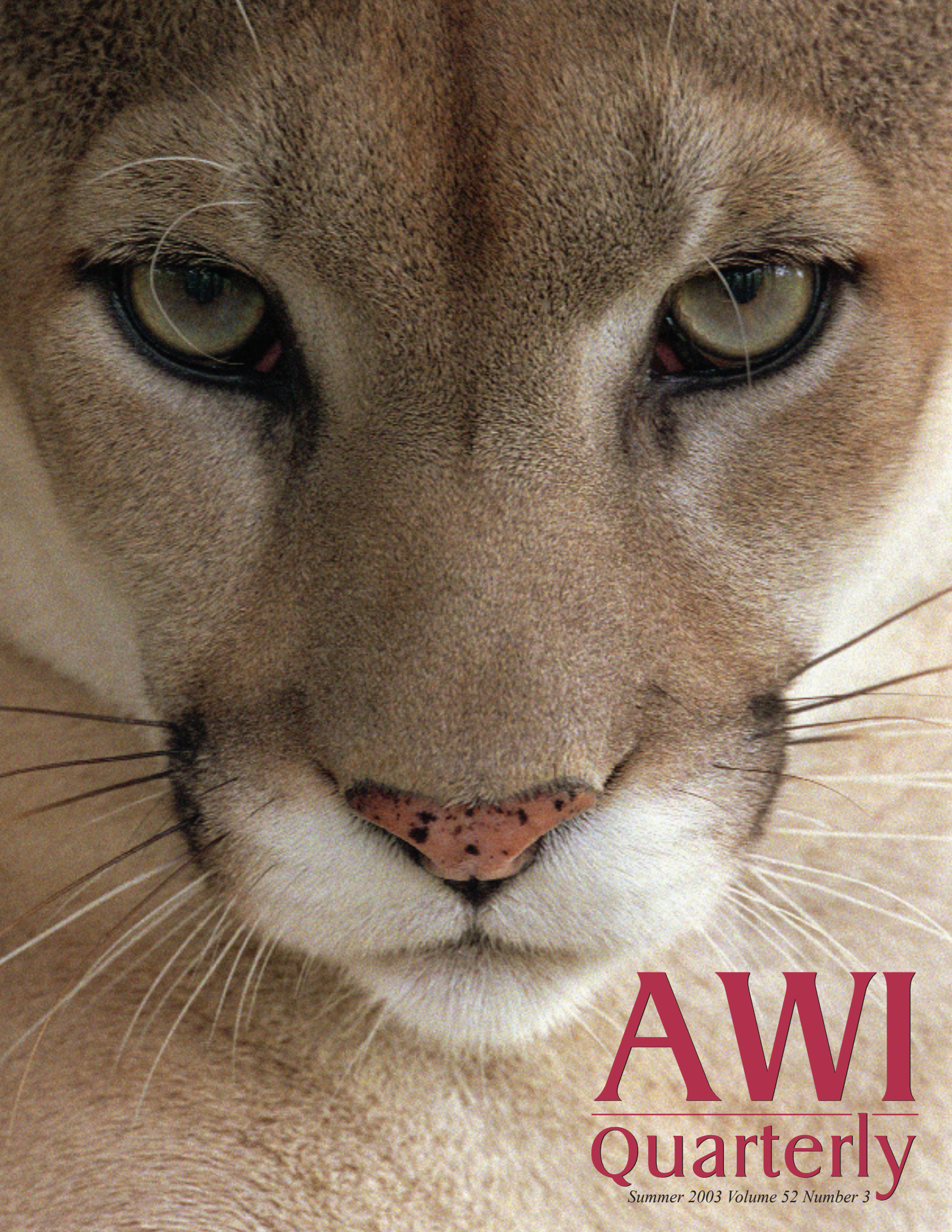

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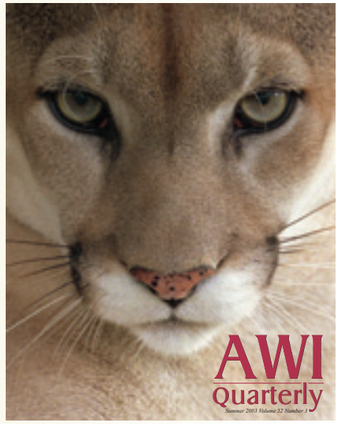
Summer 2003 Volume 52 Number 3



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ABOUT THE COVER

In 1995, *USA Today* reported that three-year old Jacob Swartz of Quinlan, Texas was mauled by a cougar. His six-year old sister, Erin, also suffered injuries. This was not some random, unpreventable attack in the woods; the cougar was the family pet who escaped while his pen was being cleaned. The cougar was shot and killed. Though big cats, like the cougar on our cover (photographed by Frans Lanting/courtesy of Minden Pictures), may start out as cute and cuddly cubs, they eventually grow into their wild and potentially dangerous natural selves. Increasingly, people are keeping wild animals as pets: lions, tigers, bears, bobcats, reptiles, amphibians, and rodents from across the globe. It is outright dangerous to keep exotic animals as companions; they can hurt their human attendants, escape and harm other domestic and native animals, and carry diseases such as monkeypox that can be transferred to humans. Exotic animals in poor facilities such as roadside zoos can pose similar dangers as their keepers are ill-equipped to care for these animals appropriately (see story pages 8-10).

AWI Fights for Primates in the Courts

Chico, a 25-year old chimpanzee, spends his days in solitary confinement at a roadside zoo in South Carolina. As a result of his deprivation, he engages in stereotypic rocking, pacing, and head bobbing, indicators that Chico is psychologically ill. Aberrant behaviors such as this would not be seen if he were in a natural environment. Chico is not alone. "It is still common practice in research institutions to keep nonhuman primates singly housed in subminimal sized cages with little to do but engage in stereotypical locomotion or behavioral pathologies resulting from boredom and frustration," said Viktor Reinhardt, AWI's Laboratory Animal Advisor, who was the clinical veterinarian in a primate research facility for more than a decade.

