



*Animal*  
WELFARE  
*Institute*

— 2020 —  
*annual report*





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WELFARE  
*Institute*

*69<sup>th</sup> annual report*

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# who we are

Since 1951, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), a nonprofit charitable organization, has been alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans.

## AWI'S AIMS

Through engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public, AWI seeks better treatment of animals in the laboratory, on the farm, in commerce, at home, and in the wild. Our work is focused on the following:

- Improving the housing and handling of animals in research, and encouraging the development and implementation of alternatives to experimentation on live animals
  - Abolishing factory farms, supporting high-welfare family farms, and eliminating inhumane methods used to slaughter animals raised for food
  - Ending the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and reforming other brutal methods of capturing and killing wildlife
- Preserving species threatened with extinction, and protecting wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat
- Protecting companion animals from cruelty and violence, including suffering associated with inhumane conditions in the pet industry
- Preventing injury and death of animals caused by harsh transport conditions

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# companion ANIMALS

AWI promotes strong enforcement of laws to protect companion animals. We develop resources to help law enforcement officials prosecute animal abusers and help social service agencies address the relationship between animal cruelty and family violence.

## Shelters

As animal shelters and rescues across the country struggled due to increased demand and reduced resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, AWI stepped in to provide emergency financial assistance to ensure that these entities could continue to provide food, medicine, and other essential supplies for animals in their communities. Though we focused primarily on hard-hit areas within the United States, we also provided funds to a wildlife sanctuary in Malawi and a facility in South Africa that shelters more than 550 vervet monkeys who have been orphaned, injured, and/or rescued from cruelty.

The quarantine has also been putting extra stress on domestic violence shelters, whose clients often include survivors with companion animals. AWI provided funds to a facility in Virginia that has kennels onsite for clients' pets. During the pandemic, the shelter had to move its clients to hotels, and the funds from AWI enabled the group to cover hotel pet deposits as well as pet-related expenses for clients who lost critical sources of income during the pandemic.

AWI directed funding to help horse rescues through the Homes for Horses Coalition—a national network of rescues and sanctuaries that AWI leads—as well as to

a nonprofit administering hay bank services. Eighteen equine rescues received grants to help defray costs of veterinary care, hay, feed, and other expenses.

## Animal cruelty crimes

AWI works with law enforcement officials to help stop animal cruelty crimes. AWI's Nancy Blaney is co-chair of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, the planning body for the APA's annual National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference. Nancy and AWI's Dr. Mary Lou Randour gave presentations at the conference in November on achieving laws and court decisions to thwart animal cruelty and on alternatives to sentencing for youthful offenders in cruelty cases. Nancy and Mary Lou serve on the boards and task forces of several partnerships involving law enforcement agencies, other government entities, and nongovernmental organizations working to combat animal cruelty.

AWI was a primary catalyst in getting the Federal Bureau of Investigation to collect data on animal

cruelty crimes in its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), beginning in 2016. Since then, we have worked closely with law enforcement groups and humane agencies in a number of states to provide assistance and hands-on training in the reporting process. As part of our campaign to encourage states to improve their reporting of animal cruelty crimes, AWI developed a state-by-state "scorecard" this year that highlights striking differences among states in their level of animal cruelty crime reporting.

In a similar vein, AWI has long encouraged social service and humane law enforcement agencies to collaborate more and to cross-report to better protect both human and animal victims of violence. In October 2019, Nancy headed a panel on this issue at the National Animal Care and Control Association's annual conference. She spoke about the substantial body of research connecting animal abuse with other crimes of violence, as well as about policy changes being made in response.







# farm ANIMALS

AWI seeks an end to cruel methods of housing, handling, transporting, and slaughtering farm animals. We promote pasture-based farming systems that allow animals to express natural behaviors, as an alternative to factory farming.

## On the farm

In 2019 alone, over 927,000 animals died in adverse weather events. In recent years, millions of farm animals have been killed in hurricanes and the resulting floods. To help producers prepare for potentially catastrophic weather, AWI has created a series of factsheets that highlight the dangers and provide tips for keeping farm animals safe and comfortable throughout. The information is being released to local press in advance of extreme weather events. We also successfully lobbied Congress to include a provision in the FY 2020 funding package

directing the US Department of Agriculture to work with farmers to create disaster preparedness plans.

Since 2013, nearly 5 million farm animals have also been killed in barn fires. To help prevent such horrific deaths, AWI proposed two changes to the National Fire Protection Association's code for animal housing facilities, which passed a first round of voting at the NFPA annual meeting in September 2019. A final vote is pending; if approved, the changes will be included in the 2022 version of the code. AWI also sent more than 5,000 supporter letters to the US Poultry & Egg

Association, along with a petition signed by 10,000 consumers nationwide, calling on that organization to implement fire prevention strategies.

