely because of such fear, many animals lose their lives as a result of conflicts with humans. In some cases, state or agency policies require animals who attack people to be killed, while in other cases, animals are exterminated out of convenience, revenge, or because they are unintended victims of human development, activity or ignorance.

The fox is a shy animal who avoids people, yet is often blamed for causing damage in human-dominated environments. Conflicts with the small mammal can be avoided by remembering to secure trash cans and not leave food outside your home.

The US Department of Agriculture, through its controversial Wildlife Services division, kills millions of animals each year in response to these conflicts. In 2004, Wildlife Services personnel killed 82,891 carnivorous animals, including 191 wolves, 317 black bears, 359 mountain lions, 1,918 bobcats and 75,674 coyotes, purportedly to protect cattle and sheep. However, the most recent government statistics reveal only 3 percent (224,200) of 8 million sheep and only 0.18 percent (190,000) of over 104.5 million cattle were killed by predators in 2004 and 2005, respectively, with 29,800 sheep and nearly 22,000 cattle killed by dogs. Indeed, far more sheep (376,100) and cows (3,861,000) were killed by causes other than predation.

In addition, the largely unregulated private wildlife control industry cruelly kills hundreds of thousands of animals annually in response to homeowner complaints. Many such companies rely on lethal strategies to quickly resolve wildlife-human conflicts. When live traps are used to capture and remove a "nuisance" animal, the animal is often killed using inhumane techniques such as drowning, without the knowledge of the homeowner and outside of his or her view. Homeowners associations frequently call on private animal removal companies to resolve homeowner complaints until compassionate residents create an uproar, contesting the killing of innocent animals to placate a few complaining homeowners. Since such companies must generate a profit, they usually avoid providing permanent, non-lethal solutions to wildlife-human conflicts, preferring to rapidly remove the particular "problem" animal, while retaining a client who will inevitably become a repeat customer. Even when a state or municipality adopts rules banning the use of leghold traps, snares or other brutal killing devices or strategies, there are frequently exceptions that allow such devices under the guise of animal control.

UNDERSTANDING CONFLICTS

While it is easy to label alligators as man-eaters, mountain lions as savage and bears as killers, understanding the ecology and behavior of these species demonstrates their ecological



value and explains why conflicts with humans occur. In Florida, the media failed to look beyond the sensational nature of the recent alligator attacks to understand what may have contributed to those incidents. The alligators were not man-eaters, but were in fact

searching for habitat in response to the area's ongoing drought. They were also more active than normal because it was breeding season. In combination with increased development destroying vast amounts of their habitat, conflicts between alligators and humans were and still are inevitable. Yet they can be minimized—by not swimming where alligators may be present, avoiding areas where alligators may be resting, and not dangling feet into alligator-occupied ponds, lakes or canals.

If you have spent time in mountain lion habitat, you have probably been watched by one of nature's most reclusive big cats. While mountain lion attacks receive significant



media attention, such attacks are extraordinarily rare. A study by Northern Arizona University's Dr. Paul Beier showed that from 1890 to 1990, there were nine fatal and 44 non-fatal mountain lion attacks on people in the United States and Canada.

Though a few additional attacks have occurred since 1990, their likelihood remains extremely low. In fact, you are far more likely to die from a lightning strike than from a mountain lion attack.

In the case of bears, their presence in suburban neighborhoods is usually the result of young bears in search of their own habitat to call home, hungry bears looking for food, or thirsty bears seeking a drink. Though a bear is not



likely to be tolerated living in a residential neighborhood, as in the case of mountain lions, bear attacks are rare. According to Dr. Stephen Herrero, a professor at the University of Calgary and the author of several books on bear attacks, there are an average of three fatal bear attacks (across all species) and five to 15 serious

injuries attributable to the animals each year in North America. Considering the millions of bear-human interactions each year, the injury rates are extremely low.