More than 100,000 non-human primates, intelligent, social beings, are confined in zoos, experimental laboratories, and dealer premises across the country. Each of these individuals deserves to be housed in an enriched environment with the opportunity to share it with at least one companion. In 1985 Congress concurred with this perspective and adopted an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) mandating "a physical environment adequate to promote the psychological wellbeing of primates." This would include providing the animals with companions, sufficient space to engage in species-typical locomotion, elevated resting structures, foraging devices and manipulanda (toys).

On July 22, the Animal Welfare Institute joined the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and three individuals in bringing suit against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its failure to adequately implement this vital legal mandate. Four years ago, the USDA had developed a detailed, scientifically sound *Policy* providing comprehensive information on how to promote psychological well-being of primates (see *AWI Quarterly*, Fall 2002). If finalized, this report would be of practical help to USDA inspectors who must enforce the law and to primate facilities licensed or registered under the AWA. However, USDA has shelved this *Policy*.

AWI's lawsuit would require USDA to make a final decision regarding its *Primate Policy* within 30 days. As world-renowned chimpanzee expert and friend of AWI, Jane Goodall, noted, "It is a disgrace that after all these years Congressional intent has been brushed aside at the expense of these magnificent beings."

AWI is grateful for the legal representation provided by Wendy Anderson of ALDF and the law firm of Meyer & Glitzenstein.

Animal Welfare Institute
QUARTERLY
Summer 2003 Volume 52 Number 3


Compassion Over Killing

The WTO threatens a nation's ability to refuse importation of products of animal cruelty, such as banning trade in eggs from hens trapped in battery cages (see story pages 4-5).


Jim Nahmens/www.natures-spirit.com

Good news! The recently-concluded IWC meeting established a Conservation Committee and rejected attempts to resume commercial whaling (see story pages 14-15).

Contact AWI at: PO Box 3650, Washington, DC 20027, phone: (703) 836-4300, facsimile: (703) 836-0400, email: awi@awionline.org or visit AWI's website at: www.awionline.org

The Ins and Outs of the WTO

New Zealand International Exclusive Tours

The WTO pushed Congress to weaken America's democratically-enacted law barring the import of dolphin-deadly tuna.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

For more than a decade AWI has reported on the draconian trade rules governing global commerce: the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the monolithic World Trade Organization (WTO). Meanwhile, we have fought to preserve animal protection rules and regulations against attempts to use trade policies to undermine democratically-enacted humane laws.

As AWI prepares to attend the upcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico from September 10-14, 2003, it is quite clear that our efforts on behalf of all animals are needed now more than ever.

The premise of the WTO and its predecessors is to "liberalize" trade between nations by progressively dropping tariffs and other trade restrictions. However, in an effort to increase the free flow of products across the globe, the WTO prevents import restrictions based on the process by which a product is created and prevents any member country from enacting legislation or regulations that treat one nation differently than another. This has led to a remarkable roster of disputes under the WTO involving dolphins, furbearers, and many other species.

Notably today, as food becomes an increasingly global issue, trade disputes involving the international commerce in meat products have increased exponentially: the U.S. and Australia have complained about Korean restrictions on importing chilled beef; Hungary has complained about Turkey's import restrictions on pet food; the U.S. and Canada have complained about European restrictions on the import of beef from animals given growth hormones; Australia and New Zealand have complained about U.S. restrictions on lamb imports; Poland has complained about high duties imposed on pig meat imported into the Czech Republic; Brazil has challenged Argentina's rules on poultry imports; and a series of disputes have arisen over food from the sea including salmon, swordfish, sardines, shrimp, and scallops.

The Cancun Ministerial Meeting will focus on the issue of agricultural trade, giving animal welfare advocates an important opportunity to advance our cause. The agriculture negotiations, for instance, include expansion of an important concept called the "green box." While the WTO pushes governments to reduce or eliminate subsidies to domestic producers, "green box" payments are certain subsidies that are protected from being cut.

To be in the green box, support must not be trade distorting or only minimally so (cannot give domestic producers an unfair advantage) and be supplied directly from the government to the producer (not costs passed on to the consumer). This enables a government, for instance, to provide support to agricultural producers for pest control, marketing services, and research into environmental programs. Current negotiations include the possibility of expanding the list of protected support to animal welfare programs. A country such as Poland, for instance, could provide financial support to family hog farmers since, in most instances, raising animals humanely comes at a higher cost to the producer. This would help these farmers survive the constant barrage of cheap corporate hog factory products.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has not backed the call for increased attention to animal welfare concerns within the WTO (not surprisingly), but the European Parliament has developed a fairly strong position on the subject. On July 3, 2003, by a vote of 297 to 93, the Parliament approved a resolution that "calls for enhanced recognition of non-trade aspects of agricultural policy by strengthening non-trade-distorting agricultural support measures through the 'green box,' to ensure that well-targeted and transparent support measures to promote environmental and rural development, employment and *animal welfare goals* are exempted from reduction commitments..." (emphasis added).

AWI will push hard for WTO members to include animal welfare protection more clearly during the negotiations.

THE OUTSIDE ACTION

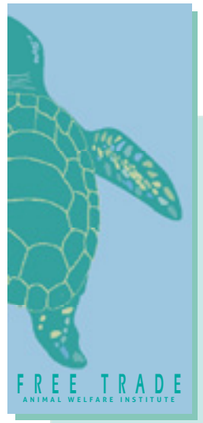
While AWI staff monitor negotiations in the meeting, Special Projects Consultant Ben White will mobilize the public outside.

After massive protests shocked the WTO to a standstill in Seattle in 1999, the group held its next meeting in Doha, Qatar, far away from demonstrators' questions concerning the extension of corporate trade rules over democracy. Delegates in Cancun will be sequestered in the "Hotel Zone," a 22 kilometer long barrier island of glitzy hotels separated from the city by causeways; hotel workers commute from dusty tenements on the mainland.

AWI again will be the primary animal protection organization dramatizing the way in which WTO policies are disastrous for global humane and conservation efforts. In Seattle, our sea turtle costumes, worn by 240 volunteers, carried the message that no international treaty should have the power to challenge domestic laws protecting wildlife. The WTO initially had knocked down a U.S. law mandating that countries selling us shrimp use turtle excluder devices on shrimp nets.

In Cancun we will march a school of activists in dolphin costumes. You can look for the dolphins on the television coverage of the event… or you can come to Cancun and wear one for yourself! Contact Ben at freedom@awionline.org if you want more information.

