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**Cover:** These are the charming Northeastern offshore spotted dolphins whose populations have never recovered from the fierce onslaught of the tuna purse seine fishing that killed over 7 million dolphins. The childrens' crusade for the dolphins in 1992 at last stopped our country from continuing this cruel practice. US tuna boats were forbidden by law from rounding up the dolphins that swim with the schools of tuna fish by pursuing them with helicopters and speedboats and capturing them in giant purse seine nets with the tuna. But Commerce Secretary Daley made a heartless decision to put Free Trade ahead of dolphin protection (see articles on pages 12 and 15).



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Gov. Ventura cradles an eagle who had been caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap.

## EAGLE RESCUED FROM A STEEL-JAW LEGHOLD TRAP

On November 4, 1998, Department of Natural Resources Officer Jim Schweiss found a struggling young eagle, dazed from lead poisoning and dragging a steel-jaw leghold trap from his hind toe, deep in the Minnesota woods. That same day, Jesse Ventura, former professional wrestler and animal enthusiast, was elected governor of Minnesota.

After two months of intensive rehabilitation at the Raptor Center of the University of Minnesota, Terry the eagle, named after Ventura's wife, was released by Ventura back into the wild. Later that day, Ventura was sworn in as governor.

During his rehabilitation, Terry underwent a seldom-performed toe amputation and was given chemical agents to absorb the lead in his system. On average, 25% of all eagles brought to the Raptor Center suffer from lead poisoning. Injured waterfowl and the remains of big game animals killed by hunters, often riddled with lead shotgun pellets or rifle slugs, are favorite foods of the eagle. Most frequently, an eagle will contract lead poisoning while ingesting a meal, although some bald eagles are themselves illegally shot by hunters using lead bullets or pellets.

Despite regulations that require steel-jaw leghold traps to be covered or buried, many eagles are caught in them each year. Eagles, being scavengers, are attracted to the carrion often used to bait steel-jaw leghold traps. When the eagle swoops down to retrieve the carrion, the unlucky bird becomes an unintended victim of the trap.

Terry was fortunate. Most raptors caught in steel-jaw leghold traps who do not die, are so severely injured that they are unable to hunt for themselves and must remain in captivity for life.

After flying over a group of well-wishers and skillfully weaving his way around a stand of trees, the majestic bird lighted on a limb in the nearby woods, free again. 🐾



Terry being released back into the wild.



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*Eastern Pacific Spinner Dolphins populations are in danger of further decline due to changes in US tuna fishing regulations. See story on page 15.*



*American black bears, spread across the US, increasingly are being targeted for their internal organs. Bears are poached for their gallbladders and bile which fetch high prices in traditional medicine markets across the globe. See story on pages 8 and 9.*

## Ivory Sales to the Highest (Japanese) Bidders

by Adam Roberts

The 41st Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) approved the commercial sale of elephant ivory from Zimbabwe and Namibia to Japan at its meeting in February. Approval for Botswana followed shortly thereafter. The decision was taken over the objection of many African elephant range states and the United States government, as well as African, Japanese and other non-governmental organizations.

At the June 1997 meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, elephants in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana were "downlisted" from Appendix I (no commercial trade allowed) to Appendix II (regulated commercial trade allowed). The contentious decision specified that certain conditions must be fulfilled if trade in ivory from these downlisted elephant populations was to occur—and that even then, the sale would be a one time deal and only to one buyer, Japan. It was the Standing Committee's responsibility to determine whether those conditions were sufficiently met.

When the Standing Committee met in Geneva, African elephant range states including Zambia, Kenya, Mali, Liberia and others distributed a letter to the Chairman and all Parties urging the rejection of the opening of this ivory trade. The letter noted that one of the most important conditions for resuming the ivory trade had not been achieved: there is no appropriate monitoring system in place to assess poaching increases resulting from resumption of the commercial ivory trade. Thus, there is no agreed "trigger" to stop trade and transfer these elephant populations back to Appendix I if poaching does, in fact, escalate.

Additionally, the letter lamented the fact that there had not been adequate consultation with other African elephant range states whose elephant populations will likely be the targets of increased poaching. One of the countries whose elephant population may be significantly impacted by the renewed commercial ivory trade is Kenya. Kenya Wildlife Service Director Richard Leakey is quoted in a recent *Los Angeles Times* story contending: "I believe very strongly, like many other people, that the sale of ivory will lead to poaching... We would expect that to be reflected here."

One of the United States' representatives to the meeting echoed these fears: "We also share the concerns expressed by a number of Asian and African elephant range states that poaching may increase significantly if the Standing Committee approves this one-time sale." This statement followed a Congressional letter to Secretary of the US Department of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, signed by 21 Representatives and 20 Senators urging

the US delegation "to firmly oppose the export of ivory from Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to Japan unless all conditions for such export... are fully satisfied in both letter and spirit." Since an appropriate mechanism is not in place to monitor elephant poaching after the resumption of commercial ivory trade, appropriate safeguards are clearly not in place to justify the Standing Committee's decision.

This sentiment was further bolstered by internal opposition to Japan's role in this unacceptable trade. A document produced by the Japan Wildlife Conservation Society was distributed at the meeting. The report acknowledges that "there potentially exists a huge demand for ivory" in Japan and that "there is great fear that the trade resumption may encourage potentially huge [ivory] demand as a result.... The import from three African countries is insufficient to fulfill the whole potential demand. Therefore, it is likely to increase demand for more supply from outside [Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe], augmenting incentive for illegal trade." Thus, any legal ivory trade, no matter how limited, will likely stimulate ivory demand and subsequently increase elephant poaching in other African, as well as Asian, countries.

Japan is not the only market that stimulates poaching. Esmond Martin, reporting in the March 1999 issue of *BBC Wildlife* magazine, states that elephants are being poached in Central Africa and their ivory sold in Egyptian markets. Martin notes that most of the tusks that yield this ivory "originate from elephants that were poached or died of natural causes in southern Sudan, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo." This is especially disheartening since Egypt is a Party to CITES. Additionally, the wife of a North Korean diplomat had over half a ton of elephant tusks confiscated while changing planes in Russia this April. The ivory market appears to be on the rise once again.

The decision to allow ivory trade from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to Japan was a remarkably dangerous one that may lead to increased elephant poaching across Africa and in Asia. It would be especially disastrous if highly endangered Asian elephants ended up poached so that their ivory could be laundered in with African elephant ivory by unscrupulous ivory traders looking to profit once again in the ivory black market. It is a shame that the powerful forces of greed can partially undo in such a short time one of the most significant conservation achievements of our time - the 1989 prohibition on international trade in African elephant ivory. 🐾



Bill Fitzpatrick

left: Illegal ivory pieces seized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

below: The elephant's survival is threatened by the resurgence of the international ivory market.



Ken Sansell



## Circus "Trainer" and Zoo Inspector Guilty of Cruelty

*A summarized account as reported by Animals' Defender magazine and the Daily Mail newspaper*

"I don't regret anything. I haven't done anything abusive to harm any of my animals." Mary Chipperfield, prominent "animal trainer" from Britain's oldest and best-known circus, spoke these words as she made a reprehensible attempt to justify the cruelty she inflicted upon the animals in her care. Unbelievably, Chipperfield argued that striking animals did them no harm, going on to proclaim that she would beat her animals again.

After viewing a videotape showing Chipperfield brutally beating a chimpanzee, a camel and an elephant, a British court convicted her of twelve counts of cruelty toward animals.

The videotape captured Chipperfield thrashing and kicking a whimpering 18-month old chimpanzee named Trudy into a woefully small cage—where she was routinely imprisoned for up to 15 hours a day. The tape went on to record Chipperfield ripping away Trudy's only comfort, an orange ball, while screeching at the sobbing baby, "You can bloody cry."

Mary Chipperfield was not the only abuser at her farm. Chipperfield's husband, Roger Cawley, also was convicted of cruelty. Cawley—a zoo inspector allegedly responsible for ensuring the well-being of zoo animals—was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. Cawley whipped Flora, a terribly ill elephant—forcing her to perform circus tricks—to determine exactly "how sick it really was." Farm employee Stephen Gills was also caught on video and eventually spent four months in jail for his brutal actions. During one beating, Gills struck Tembo the elephant with such force that Gills actually broke an iron bar on the elephant's hide. The cruelty conviction was not the employee's first run in with the law for a violent act. In 1966, Gills was convicted of manslaughter after stabbing a woman to death on a train.

Charges were brought against the trio after members of an animal protection organization, Animal Defenders, secretly filmed conditions at the Chipperfield farm which houses animals from British circuses during the winter.

For her abuse of Trudy, Chipperfield was fined £7,500 (\$12,000 US) and ordered to pay nearly £12,500 (\$20,000 US) in court costs. Roger Cawley was fined £1,000 (\$1,600 US) for beating Flora the elephant. As the despicable pair left the courthouse after their sentencing, a large crowd pelted them with harsh words, rotten eggs, and tomatoes.

Sadly, Chipperfield and Cawley could purchase new animals to abuse. The English magistrate had the power to ban the two from ever owning an animal again, but for reasons unexplained, chose not to. Elephant biologist Ian Redmond, an expert witness for the prosecution, was not satisfied with

only a fine for the circus couple, commenting, "If this sentence means that the Chipperfields can purchase more chimpanzees and elephants, the law has failed....If a man is prosecuted for severely beating a dog, he is banned from keeping dogs. The same principle should apply here."

Several experts spoke out in behalf of the animals persecuted by Chipperfield and her crew. Jane Goodall testified that Trudy the chimpanzee was "vocalizing fear and a kind of despair" as Mary Chipperfield brutally beat the little chimp with a riding crop. The world renowned authority on chimps stated that Trudy was "dealt with in a harsh, totally inappropriate and cruel fashion."

Perhaps now the cruel legacy of the Chipperfield family will end. Since 1683, members of the Chipperfield clan have coerced and tortured wild animals into performing for commoners and royalty alike. Mary Chipperfield's conviction is a long time coming for any animal who has had the misfortune of being held in the clutches of this "circus dynasty." 🐾



Top: Mary Chipperfield. Unrepentant abuser.

Right: Trudy. Terrified victim.

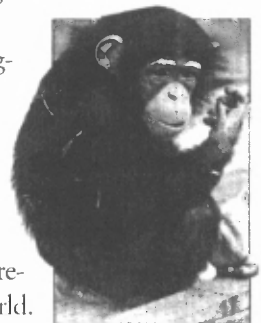


Stock/White Animal Defenders

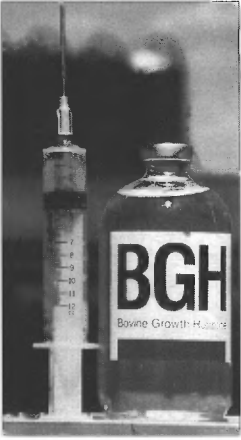
### A HAPPY ENDING FOR TRUDY

Trudy's new life at Monkey World, a sanctuary for abused animals, is a far cry from her dismal existence at the Chipperfield's farm. Instead of a dog crate (see above photo) in an unheated barn, the two-and-a-half year old Trudy has a beautiful outdoor play space complete with a comfortable indoor enclosure to call home. Best of all, Trudy is now part of a family. Shortly after her arrival, a resident group of chimpanzees at Monkey World accepted her as one of their own. Peggy, Trudy's adoptive mother, took immediate interest in the scared little primate, helping the youngster to adjust to her new life. Jim Cronin, who runs the sanctuary with his primate-expert wife Alison, said, "In her mind, Trudy now has a mother, brothers, sisters and aunts and uncles—just like she would in the wild. When she first came here she had almost no chimp-like behavior. She has been given the right to be a chimp again and to be with her own kind."

Trudy's saga almost ended in tragedy, as she was nearly returned to her abuser. Mary Chipperfield initially attempted to reclaim Trudy after being convicted of cruelty. Perhaps due to public pressure, Chipperfield reconsidered, officially relinquishing Trudy to Monkey World.



## rBGH Ruled Unsafe for Canadian and European People and Cows



T.L. Gettings

Canada and the European Union have banned the use of Bovine Recombinant Growth Hormone (rBGH), citing its toxicity to both cows and humans, but the US Food and Drug Administration approved rBGH use for US dairy cows.

rBGH, a genetically engineered synthetic hormone, mimics a naturally occurring hormone released when a cow is pregnant, which allows the cow to produce milk for her calf. When rBGH is injected into a cow, nature runs wild, causing the cow's milk output to increase. Nutritional energy that is supposed to sustain the entire cow becomes almost entirely dedicated to milk production. Vital nutrients are leached from other parts of her body, causing painful udder infections and crippling lameness. In addition, rBGH injected cows are much more likely to suffer infertility and gastrointestinal disorders. Because rBGH use increases the incidence of disease, a rBGH-injected cow requires greater amounts of antibiotics than an rBGH-free cow. Increased antibiotic usage may lead to resistance to antimicrobials, having dire consequences for the health of both humans and cows.

After more than nine years of study that took into account the findings of two independent advisory panels, Health Canada (the FDA's Canadian counterpart) made the decision to ban the hormone, citing greatly increased health risks to cows and potential health risks for humans exposed to rBGH. Canadian researchers reported that "long-term toxicology studies to ascertain human safety" must be conducted, as their research indicated that rBGH may cause "sterility, infertility, birth defects, cancer and immunological derangements" in humans. Other recent studies, as reported in the journals *Science* (1/23/98) and *The Lancet* (5/9/98) have linked IGF-1 (Insulin-like Growth Factor), high levels of which are present in milk produced with rBGH, to much increased incidence of prostate and breast cancer.

The European Union has enacted an rBGH moratorium, due to expire in 2000, based on European studies that concurred with Health Canada's findings. In addition, a recent European Commission on Consumer Health and Protection study concluded that rBGH should not be used in dairy cows, as its use seriously compromises a cow's health and well-being.

Why the US needs to increase milk production is puzzling. Every year since the mid-1950s, the US has produced far more milk than its citizens can consume. According to the *Ecologist* (vol. 28, no. 5), since 1980 the US government has spent a whopping 18 billion dollars sopping up America's milk surplus in order to prevent milk prices from plummeting.

How and why approval of rBGH occurred and is being upheld, seems not so much a question answered by sound science or interest in the public's welfare, but by corporate patronage. If rBGH's approval were to be rescinded, the Monsanto corporation stands to lose \$300 to \$500 million a year in sales of its rBGH product, Posilac. Upper echelons of Monsanto and FDA management are constantly interchanged. Many of Monsanto's top brass were once employed by the FDA, and vice versa. For example, Margaret Miller, the FDA's Director of Food Safety, is now "reviewing" her own rBGH research done while she



Humane Farming Association

rBGH causes painful and debilitating swelling of a cow's legs and udder. rBGH use increases the incidence of IGF-1 (Insulin-like Growth Factor 1) in milk, which is linked to breast, colon and prostate cancer in humans.

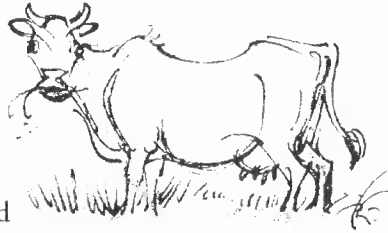
was a Monsanto employee. Monsanto attorney Michael Taylor was hired by the FDA to fast-track rBGH through the approval process.

In order to approve the growth hormone, the FDA violated its own guidelines on several occasions. According to FDA literature, approval of a drug "requires pharmaceutical companies to submit all studies they conducted [and] all the raw data form the basis of the approval of the product...". The FDA never reviewed all of Monsanto's data, disregarded the Canadian ban decision, and approved rBGH based solely on information presented in Monsanto's own project summary.

The FDA website states that the "elimination of violative residues in meat and milk" is of utmost importance. By ignoring warnings from both Europe and Canada, the FDA endangers the well-being of Americans and their dairy cows. 🐾

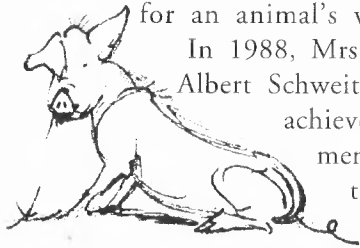
## Astrid Lindgren Establishes Foundation for Farm Animals

A wonderful new foundation with a delightful name—"Foundation for Better Animal Protection: My Cow Wants to Have Fun"—has been established by world-renowned author and animal activist, Astrid Lindgren.

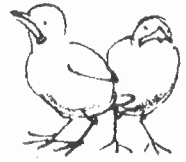


The foundation strives to bring humans and animals together in a way that allows both to enjoy a full and rich life. Hoping to improve the daily existence of farm animals by educating people about their living conditions, the foundation teaches how everyone can prevent animal suffering. Also as part of its mission, the foundation will fund research that examines how animals are affected by human beings and the ways in which animal social structure influences conditions for an animal's well-being.

In 1988, Mrs. Lindgren was awarded AWI's Albert Schweitzer Medal for her magnificent achievement in obtaining the enactment of the Swedish Animal Protection Ordinance. Her commentaries and articles published in




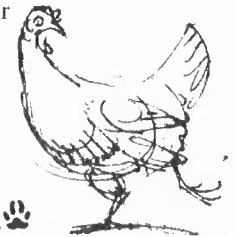
the Swedish newspaper *Expressen* (1985-1989) brought the horrible plight of factory-farmed animals to the attention of the Swedish public. Sweden now boasts the world's most comprehensive law against cruel factory farming practices, banning the sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics, cramped housing conditions and electrical prods. The law requires animals be allowed to be-



have in ways natural to their species, having access to pasture and soft bedding while indoors. In addition, the law prevents those who have been found to have neglected or abused an animal from keeping animals again.

Mrs. Lindgren is also the author of many children's stories which are classic, not only in Swedish literature, but in translation throughout the world. Her beloved, colorful characters include Pippi Longstocking, her horse named Horse, and monkey companion, Mr. Nilsson.


To find out more about My Cow Wants to Have Fun, contact AWI or visit the foundation's website at [www.astridlindgren.com](http://www.astridlindgren.com).

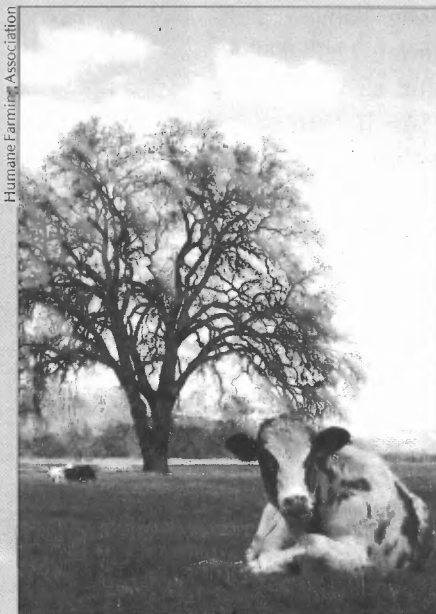


## How You Can Be rBGH-Free

Betsy Lydon, consumer representative on the National Organic Standards Board and Program Director at Mothers & Others, an organization educating consumers about safe and ecologically sustainable buying choices, has a few simple, yet effective, recommendations to avoid rBGH-tainted products.

**Read the label.** If your milk carton doesn't say organic or rBGH-free on the label, then the milk inside isn't rBGH-free. At a conventional milk processing plant, milk is collected from individual dairies and then taken to a centralized "creamery" where milk from rBGH-injected cows is mixed with milk produced without the synthetic growth hormone, tainting the entire batch of milk. All products certified organic are labeled as such and do not contain milk produced from rBGH injected cows. Although an organic label is the only guarantee that a dairy item is rBGH-free, a few larger companies, such as Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Stonyfield Farms Yogurt have long standing policies of only buying milk from dairies that pledge not to use rBGH. Labels on their product certify their foods as rBGH-free.

**Buy local or buy imported.** Many small, producer-owned dairy cooperatives do not use growth hormones in their cows, so check around home for a good local dairy that certifies its milk as rBGH-free. Because rBGH is banned in Canada and the European Union, dairy products imported from either place do not contain the growth hormone.



*left: This dairy cow was found covered in mud and nearly starved when she was rescued from a North Carolina dairy. She now leads a rBGH-free life at The Humane Farming Association's Suwanna Ranch—a farm animal refuge.*



# BEAR POACHERS BUSTED AS CONGRESS CONSIDERS FEDERAL BEAR BILL

*"At the heart of Operation SOUP are concerns about an international problem that has a toehold in Virginia. The bear gall bladder trade is a worldwide industry driven by the demand for its use in traditional Asian medicine.... The serious decline in the Asian black bear population has led to the American black bear being targeted for this trade."*

— Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

by Adam Roberts

In 1998 alone, cases concerning bear poaching and the bear parts trade surfaced from coast to coast across America: arrests were made in a number of states including Washington, Oregon,

in gall bladders and bear paws out of Virginia exists, including bears from within and around Shenandoah National Park."

High praise should go out to the dedicated state and federal wildlife law enforcement officers who broke up this unscrupulous ring of bear poachers and wildlife traders.

As readers of the *AWI Quarterly* know, bears worldwide are targeted for their gallbladders and bile which can fetch exorbitant prices on the black market in Asia and Asian communities across the United States. A significant international effort is underway, spearheaded by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Animals Asia Foundation (AAF), to encourage the traditional medicine community to promote and exclusively use ingredients in their medicinal remedies which are not derived from threatened or endangered animals including any of the eight remaining bear species.

According to IFAW and AAF, many traditional medicine practitioners and proponents have already come to this conclusion. Dr. Ho Ka Cheong, President of the Hong Kong Chinese Herbalist Association claims: "Herbal alternatives have the same effect—so why use animals?" Dr. Sun Ji Xian of the Chinese Association of Preventative Medicine in Beijing, China contends: "I choose not to use bear bile and go to the trouble of replacing it, because I believe animals should not suffer."

However, one must address the supply side of the equation as well as the demand. Part of the problem in the United States, for example, is that some states prohibit sale of bear parts, others allow it, and still others allow sale as long as the bear was killed somewhere else. This creates an incentive to poach bears in one state, smuggle the gallbladders and bile to a state where such sale is legal or to another

## The Washington Post

February 27, 1999

### Save Virginia's Bears

**T**HE THOUGHT of human predators, also known as poachers, operating in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains ought to be enough to mobilize wildlife lovers, guardians of the nation's forests and people who want nature's treasures preserved for future generations. This time the poachers' trophy is the black bear. They are hunting down this sometimes large, mostly shy creature for the worst of reasons: to serve a predominantly foreign market interested not in the bear's meat or fur but its claws, paws and gallbladder.

Even as unrestrained hunting and spreading development are decimating bear populations in other parts of the world, poachers—working through hustlers or middlemen—have set their sights on North America to supply Asian markets, where bear parts can fetch thousands of dollars. And what better state to target than Virginia, where it is legal to hunt and kill bears. It matters not that the black bear—unlike its grizzly and polar counterpart—cares little for

human confrontation. Virginia's bears are being bagged and whacked to pieces big time.

Law enforcement officials seized about 300 gallbladders and arrested 25 people in the most recent investigation, *The Post* reported this week. Meanwhile, the bears continue to be hunted and trapped by sneak thieves eager to cash in on illicit trafficking of organs prized as medicinal remedies in some Asian cultures. The medicinal trade in wild animals and plants already has endangered several species around the globe. Without a law prohibiting bear hunting, as in Maryland, and without increased vigilance and enforcement of a state law halting the sale of a bear's body parts, as in Virginia and most states, the American black bear will be added to that list.

Virginia wildlife officials and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be given the resources, including trained staff, to wage aggressive war against poachers. The black bear is a treasure. Too strong a word? Imagine if all the bears were gone.

Virginia bears illegally and attempt to sell their parts by laundering them through a neighboring state such as West Virginia.

One way to close this enforcement loophole and protect bears

from being decimated to supply the global bear parts trade is a uniform prohibition on commercialization of bear parts nationwide. Such legislation, the "Bear Protection Act," was introduced in the US Senate on May 24, 1999 by Senator Mitch McConnell (R, KY). A House version to be sponsored by Congressman John Porter (R, IL) is expected soon. The Senate bill, S.1109, was introduced with a remarkable bipartisan list of 40 original cosponsors. One reason for Senator McConnell's interest in this vital conservation legislation is that, in his words, "We cannot stand by and allow our own bear population to be decimated by poachers."

