

Animal
Welfare
Institute



2018



ANNUAL REPORT



Animal Welfare Institute
67th Annual Report
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Who *We* Are

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



Our Aims

Through engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, and the public, AWI seeks to

- ☀ abolish factory farms, support high-welfare family farms, and eliminate inhumane slaughter methods for animals raised for food;
- ☀ end the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and reform other brutal methods of capturing and killing wildlife;
- ☀ improve the housing and handling of animals in research, and encourage the development and implementation of alternatives to experimentation on live animals;
- ☀ preserve species threatened with extinction, and protect wildlife from harmful exploitation and destruction of critical habitat;
- ☀ protect companion animals from cruelty and violence, including suffering associated with inhumane conditions in the pet industry; and
- ☀ prevent injury and death of animals caused by harsh transport conditions.

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Wildlife



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

International trade

AWI's D.J. Schubert and Sue Fisher participated in the 69th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held November 27 to December 1, 2017, in Geneva. The committee provides policy guidance to the CITES secretariat concerning implementation of the treaty—the primary international agreement for protection of wildlife subject to international trade.

Much of the Standing Committee's substantive work is done by working groups tasked with, among other things, developing proposals on treaty compliance and species-specific issues for consideration at CITES conferences. AWI is participating in working groups on the African lion, disposal of confiscated specimens, livelihoods and food security, and rules of procedure. As a member organization of the Species Survival Network, AWI also provides input into the deliberations of other working groups.

In addition to our work through CITES, AWI is undertaking a hands-on project in Ghana to protect the African grey parrot, a species that has been severely impacted by trade. We are collaborating with the country's Wildlife Department to create a "halfway house" for trafficked African greys, in preparation for their return to the wild. Ghana has lost more than 90 percent of its African grey parrot population over the past decade due to illegal trade. Although some smuggled birds are seized by law enforcement officials, there exists no formal mechanism through which these birds—often weak and injured—are returned to the wild. AWI and Ghana's Wildlife Department therefore are creating a rehabilitation and release facility within a Ghanaian national park, where confiscated birds can be kept and restored to health until they are physically and behaviorally fit for release.

Restoring habitat

For wildlife species depleted by habitat loss and historic hunting pressure, AWI seeks to provide suitable habitat to facilitate their return. In Senegal, we have been working closely with government officials and local communities in and around the North Ferlo Wildlife Reserve—a protected area within a fragile and arid region that has succumbed to desertification due to overgrazing by cattle. In partnership with Senegal National Parks (SNP), AWI is helping to create a sustainable environment in this region for both humans and wildlife. Leading the project for AWI is Dr. Bill Clark (who also directs our Ghanaian African grey parrot project). Bill brings vast experience to the effort: Prior to joining our organization, Bill spent many years overseeing a major wildlife restoration project in Israel. Through AWI, he now works with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to train and equip rangers to better combat poaching of elephants and other Kenyan wildlife. A skilled pilot himself, he is helping to coordinate advanced flight training for KWS pilots for safer and more effective ranger patrols.

AWI and SNP are restoring the Ferlo's natural vegetation and bringing back native wildlife, including imperiled species such as the scimitar-horned oryx, red-necked ostrich, dama gazelle, and sulcata tortoise. We are also assisting the region's human community in establishing dripper irrigation vegetable gardens as a means to reduce dependence on undernourished livestock. On April 22, in a ceremony presided over by the Honorable Amédoune Diop, prefect of the Ranérou Ferlo Department, and Colonel Abdoulaye Diop, director of national parks in Senegal, the park's main access road was named "Boulevard Christine Stevens" in honor of AWI's founder and first president.

Lethal wildlife management

A major win for wildlife occurred in November 2017 when—in response to a lawsuit filed by AWI and others—a federal court approved a settlement that requires the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) Wildlife Services program to implement numerous protections for predators and other wild animals in Northern California.

The settlement prohibits Wildlife Services— notorious for its draconian wildlife management techniques—from aerial gunning and any use of body-gripping traps such as strangling snares and steel-jaw leghold traps in designated wilderness areas in California’s North District, comprising 16 counties. It also requires the program to analyze the environmental impacts of its killing of coyotes, bobcats, and other wildlife in the district. Pending completion of that study, several measures must be implemented to protect the region’s wildlife, including a ban on the use of extremely dangerous M-44 cyanide devices, den fumigants, and lead ammunition. Wildlife Services must also take steps to protect California’s endangered gray wolves from being accidentally harmed or killed in traps set for other carnivores.

This is the latest in a series of victories we have achieved to curb Wildlife Services’ lethal wildlife management activities in California. In August 2017, a California court voided Monterey County’s wildlife management work plan after determining that the county’s contract with Wildlife Services violated the California Environmental Quality Act. Last year, we reached a settlement with Mendocino County through which that county’s contract with Wildlife Services was terminated.

Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

This year’s Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards were announced in October 2017. Through the award, AWI provides grants to support innovative and creative research on humane, nonlethal, noninvasive tools and techniques for wildlife conflict management and wildlife study. The following individuals received awards this year:

- ☀ Dr. Stewart Breck of the USDA’s National Wildlife Research Center and Colorado State University for improving fladry (a simple tool consisting of flags or strips of fabric that flap in the breeze along a fence line) to ward off coyotes and thereby reduce predation pressure on the endangered black-footed ferret.
- ☀ Dr. Elizabeth Burgess of the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium for developing biomarkers to better monitor threats to the health of Florida manatees.
- ☀ Beth A. Fitzpatrick of the University of Wyoming for studying the effectiveness of noninvasive methods to monitor greater sage-grouse populations.
- ☀ Dr. Rachel Graham of MarAlliance for a study to document and conserve ray species along Mexico’s Caribbean coast.
- ☀ Jason Holmberg of Wild Me for modernizing the study of Hawaiian hawksbill sea turtles using photo-identification tools and computer technology.
- ☀ Dr. Andrea Morehouse of Waterton Biosphere Reserve for assessing the effectiveness of nonlethal mitigation strategies to reduce conflicts involving grizzly bears and livestock.

Schweitzer Medal

Shortly after AWI was founded, Dr. Albert Schweitzer gave the organization permission to create a medal—bearing his name and honoring his legacy—to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare. Since its inception, the Schweitzer Medal has been awarded to 46 individuals, including members of Congress, foreign presidents and dignitaries, law enforcement officials, reporters, and scientists. On April 10, 2018, at a ceremony held at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, we awarded the Schweitzer Medal to Dr. Samuel K Wasser, in recognition of groundbreaking work that has contributed enormously to the fight against wildlife trafficking. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) presented the medal on AWI’s behalf.

Wasser is the endowed chair in Conservation Biology and director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington. He has pioneered noninvasive methods to measure the abundance, distribution, and physiological condition of wildlife from

their droppings, relying on detection dogs to locate these samples over large wilderness areas. He applies these tools to forensic analyses of transnational wildlife crime, as well as to address the impacts of poaching, oil development, and overfishing on the well-being of endangered wildlife populations.

Based on DNA analyses of elephant dung, Wasser has assembled a DNA reference map of elephants across Africa that is widely used to determine the geographic origins of poached ivory. The map has enabled his team to identify Africa’s largest elephant poaching hotspots, track the number and connectivity of major ivory traffickers operating in Africa, and uncover strategies that transnational organized crime syndicates use to acquire and move their contraband around the world. This work has led to prosecutions of major transnational ivory traffickers and nurtured key collaborations with national and international law enforcement agencies, including INTERPOL, Homeland Security Investigations, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and wildlife authorities in numerous source and transit countries across Africa and Asia.





Companion *Animals*

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

USDA Enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act

AWI's long-standing watchdog role regarding USDA enforcement and oversight of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) has taken on new urgency in light of the unprecedented efforts of the department under the Trump administration to shelve this law, which sets minimum standards of care that must be provided to animals by breeders, dealers, research facilities, airlines, intermediate handlers, and exhibitors. AWI has worked to expose this agenda—with a particular focus on cases involving the USDA's abandonment of enforcement in relation to shocking abuse at puppy mills.

In an article in the summer 2018 *AWI Quarterly*, we revealed that in the first 18 months of this administration, the USDA filed just two enforcement complaints—compared to 58 during the 24 months of 2015 and 2016. What's worse, one of these two involved a grossly inadequate response to egregious AWA violations at an Iowa puppy mill operated by Debra Pratt, who had been described in the media as the “poster child” for all that was wrong with the state's dog breeding industry. AWI exposed the USDA's desultory efforts in the case—how it virtually ignored the horrific reports produced by its own on-the-ground inspectors and eventually reached a meager settlement with this notorious breeder, letting her walk away virtually unscathed despite years of animal abuse at her facility.

In the previous *Quarterly* issue (spring 2018), AWI chronicled the USDA's woeful enforcement regarding another Iowa dog breeder, Gary Felts. For more than a decade, USDA inspectors documented abysmal care and significant animal suffering at Felts's kennel, yet the USDA kept renewing his license. Finally, in January 2017, the USDA moved to terminate Felts's license.