While such attacks are uncommon, there are steps you can take to further reduce the risk of an encounter if working, living or enjoying outdoor activities in mountain lion or bear country. These include carrying and knowing how to properly use pepper spray, making noise when hiking or hiking in a group, storing and securing leftover food or garbage when camping and paying attention to your surroundings to avoid unintentionally creating a conflict situation. If you do have the

fortune of observing one of these animals in the wild, do not panic and do not run. If the animal is in close proximity, make yourself appear as big as possible, pick up any small children, be prepared to use the pepper spray, and slowly leave the area while always keeping an eye on the animal.

Less physically threatening animals are also often viewed as a threat. Coyotes, foxes and deer are extraordinarily adaptable species able to live within human altered landscapes.



Coyotes and foxes are ecologically valuable, consuming berries, fruit and grasshoppers, along with rats, mice, gophers, voles and other species that can carry diseases. While they are frequently accused of depredating family pets, there are plenty of ways to protect companion animals while learning to

peacefully coexist with these wily canines. In Vancouver, Canada, a program called “Co-existing with Coyotes” has proved enormously successful in reducing coyote-human conflicts through education and action. Robert Boelens, a self-taught naturalist, created and implemented the program, teaching people to avoid feeding coyotes, to clean up or alter urban lots that provide cover for coyotes, and to take direct action—what Boelens describes as being “big, mean, and loud.” His efforts have significantly reduced human-coyote conflicts and are far more effective than lethal coyote control programs used in the past.

While deer are both loved and hated in suburban America, it is inevitable that deer-human conflicts will continue to increase as more deer habitat is converted into residential developments. In many cases, by building in forested areas, we create more productive deer habitat by retaining forest cover while providing deer access to our lawns, ornamental shrubbery and gardens. With more roads and more vehicles, an increase in deer-vehicle



accidents is likely, regardless of the size of deer populations. We can learn to live with these creatures by landscaping with unpalatable plants, creating safer roads for drivers and wildlife, or simply slowing down at dusk and dawn in the fall when deer-vehicle accidents are most likely.

Though some people experience conflicts with larger mammals, most wildlife-human conflicts involve smaller animals like skunks, squirrels, bats and raccoons. Other species, including voles, woodchucks, beavers, chipmunks, pigeons and various other species of birds, can also clash with humans. These conflicts can be resolved using non-lethal strategies and products as well. Prevention is the key to avoid a conflict situation. By using wire screen or hardware cloth to seal any access points to your attic, under your house or porch, or into your shed or storage facility, you can reduce the risk of unwanted guests living in your home. If these guests are already present, then depending on the species, a variety of strategies can be used to evict these unwanted guests humanely, including being patient and allowing the animals and any potential offspring to leave on their own or using adverse environmental stimuli (e.g.



lights, blaring music, noxious smells) to create an unpleasant atmosphere. In some cases, one-way trap doors can be used to allow an animal to leave a space where he or she is unwanted, while not allowing reentry. Regardless of the non-lethal strategy used, it is important to remember that there may be

baby animals involved, so it is critical to avoid separating a mother from her young.

LASTING SOLUTIONS

As our suburbs continue to spread, as we spend more time enjoying the outdoors, and as wildlife adapt to living amongst humans, conflicts between wildlife and humans will continue to escalate. Whether the issue is field mice in our cupboards, beaver dams flooding our yards, coyotes strolling our streets, deer eating our gardens, black bears entering residential neighborhoods, or geese defiling our favorite golf course, we can learn how to live with these species humanely using education, common sense, ingenuity and some useful tools. First, we must change our attitudes about wildlife and become more tolerant of wildlife in our midst. We tend to fear what we do not know. Many people are not often around wildlife and are therefore scared when they see a deer or a coyote in their backyard. It is appropriate to fear wild animals since they are unpredictable. However, that fear must be balanced, sensible and tempered with the knowledge that most wild animals are more fearful of humans than we are of them.