The Bear Protection Act simply would prohibit the import, export, and interstate commerce in bear gallbladders and bile as well as products that contain, or claim to contain, such bear viscera. Not only would passage of the bill help facilitate wildlife law enforcement here in the United States, but it would also enable the US to continue its leadership role in the global conservation community.

country, and sell the bear parts (or products derived from them) under false pretenses.

Although the facts in the Operation SOUP case are still unfolding, it is likely that the alleged perpetrators were attempting to exploit this existing "patchwork" of state laws. According to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, a Virginia newspaper, the accused come from Virginia, West Virginia, and New Mexico. While Virginia and New Mexico prohibit commercialization of bear parts, West Virginia does not; this may be all the incentive that poachers and dealers need to take



Black Bear Conservation Committee

At the most recent Meeting of the Standing Committee to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the CITES Secretariat presented a discussion paper on bears. The document specifically referred to the existing legislative loopholes in many bear range states and consuming countries:

*"The Secretariat believes that opportunities exist for confusion by some Parties where internal trade controls are weaker than import or export controls. In a similar manner, differences in national, federal, state or provincial laws allow for confusion and enforcement difficulties; for example, where bear gall bladders trade is permitted on a domestic market but import or export is banned. Although this is essentially a domestic issue for Parties, it undoubtedly contributes to the availability of specimens that can subsequently reach international trade."* (emphasis added)

The Bear Protection Act's uniform prohibition on import, export and internal interstate commerce would help all Parties avoid this enforcement confusion. Hopefully, with passage of the bill, potential poachers and smugglers will be dissuaded from attempting to poach bears and illegally commercialize bear parts.

Until then, it's good to know that state fish and game departments such as the one in Virginia are determined participants in the effort to bring unethical wildlife traffickers to justice. William Woodfin, VDGIF Director, had it exactly right when he told *The Washington Post*: "If you don't watch this situation, and keep your finger on the pulse, you can quickly look at it and say, 'Where did [the bears] all go?' We have an obligation to future generations to make sure the black bear will be here for them to enjoy." 🐾



Black Bear Conservation Committee



Black Bear Conservation Committee

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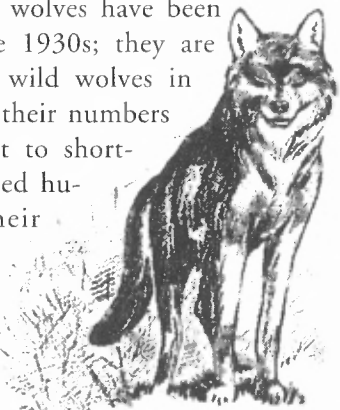


## Denali Wolves, and Their Valuable Legacy, Imperiled

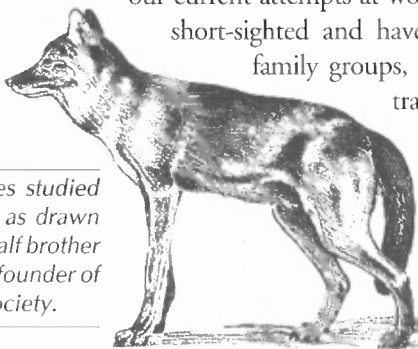
by Patrick Nolan

The wolves of Alaska's Denali (Mt. McKinley) National Park have a rich and interesting history (see "Threatening Wolves' Families Threatens Their Survival," Spring 1998 *AWI Quarterly*). The wolves have been studied and loved since the 1930s; they are perhaps the most observed wild wolves in the world. Today, however, their numbers are down, due in large part to short-sighted trapping and increased human encroachment on their long-established territory.

One group of wolves, the Toklat family, has dwindled from 10-12 adults to only two. This is a precarious situation for these wolves, whose accustomed territory includes a swath of land that is outside the park's borders, and therefore open to hunting and trapping. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance and other groups have repeatedly called for state officials to close this area to hunting, trapping, and snowmobiles, but to no avail. Another group—the Savage wolves—were completely obliterated



Two of the wolves studied by Adolph Murie as drawn by Olaus Murie, half brother to Adolph and co-founder of the Wilderness Society.



by a single hunter in 1983. A trapper illegally killed the last surviving member of the Headquarters group in 1995.

The Denali wolves' decline has disastrous consequences, most urgently for the wolves but also for humans. The study of the Toklat wolves was the life's work of naturalist Adolph Murie and of his successor, Dr. Gordon Haber. The legacy of that continuous study has been increased understanding of how wolves live, relate to each other, and learn. This legacy is in severe danger of being lost, when we have so much left to learn.

Murie's and Haber's findings strongly suggest that many of our current attempts at wolf "management" are tragically short-sighted and have catastrophic effects on wolf family groups, which are the only means for transmission of the information the wolves need to live (see "In Disagreements over Their Biology and Behavior, Wolves Are Losing," Spring 1998 *AWI Quarterly*). When a wolf family group is disrupted, that continuity is lost—and a storehouse of vital knowledge about feeding grounds, the rearing of pups, and survival in the wild is lost as well. 🐾

## Anti-Cockfighting Bill Introduced in Congress

Colorado Senator Wayne Allard and Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson have introduced legislation to eliminate a loophole in the federal Animal Welfare Act which allows fighting birds to be shipped from states where cockfighting is illegal to states where the cruel "sport" is still allowed. Only three states permit this inhumane, bloody activity: New Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Currently, law enforcement officers have a difficult time cracking down on illegal cockfights in the 47 states where it is banned. When confronted, cockfighters merely claim that the fighting birds in their possession are destined for shipment to a legal cockfighting state. Prosecution of these unscrupulous cockfighters would be facilitated if the Allard bill (S. 345) and the Peterson bill (H.R. 1275) become law.

Cockfighting is a centuries-old bloodsport in which two or more specially bred roosters are forced into a pit to fight surrounded by gambling onlookers. Often, one or both birds die as a result of the fight because their feet are fitted with razor sharp steel knives. The birds may end up with punctured lungs, broken bones and pierced eyes. Even the battle's "winner" may ultimately die from



This cruel bloodsport often results in the death of one or both of the birds.

injuries sustained in the fight. And birds that survive but are deemed unfit to fight again are either killed by their owner or simply thrown in a garbage can to suffer and die.

Independent of Senator Allard's federal legislative initiative, there is a move underway in Oklahoma to prohibit cockfighting within the state, joining Missouri and Arizona which just banned cockfighting through citizen ballot initiatives last November. Oklahoma State Representative Charles Gray has introduced legislation to ban cockfighting specifically. Cockfighters in the state such as Walt Roberts, however, object to people trying "to end the sport because it is not within their definition of what is humane" according to Oklahoma's *Tulsa World* newspaper.

But Representative Gray is not alone in his opposition to this horrible fighting. A statewide poll sponsored by *Tulsa World* revealed 2 to 1 opposition to cockfighting: if a cockfighting ban were put to a vote, 65 percent of Oklahomans would vote in favor while only 30 percent would vote against. As long as there is powerful and vocal rural opposition in the state, however, it is unlikely that the legislature would vote to end the cruel practice of cockfighting. This makes passage of Senator Allard's federal legislation all the more important. 🐾

## EDWARD F. SEYMOUR-ROUSE

Edward F. Seymour-Rouse, known to all the world as Mike, died recently in London. A staunch advocate of animal welfare and animal protection, Mike has been an invaluable friend and counselor to the Animal Welfare Institute on the trapping issue, as we worked through the years to obtain passage of anti-steel-jaw trap legislation in the European Union.

After the second World War where he served with distinction, Mike entered the London advertising and marketing world, then became the Royal SPCA's Director of Public Affairs. In 1979, soon after the European Community was created, he founded Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, serving as its first Director and initiated The Parliamentary Intergroup for Animal Welfare. Some years later he was instrumental in founding GLOBE, Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment.



left to right: David Wilkins, Director of Eurogroup; Madron Seligman, MEP; Nancy Joan Seligman; and Edward Seymour-Rouse outside the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

He established himself as a major presence at the European Parliament, Council, and Commission. Sitting himself in the same conspicuous spot every day, he could keep in touch with Members as they attended sessions and meetings, and especially when they voted on matters of animal protection. Conversely, Members knew where they could locate Mike for information and counsel.

When Christine and Roger Stevens went to Strasbourg and Brussels seeking support to ban use of the steel-jaw leghold trap, Mike's advice was essential. He continued as a guide to Cathy Liss for whom he was arranging a high-level meeting at the time of his death.

Without Mike's advice and encyclopedic knowledge of the European Union, it would have been impossible to achieve the law prohibiting use of leghold traps in all the member nations of the European Union.

We are proud to have awarded our highest accolade, the Albert Schweitzer Medal, to Mike just before he died.

Briefly and movingly, in the austere quiet of a London hospital room, Madron Seligman, former Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and a long-time friend of Mike's, made

the presentation. He thanked Mike "for the way in which he had raised the whole subject of animal welfare to a level of political importance internationally" and "for the way he had devoted his considerable talents making the European Parliament a pioneering force for the animals." Though weak and failing, Mike could then realize his efforts on behalf of animals were recognized and honored. For our part, we will always remember his ebullience and his infectious enthusiasm. The Medal could have gone to no more wise and practical worker for animal welfare.



In 1951, Dr. Albert Schweitzer gave his permission to the Animal Welfare Institute to strike a medal in his honor to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare. Mr. Seymour-Rouse is the latest recipient of the medal.

## RUTH ZABRISKIE TEMPLE

Ruth Zabriskie Temple died at her beloved 18th century house in Chesterfield, Massachusetts on February 19th of this year, at the age of 90. Her long life was devoted to several causes, most importantly, literature and the teaching of British and French writers of the 19th and 20th centuries and the care and protection of all animals.

Because of the age she lived in, she found herself an important figure in the breakthrough in doctoral programs for women at staunchly male academic institutions, receiving a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in literature at Columbia University in 1947. Armed with this hard-won credential, she first became a member of the faculty at Brooklyn college and, later, at City University of New York, until retiring in 1973. With her high standards and intellectual integrity, she could but resign at a comparatively early age rather than be party to what she perceived the diminution of the quality and standards of the program which meant so much to her. In retirement, as in full career, she was active as a writer, editor and public-spirited citizen. Even as her health declined, she served in several positions in the Chesterfield town government.

Her interest in animal welfare never abated. "Til her death, she was surrounded by cats who are now in a new home, lovingly cared for by a devoted friend. At the interment, in addition to the many flower arrangements, a spray of pussy willows "from the cats" was placed in the center of the plain pine coffin she had requested. Ruth Temple kept in touch with Christine Stevens and the Animal Welfare Institute throughout almost half a century, remaining firm in her support for and belief in the protection of animals as a tenet of civilization. Generations of students who responded to her outstanding teaching skills, and generations of members of the animal welfare community can all mourn the passing of a remarkable figure, with her love of learning and her devotion to the cause of compassion for animals.

-John Gleiber

## Dolphins Die for the Tuna/Cocaine Connection

By Craig Van Note

The bitter, decades-long battle with the Latin American tuna industry over the massacre of thousands of dolphins each year in their purse seines is being driven by the dirtiest business in the world: the narcotics trade.

Powerful crime syndicates, including the Cali Cartel, the Sicilian Mafia and the Tijuana Cartel, have bought up most of the tuna fleets and canneries in Latin America in order to smuggle cocaine and heroin by sea and to launder billions in narco-profits. They have also massacred more than a million dolphins in the process.

Two Sicilian Mafia families, the Cuntreras and the Caruanas, set up tuna companies in the 1970s in Venezuela, establishing a base to smuggle heroin into the US and cocaine into Europe. Since the Italian tuna industry is dominated by the Sicilian Mafia, it was a logical business front to establish in Latin America. A major "tuna" pipeline developed between Europe, where the Sicilians owned fish processing and distribution plants, and Latin America.

After the Sicilian families established close ties with Colombia's Medellin Cartel, so much cocaine was shipped out of Venezuela and Colombia in cans and frozen blocks of tuna that the colloquial name for cocaine in port cities of the Caribbean became "*atun blanco*"—white tuna.

In the 1980s, fleets of tuna purse seiners were purchased by the Colombian cartels; they joined the Sicilians in building tuna canneries along the Caribbean and Pacific coasts of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama. Tuna was an ideal product to use as a cover for narcotics: the prime markets for the high-priced fish are the US, the European Union and Japan, also the wealthiest consumers of drugs. By inflating tuna invoices, gangs easily laundered their drug profits out of the consumer countries.

In the late 1980s, tuna fleets took on even greater importance to the drug cartels. US interdiction of drug-smuggling boats and airplanes in the Caribbean and over Central America was becoming too effective. The Cali Cartel, which was rapidly surpassing the Medellin Cartel in power and production, shifted its major smuggling route into the eastern Pacific, a vast area where there was little surveillance from ships and far beyond the radar net that swept the Caribbean.

In 1987, an industrious young member of the Cali Cartel, Jose Castrillon, was delegated by the cartel bosses to buy up tuna fleets and canneries, and even freighters and yachts, in Ecuador, Panama, Mexico and elsewhere in order to create the Pacific narco-pipeline. Castrillon moved to Panama City, where he established dozens of 'front companies.

### Salinas Ties

In a momentous development for Mexican narco-corruption, Castrillon and his Cali bosses made contact in early 1988 with Carlos and Raúl Salinas, the brothers who came to dominate Mexican politics after Carlos became president at the end of 1988. According to several intelligence sources in the US, Mexico, Panama and elsewhere, the Cali Cartel made deals with the Salinas brothers and several Mexican drug cartels



*The Nataly I: Captured in 1995 by the Coast Guard, this tuna boat doubled as a cocaine-smuggling vessel.*

to deliver boatloads of cocaine to the Mexican gangs along the Pacific Coast of Mexico. The Mexican gangs took over smuggling the narcotics into the US, and even into Europe via Mexico. Today, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) estimates that two-thirds of the cocaine and more than a quarter of the heroin entering the US comes across the Mexican border.

In 1989, the Salinas Administration began privatizing the Mexican tuna industry, which had been largely created by the government during the oil boom of the early 1980s. Several major fleets and canneries, it turns out, were purchased as joint ventures by the Tijuana Cartel, which dominates the drug smuggling into California, and the Cali Cartel.

Castrillon, supplied with several Mexican passports, is a co-owner using the Mexican alias Jacinto Natalio Ruiloga.

Not only did the two notorious cartels own tuna fleets in Baja California, home base of the Tijuana Cartel, but they also bought the largest tuna operation in the Western Hemisphere, the ten-boat *Pescadora Azteca de Mazatlan* fleet. And they bought the giant PINSAs tuna cannery in Mazatlan, which is supplied by the *Pescadora Azteca* fleet.

The tuna/cocaine pipeline was first exposed publicly in July 1995 when a US Coast Guard cutter intercepted one of Castrillon's Panama-flagged tuna boats, the *Nataly I*, as it sailed north 780 miles west of Peru—far beyond the range of the anti-drug radar net. It was headed for a desert island 700 miles off the coast of Mexico, a regular rendezvous point for the Cali Cartel fleets to transfer multi-ton cocaine shipments to Mexican tunaboats, which then delivered the drugs to canneries in Ensenada, La Paz, Mazatlan, Manzanillo and other west coast ports.

The Coast Guardsmen tore the *Nataly I* apart. It took four days to find the first secret compartment, holding a ton of cocaine, that had been welded into the ship's hold in a cartel-owned boatyard in Balboa, Panama. Twelve more secret compartments, holding 11 tons of cocaine, were later found on the *Nataly I*. The tuna boat was towed to San Diego, where the ten-man Colombian crew, all from the

mountain city of Cali, was prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison. Other tunaboats loaded with cocaine were subsequently busted off Ecuador, Panama and Mexico, and two entire fleets were seized in Baja California by Mexican authorities following leads from Panama.

Amazingly, Castrillon continued his "atun blanco" smuggling operation untouched for many months after the Nataly I bust, even though US, Mexican and Panamanian authorities knew he was the owner of the ship through one of his Panamanian companies, Pesquera Azteca. In April 1996, American and Panamanian agents finally arrested Castrillon in Panama City and confiscated the voluminous records of his criminal operation. These records reportedly tell a remarkable tale of not only massive drug smuggling, but also of the laundering of tens of billions of narco-dollars and the bribery of hundreds of officials in virtually every country north of Colombia.

Even though Castrillon was jailed—but not prosecuted—in Panama for two years—and then extradited to the US last year—the tuna/cocaine connection continues to operate, according to sources in the region. It seems that there are too many important political figures involved.

When conservation groups in the US and Mexico started asking questions about ownership of the dolphin-killing tuna fleets, there was an amazing silence in Washington and Mexico City. Was it a coincidence that Castrillon's tuna fleet in Panama was named "Azteca," the same Mexican word used by the largest tuna fleet in Mexico? Nobody wanted to reveal the truth.

US conservation and animal welfare groups wrote three detailed letters to the Administration about the tuna/cocaine connection in 1996 and early 1997, addressed to President Clinton, Vice President Gore and drug czar General Barry McCaffrey. No response was ever made, although high-level sources reported that the letters sent shockwaves through the State Department, White House, Drug Enforcement Administration and other agencies.

This reluctance to investigate and shut down the major cocaine pipeline from Colombia to Mexico apparently reflects the extraordinary power of the crime syndicates and a general reluctance in Washington to expose such top-level corruption in Mexico and Panama. In particular, nobody wants to talk about the direct partnership of Raúl Salinas in the Mexican tuna fleets and canneries that are jointly operated by the Cali and Tijuana Cartels.



Eni, 1999 - Mexico

## Mexico's Interior Minister

Even though Raúl Salinas is now jailed, convicted of murder conspiracy in Mexico and drug-money laundering in Switzerland, there may be another important political figure involved in the tuna/cocaine connection. This is Francisco Labastida, the current Interior Minister of Mexico. He is also a leading contender to be the next presidential candidate for Mexico's ruling party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He was recently in Washington vowing all-out war on narco-trafficking and corruption.

Labastida was governor of Sinaloa State, a notorious drug smuggling center on Mexico's west coast, from 1987 to 1993. This is the period when the Cali Cartel set up its tuna/cocaine pipeline in partnership with the Mexican cartels from Tijuana, Juarez, Sonora, Guadalajara and elsewhere. Mazatlan, the major port city of Sinaloa, became the trafficking center. Governor Labastida made "agreements" with the drug cartels

to allow them to operate freely in Mazatlan, according to a Central Intelligence (CIA) report leaked a year ago. His "long-standing ties" to the drug cartels touched off a bitter debate

within the US government after Labastida was appointed Interior Minister in January 1998, the top-secret CIA report stated.

Conservation and cocaine collided in 1991 when a US federal court ordered embargoes of tuna from Latin American nations that had refused to adopt adequate dolphin-protection measures.

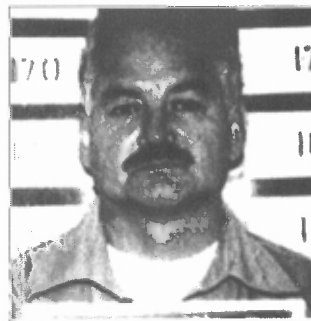
The Latin American tuna fleets were drowning more than 50,000 dolphins each year in the eastern Pacific. A year earlier, the major US tuna canners, Star-Kist, Chicken-of-the-Sea and Bumblebee, adopted the dolphin-safe standard, buying only tuna caught without chasing, capturing or killing dolphins. Major European tuna companies followed suit.

Suddenly, the drug cartels' huge investments in tuna fleets and canneries, totalling hundreds of millions of dollars, were shattered. The largest, most profitable markets were lost. And the easiest method to smuggle cocaine into the US and Europe, in shipments of tuna, was blocked.

Environmentalists bent on halting the mass slaughter of dolphins—more than seven million had been killed in the eastern Pacific fishery since 1958—had inadvertently sabotaged the druglords' tuna/cocaine connection.

The cartels were very, very unhappy about the US embargo. In Venezuela, the Sicilians and allied Venezuelan officials launched vitriolic attacks on local and foreign environmentalists. Two leading Venezuelan conservationists were

left: Francisco Labastida, Interior Minister of Mexico, has "long-standing ties" to Mexican and Colombian Drug Cartels, according to the CIA.



right: Raúl Salinas, brother of the former President of Mexico. Convicted murder conspirator and business partner to the Cali and Tijuana Cartels.



forced to flee the country for their lives. The Mexican government, encouraged by the Bush Administration, filed a free trade challenge against the embargo at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In 1992, GATT ruled that the dolphin-protection provisions of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act were an illegal, non-tariff barrier to free trade.

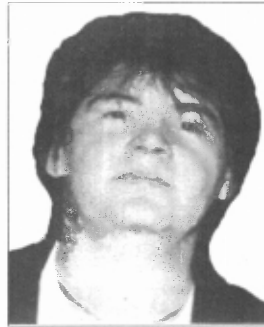
**Dolphin Death Act**

Mexico demanded that the US Congress repeal the dolphin-safe tuna standard. Congress was reluctant, but in a 1995 summit meeting with President Zedillo, President Clinton pledged to gut the dolphin protections in the name of free trade. The Administration attended a treaty meeting with the Latin American tuna industry in Panama City to draft an agreement promoting the “dolphin-setting” practice that has decimated the species. Mr. Tuna/Cocaine, Jose Castrillon, reportedly attended this meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

In 1996 the Administration submitted to Congress legislation, dubbed the “Dolphin Death Act” by conservation and animal welfare groups, that would allow dolphin-deadly tuna into the US by redefining the term “dolphin-safe” that is found on tuna cans. A public outcry and strong opposition on Capitol Hill blocked its passage.

But in 1997 the Administration, backed by anti-environmental Republicans and heavy lobbying from Mexico, rammed a bill through Congress, although a filibuster threat by Senator Barbara Boxer forced compromise language that requires a new international agreement for inspection, a study of the dolphin populations, and better dolphin-protection measures. Vice President Gore helped sell out the dolphins by personally lobbying dozens of Senators and Representatives over a period of more than two years, and high-level State Department officials lobbied furiously to kill the dolphin-safe standard.

Ironically, the hundreds of millions of cans of dolphin-deadly tuna sitting in warehouses in Mexico have still not reached American market shelves. Mexico has balked at allowing international observers on its tuna boats or in its canneries. A US study of the impact on dolphins of chasing and capturing by tuna fleets indicates that the practice is deleterious to dolphin populations. The three major US canners informed Commerce Secretary Daley in February that they won't purchase or sell any such fraudulent “dolphin-safe” tuna. Dozens of conservation, environmental and animal welfare groups have pledged to launch a global boycott against dolphin-unsafe tuna. Ignoring the strong evidence and opposition, Daley in April lifted the embargo on Latin American tuna.



right: A falsified ID card revealing one of José Castrillon's many aliases. He is now being held in a Florida jail on drug trafficking charges.

**Troubling Questions**

*The revelations of the Tuna/Cocaine Connection raise troubling questions about the policies and practices of the US government, as well as those of other governments in Latin America:*

1) Why was Jose Castrillon allowed to set up his huge drug-smuggling and money-laundering operation in Panama under the government installed by the US after the 1989 invasion, and to ship hundreds of tons of cocaine north over a six-year period untouched?

2) Is Castrillon, now residing in a Florida prison awaiting prosecution, being interrogated about how he bought up most of the Latin American tuna industry to use as a front for smuggling and money-laundering, and entered into partnerships with the Mexican drug cartels and high officials such as Raúl Salinas? Is Castrillon being questioned about the hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes he doled out to key officials in Mexico, Panama and other countries in this Hemisphere for protection?

3) Why is the tuna/cocaine connection still operating, with major tuna fleets and canneries in Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Venezuela and elsewhere in the hands of the crime syndicates?

4) Why is the Tijuana Cartel, which owns Mexico's largest tuna fleets and canneries in partnership with the Cali Cartel, and pours mountains of cocaine and heroin across the US border, apparently untouchable in both Mexico and the US?