The WTO embodies a new world order of undemocratic corporate control of commerce. But citizens across the globe are fighting back in defense of human rights, social justice, democracy, environmental safeguards, and animal protection. A new superpower has been born based on fairness, empowerment, and transparency: global civil society. The voice of this unified movement will be heard loud and clear in Cancun.



Become A "Free Trade" Expert in Ten Minutes!

Just in time for the swirl of activity in Cancun, AWI is pleased to announce a new addition to its colorful and informative brochure series—"Free Trade." The leaflet details examples of the wide-ranging negative impacts of free trade agreements on animal protection and conservation legislation across the globe including the European Union's efforts to prevent importation of furs from animals caught in steel jaw leghold traps and the notorious case involving canned tuna fish and American efforts to keep dolphin-deadly tuna out of the American marketplace. This handy brochure explains how trade agreements work (and don't work) and how conflicts arise with hard-won animal protection laws. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your free copy or download it from www.awionline.org.

USTR's Pig Politics

A USTR factsheet on "U.S. Pork Industry & Trade" cheers America's annual export of over 700 thousand metric tons of pork, valued at more than $1.5 billion. This, claims USTR, generates "wealth and create[s] good paying jobs that contribute significantly to the economic well-being of rural America." But American family farmers don't benefit; it's the corporate agribusinesses that dominate the domestic and foreign markets, subjecting pigs to intensive confinement.

USTR is brazenly using the Central America Free Trade Agreement to eliminate the "sanitary barriers" that contribute to American pork exports from being restricted in the region. "Sanitary" measures are rules on food safety to prevent the spread of diseases and toxins, through the food supply.

USTR is also trying to undermine "China's zero tolerance on pathogens (listeria and salmonella) in raw meat."

"Opening the Australian market for U.S. pork exports is a priority for the Bush Administration," says USTR. The U.S. won't let food safety issues interfere with our ability to flood a market with cheap hog factory pork: "Australia has sanitary/animal health barriers that keep imported pork out. USTR is pushing the Australian government to develop a new, science-based pork import policy." Rather than improve our food safety, the U.S. wants to force other nations to lower their standards. When scientific findings are not suitable to USTR, we simply challenge those findings as not being based on sound science.

USDA/ARS

"Free" trade isn't free for small-scale family farmers. Reducing trade barriers facilitates the flow of cheap pork products from animal factories.

Helping Small-Scale North Carolina Farmers Improve Pigs' Lives

In Fall of 2000, Professor Chuck Talbott of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCATSU) invited Diane Halverson to speak about AWI's humane husbandry standards for pigs at a Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (CFSA) conference. Paul Willis, Iowa pig farmer and manager of Niman Ranch Pork Company, the first company to embrace AWI's standards, also spoke.

When Dr. Talbott first read about Niman Ranch and AWI, he envisioned a program in which small-scale North Carolina pig farmers could be provided with a humane, sustainable alternative to contracting with factory hog operations to raise their hogs. In so doing, they would demonstrate their vital roles in enhancing rural communities, avoid the environmental damage commonly associated with factory hog operations, and give pigs freer lives.

Enough farmers expressed interest at the CFSA conference that Dr. Talbott applied for financial help to North Carolina's Golden LEAF Foundation, which helps tobacco farmers switch to non-tobacco enterprises, and Heifer Project International (HPI), which provides breeding animals to new or limited resource farmers.

Marlene Halverson/AWI

Cicero Dobson and a few of the new sows he received for the NCATSU program.

Today, there are 28 small-scale North Carolina farmers in or about to enter the NCATSU-Golden LEAF-HPI program. Several farmers who initially received breeding gilts from Paul Willis's Iowa farm through an HPI grant have raised new gilts to pass on to the next group of farmers entering the program (a condition of the HPI grant). Golden LEAF funds pay for fencing, portable shelters for the pastures, and watering and feeding equipment.

Dr. Talbott's assistants (Mike Jones and Eliza Maclean) provide daily technical support for the farmers. All pigs in the program are raised outdoors with plenty of space and varied environments in which to perform their natural behaviors, including wooded areas with welcome shade during the hot North Carolina summer days.

AWI staff conduct site visits to the farms and prescribe changes, where necessary, for the farmers to meet AWI's standards. The meat from the pigs raised by the farmers that meet AWI's standards is sold to Niman Ranch and distributed in the East Coast market for pork from humanely raised hogs.

AWI is grateful to contribute to this effort and improve the lives of pigs while helping small-scale farmers survive by adopting humane, sustainable alternatives to contract hog production.

Learn About the Dirty Secrets of Animal Factories

Thanks to the Edith J. Goode Residuary Trust, AWI's series of educational brochures now includes a farm animal leaflet. Humane family farms are increasingly displaced by corporations that confine animals to factory conditions, and this brochure describes the common and indisputably inhumane industry practices endured by chickens, pigs, and cattle. It thoughtfully details the routine mutilations inflicted on animals in factories and explains how cages and crates are utilized to keep animals immobile. The brochure also addresses detrimental ramifications to human health and the environment. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope or download it from www.awionline.org to educate yourself and others about the unnecessary suffering of farm animals and how you can help stop it!

Diane Halverson/AWI

Tony Renger practices what he preaches, getting up close and personal with the pigs at Willow Creek Farm.

Willow Creek Farm

Tony and Sue Renger and their three children live in the Baraboo Hills of southwestern Wisconsin, close to urban and rural customers who appreciate the Rengers' humane pig husbandry. Their Willow Creek Farm (WCF) products are sold to chefs in Madison, at farmers markets, and in small town delicatessens. AWI is pleased to announce that the Rengers have become the first family complying with AWI husbandry standards to market directly to their customers. Here, in their own words, the family describes their principled approach to raising pigs:

When we first decided to raise hogs we felt it had to be in the manner my father, grandfather, and great-grandfather raised their hogs with access to the natural surroundings. As we designed our operation utilizing the methods of the past it dovetailed perfectly with the humane methods that the AWI supports.

