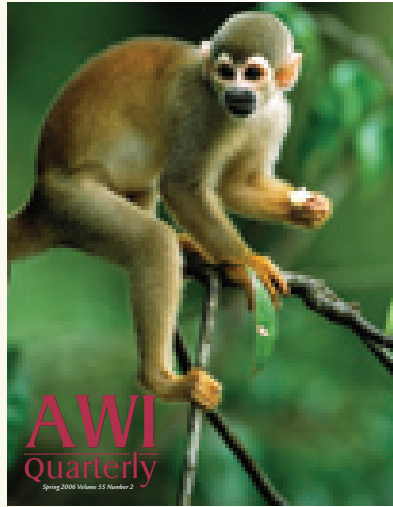




AWI

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Spring 2008 Volume 33 Number 2

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ABOUT THE COVER

Squirrel monkeys made up more than half the primates imported to Mexico from Guyana between 2000 and 2005. Fortunately, in January 2006, Mexico's General Wildlife Act was modified to ban the import and export of both primates and marine mammals for exhibition purposes. The law is a conservation tool for wild populations, but it will also pay off for captive animals, as facilities must improve their welfare policies now that the creatures are no longer replaceable (see story, page 6).

Meanwhile, squirrel monkeys are facing other threats. Dead monkeys were recently discovered in Costa Rica's Corcovado National Park, and the cause of their demise was starvation. The animals rely on a diet of fruit, insects, leaves and stems, and global warming-induced climate change in the rainforest has led to excessive rainfall that caused trees to not bear fruit. This weather also made it difficult for the monkeys to forage for food on the ground. If we do not take drastic measures to reverse the problem, global warming will have similarly devastating effects on animal populations across the globe (see story, page 10).

European Whale Deaths Linked to British Navy

On the evening of Jan. 26, four Cuvier's beaked whales stranded and died on two beaches off the Almeria coast in Southern Spain. The British Royal Navy had been conducting exercises in the Mediterranean at the time with the HMS Kent. The Animal Welfare Institute's Susan Millward contacted the Ministry of Defense on Feb. 2 and learned the Kent is equipped with active sonar that was allegedly turned on for five minutes three days before the stranding—though its location on the 26th was not divulged. While the Spanish naval base of Cartagena is located approximately 50 miles east of the stranding site, AWI was advised that no Spanish Navy ships were known to be in the area at the time.

This mass stranding incident appeared suspicious because the animals did not strand together. Fortunately, a veterinary pathologist team from la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria rushed to the scene to attend to the animals. The team is experienced in noise-related strandings, having conducted numerous necropsies on whales who stranded in the Canary Islands after naval exercises. It also coined the term "Gas and Fat Embolic Syndrome" to describe a condition in stranded marine mammals that is hypothesized to result when whales rise toward the ocean's surface too quickly (an affliction similar to the bends in humans) as they try to escape from noise.

The preliminary necropsy results from this latest stranding were released on March 17, and Gas and Fat Embolic Syndrome was reported in all four animals. The report concludes that the "most likely primary cause of this type of beaked whale mass stranding event is anthropogenic [human-caused] acoustic activities, most probably anti-submarine active mid-frequency sonar used during the military naval exercises." Our European colleagues are now urging British authorities to provide precise information about the location of the Kent and its sonar use on the stranding date. 🐾



Antonio Jesus Fernandez Rodriguez

This Cuvier's beaked whale is one of four who stranded in an atypical mass stranding event in Southern Spain.



Animal Welfare Institute
QUARTERLY
Spring 2008 Volume 33 Number 2



Laurel Conry-Enrich

Suffering and dying from numerous threats, manatees must not lose the few legal protections they have (see story, page 13).



Sukree Sukplong/Reuters

Live chickens are collected with plastic bags that are later thrown into massive landfills in an attempt to stop the spread of avian influenza in Thailand (see story, page 18).



Carm-Dore

AWI's new book on refinement and enrichment for rodents and rabbits demonstrates optimal bedding and foraging materials for these animals (see story, page 19).

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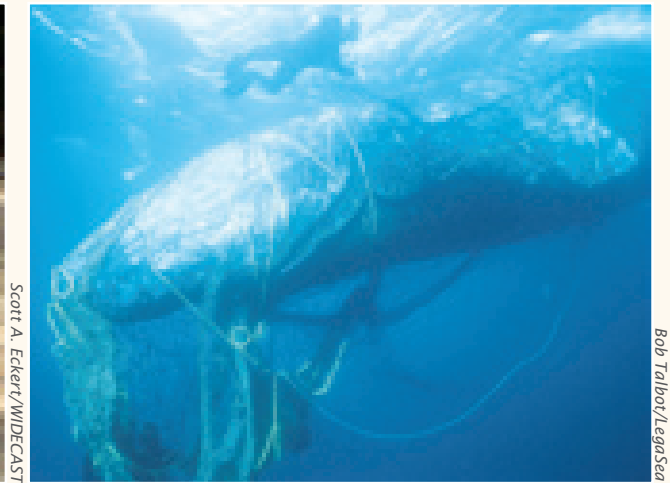
This year, the Caribbean is not just a popular destination for vacationers and pre-World Cup cricket enthusiasts, as the 2006 International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting will be held in St. Kitts and Nevis in June. Once again, rumors are rife that pro-whalers will hold the simple majority of votes. The same was true last year in Ulsan, South Korea, but in the end, the pro-whaling bloc was unable to assemble a majority.

There is an ironic twist this time around because the beautiful island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis has received over \$14 million in fisheries aid from Japan over several years, and

anti-whaling countries pushing for more conservation-minded initiatives.

Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) Research Associate Susan Millward recently observed this division at an intercessional meeting; an impasse was declared over the completion of the Revised Management Scheme, the rules that would govern whaling if the ban were lifted. With the immense and synergistic threats facing the world's oceans and their inhabitants from climate change, bycatch, depletion of prey species, illegal and overfishing, toxic pollution and anthropogenic noise, a return to whaling would be disastrous for the world's remaining whales—the focus

to include volunteer coordinators across more than 40 Caribbean States and Territories working to preserve the region's six species of sea turtles. Attempting to replicate this hugely successful approach with other species, we co-authored and presented a paper on integrated conservation at a fall 2005 meeting of the United Nations Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol. The paper proposes the establishment of a structured network of experts drawn from various scientific governmental and non-governmental organizations to operate under SPAW. It was well received, and we have been given the go-ahead to begin researching,



Left: Rocky Aguilera is a member of Nature Seekers, a WIDECAST Lead Organization that collects data on the reproductive success of one of the world's largest nesting colonies of endangered leatherback sea turtles. Right: This grey whale was discovered entangled in a drift net. His head was successfully cut free, but the line from his tail could not be removed.

The Caribbean—Sand, Sea and Saving Animals

when it comes to matters of whaling, it consistently votes alongside Japan. Yet even if the pro-whaling nations do obtain a simple majority at the upcoming meeting, the IWC will still face deadlock, as the pro-whalers are unlikely to have the three-quarters majority needed to overturn the moratorium on commercial whaling that has been in effect since 1986. The two sides seem poles apart, with the pro-whaling countries recruiting new members year after year to vote in favor of a return to whaling and the

should be directed toward an integrated solution to oceanic habitat and inhabitant preservation.

Integrated Solutions
AWI has been promoting an integrated approach to species preservation in the Caribbean with Monitor Caribbean, which founded the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) in 1981. WIDECAST, a coalition of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, has grown

contacting and connecting various sources of expertise in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Harmful Practices
A month before the 2006 IWC meeting, animal welfare advocates will gather in Antigua to discuss animal issues such as disaster planning, humane education, animal cruelty investigations and responsible welfare practices. The environmental and economic impacts of various tourism activities related to dolphins, whales and other marine mammals will also be addressed. AWI will provide information in opposition to dolphin swim-with programs and the proliferation of ocean noise through participation in an evening workshop with representatives of local non-governmental organizations.