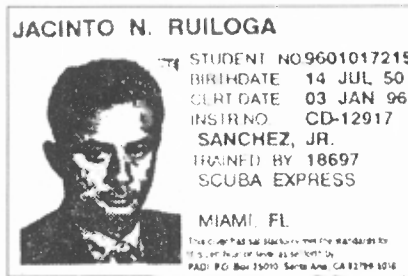
5) Why is the Clinton-Gore Administration so actively aiding the tuna industries of Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela—and by extension the Cali Cartel, the Sicilian Mafia, and the Mexican drug gangs—to the detriment of the dolphins, who are still drowning by the thousands in tuna nets, and US consumers and tuna companies, who want only truly dolphin-safe tuna?

6) Are narco-dollars so important to the economies of Mexico, Colombia and Panama—and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean—that the US is unwilling to take actions against drug-running and money-laundering that could crash their economies? Does the US tolerate narco-corruption at the top of Latin American and Caribbean governments as long as those countries obey larger US political, economic and military interests? 🐾

*Craig Van Note has battled to protect dolphins and whales for more than thirty years. This report on the Tuna/Cocaine Connection was part of his March 1999 speech at Tuft University's Symposium on Global Crime, Corruption and Accountability.*

Federal Bureau of Investigation

left: Dangerous enough to claim a ranking on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list Ramon Eduardo Arellano-Felix is the leader of the Tijuana Drug Cartel.



1014

## COOK INLET BELUGA BATTLE

Joel Blatchford and Ross Schaeffer are native Alaskans who once hunted the beluga whales of Alaska's Cook Inlet. Now, after this genetically separate population of belugas has plummeted from 653 whales in 1994 to 347 by 1998 (National Marine Fisheries Service data), they are working to enlist other native hunters to curtail the annual hunt. Blatchford joined a coalition of groups in March of 1999 in petitioning NMFS for an emergency listing of the whales under the Endangered Species Act. Schaeffer, who directs a beluga organization in Kotzebue, was quoted in the *Seattle Times* as saying, "There are no controls for Alaska Native subsistence hunting. That is no problem if you are hunting just for what you need. But people are not hunting for subsistence. They are hunting commercially, and there's a big difference."

According to the *Seattle Times* "at least one market near Anchorage sells vacuum packed beluga for \$6 a pound. It's a big seller with customers seeking the pink muktuk or blubber still attached to its gray and white skin." The article also states, "Inexperienced hunters have a tough time aiming from a skiff coming over the water at 25 miles an hour. For every whale harvested, another is often shot and lost in the silty water." If they are to be saved, all killing of Cook Inlet belugas must cease and the whales must be listed as an endangered species.

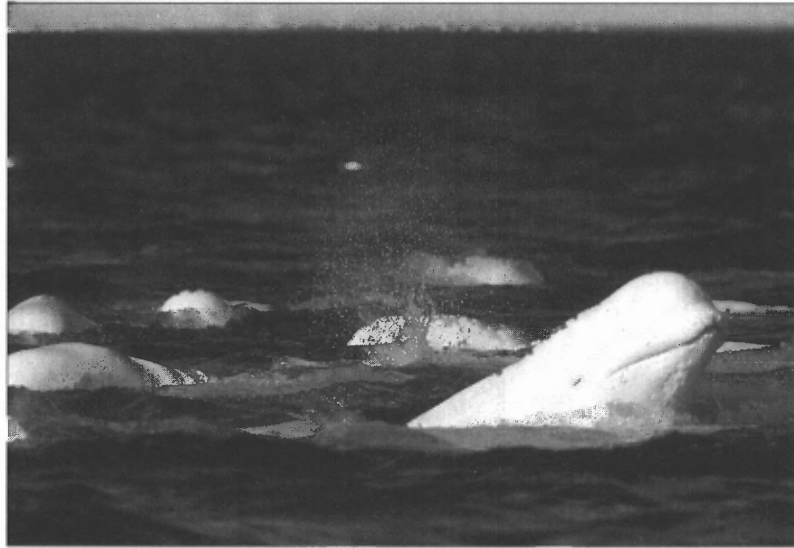
## DALEY'S ORWELLIAN DECISION

Secretary of Commerce William Daley has made a mockery of the "dolphin safe" label by his decision to include tuna obtained by chasing and harassing dolphins. Daley fatally weakened the dolphin-safe label under pressure from Mexico and Venezuela whose fishermen still fish "on dolphin."

But the big three American tuna companies (Bumble Bee, Chicken-of-the-Sea, and StarKist) have pledged to remain true to the present definition of "dolphin-safe" for all the tuna they buy or sell. Now Disco, Safeway, and IGA Stores, Subway sandwich shops, Garden Fresh Restaurants and the Walt Disney Company have also taken the pledge not to buy or sell dolphin-deadly tuna.

## MAKAH WHALING BEGINS

In November, the Makah tribe of Northwestern Washington state rejected an initiative by Benjamin White, International Coordinator of AWI, to accept a package of economic and environmental assistance in lieu of exercising their claimed treaty right to kill a gray whale. The United States government is supporting and partially funding the tribe's drive to kill up to five California gray whales yearly. The proposal has prompted heated debate both in and out of the International Whaling Commission because the Makah have not whaled in over 70 years, insist on their right to whale commercially, and have shown no nutritional need for the whalemeat. The Makah were not able to kill a whale last year. But on May 10, the Makah pursued a mother and calf pair for hours, in direct contravention of international law. Then on May 17, they killed a whale by first hitting it with a harpoon and then opening



According to estimates recently released by federal biologists, there are no more than 347 beluga whales still left in Cook Inlet. An average of 72 belugas were killed by hunters annually over the past five years.

fire with a distinctly non-traditional 50-calibre rifle. Protestors were kept at bay by the Coast Guard enforced exclusion zone.

## ICELAND TO WHALE AGAIN?

On March 10, the Icelandic Parliament voted to resume whaling "as soon as possible." But Iceland's Prime Minister, David Oddson cautioned that any resumption of whaling must be weighed against the cost to the country in terms of lost tourism and fish export revenue. Whale watching in Icelandic waters continues to grow rapidly, and Keiko, the star of "Free Willy" is thriving in his sea pen (see the Summer 1998 *AWI Quarterly*). 🐾

## BEQUESTS TO AWI

To any who 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, DC, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).*

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

## Stolen Pets Still Die in Research Labs

Rage, a misnamed pit bull rottweiler mix, was really a gentle, loving dog of large stature and short hair. These characteristics made him a good laboratory specimen. He was stolen off the chain in his family's backyard. A few weeks later, his owner, Jack, was told by USDA investigators that Rage had been sold by a random source, USDA licensed Class B dealer to a laboratory for experimentation. Jack calmly escorted the investigators out of his home and then his wife, Brooke, watched him break down and cry. It is the only time she has ever seen him cry.

Terri still hasn't told her son what happened to Skip. Skip, a chocolate Labrador mixed breed, was a great dog, but he was a handful. Terri wasn't sure that she could handle him so she posted a "free to good home" notice at the local veterinary clinic. She decided to keep Skip, but then a nice couple responded to her ad. The couple told her that one of their two dogs had just died so they wanted to get another as a companion. They claimed that they lived on a hundred acres of land next door to the Bureau of Land Management so there would be lots of room for Skip to run and play with their dog. The pair told Terri everything she wanted to hear; it sounded like a perfect home for her dog. Before the couple left with Skip, Terri repeated a message to them, "If for any reason you can't keep Skip, please return him to me." By the time the US Department of Agriculture contacted Terri to let her know that she had been victimized, Skip was dead. Far from being in an idyllic home, Skip was sold to a USDA licensed, random

source dealer and then to an out-of-state laboratory where he was killed after he had been used for experimentation. Terri was devastated; she cried for days. Tears still well in her eyes, and she shudders as she recounts the events.



*Terri thought her dog Skip (on the right) was going to an idyllic home. Skip was killed at a research laboratory following experimentation.*

Skip and Rage are two of more than 300 dogs sold by an Oregon dealer, Betty Ray Davis, to laboratories in California and Washington state. After years of investigation by the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Justice and local authorities, a ring of nine individuals, including Betty Davis, were convicted of charges related to theft of animals sold for medical research. Sentences were minor: the dealer lost her license and was sentenced to six months home confinement, and most of her cohorts were sentenced to 18 months of probation.

Unfortunately, as soon as one dealer is caught and put out of business, another one eagerly steps forward to take over the thieving operation. There are approximately 40 USDA licensed Class B dealers still selling dogs and cats for research purposes. These 40 dealers have thousands of suppliers, far too many for USDA to track. As a result, USDA, despite its licensure of random source dealers, is unable to assure the public that beloved family pets are not being sold by them for research purposes.

How many more pets must die in laboratories before something is done? Congressman Charles Canady and Congressman George Brown are seeking to solve the problem by ending the supply of dogs and cats to research facilities by random source dealers. They have reintroduced H.R. 453, the Pet Safety and Protection Act, to achieve this commendable goal. 🐾



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# WILSON OPERA

Volume 38



1917



## Cover:

Luck and patience combined happily for photographer John Marriott who successfully captured the expressions of these elusive coyote pups on film. "One spring," he writes, "I happened upon two pups playing frantically in a small clearing....For the next three days, I spent hours at a time sitting patiently and not so patiently at the edge of the clearing waiting for that perfect moment when the pups would come out and play. Finally, on the fourth day, the pups raced into the small clearing and began to chase each other, allowing me to capture their images."

cover photo by John Marriott



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## US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OPPOSES LEGHOLD TRAPS

In a landmark vote, the full US House of Representatives banned the use of steel jaw leghold traps and strangling snares for recreational and commercial fur trapping on all National Wildlife Refuges. Representative Sam Farr (D,CA) sponsored the amendment to the US Department of Interior Appropriations bill which passed by a vote of 259 to 166.

Speaking in support of his amendment, Representative Farr noted that "According to a May, 1999 poll, 84 percent of Americans oppose the use of steel jawed traps in national wildlife refuges....These traps are designed to slam closed and grip tightly an animals' leg or other body part. Lacerations, broken bones, joint dislocations and gangrene can result. Additional injuries result as the animal struggles to free himself, sometimes twisting or chewing off a leg or breaking teeth from gnawing at the metal jaws....An animal may be in a trap for several days before a trapper checks it—with the interminable period in the trap severely compounding the animal's misery."

Representative Edward Whitfield (R, KY) added, "Wildlife refuges were created for the express purpose of benefiting and protecting animals, and it seems quite to the contrary that we allow in our national wildlife refuges this type of activity that is so inhumane."

"...I have heard from the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, the World Veterinary Association: and they all agree that steel-jawed leghold traps are inhumane," stated Representative Connie Morella (R, MD). "The pain and suffering caused by steel-jawed leghold traps are incalculable. I think it is irresponsible to continue barbaric practices with so many less cruel methods of trapping for capturing wild animals that are available today."

In opposing the amendment, an infuriated Don Young (R, AK), Chairman of the House Resources Committee, proudly identified himself as "the only licensed trapper in this whole Congress." (see box above)

An identical amendment to Representative Farr's will be offered by Senator Robert Torricelli (D,NJ) when the Interior Appropriations bill is considered on the floor of the Senate after Congress reconvenes in September. 🐾

November 1975, House subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment hearing on Painful Trapping Devices. Following is an account from the two-day hearing:

*Representative Don Young set off a leghold trap on his own hand and stated he would leave the trap on for the duration of his testimony. He proceeded to describe his own trapline of 500 leghold traps. He set out so many traps, it was days before he would return to kill any trapped animals who had somehow survived. To the horror of those present, he described seeing a lynx who survived 6 weeks in a leghold trap because other lynx came to feed him. In the midst of his testimony, the Subcommittee Chairman noted, "I am concerned about your fingers. They are blue now." To which Representative Young replied, "Yes, they are." Shortly thereafter he removed the trap from his hand.*



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Chris Connolly

Montana ranchers are taking another look at coyotes, and deciding against lethal control methods. See story on page 13.



A wild fox pup and a free-range hen share a meal in the barnyard.



Chris Connolly

And this little piggy stayed home. Though these pigs will eventually be sent to market, AWI and a group of concerned farmers help to ensure their lives are worth living. See story on page 15.

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## Dissection: In Many Classrooms, It's a Thing of the Past

by Genie O'Hara



*Mrs. Menendez is ready to assign grades for the anatomy unit. She is able to watch each and every student's individual dissection efforts on her own computer screen. Mrs. Menendez proudly notes that her students have indeed mastered the curriculum objectives, have performed a wide variety of dissection activities and have been able to utilize high-tech, precision instrumentation normally found only in state-of-the-art laboratories. She feels relieved to have spared the lives of the animals which would previously have had to die to serve as specimens for her beginning biology students. She was able to honor her students' personal choices not to dissect, save money on supplies for her department, and allow students to learn the necessary material without the frustration caused by human error.*

As an increasing variety of software and online dissection simulations become available in classrooms, and as the technology continues to improve, this is what we can expect to see in middle and secondary high school biology classrooms, rather than the traditional scenario in which often reluctant students struggle with instruments to dissect a number of preserved earthworm, crayfish, frog, cat, rabbit and fetal pig specimens.

The development of simulation software is resulting in positive change, and a significant decline in the use of animal specimens. Many school systems are now opting to eliminate or greatly reduce the number of dissections being performed in biology classes in favor of the new tech-

nology. A department head noted that from an educator's standpoint, what is important for students is the knowledge gained, not the physical process of dissection through which that information is found. One biology teacher stated "If we can meet our educational requirements in a way that is animal-friendly, we certainly should do that."

Many teachers find that these simulations can not only replace specimen dissections, but in fact offer more to their students. Administrators shared reports from teachers who felt that dissection software, online simulations and videos were more beneficial than specimen dissection in many ways. They found that the use of simulations eliminated the possibility of error, made students more comfortable with the process (and thus better able to learn), allowed students to view more advanced procedures than they themselves could have performed, and taught them to use technology that is destined to be the basis for science technology in the future.

One teacher reported to his department head that he often encountered students who were active animal welfare advocates, and that he was proud to inform them that the school system no longer placed orders for preserved specimens because biology teachers had determined that simulations could meet

*continued on page 5*

*Frogs aren't the only objects of dissection. Rabbits, rats, cats, fetal pigs and earthworms are also used in biology classrooms.*

### WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT DISSECTION?

Dissection was introduced into education in the 1920s during a time when people were not so aware—or not at all aware—of issues involving the environment and animal life.

Approximately half of the animals dissected in elementary and secondary schools are frogs. Others include mice, rats, worms, cats, rabbits, fetal pigs, birds, and fish. The animals come from breeding facilities, slaughterhouses, their natural habitats, pet stores, local pounds, and even animal dealers and thieves. Most are killed and "processed" at biological supply companies.

- Key members of ecosystems around the world, frogs are disappearing fast. Dissection is partly to blame for this depletion because frogs used in school science labs are often collected from the wild. Even frog breeders restock their captive frog population by periodically taking more frogs from the wild.

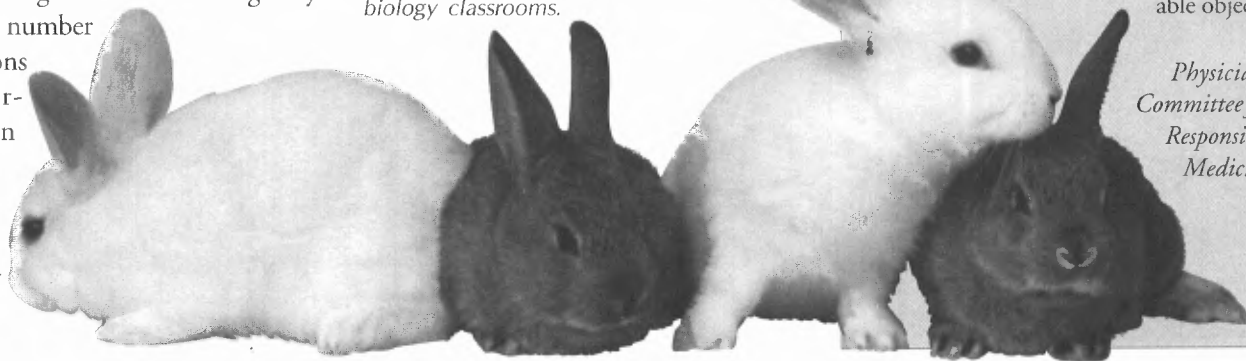
- Animals used for dissection can have a miserable existence in the process of being captured, transported and ultimately killed.

- Animals used in dissection are often embalmed with formaldehyde, a chemical preservative linked to cancer of the throat, lungs, and nasal passages. Formaldehyde can also damage the eyes, cause asthma attacks and bronchitis, and severely irritate the skin. So far, people can only speculate how inhaling and touching formaldehyde affects the long-term health of students and teachers.

- Dissections are expensive for schools. Twelve bullfrogs cost from \$67 to \$118. Many alternatives, which can be used for years by an unlimited number of students, are much less expensive.

- Biology courses are intended to expose students to useful concepts and stimulate an interest in the life sciences; dissections can interfere with these goals. Dissection devalues life and teaches insensitivity by treating living beings as disposable objects.

*Physicians  
Committee for  
Responsible  
Medicine*



## Alternatives to Dissection

### RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

For more information about alternatives to classroom dissection, including software and model loan programs, please contact the following organizations:

Alternative loans are available from:

Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L St., NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
301-258-3042 [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

A catalog of alternatives, Beyond Dissection, is available from:

Ethical Science Education Coalition  
333 Washington St., Suite 850  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-367-9143

For information on specific alternative projects contact:

National Association for Humane and  
Environmental Education  
67 Norwich Essex Turnpike.  
E. Haddam, CT 06423  
860-434-8666 [www.nahee.org](http://www.nahee.org)

A program to teach students about environmental and animal issues as well as CD ROM and model loans are available from:

Animal Learn  
801 Old York Rd., # 204  
Jenkintown, PA 19046  
800-729-2287

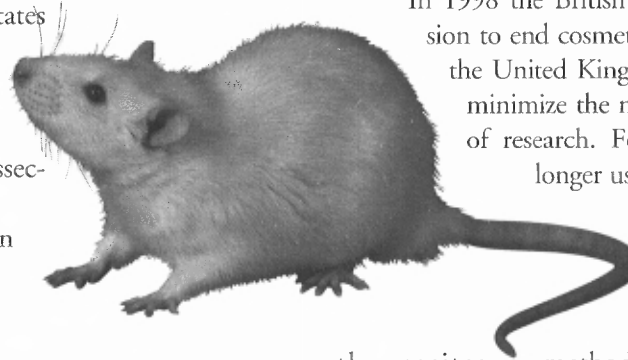
### FRANCE AGREES: ANIMALS ARE SENTIENT BEINGS

France ratified The Treaty of Amsterdam last March, becoming the final member of the European Union (EU) to sign the agreement. The Treaty, which came into effect on May 1 of this year, recognizes animals as sentient beings capable of feeling fear and pain, and of enjoying themselves when well treated. When formulating and implementing community policies on agriculture, transport, research and internal trade, the EU must now "pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals." 🐾

*continued from page 4*

their requirements. "Many students care about this issue, and we encourage students to take a stand for what they believe in," the administrator said. "We can honor their choices without compromising our high academic standards. Test scores continue to be high without emphasis on hands-on dissection. This says to me that it works, and that students can learn the material well without performing dissections." 🐾

*Genie O'Hara, a former school teacher, works on information gathering and editing for AWI.*



## GOOD NEWS FOR LABORATORY ANIMALS

Lab animals in Slovakia will no longer be used to test cosmetics, cleaning supplies or tobacco products. Almost 100,000 Slovakian citizens signed a petition demanding an end to the cruel and unnecessary animal testing of common products.

In 1998 the British government made a similar decision to end cosmetic testing. Their action represents the United Kingdom's continuing commitment to minimize the number of animals used in all sorts of research. For example, chimpanzees are no longer used as research subjects in the UK.

### PAINFUL LAB PROCEDURE DISCONTINUED IN THE UK

On January 1, 1999, the use of the ascites method of monoclonal antibody production, a laboratory procedure that causes excruciating pain to the animals used, was discontinued in Britain.

The ascites process involves injecting antibody-producing cells fused with cancer cells, called hybridomas, into a rodent's abdomen, causing a tumor to develop in the animal's peritoneal cavity. While the soft tumor containing the ascites fluid grows, the rodent suffers from wasting and dehydration. After it becomes massive, the tumor is pierced with a syringe and drained of the antibody-rich ascites fluid. The fluid removal may cause hemorrhage, edema, or death for the unfortunate animal.

Apart from the extreme suffering the ascites method causes, it has also been criticized for producing poor quality antibodies that may be contaminated with animal viruses and other infectious agents. Additionally, between 60 to 80% of the rats or mice used are not able to produce ascites fluid due to the development of solid tumors or premature death.

Since 1975, when the production of monoclonal antibodies by tissue culture was first described, numerous other non-animal methods have been developed. Today, modern non-animal methods of producing monoclonal antibodies, such as membrane-based and matrix-based culture systems, hollow-fiber bioreactors and the Phage Display technique, efficiently produce large amounts of high quality, rodent-virus-free antibodies.

Monoclonal antibodies are commonly used in scientific studies because of their ability to specifically identify a particular molecule, microorganism or cell. They are also used to diagnose common medical conditions such as streptococcus infections or pregnancy.

The United Kingdom has followed the lead of the Netherlands and Switzerland, both of which have banned the use of the flawed and extremely cruel ascites method of monoclonal antibody production. 🐾

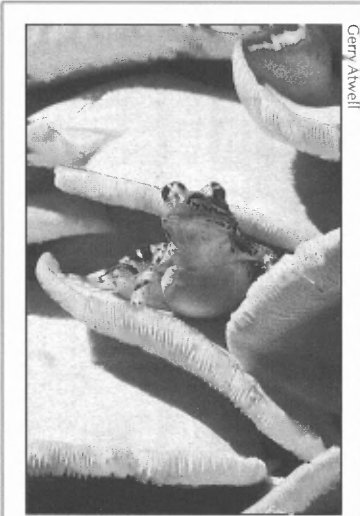


# All Quiet in the Wetlands

"We children of the fountain and the lake  
Let us wake  
Our full choir-shout, as the flutes are ringing out,  
Our symphony of clear-voiced song."  
—Aristophanes, "The Frogs," 405 B.C.

by Patrick Nolan

People have long enjoyed the sound of a chorus of frogs by a lake, pond, or marsh in summertime. But a recent, global



Gerry Atwell

Pickerel Frog. *Rana palustris*. Found throughout most eastern states, this frog produces an irritating skin secretion making them unappealing to predators.

epidemic of amphibian extinctions is fast replacing many frogs' voices with eerie silence. Worldwide, frog populations are in danger; numerous species across North America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Australia have become extinct or declined drastically in recent years. Unprecedented deformities in frogs—a related but distinct issue—also raise serious, unanswered questions.

Scientists are deeply divided about possible causes of the problem—even about whether it's a problem at all. The scarcity of reliable, long-running population data on

frogs hampers our ability to say how severe the current situation is, or to find out what role human activities—pollution, destruction of habitat, etc.—play in it. This ongoing debate about the rash of frog extinctions and deformities is often so contentious that it sounds like the cacophonous "brekekekex, co-ax, co-ax" of Aristophanes's frogs. Why is so much attention being given to frogs? Because amphibians respire through their thin skins, they are especially sensitive to environmental conditions such as pollutants in water. Further, their fragile eggs are especially vulnerable to harsh sunlight, predation, and to environmental toxins. Some researchers regard frogs as the equivalent of a canary in a coal mine—a sort of early warning that severe health problems, such as birth defects, can stem from our own environmental carelessness.

The disappearance and malformation of frogs may indicate that the thinning of the ozone layer, the widespread destruction of natural habitat for human use, and the proliferation of toxic chemicals in our environment is more serious than we think.

Several explanations have been forwarded

for the global disappearance of frogs:

- Habitat loss.** According to the US Geological Survey, the United States has lost more than 50% of its wetlands from the 1780s to the present. Virtually all frogs breed and live in wetlands. Further, frogs' breeding cycles often correspond with the seasonal formation of temporary wetlands, which humans often have reason to drain, reduce, or prevent.

- Acid rain.** Increasing acidity in rain and soil—probably due to human pollution—kills tadpoles.

- Ultraviolet radiation.** Ozone depletion and loss of vegetation have increased the amount of ultraviolet radiation that reaches us—and frogs' sensitive eggs can be seriously harmed by it.

