

An underwater photograph showing two seals swimming in clear blue water. The seals are positioned in the upper half of the frame, with one in the foreground and another slightly behind it. They are swimming over a dense field of green kelp that fills the bottom half of the image. The lighting is bright, creating a vibrant blue and green color palette.

| Annual Report 2025

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

Seventy-fourth Annual Report

JULY 1, 2024–JUNE 30, 2025



OUR VISION

A world where treatment of animals is rooted in dignity and compassion.

OUR MISSION

The Animal Welfare Institute is dedicated to alleviating animal suffering caused by people. We seek to improve the welfare of animals everywhere: in agriculture, in commerce, in our homes and communities, in research, and in the wild.

WHAT WE DO

Through the lens of animal welfare, we work to protect animals from suffering and/or extinction that result from human activities, including the following:

- Use of animals for food, clothing, health products, experimentation, education, entertainment, companionship, or other purposes
- Means used to breed, raise, capture, manage, transport, or kill them
- Cruelty to or neglect of individual animals
- Degradation and destruction of habitat

A Message from the CEO/Executive Director

As I reflect on the past year, I am immensely grateful to AWI supporters for helping us defend against pervasive attacks on landmark conservation and animal protection laws, while championing new gains for animal welfare. Together, we have worked to counter unprecedented efforts to weaken federal protections for animals and their homes in the United States, while also achieving stronger laws and regulations at the local and state levels. Wherever possible, we have continued to emphasize bipartisan common ground in support of animal welfare. At the international level, we have worked to safeguard and strengthen agreements that protect vulnerable animals and their habitats around the world.

As you will read in the following pages, we do have reasons to celebrate—from helping to launch the first congressional caucus to protect America’s wild horses and burros, to working in Colorado to secure the nation’s most comprehensive state law to combat wildlife trafficking, to achieving a legal settlement resulting in a long-overdue prohibition on seafood imports from fisheries that fail to meet US standards for protecting marine mammals.

At the same time, we have continued to support nonlethal wildlife management strategies, have provided grants for improvements to the housing and handling of animals in research, and awarded scholarships to support the next generation of dedicated and determined animal advocates.

There is no question that we face a challenging, unpredictable path ahead, yet we are resolute in our vision: a world where treatment of animals is rooted in dignity and compassion. As always, we thank you for standing with us.

— Susan Millward



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HUMANE
EDUCATION |

Educational Materials

AWI develops free educational resources to help teachers instill values of empathy, respect, kindness, and responsibility toward animals. These resources are distributed at national education conferences each year and available for download or mailing via the AWI and the Teachers Pay Teachers websites. They include interactive lesson plans, activities, coloring pages, and English and Spanish language versions of AWI children's books. This year, we developed a lesson plan on North Atlantic right whale conservation for high school students, focusing on efforts along the US East Coast to protect these critically endangered whales from vessel strikes, a leading threat to their safety. Dissection alternative materials we introduced last year also continued to be extremely popular.

Since 2019, AWI has donated more than 93,000 physical copies of our books to programs supporting children of various ages, including those living in under-resourced communities and homeless shelters. We were approached this year by the Animal Protection Federation (FePA)—a nonprofit umbrella organization for animal protection groups, shelters, and advocates in Puerto Rico—about providing resources for humane education workshops offered during a conference in Caguas in October. In response, AWI donated 2,400 copies of our children's books that emphasize compassion and care for companion animals and books for older students that examine human and animal behavior, psychology, and social interactions. The humane education workshops proved popular, and FePA subsequently began working with the Puerto Rico Department of Education to continue providing workshops around the island.

Support of Student Advocates

AWI Scholarships were awarded in May to 12 US high school seniors who have demonstrated ambition and ingenuity in improving the lives of animals and who plan to continue their efforts to help animals in college and beyond. Recipients this year launched school clubs, coordinated large-scale cleanups, organized fundraising events for rescue groups, fostered animals, and more.

The annual "A Voice for Animals" contest, sponsored by AWI in partnership with the Humane Education Network, rewards high school students around the globe for essays, videos, and photo essays on ways to protect imperiled species and mitigate animal suffering. This year's winners included a South Korean student's essay addressing the multifaceted impacts of rhino horn trafficking and a California student's video about a young birders club she founded to encourage conservation of declining bird populations.

AWI also continued to support the work of African organizations that encourage student involvement in animal protection. These include the Africa Network for Animal Welfare, which offers scholarships and animal welfare education through school clubs; the Liberia Animal Welfare and Conservation Society, which offers lessons and activities to encourage analysis of animal welfare issues; the Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization, which launched a humane education curriculum this year to help children build emotional connections with animals and embrace biodiversity; and the Foundation for Development of Children in Zambia, which supports youth-led climate activism and promotes animal-friendly livelihoods.