The issue of captive dolphin swim-with programs persists in the Caribbean, though we hope the progressive move taken by Mexico to ban imports and exports of cetaceans (see story, page 6) will resonate across Central America and be heeded in other countries. Caribbean nations also have much to be concerned about regarding ocean noise. There have been many marine mammal stranding incidents associated

with acoustic activity in this region, and it is known to have a negative impact on commercial and recreational fishing. The reason for the high number of incidents may be the unique habitat offered by the steeply sloped seabed, which offers a concentration of prey species, especially for deep-sea diving beaked whales.

Recently, commercial fishermen in Trinidad and Tobago were awarded financial compensation from a Canadian

oil company for their loss of income due to the company's seismic air gun use. Susan Millward and the Ocean Mammal Institute President Marsha Green will be discussing the issue with local government and fishery bodies while in the Caribbean. They will also participate in a town hall meeting and a radio show to discuss human-caused threats to marine mammals in the Bahamas. 🐾

History of the SPAW Protocol

The landmark *Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region* was co-authored in 1990 by AWI's Tom Garrett and Monitor Caribbean's Col. Milt Kaufman.

- As a product of the United Nations Environment Program, the treaty entered into force in 2000 and has been hailed as the first international environmental agreement to utilize an ecosystem approach to conservation.
- Its objective is to protect rare and fragile ecosystems and habitats in the Wider Caribbean Region, thereby protecting the area's endangered and threatened species.
- The Region extends throughout the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and locations off the Atlantic coast of Florida.
- The Protocol has been signed by 15 nations and ratified by 12, including the United States in 2003. 🐾



Countless dolphins suffer and die to bring tourists a few moments of entertainment. Every visit to a dolphin show or swim-with attraction supports this cruelty.

US Protects Caribbean Forest Habitat

On Dec. 1, 2005, the US government signed into law the Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005, designating nearly 4,047 hectares of the Caribbean National Forest and another site in Puerto Rico's Luquillo Experimental Forest as wilderness areas.

This designation prohibits road construction or other development, as well as motor vehicles, bicycles and timber harvesting. The protected land is 25 miles east of the capital city of San Juan, on the western side of the Luquillo mountain range. It is the United States' first tropical wilderness area and the home of the endangered Puerto Rican parrot, one of the world's 10 most endangered birds. Other endangered wildlife species found here include sharp-shinned and broad-winged hawks and the Puerto Rican boa snake.

The Caribbean National Forest is also home to 240 native tree species and several endangered plants, including the capá rosa evergreen tree and the miniature orchid. 🐾

Environmental activist Yolanda Alaniz helps Mexico achieve landmark legislation for marine mammals and primates.

History was made in January 2006, when the Mexican government adopted legislation that modified the General Wildlife Act to ban almost all imports and exports of marine mammals and primates, including parts and products. Passage of this law sends a clear signal to other nations that Mexico will no longer tolerate the cruelty of the captive wildlife industry. Without the efforts of Dr. Yolanda Alaniz, vice president of Conservation of Marine Mammals in Mexico (COMARINO), the victory would never have been achieved.

Making Progress

For more than 30 years, the Mexican captive marine mammal industry—one of the most powerful in the business—operated without any regulations. Then, in 2002, the capture of marine mammals in Mexican waters was prohibited. While native species were protected, the number of imports increased dramatically. Dolphins were captured in Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and the Solomon Islands and brought to the country. Last year, seven arrived from Japan. “Everybody knows that these animals are obtained from the so-called ‘drive fisheries’ that take place in Taiji every year, killing thousands of dolphins,” Alaniz said.

Building on the 2002 law, COMARINO has now succeeded in securing the passage of legislation that bans the importing and exporting of marine mammals and primates for exhibition purposes. Over 40 Mexican and international nonprofit groups joined with the organization in an unprecedented showing of solidarity, and committed individuals worked hard to ensure the bill’s enactment. “Biologist Diego Cobo Terrazas, the former president of the Environmental Commission of the Chamber of Representatives, was the one who presented the initiative to Congress and did not stop until the Senate approved it,” Alaniz said. “I am grateful to him and Laura Rojas, my colleague from COMARINO, who has worked closely with me every step of the way.” Secretary of Environment Jose Luis Luege was also instrumental in the bill’s ratification.

Marine Mammal Conservation

Dolphins rank at the top of the list of marine mammal species currently kept in captivity in Mexico, with about 250 held in resort and entertainment facilities. Sea lions are also affected. COMARINO reports elevated mortality rates of captive marine mammals due to poor husbandry, high levels of stress and depression, lack of veterinary care and physical injuries. All of these factors helped perpetuate a market for wildlife traffickers to capture more animals.

“We must remember that Keiko, the famous whale in *Free Willy*, was held in Mexico City in a very small tank until he nearly died,” Alaniz said. “Now companies, veterinarians and trainers will have to improve the conditions of their captive facilities, from the water quality to the filtering and the quality of food. Veterinarians will have to work to keep their current inventory of animals healthy because going overseas to replace them will no longer be an option.”

Primate Protection

“Primates are abused in so many ways, mostly in places frequented by tourists, such as Acapulco or Cancun,” Alaniz said. Chimpanzees, macaques, baboons and squirrel, capuchin and titi monkeys are trafficked all over the world. Sadly, these wild animals were often brought to Mexico to be used as pets to draw the attention of tourists. “In many cases, monkeys are given alcohol to make people laugh. Most live with a rope or chain tied around their necks, and few are fed their natural foods,” she explained. “Some live their whole lives in small cages. Others are used in circuses all over the country.”



Eric Booth/Dreamstime.com

The ring-tailed lemur is one of over 7,000 primates who were trafficked in the last half-decade between Mexico and other countries. The ban on imports and exports will help these animals receive the protection they deserve.

The new law will protect both captive and wild populations, and even the trade in parts and products is outlawed (except in cases approved by the Mexican government for use in scientific research). This is an essential conservation move, as families are often tragically broken apart when primates and marine mammals are brutally captured

Dolphin Swim-With Programs

The growth of captive dolphin facilities expanded during the 1990s, and by 2000, a new facility was opening every five to six months. Therefore, it is not surprising that the swim-with business is booming in tourist spots such as Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Los Cabos. Tourists think it is a magical experience to share a few minutes with these creatures in an interactive way. But the facilities exploit both the dolphins and the tourists. “Everything they say to attract people is a lie. ‘Education’ and ‘conservation’ through swim-with programs are just myths that people who pay to interact with the dolphins are told to believe,” Alaniz said. “From the moment these animals are captured until their death, the magnificence of dolphins, their instincts, intelligence and natural behaviors are nullified.”

A swim-with session typically lasts less than one hour, and eight to 14 people swim with one or two dolphins. The cost per person ranges from \$100 to \$150, and each dolphin (most facilities have about 10 performing at a time) works three to four sessions a day. Dolphins caught in the wild cost as little as \$400 each—this is the usual price paid to the fishermen. But COMARINO reports that Mexico’s swim-with

About COMARINO

In 1998, Alaniz was volunteering for an association against cruelty to dogs and cats in Mexico City when they received a cruelty report against a captive dolphin and sea lion trainer. After she went to the show, she decided to do something—but there was no organization helping captive marine mammals. “Two years later, we started COMARINO, the only Mexican non-governmental organization devoted to protecting all marine life,” she said. The organization is involved in promoting legislation for responsible fisheries, saving sharks from overfishing, and protecting marine mammals and turtles from ocean noise and bycatch.

As far as the captive industry workers’ response to the ban, Alaniz is confident COMARINO will be able to uphold the protections and make sure the bill is properly enforced. “They are furious and will try to reverse the law—but it will not be easy now that we have the support of so many Mexican and international organizations,” she said, adding that the hard work has paid off. “We’ve achieved more laws to protect animals in the last five years than the amount that was gained in the past three decades combined. At the end of the day, this is a fight for life and freedom.” 🐾

“The dolphin industry exists because tourists pay for it.”

from the wild. Many animals die in transport to facilities because of the callous, aggressive handling they receive and the long distances they must travel. Unaccustomed to life in captivity, the creatures are unable to engage in their natural behaviors and are typically kept in small, barren enclosures. Additionally, they may transmit diseases.

facilities would train the animals and then sell them to other countries at much higher prices—a trained dolphin ready to be exported costs around \$100,000. “People don’t realize that they are paying for the suffering and death of these creatures,” Alaniz reinforced. “The dolphin industry exists because tourists pay for it.”