- Disease.** Pathogens including microscopic parasites, fungi, and viruses have been implicated in many frog die-offs. These include the chytrid fungus that experts believe helped to kill millions of Central American frogs. Lethal parasitic microbes called trematodes have also been implicated in the die-offs.

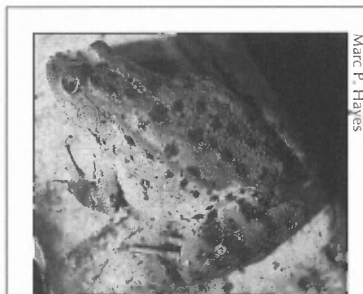
- Contaminants.** Runoff of agricultural fertilizer has helped to cause explosive growth in harmful microbes (such as the *Pfiesteria piscicida* outbreaks that have killed countless fish in recent years). Other harmful pollutants that humans expel into the atmosphere or the water cycle include pesticides, vehicle emissions, and industrial waste. Sadly, amphibians often breed in the very same low places in which these contaminants are most likely to collect.

It's doubtful that any single factor is the main culprit. A more likely scenario is that frogs whose immune systems had been weakened by climatic change succumbed to a disease that they could otherwise have successfully fought off. This may be what wiped out the golden toads of the Central American cloud forest.



R.G. Tuck

Pine Barrens Tree Frog. *Hyla andersoni*. This frog's unusual low quacking croak is often mistaken for a bird's call.



Marc P. Hayes

California red-legged frog, *Rana aurora draytonii*. Listed as threatened on the Endangered Species list, these frogs have been exterminated from all but 30% of their original range.

One unexpected aspect of this problem is that frogs in even the most remote, undeveloped areas—from Yosemite National Park to the Costa Rican rainforest—are becoming deformed or extinct. Some have suggested that disease-causing microorganisms have been transported into remote areas by the very scientists who are studying the frogs in an attempt to find out what's causing their decline—a sad, poignant possibility that highlights the complexity and the severity of the issue. 🐸

Patrick Nolan is AWI's editorial consultant

# Congress Investigates EPA's Massive Animal Testing Proposal

by Christine Stevens

Encouraged by Vice President Al Gore and the Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) head Carol Browner is attempting to impose on the public a massive animal testing program entitled "The High Production Volume (HPV) Chemical Challenge Program." Under Congressional scrutiny, EPA is struggling to justify the program.

A hearing in the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment of the House Science Committee, chaired by Representative Ken Calvert (R, CA) and supported by Representative Jerry Costello (D, IL), the ranking Democrat, exposed the failure of the proposed EPA program to prepare adequately for its decision to test no less than 2,800 substances. This program will cost industry an estimated \$700 million for "voluntary" testing, and will cost EPA millions of dollars to administer. The intense pain and suffering which test animals would have to endure appears to have been given little or no consideration, nor has the ability of the tests to protect human health been adequately addressed.

Dr. Neal Barnard, President of the Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine testified:

You could have an entire schoolyard of children or an entire neighborhood exposed to a toxin; these data are not welcome in the program; they will not be accepted by the program. You could have an entire clinical trial where a compound has been given to human volunteers—not acceptable in this program. It is a fundamental and very serious flaw. Instead, rats and mice are used as the crudest possible indicators of what might happen in human beings. They are wrong about one-third of the time—or more. Here is a sample of what we found:

... carbon tetrachloride, a well-known toxic compound. Human data are abundant, and the same chronic test data are required in this program. We found that the University of Georgia had done the very tests that the EPA is now demanding. We brought this to the EPA in December. They have ignored it.

... when tests are to be used, we owe it, not only from the standpoint of animal welfare, but for human safety, to use modern technologies, not the outdated technologies that are in this program.

... Dr. Bjorn Eklund, at the Multicenter Evaluation of In-Vitro Cytotoxicity, looked at the tests that the EPA is going to use, the LD-50 tests. They found that the rat and mouse tests are wrong more than one-third of the time. They are about 65 percent accurate. What they found—as in some cases, they are wildly inaccurate. Rat tests don't even predict mouse tests very accurately, let alone human toxicity. This is a World War I-era test that is the equivalent of a divining rod. It is extremely crude; it should have been outlawed long, long ago.

What is better? The MEIC trial, in 29 different countries, using a battery of 50 test chemicals, found that using human cells in very modern tests, you can improve on that 65 percent accuracy in animal tests. You can bump it up to about 77 percent, never using an animal at all, and using a much cheaper methodology. Adding a fourth human cell battery, your accuracy goes to 80 percent.

Dr. Barnard charged EPA with "simply ignoring" the examples he brought to their attention of test substances which had already been thoroughly tested. His examples all were available in the public record but had been omitted from EPA's proposed huge testing program.

EPA has used secret meetings with members of the Chemical Manufacturers Association in the planning of its program. Indeed, a secret meeting in New York the very day of the hearing had been discovered, and EPA's representative at the hearing, Dr. William Sanders, Director of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxins, said that he should have been at that meeting! Because of its discovery, the meeting was then made open to the public. EPA has evidently been relying on announcements on the Internet, which hardly fulfills the purpose of public notice of EPA's plans and time periods for public comments to be made in the *Federal Register*.

Jessica Sandler, Industrial Hygienist, testifying for the Doris Day Animal League and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, stated:

The HPV testing plan is a Government-sponsored program that has circumvented all normal Government channels. Had it been published in the *Federal Register* and subjected to public and scientific peer review, it would never have survived in its present form.

...what they called their 'definitive studies on the matter,' which formed the foundation of the HPV program, were, in fact, in the words of an EPA official, 'a quick and dirty look in order to get the message out.'

Chairman Calvert asked why EPA chose to pursue a voluntary program with industry? EPA spokesman replied that it was the policy of the US that development of such data should be the responsibility of industry. The Chairman then asked, "Did you register in the *Federal Register*?" and was told in the next two weeks it would be in the *Federal Register*.

In questioning Ms. Sandler, the Chairman asked her, "Would you suggest, then, that this...so-called 'voluntary program,' is a way to get outside of TSCA [the Toxic Substances Control Act]?" She answered: "There is no question about that." She further stated:

The European Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods, an organization funded by the European Union, states with regard to the HPV program, and I quote, "Traditional toxicologists with a vested interest in the continuation of checklist animal testing, and contract testing laboratories with a commercial interest in gaining new business, must be rejoicing. This is bad news for those of us who seek a scientifically rational approach to hazard prediction and risk assessment, and the development and use of alternative methods."

Senator Robert Smith (R, NH) plans to hold hearings in the subcommittee he chairs after the August recess. 🐾

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*This is a World War I-era test that is the equivalent of a divining rod.*

*-Dr. Neal Barnard  
Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine*

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# Mixed Emotions in Madagascar

by Adam Roberts

No more than twenty feet above my head, on a single tree branch, perched the majestic black and white lemur called the *indri*. Peacefully he sat, reaching his arms straight out, slowly, to enable his long, thin, black fingers to reach the leaves. One by one, he plucked them off and put them in his mouth. It was so quiet for those few moments that I could actually hear the crunching sounds as he chewed each leaf. Sated for the time being (and probably fed up having his meal disturbed by the clicking cameras of the gawking onlookers below) he leapt from the branch to the trunk of the tree and, without pause, flew over our heads to another tree and off from there throughout the dense woods behind us. It was a moving experience.

A few kilometers away from the heart of the secluded wildlife reserve, a wide red dirt road divided the forest. Along this road, open carts haul graphite from the mine to processing plant, presumably to end up as "lead" in pencils. Gray graphite flakes

which had spilled from the carts littered long obtrusive lines along the center of the road. It was a dismal sight.

With the rich green forest in front of me and the dead dry land under my feet, I couldn't help but wonder whether the approximately five percent of Madagascar's remaining original forest land could withstand the ongoing encroach-

ment of mining and logging companies. As we crossed the Mozambique Channel and flew over the land for the first time, I remember looking out of the airplane window wondering whether lemurs and other magnificent wildlife used to inhabit trees on land now reduced to vast tracks of lifeless red escarpments. In his book *Ghost of Chance*, writer William S. Burroughs appropriately describes the land there as "a vast mud-slide of soulless sludge."

On this island off the southeastern coast of Africa, it seems easy for extractive industries to come in, take what they want and can profit from, and leave a skeleton of a country behind: to the detriment of both wild plants and animals and the people who live with them.

With its magnificent, unique wildlife, precious but disappearing, Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island and one of its poorest countries, was an interesting place to host a meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). If the tenth CITES Conference of the Parties was held in Zimbabwe to bias delegates in favor of reopening the trade in elephant ivory, then one can similarly presume that the Animals Committee was held in Madagascar in order to promote the resumption of international trade in Madagascar wildlife - notably, chameleons and geckos, all of which are listed on Appendix II of the Convention, meaning commercial trade is allowed but regulated.

In 1994, CITES Parties determined that countries should not import chameleons or geckos from Madagascar (with eight species exempted) since the Management Authority could neither prove that the harvest quotas were scientifically based nor that the export of these specimens would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Unfortunately, the problems there persist and the future of many of these species is questionable. From 1993 to 1997 alone, over half a million live reptiles and amphibians were exported from Madagascar including numerous chameleons and geckoes that were not

supposed to be in international trade. Some

individuals who favor international wildlife commerce want to see an experimental management system put in place that would allow a limited number of reptile breeders to export these species. Of course, this scenario would facilitate illegal trade as wild-caught lizards could be laundered in through the "breeding" facilities and fraudulently sold as "captive bred." The reptile "breeding" facility we visited at Mandraka included animals that the caretaker admitted were not bred there, but were removed from the wild. It is dangerously premature to reopen the trade in chameleons and geckoes from Madagascar; no resolution was reached at the meeting.

Other important decisions were taken during the course of the conference, however. AWI has advocated the establishment of a Working Group to examine the effect of using parts and products of CITES-listed species in traditional Asian medicine. Bears, tigers, pangolins, musk deer and other species are exploited for this purpose. Although we did not succeed in this effort at the previous meeting in Venezuela, with the support of the Committee Chairman, a Working Group was convened this time around. Hopefully, its members will be able to undertake an accurate assessment of which species are used and which countries' medicinal practitioners use them, what level of trade (both legal and illegal) in these species exists, and what measures could be taken to replace the use of these animals with herbal alternatives.

The Committee also considered a draft list of species which are allegedly "commonly bred in captivity." Adoption of this list, which included species such as tigers and bears, would have made it easier to breed endangered species and export their parts or products made from them for profit. Currently, CITES Parties, most notably the range states for the species, have the ability to comment on the registration of such facilities before they are established and the species' parts or derivatives find their way into commercial trade. At least for the time being, the dreaded "list" has been scrapped.

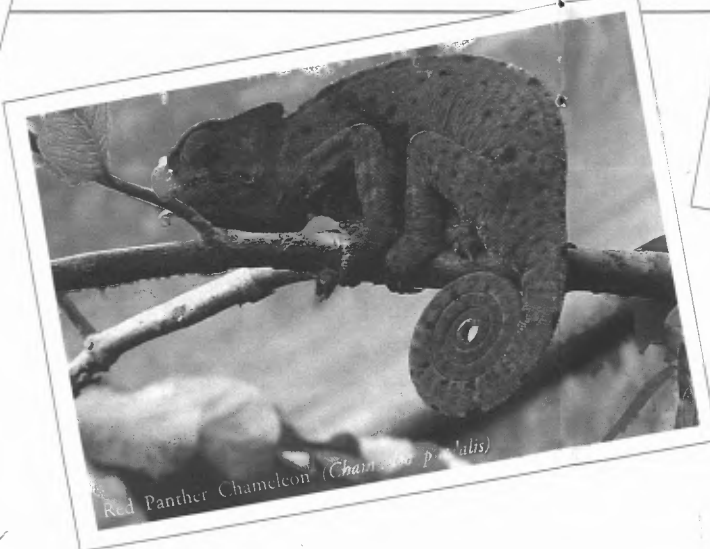
The Animals Committee also periodically reviews certain CITES-listed Appendix II species which seem to be in significant levels of international trade to see whether or not specific recommendations should be made to Parties to ensure that the species don't become endangered to the point where they should be uplisted to Appendix I and commercial trade completely cut off. For instance, Parties should pay close attention to the exploitation of the hippopotamus whose teeth are used as a substitute for elephant ivory. In fact, imports of hippo teeth into Hong Kong more than quadrupled from 1994 to 1995 and then doubled again from 1995 to 1996. Being present at the discussions about the future of such species helps ensure that a precautionary conservation approach will be employed. Without our input, many species requiring close attention and specific action may simply be glossed over.

Although we had many tangible successes during the Conference, it was nonetheless hard to be in a place where the people and wildlife suffer so greatly and the future is uncertain. The man who organized our wildlife tour after the meeting, Hery Andrianantefana, told one reporter, "It is taking a long time, perhaps too long, but gradually we are getting across the message that our wildlife is our biggest asset." Seeing foot-long chameleons stretched out on low tree-branches and wild tree frogs squatting on huge rainforest leaves made me a believer in the power and importance of wildlife viewing. "Ecotourism" must replace the industrial deforestation and desertification that threatens the future of the country.

Burroughs concludes that "beauty is always doomed" by man "with his weapons, his time, his insatiable greed, and ignorance so hideous it can never see its own face." I don't know if it's too late to save the wild lands and wildlife of Madagascar; I do know that it's never too late to try. 🐾



Madagascar bright-eyed frog (*Boophis madagascariensis*)



Red Panther Chameleon (*Chamaeleo parsonii*)



Tomato frogs (*Dyscophus antongali*)



Parson's chameleon (*Chamaeleo parsonii*)



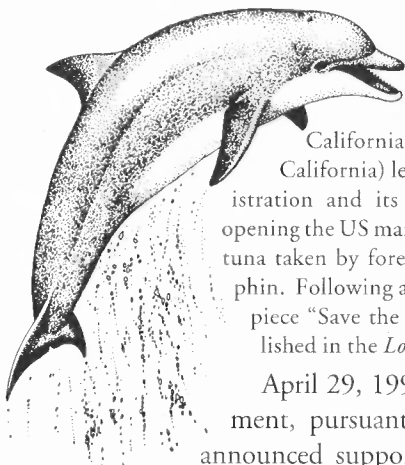
Indri lemur (*Indri indri*)

photos by Adam Roberts  
lemur photo by Anne Axel

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Perinet Reserve



## SAVE THE DOLPHINS FROM HYPOCRISY

Representative George Miller (D-California) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) led the fight to prevent the Administration and its Congressional supporters from opening the US market to a flood of "dolphin deadly" tuna taken by foreign purse seiners fishing on-dolphin. Following are excerpts from their joint op-ed piece "Save the Dolphins from Hypocrisy" published in the *Los Angeles Times* on June 17, 1999.

April 29, 1999: The Commerce Department, pursuant to a law passed in 1997, announced support for changing the popular "dolphin safe" label on cans of tuna sold in the United States. Under the new ruling, fish caught by the previously banned purse seine net method—by which fishermen encircle and harass dolphins—could now be termed "dolphin safe" even though dolphins would be chased down, caught in the nets, harassed and injured.

May 28, 1999: The same Commerce Department declares that feeding and swimming with dolphins is illegal. According to the department's National Marine Fisheries Service, "The best way to protect dolphins is to observe the animals at a respectful distance of at least 50 yards and resist feeding them. In addition, people need to avoid any activities that risk harassment of dolphins, such as chasing, touching or swimming with the animals."

Run that by us again? Hunting down, chasing, encircling and harassing dolphins in tuna nets doesn't necessarily have a significant adverse impact on dolphins, so it's fine for fishermen to engage in these activities and call their resulting tuna catches "dolphin safe?" But slipping Flipper herring or patting his nose is "harassment" and could be "harmful?"

This disturbingly contradictory position has nothing to do with what is safe for the still-depleted dolphin populations. It has everything to do with international trade, and specifically with the weakening of US environmental laws to satisfy international economic partners....

Since passage of our law, dolphin deaths have gone from more than 80,000 to fewer than 3,000 a year. So why argue with success? The Clinton administration, pressed by foreign tuna fleets who, unlike the US fishermen continue to use purse seine netting, capitulated in 1997 and agreed to legislation that allows tuna caught using purse seine nets to be sold in the US and labeled "dolphin safe," unless scientists could prove it was the fishing technique that was hurting dolphin populations....

Fishermen can subject dolphins to severe stress and injury and enjoy the government's seal of safety, but a citizen touching a dolphin swimming near their boat is subject to up to a \$100,000 fine for endangering the creature.

The Commerce Department's decision should be reversed, allowing us to maintain the integrity of the label that, since its introduction in the early 1990s, has only been allowed on tuna that was not harvested using the techniques known to kill dolphins. 🐬

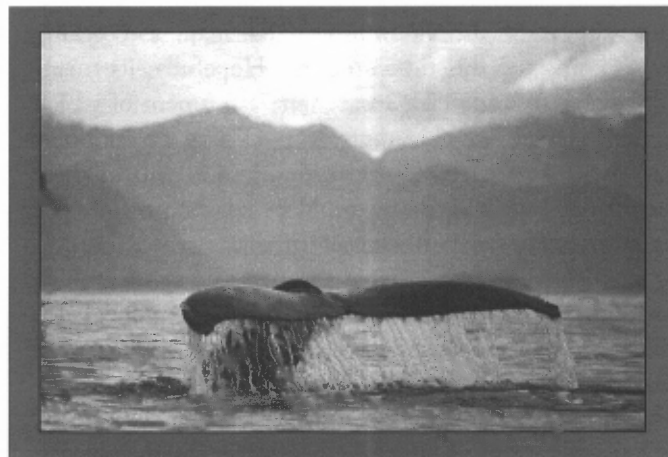
## US IWC PRESENTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS TO CETACEANS

by Ben White

On the third day of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) conference, US Undersecretary of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) chief Dr. James Baker flew in just to deliver a presentation on global environmental threats facing whales and dolphins. Following the US lead, the IWC voted for the first time to allocate 125,000 pounds sterling to study this interconnecting web of threats over and above the harpoon. Just to consider such a direction signals a potential change in the IWC, moving away from managing the killing of whales to actually crafting their protection.

The dramatic slide show was summed up in its opening quote from newly retired IWC chief Peter Bridgewater:

*"Global climate change, pollution, and the hole in the ozone layer are greater threats to the world's whale populations than whaling."*



Punctuated by grisly pictures of stranded whales and charts with ominously climbing lines, Dr. Baker's presentation listed a long litany of layered dangers including chemical contamination, global warming, disease, and harmful algae blooms.

All of these severe and long-term threats facing life in the oceans serve to strengthen our case as to why the unnecessary killing of whales must cease. We applaud the careful presentation by the American delegation at the IWC, and their successful effort at convincing the body that the dangers are real and worth exploring.

At the risk of appearing ungrateful, however, it is important to point out one glaring omission in the presentation's catalog of environmental threats: noise pollution. In this arena it is the US government that is one of the worst offenders, with several incredibly loud devices being tested both by the military (ATOC and Low-frequency Active Sonar) and by the National Marine Fisheries Service (devices aimed at driving seals and sealions away from sport fishing boats).

We congratulate the US government for their efforts, and look forward to the inclusion of the sonic war on whales in their analysis of steps that can be taken to make the world's oceans more hospitable to sustaining all life, including the highly sensitive cetaceans. 🐬

To view Dr. Baker's presentation, visit NOAA's website at [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov).

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# Save the Beluga Whales in Alaska's Cook Inlet

by Ben White

Even though the population of beluga whales living in Alaska's Cook Inlet has plummeted from over a thousand to about two hundred, it appears that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) lacks the backbone to follow through with an endangered species listing. They are leaning instead toward the far less protective "depleted" listing under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). The reasons for the agency's reticence have everything to do with big oil and big business and nothing to do with the whale itself, or

the requirement that the government obey the Endangered Species Act.

It's easy to fall in love with belugas. One of the smallest of whales, pure white when mature and possessing flexible neck vertebrae; they can turn their head and look at you. Called the canary of the deep, belugas have an amazing repertoire of songs and calls, most of which can be heard by humans. If we are ever able to verbally communicate with a whale, it will probably be with a beluga. We had better act quickly or there won't be anyone left to talk to in Alaska's Cook Inlet.

The main reason for the decline of this genetically distinct tribe of whales is the native hunting over the last decade—

about a hundred a year have been killed with untold numbers struck and lost. The whales have been butchered and their meat sold at a local Anchorage market.

Now some native former hunters are petitioning for the NMFS to list the whales as endangered, which will trigger all sorts of habitat protections. Those protections are exactly what is causing big business in Anchorage to barrage NMFS with calls and letters, all demanding that the whale not be listed as endangered. Why? Anchorage has one of the few permits in the

country allowing the city to dump municipal sewage into Cook Inlet with only partial treatment. The fifteen oil rigs dotting the inlet are apparently the only ones out of fifteen hundred on the

US continental shelf given a variance to the zero-discharge rule. As part of their normal operations, the rigs are allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency to dribble lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxins directly into beluga habitat.

To stop the poisoning of the last of this unique population of belugas, there is but one legal remedy that will give them a chance to recover. They need to be listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

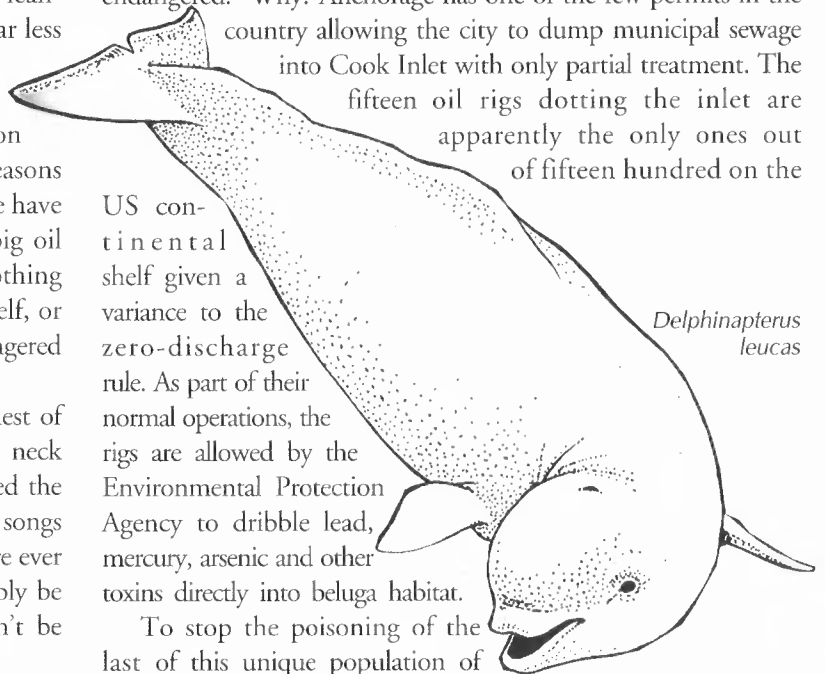
Dr. Baker, who just made such a splendid presentation on environmental threats to cetaceans (see page 10 and box to the left) is a humane scientist in a powerful position to help.

**ACTION:** Please write, fax, or phone. Dr. James Baker, Undersecretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Phone: (202) 482-3436, Fax: (202) 408-9674. Tell him that the Cook Inlet belugas desperately need to be listed under the Endangered Species Act and ask him to do everything possible to achieve this. 🐾



Ben White

This oil rig releases toxic waste directly into Cook Inlet, poisoning the belugas' habitat.



## THEIR OCEAN HOME IN DANGER

At his IWC presentation, Dr. James Baker described specific environmental threats to cetaceans.

### Chemical Contamination

Belugas stranded in St. Lawrence, Canada were found to have a rate of small intestinal cancers much higher than that observed in other animals, including people. The belugas had such high concentrations of toxic substances in their bodies that they were disposed of as toxic waste. In recent years, contamination in marine core samples has climbed astronomically to present levels of about 400 nanograms of toxins per gram of sediment.

### Global Warming and Rising Ocean Temperatures

From the 1950s to the present, greatly increased concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane have been measured in the Earth's atmosphere, causing what is commonly known as the greenhouse effect. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts a 1 to 3.5 degree Celsius global temperature increase and a 15-95 centimeter sea level increase by 2100. Mean ocean temperatures recorded from 1950 to the present show oceanic hot spots spreading around the globe.