AWI conducted a first-of-its-kind survey of states that have enacted on-farm protections to determine how rigorously those laws are being enforced. Our results, published in a March 2020 report, *Enforcement of State Farm Animal Welfare Laws*, show that, even though more than two dozen state laws and regulations have been enacted to protect farm animals over the past 20 years, enforcement of these laws remains weak. AWI is in contact with states regarding problems identified by the survey.

## During transport

Following the deaths of 21 pregnant cows on a barge traveling from Oahu to Kauai, AWI successfully lobbied the state of Hawaii to amend its animal export regulations to include welfare protections for farm animals traveling to and from the state and among the state's islands on sea vessels. The regulations will help ensure that animals do not suffer or die from preventable causes during sea transport.

## At slaughter

AWI released *Humane Slaughter Update: Federal and State Oversight of the Welfare of Farm Animals at Slaughter* in April 2020—our fourth comprehensive report analyzing federal and state enforcement of the nation's humane slaughter laws. Among the conclusions: Enforcement by states is on the rise but varies dramatically from state to state. Also, both federal and state inspection personnel are failing to take appropriate enforcement actions in response to egregious violations and repeat violators. This edition drew particular attention to specific slaughterhouses with the worst animal welfare records.

## Accuracy in food labels

In September 2019, AWI produced a report, *Label Confusion 2.0: How the USDA Allows Producers to Use "Humane" and "Sustainable" Claims on Meat Packages and Deceive Consumers*. This update of a 2014 AWI report presents an analysis of label approval files producers must submit prior to using humane or sustainability claims. AWI found that many producers are still failing to undergo pre-market label approval of claims. Of those whose claims were approved, several failed to provide adequate justification to substantiate use of the claims.





# marine ANIMALS

AWI works around the globe to prevent inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine species and destruction and degradation of their habitats.

## Commercial whaling

Though in-person meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) were curtailed this year, AWI was able to participate in an IWC working group aimed at reforming the structure and operation of the commission. Our contributions focused on increasing transparency, accountability, and operational effectiveness, guided by our vision for the IWC to be at the center of global efforts to protect all cetacean populations.

For the second year in a row, Iceland killed no whales, in part due to pressure from the AWI-led “Don’t Buy

from Icelandic Whalers” campaign to persuade commercial seafood buyers to avoid Icelandic seafood companies that have ties to commercial whaling.

## Bycatch

In July 2019, in response to a petition filed by AWI and others, the World Heritage Committee (WHC) designated the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site as “in danger” due to the entanglement of the nearly extinct vaquita porpoise in gillnets illegally set for totoaba fish. We are seeking adoption of strong corrective measures by the WHC to reverse the vaquita’s precipitous

decline. In April 2020, following a series of wins by AWI and others at the US Court of International Trade, the US government broadened an embargo on Mexican seafood products caught using gear that harms the vaquita.

AWI testified at a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) hearing in August 2019, calling for measures to reduce the lobster industry’s impact on the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale due to entanglement. In May 2020, AWI provided NMFS with extensive comments on its proposed List of Foreign Fisheries, which the agency is compiling in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Once finalized, the list could lead to bans on seafood imports from countries that kill marine mammals in excess of what is allowed under US standards.

Throughout the year, AWI participated in a number of workshops hosted by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to address the issue of bycatch in fisheries the organization certifies as sustainable. At one such workshop in September, AWI’s Kate O’Connell presented a paper on mitigation strategies in fisheries with known bycatch problems, particularly those involving endangered, threatened, and protected

species such as the right whale. After AWI and coalition partners raised concerns, MSC agreed to initiate a review of its standards with respect to this key issue.

## Captivity

AWI fights to end captivity of marine mammals for entertainment purposes and this year led efforts to stop the import of five captive-born beluga whales from Canada to Mystic Aquarium (ostensibly for research, but also for public display) in Connecticut. We submitted extensive comments before the close of the official public comment period in December 2019 and led a coalition of groups in providing government officials with additional information we uncovered about irregularities in the permitting process.

In February 2020, The Whale Sanctuary Project, of which AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose is a board member, selected a site in Nova Scotia for its sanctuary, after an extensive search. This site will become a model sanctuary where captive whales and dolphins can be rehabilitated and live permanently in a natural environment rather than in concrete tanks within entertainment facilities.







# WILDLIFE

AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild animals. We work to strengthen national and international wildlife protection and foster humane, nonlethal solutions to conflicts with wildlife.

## *Wildlife management*

AWI is a member of the steering committee of the National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests. In April 2020, we helped bring about a significant victory in Colorado when the state officially banned such contests. AWI led a coalition of animal welfare and conservation organizations that submitted a petition to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission requesting a ban on killing contests involving furbearers and small game species. We submitted memos to the commission and drafted a coalition

letter signed by 16 groups in support of the ban, and AWI's Johanna Hamburger testified at the January commission meeting and gave a presentation at the April meeting at which the ban was approved.