However, in seeking license *termination* (merely canceling the license) rather than *revocation* (permanent loss of the license as part of an AWA enforcement action), the USDA left Felts unpunished and eligible, even, to apply for a new license. In its termination filing, the USDA cited not one of the grievous AWA violations documented in numerous inspection reports. AWI laid out the long history of abuse at the facility and complained to multiple USDA officials regarding this case.

AWI has long been harshly critical of the USDA's automatic renewal of licenses such as those of Pratt or Felts, without regard for the licensees' AWA compliance record. So when the USDA asked for feedback regarding a possible change in this practice, we encouraged our members to contact the USDA, and we submitted comments laden with egregious examples of licensees with horrendous compliance records having their licenses renewed again and again. As of the end of the fiscal year, the USDA had not yet issued a proposal on changes to the licensing regulations.

AWI also fought against a USDA proposal to allow for third-party inspections—a change that would have undercut the backbone of AWA enforcement while enabling industry to self-police. The department had proposed “blending” these third-party inspections with regular ones. We submitted official written comments criticizing this proposal and once again asked our members to comment. AWI President Cathy Liss also spoke forcefully against the plan at a USDA listening session. Subsequently, under a barrage of negative feedback, the USDA announced it was dropping this proposal.

Hurricane rescues On September 6, 2017, the US Virgin Islands fell under the brutal force of Hurricane Irma. In its wake, the storm left catastrophic damage and great human misery.

Four-legged residents suffered as well. Shelters in St. Thomas and St. Croix were badly damaged and overflowing with stray and abandoned dogs and cats.

A group founded by a Virgin Islands native had initially planned to airlift these animals out of the islands to new homes over the course of several weeks. But when—a scant two weeks later—Hurricane Maria bore down on the islands, the group turned to AWI for emergency assistance. We provided funding to help charter a plane to ferry over 300 dogs and cats out just before Maria barreled in.

In the early morning hours of September 19, the animals arrived in Norfolk, Virginia, where staff members from AWI's Washington, DC, headquarters joined other volunteers to help care for the dogs and cats and relay them to temporary shelter on their way to new homes across the eastern United States. AWI also funded hurricane rescue and rehoming efforts in St. Maarten and in remote western Puerto Rico.

Animal cruelty crimes AWI's Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour worked with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Criminal Justice Information Services Division, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), and the Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs this year on outreach to law enforcement agencies concerning the FBI's addition two years ago of animal cruelty crimes to its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Mary Lou co-authored an article on NIBRS implementation with Dan DeSousa, director of San Diego Animal Services, for *The Deputy*, the magazine of the NSA, and she developed a survey for state sheriffs to ascertain how their offices are reporting animal cruelty

crimes. AWI also collaborated with the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) to distribute the *NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement* that we coauthored last year.

In November 2017, Nancy and Mary Lou participated in the 7th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference—the primary training event for prosecutors, law enforcement and animal control officers, veterinarians, and related disciplines to address animal abuse crimes. At Nancy's invitation, Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer of the Oregon Supreme Court agreed to keynote the event. AWI funds and Nancy co-chairs the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, the conference's planning body.

Animal cruelty and domestic violence

AWI continues to partner with a diverse group of professionals to address the links between animal welfare, family welfare, and public safety. In September in San Diego, we assembled a panel presentation for the 22nd International Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma—a gathering of representatives from law enforcement agencies, domestic violence and child welfare service providers, mental health professionals, and violence prevention advocates. On this panel, Mary Lou reviewed the research showing the strong connection between animal cruelty and other types of violence, while Nancy discussed public policy changes to strengthen laws dealing with animal cruelty and provide better resources to domestic violence victims and their companion animals. AWI put together a similar panel for the October 2017 NACA training conference, held in Virginia Beach, Virginia.





Animals in Laboratories



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

Whistleblowing weak federal oversight

As noted in the Companion Animals section, the USDA has virtually abandoned sound oversight and enforcement of the AWA—with deeply disturbing ramifications for animals in research as well as animals in the pet trade, exotic wildlife, and others. Since March 2017, this has occurred under the direction of Stephen Vaden, principal deputy general counsel. Vaden has been accused of causing plummeting morale and a climate of fear among the government attorneys charged with filing crucial AWA enforcement complaints, all in an effort to squelch enforcement.

Throughout the year, AWI called attention—via investigative reporting and outreach to policymakers, the press, and our members—to this administration’s apparent hostility toward the AWA and abdication of its responsibility to enforce it. As noted in last year’s annual report, enforcement records are being hidden from the public. The USDA has also drastically reduced administrative cases against licensed and registered entities that fail to comply with the law. Government inspectors are actually being discouraged from making citations on their inspection reports, and “education” is being emphasized rather than enforcement. The *Animal Welfare Inspection Guide*—a document that helps inspectors do their job—is missing key chapters, replaced by “under construction” notations, while other sections have been substantially weakened. The *Animal Care Policy Manual*, which provides clarification on specific issues and regulations governing the care and use of animals, has been taken offline, with an “Under Review!” notation where the link to the manual formerly was. There can be little doubt that the intent is to sideline or severely curtail this document as well.

In the midst of all this, AWI’s Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney attended a listening session in January 2018 on animal research hosted by the USDA, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The stated purpose of the meeting was to collect information in response to language tucked in a 300+ page law passed in December 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act. The research industry hopes to use a directive in the law to reduce “administrative burden” as a means to weaken current oversight of animals in research. At the meeting, Cathy issued a strong defense of maintaining the existing requirements and of strengthening and broadening—rather than weakening—federal oversight and the protections afforded animals in research.

Following a January 2015 *New York Times* exposé of animal cruelty at the USDA’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska, that resulted in public condemnation of MARC and withholding of some Agricultural Research Service (ARS) funding from Congress, MARC and the other federal laboratories were subject to unannounced inspections. When AWI discovered in July 2017 that the first unannounced inspection of MARC resulted in four citations involving significant animal suffering, we called on Congress to permanently revoke all research funding of MARC. The problem was not limited to MARC, however. AWI’s research uncovered systemic animal welfare issues at multiple ARS labs: 16 citations at 12 of ARS’s 35 labs, with several incidents resulting in severe animal suffering and deaths (e.g., 32 quail chicks who died in a room that reached 130 degrees; 15 ducks who died from dehydration; a sick, dehydrated calf whose treatment ended two days before his death; and 38 young turkeys who died from malnutrition and dehydration).

We found that, repeatedly, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees for these facilities were signing off on forms indicating that all was well despite egregious animal welfare incidents. Our findings, published in the *Quarterly* and released to the press, resulted in several stories in the media, including a feature story in the *Herald Journal* of Logan, Utah, where one of the cited labs is located.

In June 2018, prior to the annual meeting that AWI coordinates between the USDA and animal protection groups, AWI received an email from the department announcing that “we are not in a position to accept and respond to agenda items, as we have in past years” and that animal groups should “reflect on and discuss the learning opportunities and assistance” that the USDA provides for the industries it regulates. Animal protection groups were outraged at this attempt to discourage negative feedback; several threatened to boycott the meeting. In the end, AWI succeeded in putting together an event in which the groups were able to voice concerns about the increasingly poor oversight of the research and other industries.

Promoting refinement

In Austin, Texas, in October 2017, Cathy attended the national meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science and—as she has done nearly every year during her 35 years at AWI—staffed an exhibit advocating for better treatment of animals in research. Once again, AWI publications on refinement in the care and handling of animals in research were in great demand. Included this year was the new second edition of *The Magic of Touch*, by Viktor and Annie Reinhardt, AWI’s longtime (but now retired) laboratory animal advisor and information specialist, respectively. The book reviews the

scientific and professional literature to present evidence on the calming, stress-buffering, and life-enhancing effect of touch among animals, among humans, and between animals and humans—with profound implications for the way animals are handled in laboratory settings.

Valuable, insightful online exchanges between animal technicians, animal care personnel, researchers, and students continued on AWI’s Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF). The forum, moderated by Viktor (who now serves on AWI’s Scientific Committee), was launched by him in October 2002. One exchange, on the calming influence of caregivers talking to the animals, was covered in the spring 2018 *AWI Quarterly*. Among the many other refinement topics discussed on LAREF this year: repurposing old caging to create better housing for rats, hammocks for monkeys, ropes and swings for mice, gnawing blocks and wood sticks, identifying signs of stress in rabbits, trio housing of macaques, mirrors as enrichment, making bitter medicines more palatable to pigs, ideal nesting material for mice, hiding structures for rabbits, and computer tablets for nonhuman primates (for games and other apps they can independently manipulate).

This year, AWI provided refinement grants to two candidates. The first was Dr. Brianna Gaskill of Purdue University, who is investigating the link between lab personnel’s attitudes, including “compassion fatigue,” and the provision of environmental enrichment to animals under their care. The second recipient was Dr. Kathleen Coda of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research seeks to develop and validate enrichment strategies to reduce stress in rabbits by use of devices that allow them to engage in natural behaviors such as exploration, digging, and standing on their hind limbs.