FARMED ANIMALS

Bird Flu Response

As of June 2025, the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (aka “bird flu”) that began in 2022 had resulted in the deaths of nearly 175 million chickens, turkeys, and ducks—killed by the virus itself or by farm operators “depopulating” flocks to contain the virus’s spread. Increasingly, producers have relied on the most inhumane depopulation method available: ventilation shutdown plus heat (VSD+), which induces heatstroke. An AWI analysis of US Department of Agriculture records revealed that larger commercial egg producers are more likely both to experience bird flu infections and to use VSD+ to depopulate infected flocks. We have urged the USDA to alter its indemnity policy to stop incentivizing the massive flock sizes and overcrowded conditions that encourage disease transmission and severely compromise animal welfare.

In October, AWI asked the National Academy of Sciences to step up research on poultry vaccines and humane depopulation methods. In January, we collaborated with veterinarians and animal protection groups to create a sign-on letter—joined by more than 860 veterinarians and vet students across the nation—calling on the American Veterinary Medical Association to reclassify VSD+ for poultry as a “not recommended” depopulation method in its guidelines. The USDA typically relies on these guidelines to facilitate depopulation efforts during animal disease outbreaks.

Octopus Farming

Commercial octopus farms house octopuses in barren, crowded tanks under near-constant light—conditions in direct conflict with this animal’s nocturnal, solitary, territorial, and

exploratory nature. This year, in response to growing international efforts to establish a large-scale commercial octopus farming industry, AWI published information on the inhumane and ecologically unsustainable nature of these operations and helped get state and federal legislation introduced to ban the sale of farmed octopus products and prevent the nascent commercial octopus farming industry from gaining a foothold in the United States.

Research Reports

In July, AWI released *Enforcement of State Farmed Animal Welfare Laws*. The report reviews the various forms of state-level farmed animal welfare laws, examines how well these laws are being enforced, and provides recommendations for crafting effective state farmed animal protection measures.

In January, AWI released the third edition of *Barn Fires: A Deadly Threat to Farmed Animals*, reviewing the data on farmed animal casualties in fires occurring 2022–2024. AWI is urging states to adopt the latest edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Code (NFPA 150), a stronger safety standard we helped establish through our seat on the NFPA’s Technical Committee on Animal Housing Facilities.

In *Humane Slaughter Update: Federal and State Oversight of the Welfare of Livestock at Slaughter*, released in April, AWI reviews plant inspection records to highlight chronically poor enforcement of the federal Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. In the report, we make recommendations for improving enforcement and reducing the suffering farmed animals experience at slaughter.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Appropriations

The 118th Congress came to a close without resolution on a federal budget for fiscal year 2025, which began October 1, 2024. As efforts to fund the government dragged into the new calendar year and a new Congress, AWI worked to secure sufficient funding for enforcement of federal animal welfare laws and for priorities such as reauthorizing a federal grant program to assist domestic violence survivors with pets, preventing farmed animal suffering due to extreme weather events and disease outbreaks, and maintaining a prohibition on domestic horse slaughter.

Once the 119th Congress and the Trump administration took office in January, however, AWI and other animal protection groups had to focus largely on damage control—rallying citizen advocates to oppose an onslaught of executive actions and legislative efforts designed to bypass or undo landmark conservation laws and jettison the workforce and funding needed for federal programs dedicated to the scientific study and protection of animals and ecosystems.

Animal Welfare Bills

Even as we sought to stem the dismantling of long-standing animal protections, we continued to build support in Congress for new protections. This year we played an active role in the introduction of multiple animal welfare bills, including the following:

- Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act (HR 712) to allow state agencies to include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse in official reports
- SAFE Act (HR 1661/S 775) to establish a federal ban on domestic slaughter or export

for slaughter of American horses for human consumption

- PAST Act (HR 1684) to prevent the soring (intentional injuring) of walking horses to alter their gait for competitions
- ProTECT Act (HR 1934) to ban trophy imports and domestic “canned” hunts of endangered species
- Mink VIRUS Act (HR 2185) to end US mink farming and establish a grant program to compensate mink farmers for the value of their operations
- Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 3199/S 1594) to end the pet primate trade in the United States
- OCTOPUS Act (S 1947) to ban commercial octopus farming in the United States and prohibit importation of farmed octopus
- Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act (HR 4108) to ban the use of body-gripping traps within the National Wildlife Refuge System
- Canyon’s Law (HR 4180/S 2179) to prohibit the use of M-44 cyanide devices to lethally manage wildlife populations on public lands

State Legislation

AWI celebrated wins on several state bills this year: Massachusetts and Washington joined 10 other states in banning the use of certain wild animals, including elephants, big cats, and nonhuman primates, in circuses and other traveling shows. Pennsylvania and Georgia became the latest states to authorize the inclusion of pet protections within domestic violence restraining orders. And in Colorado, we helped secure enactment in May of the nation’s most comprehensive state law to combat wildlife trafficking.