AWI and other advocates persuaded Humboldt County, California, to add vital protections for the county's native species to its contract with the federal wildlife-management program, Wildlife Services. The contract now requires Wildlife Services to implement numerous reforms to reduce wildlife suffering and

death, and the program can no longer kill animals involved in conflicts with humans in urban or suburban areas until all feasible nonlethal measures have been implemented and given adequate time to work. The contract also imposes reporting requirements and restricts cruel or ecologically harmful killing methods, such as body-gripping traps, pesticides, and lead ammunition. Humboldt is the most recent in a series of California counties that the coalition has induced to reform its wildlife management activities.

In 2019, AWI issued six Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards, totaling over \$85,000. This grant program, named for AWI's founder, funds innovative strategies for humane, nonlethal wildlife-human conflict management and study. A project using acoustic signals to reduce bird collisions with human structures and another that is collecting wildlife data to inform the design of the Vail Pass Wildlife Byway (an ambitious effort to improve landscape connectivity for multiple species) are among the projects we funded this year.

## *International wildlife trade*

As a participant in the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties in August 2019 in Geneva, AWI helped secure many crucial victories for animals, including the following:

- Strengthening the capacity of CITES to combat wildlife cybercrime and creating a database for information on illegal wildlife trade
- Securing greater protections for certain imperiled species, including giraffes, mako sharks, saiga antelopes, small-clawed and smooth-coated otters, black-crowned cranes, and multiple species of tortoises, turtles, geckos, newts, and lizards
- Ending the inhumane practice of removing live elephants from the wild in Zimbabwe and Botswana—typically done by separating young elephants from their families—and shipping them to zoos and circuses around the globe







# *animals in* LABORATORIES

AWI fosters species-appropriate housing, compassionate care and handling, and minimization of fear, distress, and pain for animals in research. We promote research methods that reduce the total number of animals subject to experimentation.

## *Wild horses*

AWI has continued to muster significant opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's plan to surgically sterilize wild horses on the range via "ovariectomy via colpotomy"—an inhumane and outdated procedure that involves severing a mare's ovaries while the animal remains conscious. In 2018, AWI successfully litigated to stop the BLM from pursuing this procedure, but the agency continues to float plans to use it.

In October 2019, we delivered remarks to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board on this and other reckless management tactics and coordinated a letter signed by veterinarians nationwide condemning the use of ovariectomies on wild horses. Similarly, AWI commissioned a national poll demonstrating overwhelming opposition among Americans to the BLM's plans, while our efforts in Congress led to dozens of federal lawmakers writing to the BLM to urge the agency to halt these plans.

AWI also submitted extensive regulatory comments outlining the legal problems with the BLM's misguided management proposals—not only its surgical sterilization plans but also its plans to eliminate millions of acres of designed wild horse habitat and permanently remove thousands of horses from the range.

After the agency issued a report on wild horse management to Congress in May 2020 calling for accelerated mass roundups at enormous expense, we rallied supporters to send more than 21,000 messages to federal lawmakers urging them to direct the BLM to implement humane fertility control and continue to work with lawmakers on including strong protections in the next spending package.

## *Refinement Database*

AWI's Refinement Database is a valuable online resource that curates published scientific articles and books on topics related to the refinement of housing, husbandry, and care of animals in research. This year, new features were added to the database that enable more precise searches with respect to animal type and topic. The upgrade significantly enhances the ability of animal care personnel to glean vital information from the 7,400+ citations in the database to assist implementation of refinements at their own facilities.

## *Scientific meetings*

In September 2019, AWI's Dr. Joanna Makowska was invited to present her work on improved laboratory rodent housing at the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare seminar series in Guelph, Ontario. In October, Joanna and AWI's president, Cathy Liss, attended the 70<sup>th</sup> annual American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting in Denver. AWI hosted an exhibit, engaged with attendees, and distributed our many publications on refinement in the care and handling of animals in







## AWI DOCUMENTS USDA'S FAILURE TO PROTECT ANIMALS

In early 2017, the US Department of Agriculture abruptly removed inspection reports, annual reports, and enforcement documents from its website, severely limiting the public's ability to track the department's enforcement activity with respect to licensees and registrants covered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Since that time, AWI has published over 20 articles in the *Quarterly* about the gutting of AWA enforcement. Our investigative work on this situation was also cited multiple times in national media and served as a basis for a September 2019 op-ed by AWI's president in the influential congressional news outlet *The Hill*.

This evidence helped AWI and allies secure strong language in the 2020 USDA appropriations bill requiring the USDA to fully restore inspection records and other documents crucial to public oversight. As a direct result, over 50,000 inspection reports reappeared in mid-February 2020, with more documents following a few months later. AWI's investigation of horrific conditions at the facilities of prominent chinchilla breeders that led to the May

2020 *Science* article (see previous page), would not have been possible without this restoration.