We believe that those involved with raising animals for meat production have a moral obligation to see that their animals have a natural and comfortable existence. One of our greatest pleasures in farming is to watch our pigs frolic on the pasture and to see that they truly enjoy their surroundings. We give them the opportunity to make their own choices, whether going inside a shelter or outdoors or playing in the straw bedding, running up in the pasture, or making mudholes. It's really just the right thing to do.

Some of the stores refer to us as "cruelty-free" farmers and educate their customers concerning the choices they can make when buying meat. Customers are excited to purchase meat from pigs raised in a sustainable and humane manner, to support a small family farm, to know where their food comes from and what's in it. At farmers markets, vegetarians often will buy products from us to serve to their non-vegetarian friends and family just because of the way we raise our animals.

At WCF, we strive to form a relationship with consumers in order to make the food system more local, safe, and sustainable. We feel that by raising our hogs humanely and in a sustainable manner we are working with the natural rhythm of the seasons and the land. Growing the corn and wheat straw on our land and returning manure to the fields for fertilizer creates a circle of fertility that we believe is one of the foundations of good husbandry, both of our hogs and our land.

Buckeye Egg Factory Closed

Fate of 13 Million Hens Unknown

After more than two decades of abysmal cruelty and environmental degradation, the Ohio Department of Agriculture finally ordered the closure of all 90 Buckeye egg factories. Buckeye's demise is due in large part to the persistent efforts of concerned citizens unwilling to tolerate the nuisances associated with animal factories. Buckeye, which confines over 13,000,000 laying hens to battery cages, should be closed by June 1, 2004. However, Buckeye has appealed, and Japan-based Ise Farms and Ohio Fresh Eggs may buy the facilities. The celebration of Buckeye's closure is short-lived if the cruelty to laying hens simply continues under another name.

Of utmost concern is the welfare of the hens. Buckeye estimates it would have to kill 464,000 to 576,000 chickens per week to comply with the order. Humane euthanasia of such massive numbers of birds is unlikely. Or the birds could be slaughtered for soup and animal food. The future looks bleak for most of the birds, but as we go to press, our friends at Oohmahnee Farm are set to rescue 1,000 of the hens. Hopefully, the compassion shown to these birds will be extended to others, who can be rescued or killed in a truly humane manner.

Buckeye's inability to comply with even minimal environmental laws underscores the fact that it is inherently cruel and problematic to confine millions of animals to factories. Compassionate consumers should not support the cruelty of any egg factory. If you consume eggs, please be certain they come from cage-free hens who have access to pasture.

(*AWI Quarterly*: Summer 2002, Winter 2001, Fall 2001)

Cute, Cuddly, and DEADLY

The headlines are as frightening as they are surreal: "Pet Tiger Euthanized After Biting Pregnant Woman," "Lion Lurking on Tri-State Streets," "Supersized Snake Slithers Out of Tank in 'Slick' Escape." Unfortunately, the reality behind these media tales is not only horrifying, but true. Wild, exotic, and often dangerous animals increasingly are being kept as personal pets or allowed to interact with the general public, despite the great risks involved in such animal companionship.

No longer are "domestic" dogs, cats, and hamsters—or even parrots and iguanas—enough to satisfy some pet fanciers. Lions, tigers, cougars, bears, monkeys, Gila monsters, boa constrictors, wallabies, and even obscure African rodents inhabit bedrooms and backyards across America. Some humans who live with these animals are remarkably ill-prepared to care for them sufficiently.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE HOUSE CAT

There are more tigers in captivity in the United States than there are in the wild worldwide. The allure of that cute tiger cub will someday evaporate as the animal's innate, wild behavior surfaces.

Since exotic pets are made available more cheaply (a tiger cub can cost roughly the same as a purebred puppy) and more conveniently (internet sales and local auctions provide a ready supply of wildlife to those eager for such pets) the number of animals imported into the United States is astronomical. According to Marshall Jones of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), between 1992 and 2002, U.S. trade in wildlife and wildlife products increased by 62% and the number of different species in trade grew by 75%. "Overall," Jones declares, "in 2002, over 38,000 live mammals, 365,000 live birds, two million live reptiles, 49 million live amphibians, and 216 million live fish were imported into the United States." In one year, about 267 million individual living creatures (roughly the human population of the United States) were imported into the country.

Where are these animals going? There are more than 2,500 animal exhibitors licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act. USDA includes circuses, zoos, roadside menageries, petting zoos, and marine mammal parks in this category. There are some exemptions to the licensing requirement including pet shows, rodeos, and exhibitors showing only "agricultural" animals.

The majestic allure of these animals, coupled with their accessibility, creates a scenario in which members of the general public are no longer content to see these animals in a licensed facility, but want to own them as pets—despite the fact that they likely lack the knowledge, experience, or infrastructure to house and care for these wild animals appropriately. Keeping wild exotics as pets is like sticking your head in a lion's mouth: you never really know when the animal will decide he's had enough and bite.

KEEPING EXOTICS IS BAD FOR EVERYONE

According to the Captive Wild Animal Protection Coalition (CWAPC), it is estimated that 90% of the exotic pets who survive capture and transport are dead within two years in captivity. CWAPC, which tracks incidents involving captive wildlife, presents a grim outlook on the prospect for keeping exotics safely—either as personal pets or in facilities where the public can have direct interaction with them.

A few stories about human injuries and deaths should be enough to steer anyone to an animal shelter for a domestic dog or cat: pet tigers, lions, and bears have mauled their "owners" to death; a petting zoo buffalo killed his caretaker; a leopard in a amusement park killed a woman visitor.

Animals in some exhibition facilities, including substandard zoos and refuges, also face injury and death: tigers and lions have been shot by police after escaping their enclosures, a black bear died at a wildlife park in Illinois after ingesting a ball, and hundreds of animals of all species have been confiscated after being subjected to neglect and cruelty. Other animals escape their captive homes and, luckily, also escape conflict with humans or other animals: lions have escaped from sanctuaries, a polar bear escaped his enclosure at the Denver Zoo, monkeys escaped from a dealer's facility in Miami, 16 baby pythons escaped from an animal wholesaler in Maryland.

Fears are rising in the wake of SARS, West Nile virus, and Monkeypox virus that importation of live exotic wildlife can also have a devastating impact on domestic animal and human health. Dr. Stephen Ostroff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes, "More than half of these newly emerging infectious diseases have their origin in animals." This is not new knowledge—just newly-discovered diseases. It has long been recognized, for instance, that salmonella can be transmitted from pet reptiles to humans.