Farm *Animals*

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



Improved animal export conditions

In early 2016, after granting a petition by AWI to incorporate animal fitness-to-travel requirements to prevent animals too young, weak, or sick from being exported, the USDA finalized a rule to strengthen the requirements for the export of farm animals by sea. In addition to adding the fitness-to-travel standards, the department added measures to better protect the welfare of animals at sea, and mandated that ocean vessels submit a report after each journey with the number of animals who died and the number who became injured or sick during transport.

Through Freedom of Information Act requests, AWI has since monitored the USDA's enforcement of the amended regulations, and has learned that the department is receiving morbidity and mortality reports for at least some shipments of animals. These reports show that among farm animals, cattle endure the longest voyages, with documented trips lasting three to seven weeks. It appears that the rule change has been beneficial in that no egregious incidents have been reported in the wake of the 2016 amendments, although we note that the mortality rate for two of the journeys was concerning.

AWI has also monitored the USDA's enforcement of the law that governs the transport of farm animals within the United States. Our research shows that in recent years, the USDA has investigated only a handful of suspected violations, and referred none for prosecution. Given this, we support adoption of a Department of Transportation regulation requiring that transporters use electronic logging devices, which could provide the government with a mechanism to track farm animals transported by truck. Our report on the USDA's handling of domestic farm animal transport is slated for publication in the journal *Animal Law Review*.

Welfare of animals raised organically

In the past year, AWI has worked extensively to pressure the USDA to implement the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule, which would clarify and expand welfare standards for animals raised under the National Organic Program. Unfortunately, the USDA repeatedly delayed and finally withdrew the rule despite widespread support for it from consumers and small organic farmers. Although the new rule's standards were relatively low, they clarified that all organically raised animals must have genuine access to the outdoors.

During the delay, AWI submitted comments to the USDA and sent an action alert to our supporters to ask the department to implement the rule. AWI also co-authored a report, *Animal Welfare in the National Organic Program: The USDA Must Act Quickly to Protect Millions of Animals*, which urged the USDA to implement the rule to benefit animals and consumers. When the USDA ultimately decided to withdraw the OLPP rule, AWI organized comments from a coalition of organizations and asked our supporters to submit comments requesting that the department change course.

AWI also prepared a report countering the USDA's main rationale for withdrawing the rule—that the department only has authority to regulate animal health, not animal welfare. The report, *The Critical Relationship Between Farm Animal Health and Welfare*, explains how animal welfare and animal health are inextricably linked, and demonstrates how research conducted by the USDA itself has confirmed this connection. AWI is considering options on how best to respond to the USDA's withdrawal of the OLPP rule so that, ultimately, the quality of life for the millions of animals raised under the organic label can be improved.

Oversight of poultry slaughter

AWI continues to pressure the USDA and state departments of agriculture to improve enforcement of humane slaughter laws. In November 2017, we released an update to our comprehensive 2006–2014 analysis of the welfare of birds at slaughter in the United States. The new report presented the findings from a review of USDA inspection documents for the period 2015–2016. We used these documents to compile a list of poultry slaughter plants that have been written up most frequently by the USDA for violating federal regulations and/or what the industry considers good commercial practices for animal handling. The federally inspected plants with the worst records for this period included Simmons Prepared Foods in Decatur, Arkansas; Case Farms plants in Morganton, North Carolina, and Winesburg, Ohio; and a Pilgrim's Pride plant in Mount Pleasant, Texas. For three of the four plants, we were able to generate local media coverage of the plant's poor animal welfare record.

We also vigorously opposed a petition submitted by the National Chicken Council (NCC) to implement a blanket waiver system that would allow poultry lines to operate at unlimited speeds. We argued to the USDA that increased line speed poses a risk to animal welfare in a number of ways, and that these risks are exacerbated by the fact that the USDA has failed to adopt any regulations governing the humane handling and slaughter of poultry. The USDA ultimately rejected the NCC petition, but substantially undermined the decision by stating it will consider individual waiver requests for operation at increased speeds. We also strongly recommended that the USDA grant our petition calling for the implementation of humane handling regulations for poultry.

Prevention of deadly barn fires

Every year, hundreds of thousands of farm animals die in barn fires, yet there are no laws designed to protect them against this kind of tragedy. However, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has created a voluntary standard recommending various fire prevention methods in buildings that house animals, including barns. AWI has submitted comments to the NFPA since 2014, advocating for mandatory fire suppression and prevention systems in barns.

In January 2018, AWI's Alicia Prygoski was appointed to serve on the NFPA Technical Committee on Animal Housing Facilities, the entity that drafts the standard covering fire prevention in barns. This will give us a significant opportunity to emphasize the importance of protecting farm animals from fire, especially considering that AWI is the sole animal welfare organization represented on the committee. The committee is currently working to develop the 2019 Animal Housing Standards, which are expected to offer greater protection from barn fires than previous editions.

In June, Alicia attended the annual NFPA Conference & Expo to speak with fire safety experts about the most effective ways to protect farm animals from fires. AWI has also started tracking barn fires to determine why they occur, how frequently farm animals die as a result, and ways that barn fires can be prevented.





Humane Education

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



Author partnership

This year, AWI partnered with acclaimed author Katherine Applegate (*The One and Only Ivan*, the *Animorphs* series) and HarperCollins Children's Books to rally youth to join the fight to protect endangered species. Applegate's latest book, *Endling #1: The Last*, is a young adult novel in which the protagonist belongs to a fictional species that has been driven nearly to extinction.

Working with HarperCollins, AWI created materials for teachers and students that featured a diverse array of endangered animals and highlighted simple steps people of all ages can take to protect wildlife and habitats. Applegate recorded a series of videos to highlight these actions, which we shared on our social media channels in the days leading up to Endangered Species Day in May. We created a colorful educational poster featuring photographs of 20 animals currently listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). During her *Endling* book tour, Applegate hand-delivered the posters to thousands of middle school students and teachers across the country. We are also offering the poster and other materials free to teachers via our website.

Science conferences

Every year, AWI hosts educational booths at major biology and science teacher conferences, where we promote humane education and proven alternatives to animal dissections. In November 2017, AWI's Regina Terlau attended the Science Teachers Association of Texas Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST). This annual conference draws thousands of teachers and affords us the opportunity to discuss humane teaching methods and share our publications with educators at all grade levels.

Our partnership with Applegate and HarperCollins gave us an opportunity to do additional outreach on wildlife protection at the 2018 National Science Teachers Association conference in Atlanta in April. While there, Regina distributed the endangered species posters and other educational materials—which were very well received and much appreciated by teachers looking for new ways to incorporate species preservation and habitat conservation lessons in their classrooms.

A Voice for Animals contest

AWI continued its co-sponsorship with the Humane Education Network of the annual "A Voice for Animals" contest. This contest allows young people to address animal welfare issues and showcase their own work to alleviate animal suffering. Previous contest winners have gone on to establish such noteworthy projects as a program to educate others about sea turtles, a shelter for stray dogs in Mexico, and an outdoor aviary for rescued birds.

This year, a special category was introduced for students age 14–15 whose essays addressed endangered species. In addition to other prizes, the winners in this category each received a personalized, signed copy of *Endling #1: The Last*. Overall, more than 400 entries were received for the contest, with prizes awarded for submissions about saving porpoises in China's Yangtze River, protecting rhinos from poachers in South Africa, adoption of stray "pariah" dogs in Bangalore, India, rehabilitation of abused and neglected horses in Florida, and more.



Marine *Animals*

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

Commercial whaling

Much of AWI's marine team efforts this year involved preparation for the biennial International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Florianópolis, Brazil, that would take place in September 2018, following the close of the fiscal year.

AWI is active in several capacities within the IWC. AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose, a member of the IWC Scientific Committee, co-edited the *State of the Cetacean Environment Report*, which provides IWC commissioners, members of the Scientific Committee, and other interested parties with a nontechnical periodic summary of events, developments, and conditions in the marine environment that are relevant to cetaceans. Naomi also serves as rapporteur for the IWC's Sub-committee on Whalewatching and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Sanctuaries, and she participated in and wrote the report for an IWC Scientific Committee workshop on modeling and assessment of whale watching impacts.

Meanwhile, AWI's Kate O'Connell participates in the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Standing Working Group and AWI's Sue Fisher and D.J. Schubert participate in the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) Working Group. In April 2018, Sue and D.J. attended a meeting of this group in Utqiaġvik (Barrow), Alaska, held to resolve issues pertaining to the IWC-approved ASW quotas.