You Can Make a Difference

Please contact the President of Mexico to thank him for approving this strengthening of the General Wildlife Act. Make sure to remind him that good border inspections are essential in making the law most effective.

President Vicente Fox
Residencia Oficial de los Pinos
Casa Miguel Aleman
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
C.P. 11850
Distrito Federal, Mexico
email: vicente.fox.quesada@presidencia.gob.mx



Earth Island Institute

If Keiko had not been rehabilitated in Iceland and successfully released to the wild in 1998, he would have died at the Mexico City facility pictured above. Thanks to a new Mexican law, marine mammals will no longer be taken from the wild to be used for exhibition.

Wildlife Worldwide

After Brief Hiatus, Aerial Wolf Gunning in Alaska Resumes

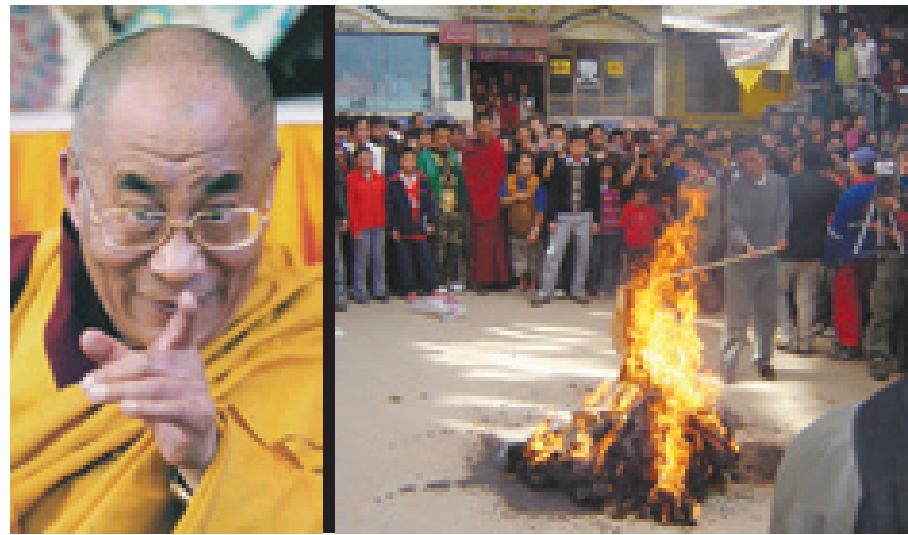
UNITED STATES As we reported in the spring 2005 *AWI Quarterly*, using an aircraft to hunt down wildlife is illegal in most places—but not in Alaska. There, the cruel practice is a state-supported form of predator control. A controversial aerial gunning program was launched to increase moose and caribou populations for hunters, which has caused the slaughter of approximately 550 wolves over the past three years.

In January, the targeted wolves were granted temporary reprieve when a state judge found the program to be illegal because the Alaska Board of Game had failed to adequately address certain regulatory requirements regarding its justification. However, immediately after the decision was reached, the board held an emergency meeting in an effort to address the deficiencies found by the court. As a result, the program's suspension was lifted.

Opponents waged an appeal to try and stop the aerial hunt from continuing but were unsuccessful, as the court refused to review its decision. While alternative legal avenues are being explored, aerial wolf gunning is taking the lives of hundreds of wolves in Alaska.

Please contact the state's Division of Tourism to indicate that you will not spend your tourist dollars in Alaska until the aerial wolf gunning is banned permanently.

Alaska Travel Industry Association
2600 Cordova Street, Ste. 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
email: info@alaskatia.org 🐾



Care for the Wild International

Tibet is the world's leading market for the skins of tigers, antelopes, leopards, otters and foxes. Spurred by their compassionate spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama (left), hundreds of thousands of Tibetans are now saying no to wildlife products and burning their pelts.

Bonfires of Compassion

CHINA At an annual gathering attended by over 125,000 Buddhist devotees in January, the Dalai Lama made an impassioned plea for wildlife: "I am ashamed and don't feel like living when I see all those pictures of people decorating themselves with skins and fur." He was describing the traditional dress of Tibetans, which in the last 50 years has become increasingly trimmed with furs. In his closing comments, His Holiness instructed everyone to "neither use, sell [n]or buy wild animals, their products or derivatives." Heeding his words, Tibetans have set ablaze thousands of animal pelts. Chinese authorities subsequently banned the mass bonfires, seeing these actions as a sign of the people's allegiance to their country's exiled leader. But the burnings still continue, though less conspicuously. "What's happening now in Tibet," the Dalai Lama said, "is about compassion for all living things." 🐾

Elephant Social Structure Lost

KENYA and UGANDA Reports of elephants killing people or destroying villages for no apparent reason are on the rise, leading some researchers to believe that an "elephant breakdown" is occurring all over Africa, with young, orphaned elephants suffering from something akin to post-traumatic stress syndrome. Joyce Poole, research director at the Amboseli Elephant Research Project in Kenya and a key scientist in this debate, told *New Scientist*, "they are certainly intelligent enough and have good enough memories to take revenge," adding that when elephants are shot as a solution to human-elephant conflicts, little thought is given to "the very real possibility of stimulating a cycle of violence." Since poaching and culling in Uganda and other places in Africa and Asia have decimated elephant populations, gone are the tight matriarchal groups in which young elephants forge strong bonds that last a lifetime. The older bulls are also gone. In their places are herds run amok—"teenage mothers" who have raised a generation of juvenile delinquents. 🐾

US Navy Plans Active Sonar Range

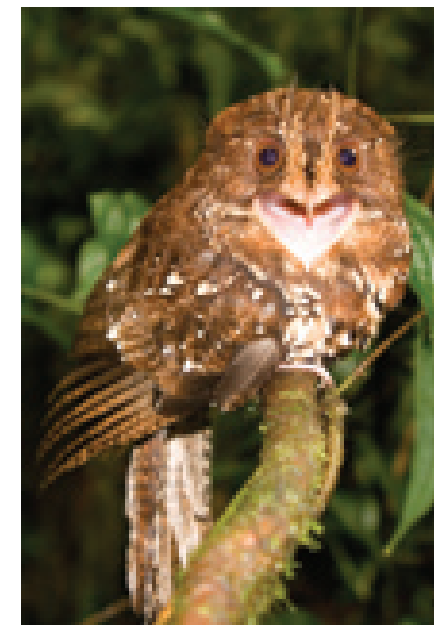
UNITED STATES The US Navy is planning a 550-square mile permanent active sonar range off the North Carolina coast—a hotspot for marine mammal species such as the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale. The Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission has found that the evidence linking military sonar to stranding is "very convincing, and appears overwhelming." The United Nations, the European Parliament and the World Conservation Union concur that active sonar has detrimental effects on all ocean life. Ocean noise can even injure and kill fish; some studies show it has caused a significant decrease in commercial catch rates. The Animal Welfare Institute has provided extensive comment, along with more than 36,000 groups and citizens. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Marine Mammal Commission have also issued letters of concern. The Navy must provide some form of response to each of the comments in the final Environmental Impact Statement, due to be published this fall. If approved, construction of the sonar range is planned for next year. 🐾

A Long Way from Home

ENGLAND A Northern bottlenose whale took a wrong turn and wandered up the River Thames to central London in late January, much to the delight of hundreds of Londoners. It was the first such sighting since records began nearly a century ago, as the endangered species is usually found in deep sea waters. The next day, the 18-ft. whale was placed in a pontoon and towed by a barge to be released. Crowds grew to 3,000 cheering onlookers as the massive rescue attempt unfolded. After several hours, the whale began to suffer from convulsions and became severely distressed. As the whale's condition worsened, scientists decided to administer a lethal injection. The cause of the 11-year-old female's tragic situation has not yet been determined. 🐾

Paradise Found

INDONESIA Living in a time when we hear so much about lost species, it's refreshing to learn that dozens, if not hundreds, of new species of frogs, butterflies, mammals, flowers and birds were discovered earlier this year by an international team of scientists in the remote mountain rainforests of Western New Guinea. Many rare species were also sighted, among them tree kangaroos, spiny anteaters and long-beaked echidnas, as well as male bowerbirds performing elaborate courtship rituals. One scientist is reported to have said that the "dawn chorus" of birds was the most fantastic he had ever heard. The most remarkable find was the Berlepsch's six-wired bird of paradise, thought to have become extinct in the 19th century when their feathers were coveted for women's hats. 🐾



Bruce Beehler/Conservation International

The feline owllet-nightjar is among the many newly discovered and rare species found in New Guinea.

