

# ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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64<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015



## Who We Are

For over 60 years, 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 to:

*Abolish factory farms, support high-welfare family farms, and achieve humane slaughter for animals raised for food;*

*Improve the housing and handling of animals in research, and encourage the development and implementation of alternatives to experimentation on live animals;*

*End the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and reform other brutal methods of capturing and killing wildlife;*

*Preserve species threatened with extinction, and protect wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat;*

*Protect companion animals from cruelty and violence, including appalling conditions in commercial trade; and*

*Prevent injury and death of animals caused by harsh transport conditions.*

### PHOTO CREDITS

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# WILDLIFE



AWI seeks to safeguard wild animals and their habitats, and minimize or eliminate the impacts of detrimental human activities. We advocate for increased funding for and better enforcement of wildlife protection laws, as well as humane solutions to conflicts with wildlife.

## Protecting Endangered and Threatened Species

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE:** AWI's wildlife biologist, D.J. Schubert, was an accredited participant at the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held July 7–11, 2014, in Geneva. This key committee provides policy guidance to the CITES secretariat concerning implementation of the treaty and D.J. has been a regular participant since 2005. D.J. advised delegates, collaborated with other organizations, and participated in several intersessional working groups, including those on snakes and pangolins. One important outcome was the decision to form a two-year working group to investigate and address trade in Appendix I species, such as tigers, elephants and whales. D.J. is serving on this working group.

**RED WOLVES:** The battle to save critically endangered red wolves continued this year. Last year, AWI and allies won an injunction against the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to block all hunting of coyotes in the 1.7 million-acre Red Wolf Recovery Area. In November 2014, the US District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina approved a settlement agreement between AWI, its allies, and the NCWRC. The settlement outlined significant steps to protect red wolves, including a permanent ban on coyote hunting at night throughout the Recovery Area and during the day on public lands, except in limited circumstances.

A mere three months after signing this agreement, however, the NCWRC approved two resolutions requesting that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) officially declare the red wolf “extinct in the wild” and terminate the entire red wolf recovery program in North Carolina. Caving to this pressure and possibly undermining its own successful program, the USFWS announced on June 30 that it would suspend red wolf reintroductions in North Carolina pending an additional review of the program. The USFWS intends to complete its review by the end of 2015.

### Ringling Relents

In March 2015, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced an end to its elephant acts by

2018. AWI has worked for many years to expose the inhumane treatment of elephants and other animals in circuses around the world, and filed a lawsuit against Ringling in 2000 to halt the mistreatment of endangered Asian elephants. Ringling’s 43 captive elephants will be sent to the Center for Elephant Conservation (CEC), a Florida facility owned by Ringling’s parent company, Feld Entertainment. The new home, unfortunately, is far from a sanctuary; electric prods, bullhooks and chains have been used on the elephants at the CEC. The company also breeds elephants at the facility, and may continue to use them for commercial exhibition in Florida. AWI is pressing for a speedier retirement for these animals to a true sanctuary, but is heartened that the curtain may finally be closing on a long era of hauling elephants around the country and forcing them to perform in circuses.

### Opposing Inhumane Wildlife Management

Last year, AWI and allies embarked on a campaign to convince counties in California to terminate their predatory animal control programs supervised and carried out by the Wildlife Services program of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). In November 2014, AWI and its coalition partners filed a state lawsuit against Mendocino County. The lawsuit challenged the county’s failure to conduct an environmental review—as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)—of its \$142,000 contract with Wildlife Services. In April

2015, the parties to the lawsuit signed a settlement agreement, whereby the county agreed to examine nonlethal alternatives, comply with CEQA prior to any renewal or modification of the county’s contract with Wildlife Services, and provide monthly updates regarding the status of the CEQA review.<sup>1</sup>

### Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

In September 2014, AWI announced the recipients of this year’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards, a program that annually provides grants to support innovative and creative research on humane, nonlethal tools and techniques for wildlife conflict management and improved methods of wildlife study. The 2014 award recipients, their affiliations, study titles, and primary species studied are as follows:

- › Dr. Duff Kennedy, Santa Barbara Zoo: *California Condor Nest Guarding Program*
- › Professor Janet Mann, Georgetown University: *Noninvasive Hormone Monitoring In Captive And Wild Cetaceans: Collection and Analysis of Blow as a Novel Stress Test* (bottlenose dolphin)
- › Suzanne Stone, Defenders of Wildlife: *Assessing the Efficacy of Foxlights in Reducing Wolf-Livestock Conflict* (gray wolf)
- › Dr. Ron Sutherland, Wildlands Network: *Ecological Impacts of the Red Wolf in Eastern North Carolina*

- › Dr. Rob Williams, Oceans Initiative: *Compassionate Conservation: Assessing Sustainability and Welfare Aspects of Marine Mammal Deaths in British Columbia Salmon Farms* (multiple salmon, seal, sea lion, dolphin, porpoise, and whale species).

### Wild Animals Kept in Homes

In June 2015, AWI published *Monkeys Don’t Wear Diapers: Heartwarming and Heartbreaking Stories from a Monkey Sanctuary*, written by Polly Schultz, the founder and director of OPR Coastal Primate Sanctuary, and AWI’s Dr. Kenneth Litwak. The book shares the individual stories of monkeys who have come to live at OPR—often after suffering years of abuse and neglect in private homes. It is AWI’s aim that the book will call attention to how inhumane and dangerous it is to confine these animals—who are meant to live within complex social groups in the wild—as household pets, isolated from their kin and forced to adhere (often with tragic results) to human rules of behavior.

<sup>1</sup> Following the end of the fiscal year, Mendocino County violated the agreement by renewing the Wildlife Services contract without complying with CEQA. AWI and its allies subsequently filed suit against the county.





# COMPANION ANIMALS

AWI promotes responsible care of companion animals and develops resources for law enforcement officials to help them prosecute animal abusers.

## [Addressing Animal Abuse and Family Violence](#)

This year, in conjunction with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV), AWI's Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour authored an NRCDV Technical Assistance Guidance entitled *Why Pets Mean So Much: The Human-Animal Bond in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence*. This document, published in September 2014 and available on the NRCDV website, is an important resource for domestic violence advocates and staff of domestic violence agencies in addressing the safety and well-being of both human and animal victims



of domestic violence. Mary Lou also revised and updated a chapter she co-authored with Dr. Maya Gupta, “The Psychology of Animal Abuse,” for inclusion in the second edition of *Animal Cruelty: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Understanding*, a resource for criminal justice scholars, psychologists, social workers, and animal welfare advocates.

In November 2014, AWI published the first of a series of manuals designed to guide attorneys and other advocates in helping domestic violence survivors get their companion animals included on state protection orders. Compiled by lawyers and law students working with AWI staff, the manuals summarize legal issues surrounding the inclusion of pets in civil protection orders, give details about the laws in the specific jurisdictions, and provide links to relevant forms and outside resources. AWI produced manuals for DC/Maryland/Virginia, Colorado, Florida, Maine, and Wisconsin this year, and plans to create manuals for every state.

### Getting the Facts on Animal Cruelty Crime

Nancy and Mary Lou continue to serve on the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (APA) Animal Cruelty Advisory Council. Nancy is co-chair of the council and continues to serve as editor of *Lex Canis*, the APA’s newsletter devoted to enhancing the prosecutorial response to animal cruelty and fighting crimes.