The latest outbreak, monkeypox, is suspected of affecting at least 72 people in six Midwest states according to the CDC (see box on page 10). It should be noted that live wildlife shipments for the pet trade are not the only risk. Mr. Jones of the USFWS observes that wild animal flesh ("bushmeat") is continually imported into the U.S. surreptitiously. One routine inspection at a refrigerated warehouse uncovered rodent bushmeat from Africa in a shipment from Ghana labeled as containing fish for human consumption.

Shirley Minshew/IFAW

A lone tiger lies behind rusting metal fencing, amidst used tires and broken cinderblocks. This is supposedly an animal "refuge."

Part of the problem is that while the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (CDC and Food and Drug Administration), the U.S. Department of Interior (USFWS), and the USDA (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services) all play a role, there is no central agency in the U.S. government charged with verifying that animals imported into the U.S. are free of disease.

LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

A number of actions have been taken and proposed to address the panoply of dangers associated with importation and ownership of exotic wildlife. In the short term, CDC has prohibited the transport and sale of prairie dogs, tree squirrels, rope squirrels, dormice, Gambian giant rats, brush-tailed porcupines, and striped mice. This limited ban on live wildlife imports is an important step, but obviously only gets at one part of the potential problem.

Congress has begun to pay serious attention to the issue as well. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on July 17, 2003, on the importation of exotic species. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), a veterinarian by profession, presided over the hearing. Senator Allard highlighted a government report that found that "nearly three out of four emerging diseases reach humans through animals." To his credit, Senator Allard also discussed the "high rate of mortality in exotic species." The Senator continued: "This occurs both during shipment and after the animal is purchased and taken home. Another problem I see is that few people are qualified to properly care for an exotic animal. The animals often end up neglected or cared for in an inappropriate manner. I do not think that this is acceptable. Pets are a huge responsibility and the decision to adopt one should not be taken lightly."

Senator James Jeffords (I-VT) also attended the hearing, and concluded: "…our nation may be more vulnerable from an unintended outbreak transmitted by an exotic species than from a foreign nation....we have a responsibility to act before it is too late."

Senator Jeffords has acted to address at least one component of the overall issue of exotic pet ownership by introducing the Captive Wildlife Safety Act (S. 269). A companion bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA) (H.R. 1006). The bills would prohibit the import, export, and interstate commercial shipments of certain exotic animals including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars. The House bill, which has been passed by the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, also includes a prohibition on trade in lion/tiger hybrids. The legislation is restricted to prohibiting big cats from being owned as pets by private citizens. It does

Shirley Minshew/IFAW; PETA; PETA

A lion languishes in a cage on concrete floors with wire fencing and no psychological stimulation or companionship (left); A caged bear, living in solitude, stares out from his barren cage in someone's backyard (middle); This lone baboon in a traveling animal show lives amidst little more than plastic crates and shredded newspaper (right).

not address the larger impact of other potentially dangerous exotic pets such as bears, primates, reptiles, and other animals, nor does it address the larger issue of disease transmission from certain wildlife. Moreover, though getting exotic big cats out of people's homes is a laudable goal, there are countless roadside zoos and other facilities that are ill-equipped to handle such wildlife and prevent dangerous exotics from escaping or injuring human visitors. Unfortunately, the bill includes an exemption that allows any individual licensed and inspected by USDA to receive or otherwise trade in exotic big cats—USDA licensing is a remarkably easy process that most anyone could attain. While the bill should be much more restrictive, it is a step in the right direction. Twelve states already prohibit private possession of exotic big cats (though a loophole remains as long as these individuals can get licensed by USDA).

USFWS

Two USFWS inspectors peel off their disposable Tivex suits to put them in the "burn bag" after inspecting a shipment of 5 live primates at Seattle's airport.

Sometimes, animals that are in sub-par facilities are lucky enough to be confiscated, but sanctuaries—even the best of them—are under-funded and lack the room to take on the vast number of animals in need of rescue.

In one recent high-profile case, John Weinhart is facing criminal charges for child endangerment and cruel treatment of animals at his facility, Tiger Rescue, in Colton, CA. A raid of his premises last April reportedly turned up 90 animal carcasses including 58 dead, frozen tiger cubs. CWAPC Manager Kim Haddad, a veterinarian, visited Tiger Rescue in June. She writes: "It was one of the most hideous things I have ever seen. Many of the tigers have spent their entire lives in cramped, unsafe and filthy enclosures—so small that it would be unfathomable to leave dogs in them for more than a few hours at a time. These animals continue to fight, breed and give birth because there is no safe way to separate them."

Dr. Haddad notes that USDA has contacted her seeking help in placing more then 90 tigers, lions, and leopards in California and Texas. The homes and the finances for their long-term care simply are not available. So the options are poor: send confiscated exotics to sub par facilities that will profit by their residency and provide a potentially dismal level of care, or euthanize them. Although euthanasia is unpalatable, it may be the most humane option in some circumstances. A better solution would be for Congress to not only ban private ownership of exotic big cats (and hopefully other species eventually) but also to create a federal fund that can be drawn from in order to provide for the long-term care of seized exotics. These innocent animals should not have to suffer twice from human greed and shortsightedness. Ultimately, the smartest decision is to leave wildlife in the wild. After all, there's a reason they're called "exotic."

PLAYING RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH WILDLIFE IMPORTS
THE WINNER GETS MONKEYPOX?


USFWS

Prairie dogs belong on a prairie. It is suspected that captive prairie dogs for sale as pets led to the recent outbreak of monkeypox.

Jeffrey Doth of International Exotic Wildlife in Houston, Texas is in trouble again. In April, Doth shipped approximately 800 small mammals of nine different species from Ghana to the United States. A number of these animals were carriers of monkeypox.