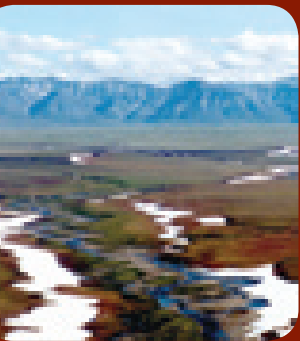
Wavering on Whales

INTERNATIONAL Over the winter, Japanese whalers tried to kill their self-appointed scientific research whaling quota of over 1,200 Bryde's, fin, humpback, minke, sei and sperm whales. Norway upped its quota to 1,052 minke whales—slaughtered under its objection to the 20-year ban on commercial whaling. In the meantime, negotiations have officially stalled on the Revised Management Scheme, the rules that would govern whaling if the ban was lifted.

In the past half-decade, the US government policy on whaling seems to have shifted away from whale conservation and toward capitulation to the whalers. In preparation for this year's International Whaling Commission meeting, we implore National Marine Fisheries Service Director William Hogarth, the newly-appointed head of the US delegation to the Commission, to return whale protection to the top of the US agenda. 🐾

Say No to Palm Oil

MALAYSIA A three-year genetic study published in January in the journal *PLoS Biology* analyzed DNA from the hair and feces of 200 orangutans in Borneo. Their research shows that the population has declined up to one hundred fold since the late 19th century, due mostly to human deforestation occurring within the past several decades. Researchers conclude that the major threat to the long-term survival of orangutans is linked to the expansion of palm oil plantations. Ninety percent of the world's palm oil comes from Borneo and Sumatra, the only remaining habitats of the orangutan. 🐾



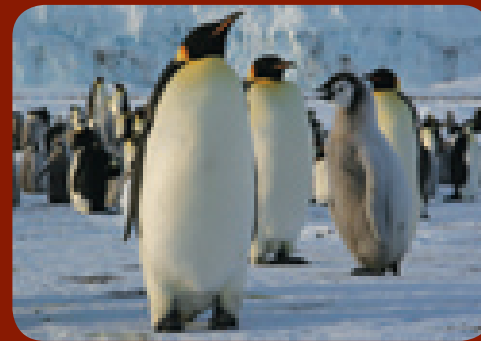
FWS



American Park Network



Wolcott Henry



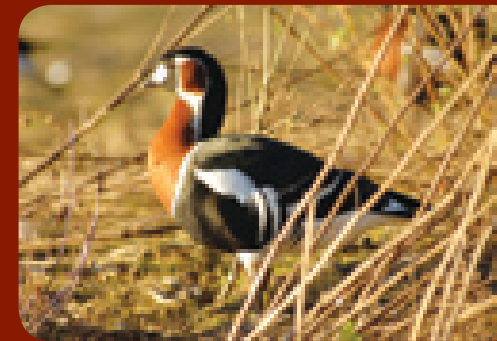
Bernard Breton/Dreamstime.com



Franco Andreone



United States Geological Survey



Paul Edwards

It was a troubling site. In September 2004, US Minerals Management Service researchers found four dead polar bears floating in the Beaufort Sea. The scientists concluded that as many as 40 polar bears likely drowned as they swam between ice floes—their traditional hunting grounds. Though polar bears are skilled swimmers, as the floes retreat due to warming air and ocean temperatures, the greater distances they must travel have proven to be deadly. That same month, the polar ice cap was reported to have retreated 160 miles north of the northern coast of Alaska. This was not an anomaly. As the arctic temperature rose 5 degrees Fahrenheit over the past several decades, the total amount of sea ice was reduced by 250 million acres, and ice thickness declined from 10 to only 6 feet. With an annual loss of approximately 14,000 square miles of sea ice, it is of no surprise that many scientists predict polar bears could become extinct within the next century.

Despite the plight of the polar bear and other evidence of global warming, no serious steps have been taken to stop

or at least slow the buildup of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These gases—primarily carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide—are emitted mostly as a result of human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels. They have led to a 0.6 to 1.2 degrees F temperature increase since the late 19th century, ten of the warmest years on record since 1990 and up to a 10-inch rise in sea levels due to melting polar ice. Unfortunately, scientists affiliated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change now predict that global temperatures may rise up to 8.1 degrees F by 2100. And while polar bears may be the most noticeable and charismatic species to be first to fall victim to climate change, they will certainly not be the last. Not a single species, including humans, will be spared the impacts of this warming climate. Coastal flooding, prolonged droughts, more ferocious and unpredictable storms and climate patterns, fresh water shortages and increased disease will become commonplace as the mercury continues to rise.

While scientists have known for years that the warming temperatures melt the ice floes, few imagined how dramatic and rapid the loss would be. The annual loss of Greenland's ice sheet, according to scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the University of Kansas, has risen from 21.6 cubic miles in 1996 to 36 cubic miles in 2005. In Alaska, scientists estimate the summertime Arctic could be ice-free within 70 years. Responding to the significant loss of polar ice in Antarctica, top NASA climate scientist James Hansen has predicted that without a dramatic cut to emissions, the sea level could rise 80 feet by the time today's children reach middle age.

The potential consequences to the world's oceans are dramatic. In the Arctic, crabs and other bottom dwelling species will either have to move north with the retreating sea ice or perish. In the Antarctic, the number of krill (the primary food source for whales, seals and penguins) has already declined by 80 percent since the 1970s as global warming causes the species' food supply to diminish. As the oceans warm, they also are becoming more acidic due to escalating rates of carbon dioxide input into the sea. Increasing ocean acidity threatens the very existence of crabs, oysters and mussels by dissolving their shells or preventing shell formation. Such changes, including alterations in the abundance and distribution of plankton—a critical food species in an ocean ecosystem—will have dramatic impacts on the health of our oceans. This means disastrous consequences for a wide variety of species, including crabs, salmon, seals and whales.

Climate change is causing enormous impacts to the world's coral reefs, which provide critical habitat to a cornucopia of marine organisms and are already under threat from unsustainable and illegal fishing practices, coastal development and pollution. Global warming exacerbates these impacts by causing coral bleaching, a phenomenon that occurs when stressed or diseased coral expel the algae that give them their vibrant colors. Bleaching incidents,

particularly if they are prolonged, can kill coral. In October 2000 at a symposium in Bali, Indonesia, scientists warned that over 25 percent of the world's coral reefs have already been destroyed, mainly because of global warming.

In 2002, 60 percent of Australia's Great Barrier Reef suffered bleaching, with 90 percent of coral bleached in the worst affected areas. More recently, an unprecedented die-off of coral was documented in the US Virgin Islands by National Park Service biologists, with ancient corals that existed during the voyages of Columbus found dead over the past few months. Described by the Global Coral Reef Alliance as an "underwater holocaust," the die-off was caused by increasing water temperatures that caused bleaching and made the coral more susceptible to disease. Indeed, 90 percent of coral reefs around the Maldives and Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean have been killed over the past two years as a result of global warming. Such losses have caused some scientists to claim that the world's existing reefs may be dead within 50 years because coral cannot recuperate in a hostile environment.