### Catastrophic Outbreaks of Disease

Approximately 18,000 harbor seals and hundreds of gray seals died as a result of a morbillivirus infection in northwest Europe in 1988. Similar infections killed thousands of striped dolphins in the Mediterranean between 1990 and 1992.

### Ozone Hole

The ozone hole is now larger than Antarctica, the continent it looms above. Cetaceans and their prey are being bombarded with damaging UV-b radiation from the sun. The dramatic increase of chlorofluorocarbons released into the atmosphere between 1977 and 1998 has been linked to the expansion of the ozone hole.

### Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)

Linked to global marine nitrogen contamination, (primarily from agricultural runoff) algae blooms are considered to be an increasingly significant source of marine mammal mortalities.

## The IWC Meeting in Grenada

Thirty four countries comprising the International Whaling Commission (IWC) met on the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada in late May to vote, debate and grandstand on a wide agenda of resolutions pertaining to whale protection and whale destruction.

Fifty-three years ago at its inception, the IWC had 14 member countries, all active whalers. After the commission allowed the decimation of one species of great whales after another, more and more countries opposed to whaling joined. Some longtime whalers like Australia became the staunchest of whale defenders. This new blood became strong enough to pass a global moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982, to take effect in the 1985-86 season and last indefinitely until a whole new framework is agreed upon.

Meanwhile, whalers have exploited the remaining legal ways to whale: by taking exception to the moratorium (Norway), by calling their whaling scientific research (Japan), and by tucking their whaling under "aboriginal subsistence whaling"—even when no aboriginals are involved, the meat is fed to fur-farm foxes, or sold locally (St. Vincent, Russia and Greenland, respectively.)

Now, the balance has shifted once more. Japan provides economic assistance to seven small island nations (including this year's venue state of Grenada) in exchange for pro-whaling votes within the IWC and CITES (Convention on International Trade

in Endangered Species). When Japan and Norway are counted, that adds up to a solid pro-whaling core of nine votes. This is enough to deadlock the IWC into virtual parity between the pro- and anti-whaling forces, with many swing votes in between.

Despite an amazing string of insults, threats and bluster from Japan, when the dust settled on the final day of proceedings, the whalers had little to show for their efforts.

Notably:

- The motion to allow secret ballots (so Caribbean countries could hide their Japanese-leveraged votes) was defeated.

- The motion to open up small-scale coastal whaling in Japan was defeated for the twelfth year running.

- No advance was made on a framework to open up commercial whaling. The Irish proposal failed again to make headway, although it retains a faint pulse. This so-called compromise would drop the commercial moratorium on shore-based whaling within a country's economic zone in exchange for banning "scientific whaling," high seas whaling, and the international sale of whalemeat.

- The US environmental threats presentation (see article on pages 10 and 11) and the successful drive to win IWC funding to study the problem, put whalers on the defensive to justify yet another level of assault on beleaguered populations. 🐾



## Makah Kill Gray Whale

A whale was hunted down and killed from the continental United States for the first time in over fifty years on May 17, 1999.

The Makah Indian tribe, tucked into the misty northwest corner of Washington State, exercised their long dormant treaty right to whale by harpooning and shooting a migrating California gray whale.

With four news helicopters hovering overhead and broadcasting the kill live across the country, harpoons towing floats were thrown from a canoe and fifty caliber bullets fired from a motorized support vessel. The three year old female appeared to be acclimated to people, approaching the canoe and even taking care to avoid upsetting it when she was shot repeatedly.

A huge celebration broke out in the native Neah Bay community when the whale was finally towed in and beached. Some people prayed, some sang, some did backflips off the whale into the frigid water. But a mistake was made beaching the whale at low tide. After only about a third of the whale had been cut up and distributed to the tribe—and almost everyone had gone home—the whale started to be reclaimed by the rising tide. Although eventually winched

higher on the beach by trucks and cables, most of the whalemeat was allowed to spoil.

The resumption of Makah whaling after over seventy years has been vigorously opposed within the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The Makah and their sponsor, the United



California gray whale spy-hopping for whale watchers.

States government, claimed they won an aboriginal subsistence quota of five grey whales a year for the tribe at the 1997 IWC meeting in Monaco, even though they did not demonstrate nutritional need as required by that quota. This year's IWC meeting, held just after the Makah kill, appeared to codify the deadly precedent of "cultural" whaling through tacit consent. No charge of infraction or even a comment from the floor was lodged in protest of the Makah killing

without IWC permission.

The danger is not only the killing of California gray whales. It is the opening up of yet another loophole for whaling: non-nutritional culturally based whaling. Several tribes along the Canadian British Columbia coast are currently petitioning the Canadian government to allow them to take the lead from the Makah and resume their own ancient whaling. 🐾



## Lethal Coyote Control: Inefficient, Ineffective and Cruel

Wildlife Services—a misleading euphemism replacing its former name, Animal Damage Control (ADC)—spends millions of taxpayers' dollars every year to kill predators on both public and private lands for the benefit of relatively few sheep and cattle producers. Typical killing methods include steel-jaw leghold traps, neck snares, spring-activated cyanide devices,

aerial gunning, and denning (killing pups in dens by using grappling hooks or incendiary devices, or digging them out and smashing them with shovels). Even though nonlethal methods of coyote control have been found to be more effective in protecting livestock than lethal methods, Wildlife Services uses lethal methods in almost all instances to control predators. Additionally, Wildlife Services routinely launches lethal predator control without any confirmed livestock losses. Millions of dollars are spent and thousands of coyotes cruelly killed, even though the National Agriculture Statistic Service's own reports from 1995 and 1996 state that only two to three percent of sheep growers losses and two-tenths of one percent of cattle losses can be attributed to coyote predation.

When left alone, coyotes regulate their own numbers. Much like wolves, coyotes have a highly structured pack hierarchy, with only the alpha pair breeding. Other fe-

males, although physiologically capable of reproducing, are "behaviorally sterile." Coyote populations often follow their prey base. For example, when jackrabbit populations decline, coyote populations usually follow the same trend.

Coyotes respond to lethal control programs with a number of complex biological mechanisms, which work very efficiently to boost their numbers. If an alpha pair in the pack is killed, subordinate pack members splinter off from their original pack, forming new packs, breeding, and eventually bearing larger litters of pups. In order to feed large and healthy litters, coyotes will reluctantly—as they are very wary of "novel" foods—prey upon domestic livestock, if adequate quantities of their normal

diet of mice, gophers, other small rodents and rabbits are not available. In summary, killing coyotes not only increases the next generation of coyote numbers, but drives them to hunt sheep and calves they would normally avoid.

The misguided persecution of coyotes has only served to expand and increase their populations. It has been very well established that we can protect livestock such as sheep and cattle without killing wildlife. 🐾



## Montana Ranchers Choose Non-Lethal Predator Control

After decades of frustration with predator control efforts which either do not work or involve them in destructive conflicts with environmentalists, a group of Montana sheep ranchers have taken a different tack. They have abandoned lethal control methods now used against coyotes and other predators such as steel jaw leghold traps, strangling snares, hunting, and shooting from aircraft, in favor of non-lethal methods, ranging from shepherders and guard animals to electric fences. In the process, they have put to rest their long feud with the environmental and humane movements, enlisting their cooperation in marketing "predator friendly" wool.

Predator Friendly, Inc., certifies "predator friendly" ranchers, and has founded a wool cooperative whose members pledge never to use lethal predator control methods. The blankets, mittens, hats, and sweaters marketed by the cooperative carry a tag identifying the products as being raised without harming wild animal species.



*A guard dog and donkey busy protecting sheep on a Montana ranch.*

Ranchers in the program are a diverse bunch; some are from multigenerational Montana ranching families, others are relative newcomers. Their ranches fan out from the plains of Eastern Montana to the foothills of the Northern Rockies. Some raise sheep on intensively managed pastures while others graze on broad rangelands. All share a willingness to innovate and to withstand the criticisms of skeptical and leery fellow ranchers who look askance at the "predator friendly" moniker.

"I have come to believe that nonlethal control is a much more effective, inexpensive and ecologically palatable approach than lethal control," said Beck Weed, rancher and president of the Growers' Wool Cooperative, testifying at a Congressional staff briefing on federal predator control. "It is working on our ranch as well as on much larger operations." 🐾

To order items made from predator friendly wool, contact Growers' Wool Cooperative at 406-388-4945.

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# How Our Food is Produced Matters!

*animal factories and their impact*

by Chris Bedford

Our food supply is undergoing fundamental change with serious consequences for animals, our water, our health and our nation's family farms. Today, a small group of giant agribusiness corporations control most of our nation's poultry, beef and pork production. To maximize profits, these corporations have imposed factory production processes on animals, family farmers, consumers, and the environment.

## The Animal Factory System

**Standardization.** Animal factories seek to produce a uniform product with predictable costs. To this end, animals are bred to be genetically similar and to produce as much meat, as fast as possible at as low a cost as possible. For instance, most broiler chickens come from only seven different genetic lines. This lack of genetic diversity makes virtually the entire nation's poultry supply vulnerable to an epidemic. Overbreeding also produces chickens with breasts so large that sometimes they can't stand up, causing painful blisters and ultimately death through starvation.

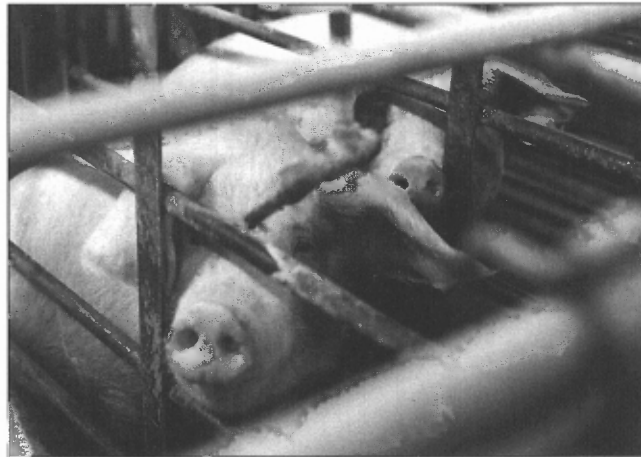
**Concentration and confinement.** Animal factories concentrate thousands, sometimes tens of thousands, of animals into multiple industrial barns. Large animals, like hogs, are kept in tight metal cages throughout their entire lives. Industrial hog barns are often windowless and contain as many as 4,000 hogs, confined in metal pens built over slatted concrete floors. Factory-farmed poultry are crowded into long industrial houses containing as many as 25,000 birds. Hundreds of thousands of egg-laying hens spend their lives in tiny battery cages, which give each hen space no bigger than the piece of paper this article is printed on, stacked high in giant barns.

**Contract system.** Under the factory system, most farmers do not own the animals they raise. Instead, local family farmers raise animals under a contract which requires them to provide their labor, pay the energy and water costs and borrow the funds to build the industrial barns and other facilities. The giant agribusiness corporations supply the animals, the feed and additives. A handful of very large corporations control the animal market. These "Big-Ag" corporations squeeze every last bit of profit from contract growers and the animals, forcing farmers to raise more animals for less pay, under increasingly dangerous working conditions.

## Poisoning Our Water

One hog produces as much feces as four humans. North Carolina's 7,000,000 factory raised hogs create four times as much waste—stored in reeking, open cesspools—as the state's 6.5 million people. The Delmarva peninsula's 600 million chickens produce 400,000 tons of manure a year; manure that contains as much phosphorus as the waste from a city the size of Los Angeles, and as much nitrogen as the waste from a city the size of New York. When this manure is inappropriately applied to land as fertilizer, as it often is, nutrients run off into waterways, poisoning whole watersheds with excess amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus. Run-off from poultry and swine manure has been implicated in the outbreak of *Pfiesteria piscicida*, a tiny but deadly organism which has sickened humans and killed billions of fish along Atlantic coastal bays.

Humane Farming Association



*These young sows face a lifetime behind iron bars so closely spaced that these active creatures can't even turn around. From gestation crates to farrowing crates their incarceration never ceases.*

Animal factory manure may also contain environmental estrogens. These estrogens bio-accumulate and drain into waterways, interfering with aquatic reproductive cycles. In Israel, this run-off has been implicated in the mass sterilization of fish in the Sea of Galilee.

## Risking Our Health

The animal factory system adds antibiotics and heavy metals, like arsenic and copper, to animal feed to promote rapid growth and prevent epidemic levels of disease among confined animals. Routine use of antibiotics can breed drug-resistant bacteria which enter our water and our food chain, threatening human health.

Young children and the elderly are particularly at risk from these resistant bacteria. Currently, poultry and hog corporations feed their animals sub-therapeutic levels of the latest generation of antibiotics, leaving human populations potentially vulnerable as a result. The US Food and Drug Administration is trying, against strong industry resistance, to ban much of animal factory antibiotic use. Such use is already restricted in the European Union.

Animal factory production is inherently inhumane. It represents a fundamental violation of nature, with broad consequences for our physical and spiritual health. How our food is raised, matters. When living creatures are brutally transformed into factory units of production it desensitizes the human consciousness to the environment and all of its inhabitants—further alienating us from the natural processes upon which our lives depend.

We simply must abolish animal factories and pursue more sustainable, humane ways to raise our food. 🐾

*Chris Bedford is the Chair of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.*

## Niman Ranch: AWI Approved

*good for the pigs, the family farmer and the community*



by Diane Halverson

To help end mistreatment of farm animals, the Animal Welfare Institute is supporting the Niman Ranch Company and its network of family hog farmers who follow humane husbandry criteria developed by the Animal Welfare Institute. AWI's criteria require that all animals be allowed to behave naturally. Unlike the crated sows on factory farms, the sows in the Niman Ranch program have freedom of movement, allowing them to fulfill their instinctive desire to build a nest when they are about to give birth. Unlike the factory farm pigs housed on concrete slats over manure pits, Niman Ranch pigs are raised on pasture or in barns with bedding where they can live in accord with their natures, rooting for food, playing and socializing. AWI's



Paul Willis' farm: Where pigs enjoy being pigs—not production units.

criteria require that the participants in the program be independent family farmers, that is, the farmer must own the animals, depend on the farm for a livelihood and be involved in the day to day physical labor of managing the pigs. This requirement helps to ensure that pigs are raised in modest numbers, making it easier to know and manage the animals as individuals.

Niman Ranch, which buys the pigs and markets the meat, also forbids feeding or otherwise administering hormones or antibiotics and prohibits the feeding of animal by-products. Unlike factory farmers, humane farmers in the Niman Ranch program do not rely on antibiotics to mask clinical manifestations of disease or to promote growth; therefore, they do not contribute to the devastating problem of antibiotic resistance among humans.

Paul Willis, the farmer who inspired AWI's involvement in the program, keeps 200 sows and their offspring on pasture or in barns bedded with straw on his Midwest farm. Niman Ranch rewards Willis, and farmers like him, by paying them a premium price. Niman Ranch products are available at 200 fine restaurants in California, at Trader Joe's stores in the West, at Whole Foods stores in northern California, and through the Williams-Sonoma mail order catalogue. Additional markets are being developed nationwide. In a 1995 Opinion Research Corporation survey, 93% of the adults surveyed believed that animals should be treated humanely, even when being raised for human consumption, and three-fourths opposed confining sows in crates, laying hens in battery cages and veal calves in crates. The Niman Ranch program gives a growing number of such consumers an opportunity to reject meat derived from pigs raised in animal factories and assists in the preservation of humane family farms, thereby helping to set a humane standard in raising of animals for food. 🐾

### COURT DEFEAT FOR CORPORATE FACTORY FARM

A St. Louis Circuit Court jury recently awarded \$5.2 million in damages to 52 rural citizens subjected to odors, flies and waste spills from Continental Grain Company's sprawling northern Missouri hog operations. The lawsuit, in which the jury deemed Continental's facilities a "continuing public nuisance," is one of the first in the nation where farmers and rural residents have legally and successfully held a corporate hog factory giant accountable for its degradation of property values and rural quality of life. 🐾

### STATE MAKES SWEETHEART DEAL WITH PSF

On July 29, declining to join forces with the Department of Justice/Environmental Protection Agency and a Missouri citizen's group, Missouri's Attorney General filed a consent judgement settling all of the state's claims against Continental Grain-Premium Standard Farms, including a July 28 spill which dumped over 12,000 gallons of hog manure into a local stream.

The sweetheart deal allows Continental Grain-Premium Standard Farm to pollute without penalty for the next three to five years while it spends \$12.5 to \$25 million to research, develop and adopt unspecified "technology" to "reduce or eliminate" its pollution problems. The settlement does not set water or air quality standards to be met by the company.

A federal judge is expected to rule shortly on the July 22 Department of Justice motion to intervene on behalf of Environmental Protection Agency in the pending suit by Citizens Legal Environmental Action Network against Premium Standard Farms. 🐾

#### BEQUESTS TO AWI

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

*Give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).*

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

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# AWI

## *Quarterly*

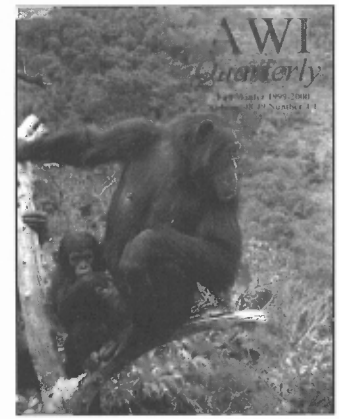
Fall/Winter 1999-2000

Volume 48/49 Number 4/1



Cover:

Geza Teleki, founder of the Committee for Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees, took this picture of wild chimps in Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Geza, like others including Jane Goodall, have worked for decades to conserve wild chimpanzee populations. Unfortunately, chimps still face a grim future. There is some hope for success, though, as chimps held captive and used in biomedical research may soon have expanded opportunities for release to sanctuaries (see story below) and as the world becomes more and more aware of their pitiful plight (see book review on page 19).



## Coulston's Killing Fields Death Toll Mounts at TCF

Like casualty of war reports from the field of battle, news of chimpanzee deaths at the Coulston Foundation (TCF) surface regularly. TCF in Alamogordo, New Mexico, has the largest colony of research chimpanzees in the world. Frederick Coulston, who callously told the *New York Times* "You can raise [chimps] like you do cattle," operates TCF, which has exhibited an indefensible and consistent pattern of non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

Recently, Donna, a 36-year old chimpanzee, died a miserable death after carrying a dead fetus in her womb for anywhere between two weeks and two months. C. James Mahoney, DVM, Ph.D., a veterinarian with over 20 years experience working with chimpanzees, reviewed the case and concluded that Donna's "death constitutes clear violations of the most basic precepts of accepted standards of veterinary medical practice." He continued, "... it is clear to me that Donna must have suffered excruciating pain, for several, if not many days."

Dr. Mahoney's analysis states that Donna had a liter of puss in her peritoneal cavity and a ruptured uterus "with the partially decomposed fetus's skull visible through the tear." Donna was used for breeding and reportedly had 14 babies in 26 years - three times the natural birthrate for wild chimpanzees.

But TCF's negligent chimpanzee homicide does not end there. USDA inspection reports from December 13-16, 1999, reveal 4 more chimp deaths. Between August and December 1999, Dean (age 34), Babu (age 27), Kimberly (age 9), and Albro (less than 1 year old), all died at TCF. One example of TCF's veterinary carelessness involves Kimberly, who reportedly had diarrhea that "could have been caused by a potentially contagious organism that could affect other members of the colony." A fifth chimp, Rosie (age 29), apparently also died during this same time period.

TCF commits these atrocities with millions of *your* tax dollars. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) continue to fund TCF despite its repeated violations of the Federal Animal Welfare Act and NIH's own standards. NIH hands out billions of dollars of taxpayers' money to laboratories for animal experimentation. Where does it draw the line? If a Coulston chimpanzee is forced to have 14 infants and denied the necessary surgery to remove a huge dead fetus, how can NIH be trusted? An internal NIH report from a site visit to TCF in April 1999 asserts, "Veterinary care is problematic... Three other veterinarians are very junior with no formal training in primate medicine..."

Incredibly, the latest six deaths came after a March 1998 complaint against TCF by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding the deaths of two chimps, Echo and Jello, was amended in February 1999 to include new charges that TCF's failure to provide adequate veterinary care resulted in the unnecessary deaths of three other chimpanzees: Holly, Terrance and Muffin (see *AWI Quarterly*, Winter 1998, "New USDA Complaint Filed Against Coulston"). In June 1999, USDA launched yet another investigation as a result of the death

(Continued on page 19)

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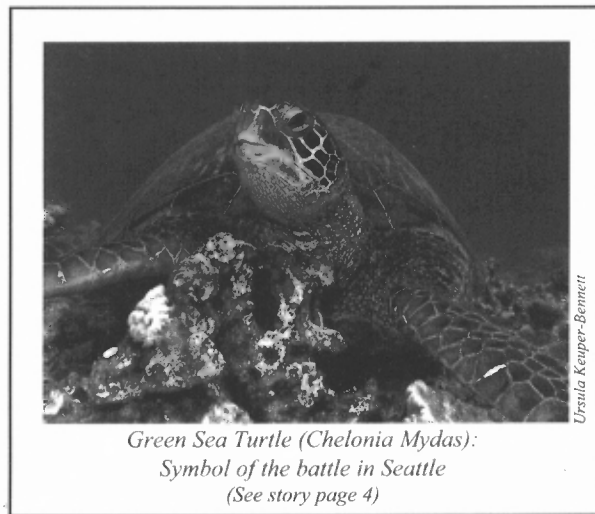
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Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia Mydas): Symbol of the battle in Seattle (See story page 4)

Ursula Keuper-Bennett

Crushing Bill Enacted!

On December 9, 1999, legislation was enacted to ban the creation, sale, or possession with intent to sell, of depictions of animal cruelty when the filmed acts violate existing state or federal animal protection laws. Congressman Elton Gallegly (R, CA) originally introduced the bill, H.R. 1887, in an effort to rid the country of pornographic animal crushing videos.

These films, which sell worldwide for as much as \$100 or more, show high-heeled or barefoot women torturing defenseless animals who are helplessly bound to the floor beneath their feet. Numerous live creatures are subjected to this sadistic attack: fish, frogs, insects, guinea pigs, rats, mice, hamsters, kittens, puppies, and other species. Each animal is meticulously massacred, enduring the agony of bones being slowly crushed throughout the entire body. After death mercifully arrives, the stomping continues until unidentifiable remnants of the poor animal carpet the floor.

Filmmakers’ and “actresses” faces are rarely shown which makes perpetrators difficult to identify; film location is almost impossible to figure out so prosecutors do not know under what jurisdiction to try the case; and the statute of limitations on state anticruelty laws likely would expire before charges could be brought. H.R. 1887 eliminates these loopholes, and hopefully will contribute to the elimination of one notably horrific type of animal cruelty. 

1035

# Turtles Dance, WTO Stumbles

by Ben White

In the months leading up to the Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Seattle my challenge as AWI's international coordinator was to put animal issues on the map. Even though many of the most flagrant cases of WTO rules superseding national laws involve hormone treated beef, genetically modified organisms, dolphin-caught tuna and turtle-caught shrimp, there was a real danger of animal protection being lost amidst thousands of labor justice, human rights and environmental protection groups scrambling to be heard.



Robert Weisman

Turtles and teamsters marching together to fight the World Trade Organization in Seattle, Washington.

So, I latched on one crazy idea to make the animal message loud and clear: putting 240 people in sea turtle costumes on the streets. Without the foggiest idea what it would take to make that many costumes and fill them with volunteers, I began holding evening meetings to get the word out about the effect of the World Trade Organization on animal protection laws. Many didn't believe that any international trade group could actually kill hard-fought domestic legislation designed to make the consequences of our trade kinder: on sea turtles, on dol-

phins, on furbearers, on the environment and on workers around the world. It was only when the details were explained — that the WTO forbids the restriction of any product based on how it's obtained — that people came to grips with the organization's deadly embrace of child labor, slave labor, unsafe food and cruel fishing practices.

From these meetings grew turtle making parties in Seattle and Lopez Island, Washington. Lisa Wathne of HSUS, grassroots organizer par excellence, did an amazing job coordinating Seattle volunteers, generating about twenty workers for each manufacturing party. All hands were needed.