AWI has been at the forefront of efforts to encourage the IWC to recognize the key role whales play in marine ecosystem functioning. This work helped lead to a groundbreaking 2016 IWC resolution acknowledging this contribution, after which the IWC established a Conservation Committee working group (which includes Sue and D.J.) to make recommendations on how

the IWC can assist studies of this emerging issue and apply those findings to decisions concerning cetacean conservation. Further, in December 2017, AWI, along with Chile's Cetacean Conservation Center and Argentina's Whale Conservation Institute, released *Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning: Defining Marine Conservation Policies in the 21st Century*—a report that emerged from a workshop conducted by the three organizations during the July 2017 International Congress for Conservation Biology, in Cartagena, Colombia.

As stated in the Wildlife section, Sue and D.J. also participated in the 69th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee in Geneva. AWI and allies provided Standing Committee members with extensive evidence of Japan's commercial use of meat and blubber from sei whales—a species listed on the treaty's Appendix I (which prohibits commercial trade in the animals). The committee was to make a determination on whether Japan is failing to comply with CITES at its next meeting.

Bycatch

As a recognized stakeholder in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification process, AWI routinely provides comments to the council. We are also coordinating a coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that is pressuring the MSC to address the devastating ecological impacts of bycatch in its sustainable fisheries certification standards. Throughout the year, we organized and chaired meetings of this coalition. In January 2018, we facilitated a letter to the MSC from 66 NGOs and leading academics regarding MSC certification of fisheries that ensnare thousands of vulnerable and endangered animals—thus misleading consumers who look for the “certified sustainable” label in making purchases.

In April 2018, Kate met with the MSC Standards Committee during the Brussels Seafood Expo to discuss this issue. In May, AWI submitted testimony on the MSC to the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee with regard to the impacts of bycatch, anthropogenic ocean noise, and plastic pollution. Kate also participated in an MSC workshop held in London in early June, where she gave a presentation on cetacean bycatch and problems associated with fish aggregation devices.

Captive cetaceans

On July 24, 2017, Kyara, the last orca to be born at a SeaWorld park, died at three months of age. She was the granddaughter of Tilikum, the orca who killed trainer Dawn Brancheau and was subsequently featured in the documentary *Blackfish*—who had himself died less than seven months earlier.

The following month, AWI requested access to the necropsy results for Kyara, Tilikum, and Kasatka (another recently deceased orca), all of whom purportedly died of lung infections—a common malady in captive whales. The necropsy results could shed light on the lives and deaths of these animals and provide scientists, including those involved in rescuing stranded whales and dolphins, with important information on treatments, diagnoses, and prognoses. SeaWorld's public display permits, issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), require the company to provide the public with complete veterinary records and necropsy results.

SeaWorld, however, rebuffed AWI's request, claiming the necropsy files contained proprietary information. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

declined to act on this refusal. The agencies stated—without providing evidence of their legal reasoning—that SeaWorld's obligations in this regard under its public display permits are no longer in effect due to 1994 changes to the MMPA.

In January 2018, AWI and allies sued NOAA and NMFS over their refusal to enforce the permit requirements. The lawsuit centers around the failure of the agencies to respond to our Freedom of Information Act request for documents related to the agencies' decision. As of the close of the fiscal year, the case was still pending.

We are also investigating the death of a seven-year-old bottlenose dolphin in September 2017 at Dolphinaris, a commercial swim-with-the-dolphins facility near Scottsdale, Arizona.

Endangered species

In response to a 2016 petition by AWI and allies, NMFS agreed in May 2018 to list the Taiwanese white dolphin (*Sousa chinensis taiwanensis*) as endangered under the ESA. This important decision enables the United States to provide technical expertise and resources to help mitigate the threats the dolphins face along Taiwan's densely populated western coast. These threats include gillnet fishing, pollution, boat traffic, onshore development, and the potential construction of offshore wind farms. Last year, Naomi participated in an international workshop in Taiwan to assess the impacts of several large offshore wind farms proposed within the dolphin's habitat. She presented the workshop's deliberations and concerns to the IWC Scientific Committee—which then issued strong recommendations to Taiwanese authorities to address potential harm to the species in their evaluations of wind farm proposals.





Government Affairs

Since the 1950s, AWI has been a leader, at both federal and state levels, in securing landmark laws aimed at shielding animals from cruelty and needless suffering. We work to ensure diligent enforcement of these laws and fight efforts to roll back hard-won animal protections.



Federal legislation

The nation's most vital animal protection laws came under heavy assault throughout the year from within Congress. Scores of bills and amendments were proposed to substantially undermine the critical protections provided under the ESA, MMPA, and other long-standing laws.

Legislators beholden to the fossil fuel industry set their sights on the MMPA in order to expand offshore exploration and drilling. One bill, the Streamlining Environmental Approvals (SEA) Act, HR 3133, would gut core provisions of the MMPA to fast-track activities such as seismic airgun surveys—which involve deafening blasts that injure and kill hundreds of thousands of cetaceans and other marine animals.

As the SEA Act and other bills designed to weaken the MMPA were introduced, AWI and eight other environmental and animal welfare groups ascended Capitol Hill to host a Lobby Day and reception on November 15, 2017, to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the law's passage. Scientists, business leaders, local government officials, and marine advocates from coastal states came to Washington, DC, to meet with legislators and urge them to defend the MMPA. AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose shepherded the contingent from Florida, a key state in the battle against opening up the Atlantic coast to seismic surveys. The day ended with a packed reception, attended by members of Congress and staff, regulatory officials, and marine advocates, including actress/singer Miranda Cosgrove and Dr. Lee Talbot, one of the original authors of the law.

The agriculture appropriations bill (a.k.a. the "farm bill"), unfortunately, provided another avenue for attacks on animal protections. Of particular note, an amendment inserted at the

behest of Rep. Steve King (R-IA) to the version of the bill that narrowly passed the House in late June 2018 would nullify many state laws enacted to protect animals in agriculture and other forms of commerce. (King's interest is in preventing other states from barring animals and animal products produced in Iowa's factory farms and puppy mills.) Other provisions of the House farm bill would exempt federal agencies from consulting with the USFWS (as currently required under the ESA) on projects that might affect imperiled species, and shield pesticide manufacturers and end users from any liability for harming endangered species—with potentially devastating consequences for vital pollinators and other species.

Working with the bipartisan Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, AWI hosted a briefing for members of Congress and staff on the King amendment. In the end, we were able to keep it and other harmful House provisions out of the Senate version of the bill and, as the fiscal year ended, we were seeking to ensure that such language is left off the final negotiated bill. We were also urging lawmakers to retain a number of beneficial provisions (from either version of the bill)—including a prohibition on the slaughter of dogs and cats for human consumption, language to extend the federal prohibition on animal fighting to US territories, and language from the Pet and Women Safety Act that would make more resources available to meet the housing needs of domestic violence survivors with pets.

During the year, AWI worked to get several positive animal welfare bills introduced or reintroduced. One such bill is the Big Cat Public Safety Act (S 2990/HR 1818), introduced in the Senate by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), which would prohibit the keeping of lions, tigers, and other big cats as pets. (The House

version was introduced by Reps. Jeff Denham (R-CA), Walter Jones (R-NC), and Niki Tsongas (D-MA) prior to the start of this fiscal year.) Another was the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act (S 1919/HR 1438), introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) in the Senate and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) in the House. This bill would prohibit the possession or use of body-gripping traps within the National Wildlife Refuge System. And in June 2018, AWI, as part of a coalition of NGOs, lobbied numerous members of Congress to build support for the Chemical Poisons Reduction Act (HR 1817), a bill that would ban Wildlife Services from using M-44 cyanide devices to kill predators.

There were several wins for animals in an omnibus appropriations bill that passed in March 2018 to fund the federal government through the end of its fiscal year. The bill included measures to prevent the revival of the horse slaughter industry in the United States, prohibit the sale for slaughter in Mexico and Canada of wild horses and burros, and bar the licensing of “Class B” dealers who acquire dogs and cats from random sources and sell them for use in experiments—all issues upon which AWI has worked extensively. Furthermore, the omnibus included funding for the Marine Mammal Commission, an independent agency mandated by the MMPA to further the conservation of marine mammals and habitat (thus countering the Trump administration’s proposed budget, which had zeroed out funding for the agency). And, despite concerted efforts by the determined anti-wildlife faction in Congress, the omnibus bill did not include language that would have gutted core provisions of the ESA and denied protections for the gray wolf, lesser prairie-chicken, and Preble’s jumping mouse.

State bills

In Illinois, AWI was instrumental in getting the Ivory Ban Act passed in May 2018. This important new law prohibits the sale of elephant ivory and rhino horn in the state. We worked with legislators, lined up local support, and testified in favor of the bill to help secure its passage. (Following the close of the fiscal year, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed it into law.) Such state laws are important because federal law addresses only interstate commerce in ivory and horn. It does not govern sales that take place solely within one state—leaving open an avenue for traffickers to launder illegally acquired ivory and horn and contribute to the continued slaughter of elephants and rhinos in Africa. Illinois now joins seven other states (California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington) that have passed similar laws to restrict or ban the sale of ivory and rhino horn within their borders.