For many animals and plants, surviving in a warming world may simply not be possible. Scientists estimate that to survive a 5.4 degree F increase, plant and animal species will have to move north more than 300 miles or travel over 1600 feet up a mountain in order to find a suitable habitat. Because such extreme movements are often unlikely due to both natural dispersal limitations and a lack of available habitats, scientists are predicting an impending extinction crisis. Already, scientists believe that a warming climate is responsible for the extinction of almost half of the 80 herds of desert bighorn sheep in California, the near extirpation of a moose population in northwest Minnesota and a loss of 60 percent of collared lemming habitat in Canada. The population of over 5 million ducks who nest in the prairie pothole region of the central United States and Canada may be halved by 2060 because of harsher, more frequent droughts. Habitat for freshwater fish species, including

Global Warming

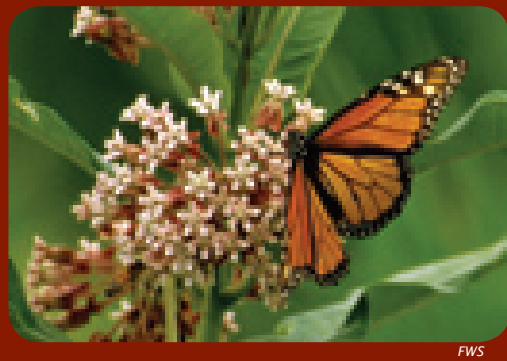
A Global Devastation



Photos, clockwise from top: 1) The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge already shows reduced snow cover year-round, and scientists say it could be ice-free during the summer season within 70 years. 2) Moose populations are in decline due to an increase in ticks caused by higher winter temperatures. 3) Coral bleaching occurs when the algae that gives coral their bright color is expelled, often due to global warming. 4) Penguins are going hungry following the 80 percent decline of krill, their main food source, since the 1970s. 5) Two-thirds of harlequin frog species in Central and South America have been killed off as a result of a fungus spurred by global warming. 6) Rising temperatures may be responsible for the extinction of up to 80 groups of desert bighorn sheep in California. 7) The red-breasted goose is one Arctic bird species whose population could be halved due to global warming-related habitat loss. 8) Polar bears are put at risk by the melting of ice floes where they typically find their food (photo: FWS).



FWS



FWS



NOAA



brook, rainbow and cutthroat trout and the invertebrates they feed on, will shrink significantly as streams and rivers warm and their depth decreases. Forests like the Sierra Nevada mountains in California have already shifted their tree lines as much as 100 feet upslope, as they attempt to escape the heat and drought that have increased the frequency and ferocity of forest fires.

And even if suitable habitat can be found, as the climate warms, various diseases—including those that threaten human health—will become more prevalent in all wildlife, from those living in reefs to those who dwell in tropical rainforests. As winter and summer temperatures rise, viruses, bacteria and fungi increase in number and range. Their deadly consequences grow as host species, weakened by the stress of climate change, become more susceptible to disease. In Maine, eastern oysters have fallen victim to a parasite whose range was previously limited by colder temperatures. The last populations of boldly colored honeycreeper songbirds in Hawaii have been afflicted by malaria as increasing temperatures allow disease-carrying mosquitoes to move higher up the mountains. In

Central and South America, entire populations of frogs have been killed, with some species going extinct, because of a deadly fungus triggered by the higher temperatures. Warming has also caused an expansion in the range of insects with damaging ecological consequences. In the Rocky Mountains, the mountain pine beetle is devastating whitebark pine ecosystems, while in Canada, the same species has devastated lodgepole pines across an area three times the size of the state of Maryland.

To put it simply, global warming is a global crisis that requires immediate solutions. Though it is home to less than 5 percent of the Earth's human population, the United States produces a quarter of the world's carbon dioxide emissions—which affects the entire planet. Instead of waiting for the US government to take action, individuals must do what they can to reduce energy use and emissions. Simple steps such as replacing standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, driving less, using recycled paper products, unplugging unused electronic devices, setting the household thermostat a few degrees cooler in winter and warmer in summer, taking shorter showers, purchasing minimally packaged goods and buying locally grown and produced products are all steps in the right direction. Animals, the environment and future generations are all depending on your help. 🐾

Photos, clockwise from top: 1) Rainbow trout populations could decline as suitable freshwater habitats shrink due to prolonged and pronounced droughts. 2) Researchers fear that monarch butterflies may lose their central Mexico winter habitat within 50 years because of climate change. 3) Some elephant seals living in the Southern Ocean are already starving, as the retreating ice makes it harder for mothers to feed their babies. 4) Southern Africa's quiver trees could be moving southward in an attempt to escape rising temperatures near the equator (photo: Warren Crowther).

Manatee Deaths Up,

Despite an extremely high manatee mortality rate in 2005, wildlife scientists in Florida have proposed a downlisting of the species from “endangered” to “threatened” under state law.

Almost 400 manatees died last year—the second highest toll in history, not much lower than the record-setting 415 fatalities in 1996. This year is not looking any better for the beleaguered animals, as the total of 48 manatee deaths in January was a third higher than the number for the same month in 2005.

Though 10 died in January of natural causes and six died of cold stress, eight were killed by watercraft and the other half died of still-unknown causes that could be human-related. Last year, 20 percent of manatee deaths were the result of a serious episode of red tide along several areas of the Gulf Coast, and an equal percentage were caused by boat strikes.

Meanwhile, existing protections are in jeopardy for Florida's manatees, whose population is reported to hover around 3,000. The state's five-member scientific panel, appointed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was asked to consider the “current and projected size and locations of the animals” before coming to its recommendation that the state protection be lowered.

Population census results are often used to suggest the number of manatees has increased. However, methods used to collect population data have improved over the years, permitting observers to see more manatees. Scientists caution that this should not be confused with an actual increase in the population. The hazards the animals face have not diminished over the years. In fact, lead panel scientist Elisa Haubold admitted that the manatee population is expected to drop 50 percent over the next half-century, due to factors such as habitat loss, watercraft collisions and more red tide algae. Still, she claimed manatees do not meet the state's criteria for an endangered species.

On a federal level, the animals would keep their endangered status—but some legislators are trying to gut those protections as well. Last year, Representative Adam Putnam (R-FL) added language to exclude manatees from the Marine Mammal Protection Act as an amendment to the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (a bill that promises to severely weaken the Endangered Species Act). Unfortunately, the bill and the amendment passed in the House.

If adopted by the Senate, Putnam's devastating amendment would effectively allow almost any individual dock permits to be approved—despite their proximity to manatee waters. The permits could only be denied if the particular docks in question would harm the *entire* population of manatees. It is the building of these docks that has caused an increase in boat strikes over the years, because it creates additional traffic. The structures also contribute to further destruction of manatee habitats.

The gentle manatee needs increased protection, not life-threatening policies that will further the species' decline. Please write your Members of Congress to urge them to oppose any legislation that would reduce protection for endangered species, including these marine mammals. 🐾



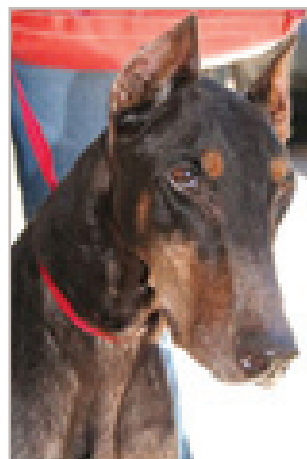
Many manatees are marked with deep scars due to boat strikes.