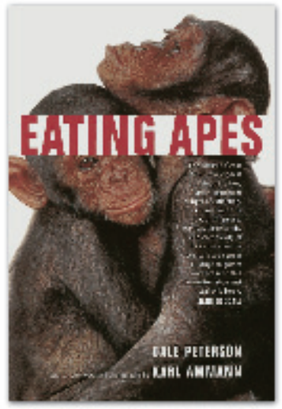
Follow the trail…. According to the analysis of Dr. Ostroff of the Centers for Disease Control and others, Gambian giant rats were imported legally from Ghana to Texas and then sold to a distributor in Iowa who, in turn, sold them to a distributor in Chicago (Phil's Pocket Pets of Villa Park). There, the Gambian giant rats were housed with prairie dogs and apparently transmitted the disease to them. These prairie dogs were ultimately sold as pets. The disease spread could be enormously vast, however, as Dr. Ostroff notes: "These animals were then widely distributed within the United States and some were even re-exported to Japan."

In addition to the monkeypox debacle, Doth's rap sheet includes getting caught twice for illegal international smuggling of wildlife in a two year period. Then, while supposedly under house arrest in Texas, he went to Florida to receive a wildlife shipment, but he didn't have the proper state license or permits—and the transport boxes happened to contain cocaine in addition to reptiles (see Winter 2002 *AWI Quarterly*).

One wonders what trouble Doth will get into next.

EATING APES

By Dale Peterson; photographs and Afterward by Karl Ammann; University of California Press
Berkeley, California 2003; ISBN: 0-520-23090-6; 333 pages, $24.95



Eating Apes by Dale Peterson is well written in a comfortable style. This excellent and easy to read prose contrasts with the disturbing facts it presents of the ongoing genocides motivated by western civilization's penchant for greed and power. When you consider that indigenous human peoples of Africa have shared the forests with our fellow apes for thousands of years without destroying each other, it is easy to determine who is responsible for this disaster. Consider the fact that our western civilization has yet to come across a people (ape or otherwise) who have lived in harmony with nature and who we have not destroyed. This book chronicles the latest such destruction with regard to chimpanzees, gorillas, and the human forest foragers, as well as the forest in which they live.

Peterson's book with Karl Ammann's "Afterward" creates a bold and brave *j'accuse* of the logging and conservation organizations that are spearheading this latest attack. The uplifting part of the book is Karl Ammann's story of uncompromising ethics and an amazing dedication to bringing the bushmeat crisis to the world's attention. The apes are indeed fortunate to have a person of Ammann's character befriend them. Ammann's photographs are haunting and make statements that an entire book could not begin to express.

In addition to Ammann's story, there is the story of a former hunter, Joseph Melloh, which serves to give the hunters a face and humanity that can be understood and even forgiven. What cannot be understood or forgiven is the "Feel Good Conservation" rubbish provided by the logging companies and some of the conservation organizations to exploit this crisis for their own gains.

Whereas Peterson's bravery and Ammann's amazing dedication will make you feel proud to be a human, the actions of the conservation organizations selling out to the logging companies will make you ashamed and angry. You must read this book. And then you must follow the advice of Peterson and Ammann as to what you can do to help stop it. Finally, you must act now, because there is very little time left for our kin in the forests.

—Roger Fouts

for bea

By Kristin von Kreisler; Foreword by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson; Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam
New York, NY 2003; ISBN: 1-58542-222-3; 192 pages, $19.95

At too many experimental laboratories that house dogs, you will see individual dogs who are huddled and trembling at the back of their cages, their heads are held low and their tails are tucked tightly beneath them. These poor souls, visibly traumatized by their situation, are terrified of every person who enters the room and every sound and activity that goes on around them. These animals, clearly unable to cope with the laboratory environment, shouldn't be there.

For Bea is the true story of one such dog, a beagle who escaped from a research facility and, aided by the compassion and patience of her new human companions, healed from the psychological damage inflicted upon her. Written by Kristin Von Kreisler about her beloved dog, the reader follows the painstaking transformation of Bea from mental wreck to grand dame of the house.

One of my favorite chapters is titled, "The Battle of Bea's Bulge." There are lots of dogs who love to eat to the point that you worry that, given the obsession and the opportunity, they would consume themselves to oblivion. The traumatized Bea was gaunt, but her rescue and healing yielded a figure that was dangerously overweight. To her chagrin, Bea was put on a diet. She rebelled by eating anything in sight, including papers from the trash can, the fuzz from tennis balls, the wicker off her own bed, and finally the padding from under a rug. Following the consumption of the padding and a trip to the veterinarian, a truce was reached in which Bea was given more food and she stopped eating non-food items.

The book, a quick read, is a heartwarming account sure to be enjoyed by anyone who has shared a special bond with a dog and will be particularly appreciated by those who at one time or another have had a beagle companion.

—Cathy Liss

AWI Adds Legislative Muscle

The Animal Welfare Institute is pleased to announce that it has merged with its companion organization, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL), after nearly 50 years of operating side-by-side. Christine Stevens, AWI's late Founder and President, launched SAPL in 1955 to address the dearth of Federal laws to protect animals. Her wise foresight led to the passage of literally dozens of bills to give animals national and international protection.

SAPL was at the forefront of efforts to convince Congress to enact some of the most important humane and conservation laws in our nation's history: The Animal Welfare Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Wild Bird Conservation Act, and many others.

SAPL was always hindered, however, by Internal Revenue Service regulations prohibiting organizations that spend a significant amount of time and money trying to affect national legislation from having donations deductible on contributors' federal taxes. Now, AWI can benefit from SAPL's rich history, experience, and talents, while donors to the effort are freed from the previous tax restrictions.

AWI will continue producing insightful documents, and SAPL, now a division of the Animal Welfare Institute, will carry that information to Capitol Hill to ensure that Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives hear our message and bring all animals under the most protective umbrella that the Congress can bestow.

As part of our marriage, the *AWI Quarterly* will now carry a legislative page to provide updates on pending bills with which we are concerned or, as you will note in this issue's feature on exotics and story on marine mammals, discussion of legislation will be covered as part of a larger story. We hope you will use this information to contact your Congressional Representative and both of your United States Senators to urge appropriate action on the bills we highlight. Please raise no more than two issues within each letter to a Member of Congress (write a second letter if you need) and send copies of the responses you receive from your elected officials to our office to assist us in our lobbying efforts.