A coyote in your neighborhood does not mean your pets or children will be attacked. Such a conflict can be resolved by making your yard coyote-proof or accompanying your pets outside at dusk and dawn, as well as simply chasing the animals away. Feeding your dog outdoors may be common practice in the city, with leftovers providing nourishment to backyard squirrels. But in the suburbs, a coyote, fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk or bear could be attracted to such leftovers. In the city, open garbage containers may be inviting to birds and rats, while in bear country, bear-proof garbage receptacles are essential to reduce the attractiveness of an area to these curious and hungry animals. It is important to analyze the conditions of your particular habitat when taking steps to avoid wildlife conflicts.

When living or enjoying recreational activities in wildlife habitat, it must be remembered that wildlife are not invading our homes, but rather, we are guests in theirs. As a consequence, our values and expectations must be altered to recognize that wildlife conflicts are possible and are a cost of living or enjoying outdoor activities. However, they can be humanely prevented or eliminated. If you are experiencing conflicts with wildlife or live in areas where wildlife-human problems are likely, there are several fundamental strategies to reducing them:



use, feeding your companion animals indoors, temporarily or permanently removing squirrel or bird feeders, and storing all food products indoors;

- 1) Keep trash in animal-proof containers with tight lids, and store such containers in a secure location until trash pick-up day or until the contents can be disposed of;
- 2) Eliminate all other potential wildlife attractants from your yard by cleaning or storing barbecues in a secure building after each



Resort at Red Hawk

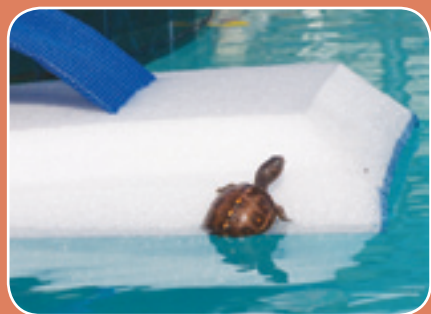
Specially trained border collies at the Red Hawk Golf Club in Wingfield Springs, Nev. keep Canada geese in the water and off the fairway. Certified as an Audubon Signature Sanctuary, the wildlife-friendly golf course is home to antelope, tarantulas, horny toads and many species of birds.

- 3) Do not feed wildlife by offering food to wild creatures in your yard just because they look hungry or are cute; and
- 4) Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and never closely approach, touch or play with a wild animal.

For small animals, there is virtually never a situation that requires an animal to be killed in order to resolve a wildlife-human conflict. There are, however, instances when bears, lions, coyotes or other potentially dangerous species need to be trapped and relocated or euthanized to protect public safety. Every homeowner, however, can help reduce the need for such lethal control by making their homes less attractive to wildlife and learning what to do if he or she sees these species in the wild. For each animal, there are techniques, tools and products that can reduce, prevent or eliminate conflicts. Some work better than others and some may require labor, trial and error and patience. Yet by providing humane solutions, your family and property will be protected while you peacefully coexist with your wild neighbors. 🐾

Innovative Tools

Many wildlife-human conflicts are unintentional. For example, homeowners who enjoy the benefits of pools and hot tubs must



The frog-log is a simple, effective and humane solution to a common wildlife conflict.

sometimes remove dead frogs, mice, turtles and other animals from their pools. It is estimated that more than 100 million small animals die in pools and hot tubs each year. Rich Mason, a wildlife biologist in

Maryland, has developed the Froglog—a device that reduces this mortality by providing animals who have fallen into pools and hot tubs a chance to escape. For more information about the Froglog or to order some for your pool, please visit www.froglog.us.

The Coyote-Roller, a device that attaches to the top of a fence and rolls when an animal attempts to use the top fence rail to access a yard, provides an effective coyote deterrent and also keeps dogs and cats from escaping from yards. More information about the Coyote-Roller can be found at www.coyoteroller.com. Additional humane products for resolving wildlife-human conflicts can be found on the internet. Please note that many companies sell both lethal and non-lethal control products, so it is best to think humanely and buy from those who sell only non-lethal products. 🐾

FOR MORE INFORMATION

There is an abundance of information on how to coexist with wildlife and how to humanely address a particular wildlife conflict. Sources include your local library or humane society, your state's wildlife agency and the internet. To learn more about addressing specific wildlife-human conflicts, visit www.wildlifehotline.org, a website developed by animal protection advocates that provides non-lethal and humane solutions to wildlife conflicts. For information specific to resolving predator-human conflicts, visit the Living With Wildlife Foundation website at www.lwwf.org.