Another AWI investigation revealed that the USDA was redacting the names and other identifying information of 97 percent of breeders (which number in the thousands and include puppy mills), thus making it nearly impossible for AWI and other public watchdogs to monitor abusive facilities. Despite this obfuscation, AWI conducted a meticulous analysis of the dramatic decline in AWA enforcement. This and other crucial material provided by AWI contributed to a front-page feature article in the *Washington Post* in August 2019—a follow-up to October 2018 and February 2019 pieces that also relied on information we furnished. Our data was used to create graphic features in the August article that vividly displayed the plunging number of citations (down 65%) and enforcement cases (down 95%) from 2014 to 2018. AWI's sources inside the USDA told us that this and other media exposés we contributed to boosted the morale of beleaguered inspectors and spurred the 2020 appropriations mandate to restore inspection records online.

research. As usual, our materials were popular among the conference's 4,000+ attendees from academia, industry, and government. Cathy also showcased AWI's activities on behalf of animals in research at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual 3Rs Symposium, held online in June 2020.

### LAREF

AWI's Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF) continued to host many valuable online conversations between animal care personnel, veterinarians, researchers, and students on topics such as training animals to cooperate with procedures, novel enrichment ideas, and "compassion fatigue." In February 2020, AWI published *It's Okay to Cry*, the fifth volume of LAREF discussions. Edited by AWI Scientific Committee member Viktor Reinhardt, the book features selected conversations that took place on the forum from 2016 through 2019.

### Refinement Grants

This year, AWI awarded Refinement Grants to four worthy recipients: Dr. Lucía Améndola (University of British Columbia) for her project assessing the welfare benefits of playpens for female mice; Dr. Nicole Herndon (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) for her investigation of best practices for preparing retired

research dogs to forever homes; Dr. Brianna Gaskill (Purdue University) for her work analyzing social networks of group-housed male mice, with the goal of reducing aggression; and Rachel van Vliet (McGill University) for her research on the use of species-specific behavior by animal care staff as a source of enrichment for macaques and marmosets.

### Investigation of regulated facilities

An investigation by AWI this year exposed inhumane practices by commercial dealers of chinchillas for research. One—Moulton Chinchilla Ranch—has received more critical citations since December 2013 for apparent violations of the Animal Welfare Act than any of the other 8,000+ entities covered under the law. US Department of Agriculture inspectors have observed chinchillas with eyes crusted, oozing, and swollen shut; chinchillas with collars embedded in their necks; and even rotting carcasses in cages. Inspectors have been thwarted 17 times in attempts to inspect animals—told in each instance that an authorized person was not available to accompany them. AWI provided information to Meredith Wadman of *Science*, who wrote a hard-hitting article on the subject, published in May 2020, calling out researchers who rely on suppliers chronically out of compliance with the law.







# government AFFAIRS

AWI has been a leader, at both federal and state levels, in securing landmark laws aimed at shielding animals from cruelty and needless suffering. We work to ensure diligent enforcement of these laws and fight efforts to roll back hard-won animal protections.

The Endangered Species Act has come under sustained attack from the current administration, which has sought to chisel away at this landmark law. AWI repeatedly sounded the alarm over this, and in November 2019, we cohosted a briefing on Capitol Hill to rally support for the Protect America's Wildlife and Fish in Need of Conservation (PAW and FIN Conservation) Act (HR 4348/S 2491). This bill would repeal rule changes approved by federal agencies that significantly undermine the law.

Other animal welfare bills AWI helped get introduced in Congress this year include the following:

- Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (S 2121) to ban elephants, big cats, and other wild animals in traveling shows
- Scientific Assistance for Very Endangered (SAVE) Right Whales Act (S 2453) to fund collaborative government/NGO/industry efforts to protect North Atlantic right whales

- Big Cat Public Safety Act (S 2561) to ban the possession of lions, tigers, and other big cats by those who are not licensed by the US Department of Agriculture
- Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act (S 906) to ban driftnets in federal waters off the California coast
- Captive Primate Safety Act (S 2562) to ban interstate commerce involving nonhuman primates for the exotic pet trade
- Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (HR 4211) to protect animals from unscrupulous dealers and exhibitors and close existing loopholes in the licensing process

Versions of the five Senate bills listed above were introduced in the House of Representatives prior to the start of the fiscal year. Another bill AWI championed in the previous fiscal year—the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act (HR 737), to make it illegal to possess, buy, or sell shark fin products—passed the House in November 2019.

AWI was also instrumental in securing language in House appropriations bills to do the following:

- Promote recognition of animal abuse as a caregiver risk factor in the National Child Abuse and Neglect Database
- Encourage the National Institutes of Health to require that its extramural grant recipients adopt policies for the adoption of animals following their use in research
- Prohibit the USDA from using funds to license dealers who sell dogs and cats acquired from random sources for use in experiments
- Direct the USDA to ensure that Animal Welfare Act inspectors include all observed noncompliances in their inspection reports

## *Horse-related legislation*

In September 2019, AWI helped organize an equine lobby day on Capitol Hill that brought advocates from rescues across the country to meet with congressional offices to discuss priority legislation. Following this







# Humane EDUCATION

AWI encourages teachers and educators to incorporate animal-friendly science education into their lessons and teach respect for rather than exploitation of animals.

lobby day, lawmakers held congressional hearings on two key bills: (1) the Horseracing Integrity Act, to create an independent anti-doping authority that would set uniform national standards, testing procedures, and penalties and would prohibit the race-day medications often used to mask pain, inflammation, and other health issues; and (2) the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, to ban the slaughter of American horses both here and abroad.