Each turtle costume began its life as a sheet of scrounged appliance carton. Patterns were traced on the flattened cardboard and cut out, one for the plastron (belly), one for the back (carapace) and one for the head. Then pleats were cut, hot-glued, stapled and taped, giving the backs the convex curve of a green sea turtle. All edges were taped in hopes of keeping the omnipresent Seattle rain

out a little longer. Then everything was given a thick coat of exterior latex paint, inside and out. With 240 plus costumes, that amounted to almost 1,000 sides painted, not including the heads. Then we brought in artists to paint the final designs. AWI associate Jen Rinick came out from Washington, DC to provide invaluable help in the last stages. We were still stapling and painting the turtle heads at 11:00 PM on the Sunday night before the first rally.

Until volunteers started showing up at the First United Methodist Church in Seattle that Monday morning, we were never sure we would actually have the bodies to fill the turtle suits. But they just kept coming. Everybody was issued a front, back, head and a flag. The flag was modeled on the early American Gadsden flag with a coiled rattlesnake and the slogan "Don't Tread on Me". In redrawing the design for silk-screening, I changed the motto slightly to Don't Trade on Me, and added NO/WTO SEATTLE 1999, ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE. Soon we had over 240 people ranging in age from 13- 80, suited



Mac Hawley (left) and AWI's Jen Rinick (right) were active anti-WTO marchers. Hawley filmed the marchers and other significant events in Seattle.



up and in a festive mood. I gave a brief speech exacting the promise from all that we would behave in a manner that would honor sea turtles – the pacifists of the animal kingdom: we would march peacefully for our sovereign right to make national laws protecting sea turtles.

The turtles were an instant hit. Everywhere we went, people cheered us. The lightheartedness of our approach combined with the beautiful hand made costumes won us huge popular support. We marched with about 3-4,000 other supporters of animals and the environment to a rally right next to the WTO venue. There I briefly joined Congressman George Miller, Senator Paul Wellstone, Carl Pope of the Sierra Club, and Patti Forkan of HSUS on the speaker platform to rally the turtles in a rousing cheer.

On Monday, volunteers were given a choice of actions for Tuesday, the official opening day of the WTO. One group met at 6:00 AM to join a massive civil disobedience demonstration

tance” it was meant to be: huge puppets, dancers, cheerleaders, jugglers, turtles and “trees” danced in the streets and celebrated the suspension of the WTO’s morning activities.

All morning, the direct action turtles moved to plug gaps in the protest lines that were keeping WTO delegates from the meetings. Even the police were glad to see us show up, throwing a peaceful line between themselves and other protesters. At one point I looked around and realized that at 48 years of age, as a veteran of dozens of often violent antiwar protests, I was one of the few people among either the police or protest lines who had been through this before. I spent most of my time trying to calm people down, telling them not to be afraid.

By early afternoon, the blocking of the entrances was an acknowledged success. A handful of very tired turtles, a little surprised not to have been arrested, waited alongside the parade route of the massive labor march. The feeling of joy and unity was unlike anything I have seen. Steelworkers



Mac Hawley

*“We would march peacefully for our sovereign right to make national laws protecting sea turtles.”*  
– Ben White

designed to shut down the WTO peacefully by blocking all of the major streets around the Washington Trade and Convention Center. Another group of turtles met at 9:00 AM and marched with a mammoth inflatable turtle into the big labor march organized by AFL-CIO, the Steelworkers and the Teamsters.

7:00 AM Tuesday saw about forty turtles walking arm in arm down the middle of Seventh Avenue in a light rain as the gray skies slowly lightened. Flags flapping, we marched directly to the intersection we had been assigned to obstruct. Soon, a line of turtles stretched across Eighth and Olive. Behind us, the entire block was beribboned with about four miles of yellow “crime scene” tape that said UNSEEN CRIMES. At about 8:30 we were met by over seven thousand people organized by the Ruckus Society, Art and Revolution and the Direct Action Network. The antithesis of an angry mob, it was truly the “pageant of resis-

marched with Filipino workers, native rights advocates with child labor activists, Teamsters with organic farmers, monster puppets from Art and Revolution walked alongside AFL-CIO officials. “Where are the turtles?” I kept asking. “Oh, there are a bunch of them coming,” I was reassured.

Finally, three blocks away I see an enormous green bubble coming towards me. As it came closer I saw dozens of absolutely ebullient turtles holding up the 20’ long inflatable mama turtle. They told me that when they had marched into Memorial Stadium, already packed with tens of thousands of organized labor supporters, an enormous cheer went up for the turtles.

As upwards of forty thousand people marched peacefully through downtown Seattle, a few dozen self-avowed Anarchists from Eugene, Oregon went on a rampage breaking store win-

dows and spraying graffiti everywhere. They specifically targeted certain large corporations: Nike, Banana Republic, Starbucks, Nordstroms. Oddly, some police just watched it happen. When they finally responded it was against peaceful protesters. By Tuesday afternoon, the police were attacking with huge clouds of teargas and barrages of wooden and rubber bullets. Tuesday night saw a general curfew extended over all of downtown Seattle. Only those with WTO credentials were allowed on the streets.

Early the next morning seven volunteers showed up wanting to join ongoing protests in turtle suits. After they promised to stay together and stay peaceful, I handed out the suits. One hour later, watching news coverage as I waited for another wave of volunteers due at 9:00, I saw the volunteers cuffed in a circle with a pile of turtle costumes alongside. I decided then that organized peaceful protest had been foreclosed and that it was time to pack up. Some turtles remained, however, until the end of the conference on Friday. Not one ever engaged in any angry or violent behavior.

Writing this a few days after the conference closed, I can report on just the first fallout of the WTO protests in Seattle. On Saturday, the Seattle papers carried the banner headlines: WTO Talks Collapse. One of our major objectives, that there be no new round of talks to increase the power of the WTO over our lives, had been achieved. Delegates from small third world countries said they were emboldened by

the protesters to refuse to accept decisions made by a few powerful countries meeting behind closed doors. Delegates now are at such a fundamental impasse it appears they will have difficulty getting back on track next year at their planned mini-meeting in Geneva.

By the time the smoke and gas cleared, over 600 protesters had been arrested. Almost all had been exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest and freedom of speech. The Chief of Police has resigned and the Mayor may follow him, both very embarrassed by police overreaction and their blind welcome of the WTO in the first place.

The turtles were covered very favorably in the New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, the Christian Science Monitor, USA Today and many other media. They have somehow become an icon for "flamboyant" protests of the nineties. We now are making plans to put them on the streets of Geneva if and when the WTO decides to raise its ugly head again.



Michael Reppy

Ben White discussing WTO policies with the Seattle police.

The real success coming out of the Battle of Seattle is the empowerment of civil society and the alliances made between groups that previously had little to do with each other. The corporate power grab of the WTO is so egregious it has galvanized activists of every social movement around the world. Suddenly it has become clear that it is the same people who are working globally against animal protection, against human rights and labor justice. Suddenly teenage kids are debating trade issues. And one image came through crystal clear: the turtles.

My favorite quote of the week was from the Seattle Province-Intelligencer. A reporter overheard two elderly ladies in Seattle talking. One said, "What is all of this fuss about WTO anyway?" Her friend replied, "Oh, I don't know, something about sea turtles."

That's when I knew that we had succeeded in putting animal issues in the forefront of the now international debate over the group that presumes to speak on our behalf: the WTO. 🐢



Jen Rinick / AWI

The mother turtle leads baby turtles to the Memorial Station for AFC-CIO rally.



Jen Rinick / AWI

Like the precious free-roaming sea turtles, each turtle was unique in his or her own design.

# Polish Delegation Investigates American Agribusiness Repudiates Factory Farming

by Tom Garrett

## The New Breed and the Rise of Smithfield Foods

During the 1970s and 80s, U.S. meat packing was taken over by a “new breed” of ruthless entrepreneurs who broke the power of the unions, reduced real wages to a third of their previous level and replaced a stable, American-born workforce with a shifting population of Hispanic and Asian immigrants. Under this regime, workplace injuries have soared making meat packing the most dangerous industry in America. Deaths from food poisoning, with contaminated meat the primary culprit, have risen five fold to 9,000 annually. The Humane Slaughter Act because of the subjugation of the Food Safety and Inspection Service by the industry and a 2-300% increase in “line speed”—the speed of the conveyor on which animals are hung to be stunned and killed — is no longer enforced. Once unthinkable atrocities, such as dumping conscious hogs into “scalding tanks”, are now commonplace.

While the packing industry was being “reformed” a parallel trend gathered force in production of hogs. During the 1970s, investors in Duplin County, North Carolina began raising hogs in buildings with slatted floors, which can be cleaned by hosing the manure through the slats and flushing it into open cesspools. This technology grew rapidly during the 1980s. Hundreds of metal buildings containing a thousand or more hogs each and open cesspools filled with liquefied hog manure sprouted across North Carolina’s coastal plain.

In 1991, Smithfield Foods of Smithfield, Virginia opened the world’s largest slaughterhouse, 800 acres in extent, on the Cape Fear River in Bladen County, North Carolina. With the opening of the Tarheel plant, which is capable of killing in excess of 24,000 animals a day, hog factory development, no longer held back by a shortage of killing capacity, exploded. By 1996, one of every five hogs raised in the United States came from North Carolina and Smithfield Foods was propelled from the status of a regional piranha to that of a dominant player in the industry. As the North Carolina technology spread beyond the state, and hog factories metasitized through the mid-west, Smithfield expanded with them, buying up dozens of competing slaughterhouses. In 1997, Smithfield edged out IBP as the world’s largest hog butcher.

At the same time Smithfield moved toward “vertical integration” (a system that eliminates competition by controlling the rais-

“In 1991, Smithfield Foods of Smithfield, Virginia opened the world’s largest slaughterhouse . . .”

ing, slaughtering and marketing of pigs). Late in 1998, taking advantage of the unprecedented crash in the price of live hogs, Smithfield purchased North Carolina based Carroll’s Foods, America’s second-largest hog factory operator and a major turkey producer as well. In the fall of 1999, Smithfield announced the purchase of the world’s biggest hog production company, Murphy Farms. These acquisitions have left Smithfield as the owner of 675,000 sows, four times as many as its closest remaining competitor and enough to produce nearly 10 million pigs for slaughter each year. Around 23% of the pigs slaughtered in the U.S. in 1999 were killed in Smithfield plants. In the year 2000, Smithfield will raise six of every ten pigs killed in its slaughterhouses.

Smithfield’s multi-billion-dollar takeover in America has been matched by aggressive expansion overseas. In 1998, it gained control of Schneiders, Canada’s second largest packing company, bought two French meat processing firms, entered a joint venture with Mexican investors for a hog production complex in Hermosillo, Sonora and invested \$100 million in hog factories in the Brazilian state of Matto Grosso.

## The Polish Connection

Smithfield’s most ambitious initiative fueled by a \$400 million line of credit with Chase Manhattan and a group of German, Dutch and Japanese banks, has been directed at Poland. In March 1999, Smithfield acquired 67% of the capitol stock in Animex S.A., Poland’s largest meat and poultry processing Company for only \$43 million. Exulting over having acquired the company at “a fraction of the hundreds of millions that it would take to build that same infrastructure today,” Smithfield CEO Joseph W. Luter made no secret of his intention to take over pork production in Poland. “The pork industry in Poland is, in many ways, similar to the U.S. pork industry of 30 years ago,” Luter concluded. “We believe the strategies and practices we have followed in the U.S. will work equally well, perhaps even better in Poland and Europe.” In July, it was learned that Smithfield was planning as many as four large hog factory complexes in western Poland including one near Poznan with a rumored capacity of 900,000 animals.

Luter’s assessment of Poland as easy prey may, however, prove egregiously wrong. Poland’s sturdy peas-

ants staved off attempts at collectivization and emerged from communism with 80% of farmland still in private hands. Poland has two million farms with an average size of only 21 acres. A quarter of Poland’s people still live on farms and an additional 15% live in rural villages and towns. Having survived communism, Polish peasants show no disposition to submit gently to the pressures of the

“Joseph W. Luter made no secret of his intention to take over pork production in Poland.”

global market. Last winter, in response to a flood of subsidized E.U. imports and the same ruinous crash in

farm commodity prices that has driven tens of thousands more American farm families off the land, Polish farmers blockaded roads, highways, railroad bridges and border crossings all over Poland. With public opinion, even in the cities, favoring the farmers, the Polish government was forced to relieve the situation by buying commodities and raising tariffs against imports.

When trade journals reported in February 1999 that the spearpoint of Smithfield's invasion of Europe was to be Poland, AWI worked to "get the word out" to Polish humane and environmental groups. In June, AWI President Christine Stevens gave the green light to my idea of bringing Polish activists to the United States to see for themselves exactly what Joe Luter meant in promising to "replicate" Smithfield's American success in Poland. The project gained force when Agnes Van Volkenburgh, a brilliant third year veterinary student at the University of Illinois who had volunteered to translate, spoke directly on the phone with Andrzej Lepper, head of Poland's Samoobrona (self-defense) farmers' union. Lepper, catapulted into prominence by his leadership of the blockades and ranking high in the polls despite press efforts to demonize him, eventually accepted AWI's invitation.

On September 7th, Agnes, AWI's Farm Animal Specialist Diane Halverson and I went to Dulles Airport to greet a Polish delegation that included not only Lepper and his deputy Janusz Malewicz, but Roman Wierzbicki head of Rural Solidarity of Independent Farmers and co-leader of the blockades and Marek Kaczynski, chairman of Poland's Parliamentary Commission on Agriculture. Arriving with them were humane activists Ewa Gebert and Zbigniew Jaskolski, ecologists Dr. Kazimierz Rasztyń and Malgorzata Jermak, Samoobrona deputy Janusz Malewicz, and two journalists Harald Kittel and Igor Parnas. At dinner hosted by AWI's senior diplomat, John Gleiber, I sat between the two farm leaders. Courteous, well informed, insightful, they bore absolutely no resemblance to the crude demagogues portrayed by the Warsaw press.

September 8th began with breakfast for the Polish delegates at the Washington Headquarters of International Union for Food with officials from the Food Allied Service Trades (FAST) and Food and Commercial Workers Union at the table. The subject was Smithfield's "union busting" activities with myriad instances of intimidation, bullying, bribery and other thuggish acts designed to keep company workers free of union influence. The Poles, from a nation liberated from communism by grass roots unionism and where trade unions are at the core of both major political blocs, seemed genuinely shocked.

The next stop was a meeting hall near the little town of Tillery, North Carolina that serves as the headquarters of the Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association (BFAA). Here we sat down for a lunch cooked by the black families who had come from miles around and waited patiently for our arrival. Then BFAA President Gary Grant and his associates, with Agnes translating, recounted the stark fate of black farmers in America. In 1920, there were 926,000 black farmers in America; in 1992 fewer than 19,000 remained. Almost half of black operated farms are smaller than 50 acres. The black land base is evaporating week by week. For example, in 1950 black farmers owned 1.2 million acres of land in North Carolina; today they own 200,000 acres.

Why had the disaster engulfing family farmers descended with such particular vengeance on those who are black? One obvious reason is that black farmers have been systematically denied credit. And nowhere, as Gary Grant showed, has the bias been more extreme than in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1984-5, for example, of 16,000 farmers who received USDA loans only 209 were black. In 1998, USDA agreed to settle a lawsuit filed against USDA by BFAA by dispensing \$1.2 billion to black farmers victimized by discriminatory policies. Thus far, however, not a dime has been dispensed.

Floyd Hawkins, one of the only remaining family hog farmers

in the region, described how Smithfield has destroyed traditional hog farmers in North Carolina by forcing small slaughterhouses out of business and then refusing to buy small lots of hogs on the grounds that they "lack uniformity."

The Poles, with a sense of injustice honed by decades of oppression and conflict, were clearly moved by what they heard. Driving southeast on secondary roads toward New Bern, on the central coast we passed hundreds of abandoned farmhouses and crumbling barns, depressing visual confirmation of Gary Grant's statistics.

Arriving in New Bern at dusk, the delegation was welcomed, in fluent Polish, by John Dove, the 93-year-old Polish-American father of the Neuse Riverkeeper, retired Marine Corps Colonel Rick Dove. On September 9, Col. Dove, who is hired by the Neuse River Foundation to try to protect the river, opened a half-day seminar on the Neuse ecosystem. He began with an extraordinary video, assembled from years of patiently acquired footage that chronicled the decline of the beautiful and productive Neuse River during a period coinciding with the explosion of hog factories in its watershed. Much of the footage dealt

"Viewers were then taken inside the hog factories where sows spend their entire lives, never smelling the earth or seeing the sky, in steel cages so small that they cannot even turn around."

with the toxic dinoflagellate *Pfiesteria piscicida*, the "cell from hell" which has killed billions of fish in North Carolina rivers and estuaries over the past decade. This appalling organism, with

one of the most complex life cycles observed, can kill fish at a concentration of only 300 per milliliter. Dove filmed many thousands of dead, dying and suffering fish all displaying the ghastly, ulcerative lesions that are the mark of *Pfiesteria*.

The video then shifted to the sources of the nutrient overload that has stimulated blooms of algae and led to toxic concentrations of *Pfiesteria* in North Carolina's rivers and estuaries. Aerial footage showed sewage from open cesspools being sprayed on reclaimed marshland crossed with drainage ditches that lead directly to the Neuse and even sprayed on fields partially inundated from heavy rains. Close up shots showed the same effluent leaching — sometimes pouring — into the river. Viewers were then taken inside the hog factories where sows spend their entire lives, never smelling the earth or seeing the sky, in steel cages so small that they cannot even turn around. Many were chewing the bars in a repetitive motion called stereotypies typical of animals deprived of normal sensory stimulation. This was followed by utterly sickening scenes from an undercover video taken by a member of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) member working in a North Carolina hog factory which document a pattern of vicious, deliberate cruelty, especially against sows whose time has come to be "culled."

A battery of scientific experts then took the floor. Dr. Larry Cahoon from the University of North Carolina discussed the pollution of North Carolina's rivers and estuaries and explained what scientists do, and do not, know about *Pfiesteria* and other toxic algae and dinoflagellates. Dr. Lynn Grattan, Director of the Neuropsychology Program at the University of Maryland, described the effects of *Pfiesteria* on humans, hundreds of whom — fishermen, tourists, commercial watermen, even children playing in the water — have become victims. The ugly lesions and ulcerations appearing on victims' bodies are by no means the only results of exposure. *Pfiesteria* emits a potent neurotoxin, which leaves persons subjected to repeated exposures mumbling like punch-drunk fighters, unable to concentrate or even to count or perform simple tasks. Fortunately, after a sufficiently long period of non-exposure, most victims appear to recover. Dr. Melya Okuni from the North Carolina School of Public Health then



described her research on the long-term impact of hog factories on the health of those who live nearby and are unable to escape the stench and disruption. One common response, said Dr. Okuni, is severe depression.

The seminar ended with presentations by two veterans of North Carolina's hog wars, Tom Mattison and Don Webb. In 1996, Mattison, Riverkeeper of the smaller New River, faced what — to that time — had been the world's largest hog spill, an estimated 20 million gallons of raw hog waste flowing directly into the river. For days, Mattison told us, state officials, rather than take measures to protect public health, tried to cover up the spill and deny that it existed. Ex-hog farmer Don Webb, a big man with a voice to match, described how Smithfield and the hog barons had driven traditional hog farmers (whose numbers in North Carolina plummeted from 27,000 to under 5,000 in barely over a decade) out of business and dwelled on the political corruption that facilitated the corporate takeover.

By this time, the Poles had heard enough to respond. Ewa Gebert reminded everyone that cruelty to animals and cruelty to children and other humans are part of the same syndrome. The leaders of the two powerful farm unions stated simply and bluntly that hog factories will

“These are concentration camps for hogs,”  
said Andrzej Lepper. “We had concentration  
camps in Poland before. We will not  
allow them again.”

not be permitted in Poland. Asked by reporter Penny Round if the unions would employ “aggressive means” to prevent Smithfield from building hog factories in their country, Rural Solidarity head Roman Wierzbicki replied “We will do whatever we

have to do to stop them.” “These are concentration camps for hogs,” said Andrzej Lepper. “We had concentration camps in Poland before. We will not allow them again.”

Lepper made a remark which was to prove prophetic: “Learning of this situation, I am reminded of a Polish proverb,” he said, “God forgives always. Man forgives sometimes. Nature never forgives.”

During the afternoon, Rick Dove mobilized his “airforce,” three light aircraft flown by ex-military pilots, and each of us had an opportunity to view the crop of hog factories, sown thickly across the Neuse floodplain, from the air. The installations look very much alike, a neat row of long metal sheds with one, and sometimes two open cesspools, bilious green in color, positioned nearby. Several units were often visible at the same time and even in a comparatively short flight we over flew dozens. A striking feature was the proximity of cesspools to watercourse, which could be easily identified by the lines of trees bordering them. It appeared that the designers had deliberately positioned cesspools on low ground.

## *The Heart of Darkness*

On September 10 the delegation drove to Duplin County, the Pandora's box where the spreading plague of hog factories finds its origin. In John and Becky Lancaster's immaculate living room, the Poles listened to local residents explain how the hog industry had changed their lives. While the previous night's rain had cleared the air said Mrs. Lancaster, many days the atmosphere around her house was, quite literally, nauseating. Visitors held their noses hurrying from their cars to the house; the children couldn't go outside to play. An emaciated woman stood up to say that her doctor had urged to move out of the county because the ammonia from hog cesspools aggravated her asthma. “But how can I?” she asked. “Everything I own is here. Who would buy my house?” Others mentioned water pollution. “Blue baby syndrome” traced to nitrites in drinking water is common in the county. A man said his children had been chronically ill until he began buying bottled water. “The worst thing of all,” said former county commissioner Darrel Walker, with others nodding, “is the complete takeover of this county by the hog industry. They bought everyone who can be bought, and bullied and intimidated most who can't be. At this point they simply own the county government.”

We set off with our friends, for a tour of a county that has abandoned itself land and soul, to industrial agriculture. Ordinary agricultural pursuits seem to have been forgotten. Most farms are unoccupied; fields are often overgrown, farm equipment often left to rust. Fine two story farmhouses stand empty and weathering while imported laborers live in trailer houses propped on cinder blocks. One is rarely out of sight of the telltale glint of metal buildings housing hog factories. We stopped at a sign proclaiming “Hog Hell,” and turned up a narrow dirt road to an open field. On every side were hog factories; in the center was a small house. The stench, although not overpowering, was pervasive. “This is a good day,” said Mr. Johnson, who had stayed home from work and stood waiting, among a small multitude of dogs, to greet us. “You should be around when they spray or when it settles in. There's five cesspools — they call 'em lagoons — in half a mile.” He explained that he owned only five acres and the right of way along the road. As for his twenty-six dogs: “They're about all strays” he said. “I don't know how they know to come here, but they do. They've got a right to live too. If they can stand the stink, and the others will let 'em eat, they're welcome. I feed a sack of dog food a day.”

Several of us walked down the road to a hog factory, a row of metal sheds and an open cesspool, that we had passed on the way in. Soon, the party followed and the Poles began peering in the buildings. A feed truck approached and a young man got out, looking worried. “This ain't good,” he said. “The Boss is comin' and he ain't gonna like this.” He had no sooner spoken than a pickup truck appeared,

“We set off with our friends, for a tour of a  
country that has abandoned itself land and soul,  
to industrial agriculture.”

jouncing at high speed up the uneven road. The driver leaped out. “This here's private property! Who the hell are them people?” he shouted. “You brought 'em, did ya? Who the hell are you? Show me some identification.”

“Show me your badge and I'll be glad to” I said. “I ain't got a badge,” said he, “but I damn sure know somebody who has”. Then, apparently finding me menacing, he locked the doors of his pickup and began dialing a cell phone “He's callin' the Sheriff,” the young man advised, “you better git them people out real quick.”

“Welcome to Duplin County” said John Lancaster after the delegation was safely loaded. “We've got our own little police state right here.” He had another reminder when we reached a cafeteria for a farewell meal. “Take off that anti-hog button before we go in. Remember where you are.”