ANIMALS IN
LABORATORIES

Promoting Refinements

Each year, AWI's Refinement Research Awards fund research on innovations to improve the housing and handling of animals in laboratories, while our Implementing Refinement Grants fund the implementation of existing refinement methods. Grants this year helped initiate an exercise program for rabbits, build cooperative enrichment items for primates housed singly in adjacent cages, construct climbing and perching structures for rodents, and more. Recipients of prior grants also reported on results of their studies in the *AWI Quarterly*. One study illuminated strategies for promoting harmony among neighboring marmoset pairs. Another confirmed that columns of compressed newsprint can be used to encourage natural tunneling behavior in naked mole rats. Other grantees, meanwhile, described how they used funding to introduce non-aversive handling techniques in a large mouse facility, develop a positive reinforcement training program for rats in a "free-range" environment, and launch a physical therapy program for dogs, cats, and horses at a veterinary school.

AWI continued to host our long-standing Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF), a valuable online resource for animal care personnel, researchers, veterinarians, students, and other laboratory staff seeking ways to promote animal welfare and improve scientific methodology in research laboratories. We also added resources to our Refinement Database, a searchable selection of scientific articles, books, and other publications related to refinement.

In November, AWI's Dr. Joanna Makowska and Dr. Maisy Englund attended the annual National Meeting of the American Association

for Laboratory Animal Science—the world's largest gathering of laboratory animal science professionals—where they distributed more than 750 books and other resources on refinements to improve the welfare of animals in laboratories to eager attendees.

Encouraging Accountability

In November, in response to the escape of 43 rhesus macaques from the Alpha Genesis, Inc. primate research facility in Yemassee, South Carolina, AWI called on the US Department of Agriculture to inspect, investigate, and sanction the company after more than a decade of documented Animal Welfare Act violations. Ten days after AWI's letter was delivered, the USDA inspected and cited the facility. We also continued to report on how demand for long-tailed macaques in research has incentivized trafficking in wild-caught animals and spurred efforts to build massive US breeding facilities that raise grave concerns over animal welfare and impacts on local communities.

Advancing Alternatives

AWI promotes practices that both replace animals in laboratories with nonanimal alternatives and limit the number of animals used for research and testing. New approach methodologies (NAMs)—novel techniques that typically do not involve the use of nonhuman animals—can advance both goals. In May, AWI unveiled a new section of our website addressing the future of NAMs and containing extensive information on NAM resources for both policymakers and scientists. AWI also joined the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health's Validation & Qualification Network, a public-private partnership that will help guide the development and use of NAMs.



COMPANION ANIMALS

Combatting Animal Cruelty

In 2014, AWI helped persuade the Federal Bureau of Investigation to include animal cruelty as a distinct crime category in its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the nation's crime database. Once this coordinated effort to collect specific information related to animal cruelty crimes was launched, AWI began encouraging scientific analysis of the data to inform more effective interventions. Last year, AWI launched the Center for the Study of NIBRS Animal Cruelty Data (NIBRS Study Center), a first-of-its-kind resource that facilitates access to what is available through NIBRS. This year, we established a NIBRS Animal Cruelty Data Research Award program to support graduate-level research on animal cruelty crimes. In May, a student pursuing a PhD in social work at Saint Louis University was awarded the program's first grant, which she will use to examine sociodemographic and animal cruelty offense data and construct distinct profiles of animal abusers in the United States.

In November, AWI helped plan and coordinate the 14th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference, held in Richmond, Virginia. AWI partnered with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) to launch this annual conference in 2009. During this year's conference, AWI's Zack Strong and Nancy Blaney, who co-chairs the APA's Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, addressed gaps in enforcement of federal and state cruelty laws. Additionally, a presentation on "Understanding Data Trends in Animal Cruelty Cases" was delivered by AWI's Claire Coughlin and Keon Turner, who manages the Virginia State Police Data Analysis and Reporting Team and serves on the advisory board of AWI's NIBRS Study Center.

Addressing Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence

AWI works closely with the APA and others to bring greater awareness of the connection between family violence and animal abuse, and to provide resources to help law enforcement officials and other professionals aid victims and prosecute abusers. Recently, we developed two new training tools designed to help animal welfare professionals recognize signs of child abuse and elder abuse when investigating cases of animal cruelty and neglect. AWI staff also gave presentations on the relationship between animal abuse and interpersonal violence at several conferences this year, including the 35th Annual National Adult Protective Services Association Conference, held in Albuquerque in September, and the 20th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women, held in May in Dallas.