On September 9, 2014, FBI Director James Comey approved the designation of animal cruelty crimes as “crimes against society” under the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)—the database that produces the annual Uniform Crime Report—and authorized the collection of data on specific animal cruelty crimes. As touched upon in the 2014 annual report, this key step in helping to understand and address these crimes was the result of a concerted effort by AWI. In January 2016, the NIBRS will start collecting animal cruelty data, and publication of such data will begin in the fall of 2017.

In recognition of this change, at its second annual meeting in January 2015, the National Coalition On Violence Against Animals (NCOVAA) established an implementation task force to help identify the structures and systems needed to facilitate collection and reporting of animal cruelty data. Mary Lou is co-chair of the task force and gave a presentation at the meeting on some of the challenges to implementation, e.g., developing systems to include data reported by animal control and humane society officers, who often are first responders to calls regarding animal cruelty. The task force has established two pilot projects, in Vermont and Virginia. Nancy serves on the NCOVAA board of directors and on an NCOVAA committee tasked with creating a web portal through which members of the law enforcement and justice communities can access information on

animal-related issues such as police-dog encounter training and enforcement of animal cruelty laws.

### Teaching Compassion

In April 2015, AWI and the National Head Start Association (NHSA) announced a partnership whereby AWI would provide over 13,500 copies of two of its children’s publications, *Kamie Cat’s Terrible Night* and *Pablo Puppy’s Search for the Perfect Person*, free of charge to Head Start classrooms and centers nationwide. Published

by AWI and authored by children’s book author-illustrator Sheila Hamanaka, both publications focus on kindness to and proper care of companion animals. The books, available in both English and Spanish, were distributed to NHSA classrooms and centers by NHSA’s nonprofit partner, FirstBook.





# FARM



# ANIMALS

AWI works to improve conditions for the billions of animals raised and slaughtered each year for food in the United States, supports solid enforcement of existing welfare laws, and promotes replacement of cruel practices with compassionate husbandry and humane slaughter methods.

## Improving the Welfare of Animals in Organic Production

AWI works to improve the lives of farm animals raised under both alternative and conventional agricultural systems. Animals raised in organic production systems come under added focus because many consumers are under the mistaken assumption that buying organic means they are also supporting systems that adhere to higher animal welfare standards. Unfortunately, current organic standards in the United States do not require this to be so.

For years, AWI has been pressuring the USDA to include higher animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program (NOP), which administers the “Certified Organic” label. In October 2014, AWI’s Dena



Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with USDA Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy, who directs the NOP, to discuss the drafting of animal welfare regulations for organic production. Following this, AWI organized a coalition of animal and consumer protection organizations to prepare a list of formal recommendations, which was submitted to the NOP in March 2015. Proposed regulations are expected within the year.

### Demanding Truth in Labeling

In November 2014, AWI filed a lawsuit to force the USDA to release records related to how the department approves the "free range" claim on the labels of chicken and turkey products. AWI suspects that the USDA is not requiring producers to provide adequate evidence supporting the assertion—just as AWI previously found to be the case with USDA approval of the label claims "humanely raised" and "sustainably farmed." As a result of the lawsuit, AWI has received label approval files for approximately 20 free range brands and will be using the information to prepare a report and recommend changes on how the claim should be evaluated.

AWI staff also worked with the offices of US Senators Cory Booker of New Jersey and Dianne Feinstein of California on a formal letter to the USDA requesting that the department require independent verification of animal-raising claims on labels, as proposed in AWI's 2014 rulemaking petition on animal welfare and environmental stewardship claims. AWI is also working with members of Congress on legislation to establish precise definitions for these terms.

### Exposing Abuse at Slaughterhouses

Inhumane treatment of animals at slaughterhouses too often remains hidden from the public. This year, AWI brought media scrutiny to some of the worst offenders in the industry. Using USDA-supplied enforcement documents, AWI published a review of humane handling practices at all federally inspected poultry slaughter plants in the United States. The survey covered violations of industry animal care guidelines over a five-month period during the winter and spring of 2014. From this, AWI produced a list of the 10 worst slaughter plants in the country in terms of animal abuse. The report received extensive media coverage—including television, radio and print stories—in Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma,

Tennessee and Texas (the states where the offending slaughterhouses are located); several media outlets posted plant enforcement records provided by AWI.

### Seeking Stronger Laws for Farm Animals

A new AWI report, *Legal Protections for Animals on Farms*, summarizes the laws in the United States pertaining to the treatment of animals raised and slaughtered for food. The report shows that these laws are strikingly limited and makes the case for why legal protection for farm animals must be strengthened. This absence of statutory protection—at both federal and state levels—means producers can, with impunity, keep these animals locked away in cramped, dark living spaces, devoid of stimulation or even the ability to move, and routinely practice shockingly cruel husbandry and slaughter methods. The report is available on AWI's website at [www.awionline.org/on-farmlegalprotections](http://www.awionline.org/on-farmlegalprotections).

### Providing Safe Passage for Animals in Export

Animal abuse can occur not only in living quarters and at slaughterhouses, but also in transport—especially transport overseas. Four years after AWI petitioned the USDA to rewrite its rules governing the export of farm animals, proposed regulations were finally published. The new regulations would require that all animals be assessed for fitness to travel before leaving the United States. The regulations would also require on-board back-up systems for feeding, ventilation, and manure removal, as well

as reporting of animal mortalities and life-support system failures—with any vessel experiencing such a failure required to undergo recertification. AWI contends that the animal export regulations could be further improved by also requiring system-failure alarms, routine monitoring of conditions, and on-board veterinarians. Above all, animal welfare could be vastly improved by not subjecting animals to such long, grueling sea journeys at all—especially given that practical alternatives exist, such as transport of germplasm (e.g., via sperm, eggs, and embryos) rather than of live animals.

### AWA Leaves Home

AWI's groundbreaking Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) farm animal certification program officially fledged in November 2014, to start its next stage as an independent entity. In 2006, AWI launched AWA to promote high welfare farming and establish standards based on the principle of fitting the farming system to the animals, rather than the animals to the system. Over eight years, the program flourished; today, the AWA label is considered the gold standard in terms of animal welfare. Henceforth, AWA will operate as a semi-autonomous program, with administrative assistance and fiduciary oversight provided by the Trust for Conservation Innovation. AWI will serve on AWA's advisory board, and AWA will continue to audit and certify farms (at no charge) according to the highest welfare and sustainability standards.





# ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

AWI works to strengthen and broaden the protections afforded to animals in research by the federal Animal Welfare Act. The organization fosters pioneering housing and handling techniques that provide animals in research with comfortable, species-appropriate quarters and relief from pain and distress, as well as research methods that reduce the total number of animals subject to experimentation.