En route back to D.C., we reached the town of Smithfield, Virginia, and motored past the cavernous slaughterhouse from which Smithfield Foods earned a 12.6 million dollar fine, the largest ever imposed under the Clean Water Act, for over 6,900 illegal discharges into the Pagan River. Up river is Smithfield's new corporate headquarters, with Joe Luter's yacht anchored nearby.

## Journey to Middle America

September 13 began with an early morning flight from National Airport to Kansas City. There, we boarded vans and drove to Unionville, Missouri for a rendezvous with Terry Spence, a leader in the struggle against Premium Standard Farms (PSF, now owned by Continental Grain) which is the second largest hog factory operator in the U.S. Northern Missouri is an area of rolling hills with numerous creeks and live oak thickets. The only disquieting feature of this bucolic landscape is the extraordinary number of derelict farmhouses; a mute commentary on the tragedy that has overtaken Rural America.

After meeting Spence, we entered an area absolutely dominated by hog factories. There are 22 “units” in this cluster of hog factories Spence told us, totaling 198 sheds in which 218,000 feeder pigs are confined. We stopped at one unit, consisting of nine metal sheds, each containing 1100 hogs. A pickup truck containing PSF security men, which had been tailing us, parked 100 yards away to keep the delegation under surveillance.

As we drove on (always with one or two “units” in sight) we noticed silo like structures built at the edge of low hills. These are repositories for dead pigs. The “dead truck”, which visits each shed daily, backs up to the top of the silo and disgorges its cargo. When the silo is full, a larger truck backs under the bottom of it, a trap door is opened and the carcasses cascade down and are hauled to the PSF rendering plant. There they are processed and fed to the surviving pigs.

Once safely off PSF land we drove to the Spence farm. The yard was already full of pickup trucks; 30 or so local farmers had come in to meet the Poles. It was a clear, warm evening amid the rolling Missouri hills. Fortunately, the wind was in the right direction to clear away the scent of hog factories.

After supper, the farmers stood up, with painful earnestness to tell about their trouble with Premium Standard Farms. We tried to work within the

system, they said. But the system betrayed us. Even now, after purported legal victories, we are nowhere. They are still here and they are slowly destroying us. What can we do?

The two Polish farm leaders responded. Even across the language barrier they were eloquent and forceful, and the farmers, listening intently, broke into clapping again and again. The Poles described the tactics they had been forced to use when the government ignored their problems, how they had occupied buildings, sometimes local offices, sometimes entire ministries in Warsaw. They told how they set up roadblocks, turning back trucks but allowing ordinary traffic to go around and how they had resisted the police when attacked. In these cases they had often set fire to rows of old tires to deter the police charges. They also equipped themselves with numerous buckets of liquefied hog manure, which they mixed and sealed in their barnyards before setting out. The police, said Lepper, were very sensitive to being doused with liquid hog manure because it is almost impossible to get the smell out of their woolen uniforms.

When Kaczynski, taking exception to his colleagues, urged the Americans to operate strictly within the rules, Scott Dye, the deep voiced Sierra Club staffer whose mother lives downwind of PSF hog factories, had an answer. “Been there! Done that!” he said. “We went to our legislators. The company bought them. We went to our state officials. The company bought them. We went to the courts. It goes from appeal to appeal. The Feds are supposed to be on our side. So far that has meant nothing.” Terry Spence stood up to say that if he had known what he now knows, he would have taken direct action at the beginning and either stopped PSF or “gone down fighting.”

Wierzbicki had the last word. “My friends” he said, “Listen to me. If you take direct action, plan an action that you have a real chance of winning. If you undertake something you can’t win, the farmers may become discouraged and give up. Conversely, a win — even if it is a small win — will encourage them and they will continue to fight.”

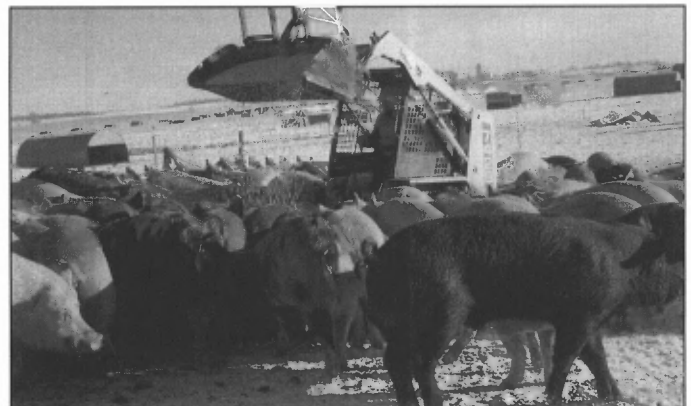
On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we drove through the variegated southern Iowa landscape for a noon press conference in Des Moines, arranged by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. After lunch, we continued north to the town of Clear Lake. Northern Iowa is much flatter than the southern part of the state and has fewer streams and lakes. The farmland here is so valuable that instead of being left derelict, as in North Carolina and Missouri, abandoned farmsteads are bulldozed away. This has been the fate not only of countless farms in the region, but of churches, country schoolhouses and even villages. One sees fields of corn or soybeans stretching, almost without interruption, to the horizon.

That evening, the delegation attended another seminar, which included hog farmers down from Minnesota to tell how they

had been victimized by the John Morrell Packing Company owned by Smithfield. The following morning, clear, windless and warm, with the first scents of autumn in the air, we visited farms

raising hogs for Niman Ranch according to the humane husbandry protocol developed by AWI’s Diane Halverson.

Our first stops were at adjoining farms owned by the Menke brothers. We began at Paul Menke’s farm, walking through a cornfield to a couple of small — perhaps one acre — enclosures bordered by elm trees. Each contained three or four sows with thirty or so piglets a few weeks old. The piglets would approach curiously, with big eyes, then suddenly take fright and run to the other end of the pen. In a moment they would return, the bold ones leading, the timid ones hanging back, to repeat the process until some of us captured their interest by tossing out ears of corn from the adjoining field.



Feeding sows and boars on the Willis Free Range Pig Farm on a crisp winter morning.

Paul Willis

1042

Then we skirted the cornfield to a much larger compound, a miniature pig city full of farrowing huts of every type and state of repair, watering troughs, feeding troughs, "creep feeders" (designed so piglets can enter but sows cannot) even an old school bus body for shade. Each sow had *her* hut, big enough to accommodate her and her piglets and provide shelter for them during rainy spells. Paul told us that all of the corn he raised on his farm was ground up and fed to pigs and that once he had harvested a field he turned the pigs on it to graze. "They glean every kernel," he said.

Paul explained that the pigs have separate summering and wintering quarters. In late spring, summer and early fall, the pigs live in field compounds; in late fall and winter they live in "hoop houses" piled deeply with straw or cornstalks. After each summer season, the entire hog city, school bus and all, is moved to another tract. Paul waits five years before returning with his pigs to the same piece of ground. "Hopefully five years is enough time for the soil to rid itself of pathogens," he said. "So far, I've had almost no disease."

Pat Menke's operation is similar to his brother's but with the refinement of a spray system rigged so pigs can stand under it in hot weather and get cooled down. Pat, who also follows a five-year cycle, stresses the soil building features of his system. "I had pigs on that piece of ground last year," he said, pointing to a cornfield next to his compound. "I expect to get 200 bushels without a pound of fertilizer."

Paul Willis' operation is similar in principle to the others, but on a grander scale with a full 20 acres for the pigs to roam in. On the Willis property we had a look at some hoop houses which were opened up and used by the pigs for shade. The frames were covered with heavy, plasticized canvas, which, absent a severe hailstorm can be expected to last at least six years. I asked Willis about tail biting. "For the most part we are free of it," he said. "But from time to time



*Expectant mothers in winter housing area on the Willis Free Range Pig Farm. Composting in the deep bedding keeps the pigs warm.*

a female — always a female — starts to bite tails. There is nothing to do, once you identify her, but to segregate her from the others."

We examined one more farm, where weaner pigs lived in barns on deep straw and exercised in adjacent lots. Then we said good-bye to our friends, including anti-corporate activists, Jim and Pamela Braun, and turned toward Chicago.

The last night, before a final press conference and reception in Polish Chicago, was spent at the Sinsinawa Visitor's Center, a Catholic retreat across the Mississippi from Dubuque, Iowa. There we awoke to an extraordinary view: to the east the red sun rising through a caul of mist over the hill country of northern Illinois, to the south and west the great river hidden by a slowly ascending blanket of fog. The scene from the dining hall, fully glassed for 120 degrees, was especially panoramic. We sat at our own table among a couple of hundred sweetly smiling nuns, eating breakfast and gazing at a sight most of us are unlikely to see again.

## Nature Never Forgives

Even as the tour came to an end, the truth of the Polish saying "Nature never forgives" was borne out as floodwaters from Hurricane Floyd epoured across North Carolina's coastal plain. The flood waters inundated scores, probably hundreds, of hog factories in North Carolina and southeastern Virginia drowning — by USDA estimates — at least half a million pigs trapped in their stalls as well as millions of chickens and turkeys. Most of the installations the delegation viewed from the air were submerged.

Vast quantities perhaps, as much as a quarter billion gallons of liquefied hog waste, were released by the floods. Satellite images showed a brown plume of waste filling Albemarle and Pimlico Sounds and moving out to sea. Persons returning to flooded homes found their belongings coated with a fecal scum; tens of thousands of water wells were contaminated. Despite frantic efforts of North Carolina officials and the hog barons to cover up the magnitude of the disaster, its impact on fishing and tourism can be hardly short of calamitous. Beaches will eventually stop stinking, but no one knows how long it may take fragile coastal ecosystems to recover.

In the meantime, having been exposed to the realities of American agribusiness, the heads of Poland's powerful farm unions have stated publicly and unequivocally in Polish media that they will not allow Smithfield to build hog factories in Poland. Andrzej Lepper has addressed an ultimatum to Smithfield CEO Joe Luter telling him that Samoobrona cannot be bought and that "if Smithfield does not heed Samoobrona's warning it will feel Samoobrona's fists."

Lepper has invited AWI to assemble a delegation of U.S. activists for a tour of Poland at Samoobrona's expense. Two other farm unions, Rural Solidarity and Farmer's Circle have asked to co-host.

*"... Having been exposed to the realities of American agribusiness, the heads of Poland's powerful farm unions have stated publicly and unequivocally in Polish media that they will not allow Smithfield to build hog factories in Poland."*

The unions and public interest groups are anxious to enter co-operative projects, such as setting up a model farm to demonstrate the humane husbandry techniques observed in Iowa. Lepper has asked for American help in applying the river keeper's concept as a means of protecting Polish rivers.

One of the most gratifying effects of the Polish tour was seen in the U.S. During the tour, as though a fairy godmother had waved her wand, the words "cruelty" and "animal welfare" ceased to be taboo. Rick Dove set the tone by showing excerpts from the PETA video. The Poles, one and all, attacked hog factories for their cruelty. American speakers, as though it was no longer "sissy" to speak what had been in their minds all the time, picked up the theme. 🐾

THE THOUGHTS OF

# Andrzej Lepper

*President of Samoobrona (which means self-defense), a major Polish Farmers' Union*



Diane Halverson / AWI

Photo above, from left to right: Gary Grant, President, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, Andrzej Lepper, President of Samoobrona and L.C. Cooper, Chapter President, Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association.

*These provocative ideas came to Mr. Lepper during the course of the AWI-sponsored invitational tour for Polish leaders designed to show them the enormous contrast between humane family farms and the appalling hog factories in the United States.*

## *Ecological Farming and How To Interpret It*

Ecology is an area of interest and activism in modern society which calls for preserving the natural environment: building new relations between humankind and nature: and determining a new role for mankind as "guardians" of the world. In other words, it is a philosophy of creating a new order, a new way of life in harmony with the laws of nature and socioeconomic progress, in which humankind and respect for all forms of life are the greatest values.

Ecology means order (logos) in our homes, in accord with the laws of nature, and by home I mean the family home, the country, the world and the cosmos.

A new style of life in harmony with nature, a new style of progress of civilization and respect for all life, not only human, wise and conscientious use of natural resources introducing harmony of life between humankind and nature - all of this constitutes ecological development.

We define humankind as the greatest player in this development and respecting laws of nature as its greatest value. In reaffirming and broadening the concept of "humaneness" we create a new philosophy for humankind as co-creators of evolution, as thoughtful caretakers who shape the environment, without abusing it, without devastating nature and inflicting suffering in the world on non-human animals.

No one is as entrenched in the issues of the environment as farmers. The country is their natural environment, a sanctuary from the pollution produced by large cities and industry. The majority of the public is not aware of these facts. The public does not acknowledge the arguments for maintaining a natural balance in the environment nor the need to clean up the environment at the cost of all of society—for all of society's health.

Farmers and the rural community are not only the "guardians" of natural resources, they also must produce adequate amounts of healthy food. Ecologically appropriate technological methods need to be employed in raising crops as well as livestock.

Healthy food is most readily produced in conditions afforded by family farms.

The well being of all humankind is at stake. Healthy food consists in many kinds of products of plant and animal origin. The concept of healthy food does not include chemically contaminated products of animal factories, rather it necessitates natural farming and Polish farming is natural farming.

Along with the majority of Polish farmers, I am a Catholic, so here are my moral and religious impressions on this issue. I think humankind, the highest form of life, received (as the Bible tells us) a concession from God, to use nature and living

**"We have enslaved the earth and all its life; We have disturbed the natural order instead of accepting it... We should NOT create situations which may prove to be globally disastrous."**

beings for our benefit. But we have violated the planet; we have violated the biological balance; we have polluted the air and waters: not to keep alive, but for material gain, to amass riches, to live in luxury and beyond our needs. We have misunderstood the Bible's directions. We have enslaved the earth and all its life; we have disturbed the natural order instead of accepting it. We have failed to be good stewards of the earth that God has given us. We should love the earth that sustains our life, and thoughtfully use her goods and resources. Today, as intelligent beings, we must be fully aware of our responsibility to use that

TRANSLATED FROM THE POLISH BY *Agnes Van Volkenburgh*



intelligence. The fact that nature has allowed us to expand and harness its power doesn't mean we should fulfill our unnatural whims at the price of the environment and the fundamental natural order. We should not create situations which may prove to be globally disastrous.

Farming must take on a new obligation: keeping the country ecologically safe. Accepting this obligation requires proper knowledge and training from the scientific community — we do not have that. This lack of training is not viewed as important by some politicians and economists who focus on financial gain.

Ecological humaneness requires the rural economy to adopt humane attitudes towards farm animals. These are living beings who have emotions, who feel and experience suffering, and have natural instincts which need to be expressed.

It is essential, therefore, to do everything to allow the animals on farms an opportunity to live happy lives, to treat them with respect and empathy. A broadened concept of humaneness and regard for all forms of life should motivate us to respect the natural laws of the animal world, in the same way we respect the human right to dignity. The right to live with dignity in the case of animals is a life without suffering and without taking away their natural environment. The life of any being is a great mystery and a natural phenomenon deserving of the greatest reverence and care.

Problems of ecologically preserving the environment and humaneness toward life of all species is becoming a global concern. Europeans still care what happens to the rain forests of the Amazon, the waters of the oceans, the ice of Antarctica. The inhabitants of the Americas care about the rivers and mountains of Eastern Europe. As well as International coordination of environmental activism even international jurisdiction over violations of nature and its devastation.

Society, just like the environment, is subject to damage by pathological factors, economical and political. This pollution is evident in Poland.

There is a need to introduce a new order and harmony into our lives and our society. It is a problem in human ecology, as mentioned by Pope John Paul II, the moral postulate of "love thy neighbor," the practice of which is often so difficult. Let's remember this when we take a stance on international issues, like the current topic of ecology. 🐾

## Is Poland's Private Farming In Danger?

During my visit to the U.S., sponsored by AWI (September 7 through 18), I saw industrial "hog factory" farms and poultry farms, much the same as the ones which existed in Poland during the communist times. Many of those are still in existence today.

Smithfield Foods Inc., with the permission from the U.S. Government, with no regard for animal welfare or the environment, built hundreds of farms which produce millions of hogs. Smithfield led to the destruction of countless private farms. If we idly stand by and watch the expansion of this company in our country, the same fate awaits our farmers. That is

why we appeal to everyone, farmers and local governments — **Do not allow the construction of factory farms for hogs, poultry, or cattle, not only by Smithfield, but by any other company!** By blockading the construction of factory farms we are saving our beautiful environment, we are protecting animals from being raised in inhumane conditions but most of all we are saving our family farms.

**"The construction of factory farms must be stopped! Let us not allow Poland to be invaded by this cancer, which we already experienced during the communist times!"**

American farmers were tricked, they woke up too late, let us not make the same mistake! Let's act before it is too late, not after!

The President of Smithfield Foods, Inc., Joe Luter, has announced that he will conquer Poland, and has received permission to do so from anti-Polish, anti-farmer successive governments of Poland.

The construction of factory farms must be stopped! Let us not allow Poland to be invaded by this cancer, which we already experienced during the communist times! It is our duty! Future generations of Poles will not forgive us the sin of idly standing by. 🐾

## North Carolina Flooding

September 28, 1999

Since the factory farms were destroyed by the flood and given the amount of destruction they have brought to the environment and to private farmers, it is clear that they should not be rebuilt.



*Hogs desperately trying to save themselves from the cruel flood waters.*

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There is a saying in Poland: "God forgives always, man sometimes, nature never." Sooner or later, Nature avenges human interference with its laws. The North Carolina disaster is just one example of Nature's "ecological payback bomb," many of which have been exploding in different parts of the globe.

If the U.S. Government is considering giving money for the rebuilding of destroyed farms, that money should go to the thousands of private farmers whose farms were destroyed by the corporate factory farming system. Private family farms are the ones we need to rebuild! 🐾

## Farming Humanely

by Dwight Ault

To introduce myself, I am a sixty-nine year old sustainable and organic farmer from southern Minnesota. I have farmed nearly forty years and am more excited about the art of farming than ever. Wendell Berry says that good farming is an art. He is right.

My strong suit, labor and income-wise, is raising pigs from birth to market. I, along with a dozen or so hog raisers, mostly from Iowa, came into the Washington D.C. area in early September as guests of Niman Ranch Pork. It is through Niman Ranch that we market our top-notch pork. Our first responsibility was to be farmer ambassadors in the *Fresh Fields/Whole Food* stores in the Washington area. All in all, it was a wonderful experience as we met many interested and supportive customers most who had never met a guaranteed, honest to goodness, hog farmer from the Midwest. When they viewed our many pictures of our farm, they were quite impressed with the care of the animals.

For you readers who are not "up to speed" in the Animal Welfare Institute's efforts concerning what has gone on with our domestic critter friends, the pigs, let me tell you. In order to be eligible to sell to Niman Ranch Pork, one must not give any form of antibiotics to the pigs from birth to market, must not cut off tails, must always give the pigs deep straw in which to bed or have them on green pasture, must not use animal by-products in feed. Niman Ranch further requests its pork to be tested for tenderness, taste and color.

The reaction from customers was fun for us to hear. Two couples said, after hearing our explanation, that they were going to buy pork right then and there. They had not purchased

pork for several years because of the reputation of the present factory-produced pork formerly sold in *Fresh Fields/Whole Food* stores. The meat counter employees were continually saying that they were pleased with the number of customers which we were sending to their counter. Many asked, "Can we find this meat brand in other stores also?" and we would, of course, tell them that no other stores presently carry it other than *Fresh Fields*. In short, they were very pleased to have access to this quality meat. I soon realized that I did not expect this reaction as we had been led to believe that, in general, the urban consumer did not much care where and in what conditions the pigs were raised. Not true at all! They very much cared regardless of whether or not they were consumers.

I think that they were impressed that we producers cared that much and that we could produce pork under the protocol set up by the Animal Welfare Institute. It was simply a wonderful experience for the consumer and producer. I, for one, must ever be thankful to the Animal Welfare Institute for its tireless efforts in establishing and promoting this decent movement. If I were to have to produce pork as I did a few years back, I would get out of the business. My son, Grant, who will carry on the farm and who now farms with me, agrees. I look back and realize that without the gentle persuasions of the Halverson sisters (Diane and Marlene), I no doubt would never have made the switch to a system based on caring and ethics. Well-cared-for pigs, in short, bring joy to their owners, and to my way of thinking allow pigs to know joy in return. Technical progress has brought terrible consequences to the main part of livestock production as far as animal care is concerned. There is a statement which says that "out of agony comes true beauty." I hope this will be so in pork production.

I think AWI's concern for the Polish farmer is terribly important. My wife and I had the opportunity to meet these people while in Washington and understand their dilemma. If they are not successful in protecting their farmers and pork production system, then we all end up being victims of large factory systems based on the "ethics of the dollar."

May our Creator give the strength necessary to the Polish farmers to do what they must do in order to protect decency and their way of life. This is the obligation of us all. 🐾



Dwight Ault at AWI's reception at the Capitol for the Polish delegation. Agnes Van Volkenburgh translated his remarks into Polish.

mostly from Iowa, came into the Washington D.C. area in early September as guests of Niman Ranch Pork. It is through Niman Ranch that we market our top-notch pork. Our first responsibility was to be farmer ambassadors in the *Fresh Fields/Whole Food* stores in the Washington area. All in all, it was a wonderful experience as we met many interested and supportive customers most who had never met a guaranteed, honest to good-

### *Death and Disintegration of Truck Driver in Murphy Farms Hog Factory Cesspool*

Excerpts from *The Daily & Sunday Oklahoman*, Copyright, 1999 Oklahoma Publishing Company

The body of the man still missing in a 25-foot-deep hog lagoon after two weeks, is "extremely, badly decomposed by this time," Ray Blakeney, director of the state medical examiner's office, said Tuesday.

Blakeney said if Murphy Farms, owner of the lagoon, is using a bacterial process to break down the hog manure, it would contribute even more to the decomposition of the body of Jack Plain, 58.

On the night of December 1, Plain was driving the bobtail truck that was backed into the lagoon when it missed wheel blocks, submerging the truck in the lagoon...

Calls to Murphy Farms spokeswoman Darra Johnson were not returned Tuesday.

Ellis County Sheriff Dewayne Miller returned a call to *The Oklahoman*. Miller said he has been at the site most of the time but did not want to talk about the incident over a cellular phone.

Members of the Plain's family have continually questioned why the hog company doesn't drain the lagoon, but Darra Johnson said Monday that there's too much effluent to spread it anywhere...

Miller said if these recovery efforts don't work, a next step would be to drain the lagoon. 🐾

Reprinted with permission

- Mick Hinton, dated December 15, 1999

## AWI Welcomes its International Committee's Newest Member

**A**gnes Van Volkenburgh, whose translations appear on pages 12-13, has accepted an appointment to represent Poland on the AWI International Committee. A third-year veterinary student at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, she has directed her talents to improvement of life for animals in both the United States and Poland. As a tireless translator, Agnes made possible the dialogue, both official and informal, between the Polish-speaking delegates and their host Americans throughout our U.S. tour (a photograph of her appears on the opposite page [14]). General Stanislaw Maczek, Agnes' great-great uncle, is recognized throughout Poland as a hero of his homeland. He commanded a motorized cavalry brigade in 1939 and later led the First Polish Armored Division in fighting in Belgium, Holland, France and Germany, from 1942-1945.

Agnes has written a scholarly paper reporting "Effectiveness of a Coordinated Veterinary and Public Education Program in Achieving Pet Sterilization in Poland." The surveys that she conducted on veterinary attitudes before and after the veterinary education campaign were accompanied by a survey of public attitudes, followed by a public education and media campaign. As a result, almost three-quarters of veterinarians in Warsaw will recommend sterilization to their clients. Excerpts from conclusions reached on results of the study are reproduced below.

"This study is the first step in a long journey. It provides a successful model of effective public and veterinary education aimed at increasing the knowledge about and the acceptance of sterilization. Educational programs developed in this project need to be continued and expanded to reach other areas of Poland and audiences of different age groups... Further public and veterinary education is essential to get the culture to the point at which pet population control is a commonly accepted responsibility.