Expanding Safe Havens Resources

Since 2011, AWI's Safe Havens for Pets project has maintained a nationwide directory of sheltering services for pets of domestic violence survivors. The Safe Havens website also includes information on funding sources for shelters that wish to become more pet-friendly, safety planning tips for survivors with pets, and guidance on including companion animals in personal protection orders, among other resources.

In March, we expanded the directory to include resources for individuals who are experiencing homelessness with a companion animal. More than 200 programs for unhoused individuals, searchable by zip code, were added to the Safe Havens database. These include humane societies, veterinary offices, foster networks, and homeless shelters that house humans and pets together.



MARINE WILDLIFE

Fisheries

In a major victory, the US government agreed in mid-January to ban seafood imports from foreign fisheries that do not meet US standards for protecting marine mammals. This comes in settlement of a lawsuit AWI and allies filed challenging the government's failure to enforce a requirement under the Marine Mammal Protection Act that seafood imports come only from fisheries whose standards for avoiding marine mammal bycatch are comparable to US standards. The agreement will protect numerous threatened species of whales, dolphins, seals, and other marine mammals from entanglement in foreign fishing gear and will level the playing field for US fishers who already comply with the standards.

Whaling

In September, AWI staff attended the 69th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC69), held in Lima, Peru. Ahead of the meeting, the IWC was facing a serious budget shortfall, and its very existence was aggressively challenged in an opinion piece coauthored by a former IWC chair. Led by AWI, the international NGO community mounted a strong defense of the IWC and its important management and conservation mandate. In the end, several pro-conservation resolutions were adopted at the meeting, including one reaffirming the importance of the IWC's long-standing moratorium on commercial whaling, and a consensus was reached on a budget to help the IWC stay the course. AWI began its involvement with the IWC in the early 1970s under the leadership of our founder, Christine Stevens, who was instrumental in launching the Save the Whales movement that led to the moratorium. Five decades later, we continue

to be deeply involved in the work of this vital organization, including as active participants in its Scientific and Conservation committees, subcommittees, and working groups.

In June, AWI joined the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and an international coalition of organizations calling on Yahoo! Japan to ban the sale of whale and dolphin meat products on its massive search engine and web portal. In the media, the coalition highlighted an EIA analysis that found high levels of toxins in cetacean food items available for purchase on the site. That same month, AWI and allies reported on a lab analysis we commissioned of whale meat in Norway that revealed it, too, was contaminated with chemicals associated with a range of harmful effects on human health and the environment.

Captive Cetaceans

In December, the China Cetacean Alliance (CCA), a coalition of Chinese and international animal welfare organizations cofounded by AWI, published a report confirming that China had overtaken the United States as holder of the highest number of captive orcas (22). The report, *Ocean Theme Parks: China's Growing Captive Cetacean Industry (2019–2024)*, now in its third edition, also addressed the subpar welfare conditions of orcas on public display in China. As of July 2024, there were 101 captive cetacean facilities operating in China, with an additional 11 under construction. CCA and AWI are dedicated to raising awareness in China and abroad about the activities of that nation's marine park industry, as well as the serious welfare and management issues associated with the capture of free-ranging whales, dolphins, and porpoises.



TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE

Federal Wildlife Advocacy

Much of the Terrestrial Wildlife Program's work this year focused on addressing executive orders, administrative rulemakings, federal workforce reductions, funding freezes, and other actions taken by the Trump administration that have severely impacted the nation's wildlife protection statutes and regulations. AWI and allies have been fighting to preserve landmark federal laws and raise awareness regarding the implications of these actions. Together, AWI's Terrestrial and Marine Wildlife Programs submitted extensive comments opposing a proposed rule that would undermine protections for habitat that threatened and endangered species need to survive by rescinding the decades-old definition of "harm" under the Endangered Species Act. In March, we submitted comments on the administration's decision to rescind nearly 50 years' worth of regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act, one of the most important environmental laws in the United States. We also raised awareness about a legal opinion issued by the administration in April that weakens the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by no longer penalizing individuals and corporations for the incidental killing of birds protected under the law.

State Advocacy

In response to a highly challenging federal environment, we have increased our engagement at the state level to strengthen state endangered species acts, expand human-wildlife coexistence efforts, support anti-trafficking initiatives, and address cruel hunting, trapping, and poisoning. At the annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in February, AWI co-hosted a workshop to increase collaboration, coordination, and resource

sharing among groups that conduct state-level wildlife advocacy work across the country. AWI also co-hosted the Colorado Strategic Wildlife Summit, bringing together 11 wildlife protection organizations to build connections and enhance collaboration statewide.

Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

In July, AWI announced the eight recipients of this year's Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards—research grants that support innovative strategies for humane, nonlethal wildlife conflict management and study. The projects funded this year included efforts to noninvasively detect lead poisoning in eagles, monitor eastern black rail populations, study how beaver activities support biological communities in agricultural areas, and assess the impact of ocean noise on marine mammals, including critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

Wildlife Trade

As in previous years, AWI wildlife trade experts attended the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Standing Committee, held in February in Geneva. The committee made progress on several matters involving trade protections for elephants, great apes, rhinoceroses, and other species, as well as on issues regarding trade in captive-bred animals. Although the committee chose not to recommend a trade suspension against Mexico for its ongoing failure to stop the illegal trade in totoaba swim bladders, it did soundly reject a proposal to weigh the negative economic impacts of trade suspensions on third parties, including traders—an attempt to make trade suspensions in cases of persistent noncompliance even less likely.



EQUINES |

Horse and Donkey Slaughter

In response to a coordinated AWI media campaign calling for a federal ban on both the export of American horses for slaughter and any resumption of commercial horse slaughter on US soil, horse advocates sent nearly 29,000 letters this year to federal lawmakers urging them to pass legislation to this effect. Meanwhile, AWI continues to raise awareness about the alarming number of donkeys slaughtered globally to produce ejiao, a donkey-hide gelatin used in some cosmetics and traditional medicines. In October, AWI's Dr. Joanna Grossman spoke at a rally outside Amazon HQ2 in Arlington, Virginia, urging the online retailer to stop selling ejiao products. We also led a coalition that included a dozen New York-based equine rescue and animal protection groups that asked the state attorney general to crack down on the sale of ejiao within the state in view of a recent New York law prohibiting the sale of certain equine parts for consumption.

Wild Horse Management

AWI works on multiple fronts to improve the treatment of wild equines in the United States. During the past year, AWI and allies continued to litigate against the Bureau of Land Management's plan to remove thousands of wild horses and eliminate millions of acres of their designated habitat in Wyoming in response to pressure from a livestock grazing association. (Shortly after the close of the fiscal year, a federal appeals court issued a decision in our favor, finding that the BLM failed to comply with the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act in formulating the plan. The case was remanded to the district court to determine next steps.)

AWI heralded the May launch of the Congressional Wild Horse Caucus, the first caucus dedicated to preserving America's wild horses and burros. After the administration's fiscal year 2026 budget proposed eliminating long-standing protections against both slaughter and lethal control of wild equines, AWI quickly mobilized the bipartisan co-chairs of both the Wild Horse Caucus and the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, along with an estimated 14,500 activists, to secure these protections in federal appropriations legislation under consideration.

AWI's Tessa Archibald continued representing the interests of wild equines in Colorado this year through her seat on the Colorado Wild Horse Working Group. The working group, established to advance the state's pursuit of humane wild horse management strategies, released its year one report in December. This helped lead to enactment the following May of an AWI-supported law to direct state resources toward fertility control programs as an alternative to the BLM's brutal and costly roundups.

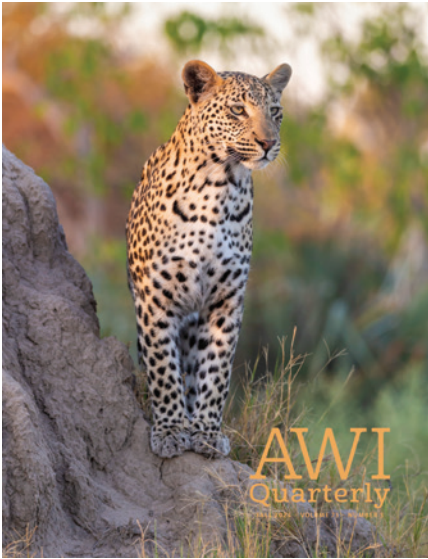
Homes for Horses Coalition

AWI co-manages the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), a network of over 500 equine rescues and sanctuaries dedicated to increasing collaboration, professionalism, and growth in the equine rescue and protection community. In September, HHC hosted a three-day conference in Washington, DC, bringing together more than 100 attendees from around the country to collaborate on a range of topics related to equine welfare. While in Washington, HHC members also conducted over 50 meetings with congressional offices to raise awareness of equine issues and promote equine protection bills.

AWI QUARTERLY

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to more than 62,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, veterinarians, laboratory personnel, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this fiscal year.





FALL 2024

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The CITES Animals Committee met in Geneva in July to review the continuing effects of trade on listed species in preparation for the following year's meetings of the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties. AWI cohosted a well-attended side event during the gathering to highlight the need for CITES to regulate the trade in croakers, a family of fish whose swim bladders are in high demand. Croaker populations are dwindling, and illegal gillnetting for one croaker species, the totoaba, is driving the vaquita porpoise—entangled as bycatch—to the brink of extinction.