## Enforcing and Expanding the Animal Welfare Act

AWI's campaign calling on the USDA to take firm action against Santa Cruz Biotechnology (SCBT), one of the world's largest suppliers of research antibodies, paid significant dividends this year. Since USDA inspection





reports concerning SCBT's treatment of its animals first came to light, AWI supporters have sent thousands of letters to the USDA demanding action. The call was answered on November 4, 2014, when USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator Kevin Shea filed a hard-hitting second complaint against SCBT, alleging a number of serious, willful violations of the Animal Welfare Act.<sup>1</sup> In addition to civil penalties and a cease and desist order, the new complaint seeks the suspension or revocation of SCBT's dealer license—a serious consequence given that USDA policy requires both a research registration and a dealer license for laboratories to sell animal-derived antibodies.<sup>2</sup>

One of the USDA's own research facilities—the Meat Animal Research Center (MARC), in Clay Center, Nebraska—came under intense scrutiny this year, as well, after a January 19, 2015, article in *The New York Times* detailed indefensible acts of cruelty that have taken place at MARC over the past several decades. Following these revelations, AWI and its supporters wrote to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, expressing alarm and recommending an

<sup>1</sup>Among the allegations: SCBT attempted to hide from USDA inspectors an entire facility housing more than 800 goats. This alleged deceit first surfaced in 2012 and was described in AWI's 2013 annual report. At the time, however, it had not yet been included in a USDA complaint against SCBT.

<sup>2</sup>Following the close of the fiscal year, the USDA filed an unprecedented third complaint against SCBT, and a hearing was scheduled—the first such hearing for a research facility in nearly a quarter century.

immediate investigation and appropriate corrective action. Secretary Vilsack responded to the outcry by convening an expert review panel to look into the situation. While AWI welcomed this swift response, it was disappointed by the content of the panel's report, released in March. The report indicates that the panel conducted only a superficial review of the facility and made no meaningful effort to examine and address the specific allegations of abuse uncovered by the *Times* investigation. AWI continues to push for reform at MARC and other such facilities, and is backing federal legislation to mandate better treatment of farm animals at federal research centers (see Legislative section, page 24).

### Promoting Progress and Meaningful Standards

AWI continues to sponsor the Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF), an online venue founded by AWI Scientific Committee member Viktor Reinhardt that for more than a decade has allowed hundreds of forward-thinking animal care personnel, technicians, students, attending veterinarians, and researchers to disseminate ideas and offer first-hand experiences concerning how to improve conditions for animals in research. This year, among many other topics, participants shared how they created and introduced innovative forms of enrichment, trained animals to voluntarily cooperate with procedures so as to reduce stress, provided animals with

suitable companions via pair and group housing, met nesting material preferences for various rodent species, and facilitated post-study adoptions.

AWI's Dr. Kenneth Litwak attended and staffed an educational exhibit at the second Symposium on Social Housing of Laboratory Animals, held in October 2014 at the Denver campus of the University of Colorado. The conference was sponsored by the university, the USDA, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing. Later that same month, AWI's Cathy Liss and Brittany Horton attended and staffed a large exhibit at the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. At the two conferences, thousands of AWI books on

enrichment and refinement of housing, handling and care of animals in research were distributed free of charge to animal care technicians, veterinarians, researchers, and individuals who serve on Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees.

In April 2015, Cathy and Kenneth participated in a National Academy of Sciences–hosted workshop titled “Design, Implementation, Monitoring and Sharing of Performance Standards for Laboratory Animal Use.” At the workshop, Kenneth gave a presentation on AWI's opposition to performance standards (in which only a vague desired outcome is stated as the goal) and preference for “engineering” standards that provide specific guidelines, are easier to monitor, and are far more likely to result in better conditions for the animals.







# MARINE ANIMALS

AWI works, both nationally and internationally, to prevent inhumane and ecologically harmful commercial exploitation of marine species and destruction and degradation of their habitats.

## [Legal Victory for Millions of Marine Animals](#)

AWI scored a big victory on behalf of marine animals when a federal court ruled in March 2015 that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) acted illegally in approving US Navy testing and training activities that threaten widespread harm to marine life in a vast region of the Pacific Ocean. The ruling stems from a December 2013 lawsuit brought by AWI and other organizations. NMFS had approved the Navy's



proposed five-year plan despite acknowledging that the Navy's use of explosives and active sonar, along with vessel strikes, could result in the death of thousands of animals and an estimated 9.6 million instances of harm to marine mammals alone. The court found that NMFS violated its legal duties to protect species under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and that NMFS and the Navy failed to evaluate alternatives that would place biologically important areas off limits to training and testing, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.<sup>1</sup>

### Ending Cetacean Captivity Worldwide

AWI partnered with European organizations this year to address the European Parliament regarding cetacean captivity in the EU, and helped to launch the Dolphinaria-Free Europe Coalition. AWI also worked with the China Cetacean Alliance to launch a major investigation into captive dolphin facilities in that country. There are now almost 50 such facilities operating or under construction in China; most have little expertise in maintaining these complex species in captivity.

<sup>1</sup>A settlement agreement was reached after the close of the fiscal year that helps finalize key aspects of the court's ruling. Per the agreement, the Navy has agreed, for the first time, not to conduct dangerous mid-frequency sonar training and testing and not to use powerful explosives within important habitat for numerous marine animal species.

AWI has been leading a group of organizations that was granted intervenor status in the lawsuit in support of NMFS' action to deny a permit for Georgia Aquarium to import 18 beluga whales captured from the Sakhalin Bay-Amur River population in Russia's Sea of Okhotsk. Also, in August 2014, NMFS announced a positive 60-day finding on a petition by AWI and allies to designate the Sakhalin Bay-Amur River beluga whale population as "depleted" under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This finding triggered a full status review by the government. A depleted listing under the Act would make it illegal to import any belugas originating from this specific population now or in the future. Meanwhile, AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose will be featured in a documentary that promises to be Russia's *Blackfish*—exposing the poor conditions under which captive marine mammals are held in that country, and the violence of beluga captures in the Sea of Okhotsk.

### Opposing Commercial Whaling

AWI attended the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC65) in Portorož, Slovenia, September 11–18, 2014, to press for an end to commercial whaling. In advance of the IWC meeting, AWI, the Environmental Investigation Agency, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation released the report *Slayed in Iceland: The commercial hunting and international trade in endangered fin whales*. The report exposes the

scale of Iceland's fin whale hunt and overseas trade, as well as the financial and logistical links between Icelandic whaling firm Hvalur hf and some of Iceland's largest companies, including seafood giant HB Grandi.

Just before the IWC meeting commenced, AWI's Susan Millward and two colleagues met with IWC chair Jeannine Compton-Antoine and secured a commitment from her to broaden the participation of nongovernmental organizations at the meeting. At the close of IWC65, a consensus resolution by Chile was passed that endorsed this approach, which should assure a greater voice for AWI and other whale advocates at future meetings, as well.

Although the meeting was generally positive for whales (in the sense that several proposals that would potentially expand whaling were thwarted), the most significant negative results from IWC65 were the approval of an aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW) quota through 2018 for Greenland, and a failure by the IWC to address Greenland's whaling in 2013 and 2014—conducted without an approved quota. The granting of a quota was unjustified in AWI's view, as the Greenland hunt is becoming increasingly commercial; much of the catch is sold—including to restaurants catering to tourists—rather than being used exclusively for subsistence, as is (supposed to be) a fundamental requirement for ASW quotas.