Japanese Whaling Commission?

An Ill-Gotten Pro-Whaling Majority Puts Japan in Control

At the head of the 58th International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting this summer on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and Nevis, there was general worry that pro-whaling nations would have enough votes to secure a simple majority—which would mean major changes to the workings of the Commission. Representing the long-standing Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) “Save the Whales” campaign, Susan Millward and D.J. Schubert defended the interests of the whales.

The US position on a return to commercial whaling has started to drift in recent years, and in an attempt to halt the expansion of scientific research whaling by the Japanese, the US government may be willing to enter into compromises that would have disastrous consequences for the world’s whales (see story page 2). In March 2006, AWI wrote to the US delegation of the IWC, expressing concern over its position and outlining instances that demonstrate the shift away from a position of whale protectionism. The response we received in May did not allay our fear.

This year’s IWC meeting kicked off with a vote on Japan’s proposal to remove small cetaceans from the agenda. It failed by a two-vote margin, and in a key move, Denmark abstained. In response to another proposal by Japan, this time to instate secret ballots, New Zealand stressed the importance of transparency within the IWC. Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, Italy, Morocco, South Africa, Sweden and the United States were among those joining the country in its opposition to secret ballots. This vote was also close, with 30 countries voting in favor of the secret ballots and 33 voting against the measure.



Koichi Kamoshida/Getty Images

Japanese whalers carve up a Baird’s beaked whale just days after Japan took steps at the IWC meeting toward restoring commercial whaling. Fortunately, its actions only succeeded in drawing world attention to the underhanded methods pro-whaling countries use to further their aims at the expense of the whales.

The second day brought Japan’s introduction of its much-anticipated proposal for “normalization” of the IWC—an attempt to take the Commission back to its inception in 1946, which led to the near collapse of the world’s whale populations. The document advocates so-called sustainable whaling and refers to cetaceans as “marine living resources available for harvesting.” After a good deal of discussion and calls for either the “modernization” or the “harmonization” of the IWC, debate finally ceased.

Later that day, the talks were dominated by discussions about small-scale whaling of small cetaceans in Japan and its socioeconomic implications. The country insists four whaling communities—Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wadoura and Taiji—are suffering because of the moratorium. Japan made its standard proposal for 150 Okhotsk minke whales, but the vote failed to get even a simple majority in its favor. Thirty nations were in favor of the proposal, and 31 opposed. Interestingly, China, Kiribati, Korea and the Solomon Islands abstained.

On day three, the primary item of business was sanctuaries. Brazil once again eloquently made its case for a safe whale haven well beyond its shores in the South Atlantic. Sadly, discussions in support of and in opposition to the proposal continued until it was withdrawn. Next, Japan again presented its amendment to abolish the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, which was created in 1994. Fortunately, the needed three-quarters majority was not met.

Soon we learned that Senegal—a country expected to vote with Japan—had arrived with credentials in order. This vote, along with Denmark’s, proved critical when a “declaration” by host country St. Kitts and Nevis was introduced. A 33 to 32 vote by the commissioners approved erroneous language, which blamed whales for the human-caused decline in fish populations, criticized non-governmental organizations for their efforts to protect the world’s whale species, and referred to the 1986 moratorium against commercial whaling as “no longer necessary.” Representatives of all countries that voted against the language, including the United States, disassociated themselves from the declaration following the vote.