Crane Conservation Act of 2003

On January 9, 2003, Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) introduced the Crane Conservation Act of 2003 to assist in the conservation of threatened and endangered crane populations across the globe. "Cranes are the most endangered family of birds in the world," the Senator observed, "with ten of the world's fifteen species at risk of extinction." The Act would establish a Crane Conservation Fund with up to three million dollars each year from 2004 through 2007 to fund appropriate projects to protect cranes.

Numerous species could benefit from this assistance. The Siberian crane faces many threats throughout its habitat, notably the effects of a growing human population in China. The White-naped crane, found in the swamps and marshlands of Mongolia, Siberia, and China, is losing its habitat to agricultural expansion. The Black-crowned crane, Nigeria's national bird, is rapidly declining throughout its African range, especially in West Africa. Other species at risk include the Blue crane, Hooded crane, and even North America's own Sandhill crane.

Upon introduction of this bill (S. 128) Senator Feingold expressed his "hope that Congress will do its part to protect the existence of these birds, whose cultural significance and popular appeal can be seen worldwide." He concluded: "If we do not act now, not only will cranes face extinction, but the ecosystems that depend on their contributions will suffer. With the decline of the crane population, the wetlands and marshes they inhabit can potentially be thrown off balance."

A companion bill, H.R. 1647, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

Jen Rinick/AWI

The Red-crowned crane, thought to be the third most endangered crane species, may only be found in zoos someday (like this pair) if swift action is not taken to save them in the wild.

Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2003

Government funding is needed to assist the long-term conservation of highly endangered marine turtle species. On June 9, 2003, Senator James Jeffords (I-VT) introduced the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2003 "to assist in the conservation of marine turtles in foreign countries." Senator Jeffords' legislation, which recognizes the immense threats to the survival of loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, olive ridley, and leatherback turtles, authorizes up to five million dollars a year to programs for their conservation.

The legislation, S. 1210, importantly recognizes that illegal trade seriously jeopardizes the viability of some turtles species such as the hawksbill sea turtle, whose shell is prized in international commerce for jewelry and curios.

Upon introduction of the legislation, Senator Jeffords noted that "marine turtles were once abundant, but now they are in serious trouble.... This legislation will help to preserve this ancient and distinctive part of the world's biological diversity."

Sea Turtle Restoration Project

Costa Rica's Environment Minister recently asked Florida Governor Jeb Bush for help protecting green sea turtles. Passage of S. 1210 would provide funds to help all sea turtles across the globe.

A Bill to End the Use of Steel Jaw Leghold Traps

The steel jaw leghold trap is barbaric. Furbearing animals are caught with these cruel devices to obtain their fur. People's pets, endangered species, birds, and children also fall prey to the trap's vicious bite.

In 1991, the European Union (E.U.) banned use of the steel jaw leghold trap and import of furs from countries that still allow them. In 1997, after threats of a WTO challenge by the U.S., the U.S. Trade Representative reached an "Understanding" with the E.U., agreeing to end use of "all jaw-type leghold restraining traps" by 2002 on muskrat and nutria and to phase out "conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps" by 2004.

To implement this agreement and uphold our international obligations, Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) has introduced H.R. 1800, to stop the use of steel jaw leghold traps in the U.S. It's high time that the U.S. join the 88 other countries that prohibit this awful trap.

Fur-Bearer Defenders

H.R. 1800 prohibits the interstate and foreign commerce in furs from animals caught with steel jaw leghold traps as well as shipment of the traps themselves. The U.S. must ban these tools of torture.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Urge both of your Senators to cosponsor S. 128, the Crane Conservation Act; and S. 1210, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act.
- Urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 1647, the House version of the Crane Conservation Act; and H.R. 1800, a bill to end the use of steel jaw leghold traps.

Address Senators as: The Honorable (full name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Address Representatives as: The Honorable (full name), United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

- Visit SAPL's web page for information on other significant animal protection bills. There you will find information about our efforts to stop horse slaughter and prevent people's pets from being stolen or fraudulently acquired for experimentation. Check www.saplonline.org for updates and actions you can take to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill.

The Tide Turns at the IWC

The differences of opinion at the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission are so familiar and fundamental that observers have become accustomed to deadlock. But this year in Berlin, where the Commission met in plenary session from June 16-19, it was hard not to feel the logjam breaking up—in the whales' favor.

On the very first day, over the thunderous objections of the Norwegian and Japanese delegations and their supporters, the Commission gaveled into existence a new conservation committee by a vote of 25-20. Normally, the creation of yet another committee would hardly be cause for celebration, but this one clearly signaled a shift towards whale protection and away from the killing of whales. The new committee was fought vigorously by the whalers because it will focus on conservation, and gather information and recommend solutions on bycatch (drowning of whales and dolphins in fishing nets) and the growing environmental threats to whales such as toxic contamination and LFA sonar, information not likely to bolster their assertion that there are plenty of healthy whales to kill. Non-governmental organizations will need to work hard with their governments over the next year to see this committee become effective; Japan, Norway, Iceland, and their allies have stated their intent to undermine the decision.

The vote spread also indicated that the Japanese have perhaps hit a high-water mark in their purchase of the commission through "economic assistance" to developing countries. Although they added two more countries to their chorus line (Nicaragua and Belize), they still lack the numbers to carry a simple majority, much less the 3/4 vote necessary on "schedule changes" such as dropping the moratorium on commercial whaling. While they were able to block important major initiatives such as the creation of whale sanctuaries in the South Pacific and South Atlantic, they could not stop the conservation committee, two votes condemning their bogus "scientific" whaling, the vote against their "small-scale coastal whaling," or the vote against allowing secret ballots. In a low moment before the conservation committee discussion, Japan and its pro-whaling allies moved to strike all conservation issues from the agenda; fortunately, that was turned back.

Apparently, Japan's whaling industry has collided with a new economic powerhouse with far more clout than even they can muster: whale watching. The newly formed International Association of Whale Watchers attended the meeting for the first time and gave a press conference announcing their formidable presence. More and more developing countries are beginning to realize significant economic and social benefits from whale-watching tourism. In just a few years, the industry has ballooned to an annual income of one billion U.S. dollars spread across 97 countries, giving them an economic relevance that whale-killing can't touch.