Protections Down



Gentle Florida manatees are experiencing higher mortality rates, yet legislation on both the state and federal level aims to strip them of their protections.

photos: FWS



Southern Animal Foundation

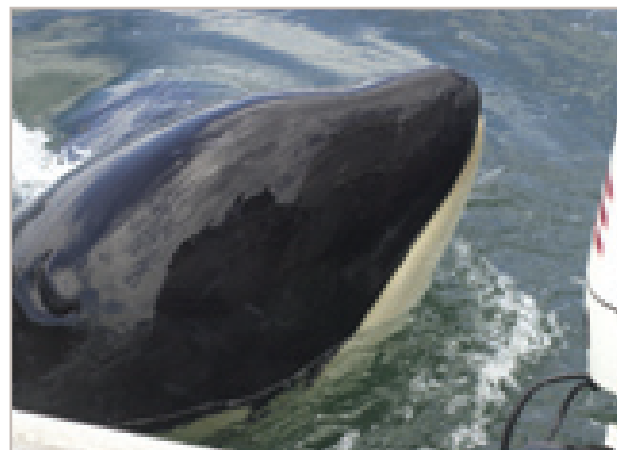
Remembering Leibchen

Gulf Coast Doberman Rescue's Terri Valenti contacted us with the sad news that Leibchen has died. Readers may remember this Hurricane Katrina dog from the previous *AWI Quarterly*; she clung to life for seven weeks, only to be placed out with the trash when her owners returned. After her rescue, she was cared for by a foster family for several months before succumbing.

Terri reflected on Leibchen's fortitude: "We have been trying to understand Leibi's will to live despite her advanced age and poor health. We are not so presumptuous to believe that we know the reason, but we do believe that it was for a purpose... perhaps to educate people about taking their pets with them during a hurricane or to teach them that pets are not disposable. My thought is that had her owners come home and found her dead, she would have been easily forgotten; no one would have been made to think about the suffering she endured before she died. I believe Leibi must serve as a reminder of the lives in our care. That they experience pain and suffering and yes, a desire to live and be loved." 🐾

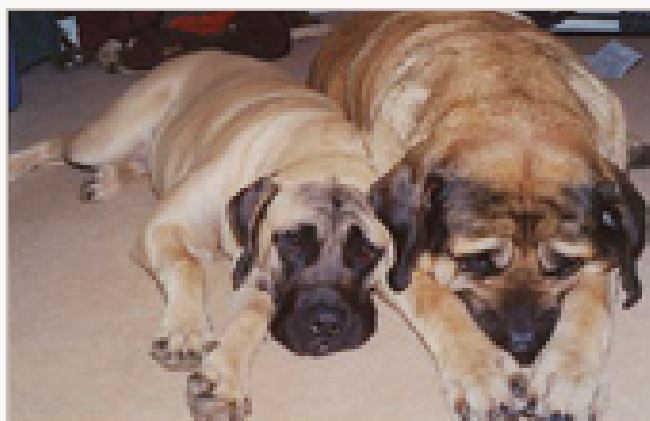
Luna Hit by Tugboat Propeller

Shortly after gaining an endangered status with other orcas living around the Puget Sound, Luna the whale was killed by the propellers of a tugboat in March. He was famous for interacting with boats and local people when he first became lost in Canada's Nootka Sound five years ago, and that never changed. Believing he held the spirit of their former chief, members of the local Mowachaht/Muchalaht tribe bonded with the whale (*AWI Quarterly*, winter 2005). Luna, who was known to play on boat wakes, swam under a tugboat and collided with a propeller powered by a 1,700 horsepower engine. However, this was not his first boat strike. In 2003, the whale was hit by a smaller propeller—but fortunately, he survived. This led to increased efforts to protect Luna, but in the end, he could not be saved. 🐾



ANON.ORG

Luna, a playful orca whale separated from his pod, was known for interacting with humans.



Kim Borgen

Bubba and Savannah were shot and killed after being caught in steel-jaw leghold traps.

Trapper Ordered to Pay Damages for Killing Dogs

A token measure of justice was recently granted to Marcela Egea, the owner of two English mastiffs who fell victim to a pair of steel-jaw leghold traps in February of last year. As we reported in the spring 2005 *AWI Quarterly*, trapper Michael Kartman shot the dogs near Egea's home in Belton, Mo. when he found them caught in the jaws of his traps. In March 2006, a judge in an Associate Court ordered Kartman to pay \$2,400 in civil damages to Egea for the loss of her animals. In Missouri, dogs are considered "personal property," and only their fair market value is recoverable.

Despite only having to pay what most would agree to be a small price for the lives he took, Kartman has appealed the original decision to the higher Circuit Court, where he is entitled to have a complete retrial. The case has been referred to a new judge and the parties are awaiting a trial date. We are optimistic that the judge will be sympathetic to Egea's case, and that she will have the opportunity to press for punitive damages. 🐾

brought to you by the SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION

Revised Puppy Mill Bill Threatens to Undermine Existing Law

OPPOSE PAWS DISCUSSION DRAFT

Senator Rick Santorum's (R-PA) **Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS)**, S. 1139, has undergone a dangerous transformation in the year since its introduction to Congress. Bowing to pressure from the commercial puppy mill industry, Senator Santorum has proposed a modified version of PAWS that would permit industry self-regulation of large-scale commercial breeders who sell dogs or cats directly to the public. While we support requiring these retail breeders to comply with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), giving them the option of industry oversight instead of regulation by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) sets a dangerous precedent.

The USDA has nearly four decades of experience enforcing the AWA, and its inspectors are trained professionals. By requesting data through the Freedom of Information Act, the public is able to obtain inspection reports and monitor

the job being done by the agency. However, if the pet industry is allowed to regulate any portion of its own dealers under the Act, this transparency will be lost, and files on individual licensees subject to industry oversight will not be available to the public.

Bias is inherent to systems that permit an industry to assess its own constituency. This is not just a theory; there are clear examples. The practice of industry-run accrediting bodies is just one, as facilities accredited by either the American Zoo and Aquarium Association or the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care have been cited by USDA inspectors for failure to meet AWA requirements. These bodies do not conduct routine, unannounced inspections the way that the agency does, and they have a broader mandate than remaining focused on compliance with the Act. 🐾



Companion Animal Protection Society

All commercial breeders of dogs and cats should be inspected by USDA.

Protect Your Pets

SUPPORT ENGLISH-DOYLE BILL

The **Pet Safety and Protection Act**, a bill to stop the sale of dogs and cats to research laboratories by random source dealers, is being introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Philip English (R-PA) and Mike Doyle (D-PA) as we go to press. A companion to S. 451, introduced in the Senate by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), the bill would ensure that beloved companion animals are not stolen and sold for experimentation—a laudable goal that Congress has sought to achieve since it passed the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 40 years ago. In writing your Representative, you may wish to mention that only 10 of these notorious dealers selling live dogs and cats remain, and six of them are currently under investigation by the US Department of Agriculture for failing to comply with the requirements of the AWA. 🐾

Permanent Ban Needed

SUPPORT H.R. 503/S. 1915

With overwhelming public support, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL) convinced Congress to pass an amendment to the 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that prohibits your tax dollars from being used to fund the federally mandated inspection of horses slaughtered for human consumption—thereby protecting America's horses from slaughter for the rest of the fiscal year. The measure was overwhelmingly approved in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law by the President. However, the US De-

partment of Agriculture (USDA) approved a petition from the three foreign-owned horse slaughterhouses in the United States that enables the horse slaughter industry to fund its own inspections—in direct contradiction to the law Congress just passed. SAPL and other humane groups filed a temporary restraining order in federal court to prevent the USDA from carrying out this scheme, but unfortunately, the judge claimed we lacked standing and ruled against our request. SAPL is pursuing further options in court, but we urge readers to ask their Members of Congress to cosponsor the **American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act**, H.R. 503 and S. 1915, the only permanent ban on horse slaughter. 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- 1) Please urge your Senators to oppose the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (S. 1139) Discussion Draft.
- 2) Ask your Representative to cosponsor the English-Doyle Pet Safety and Protection Act.
- 3) Request that your Senators and Representative cosponsor the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (S. 1915/H.R. 503) and request hearings for the bill.