AWI also continued our campaign to end whaling in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and encourage responsible whale watching there. AWI leads a coalition of five groups to facilitate cooperation between local conservation experts and an international team with specific expertise in the development of community-based marine tourism operations in developing countries. Two well-received workshops were held in SVG during the year—one to promote responsible whale watching and provide basic training, another to help local trainers educate school children about the natural history of whales and the islands.

### Seeking to Save the Vaquita

AWI is spearheading an effort to help save the vaquita, a small porpoise endemic to Mexico's upper Gulf of California that is nearing extinction, primarily due to bycatch mortality. Fewer than 100 of the animals are thought to remain, and Mexico's efforts to protect them have thus far been insufficient. In two separate initiatives, AWI and the Center for Biological Diversity petitioned authorities within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to review the status of the habitats and insist on immediate remedial action by Mexico or risk losing the region's designation as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage site. AWI hopes that such action might also prompt UNESCO to allocate significant funds and resources to help Mexico implement stronger protective measures.



# LEGISLATIVE



Since the 1950s, AWI has been a leader in securing landmark laws and building bipartisan support in the US Congress and in state legislatures for measures to shield animals from cruelty and needless suffering.

## 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

In December 2014, as the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress drew to a close, a \$1.1 trillion spending bill was approved to fund the federal government through the following September. AWI worked closely with leaders in the House and Senate to ensure that Congress once again approved language blocking the USDA from spending taxpayer dollars to inspect horse slaughter plants, thus effectively preventing these facilities from operating in interstate commerce.

Two provisions were inserted in the bill to benefit America's wild equines: One provision continues to prohibit the euthanization of healthy, unadopted wild horses and burros. The other encourages the Bureau of Land Management to consider new and more humane methods of wild horse and burro population management, as set forth in the 2013 National Academy of Sciences study (which AWI heavily contributed to).



The bill also includes \$1 million to improve the lives of wounded military personnel through better access to service dogs. The funds will support a pilot program, proposed by Representative Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, to assist nonprofit organizations that humanely acquire, train and place service dogs (often rescued from shelters) with members of the military on active duty and veterans who have certain physical and mental health needs, including post-traumatic stress disorder. An additional, stand-alone bill to support these efforts has also been introduced in Congress. (See following page.)

## 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

**FARM ANIMAL RESEARCH:** In response to allegations of abuse at the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center (see Animals in Laboratories section, page 16) the Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act (HR 746/S 388) was introduced in Congress in February 2015, with strong support from AWI. This bill would close the loophole in the Animal Welfare Act that currently denies protection to farm animals used in agricultural research at federal facilities. AWI is also advocating for language in appropriations bills to improve oversight of the USDA's Animal Research Service and facilities.

**TRAPPING CRUELTY:** On May 6, 2015, the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee discussed the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act

(S 1081/HR 2016), a bill championed by AWI and sponsored by Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey and Representative Nita Lowey of New York. This bill would ban the use or possession of all body-gripping animal traps—including snares, Conibear traps, and steel-jaw leghold traps—on lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). AWI also helped prepare extensive questions to the USFWS on the status of trapping in the NWRS, advised congressional staff on ongoing discussions with the USFWS, and led a sign-on letter with 48 groups endorsing the bill.

**LETHAL PREDATOR CONTROL:** On June 15, 2015, AWI co-hosted a standing-room-only congressional briefing on the rampant abuse and corruption within the USDA's Wildlife Services program. AWI is urging Congress to demand greater accountability from this program and take steps to end the program's reliance on lethal control and antiquated wildlife management methods. In October 2014, AWI's Andrea Lococo was reappointed to a seat on the National Wildlife Services Advisory Committee, an advisory body to the secretary of agriculture.

**ANIMAL TESTING FOR COSMETICS:** AWI organized another briefing on Capitol Hill in June—again, to a packed room—on the Humane Cosmetics Act (HR 2858). This bill would phase out the use of animal testing for cosmetics

manufactured in the United States. AWI President Cathy Liss spoke at the briefing about the suffering these animals experience—suffering that is entirely unnecessary given the existence of modern, reliable alternatives that are already in use elsewhere.

AWI built support for several other important animal welfare bills this year, including the following:

### ***Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act***

(HR 1258/S 1559) to assist agencies that help domestic violence survivors obtain housing for their companion animals.

### ***Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act***

(HR 1942/S 1214) to prevent the establishment of horse slaughter operations within the United States, end the current export of American horses for slaughter abroad, and protect the public from consuming toxic horse meat.

### ***Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act***

(HR 2493) to provide funds to nonprofit organizations that humanely acquire, train and place service dogs with wounded members of the military.

### ***Pet Safety and Protection Act***

(HR 2849) to prohibit Class B dealers from selling random-source dogs and cats to laboratories.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Captive Primate Safety Act***

(HR 2920) to prohibit interstate commerce in nonhuman primates for the exotic pet trade.

## State Government

AWI was active on a number of state legislative fronts this year, as well. In Illinois, AWI proposed a bill (HB 3231) that would provide for additional penalties when animal abuse is committed in front of a minor. With AWI's help, the bill passed *unanimously* through both chambers of the Illinois legislature and was subsequently signed into law by the governor.

As Sen. Booker addressed trapping at the federal level, AWI did battle in his home state of New Jersey to prevent erosion of the nation's most comprehensive state ban on steel-jaw leghold traps. In the 1980s, AWI worked with members of the New Jersey Legislature to pass this ban. Now, however, the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and New Jersey Fish and Game Council (FGC) want to circumvent the law and approve the use of three types of enclosed leghold traps on raccoons and opossums. In May, AWI submitted substantive comments and scientific studies in opposition to the proposal. AWI is working with New Jersey legislators and attorneys in an effort to ensure that the DFW and FGC do not succeed in this attempt to bring these brutal traps back to New Jersey.

<sup>1</sup>Use of random-source dogs and cats is already prohibited for laboratories funded by the NIH. See *AWI Quarterly Summaries*, page 29, column 3.



# AWI QUARTERLY

## SUMMER 2014

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to approximately 33,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, deans of medical and veterinary schools, laboratory technicians, scientists, farmers, teachers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this year.

Pygmy three-toed sloths may soon receive protection under the Endangered Species Act. AWI filed an emergency listing petition in November 2013 after Dallas World Aquarium attempted to import six of the rare sloths from Panama. On June 9, 2014, the USFWS announced a positive 90-day finding on AWI's petition (thus triggering a full status review)—signifying that the USFWS has determined that the proposed action may be scientifically warranted. Such a listing would help prevent zoos and other US facilities from taking these sloths from the wild.

The USDA withdrew inspection from Brooksville Meat Fabrication, a slaughterhouse in Bracken County, Kentucky, for inhumane handling and slaughtering of animals—the first time that the USDA has been known to take such a step for humane handling violations. The move came after AWI wrote to the department, requesting action in light of the fact that the plant had been suspended four times in a year for egregious violations of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Without USDA inspection, Brooksville cannot legally process meat for sale in interstate commerce.



In May 2014, a World Trade Organization appellate body ruled in favor of the European Union in a case brought by Canada and Norway seeking to overturn the EU's ban on imports of commercial seal products. Although the appellate body did find that the EU's indigenous exemption—which allows seal products only from noncommercial hunts—to be discriminatory, it nonetheless affirmed that the ban on commercial seal products could stand on animal welfare grounds as a “public morals” exception to the general rule.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) took comments

in 2014 on their proposed new edition of *Standards on Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities*. Unfortunately, this latest version does not require smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in newly built livestock facilities. AWI sent comments to the NFPA, emphasizing the importance of these safety measures in large farming facilities and pointing out that within the first half of 2014, at least 450,000 animals died from fires that could have been prevented with smoke control and sprinkler systems.