Iceland may offer the first showdown between whaling and whale-watching. Having re-joined the Commission this year with its reservation on the moratorium on commercial whaling intact, Iceland immediately announced its intention to begin its own yearly "scientific" whale-kill of 100 fin whales and 50 sei whales (classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) as early as 2004. Despite the belligerence of their Commissioner, Stefan Asmundsson, within the IWC, these plans may be derailed by pressure at home. Icelandic whale watchers, who earned over $8 million from 90,000 visitors in 2001, have joined with Icelandair and the powerful Icelandic fishery industry to oppose the resumption of whaling.

Other information presented leaves no doubt that killing whales for food in the year 2003 is a brutal anachronism:

IFAW/R. Sobol

Whale-watching is becoming a lucrative business, even in Japan, a country that refuses to give up the inhumane practice of killing whales under the pretext of "scientific whaling."

—Some whales take as long as five hours to die when struck by harpoons, a new report presents the possibility that some whales are conscious when butchered.

—The World Wildlife Fund estimates that 300,000 dolphins and whales are killed yearly after becoming entangled in fishing nets.

—Greenland's so-called aboriginal subsistence whaling was criticized for its huge commercial component and the recent slaughter of 32 orca whales.

AWI has attended the IWC meetings since the Commission's inception. We oppose all forms of whaling except those that are truly necessary for aboriginal subsistence.

Congressional Assault on Marine Mammals

The U.S. Congress is currently engaged in a two-pronged attack against the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), one of our most important animal protection laws.

The House of Representatives' version of a Department of Defense (DOD) authorization bill, currently pending in a conference committee (where the House and Senate resolve differences in the bill), would allow for broad exemptions from the law not only to the military but to anyone else, including researchers, fishermen, and defense contractors.

DOD wants to change the MMPA definition of "harassment" radically. Rather than referring to activities that injure, torment, or disrupt marine mammals' behavior, the change would mean that only activities causing "biologically significant disruption" would be curtailed. This level of substantiation is very difficult to ascertain, and switches the burden of proof to the government, which would need to show that the disruption was "biologically significant" before protecting marine mammals.

Another recommended change would eviscerate the MMPA further by removing the two primary limitations on the granting of "incidental take" permits: the requirement that the take be geographically limited and that the numbers of creatures affected be small. This would enable the Navy, or any other permit applicant, to kill or injure huge numbers of marine mammals across the oceans with impunity. This one change in language would virtually destroy the ability of the MMPA to protect marine mammals from being harmed or killed incidentally in fisheries, scientific research, and the deployment of devices such as active sonar and air-guns. Some of the impetus for these proposed changes stem from the Navy's desire to deploy its Low Frequency Active sonar over 80% of the world's oceans, potentially slaughtering broad swaths of whales, dolphins and fish with its ear-shattering 234 decibels.

Meanwhile, a bill to reauthorize the MMPA itself (H.R. 2693) has been introduced by the Chairman of the House Resources Committee, Richard Pombo (R-CA) and the Chairman of the Committee's Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans Subcommittee, Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD). This bill also would amend the MMPA by changing the definition of harassment and weakening the restrictions concerning the "incidental taking" of marine mammals.

Members of Congress should see through these underhanded attempts to weaken protection for marine mammals. Urge your legislators to reject the DOD's unnecessary requests for exemptions from the MMPA and to oppose the Gilchrest/Pombo bill as currently drafted. (See the box on page 13 for addresses in Congress.)

Bequests to AWI

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

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

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

Stealing from the Solomons

As anarchy reigns in the South Pacific nation of the Solomon Islands, 200 dolphins or more were cruelly captured for export to amusement parks in Mexico and possibly Asia. Some dolphins reportedly died while in the holding pens awaiting shipment; one, horribly, after being attacked by a crocodile. Mexico has confirmed that at least one dolphin already has died at the aquatic park there.

Despite an international outcry by animal protection and conservation organizations, 28 of the dolphins (13 females and 15 males) endured a terrifying day's journey to Parque Nizuc in the resort city of Cancun, Mexico. The water park boasts an attraction allowing visitors to swim with the dolphins, which one review describes as including the indignity of a "foot push" a phrase describing a "ride on a pair of dolphins who lift you and push you through the water with their snouts." Wild dolphins may swim with more than 100 comrades and can live for three decades or more. But these unlucky animals will have no such future as they were swept away by chartered plane in what more than one observer referred to as "coffin-like" containers.

What is a live dolphin worth? In the Solomon's, rumors abound on the price these animals fetched—from $60 to $400. If they survive transport and "training," this investment can suddenly be worth $30,000 to the amusement park industry. Potential customers from Thailand and Taiwan purportedly have visited the holding area in the Solomon Islands possibly to purchase the remaining animals.

AWI is mystified that the Mexican authorities allowed the import to take place. The Solomon Islands is not a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which governs the global wildlife trade, and it is unclear what scientific documentation was used by the authorities in the Solomon Islands to justify scientifically that this ill-advised capture and trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. Furthermore, CITES mandates that live animals for export be prepared "as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment." Clearly, given that some dolphins have already died in the holding pens, CITES is being violated.

This is a perfect example of the potentially devastating consequences of making wildlife management decisions based on inadequate information and overwhelming greed, in addition to the tragedy of uneducated tourism. Most of those paying to swim with these dolphins are Americans seeking a transcendental experience without a clue that their pursuit of vacation pleasure is financing such suffering.

DO NOT USE

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please write to the General Director of Wildlife in Mexico and urge him to return these dolphins to the wild immediately and prohibit forever the capture and importation of live dolphins for public exhibition and amusement.

Write to: M.V.Z. Georgita J. Ruíz Michel Funge, Directora General de Vida Silvestre, Subsecretaría de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), Av. Revolución 1425 Nivel 1, Col. Tlacopac, San Ángel Deleg. Álvaro Obregón, 01040 MÉXICO, D.F.
Tel: 011+52 (55) 56 24 33 06/07/08/09
Fax: 011+52 (55) 56 24 36 42
Web: www.semarnat.gob.mx/vs/

Also contact the relevant authorities in the Solomon Islands and urge the immediate release of the remaining dolphins:
The Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Conservation,
P.O. Box G24, HONIARA.
Tel: 011+677 2 15 21; 2 58 48
Fax: 011+677 2 12 45

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