In another important victory, the Horse Transportation Safety Act (HR 1400) was included in the House infrastructure package in June 2020. The bill would promote both animal welfare and public safety by prohibiting the interstate transport of equines in double-deck trailers, which are designed for much shorter animals and cannot safely accommodate horses.

### State bills

AWI focused on state legislation across the country as well. A major victory was achieved when SB 241, a bill AWI campaigned heavily for to ban the sale in Illinois of cosmetics tested on animals, was signed into law in August 2019. Another big win came after we worked with the group Shark Allies in Florida on SB 680, a bill to ban the importation of shark fins into the state. It passed the Florida Legislature in March 2020 and was signed into law following the end of the fiscal year. At the close of the fiscal year in June 2020, the Ohio House of Representatives passed HB 33, a bill AWI advocated that would, among other things, require veterinarians, social service professionals, and counselors to report animal abuse to law enforcement or animal control officers.

AWI has also been leading efforts to stop the US Forest Service from endangering wild horses under its authority after the agency announced in October 2018 that it intended to sell horses without restrictions on slaughter. In the Fiscal Year 2020 spending bill, we were able to secure a first-of-its-kind provision preventing Forest Service-managed horses from being killed for commercial purposes.

A bill long championed by AWI, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act (HR 693), passed the House of Representatives in July 2019. The PAST Act would curb the rampant and abusive practice of “soring,” which involves deliberately inflicting pain on horses’ hooves and limbs to create an exaggerated high-stepping gait for walking horse shows and competitions.

AWI’s annual “A Voice for Animals” contest, sponsored jointly with the Humane Education Network, marked its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with over 500 entries from all over the world, including submissions from Nepal, Mexico, Singapore, and India. The annual contest offers monetary awards to high school students age 14–18 for essay, video, and photography submissions advocating protection of species and prevention of animal suffering and showcasing their own projects on behalf of animals. Top prizes went to a video highlighting the dangers of plastics in the marine ecosystem, a smartphone app matching shelter animals with potential adopters, and an essay describing the use of forensic science to curb pangolin trafficking.

To further support the aspirations of budding animal advocates, AWI used its fall 2019 Giving Tuesday campaign to help fund scholarships of up to \$2,000 each for US high school seniors wishing to pursue a career working on behalf of animals. Eight recipients were selected based on their animal-welfare-related extracurricular activities and their declared intent to continue such work in college and beyond.

In fall 2019, AWI donated nearly 40,000 of our children’s books, which promote kindness to animals, to groups that work with children in particularly underserved areas, including inner-city schools, Native American reservations, and rural communities. Animal books, according to some of the groups we worked with, are the most sought after by children.

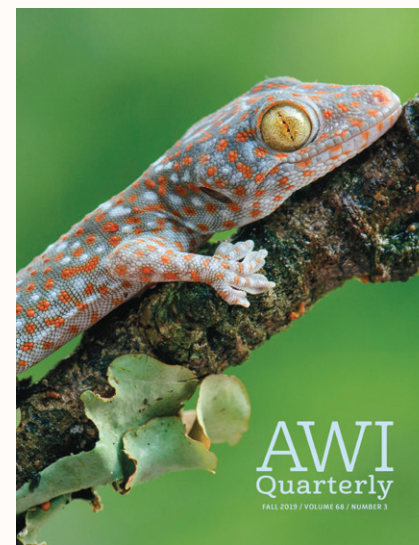
At the request of teachers and educators looking to incorporate animal-friendly science education into their lessons, AWI partnered with educator Nancy Kellum Brown this year to develop a set of lesson plans to accompany two of AWI’s books: One, *A Dangerous Life*, is a graphic novel aimed at middle school-age readers that explores the true costs of the ivory trade. The other, *The Magic of Touch*, reviews the scientific and professional literature to present evidence of the calming, stress-buffering, and life-enhancing effect of touch among animals, among humans, and between animals and humans. The books and both sets of lesson plans are available at no cost to educators.





# AWI Quarterly

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to over 46,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, deans of medical and veterinary schools, laboratory technicians, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this fiscal year.



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At the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in August 2019, AWI presented information detailing the continued sale in Japan of meat from sei whales landed in violation of CITES. Our surveys show that sei whale products are sold by about 75 percent of Japanese whale meat vendors, are served in about 40 percent of Tokyo restaurants that offer whale meat, and are widely available online. In response, most Standing Committee members insisted that Japan should confiscate and dispose of remaining sei whale products.