In 2022, atrocious conditions at a Virginia beagle-breeding facility resulted in the owner—biomedical company Envigo—surrendering thousands of dogs and closing the facility. This year, two Envigo divisions pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Clean Water Act. Parent company Inotiv guaranteed payment of \$35 million in penalties, including \$11 million for the AWA offense—the largest fine ever in an AWA case. Per the plea agreement, all Inotiv entities are barred from breeding

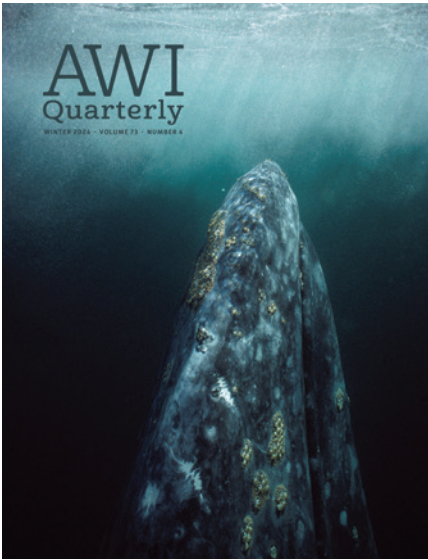
or selling dogs, but the company keeps its license to breed and sell other species.

AWI is partnering with Humane World for Animals on emergency disease mitigation in South Dakota's Conata Basin, home to the world's largest remaining colony of black-tailed prairie dogs. Last year, plague resurfaced in this population after a 20-year absence, with devastating effects. AWI is supporting the deployment of the best solution available: a prophylactic to control fleas that transmit the disease. This effort should save the lives of over 200,000 prairie dogs, as well as the myriad animals who rely on prairie dogs and the habitat they help create.

Abuse of farmed animals at slaughter could often be prosecuted under state animal cruelty laws, but the US Department of Agriculture does little to notify or encourage action by state law enforcement officials. AWI and an allied organization petitioned the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to (1) issue a public notice clarifying the circumstances under which federal laws do not preclude enforcement of state animal cruelty laws and (2) more effectively communicate and cooperate with state officials in the enforcement of such laws.

In July, AWI's Robin Jacobsohn and AWI board member Caroline Griffin participated in the inaugural International Animal Law Commission Seminar, hosted by the International Association of Lawyers. Caroline moderated a panel that included Robin, Prof. David Favre of Michigan State University College of Law, and Jim Karani, general counsel for Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa, addressing the challenges of combatting wildlife trafficking. The panel discussed the need for more global, collaborative efforts that recognize the interconnectedness of harms to the environment, animals, and humans.

Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green signed HB 1527 in July, closing a loophole in the state's anti-cruelty statute that allowed unlicensed veterinarians and untrained individuals to conduct surgical procedures on companion animals, including ear cropping and tail docking. The new law, which imposes felony-level penalties for violations, will prevent needless suffering.



WINTER 2024

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In late September, AWI's Susan Millward attended the 8th Africa Animal Welfare Conference in Nairobi. This AWI-supported annual conference draws government officials, animal protection groups, and advocates from across the continent. Susan moderated a lively discussion on wildlife conservation at the conference. She also met with Kenya Wildlife Service officials to discuss AWI's long-standing support for the agency's wildlife protection efforts and visited AWI-funded Africa Network for Animal Welfare initiatives, including de-snaring operations and school animal welfare clubs.

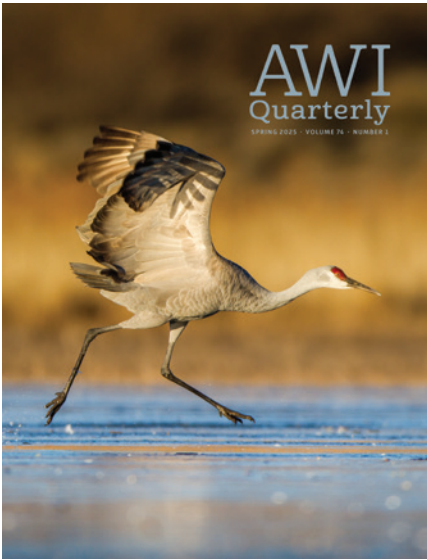
The National Institutes of Health announced in November that the last 20+ former research chimpanzees at its Alamogordo Primate Facility would be relocated to a sanctuary. The NIH stated previously that they could not be moved due to health concerns, notwithstanding a requirement under the CHIMP Act to move all such chimpanzees to a federal sanctuary. Following immense public pressure, the agency reconsidered, purportedly due to announced retirements of animal care staff at Alamogordo.

The Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA), a bill championed by AWI, was enacted in December 2022 to prohibit private ownership of lions, tigers, and other big cats. Since its passage, two noteworthy convictions—one involving an attempt to sell a jaguar in Texas and another involving a tiger purchased in Arkansas—are evidence that the BCPSA is already achieving its purpose: to protect communities from dangerous encounters with big cats kept as backyard pets and safeguards these animals against the appalling cruelty associated with the exotic pet trade.

AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose has long attended the Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, where she has presented talks, posters, and workshops; participated on panel discussions; and tabled for the MMPA Coalition to rally support for the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. At this year's 25th conference in Perth, Australia, she tabled for the International Whaling Commission to highlight the important conservation work of the IWC and its Scientific Committee, which addresses threats to cetaceans from fisheries entanglement, pollution, marine noise, and disruptive whale-watching practices, among others.

In late August, the US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service released an updated *Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims*. Though it contains small improvements, the guideline still fails to compel producers to provide meaningful proof of the animal welfare and environmental claims on packaging. Consumers are therefore advised to scrutinize such claims and avoid meat and poultry products adorned with claims that are ill-defined and unverified by trusted, independent third parties.

AWI is working with Montana-based People and Carnivores (P+C) to promote human-carnivore coexistence in the Mountain West. The partnership has helped communities in the region launch "Bear Smart Initiatives" to raise awareness and secure dump sites, garbage receptacles, and community gardens against opportunistic grizzly and black bears, and helped a P+C field specialist establish a carnivore coexistence program in an area frequented by grizzlies, wolves, and mountain lions.



SPRING 2025

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Drug companies use long-tailed macaques (LTMs) for infectious disease research. Demand for LTMs is skyrocketing even as wild populations and foreign sources for captive-bred animals shrink. The prospect of huge profits for would-be suppliers is encouraging illicit trade in wild-caught LTMs and efforts to build enormous US breeding facilities—prompting one industry insider to ask: “Are we in the drug discovery business, or are we in the monkey breeding business?” Increased investment in promising nonanimal research methodologies could enable the industry to focus on the former while reducing a troubled reliance on the latter.

Queen Mary University of London recently launched the Centre for Doctoral Training in Next Generation Organ-on-a-Chip Technology. Organs-on-a-chip are plastic devices lined with human cells that can be used instead of animals to study medicines and diseases. To complement the training center, the university also launched one of Europe’s largest and most advanced organ-on-a-chip facilities to accelerate the development and adoption of this technology.

Deep cuts have been made to the staff and budget of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This will have staggering effects on both marine wildlife, as conservation programs are dismantled, and on the American public, as the agency’s weather-monitoring and fisheries management efforts are curtailed. Undermining important ocean research, international conservation initiatives, and scientific cooperation, meanwhile, will have global ramifications. Federal lawmakers have called for an investigation into the potential repercussions of such cuts on coastal resiliency and public safety.

In January, Global Animal Partnership (GAP) released updated production standards for meat chickens under its Animal Welfare Certified rating program. GAP adopted AWI’s suggestion to explicitly prohibit the use of cruel ventilation shutdown methods to depopulate flocks for disease control or other reasons. Another AWI-supported change to the standards requires producers to transition from breeds whose disproportionate, rapid growth results in health and welfare problems toward breeds associated with normal growth and better welfare outcomes.

Each year, AWI attends Seafood Expo North America and Seafood Expo Global. Many companies at these important industry events have ties to shark finning, bycatch of endangered and protected species, and commercial whaling. At the expos, AWI and allies urge key suppliers and buyers from the seafood industry to sever ties with entities that engage in these inhumane and unsustainable practices, while also urging seafood certifiers to adopt more rigorous standards.

Cruel conditions on fur farms lead to serious physical and mental health problems for the animals. Fur farms can also incubate viruses that threaten humans. An AWI-backed bill introduced in the Illinois legislature in February would require disease prevention and surveillance measures on farms that raise and slaughter mink for their fur. In March, AWI submitted testimony to the Chicago City Council in support of an ordinance to prohibit the sale of new fur products. And an AWI-backed bill before Congress would phase out US mink farms entirely.



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A Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI allowed UC Davis researchers to test a noninvasive method for surveying populations of the salt marsh harvest mouse, an endangered species living in the coastal wetlands of the San Francisco Estuary. The scientists analyzed fecal pellets via a novel genetic test they developed to gain key information about the species. Their method—safer than live trapping for the mice and less expensive and labor intensive for humans—was subsequently incorporated into a multiagency range-wide survey that will aid conservation efforts.