In Ohio and Indiana, AWI played a major role in helping to defeat proposals to establish bobcat trapping and hunting seasons. We provided comments and rallied fierce opposition from our members in both states. As a result, the Indiana Natural Resources Commission withdrew its proposed bobcat trapping and hunting season at the commission’s May 15 meeting. Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Cameron Clark said, “We have heard from you,” in direct acknowledgment of the public outcry and its influence on the decision. Two days later at an Ohio Wildlife Council meeting, the council voted 6–1 to indefinitely postpone that state’s proposed bobcat trapping season as well.



AWI Quarterly



The AWI Quarterly magazine is distributed to over 43,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, deans of medical and veterinary schools, laboratory technicians, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this fiscal year.

Fall 2017

VOLUME 66, NUMBER 3

The USFWS has proposed a significant reduction in the range of the existing wild population of red wolves. The agency plans to remove individual wolves from the wild to increase the captive breeding population—something the scientific community has said is unnecessary and harmful to red wolf survival. Due to the USFWS' gross neglect, the once-growing population is now in such dire condition that leading scientists have said that continuing to manage in this manner would likely lead to the species' disappearance from the wild within eight years.

After the Vermont Packerhouse received four suspensions and over a dozen noncompliance records for humane slaughter violations within one year, AWI called on the Vermont agriculture agency to take strong action. The agency subsequently assessed penalties totaling \$1,500 and required the plant to undergo an independent third-party audit—after which the plant must update its written humane handling plan to include recommendations made in the audit. This is the first instance of Vermont imposing penalties under its humane slaughter law.

Carter and Olivia Ries launched One More Generation in 2009, when they were still in grade school, to educate children and adults about the plight of endangered species. Thomas Ponce founded Lobby for Animals four years ago when he was 12 to help people take action on issues affecting farmed animals, pets, animals used in entertainment, animal testing, and more. Hannah Testa of Hannah4Change started getting involved at the age of 10 to educate consumers and businesses about the dire effects of plastic pollution. All are part of a growing cadre of amazing youth who have formed their own organizations to take on tough animal welfare and environmental issues.

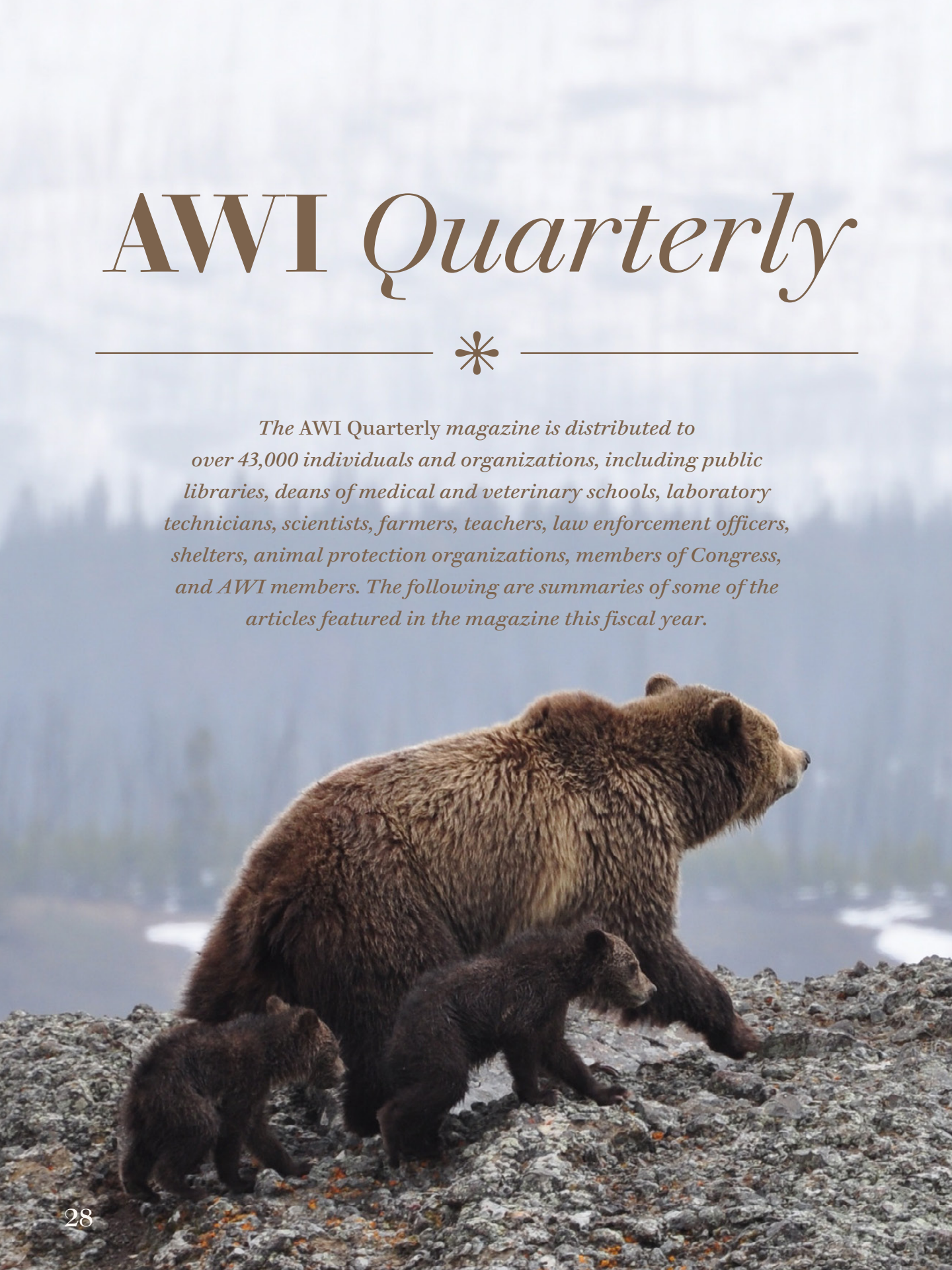
AWI and allies have petitioned the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services program and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for an immediate ban on

the use of M-44 cyanide devices in Wyoming. The petition was prompted by recent tragic incidents involving the devices—including the agonizing death of two dogs after one triggered an M-44 while the two were out walking with their families. Every year, M-44s kill thousands of animals, many of whom are not even the intended targets.

From early June to mid-July 2017, eight North Atlantic right whales died—a serious blow to a population that numbers roughly 500. Three of the whales appear to have been hit by ships, while at least one died due to drowning in snow crab gear. A staggering 83 percent of North Atlantic right whales display scars or carry ropes indicative of past entanglements. July brought further tragic news: Joe Howlett was inadvertently struck and killed by the tail of a diving right whale he had just released from fishing gear. Howlett was a founding member of the Campobello Whale Rescue Team.

In an important win for ocelots, AWI and the Center for Biological Diversity reached a settlement with USDA-APHIS and the USFWS whereby the agencies must examine the threat posed by the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services program to ocelots in Arizona and Texas. AWI and the Center filed suit after Wildlife Services failed to consult with the USFWS to determine the effect its predator control activity had on these endangered animals—a requirement under the ESA.

Four more individuals have been convicted in the multijurisdictional cockfighting case centered on the Big Blue Sportsman's Club in eastern Kentucky, where cockfights had been held for more than 20 years. Previously, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring and the US Department of Justice secured convictions and prison sentences for five other defendants. Among the four most recently convicted are Big Blue owners Shirley Ray Slone and Vernon Kelly Slone, who forfeited \$100,000 and were required to pay for the destruction of the club's facility.



AWI and others in the animal protection community have long maintained that the tank for Lolita—an orca who has languished at the Miami Seaquarium for 45 years—does not meet the minimum space requirements for her species under US law. In June 2017, the USDA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued the findings of an audit that essentially agreed with our assertion. The OIG asked USDA-APHIS to clarify how Lolita’s tank meets the minimum space requirements. The agency responded, unfortunately, by referencing a nearly-four-decade-old agency document that had no actual relevance to Lolita’s tank.



A growing body of case law acknowledges that companion animals are not mere property. One striking example: Ohio’s Sixth District Court of Appeals ruled last year that a trial court erred in limiting damages to the market value of a dog severely injured by another dog in an attack—rather than

consider the thousands of dollars in medical bills the plaintiff accrued to treat the dog’s injuries. The three-judge panel concluded that “pets do not have the same characteristics as other forms of personal property, such as a table or sofa which is disposable and replaceable at our convenience.”

AWI mourns the loss of renowned author and naturalist Hope Ryden, who died in June at the age of 87. Hope served many years on the board of trustees of AWI’s Society for Animal Protective Legislation and later on AWI’s Scientific Committee. She spent decades gathering data and writing eloquently about wild horses, coyotes, beavers, and other wildlife. Among her many contributions to animal protection: A 1968 news segment she produced

on Bureau of Land Management plans to round up wild horses helped lead to establishment of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range and enactment of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.