The fourth day focused on “humane” whale killing. This is an oxymoron, since there is no humane way to kill a whale. Whalers in a moving vessel trying to hit a moving target in a moving sea have no chance of rendering every whale insensitive to pain with one shot, no matter what weapon is used. The United States made little comment, except to consistently defend the aboriginal subsistence whalers. In light of the Alaskan Eskimo bowhead whale quota due for renewal at the 2007 meeting, we must continue to press the US government to strengthen its position in support of whales. A full account of the IWC proceedings is available at www.awionline.org/whales/iwc/58iwc/index.htm. 🐾

brought to you by the SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION



Tracking Compassion ONE LEGISLATOR AT A TIME

Growing public concern about the way animals are treated in agriculture, laboratories, the pet trade, the entertainment industry and the wild has led to a rise in proposed animal welfare legislation. As a result, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation has collaborated with the American Humane Association to create a valuable internet

resource called the Compassion Index (CI). This new website, found online at www.compassionindex.org, provides information on how Members of the US Congress promote or hamper animal welfare through their actions on animal protection measures.

The CI is an electronic tally system that scores every Member of Congress based on his or her involvement on certain animal welfare-related federal legislative

measures. One unique aspect is that the scorecard is updated weekly to ensure Members of Congress are always held accountable for their legislative actions in support of, or in opposition to, issues involving animal welfare.

Another function of the CI is to spotlight legislators who have demonstrated leadership through their actions on behalf of animals. We hope that the CI, in addition to serving as an educational tool for learning more about legislators’ views on federal legislative animal protection measures, will encourage Congress to do more for all animals. 🐾

You can keep track of Members of Congress by entering their name, state or zip code.

Here is Your Representative’s cosponsorship status on our key legislation.

This is the position of the organizations that host the Compassion Index.

Photo of Legislator.

| Bill Name | Our Position | Cosponsor? |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| H.R. 5229 - 'To amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |
| H.R. 3931 - 'To amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |
| H.R. 3824 - 'To amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes.' | We OPPOSE this legislation | NO |
| H.R. 3442 - 'To amend and reauthorize the steel-jawed leghold traps on animals in the United States.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | NO, but should be a cosponsor |
| H.R. 2669 - 'To amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the pet industry.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | NO, but should be a cosponsor |
| H.R. 2567 - 'To amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent so as to render it unpalatable.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |
| H.R. 1558 - 'To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain computer-assisted remote hunting, and for other purposes.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |
| H.R. 817 - 'To amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |
| H.R. 503 - 'To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.' | We SUPPORT this legislation | YES, say thanks |

Legislation currently being tracked on the Compassion Index is listed here. Click on the bill name for more information.

This term indicates a legislator who has demonstrated support by signing on to a particular bill.

Green means we agree with the legislator’s position on this bill.

Red means we DO NOT agree with the legislator’s position on this bill.

The legislator has not yet cosponsored the issue and should be contacted, urging his or her support.

Contact your legislator to commend his or her support.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Click the “Take Action Now” box on www.saplonline.org to write your own e-letter to legislators who are currently involved (or should be involved) in animal welfare legislation.

Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good

By Jonathan Balcombe
Macmillan, 2006
ISBN: 1403986010
256 pages; \$24.95



Popular books such as *The Smile of a Dolphin* and films such as *March of the Penguins* have promoted a new understanding of the emotional lives of animals. Jonathan Balcombe's *Pleasurable Kingdom* continues down this path and also marks a turning point. Recognizing that animals feel pain has been the lynchpin of the animal protection movement, but Balcombe now presents the other side of the spectrum, drawing our attention to the myriad ways in which animals feel good. He interweaves stories from years of keen observation (especially of birds) with highlights of recent scientific studies, underscoring that these are "creatures who are not merely alive, but living life."

Balcombe, who is an animal behavior research scientist for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, places his amusing stories in a context that other books do not. He pushes the envelope by challenging all of us—but most of all scientists, teachers, legislators, farmers and zookeepers—to see that pleasure, like suffering, is part of natural selection. He doesn't just tell us the stories; he tells us why they are important, and in the process, he shows us nature in a completely new light. 🐾

Fly Like the Wind

By Bridgette Z. Savage
Buckbeech Studios, 2006
ISBN: 0-9771494-0-4
111 pages; \$16.98
(Available for purchase online at
www.thecharminghorse.com/flylikewind.html)



In *Fly Like the Wind*, Bridgette Z. Savage tells a story that has survived for well over a century through oral history. George M. Barrett, a young man growing up in rural Indiana, had a horse named Fly on his father's farm. When Barrett signed up to serve in the local Cavalry during the Civil War, his bond with Fly deepened.