In the Morris Water Maze (MWM), a mouse or rat is placed in a large, circular metal tank filled with opaque water and must swim around the tank to find a hidden platform. Some researchers use it to test the roles of drugs and genes on the ability to learn. Given the existence of reliable and less stressful tests of spatial learning and memory, AWI contends that using the MWM for this purpose runs counter to the “refinement” component of the 3Rs—the duty to improve scientific procedures so as to minimize pain, suffering and distress of the animals.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore may become the first facility in the United States to close its dolphin exhibit as part of proactive and forward-thinking strategic planning, rather than in response to external pressures. The Aquarium is considering several options for the dolphins' future, including retirement to an ocean-based enclosure. The announcement came about two years after the Aquarium ended scheduled dolphin performances in favor of continuous and unstructured interactions between trainers and dolphins.

Citing the threat to pets and wildlife, California banned the retail sale of anticoagulant poisons, effective July 1, 2014. Unfortunately, anticoagulant poisons can still be used by commercial animal control operators in the state. And while progress is being made to protect predators and scavenging wildlife from direct and secondary poisoning, there is little focus on reducing the severe suffering inflicted on the intended targets—rats and mice.



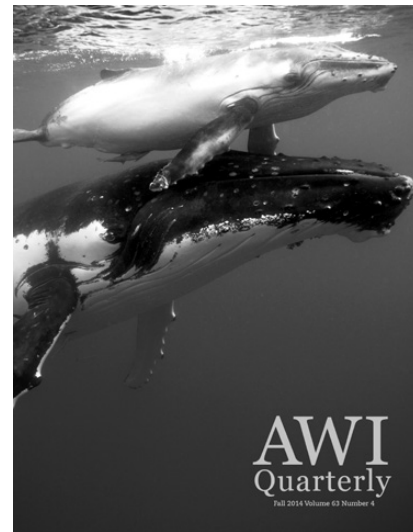
# FALL 2014

In September 2014, AWI and WildEarth Guardians gave the USDA the required 60-day notice of intent to sue over the failure of the department's Wildlife Services program to ensure that it is not harming endangered ocelots. The potentially harmful effects of Wildlife Services' lethal wildlife management activities on the ocelot trigger a requirement under the Endangered Species Act to consult with the USFWS. The program failed to do so, thus violating the Act.

When it comes to emotions, science has long characterized behaviors readily associated with emotions in humans as predetermined biological processes in animals. Today, there is greater scientific acceptance that many animals experience emotions very similar to our own. Acknowledging this can be uncomfortable for some, however, since it implies that we must pay more attention to animals' needs and wants—and to the pain we inflict upon them.

Shark finning—together with overfishing, pollution, and climate change—is causing shark populations to plummet. While the situation is extremely dire, anti-shark-finning campaigns are gaining traction and building awareness of the harm. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping—in a bid to cut lavish spending and spread environmental awareness—banned shark fin soup in official government banquets. In June, the US government listed four populations of scalloped hammerhead sharks as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

After the USDA proposed changing poultry slaughter regulations to allow poultry companies to accelerate their slaughter processing lines by 25 percent—increasing the likelihood of worker injury and inhumane handling of birds—the proposal met with considerable opposition. AWI supporters alone generated more than a thousand letters to the USDA in opposition to the plan. As a result



of the outcry, the USDA changed course; its final regulations, published in August 2014, do not include the proposed increase in slaughter line speed.

In September 2014, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published a new study on “ghost fishing,” whereby lost or abandoned fishing traps, nets and other derelict gear continue to kill marine life.

According to the NOAA study, which focused only on traps, thousands of such devices are left behind in US waters each year to ensnare fish, crabs and turtles—including some threatened and endangered species.

In an approved study at the University of Wisconsin, up to 20 newborn baby monkeys will be taken from their mothers, raised in isolation for several weeks, and subjected to repeated anxiety-inducing tests. They will then be killed—along with another 20 “normal” baby monkeys raised by their mothers—in order to see how such deprivation affects the brain. An article in the university newspaper stated that the research has drawn unusual scrutiny and uproar, and has “intensified a debate about the extent to which benefits to humans justify the suffering of animals.”

A man was arrested in Oregon for starving and neglecting dozens of goats, horses and dogs. He was convicted of 20 counts of second-degree animal abuse, but at sentencing, the court merged the counts into a single conviction, under the theory that animals

cannot be individual “victims” under the law. The defendant, thus, was given a mere 90 days in jail and three years’ probation for his “one” offense. Thankfully, the state appealed, and the appellate court found that each animal was indeed an individual crime victim. In August 2014, the Oregon Supreme Court affirmed.<sup>1</sup>

Wolves, bears, cougars, coyotes, and other apex predators are celebrated by some. But many others view them as troublesome “competition”—a danger to livestock and the wild ungulates that generate revenue via hunting licenses. At both state and federal levels, government decisions dictating predator management rules largely ignore the overwhelming scientific evidence of the ecological benefit of predators. As predator populations continue to decline, we must jettison the anti-predator attitude and embrace the notion that predators are vital ecological engineers, not evil executioners.

Wildlife officials cannot be everywhere at once, especially in remote areas. Soon, India will begin to deploy eyes in the sky—seeking to dramatically extend their vision

via unmanned aerial vehicles, a.k.a. drones. In January 2015, officials in 10 Indian regions where tigers are most at risk planned to launch a pilot program to police the areas from above. Other countries are said to be considering this option to keep watch over wildlife, as well.

The use of random source (Class B) dogs for NIH-sponsored research is finally coming to an end. As of October 1, 2014, the NIH no longer allows any new grantees to purchase or use NIH funds to support the use of random source dogs. The NIH ended funding for research using random source cats in 2012. Since its inception, AWI has been at the forefront of the fight to end the use of random source dogs and cats in research. Too often, unscrupulous B dealers have mistreated these animals and flouted the law.

<sup>1</sup>This decision was later vacated because Oregon law at the time did not allow appeals of misdemeanor sentences. This prompted the state legislature to change the law to provide for a felony penalty in second-degree neglect cases that involve 11 or more animals. In a later case, *State vs. Hess*, the Oregon Court of Appeals once again affirmed that animals can be individual crime victims.



# WINTER 2015

AWI's executive director, Susan Millward, participated in meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the "Cartagena Convention") in early December 2014. At the meetings, several species were added to the annexes of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol and a plan was adopted—one that Susan helped develop—outlining the



process by which exemptions to the SPAW Protocol are to be evaluated.

The day after California's law banning the production and sale of foie gras took effect in 2012, producers and restaurateurs sued to overturn it. They were initially denied an injunction against enforcement of the law, but in January 2015, a federal district court overturned the ban on sales (but not the ban on production)—ruling that, for sales, the state law was preempted by the federal Poultry Products Inspection Act. The California attorney general filed an appeal, but until it is heard, this form of egregious animal cruelty is back on the menu in California.