In March, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council advanced a proposal to reopen a black sea bass fishing closure to fishing—but only via on-demand (aka “ropeless”) fishing gear. Black sea bass are traditionally fished with trap pots and vertical lines—gear that entangles and kills critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, creating the need for periodic closures. AWI and allies submitted comments in support of this proposal—which could receive final approval later in the year—because it would incentivize increased adoption of whale-safe ropeless gear.

AWI has opposed plans to restore land in the Mississippi River Delta by diverting sediment-rich river water into Barataria Bay because it would eradicate the bay’s resident bottlenose dolphin population. Although ground was broken on the project last year, it was put on hold by Louisiana Gov. Landry in April amid ballooning costs. Later that month, the Army Corps of Engineers suspended the project’s construction permit, due in part to environmental review irregularities. As of summer, the project was officially considered canceled.

President Trump issued an executive order in March to massively increase logging on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands. The order will open millions of acres of old-growth and mature forests to clearcutting. Many threatened and endangered species will be placed in peril, including northern and Mexican spotted owls, red-cockaded woodpeckers, Canada lynx, fishers, and several salmon species. The negative consequences of this order, if it is fully implemented, will reverberate for centuries.

States have repeatedly passed laws that seek to criminalize undercover investigations of abuse and other animal welfare issues on factory farms. Although these “ag-gag” laws have been repeatedly struck down in court on First Amendment grounds, states continue to enact them—tweaking the content each time in hopes of circumventing constitutional clashes. This year, Iowa, South Dakota, and West Virginia were among the latest states to enact measures designed to thwart public scrutiny of industrial agriculture’s animal welfare, worker safety, and environmental issues.

In April, the National Institutes of Health and the US Food and Drug Administration announced initiatives aimed at reducing the use of animals in research. This is welcome news. At the same time, however, the Trump administration is making drastic reductions to staff and funding at these agencies, which will make the transition to nonanimal research models much harder to achieve and could severely compromise scientific integrity and the welfare of animals currently in research.



STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Year Ended June 30,	
	2025	2024
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
REVENUES		
Contributions - Grants and foundations	\$ 697,059	\$ 820,502
- Legacies and bequests	1,684,910	2,966,529
- Individual contributions	2,542,958	2,485,819
- Contributed services	225,821	519,190
Tenants rental income	113,410	118,593
Sale of publications and reports	4,619	6,933
Dividend income	573,323	512,922
Interest income	144,041	163,104
Realized and unrealized gain on securities	1,024,820	1,444,476
Other income	6,335	6,541
Total revenue	<u>7,017,296</u>	<u>9,044,609</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>333,158</u>	<u>343,845</u>
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>7,350,454</u>	<u>9,388,454</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services	7,172,717	7,127,996
Management and general	676,720	588,893
Fundraising	59,391	63,873
Total expenses	<u>7,908,828</u>	<u>7,780,762</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>(558,374)</u>	<u>1,607,692</u>
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Contributions	80,000	669,185
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(333,158)</u>	<u>(343,845)</u>
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>(253,158)</u>	<u>325,340</u>
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	(811,532)	1,933,032
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	<u>27,571,204</u>	<u>25,638,172</u>
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 26,759,672</u>	<u>\$ 27,571,204</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Program Services	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND- RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 2,984,932	\$ 335,385	\$ 33,539	\$ 3,353,856
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	238,484	26,665	2,680	267,829
Employee benefits	254,240	36,039	2,872	293,151
Retirement plan	136,215	15,305	1,531	153,051
Advertising	60,240	65	6	60,311
<i>AWI Quarterlies</i>	300,991	–	3,039	304,030
Printing and publications (except <i>AWI Quarterlies</i>)	65,582	2,953	7,062	75,597
Research, writing, and editing	42,227	–	–	42,227
Grants	1,401,530	–	–	1,401,530
Conferences, meetings, and travel	316,428	7,866	475	324,769
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except <i>AWI Quarterlies</i>)	39,861	2,238	2,181	44,280
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	63,281	23,187	464	86,932
Professional services	456,350	60,127	3,335	519,812
Contributed service expenses	223,977	1,844	–	225,821
Memberships and subscriptions	92,884	4,889	4	97,777
Consultants	295,648	1,402	140	297,190
Internet services	78,696	7,502	710	86,908
Occupancy costs	63,521	56,433	714	120,668
Bank, investment, and other fees	771	41,734	–	42,505
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	7,115,858	623,634	58,752	7,798,244
Depreciation and amortization	56,859	53,086	639	110,584
Total expenses	\$ 7,172,717	\$ 676,720	\$ 59,391	\$ 7,908,828

A complete financial statement audited by CBIZ OPAs is available online from AWI and upon written request from the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Business and Professional Licensing Administration, Corporations Division, P.O. Box 92300, Washington, DC 20090.

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