The National Institutes of Health has awarded Veit Stuphorn of Johns Hopkins University millions of dollars in grants to study the neural mechanisms involved in risk-taking in monkeys. In published studies, Stuphorn has repeatedly failed to disclose the extreme methods of physical restraint and other harsh treatment the monkeys endure in his experiments. This failure—and the scientific journals' seeming indifference to it—suggest that the monkeys' pain and suffering is viewed as merely a trivial aspect of the research.

In September 2019, the State Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report documenting the unconscionable mistreatment of dogs sent to other countries under the Explosive Detection Canine Program

(EDCP). According to the OIG, the EDCP has failed to properly monitor care of the dogs by recipient countries, and the dogs have suffered for it. Concerns raised by Dr. Karen Iovino, a veterinarian who had worked for the private contractor that trained the dogs, prompted the inquiry.

Undercover investigations conducted by animal welfare organizations at dairies in four states exposed horrendous conditions for cows on these farms. The investigations reveal extreme abuse, inhumane handling, routine neglect of calves, painful mutilations without anesthesia, and unsanitary housing conditions. Unfortunately, the dairy industry operates with little state or federal regulation, and inhumane practices are likely to continue unless outside intervention occurs.

Since 1997, at each meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP), AWI has bestowed the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award on individuals, organizations, and government agencies that have demonstrated excellence in the fight against wildlife crime. Together with CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero, AWI recognized another ensemble of deserving award recipients at the 18<sup>th</sup> CoP, held in Geneva in August 2019. The dedicated and often dangerous work of these largely unknown conservation heroes protects the world's wildlife from poachers and criminal syndicates that threaten global biodiversity.

An August 2019 inspection report for the US Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) documented extreme neglect of animals, including repeated failures to follow veterinarian instructions. Over the course of a month, two underfed ewes deteriorated so badly they had to be euthanized. The facility deprived a crippled, dehydrated ewe of care and finally euthanized her, and it denied veterinarian-prescribed treatment to a lame lamb. In 2015, MARC caused public ire and congressional scrutiny after a *New York Times* article exposed deplorable animal suffering there.

After the USDA failed to take enforcement action against Wilson's Wild Animal Park, a notorious animal exhibitor, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring's Animal Law Unit stepped in to enforce state cruelty laws against the facility. A search of the Winchester, Virginia, premises found insufficient food, water, and space; grounds littered with partial skeletons; and animals in distress—some with filthy, severely matted fur and some exhibiting abnormal behaviors. Authorities seized 119 animals.





## WINTER 2019

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A feature article in the December 2019 issue of *National Geographic* takes a hard look at the captive big cat problem in the United States. The article examines how thousands of big cats are kept as household pets and on display at disreputable roadside zoos in the United States, leading to immeasurable animal suffering and appalling threats to human safety. AWI contributed to the article, and AWI President Cathy Liss is quoted concerning the USDA's gutting of Animal Welfare Act enforcement and the department's paltry efforts to monitor the welfare of big cats in private zoos.

Experts in international and Taiwanese policy and dolphin biology, including AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose, participated in a workshop in Ontario, Canada, in August 2019 to prepare a recovery plan for the endangered Taiwanese white dolphin to present to the government of Taiwan. The dolphins—numbering fewer than 75—reside along Taiwan's heavily industrialized west coast. Among the recommendations: ban gill and trammel nets in dolphin habitat, and locate new development away from such habitat.

Four years ago, after the National Institutes of Health (NIH) ended its support of experimentation on chimpanzees, the agency announced that all its

chimpanzees would be eligible for retirement to Chimp Haven, a sanctuary outside Shreveport, Louisiana. Sadly, the NIH subsequently announced that many of the chimps are *not* eligible to be moved, including 40+ chimps at the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) in New Mexico. To make this determination, the NIH relied on information provided by the APF, which will receive approximately \$890,000 a year to care for the chimps left there—and would go out of business if the chimps were moved.

A project funded in part by a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI is using photographs and computer vision technology to help identify and protect sea turtles—without the stress of physical capture and tagging. Turtle photographs collected by Hawaiian Hawksbill Conservation are loaded into Wild Me's Internet of Turtles Wildbook platform (*iot.wildbook.org*), whereupon the sophisticated computer vision system identifies individual turtles based on their unique markings. Access to the platform is available to hawksbill and green sea turtle researchers around the world.

In southwestern Alberta, Canada, conflicts between grizzly bears and agricultural activities have increased over the last 15 years. With help from a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, Dr. Andrea Morehouse and her team used a case study approach to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts by the Waterton Biosphere Reserve's Carnivores and Communities Program to mitigate conflict—including helping communities address safety issues and eliminate unnecessary bear attractants. Morehouse's study indicated that local participants felt the program effectively reduced human-carnivore conflicts, increased their sense of security living with large carnivores, and helped them learn skills and gain confidence in using nonlethal mitigation tools.