Air Transport International was cited by the USDA in December 2014 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act after it transported 1,148 monkeys from China to the United States without providing food or water for more than 24 hours—its second such violation in less than five months. Another transporter of

monkeys, China Southern Airlines, committed similar violations, leading to several monkey deaths. Shipping monkeys from China to the United States for research has become big business. Research institutions must take responsibility and require better treatment of animals by their suppliers.

Managing disruptive human activity where breeding female wolverines live is critical for maintaining viable populations of these elusive animals. Historically, it has been difficult to identify where successful denning occurs without using invasive techniques such as live capture and telemetry collars or radio tags. With the help of a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI, Anthony Clevenger of Montana State University and colleagues successfully deployed a new, noninvasive approach using a "run-pole" camera station for identifying the gender and reproductive condition of wolverines in the Canadian Rockies.

In November 2014, Japan submitted a revised Southern Ocean "scientific" whaling plan to the IWC—after the International Court of Justice ruled that Japan's

prior plan was not compliant with the IWC's whaling treaty. The repackaged plan calls for the slaughter of 333 minke whales a year to determine what they eat. Although the IWC's Scientific Committee was slated to review the plan in February 2015, there are few official options through the IWC to prevent Japanese whalers from resuming their hunt in late 2015.

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report in December 2014 that was sharply critical of the department's enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act with regard to animals in research. The report reveals enforcement deficiencies, poor oversight, inadequate penalties, lack of deterrence, and many examples of animals suffering and dying needlessly. This is a repeating refrain of OIG reports over the past two decades. This must change. The USDA is obligated to ensure that these animals receive at least the minimal protections the Animal Welfare Act mandates.

What happens to animals in research after they are no longer needed for a study? In many cases, the research protocol does not

require euthanasia. Rather than needlessly killing the animals, a few institutions are finding ways to give these animals a life and a home after research. All institutions should have an adoption process that provides the guidance needed to ensure that animals who *can* be retired at the end of a research protocol *are* offered the opportunity to be adopted or placed in a sanctuary.

North Carolina farmer Craig Watts had been raising chickens for Perdue for 22 years in strict accordance with Perdue's prescribed methods. Finally, he'd had enough, and invited a film crew in to show the results of Perdue contract farming. The sad footage shows supersized birds with broken legs and wings who are barely able to move, and whose bellies are raw from contact with urine-soaked bedding. Yet the USDA gives Perdue its "Process Verified" seal of approval, and even allows the claim "humanely raised" to be associated with Perdue chicken products.

The second annual "Predator Hunting Contest and Fur Rendezvous" took place during the first week of January in Idaho.

From January 1–4, according to reports, 30 coyotes were killed. In December, in welcome contrast, California's Fish and Game Commission became the first state agency to ban killing derbies. Commission President Michael Sutton stated in a press release that "such contests are an anachronism and have no place in modern wildlife management."

In years past, thousands of American horses were sent to slaughter in Mexico to supply horse meat to Europe. A recent decision by the European Commission (EC) to ban horse meat imports from Mexico may shut down this trade. The EC's Food and Veterinary Office audited Mexican authorities in 2012 and again in 2014 to determine if they took adequate measures to guarantee public health and safety when exporting horse meat to Europe. The audits uncovered problems that could compromise the safety of the meat. The ban took effect on January 15, 2015.



# SPRING 2015

In April 2015, AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose gave a dynamic TEDx Talk in Bend, Oregon, discussing the family bonds of wild orcas and arguing that their unique social structure makes them fundamentally unsuited to confinement in concrete tanks. In the talk, she explained how orca offspring associate with their mothers for life, and that four generations of whales may travel together. In contrast, captive orcas grow up without family to teach them proper social behavior and, as a result, often display aberrant behaviors.

AWI helped fund and AWI staff participated in a deer sterilization project in Fairfax City, Virginia, in late January 2015 to promote alternatives to lethal deer population control. This was the second year of the sterilization effort approved by the Fairfax City Council in 2013 and organized by a local group, Humane Deer Management (HDM). Over the course of six nights, 18 female deer were darted and spayed, with

AWI and HDM staff assisting in the effort. In total, over two years, 36 deer (most of the city's female deer population) have been captured and successfully spayed.

The National Marine Fisheries Service issued a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in March 2015 on the Makah Tribe's proposed hunt of gray whales. This DEIS is the first step toward issuing a waiver under the Marine Mammal Protection Act to sanction the hunt under US law. The Makah seek an allowance to strike up to 42 whales over six years, and kill 24 over that period. In comments submitted to the government, AWI asserts that the DEIS is inadequate, and that the waiver is unwarranted—given that the Makah have not depended on whales for sustenance for nearly 90 years.

In many large American cities, tourists in horse-drawn carriages are a common sight. Yet, underlying the nostalgic image of the carriages

is the reality for the horses: constant exposure to noise and vehicle exhaust, dense traffic, hard pavement, long work days, heavy loads, and lack of access to pasture and fresh air. Given the many documented health and welfare issues for the horses, AWI is advocating for an end to horse-drawn carriages used as tourist attractions in urban settings.

In January 2015, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced its *Strategic Plan 2015–2019*. Unfortunately, the plan continues a trend toward nonregulatory efforts to educate and attempt to coax regulated entities into compliance. Decades of experience with the USDA indicate that this softball approach is unlikely to improve animal care. Animal welfare would be better served if APHIS would instead focus on its primary legal and moral mandate: strong, effective enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.

Several members of Congress pressured the USFWS not to list the northern long-eared bat as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act, despite the fact that this species has been



devastated by white-nose syndrome. AWI and other conservation groups urged the agency not to cave by bestowing a less-protective "threatened" label on the bats. Unfortunately, the congressional interference worked. The USFWS ignored the science and, on April 1, 2015, announced that it would list the northern long-eared bat as merely threatened.

Approximately 305 million egg-laying hens live in the United States. Between 90 and 95 percent of these birds are packed into tiny, barren wire cages that are stacked in rows, one on top of the other. The egg industry's trade

association, United Egg Producers, only asks producers to give each bird 67 square inches of space—less than the area of a standard sheet of copy paper. In recent years, some states—most notably, California—have taken steps to give hens more room. Other states, however, seem intent on maintaining the stifling status quo.

A group called Working Dogs for Conservation, with the aid of a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI, set out to analyze pollution levels present in the food chain along five Montana rivers. Two "conservation dogs" searched along the rivers and located hundreds of otter and mink scats. Under analysis, the scats turned up arsenic, copper, selenium, zinc, cadmium, mercury and lead—some at elevated levels. The study showed that trained, enthusiastic dogs can be excellent partners in an effective, noninvasive method for monitoring ecosystem health.

Two American hunters were given the okay by the USFWS in March 2015 to import black rhino carcasses from Namibia as trophies. Fewer than 5,000 black rhinos remain in the wild, with roughly

1,750 of those residing in Namibia. The USFWS received more than 135,000 petition signatures and 15,000 public comments opposing the permits, but issued them anyway. Namibia allows five male black rhinos to be hunted each year, supposedly to support conservation programs. Critics, however, claim there is little evidence that the trophy fees are actually used to promote rhino conservation.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) revised its wild mute swan management plan, partially backing away from an initial proposal to eradicate all 2,200 mute swans (a nonnative species) in the state. Nevertheless, the revised plan would still result in the killing of numerous mute swans. With support from AWI, New York Senator Tony Avella has introduced a bill in the state legislature that would place a moratorium on mute swan eradication until the NYDEC conducts public hearings, prioritizes nonlethal management, and provides scientific evidence of damage caused by mute swans.