Winter 2017

VOLUME 66, NUMBER 4

For some wild animals, getting rescued from traffickers is just the start of another ordeal. For the most part, “disposal” of confiscated wild animals is a matter of individual national laws or agency policies. Some countries place them in proper sanctuaries while others send them to less ideal captive facilities, or even sell or euthanize them. AWI believes that government wildlife law enforcement agencies should be held to at least the same animal welfare standards

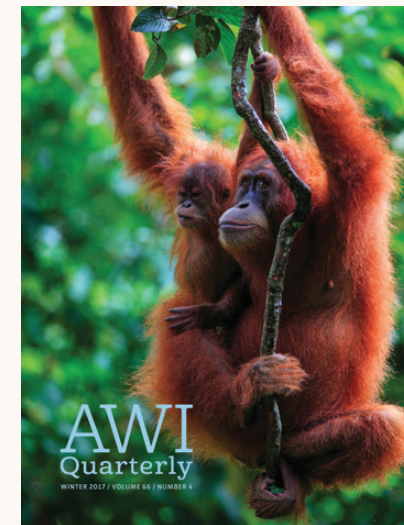
currently required of legal animal traders. We support establishment of an international network of CITES-credentialed wildlife rescue centers and sanctuaries.

The Trader Joe’s grocery chain announced in October 2017 that it would stop sourcing shrimp from Mexico in response to a request from the Boycott Mexican Shrimp campaign, led by AWI and allies. The boycott is intended to pressure the Mexican government to

take stronger steps to protect the vaquita porpoise—including a permanent ban on all gillnet fishing, removal of illegal nets from the water, and significantly increased enforcement efforts. Trader Joe’s announcement received wide coverage in the Mexican media.

In October 2017, California became the first state in the nation to ban the sale of commercially bred pets in pet stores. By January 1, 2019, stores in California will be prohibited from selling any dog, cat, or rabbit unless the animal was obtained from a shelter, rescue group, or public animal control agency. Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell—who coauthored the bill with Assemblymember Matt Dababneh—said the law (which passed the Assembly 55–11 and the Senate 38–0) “gives so many shelter animals the chance to find their forever homes, while simultaneously cutting off the outlet for puppy mill animals into our state.”

A fledgling “clean meat” industry is looking to transform the way meat is produced by removing the animal altogether—growing meat straight from cells, eliminating the need for factory farming and all the harm that comes with it. Replacing animals with cell-grown meat would mean billions of animals would no longer languish in overcrowded industrial facilities. Additionally, clean meat doesn’t require use of antibiotics and has an exponentially smaller environmental impact than conventional animal agriculture. While this sounds futuristic, production is already well underway.



France has become the first country to pass a ban on the breeding of cetaceans. The decree also prohibits the display of any cetaceans not held at the time the ban was enacted and establishes a series of operational and maintenance standards that all cetacean facilities must meet. In 2016,

French group One Voice invited Dr. Ingrid Visser and AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose (separately) to visit and evaluate conditions at French dolphinariums. Their reports prompted One Voice to file a complaint with government authorities about the conditions and push for improvements to the standards.

With funding from an AWI Christine Stevens Wildlife Award and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Suzanne Stone tested whether the “Foxlight” (a device with random flashing lights invented by Australian Ian Whalan to protect his lambs from foxes) could deter wolves from preying on livestock in the western United States. When used sparingly to avoid habituation, the Foxlights did indeed help keep the wolves at bay. Stone’s findings prompted the ODFW and other state wildlife agencies to recommend Foxlights as a valuable tool to allow wolves and livestock to peacefully coexist.

Seven workers at a Tyson factory farm in Virginia were convicted of cruelty to animals after an undercover investigation revealed severe mistreatment of chickens. In a video, the workers could be seen throwing, punching, kicking, swinging, and shoving chickens into sheds and cages. Overall, convictions under cruelty statutes are still rare, and punishments are often minor—even when the actions involve intentional acts of shocking cruelty. AWI supports stronger enforcement of state animal cruelty laws and wider application of such laws to cover treatment of animals on farms.

The USFWS ruled in October against adding the Pacific walrus to the list of threatened and endangered species under the ESA. The species had been placed on an ESA candidate list in 2011 by the Obama administration. Despite the fact that sea ice—on which walrus

depend for all their vital behaviors—has been receding dramatically, the USFWS chose to place an arbitrary limit on how far into the future population trends could be projected when making listing decisions, and thus denied protection for the walrus.

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved ZonaStat-D to manage deer populations—a major victory for scientists (including the late Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick) who spent years researching and developing humane, nonlethal, and effective ways to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. One longtime immunocontraceptive researcher called it “a huge step in moving deer contraception from research to management, adding that “pressure will mount on the

state wildlife agencies to come up with procedures for communities and land owners to follow that allow local management of deer with contraceptives.”

Despite widespread opposition and controversy, planning for President Trump’s border wall is moving forward: Just five days after Trump took office, an executive order authorizing it was signed. The order attempts to waive federal regulations designed to protect wildlife and the environment. National wildlife refuges are among the federally protected lands that the wall would cross. Experts have estimated that more than 100 endangered species will be put at risk, including jaguars, ocelots, jaguarundis, Mexican gray wolves, desert bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelopes.

Spring 2018

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 1

Anthropogenic ocean noise, generated by the military, the oil and gas industry, commercial shipping, and other sources, is increasing at an alarming rate and poses a significant threat to marine ecosystems. AWI and allies have repeatedly pressed the United Nations to take up the issue. We were heartened, therefore, that the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea chose to devote an entire week of meetings in June 2018 to the subject—with AWI involved in the deliberations. The meetings’ conclusions were to be presented in the fall to the UN General Assembly for appropriate action.

Amidst public condemnation of trophy hunting, major US airlines Delta, United, and American have all discontinued carriage of hunting trophies from Africa’s “big five”—elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, leopards, and buffaloes. European airlines such as Air France, KLM, British, and Lufthansa have even more comprehensive policies against transport of trophies. Likewise for Hong Kong–based Cathay Pacific

Airlines. The effect is significant: Most hunters won’t go through the expense and effort of traveling great distances to kill a majestic animal if they can’t find a way to cart home a grisly souvenir of the deed.

The end of cruel confinement methods for veal calves in the United States is drawing ever closer. In 2007, the American Veal Association (AVA) pledged to transition away from solitary crates and neck tethers to group housing for veal calves by the end of 2017. The AVA has since confirmed that all its members successfully completed the transition. In 2018, veal crate bans went into effect in Ohio and Kentucky. Seven other states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Rhode Island—have also committed to banning veal crates.

In 2012, the Los Angeles Food Policy Council developed the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) to transform the city’s food purchasing system into a more sustainable model that prioritizes the environment,

animal welfare, and the local economy. On animal welfare, it calls for the use of suppliers that are third-party certified for higher-welfare practices and/or the replacement of some animal products with equivalent plant-based protein. The GFPP has been approved by the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and a number of other jurisdictions in and out of California. AWI is part of a coalition of stakeholders promoting its adoption in Washington, DC.

On January 18, the Vancouver Aquarium finally announced that it would no longer display cetaceans once its last one—a Pacific white-sided dolphin—dies or is transferred elsewhere. Over the course of a year, two beluga whales, a rescued harbor porpoise, and a false killer whale died at the aquarium, leaving the dolphin alone. Now, the sole Canadian facility with no plans to end the captive display of cetaceans is Ontario’s Marineland, which holds more than 50 belugas, a few bottlenose dolphins, and a solitary orca.

A discussion took place on AWI’s Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum this past December on whether talking to animals in a laboratory setting helps reduce their stress. Several individuals chimed in to share their experiences, and all agreed that talking to the animals—in a tone moderated to fit the species, the procedure, and the mood of the animals that day—helps them remain calm. Several agreed that always “announcing” a particular procedure makes it more predictable for the animals, reducing stress and improving data reliability.

One of the latest signs that law enforcement agencies are taking animal cruelty more seriously is the uptick in the creation of animal cruelty units. The first state-level special animal unit was created in January 2015

by Virginia’s attorney general. Since then, Missouri and New York have added such units, with more states expected to follow. At the local level, at least 13 district attorneys’ offices and a growing number of municipal police departments—Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and El Paso to name a few—now have special animal cruelty crime units.

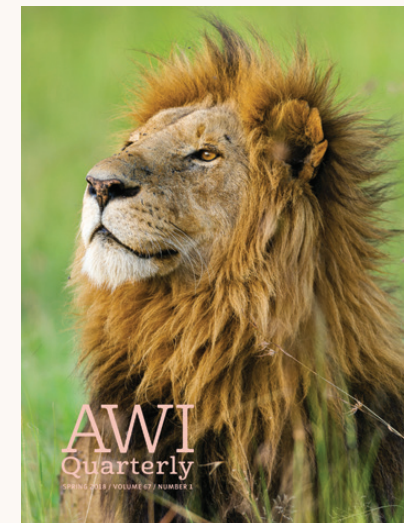
Costa Rica has enacted a new set of wildlife regulations that are among the most progressive in the world. The new rules prohibit trade in wild pets—both wild-caught and captive-bred wild animals. Animals seized from traffickers are to go to credentialed rescue centers only. Zoos are required to “provide animals with conditions similar to those of their natural habitat” that stimulate their “exploratory behavior, natural instincts, and social life.” And in

human-wildlife conflicts, lethal solutions are allowed only when no alternative nonlethal means are available.