The duo had many adventures together, such as escaping capture by Confederate troops by jumping off a cliff and swimming to safety. Fly was so impressive that the army asked to buy her from Barrett at the end of their service, but the young man's ties to his horse could not be broken. Together they returned to the family farm, and Fly lived for many years. Her story spread all over southwestern Indiana, and today her heroism is a local legend.

Savage brings light to the horse's point of view in the story, and illustrations are featured alongside their journey. Both children and adults will enjoy this tale of the historic friendship between man and horse. 🐾

An Inconvenient Truth

Paramount Films/
Participant Productions
100 minutes



A documentary film focusing on Al Gore's global warming lectures may be the most unlikely—and most important—hit of the year. In his role as a politician, he has been criticized for his inability to relate to the masses, but anyone who sees this film will surely listen up. Global warming is perhaps the biggest threat to the health of our planet, and Gore explains the issue in a way that is both engrossing and easy to understand.

The documentary focuses on findings confirmed by leading scientists around the world, presenting charts and projections that make the problem clear: we have perhaps a decade to change our habits, and we need to start now. Intertwined with facts and figures are the history of Gore's personal struggle to protect the environment and gripping images of the effects of climate change thus far. From receding glaciers to fleeing inhabitants of islands ravaged by floods, *An Inconvenient Truth* presents a reality that is difficult to watch and hard to ignore.

The good news is there is hope. The United States is the largest contributor to global warming, but we also have the biggest potential to turn things around. By taking simple steps to become "carbon neutral," we can protect generations of humans and animals to come. For more information about the film and global warming, visit www.climatecrisis.net. 🐾

AWI-Sponsored Humane Farmers Spread the Word

The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) sponsored a trip to the 6th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics this June in Oslo, Norway for AWI-approved farmers Frank Reese of Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch, Bert and Trish Paris of the grazing dairy farm Peace of Pasture, Tony and Sue Renger of Willow Creek Farm, and Paul Willis of the Niman Ranch Pork Company. At the event, the farmers showed slides of their animals and farms, and they described to the audience how important farm animal welfare is to the enjoyment and profitability of their operations. Marlene Halverson opened the workshop by outlining the AWI husbandry standards program, and Anne Malleau, executive director of Whole Foods Market's Animal Compassion Foundation, described its research funding opportunities to test and promote humane farming systems.

AWI also brought Swedish pig farmers Gun and Martin Ragnarsson to the University of Minnesota, West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) this summer to monitor and advise research faculty and university farm workers on how to improve outcomes in their deep-bedded Swedish group sow housing and farrowing system. The focus of the university's Alternative Livestock Systems Program is development and demonstration of livestock systems that are more sustainable for the environment, more caring of the



Marlene Halverson/AWI

Swedish farmers Gun and Martin Ragnarsson employ the deep-bedded system, allowing piglets to benefit from a natural environment. This improved housing method is catching on in the United States.

animals' behavioral needs, and more suitable to smaller farming operations. The Ragnarssons gave a seminar describing their own farming operation to university personnel and farmers from as far away as Wisconsin and Iowa. 🐾

Whole Foods Challenges Conventional Corporate Ideals

Whole Foods Market CEO John Mackey has demonstrated the ever-growing company's collective dedication to animal welfare and independent farming with two landmark moves. Following an unsuccessful attempt to improve the conditions of its in-store live lobster and soft-shell crab housing and to shorten transport times to an acceptable length, the company has halted the sale of these animals on the basis that current housing and transport are not humane. Typically, lobsters and soft-shell crabs are forced to live crowded on top of each other in feces-contaminated tanks. Whole Foods has prohibited the sale of foie gras for years, and more recently, it stopped selling eggs from hens confined to battery cages. "We place as much emphasis on the importance of humane treatment and quality of life for all animals as we do on the expectations for quality and flavor," Mackey said in announcing the decision.