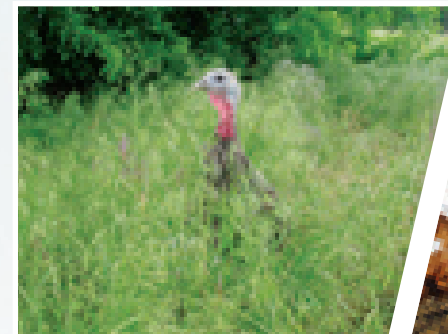
The addresses for your Members of Congress are:

- The Honorable (name), US Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510
- The Honorable (name), US House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515



Frank Reese: A Good Shepherd for Turkeys

“I don’t remember not loving turkeys,” said Frank Reese, owner of the Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch. “My father told me that when I was real little, 3 years old, I begged to see the turkeys before anything else at the State Fair.” While fellow students wrote with pride and affection about the family dog, Reese’s first grade school essay was entitled “Me and My Turkeys.”



“I fed and watered the poultry, gathered eggs in the mornings and evenings, and, at dawn, let the birds out of the barn where they roosted overnight,” Frank said of his childhood on his family’s farm in Kansas. Come July and August, he recalls, “Dad had me walk the turkeys to the fields so they could eat the grasshoppers that came when it was hot and dry.” The Reeses never needed to spray crops for bugs.

Today, on his own Lindsborg, Kan. pastures, Frank breeds old lines of standard-bred

turkeys like the ones he knew growing up. His turkeys are derived from birds he received from breeders of the 1920s and 1930s. Norman Kardosh, known as “The Turkey Man” of the poultry world, became Frank’s mentor and friend years ago, passing on his wealth of knowledge and strains of Narragansett, Blacks and Slates. In time, Frank received Bourbon Reds from Sadie Lloyd and Bronze turkeys from

Cecil Moore. The lines he conserves date from the 1800s. “These strains are the oldest continuous strains of standard-bred turkeys in North America,” he said. The birds are born of exacting breeding programs that have preserved the genetic purity of their ancestors. The offspring of Frank’s breeding flocks are pasture-raised by a network of family farmers handpicked for their commitment to conscientious husbandry.

Marion Burros, a writer for *The New York Times*, and Heritage Foods USA, a marketing company that specializes in products from independent family farmers raising heritage breeds under good welfare conditions,

first brought Frank and his farmer colleagues into the public spotlight. Heritage birds, they say, taste the way turkeys used to taste before factory breeding and raising “denatured” the birds.

Before my visit to Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch, I’d known turkeys only from a distance—from the viewpoint of a child riding in the family car past flocks of large white birds raised outdoors along Minnesota country roads. Local farmers let their turkeys roam on the range, supplying small, movable wooden shelters to protect them in bad weather. Today, most of those farms have contracted with agribusiness giants and confine their birds inside permanent buildings

year-round. Minnesota now raises more turkeys than any other state.

At Good Shepherd, Frank placed a turkey in my arms. She was robust and feather-soft and too heavy to hold for more than a minute. His turkeys crowded close to me and followed my path, and I marveled at how sturdy and stately they appeared while parading from place to place. Nearby, other birds dust-bathed in soft dirt under the pines, foraging for food in the pasture or nesting in straw-lined boxes. There is ample land for them, and Frank rotates the pastures to maintain healthy soils and vegetation.

Frank’s turkeys only lay eggs in season and are never force-molted. Poults are introduced to the outdoors through sunlit porches attached to their shelter. At 8 to 10 weeks of age, they are moved to pastures

where they graze, forage and fly about during the day, then settle onto roosts under the shelter of a canopy at night. Unlike their factory-farmed counterparts, the birds are never de-beaked or de-clawed. Nor are their skeletal systems deformed from breeding programs that select for fast growth and enhanced breast meat. “My mission is the preservation of these old breeds. It is a labor of love,” he said.

From an animal welfare standpoint, the Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch is impressive. Only standard-bred turkeys—popularly known as “heritage” birds—are guaranteed to have a normal skeletal structure, growth rate, metabolic system and lifespan. The stressful process of artificial insemination is not required because they still can mate naturally, unlike “modern” turkeys who are so disabled that they could

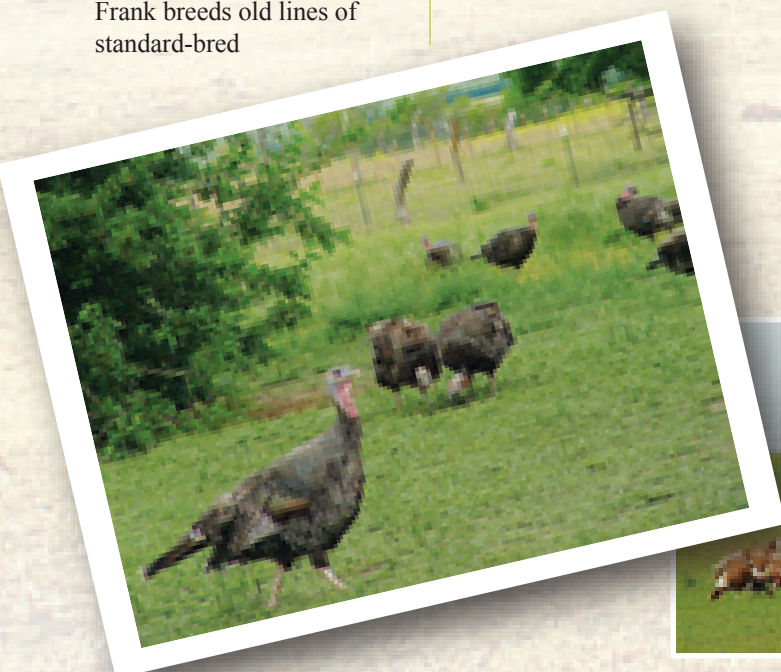
not reproduce and survive as a species without human intervention.

Under the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) husbandry standards program, turkeys must meet the American Poultry Association definition of standard-bred or the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy definition of heritage birds (which has recently been reinforced by the US Department of Agriculture in its rendering of the word “heritage” for labeling and marketing turkeys). This requirement prevents disabilities that result from selection for unnaturally rapid weight gain and other production-related characteristics. All species must be given the opportunity to engage in positive social interactions and perform instinctive behaviors essential to their

health and well-being. After witnessing these principles at work on Reese’s farm, AWI is pleased to endorse Frank and the network of farms who share his mission. 🐾

For more information, please visit these websites:
American Livestock Breeds Conservancy:
www.albc-usa.org
American Poultry Association:
www.amerpoultryassn.com
Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch:
www.reaseturkeys.com
Heritage Foods USA:
www.heritagefoodsusa.com

Article and photos by
DIANE HALVERSON



Photos (clockwise from top left): 1) At the Good Shepherd Turkey Ranch, Frank Reese holds one of his prized heritage birds. 2) Outdoor and indoor nestboxes are provided to hens. 3) Turkeys are omnivores, so the tall grass pasture provides a rich environment for the birds’ food searches. 4) The healthy skeletal structure and luxurious feathering of this standard-bred tom turkey gives him a regal appearance. 5) Turkeys enjoy grazing on the Williamson farm, part of Frank’s network. 6) With the shelter of shrubs close at hand, turkeys spend much of their time on the ranch’s pastures foraging for food.

Factory Farms Create the Environment for Deadly Bird Flu

Mild forms of avian influenza are relatively common, but its mutation into a virulent strain such as H5N1 is cause for a strong scientific and humane international response. To date, almost 200 people have been infected, and over half have died. Nearly a quarter of a billion birds have been killed.

Migrating birds are often blamed for the spread of the H5N1, but another theory is that the disease occurs and travels along corridors used by industrialized poultry producers. The non-governmental organization GRAIN notes that the virus follows man-made roads, not wild bird flyways. Global shipments of hatching eggs and poultry feed (which contains bird feces, a high-risk source of H5N1 contamination) are identified as possible conduits. The World Watch Institute also recognizes the role played by industrialized systems, stating that, "Crowded, inhumane and unhygienic conditions on factory farms can sicken farm animals and



Workers at a factory farm in Thailand collect laying hens to be killed in an effort to contain the H5N1 virus. The birds are shoved into trash bags while they are still alive, and the bags are piled in trucks to be dumped into massive landfills. Prisoners have been used to assist with this effort to "depopulate."

create the perfect environment for the spread of diseases, including avian flu."