Jessica Brekke, a laboratory animal technician at the Mayo Clinic campus in Rochester, Minnesota, is always looking for new enrichment ideas to use with animals in her charge. When she wanted to test out a "rat hammock" but couldn't find any available commercially, she invented one herself. After some tinkering, the end result uses half sections of 3-inch-diameter PVC pipe and steel wire. It proved a hit: All the rats she introduced to the hammock started to use it within the first day to sleep, groom, play, and look out.



## SPRING 2020

volume 69, number 1

Efforts to study the population dynamics and survival of the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, a threatened species, have historically been difficult due to cryptic coloring, reclusive behavior, and low recapture rates. A study funded by an AWI Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, however, found that using thermal imaging drone cameras is an effective and noninvasive way to survey snake populations. Using this technique, researchers were able to detect and zero in on eastern massasaugas whose body temperatures were as little as 1 degree Fahrenheit over ambient ground temperatures—without disturbing the snakes.

In February 2020, AWI and a coalition of animal groups sued the USDA for denying a petition to ban the slaughter of nonambulatory disabled pigs. These pigs are subject to abuse at slaughterhouses—workers often try to force them to move by kicking, dragging, shoving, or even electroshocking them—and are at a higher risk of carrying human-transmissible pathogens because they are held longer than ambulatory pigs, often in feces-ridden pens.

A study funded by an AWI Refinement Grant sought to compare environmental enrichment strategies in their ability to promote species-specific behaviors, decrease abnormal behaviors, and improve the welfare of rabbits

in laboratories. Overall, large rabbit runs (as opposed to standard size cages) and various enrichment devices were found to encourage a broad spectrum of active, species-typical rabbit behaviors, while simultaneously reducing potentially stereotypic self-directed grooming behavior.

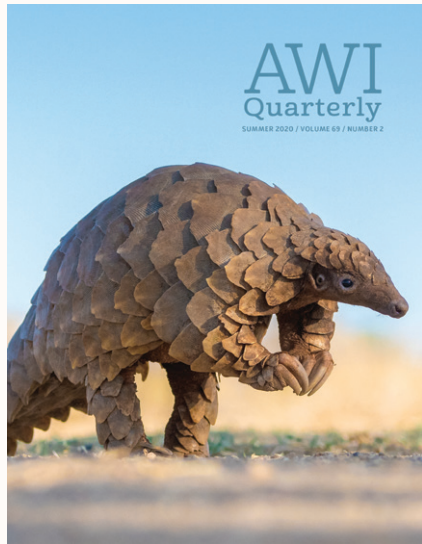
In March 2020, more than two dozen trainers, pharmacists, veterinarians, and drug distributors were charged as participants in a pervasive racehorse-doping ring. Each year in the United States, hundreds of racehorses die on tracks across the country—due in large part to lax oversight and prolific use of pharmaceuticals that mask the pain of injuries that lead to breakdowns.

US Fish and Wildlife Service officials seized 18 boxes of dried shark fins at PortMiami in late January 2020, including fins from protected species. The shipment (worth up to \$1 million) was believed to have originated in South America and was en route to the Far East. Meanwhile, in Texas, AWI has been providing law enforcement officials with information on restaurants in the state that continue to serve shark fin in violation of a state ban. One AWI tip prompted an investigation that recently resulted in a restaurant owner's conviction and the ongoing prosecution of several other Texas establishments.

An "organ-on-a-chip" is a clear, flexible polymer lined with human cells to mimic various physiological responses to drugs, toxins, or other chemicals. In January, the Wyss Institute took it a step further, announcing the creation of a "body-on-a-chip"—multiple organs-on-chips linked to mimic whole-body physiology, allowing observations of biochemical and physiological responses across 10 different organs. Such devices may be more predictive of effects on humans than current animal models—with faster turnaround times and lower costs.

At least 1 billion wild animals are thought to have lost their lives during the 2019-20 Australian wildfires. Even after the immediate threat of the fires passed for the season, loss of habitat and food sources imperils animals in these areas. Long-term habitat restoration will be necessary to prevent the extinction of some species. AWI contributed funds to wildlife rescue and recovery groups on the ground and to an Australian foundation that supports wildlife rehabilitation organizations and individuals who care for wildlife.





**SUMMER 2020**  
*volume 69, number 2*

COVID-19 is but the latest in a long and accelerating history of zoonotic diseases—ones that jump from animals to humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in fact, estimates that at least 70 percent of new and emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic. While COVID-19 almost certainly emerged from direct contact with wildlife at a live animal market, other zoonotic diseases are transferred to humans via the domestic animals we pack into factory farms. If we hope to limit future deadly outbreaks, we must rein in our rampant trade and consumption of wildlife, destruction of habitat, and factory farming of domestic livestock.