Additionally, Mackey has pledged \$10 million to support locally grown food, responding to concerns from *The Omnivore's Dilemma* author Michael Pollan about the growth of industrial-scale organic and natural food production. Mackey has also

vowed to increase efforts to buy products from local farms and to make long-term, low-interest loans to these producers—concentrating on farms that raise grass-fed beef and organic pasture-based eggs. Furthermore, some stores will use sections of their parking lots to feature farmer's markets on Sundays. 🐾

Saying "No" to Foie Gras

In August 2006, Chicago will join the growing list of locales that have banned the sale of foie gras, thanks to a campaign by Farm Sanctuary. Israel and a host of European countries, including the United Kingdom, also prohibit the product, which is created by cruelly force-feeding ducks and geese until their livers swell to 10 times their normal size. Inspired by the success in Chicago, Philadelphia and the state of New York are also considering foie gras bans. AWI supports city and state bans that are implemented promptly, with no concessions to this barbaric industry. 🐾



Sour Milk

Big Industry and Low Standards Move in on the Booming Organic Dairy Market

Organic food production is based on a system of farming that mimics natural ecosystems and maintains and replenishes the fertility of the soil. Many consumers believe this approach to food production ensures farm animal well-being. Indeed, access to pasture—often associated with organic farming—protects foot and leg strength, wards off lameness and hoof lesions, promotes udder health, enhances the immune system and allows the animals to satisfy their natural behavior patterns and alleviate stress. In addition, maintaining pastures benefits the soil and improves the quality of milk. Studies show milk from grazing animals is higher in omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E and antioxidants, compared to milk from conventionally raised animals—who are typically raised in a feedlot system that forces cows to live on dirt or concrete. Conventionally raised animals are often genetically manipulated and given hormones, antibiotics and unnatural additives.

However, a recent report by the Cornucopia Institute shows

large, industrial dairy operations are also entering the organic dairy market without adhering to the essential environmental and animal care practices that constitute true organic farming. Under the organic certification program administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), dairy products labeled “USDA certified organic” may come from animals confined to feedlots, concrete flooring, stanchions or sheds—with very limited access to pasture. According to an official with whom we spoke from the USDA National Organic Program, even tail docking may be allowed, depending on the certifying agent’s review of a farm’s management plan. Though four sections in the USDA organic regulations state organic dairy animals should have access to pasture, the agency says the regulatory language “access to pasture for ruminants” is too vague to legally enforce. Under the program, cows may actually come from farms that confine thousands of animals in substandard conditions at one site.

Two large companies—Horizon Organics (a subsidiary of Dean Foods) and Aurora Organics—are particularly criticized in the Cornucopia report. Their aggressive approach in the marketplace is undercutting smaller farmers who enter organic farming due to commitment to principles rather than for economic gain alone. Dean Foods, the leading company in conventional milk production, obtained 55 percent of the organic milk market by acquiring Horizon Organics. And Cornucopia reports that one Aurora facility had not even undergone the organic certification process, yet was still given organic certification. Cornucopia has filed a formal complaint with the USDA regarding this matter.

Companies like Horizon and Aurora keep organic milk prices low through vertical integration (controlling important aspects not only of milk production, but also of processing and marketing), dual production (simultaneously producing conventional and organic milk), high volume production and other practices that are not in line with organic

principles. They sell off their calves, who would have to be raised for two years before they began producing milk, and then buy conventionally raised cows at approximately one year of age. These non-organic cows can be entered into organic milk production after 12 months under USDA rules—a disingenuous practice that saves the producer money at the expense of the animals. Ambitious production goals in combination with the industrialized conditions in which cows are kept create a high death and burnout rate, so the animals often have to be replaced.