Each year, millions of Australia’s kangaroos are gunned down by hunters for their hides and meat. What began as a cull to control kangaroos wrongly blamed for competing with livestock for grass has become a profit-driven commercial enterprise. As profits have grown, so have efforts by politicians to protect and promote the industry, by industry representatives to sell it as sustainable, and by

bureaucrats and government scientists to ensure high kill quotas. The situation is chronicled in grim detail in the documentary *Kangaroo: A Love-Hate Story*.

A growing number of jurisdictions are banning the use of wild animals in circuses. In August 2017, Illinois became the first state to ban the use of elephants in circuses and other traveling exhibits. Shortly thereafter, the state of New York did the same. Meanwhile, New



York City, Los Angeles, and Portland, Maine, all enacted measures to ban the use of *any* wild or exotic animals in circuses. Portland's Health and Human Services Committee, noting the shift in public attitudes, stated that "performances are now often viewed as acts of cruelty to the captive animals involved."

Nosey the elephant has finally been freed from her chains. Nosey was stolen from her Zimbabwe family in 1982 at the age of two. She was shipped to Florida, eventually purchased by Hugo Liebel, and spent the

next three decades with the Liebel family's circus—an operation that (under various names) has reportedly racked up over 200 AWA violations involving Nosey and various other animals. In October 2017, an animal control officer in Alabama went to check on Nosey. What she encountered—a solitary, sick, underfed, arthritic elephant standing in feces in a too-small trailer—resulted in Nosey's removal from the circus and temporary placement in the Elephant Sanctuary in central Tennessee. In January, a district court judge made the move permanent.

Summer 2018

VOLUME 67, NUMBER 2

AWI and other groups filed suit against several federal agencies in December 2017 in a move to save the vaquita porpoise in Mexico's Gulf of California. The vaquita population's precipitous decline is attributable to incidental entanglement and drowning in gillnet fishing gear set to catch various commercial fish species in Mexico. AWI believes that, under the MMPA, the United States has an obligation to ban the import of fish and fish products from Mexico caught with gillnets. Without this ban, the vaquita is predicted to soon be extinct.

With assistance from a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI, Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary and Dr. Allen Rutberg of Tufts University are testing noninvasive methods for surveying wild horse bands in New Mexico. Detailed descriptions of each band and its individual members are obtained using images from trail cameras, video, and on-the-ground observation—all without the use of helicopter surveys that are difficult in forested areas and highly stressful for the horses. The data will be especially useful for improving the efficiency of immunocontraceptives, a minimally invasive management tool for wildlife population control.

Perdue Farms has become the first major US poultry producer to commit to stunning with gas, known as controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS), at all of its chicken slaughter plants. CAS is considered less stressful to birds than the industry's standard practice of electric stunning, which involves shackling conscious birds by their legs, hanging them upside down, and running their heads through an electrified water bath. Perdue is also implementing a process that allows trucks to deliver birds in redesigned crates to a fully enclosed, temperature-controlled holding area prior to slaughter to prevent deaths by exposure.

In 2014, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRI) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, conducted diesel fume tests on Volkswagen Beetles. Ten cynomolgus monkeys were placed in airtight chambers to inhale diesel exhaust for four hours—inhumane tests that were condemned by many, including the German government. Since 2011, the LRRI has been fined and cited numerous times for AWA violations. To make matters worse, the tests were rigged by Volkswagen, which secretly equipped the car with a "defeat" device that would lower emissions when the software detected the car was being tested.

Scientists at the University of Washington are reporting that bowhead whales, like humpbacks, are impressive sea songsters. But bowheads seem to follow fewer rules than humpbacks. The scientists compare the bowhead's free-form songs to riffing jazz musicians. Over three years, an underwater microphone captured 184 distinct bowhead whale songs from a small population along the whales' polar migratory routes. The researchers surmise that each male has a different song and that it changes from season to season.



A Minnesota wolf died this February after a horrible encounter with a strangling snare. The wolf, investigating the baited snare (which is legal to set for coyotes in the state), ended up with the wire wrapped tightly around his muzzle, cutting into his flesh. When he wandered into Duluth, officers initially tried to assist him but eventually decided they had to euthanize him. Wildwoods, a local wildlife rehabilitator, reported that the animal "had been starving, and was a skeleton of fur and bones." Wildwoods is calling for a ban on such snares.

Working Dogs for Conservation (WDC) received a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award from AWI to help the organization search for signs of anticoagulant rodenticide in the territory of endangered San Joaquin kit foxes. WDC's dogs are trained to locate fox scat, which is then tested for the poison. Three generations of WDC dogs have sniffed out scat samples that reveal key information on the kit fox population—work that helped lead to the purchase and permanent protection of vital habitat and buffer areas in the San Joaquin Valley.

Despite laws to improve the post-deployment treatment of military working dogs, a recently released audit by the Department of Defense Office

of Inspector General indicates a subset of these dogs—tactical explosive detection dogs (TEDDs)—has been slipping through the cracks. The inspector general found that the TEDD contractor mishandled the dogs, often adopting them out without giving their handlers—with whom they had formed strong bonds—the opportunity to adopt them and without screening potential owners. Disposition records were incomplete or missing, and some dogs were left languishing in cages for nearly a year.

The New York Pigeon: Behind the Feathers is a book dedicated to a bird that doesn't always get much love. Professional photographer Andrew Garn, who volunteers for the Wild Bird Fund (WBF), chronicles the pigeon's history of cohabitating with humans. He provides a look at their physiology and

touts their underrated intelligence. But the book's main feature is its beautiful pigeon portraits. Garn shows the birds gracefully navigating "the canyons of the city" and—in studio portraits of injured or poisoned birds in rehab with WBF—in all their multihued glory.

Envelopes with white powder and a threatening message were sent to two people associated with Matthew Block, founder of Worldwide Primates, which imports primates for research. Block then sought a permanent restraining order against the animal rights activists who appeared to have sent the letters. But it turns out *Block himself* sent the letters with the (nonhazardous) white powder to frame the activists. He pleaded guilty to a federal charge of intentionally conveying false information through the mail and agreed to serve five years of probation and pay \$14,872 in restitution for the police investigation.



*All meetings held in
Washington, DC, unless
otherwise noted*

Speeches & Meetings



2017

D.J. Schubert met with Mexico's delegation at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) to discuss vaquita conservation; met with WHC members regarding an "in danger" designation for the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site; Krakow, Poland; July 2–8

D.J. Schubert participated in the 29th meeting of the CITES Animals Committee; Geneva, Switzerland; July 18–22

Sue Fisher co-organized and gave a presentation on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem function at a workshop during the International Congress for Conservation Biology; Cartagena, Columbia; July 26

Bill Clark participated in New York's second Ivory Crush, in which more than two tons of contraband ivory were destroyed; New York, NY; August 3

Dena Jones met with Rosalyn Murphy-Jenkins and Jeff Canavan, director and assistant director of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS) Labeling and Program Delivery

office to discuss the approval process for animal-raising claims on food packaging; August 16

Cathy Liss and Nadia Adawi had an introductory meeting with Greg Sheehan, principal deputy director of the USFWS; September 1

Bill Clark met with Shaul Goldstein, director general of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA); Rony Malka, director of INPA's law enforcement division; Ambassador Gideon Behar of the Israel Foreign Ministry; and Prof. Gila Kahila Bar-Gal of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to discuss assistance with AWI wildlife restoration and protection projects in Senegal and Kenya; Jerusalem and Rehovot, Israel; September 4–7

Bill Clark met with Tamar Fredman, director of the Israeli Primate Sanctuary Foundation, to discuss care of more than 1,800 macaques rescued from a dealer; Kfar Daniel, Israel; September 8

Naomi Rose participated in a workshop on sanctuary and other options for dolphins at Barcelona City Zoo in preparation for the close of the zoo's dolphin exhibit; Barcelona, Spain; September 14–16

Ryan Ososki and D.J. Schubert participated in the Homes for Horses Coalition Conference; D.J. gave a presentation on the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program; Los Angeles, CA; September 23–24

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour co-organized and participated in a panel discussion entitled "The Case for

Incorporating Animal Abuse into the Family Violence Paradigm" at the 22nd International Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma; San Diego, CA; September 24–27

Bill Clark and D.J. Schubert participated in a meeting with Ambassador Robinson Njeru Githae of Kenya to discuss Kenya's votes during the 66th meeting of the IWC; September 26

Nadia Adawi, Nancy Blaney, and Cathy Liss met with Bernadette Juarez, deputy administrator of the USDA-APHIS Animal Care program, regarding AWA enforcement; October 4