# SPEECHES & MEETINGS

by AWI Representatives

## 2014

All meetings held  
in Washington, DC,  
unless otherwise  
noted

D.J. Schubert participated in a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Geneva, Switzerland; July 7–11

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with the director of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service federal commodity programs to discuss animal welfare requirements for school lunches and other federal meat commodity programs; July 10

Naomi Rose participated in a series of campaign and strategy meetings with colleagues from the

Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition; Brussels, Belgium; July 12–13

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour conducted a seminar entitled "Animal Cruelty: Predictor and Early Intervention for Families and Youth" at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference; Chicago, IL; July 14–15

Naomi Rose attended a meeting of cetacean protection stakeholders and gave a presentation to members of the public on legislative and regulatory issues related to captive marine mammals; Friday Harbor, WA; July 15–18

Chris Heyde participated in the Homes for Horses Coalition Conference; Denver, CO; July 31–August 2

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on marine animal welfare in education and recreation at the Society for Conservation Biology Marine Section's 3<sup>rd</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress; Glasgow, UK; August 14–18

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger organized and participated in a meeting with the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) policy staff and representatives of animal advocacy groups regarding pending rulemaking petitions before the FSIS; August 19

Susan Millward and Naomi Rose met with the permits chief of NOAA's Office of Protected Resources, to discuss various marine mammal permitting issues; Silver Spring, MD; September 3

Tara Zuardo and Naomi Rose attended a briefing by the Japan Environmental Lawyers Federation on issues surrounding the impacts to the Okinawa dugong from

a proposed US Marine base expansion; September 9

D.J. Schubert served as rapporteur for and Sue Fisher participated in the International Whaling Commission's Ad Hoc Working Group on Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling; Portorož, Slovenia; September 10

Susan Millward, D.J. Schubert, Sue Fisher, and Kate O'Connell participated in the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Whaling Commission and sub-committee meetings; Portorož, Slovenia; September 11–18

Naomi Rose attended the 8<sup>th</sup> International Marine Mammals of the Holarctic Conference to engage with Russian marine scientists and local advocacy groups, attended and participated in two *Blackfish* screenings with Q&A sessions, and participated in two captive cetacean workshops; St. Petersburg, Russia; September 22–27

D.J. Schubert participated and gave public comments at a meeting of the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding a plan to build a captive dolphin sea pen at a local marine

park; St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands; September 25

Nancy Blaney participated in a Department of Justice roundtable, "Animal Cruelty Cases and the Department of Justice," on asset seizure and forfeiture in animal cruelty cases; October 3

Susan Millward and Kate O'Connell participated in a meeting with the chief executive and the science and standards director of the Marine Stewardship Council to discuss the Council's certification of HB Grandi and other Icelandic seafood companies with direct ties to whaling; October 6

Naomi Rose participated in meetings at Clearwater Aquarium to discuss captive cetaceans; Clearwater, FL; October 8–10

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger participated in a meeting with the USDA deputy administrator in charge of the USDA National Organic Program to discuss animal welfare requirements for the USDA's Certified Organic label; October 15

Tara Zuardo gave a video presentation on working in animal

advocacy at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Animal Law Conference at Lewis & Clark Law School; Portland, OR; October 17–19

Cathy Liss and Brittany Horton tabled at the 65<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science; San Antonio, TX; October 20–22

Michelle Pawliger attended a meeting of the National Organic Standards Board; Louisville, KY; October 27–28

Dena Jones met with members of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Process Verified Program to discuss the use of "humanely raised" claims on animal product labels; October 28

Naomi Rose participated in a *Blackfish* screening and public event on cetacean captivity organized by the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society; Singapore; October 30

Naomi Rose gave a lecture to students at James Madison University on the welfare of captive cetaceans; Harrisonburg, VA; November 3

Naomi Rose participated, alongside a SeaWorld representative, in a panel discussion on orca captivity at the American Cetacean Society's 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference; Newport Beach, CA; November 8

Naomi Rose participated in a panel discussion on the role of animal law in protecting captive wildlife at the Performing Animal Welfare Society's 2014 International Captive Wildlife Conference; Burbank, CA; November 9

AWI board of directors meeting; Alexandria, VA; November 10

Amey Owen and Cathy Liss met with the director of projects and partnerships for the National Head Start Association regarding distribution of AWI humane education materials to children via the Association; Alexandria, VA; Nov. 20

Regina Terlau tabled at the Science Teachers Association of Texas' Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching 2014 in order to promote AWI's humane education program; Dallas, TX; November 20–22

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour participated in the Baltimore County State's Attorney Animal Abuse Leadership Summit; Towson, MD; November 21

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with the director of the USDA federal commodity program to discuss animal welfare requirements for poultry purchased by federal food assistance programs; November 24

Susan Millward attended an Environmental Investigation Agency 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event; December 3

Susan Millward participated in the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), and the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to SPAW; Cartagena de Las Indies, Columbia; December 8–12

Naomi Rose gave a presentation to high school biology students on captive cetaceans and their welfare; December 9

Dena Jones met with the director of the USDA Process Verified Program to urge the USDA to verify "humane" claims on animal products and require that producers using such claims exceed conventional industry standards; December 10

Cathy Liss, Dena Jones, and Michelle Pawliger met with representatives from Applegate Farms about the company's animal-raising standards; December 11

# 2015

Chris Heyde organized and participated in the Homes for Horses Coalition 2015 Planning Meeting; January 8

Naomi Rose and Kate O'Connell participated in a meeting with US government officials to discuss the vaquita extinction crisis; January 9

Kate O'Connell participated in a meeting with Marine Harvest and Carrefour, two international grocery companies, about their sourcing of seafood from Icelandic companies with direct ties to whaling; Paris, France; January 23

Cathy Liss and D.J. Schubert participated in a program to capture, tranquilize, spay and release deer in Fairfax City, VA; January 27–31

Naomi Rose gave testimony at a hearing for HB 2115, a bill that would ban cetacean captivity in the state of Washington; Olympia, WA; February 5

Susan Millward and Naomi Rose met with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Protected Resources director and staff to discuss marine mammal protection issues; Silver Spring, MD; February 9

Tara Zuardo and Joanna Grossman participated in a meeting with other groups regarding strategies

to defeat federal bill amendments that would weaken the Endangered Species Act; February 10

Cathy Liss, Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with Applegate Farms' co-founder and staff to discuss the "humanely raised" claim on Applegate products; February 10

Dena Jones met with the USDA's acting under secretary for food safety to discuss problems with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service's meat and poultry labeling oversight; February 18

Tara Zuardo gave a presentation to students at George Washington Law School on AWI's work to protect wildlife; February 25

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership program participants to discuss AWI's work on behalf of farm animals; February 26

Naomi Rose participated in a *Blackfish* screening and Q&A session for members of the European Parliament and participated in a press conference



to launch the Dolphinaria-Free Europe campaign; Brussels, Belgium; March 3–4

Tara Zuardo gave presentations on AWI's red wolf campaign and other efforts to protect endangered species at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference; Eugene, OR; March 5–8