In April 2020, Kentucky enacted SB 21, a law allowing veterinarians to report incidents of animal abuse and mistreatment, including those involving farm animals covered under the state's on-farm livestock and poultry care standards. Prior to enactment of SB 21, veterinarians were barred from reporting animal abuse and mistreatment under the guise of confidentiality—even though veterinarians may be the only individuals other than animal owners who come in close enough contact with the animals to assess their well-being.

Camilla Bengtsson and Marie Eriksson of the in-vivo department of RISE Research Institutes of Sweden have

been working since 2015 to improve the welfare of mice and rats in toxicology studies in order to reduce stress, anxiety, and fear. Gentle pre-study handling and training of animals may seem time-consuming, but actually saves time, according to the RISE researchers: “We never have problems with dosing and sampling procedures due to stressed and struggling animals, and we minimize stress-related mistakes.”

In March 2020, the Russian government announced it would list 14 mammals on its endangered species list—the first new entries in over 20 years. Among the newly listed are all mammal-eating orcas in Russian waters, including those in the Okhotsk Sea. Over the past eight years, as many as 40 members of this small orca population have been captured and sold to facilities in Russia and China, killed during capture, or captured and released to an unknown fate. Now such captures will end—an achievement made possible by the passionate calls for protection from animal advocates around the world.

Natural disasters and public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic can negatively impact farm animal welfare in many ways—including disruptions in feeding and essential care, reduced animal welfare oversight by auditors and inspectors, and the use of inhumane methods to quickly kill and dispose of large numbers of animals on the farm when slaughterhouses are shuttered. As long as farm animals are raised in massive numbers within intensive systems—ones that rely on complex resource chains that can break down during disasters—increased farm animal suffering in such situations is probably inevitable.

A major victory was gained when the Chicago City Council voted 46–4 to ban the use of horse-drawn carriages in the city. Horses conscripted into this business endure long hours pulling 1,000-pound carriages on city streets while being exposed to temperature extremes, air pollution, and traffic congestion. Spooked horses can lead to carriages tipping over, endangering people and horses alike. Alderman Brendan Reilly stated that horses “weren't bred to be sucking gas fumes from the back of CTA buses and comingling with cement mixers. That's not humane treatment of animals.”





statements of activities and changes in net assets

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2020	2019
<b>NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:</b>		
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Contributions • Foundations and trusts	\$ 832,219	\$ 857,076
• Legacies and bequests	1,765,660	2,258,548
• Memberships and other	2,066,992	1,911,176
• In-kind	–	28,884
Tenants net rental income	64,965	93,384
Sale of publications and reports	3,061	1,111
Dividend income	106,298	112,331
Interest income	66,643	27,614
Realized and unrealized gain on securities	96,877	93,580
	<u>5,002,715</u>	<u>5,383,704</u>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:</b>		
Satisfaction of program restrictions:		
Marine mammals	–	20,500
Roger L. Stevens Publication Fund	–	19,140
Total net assets released from restrictions	–	39,640
Total revenues and other support	<u>5,002,715</u>	<u>5,423,344</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program service	3,773,499	3,766,371
Management and general	336,136	297,738
Fundraising	47,911	65,319
Total expenses	<u>4,157,546</u>	<u>4,129,428</u>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<u>845,169</u>	<u>1,293,916</u>
<b>NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:</b>		
Net assets released from restrictions	–	(39,640)
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>(39,640)</u>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<u>845,169</u>	<u>1,254,276</u>
<b>NET ASSETS • beginning of year</b>	<u>16,064,718</u>	<u>14,810,442</u>
<b>NET ASSETS • end of year</b>	<u>\$ 16,909,887</u>	<u>\$ 16,064,718</u>

statement of functional expenses year ended June 30, 2020

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 1,436,099	\$ 142,921	\$ 15,880	\$ 1,594,900
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	114,448	11,455	1,272	127,175
Employee benefits	134,375	15,368	1,490	151,233
Retirement Plan	31,899	3,190	354	35,443
Advertising	42,230	2,460	2,640	47,330
AWI Quarterly	217,131	–	2,629	219,760
Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)	82,715	3,658	12,069	98,442
Research, writing, and editing	39,897	–	–	39,897
Grants	661,478	–	–	661,478
Conferences, meetings, and travel	127,578	911	161	128,650
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)	46,318	1,269	1,833	49,420
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	69,019	15,560	613	85,192
Professional services	205,598	26,950	–	232,548
Memberships and subscriptions	42,941	10,133	6,449	59,523
Consultants	349,356	41	–	349,397
Internet services	49,324	757	1,344	51,425
Schweitzer Award	311	–	–	311
Occupancy costs	57,543	42,816	452	100,811
Bank and investment fees	–	52,123	–	52,123
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	3,708,260	329,612	47,186	4,085,058
Depreciation and amortization	65,239	6,524	725	72,488
Total expenses	\$ 3,773,499	\$ 336,136	\$ 47,911	\$ 4,157,546

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



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If you would like to help assure AWI'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 (FEIN: 13-5655952). We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases in which you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.

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