"The study was widely publicized in the United States. The *Champaign News Gazette* ran a feature story about my work in Poland. A Polish television station in Chicago invited me to speak about the problem of pet overpopulation in Poland and the United States on their program, in which they showed footage

of the Early Sterilization Conference in Lublin. *Alfa*, a Polish language weekly in Chicago, and *Polish Daily Zgoda*, a Chicago Polish language daily, ran stories about my work in Poland. This widespread media coverage contributed to increasing the awareness of Polish-American audiences of pet overpopulation and will benefit the welfare of animals in the United States.

"The translated articles and educational brochures produced as a result of this project have been made available to veterinary colleges, animal shelters, and humane agencies throughout Poland. The literature will also be distributed to 'Animals' Foundation youth groups across the country and will thus contribute to creating a new generation of responsible pet owners. The results of this research will be published in a Polish

veterinary journal, *Magazyn Weterynaryjny*, reaching veterinarians throughout Poland and providing a model for achieving increased sterilization rates in other communities.

"... My immediate objectives include the continuation of the public and veterinary education programs, a campaign for humane treatment of farm animals, and developing a mobile spay/neuter clinic for rural areas of Poland.

"... This project gave me the opportunity to explore ways by which I can help address international issues of animal welfare as a future Doctor of Veterinary Medicine." 🐾

The project was supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Ralston Purina Company, Hills Pet Nutrition, and major veterinary colleges in the United States and Poland.

### The Day I Saw a Full-grown Pig Gambol in Frenzied Delight

This event was witnessed by Louise van der Merwe when a South African hog factory boar was allowed a brief interval of freedom.

"We let these boars out for 10 minutes every day to keep them healthy," the farmer told me.

"Really?" My face lightened. "Do they enjoy it?"

The farmer asked a nearby laborer to let one of the boars out while we went to wait outside. The boar's big body emerged from the shed door and he trotted heavily on his short legs along a narrow cement passageway leading to an enclosed strip of sand that ran along the back of the shed.

As his front trotters reached the sand, he suddenly broke into a frenzy of excitement, maneuvering his big, bulky body back and forth and up and down like a bucking bronco. He stopped momentarily to dig his snout as deep as possible into the sand, and then began to frolic and gambol once more. 🐾

— Louise van der Merwe, Founder of Animal Voice

### Requests to AWI

To any who 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, DC, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).*

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

## Fighting the Tiger War in the Tiger State

by Debbie Banks

Even in the shade, the mid-April temperatures in Madhya Pradesh (MP), central India, can reach 42° and there we were, wandering across an exposed black desert in the searing heat. But what we were walking across was not a natural desert. Rather, it was what was left of a once healthy forest on the borders of Panna Tiger Reserve.

Panna, one of five Tiger Reserves in the self-declared "Tiger State" of Madhya Pradesh, has been turned into an island. The black waste from the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) diamond mine has formed an expansive moonscape. Spanning miles, the mine's tailings have smothered the land and extinguished all life. And tigers are expected to cross this?

The indiscriminate destruction of tiger habitat in and around protected areas not only exacerbates the threat to tigers, but has disastrous affects on other wildlife, the forests, the water table and the people who depend on them. The loss of much of this habitat is due to industrial activities.

Tiger populations may thrive in core areas of Tiger Reserves, but they are often surrounded by mines, dams, roads, agriculture, plantations, human settlements and livestock. Fragmentation of habitat inevitably leads to increased conflict, and tigers are forced into isolated populations that are more vulnerable to local extinction.

This in turn impairs the probability of long-term survival as population size and reproductive success are reduced and dispersal patterns of subadults are impaired.

While conducting a five-week field investigation for the Environmental Investigation Agency's *The State of the Tiger: India's Tiger Crisis*, we were continually coming across examples of government negligence, indifference and even collusion with those who were out to destroy tiger forests for the financial gain of a few.

In the Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh, local tribal peoples have lost their land and the valuable trees on it to corrupt politicians, including the brother of the former State Forest Minister.

In Pench Tiger Reserve, commercial fishing is conducted by mafia-style businessmen in violation of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. In the guise of agitating for the "traditional" rights of local communities, they have coerced the State government into issuing fishing permits for 305 people.

Yet most of these people have alternative means of subsistence, most live 25-100 km away from the Reserve, and since the Pench river is not perennial, the only water body is the Totladoh Reservoir completed in 1990, hardly a traditional source of fish! 🐾

## Kenya Battles the Ivory Trade

by Adam M. Roberts

Just months after three Southern African countries auctioned off their stockpiled ivory to Japanese buyers, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has reported its biggest ivory seizure in the decade since the 1989 international ban on commercial ivory trade. According to the KWS statement, 45 pieces of ivory weighing over 350 kilograms were seized from three different sites in a town north of Nairobi. The tusks represent at least 23 dead elephants and there were bullet holes through two of the tusks. Two people have been arrested and will be prosecuted.

Acting KWS Director, Nehemiah Rotich, told the *Associated Press* "the poachers had probably been stockpiling the ivory in the field in anticipation of an increase in the price [of ivory]." Kenya was one of over half a dozen African elephant range states that opposed the downlisting of elephants from

Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique at the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1997. This opposition stemmed from the fear that any renewed international legal trade in elephant ivory would lead to poaching in other elephant ranges states. Rotich concluded in his AP interview: "We hope that it will not take the deaths of any more elephants for the world to recognize the threat that the ivory trade poses to our elephants."

As the year 2000 began, *Reuters* reported a shoot out between the KWS anti-poaching patrol and elephant poachers, four of whom were killed in Garissa in northeast Kenya. The story notes that "poachers had killed eight elephants in the Kora National Park but were challenged after burying the ivory which they planned to recover later. The poachers, armed with three automatic rifles,

exchanged fire with the game wardens before they were killed."

All of this poaching activity looms ominously as the world prepares for the next Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES which is to be held in Kenya in April 2000. An interesting clash will take place there when South Africa follows the lead of Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, and tries to downlist its elephant population from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow, among other things, trade in raw ivory. Meanwhile, to their credit, Kenya and India are submitting a proposal to put Zimbabwe's, Botswana's and Namibia's elephant populations back on Appendix I for their long-term protection. AWI will be sending two delegates to the Kenya meeting, Ben White and Adam Roberts. When they return, Ben and Adam will provide a full report of the outcome of the meeting in the *AWI Quarterly*. 🐾



Bengal  
Tiger

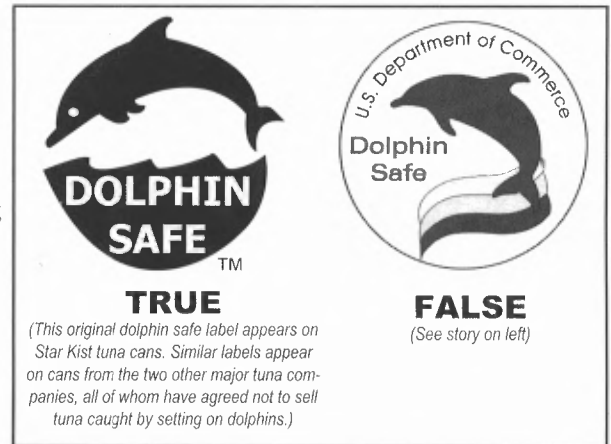


## U.S. Department of Commerce's False "Dolphin Safe" Label

by Ben White

Thanks to the U.S. Department of Commerce, it is easy to tell which canned tuna one should **not** under any circumstances buy: the one with their "Dolphin Safe" label! In an effort to dupe American consumers, the Agency has cooked up this new label to describe tuna caught under the "Dolphin Death Act" of 1997. Under pressure from a Mexican WTO challenge asserting that our embargo on tuna caught by chasing, encircling and netting dolphins is an unfair trade restriction of their dolphin-deadly tuna, the U.S. Government has changed the definition of dolphin safe. Under their label, dolphins can still be harassed, chased for hours by speed boats and helicopters, and caught in purse-seine nets so long as no dolphins are *seen* by the single observer to be killed or seriously injured.

Fortunately, you still have a choice. Canned tuna bearing the old label that says "Dolphin Safe," **without** the Department of Commerce banner is still caught without setting nets on dolphins. Because the major tuna packers in the United States have heard your voice clearly, all of them are sticking with the old label and the old definition. Chicken of the Sea, Bumblebee, and Star Kist have all promised to refuse to buy dolphin-caught tuna or use the Department of Commerce's lying label. 🐾



## Russian Beluga Slaughter Halted

by Ben White

The power of the global whale protection movement kicked into high gear in September when Russia unexpectedly opened up a new commercial whaling operation on small whales. About 36 beluga whales were killed in the Sea of Okhotsk and shipped as meat and blubber to Japan. Within days of this brutal and dangerous precedent, the outcry was so loud and well organized that the Russian government pulled the plug on any continued slaughter. A permit to kill 2,100 of these lovely white whales was cancelled.

The deadly ramifications of a whole new front of commercial whaling galvanized opposition from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, the State Department, the Marine Mammal Commission, Congressman William Delahunt (D, MA) and many non-governmental organizations. The enterprise was perceived as an end-run around the International Whaling Commission and an attempt to weaken current global prohibitions on commercial whaling. The hunt and transport was the first major international sale of small cetacean meat in modern times.

The sale between countries of meat obtained from the larger species of whales is illegal because of their listing on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Unfortunately, small cetaceans are listed on Appendix II, allowing some limited trade if it can be done "without threatening the population." A Russian CITES export permit for the beluga meat was issued over the objections of many Russian officials and scientists who protested that not enough was known about the belugas being decimated.

The Animal Welfare Institute was one of the organizations clued in to the emergency. We responded by sending out an email alert that produced calls, letters and faxes to the Japanese Embassy and Consulates. We were investigating the possibility of traveling to Russia and filming the continuing slaughter when it was called off. Congratulations to all involved, especially Karen Steuer and the International Fund for Animal Welfare who had a film crew waiting for the ship when it delivered its grisly cargo to Hokkaido, Japan and was central to organizing the incredible, overwhelming, rapid response. 🐾

## NMFS Plays Politics with Beluga Extinction

As expected and feared, the National Marine Fisheries Service has capitulated to Anchorage big business interests and declared the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales depleted (under the Marine Mammal Protection Act), instead of the far more protective endangered status (under the Endangered Species Act).

As described in the *AWI Quarterly* of Spring 1999, the beluga whales of Cook Inlet have been reduced from over a thousand to only about two hundred in a decade. The primary cause has been native hunting for commercial sales in Anchorage. But whereas most native hunters agree with listing the whales as endangered in hopes of bringing the population back to healthy levels, a huge outcry has come from the Anchorage business community. Anchorage dumps its sewage directly into Cook Inlet, with only primary treatment. And a string of oil rigs dotting the inlet enjoy a unique status among the fifteen hundred oil rigs on the continental shelf of the U.S.: they are permitted by the EPA to dribble poisons such as lead, mercury and arsenic into the water.

Whereas the endangered listing would open up scrutiny of these habitat influences on the whales, the depleted status does not. It is also unclear how the government will now move forward on a co-management scheme with native hunters. There is a temporary ban on hunting in place.

The Animal Welfare Institute is preparing to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service for dodging their legal responsibility to protect these whales. We urge members to comment directly to the agency on the proposed inadequate depleted listing:

Chief, Marine Mammal Division  
Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910 🐾



Dr. F. Barbara Orlans

*The Human Use of Animals:  
Case Studies in Ethical Choice*

F. Barbara Orlans, Tom L. Beauchamp, Rebecca Dresser, David B. Morton, and John P. Gluck  
New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, 330 pp., illus., index, \$26.50; ISBN: 0-19-511808-8.

*Dr. F. Barbara Orlans, a long-standing and much valued member of the Animal Welfare Institute's Scientific Committee, has written many books seeking to improve conditions for animals used in research, testing and education, and to ensure that high school students do not*

*harm animals under the rubric of a science fair project. The most recent book, of which she is the lead contributor, has been widely reviewed, with opinions from both sides of the perennial argument on use of experimental animals.*

*It was a pleasure to find that The Physiologist, the journal of the American Physiological Society, took a very sound view. "This book," wrote C. Terrance Hawk of Duke University, the reviewer, "will make you reflect on your own ethical outlook and does so in a surprisingly non-judgemental fashion."*

Following is the full review, as published in Vol. 42, No. 3, 1999, of *The Physiologist*:

This book is primarily a set of case studies on animal use. To effectively analyze these case studies, the introductory chapter prepares the reader by providing broad background information. The introductory chapter contains discussions of morality and the moral community, animal minds, the moral implications of Darwin's theory of evolution, defining moral standing, and descriptions of moral philosophies (utilitarianism, Kantianism and rights theories). This introductory chapter also includes discussions of the justification of the human use of animals and a consideration of alternatives to the use of animals.

Subsequent chapters are individual case studies covering most major areas of animal use and each stands alone from all others. Four well-known case studies are presented in the section entitled Biomedical Research, including "Baboon-Human Liver Transplants: The Pittsburgh Case," "Head Injury Experiments on Primates at the University of Pennsylvania," "Patenting Animals: The Harvard 'Oncomouse'," and "What Does the Public Have a Right to Know," a case involving the Progressive Animal Welfare Society and the University of Washington, Seattle. Most case studies provide a historical description of the problem and also include a discussion of the ethical issues and welfare concerns.

Other sections include case studies in the use of animals in cosmetic safety testing, in behavioral research, in wildlife research, in education, in food and farming, as companion animals, and in religious rites.

I was most impressed with the short primer on reasoning through moral problems that is contained in the introductory chapter. It is noted by the authors that problems normally appear when "some evidence or reason indicates that an act is morally right, and some evidence indicates that the act is morally wrong, but the evidence on both sides is inconclusive." So how does a person reason through such dilemmas? Several methods are described that can be used to help understand and more objectively approach the problem, including specification of one's general moral commitments, balancing values, and the use of facts.

This book will make you reflect on your own ethical outlook and does so in a surprisingly non-judgmental fashion. If you are a member of your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; are a member of faculties in basic science, law, medicine, veterinary medicine, philosophy, or ethics; or have a general interest in the welfare of animals, then this easy-to-read book is certainly recommended. 🐾

*Alternative Traps*

Tom Garrett

Washington, DC: Animal Welfare Institute, 1999 revised edition, 51 pp., \$8.00

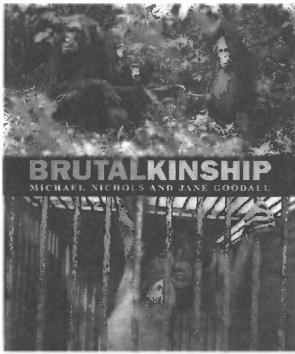
A new edition of *Alternative Traps* by Tom Garrett has just been published by the Animal Welfare Institute. This is an update of Tom's comprehensive review of the many less cruel traps now available, in addition to full coverage of the worst traps and the terrible torture they inflict.

With a Foreword by Cathy Liss, AWI's Executive Director, the updated edition includes information on the continuing struggle against the steel jaw leghold trap and the strangling snares still widely used throughout the world from Alaska to Africa. Eighty-eight countries have banned steel traps, but the U.S. still lacks federal legislation against them.

When the European Union banned them in all its member states in 1991, we hoped that its import ban against fur from 13 species in the wild fur trade would force U.S. compliance. But instead, our Government threatened to challenge the E.U. under the World Trade Organization, asserting that this law for animal protection would create a barrier to free trade.

This is the third edition of this fully documented reference source. The first was issued in the form of three monographs in 1984. Tom Garrett's engineering expertise served him well as he traveled across the United States, Canada and the European Union to gather little-known facts; for example, interviewing trapper-inventors who had succeeded in developing traps that rendered animals unconscious instantly instead of putting them through unimaginable pain and fear in steel jaw leghold traps or strangling snares. But these traps — the Gabry's and the Kania — have never been seriously encouraged by industry as alternatives in the remote areas for which they were designed.

Humanitarian organizations and law enforcement agencies will find this unique publication useful whenever they are called upon to rescue an animal from a trap or to make decisions that will help to prevent the enormous amount of unnecessary suffering inflicted by the steel jaw leghold trap and the often homemade strangling snares left for long periods in the bush. 🐾



## *Brutal Kinship*

Michael Nichols and Jane Goodall  
New York: Aperture Foundation, 1999, 128 pp.,  
\$25.00; Hardcover ISBN: 0-89381-806-2

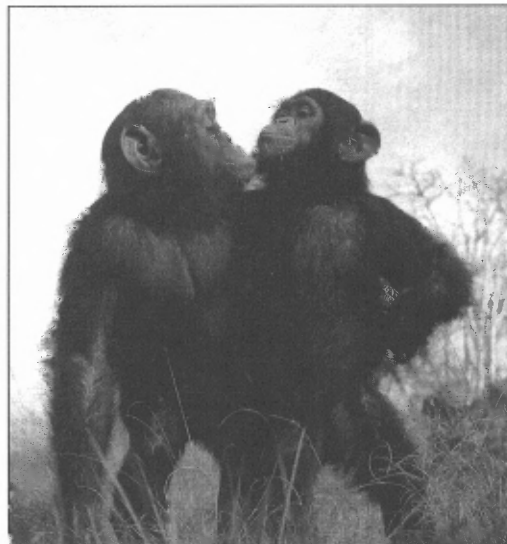
*In one enlightening volume, Brutal Kinship melds photographer Michael Nichols' stirring photos with world-renowned ethologist Jane Goodall's moving prose in an awesome combination of sadness and hope concerning the human connection with chimpanzees, and more pointedly, the way in which humans abuse that fragile relationship. Nichols contends that the book is about "creating awareness and shame about our moral myopia.... If we can see that our treatment of chimpanzees has been and is wrong, then we have truly evolved."*

In Nichols' first chapter, "In The Wild" we journey through the Tai Forest in Côte d'Ivoire where chimps share fruit unselfishly, use stones to open hard-shelled nuts and where a mother carried her dead infant around for days in mourning before "finally giving it a gentle touch and leaving it behind;" and into Tanzania where chimps carefully use twigs to dig for ants or termites and where Dr. Goodall has spent nearly 40 years studying their independent and interactive behavior. Chapter 2, an essay by Jane Goodall, recounts her historical experience at Gombe and the important findings of her in-depth research there. Goodall writes of her work to rescue a single chimp named Gregoire who lived alone in cage in the Brazzaville Zoo since 1945, to her efforts to keep the retired Air Force chimps out of the hands of The Coulston Foundation, and ultimately, on behalf of chimps in abusive situations everywhere. Goodall refers to a "strong sense of guilt, the guilt of my species" and what horrors humans inflict on animals such as chimps. Her chapter closes with a full two page photo of a former carnival chimp living in a cage behind his owner's bar in Ohio: in solitude he sits, hunched over behind the bars of his cage, as smoke rises near his right eye from the tip of the cigarette protruding from his dark lips.

Chapter 3, "Research and Captivity," shows the myriad abuses humans inflict on "our closest relatives in the animal kingdom." Whether it's in crowded zoos, medical testing laboratories, or performing animal acts, humans, with our supposedly greater intelligence and ability for compassion, have a remarkable capacity to inflict suffering on these unwitting victims of our brutality. Nichols' pictures of a bushmeat hunter in Liberia, a chained and abused adult chimp in Côte d'Ivoire, a chimp forced to ride atop an elephant and another forced to wear a tuxedo and pose for a photographer's camera in Florida, all vividly exemplify the magnitude of our inhumanity.

But some hope appears in the final chapter on "Sanctuaries" where chimpanzees may live out the remainder of their natural lives "in safety and comfort." One look at the book's final photo of two orphaned infant chimps looking at each other in a sensitive embrace is enough to make anyone want to do more to help chimps everywhere. Goodall notes that "not many people can look into the bewildered, traumatized eyes of an abandoned infant and turn away." By the time one closes *Brutal Kinship*, she or he will not only be incapable of turning away from the plight of chimps, but will be actively seeking ways to help them. 🐾

— Adam M. Roberts



*Fast friends, a pair of orphans face the future together at Tchimpounga.*

*(Continued from page 2)*

of a chimp named Eason. It's hard to keep up with them all.

The Coulston Empire should be crumbling, though. Settlement was reached with the USDA regarding the formal complaint mentioned above. TCF was ordered to give up 300 chimpanzees by 2002, restricted in its ability to acquire or breed new chimps, and required to employ an adequate veterinary staff. Michael Dunn, an Under Secretary at USDA, originally claimed, "This is an unprecedented consent agreement and a big win for these magnificent animals." But it can only be a win if the chimps are all taken from Coulston; clearly this settlement has not deterred TCF from committing atrocious acts of animal cruelty.

When USDA reached its agreement with TCF, it facilitated settlement of a separate lawsuit brought by the Doris Day Animal League and the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care (CCCC) against the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force, seeking to divest itself of the surviving offspring of the heroic "space chimps," awarded most of them to TCF. Now, 21 of those chimps, who preceded the astronauts into space, will be welcomed to CCCC's Florida sanctuary by the summer of 2000 where they will live out their remaining years in a peaceful and enriching environment.

Immediate action is essential to save the rest. Echo, Jello, Holly, Terrance, Muffin, Eason, Donna, Dean, Babu, Kimberly, Albro, Rosie. Who's next? 🐾

— Adam M. Roberts

## Animal Farm Expansion Rebuffed

Marshall Farms, a major U.S. breeder and supplier of beagles and ferrets to laboratories for experimentation and testing, struck unexpected resistance when it tried to establish itself in the Département of Allier in central France.

Public opposition was enormous. The Mayor of Montbeugny announced that she would resign if Marshall Farms were allowed to construct its proposed facility.

A French animal protective group, Trente Millions Amis, used their television program and website to focus on mistreatment of laboratory beagles in the U.K., where a lengthy undercover videotape had been shown on television.

Dissemination of information about the proposed Marshall Farms facility resulted in a staggering number of petitions opposing it: 1,297,241. The petitions were signed by prominent French public figures, including former President of France, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Brigitte Bardot, Raymond Devos, 11 deputies, 5 Senators, and large numbers of scientists, doctors and veterinarians, hundreds of schools and colleges, and major corporations such as France Telecom, RTL, and TF1. Petitions were received from Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, England, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Brazil, Canada, Singapore, Senegal, Romania, Tunisia, the United States, Poland and Norway.


A Council of the Département of Allier presented Prefect Gregoire with an unfavorable report on Marshall Farms' proposal to build a large breeding and supply facility to sell beagles to research laboratories. The company then withdrew its proposal, which ended the matter. Two other towns, Blyes, near Lyon, and Ledonjon, also refused to allow Marshall Farms to establish itself in their precincts.

Following is a glimpse of Marshall Farms' record in the U.S.: A fire January 16, 1998 at Marshall Farms burned 449 puppies and 151 pregnant beagles to death. The fire was started by a heating pad which had been marked "Bad" in February 1995! The fire was investigated by the Wayne

County Sheriff's Department and Peter Vallas and Associate, Inc. which reported shocking irresponsibility on the part of Marshall Farms.

In 1995 a USDA inspection report stated, "All technicians performing spays, castrations and [ferret] descending are operating without masks or head covers. Several have long hair which was hanging into the operating field. All survival surgeries... must be performed under aseptic conditions." The inspectors also noted lack of a written program of veterinary care and methods of euthanasia which should follow the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia. The inspectors further noted, inadequate space for animals. For example, eight puppies were squeezed into an enclosure only big enough for four.

In 1991, Marshall Farms attempted to export 74 beagle pups to an experimental laboratory in Switzerland. An Affidavit from the Supervisor of Cargo Operations for Swiss Air Transport Company stated the beagles were crated in wire mesh containers, which are not acceptable in international shipments. "The wire mesh had many sharp burrs on the metal which was dangerous for both the animals and the cargo handlers." The dogs were able to put their paws through the wire mesh. Further, two dogs were fighting in one of the cages, and "The animals were only able to reach their food and water from the top half of the containers. They could not reach any further because of the size of the containers." The ASPCA Animalport stopped shipment of the 74 beagles, citing New York State law.

Repeated use of improper sized wire mesh flooring has seriously injured both beagle pups and ferrets. Marshall Farms' insistence on use of wire mesh cage floors has been their standard practice for many years. It allows an enormous number of animals to be housed using limited numbers of cleaners and caretakers. Such floors are sometimes called "self-cleaning." An advertising brochure includes a large photograph of a beagle on the sort of wire mesh that led to the 1991 penalty. 



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