Consumer demand for organic milk is growing, even creating a shortage in some grocery stores. Sales are no longer restricted to natural food co-ops or supermarkets; Wal-Mart is now the biggest seller of organic milk. A combination of greater demand, a shortage of suppliers, higher proceeds and loopholes in the USDA organic

standards program has led the conventional milk industry to exploit the opportunity to enter the organic market. The fact that organic products have gained such popularity among a broad consumer base is an encouraging development. However, consumers concerned with the environment and animal welfare must stay vigilant to ensure that the organic standards, which make these food choices attractive in the first place, do not further erode due to pressure from the conventional food industry. 🐾



photos: Cornucopia Institute

Nebulous USDA organic regulations allow Horizon to benefit from the organic label while keeping dairy cows in poor conditions on barren feedlots.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- 1) If you desire genuine organic milk products, shop for items with independent organic standards and enforcement programs that surpass those of the USDA. Consumers may view these programs by state by visiting www.ams.usda.gov/NOP/CertifyingAgents/Accredited.html. Ask farmers about their practices, and if possible, visit their farms.
- 2) In order to support organic farmers following the highest standards, please visit the Cornucopia Institute scorecard to find the companies in your area at www.cornucopia.org/index.php/dairy_brand_ratings/. The report also provides a history of the development of the USDA organic standards and details how factory farms are skirting the federal rules governing organic food production.



The Alexandre Family EcoDairy Farm proves organic dairy farming can be done on a larger scale while still allowing access to pasture and good welfare practices.



Large corporation-owned organic farms investigated by the Cornucopia Institute rely on highly refined feed and grains. This practice prevents the animals from expressing their natural behaviors and getting many of the nutrients they would receive by grazing on pasture.

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.

A Big Stink: Illinois Citizens Fight Plans for Mega-Slaughterhouse

Last summer, a Davenport, Iowa reporter broke the story that plans were underway for building a pig slaughterhouse in nearby East Moline, Ill. The town mayor denied any knowledge about the development. A few months later, residents learned there were plans to annex several hundred acres of land, and over 100 people packed the city hall wanting to know the purpose. By November, East Moline city officials were clearly working on a deal with the pork company Triumph Foods.

In response, local activists came together to protect their community. Calling themselves Supporters of Earth, People and Animals (SEPA), the group set out to educate the public about the effects of the hog industry, particularly slaughter plants and confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Beyond immediate concerns about the impact of building what Triumph has said will be one of the largest pig slaughter plants in the world—processing around 16,000 hogs a day—these facilities are notorious for attracting inhumane, environmentally destructive CAFOs to reduce transportation costs.

“It will cause all sorts of ripple effects,” said Eagle View Sierra

Club Chairman Jerry Neff, citing the destruction of nearby wetlands, major pollution and increased flooding risks as inevitable problems associated with bringing the plant to the area. “In every community where one of these pork processing plants is built, the quality of life goes down,” he said. Regardless of these factors, many local officials view the Triumph plant as an economic opportunity that would bring jobs to the community.

A major financial incentive was proposed in the form of multimillion dollar “enterprise zone” tax breaks to encourage the company to break ground in East Moline. The incentive had to be approved by each city council in the Quad City area, so SEPA members attended city council meetings to give informative speeches and presentations on the issue. The group also held public meetings. East Moline and neighboring Moline and Milan approved the enterprise zone in late February. But in a huge victory for SEPA, the city council in Silvis struck it down 7 to 1 the next month.

Unfortunately, the story doesn’t end there. Ignoring the clear objections of local citizens, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich offered Triumph another deal—\$16 million in incentives



Dan Videtic/The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus

Lois Kuehling is one of many concerned residents who stage demonstrations each weekend to keep the fight against Triumph plant visible to the public.

through the state’s Opportunity Returns program—which the company accepted. SEPA activists are continuing to protest the plant. “We believe that we have to take this issue to the courts to stop Triumph from building their plant here,” said member Jimmy Kuehling. “We’re raising much needed money to support this legal effort.” 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For more information on this campaign or to pledge support, please write:

Supporters of Earth, People and Animals
P.O. Box 152
Moline, IL 61266



Animal Welfare Institute

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