By now, H5N1 has surfaced in more than 30 countries, and the majority of birds destroyed as a result have come from animal factories. In addition to reforming the factory production of farm animals, there is a desperate need to end inhumane handling and killing methods. To learn more, please visit www.grain.org. 🐾



photos: Sukree Sukplang/Reuters

Inhumane Slaughter and Misconduct Uncovered at Kosher Slaughterhouse

The AgriProcessors (AGRI) kosher slaughterhouse in Postville, Iowa was documented mutilating still-conscious cows and using improper and brutal handling practices for killing poultry (*AWI Quarterly*, winter 2005). An undercover People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals video of the plant revealed that its slaughter methods clearly violated both the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and Jewish law.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of the Inspector General has released a report containing details from its investigation, which determined that AGRI employees "engaged in acts of inhumane slaughter" and the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) employees "observed the acts of inhumane slaugh-

ter and did nothing to stop the practice." Some employees at the plant said they had observed animals with their tracheas removed "get up and walk after being dumped from the kill box."

Additionally, it was reported that, "FSIS inspectors accepted meat products from AGRI and that FSIS employees engaged in other acts of misconduct." An FSIS inspector was also said to have spent significant amounts of time sleeping on the job and playing games on a government computer.

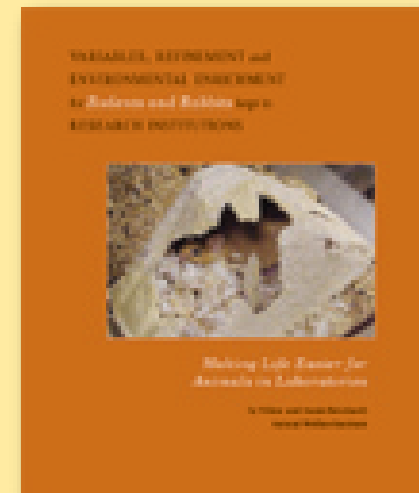
Despite these blatant violations, the USDA imposed only minor sanctions on just three of the plant's 10 inspectors and claimed that the information "did not present a prosecutable case." However, many individuals are still angry about the treatment going

on behind closed doors. Rabbi Perry Rank, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, wrote in reference to the case, "When a company purporting to be kosher violates the prohibition against *tza'ar ba'alei hayyim*, causing pain to one of God's living creatures, that company must answer to the Jewish community..." 🐾

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please express your outrage to Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns and encourage strong enforcement of the law.

US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250



New Book Helps Rodents and Rabbits

The latest publication from the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), *Variables, Refinement and Environmental Enrichment for Rodents and Rabbits kept in Research Institutions* by Viktor and Annie Reinhardt, offers guidance on how animal care personnel can effectively care for rodents and rabbits kept in research facilities. It covers refinement possibilities for housing, husbandry and handling-related factors that typically cause stress and distress reactions, as well as species-appropriate improvements that promote physical and behavioral well-being. The book is based on a review of data-supported published material and is an essential resource for those concerned with the welfare of rodents and rabbits used for experimentation, testing and teaching. Please contact AWI if you are interested in receiving a copy. 🐾

Bequests to AWI

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

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

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible.

We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

The Meatrix II: Revolting

The Meatrix II: Revolting is now online! Following in the critically acclaimed hoof prints of 2003's *The Meatrix*, the popular spoof of the feature-length film *The Matrix*, *The Meatrix II* features a trench coat-clad cow named Moopheus, a pig named Leo (who just might be "the One"), and a saucy chicken named Chickity. The animated short reveals the cruelty behind the commercial dairy industry, including the use of growth hormones and the practice of cutting the tails off of cows.

Humorous and educational, the goal of *The Meatrix* series is to motivate consumers to purchase food produced in sustainable ways that protect animals, as well as the environment, communities and workers. Like its predecessor, the sequel is coupled with online resources and general literature that informed diners can leave at restaurants. The Meatrix team has also recently launched a campaign asking Starbucks to stop using milk with recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH). To view the short and learn related information about the campaign, please visit www.themeatrix2.com. 🐾

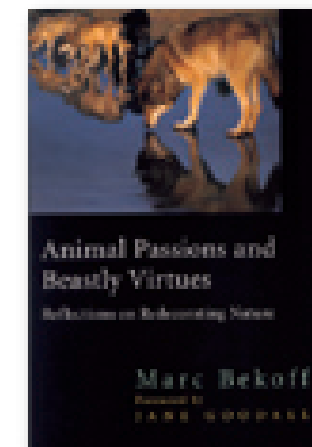


Animal Passions and Beastly Virtues

Reflections on Redecorating Nature

By Marc Bekoff
Temple University Press, 2005
ISBN: 1592133487; 320 pages, \$26.95

In this collection of essays, author Marc Bekoff brings together some of the most important findings he has presented throughout his career as a biologist and an animal behaviorist. By asking questions such as, "Do animals experience emotions?" and "Do animals have a sense of self?" he gives the reader detailed investigations into the minds of the creatures around us. Yet while Bekoff successfully challenges traditional views of animal behavior, his explanation of the distinction between animal rights and animal welfare advocates is inaccurate. He mistakenly suggests the goals of those in the animal protection community are the same as industry's maligned view of "welfare." 🐾



INTERSPECIES ATTACHMENTS

Why Different Animals Form Bonds

The improbable relationship between Owen, a baby hippo orphaned by the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, and Mzee, a 130-year-old tortoise living in Africa, made headlines for its remarkable and touching story. Following the disaster, the displaced hippo was moved to LaFarge Eco Systems, a wildlife refuge in Kenya, and quickly bonded with the giant tortoise.

Many reports of similar unexpected unions have made the news in recent months, from a rodent-eating snake and a hamster living in harmony in a Tokyo zoo to a puppy serving as a socialization tool for a lion cub separated from his mother. And though most of these situations are happening in captivity, similar introductions have been made in the wild. When a deer was killed near Natural Bridge, Va. last year, her fawn moved onto a nearby pasture occupied by a cow and her calves. The cow soon began looking after the fawn as if she was the natural mother.

“In many instances, these cases have their origins in a young animal who has not been weaned taking to an older animal,” says Animal Welfare Institute Laboratory Animal Consultant Viktor Reinhardt, a veterinarian. “Under natural conditions, this is the mother.” However, sometimes animals are forced to adapt.

This is certainly true in the case of Owen and Mzee. “Owen saw Mzee as his refuge,” says LaFarge Eco Systems General Manager Paula Kahumbu. “Mzee is a social tortoise who had been looking for closer companionship,



The friendship between Owen the hippo and Mzee the tortoise has inspired several children’s books and countless news articles.

which he lacked from the other animals already present in his enclosure.... It’s a two-way relationship that really works.”

Though the refuge has attempted to reunite Owen with other hippos, he continues to prefer the company of Mzee. This “imprinting” is a long-accepted concept that endures despite animals’ differences, Reinhardt said. “It’s a special phenomenon in that it is irreversible.” Not only does Owen feel a stronger connection to Mzee than other hippos, but he may prefer to be around tortoises for the rest of his life.

In other cases, different species connect after the loss of a mate. “It’s amazing what animals do when they want to bond and be close to each other,” says Mark Bekoff, a professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado.

Recently at the Los Angeles Zoo, a Red River porcine named Willy began nuzzling up to a bongo (a large, forest-dwelling antelope) named Nicole after his mate died of cancer last summer. Together in the mud pit, they take naps side-by-side and groom each other. To the animals’ caretakers, it’s obvious that Willy was lonely and wanted to make a new connection. “We do it and so do they,” Bekoff says. 🐾



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