D.J. Schubert participated in the AWI-co-hosted International Amphibian Trade Workshop to identify threats, species most at risk, and next steps; March 12–13

Regina Terlau tabled at the National Science Teachers Association's 2015 National Conference in order to promote AWI's humane education program; Chicago, IL; March 12–14

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on captive cetacean welfare at the Dolphin and Whale Film Festival 2015 and received an award from the event organizers recognizing her as "Scientist of the Year," Dana Point; CA; March 12–15

Kate O'Connell attended the annual Seafood Expo North America/ Seafood Processing North America

event to raise awareness about the links between certain seafood companies and whaling; Boston, MA; March 15–17

Andrea Lococo participated in a meeting of the USDA's Wildlife Services Advisory Board; Riverdale, MD; March 17–19

Kenneth Litwak attended the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research's 2015 IACUC Conference; Boston, MA; March 17–20

Tara Zuardo gave a presentation on AWI's wildlife work at American Law School; March 24

Susan Millward participated in the sixteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; New York, NY; April 6–10

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on captive marine mammals and their welfare at Harvard University's Marine Mammal Day; Boston, MA; April 15

Dena Jones met with the European Union's delegation to the United

States to discuss EU-US trade in animal agriculture products and the current status of farm animal welfare in the United States; April 16

Naomi Rose gave a Tedx talk on the importance of family bonds to orcas; Bend, OR; April 18

Kenneth Litwak gave a presentation and Cathy Liss provided public comments regarding AWI's perspective on performance standards at a National Academies' Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Roundtable workshop; April 20–21

Kate O'Connell attended the annual Seafood Expo Global/Seafood Processing Global event to raise awareness about the links between certain seafood companies and whaling; Brussels, Belgium; April 21–23

AWI board of directors meeting; April 23

D.J. Schubert attended a meeting of the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking; April 23

Naomi Rose gave a lecture on marine mammals and policy to

students at Tufts University; Boston, MA; April 24

D.J. Schubert participated in a Q&A session after a film festival screening of *BREACH*, a documentary about Icelandic whaling; Newport Beach, CA; April 27

D.J. Schubert gave public comments at a meeting of the National Marine Fisheries Service on the Makah Tribe's request for a waiver to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the tribe to hunt grey whales; Port Angeles, WA; April 29

Naomi Rose gave a lecture on cetacean captures to students at George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; May 4

Naomi Rose provided public comments at the annual meeting of the Marine Mammal Commission; Charleston, SC; May 5–7

AWI staff members attended a hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Joanna Grossman helped Senator Cory Booker's staff prepare for the introduction of the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act at the hearing; May 6.

Naomi Rose gave a lecture to students at Woodrow Wilson High School on captive cetaceans and their welfare; May 12

Naomi Rose participated in the 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee; San Diego, CA; May 22–June 3

Dena Jones gave a presentation entitled "Farm Animal Welfare in the US" at a meeting of agricultural counselors from the EU delegation to the US; May 27

Kenneth Litwak spoke at an AWI-hosted book-signing event for *Monkeys Don't Wear Diapers*, by Polly Schultz and Kenneth Litwak; Portland, OR; June 11

AWI staff attended and AWI co-hosted a congressional briefing on corruption and animal abuse within the USDA's Wildlife Services program; June 15

Cathy Liss, Nancy Blaney and Kenneth Litwak organized and participated in a meeting between USDA staff and representatives from animal protection groups regarding enforcement of the Animal Welfare

Act and the Horse Protection Act; Riverdale, MD; June 16

Cathy Liss gave a presentation on AWI's programs to the George Bernard Shaw Society and accepted an award from the Society in recognition of AWI's work; New York, NY; June 22

AWI staff members attended and Cathy Liss spoke at a congressional briefing to introduce the Humane Cosmetics Act, a bill to prohibit the testing of cosmetics on animals; June 23

D.J. Schubert participated in the First Pangolin Range States Meeting, co-hosted by the governments of the United States and Vietnam; Da Nang, Vietnam; June 24–26

AWI board of directors meeting; June 26

Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney met with USDA officials, including the under secretary for research, education and economics and the Agricultural Research Service administrator, about revelations of animal abuse at the Meat Animal Research Center; June 29

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2015	2014
<b>CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>		
<b>REVENUES:</b>		
Contributions - Foundations and trusts	\$ 484,353	\$ 703,496
- Legacies and bequests	665,017	301,248
- Memberships and other	950,943	1,217,662
Tenants net rental income	59,762	66,896
Sale of publications and reports	2,932	3,336
Dividend income	138,417	169,988
Interest income	16,063	18,642
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities	(11,600)	1,177,061
	<u>2,305,887</u>	<u>3,658,329</u>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:</b>		
Satisfaction of program restrictions:		
Roger L Stevens Publication Fund	81,789	88,542
Animal Welfare Approved program	350,000	1,780,000
Public education and programs	290,477	219,900
Total net assets released from restrictions	<u>722,266</u>	<u>2,088,442</u>
Total unrestricted revenues and other support	<u>3,028,153</u>	<u>5,746,771</u>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Program service	3,442,243	8,752,371
Management and general	230,429	246,445
Fundraising	55,214	60,410
Total expenses	<u>3,727,886</u>	<u>9,059,226</u>
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(699,733)	(3,312,455)
<b>CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:</b>		
Grants and contributions	537,462	2,094,141
Net assets released from restrictions	(722,266)	(2,088,442)
(Decrease) Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	(184,804)	5,699
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	(884,537)	(3,306,756)
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	11,845,015	15,151,771
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 10,960,478</u>	<u>\$ 11,845,015</u>

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 1,432,594	\$ 57,705	\$ 14,708	\$ 1,505,007
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	109,842	5,850	1,170	116,862
Employee benefits	188,667	8,139	1,911	198,717
Retirement Plan	28,189	1,499	289	29,977
Advertising	9,581	430	7,378	17,389
AWI Quarterly	152,916	—	1,532	154,448
Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)	153,013	—	6,241	159,254
Research, writing and editing	8,782	—	—	8,782
Grants	247,442	—	—	247,442
Conferences, meetings and travel	263,481	2,713	—	266,194
Postage, mailing and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)	42,081	100	2,119	44,300
Telephone, duplicating and office supplies	95,816	13,096	16,562	125,474
Professional services	142,007	30,280	—	172,287
Memberships and subscriptions	24,171	3,397	342	27,910
Acquisition of books and other educational materials	56	—	—	56
Consultants	275,369	—	—	275,369
Internet services	90,444	550	116	91,110
Occupancy costs	125,152	60,497	296	185,945
Miscellaneous	(4,520)	41,110	18	36,608
Total expenses before depreciation	3,385,083	225,366	52,682	3,663,131
Depreciation	57,160	5,063	2,532	64,755
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,442,243</u>	<u>\$ 230,429</u>	<u>\$ 55,214</u>	<u>\$ 3,727,886</u>

A complete financial statement audited by Marks Paneth & Shron 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



# ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

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Caroline A. Griffin, Esq.

Charles M. Jabbour, CPA

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## Animal Welfare Institute

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## Bequests

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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