D.J. Schubert gave a presentation on CITES and trophy hunting; Animal Welfare and International Law Seminar; Lincoln, United Kingdom; October 10–12

Kate O'Connell participated in the Arctic Circle Assembly to advocate for protection of Arctic marine habitat; Reykjavik, Iceland; October 12–17

Cathy Liss staffed an AWI exhibit on improving the housing, handling, and care of animals in research; American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting; Austin, TX; October 16–18

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour participated in the National Animal Care & Control Association Training Conference; Mary Lou gave a presentation on reporting animal abuse crimes within NIBRS; Nancy organized and participated in an "Increasing Collaboration Among Animal Welfare and Domestic Violence

Agencies" panel discussion; Virginia Beach, VA; October 18–19

Kate O'Connell and Naomi Rose participated in the Society for Marine Mammalogy's 22nd Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals and various side meetings; Kate gave a presentation at the "Marine Mammal Bycatch in Global Fisheries" workshop; Naomi co-organized and gave a presentation at the "Sanctuaries: A New Seascape for Captive Cetaceans" workshop; Halifax, Canada; October 20–29

AWI board of directors meetings; October 26, 2017; April 3, 2018; and June 8, 2018

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on marine mammal policy; James Madison University; Harrisonburg, VA; November 6

Regina Terlau hosted a booth on humane education at the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching; Houston, TX; November 9–17

Naomi Rose hosted the Florida delegation during the MMPA Lobby Day and reception on Capitol Hill; November 15

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour participated in the 7th National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference; Portland, OR; November 15–17

Alicia Prygoski testified before the DC Council's Committee on Education regarding the Good Food Purchasing Program; November 16

Bill Clark met with Matt Luizza, AAAS fellow with the USFWS International Affairs program, to discuss the AWI wildlife restoration project in Senegal; Falls Church, VA; November 21

Sue Fisher and D.J. Schubert participated in the 69th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee; Geneva, Switzerland; November 27–December 1

Dena Jones and Alicia Prygoski met with Gary Egrie, USDA-APHIS farm animal welfare coordinator, to discuss international animal welfare standards for egg-laying hens; December 4

2018

Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney attended and Cathy provided a statement at the NIH-USDA-FDA 21st Century Cures Act Listening Session on Animal Research; January 9

Naomi Rose participated in a question and answer session after a screening of *Blackfish* to encourage passage of the Florida Orca Protection Act; Tallahassee, FL; February 5

Kate O’Connell met with Andy Hickman, Tesco’s responsible sourcing manager—seafood, and Jeremy Roland Langley, Waitrose’s aquaculture and fisheries manager, to discuss the “Don’t Buy from Icelandic Whalers” campaign and the MSC bycatch initiative; met with Pippa Kohn, MSC fisheries assessment manager; London, United Kingdom; February 6

Kate O’Connell met with Rebecca Lent, IWC executive secretary; Caterina Fortuna, chair of the IWC Scientific Committee; Marguerite Tarzia, IWC bycatch mitigation coordinator; and Sarah Ferriss, IWC head of programme development; Cambridge, United Kingdom; February 7

Nancy Blaney and Cathy Liss attended the USDA-APHIS’ Use of Third Party Inspection and Certification Program Listening Session; Cathy gave a statement urging strong AWA compliance oversight by the USDA; Riverdale, MD; February 8

Kate O’Connell met with various countries’ representatives to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to discuss vaquita conservation and potential “in danger” designation for the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site; Paris, France; February 8–9

Naomi Rose gave a presentation to legislators from Mexico’s Chamber of Deputies (lower house) in support of a bill to ban the breeding of captive cetaceans; Mexico City, Mexico; February 21

Nancy Blaney hosted an Association of Prosecuting Attorneys webinar on animal cruelty crimes involving birds; February 23

Tara Zuando participated in panel discussions entitled “Ending the War on Wildlife: Using Legal Tools to Reform APHIS-Wildlife Services” and “Using U.S. Laws to Curb Harmful International Wildlife Trade”; Public Interest

Environmental Law Conference; Eugene, OR; March 1–4

Dena Jones and Erin Thompson met with USDA-FSIS officials to discuss the investigation and prosecution of federal humane slaughter violators; March 6

Bill Clark attended a congressional briefing entitled “Effective Non-Lethal Methods for Protecting Livestock from Predators”; March 6

Dena Jones and Erin Thompson met with Roberta Wagner, USDA-FSIS deputy assistant administrator, on humane slaughter enforcement and food labeling policy; March 8

Kate O’Connell attended Seafood Expo North America; met with Mexican government officials to discuss vaquita conservation; met with Icelandic government officials to discuss concerns about whaling; met with MSC representatives to discuss seafood certification and bycatch; Boston, MA; March 11–12

Regina Terlau staffed an AWI booth on endangered species, humane education, and dissection alternatives at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference; Atlanta, GA; March 15–17

Bill Clark met with Major Scott Florence and other environmental conservation police officers from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to discuss logistical support for the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy; New York, NY; March 21

Kate O’Connell participated in a panel discussion on vaquita conservation following a screening of the documentary *Souls of the Vermilion Sea* co-hosted by Arizona State University’s Center for Biodiversity Outcomes; Tempe, AZ; March 25

Naomi Rose gave a presentation to a Women Working for Oceans event on *War of the Whales: A True Story* by Joshua Horwitz, about naval sonar and whale strandings; Boston, MA; March 27

Naomi Rose gave a presentation on marine mammal policy; Tufts University; Boston, MA; April 1

Naomi participated in and served as rapporteur for the IWC’s “Modeling and Assessment of the Whalewatch Industry” workshop; La Spezia, Italy; April 6–8

AWI hosted a ceremony to award the Schweitzer Medal to Samuel K Wasser; April 10

Sue Fisher and DJ Schubert participated in an IWC ASW Working Group workshop; Utqiagvik, AK; April 10–13

AWI staff members participated in the annual Anacostia River Earth Day Cleanup event; April 21

Naomi Rose participated in meetings of the IWC Scientific Committee, the Sub-committee on Whalewatching (also serving as rapporteur), the Standing Group on Environmental Concerns, and the Standing Sub-committee on Small Cetaceans; Bled, Slovenia; April 21–May 8

Kate O’Connell attended Seafood Expo Global; met with industry representatives regarding Icelandic whaling; met with MSC representatives regarding dolphin bycatch and right whale entanglement; organized and co-chaired a roundtable discussion among NGOs on MSC certification; Brussels, Belgium; April 24–26

Dena Jones and Alicia Prygoski helped organize and participated in a stakeholder meeting with Paul Kiecker, USDA-FSIS acting administrator, to discuss enforcement of federal humane slaughter laws; May 1

D.J. Schubert participated in the “Urban Deer Fertility Control” workshop and met with residents of Fire Island to discuss deer management; Tarrytown, NY; May 2

AWI co-hosted a Congressional Animal Protection Caucus briefing on the threat to animal welfare posed by the King amendment to the farm bill; May 9

Nancy Blaney participated in a panel discussion and media event to announce the development and construction of the Urban Resource Institute’s PALS Place—a shelter specifically designed to co-house domestic violence victims and their pets; New York, NY; May 30

Nancy Blaney and Cathy Liss participated in a meeting of USDA staff and animal protection group representatives on the USDA’s administration and enforcement of the AWA and the Horse Protection Act; Riverdale, MD; June 1

Cathy Liss staffed an AWI exhibit at the 5th Annual Symposium on Social Housing of Laboratory Animals; National Agricultural Library; Beltsville, MD; June 4–5

Alicia Prygoski attended the annual NFPA Conference & Expo to speak with fire safety experts about the most effective ways to protect farm animals from fires; Las Vegas, NV; June 11–14

Susan Millward and D.J. Schubert met with Rebecca Lent, IWC executive secretary, to discuss whaling issues in advance of the 67th meeting of the IWC; June 14

Cathy Liss toured a commercial dog-breeding facility with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, USDA staff, Lara Trump, and media representatives and participated in a discussion on the USDA’s regulation of licensed dog-breeding operations; Clement, MD; June 18

Nancy Blaney and Mary Lou Randour participated in the annual meeting of the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals; New Orleans, LA; June 18

D.J. Schubert participated in a meeting with Madeleine Urbish and others from Gov. Phil Murphy’s office to discuss black bear hunt and animal trapping; Trenton, NJ; June 20

D.J. Schubert met with WHC members to discuss an “in danger” designation for the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site; 42nd WHC Meeting; Manama, Bahrain; June 23–30

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2018	2017
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
REVENUES:		
Contributions - Foundations and trusts	\$ 884,676	\$ 569,587
- Legacies and bequests	1,689,810	1,874,260
- Memberships and other	1,826,225	1,511,840
Tenants net rental income	66,605	78,000
Sale of publications and reports	1,627	1,388
Dividend income	90,461	95,374
Interest income	19,785	1,156
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities	444,180	556,029
	<u>5,023,369</u>	<u>4,687,634</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:		
Satisfaction of program restrictions:		
Roger L Stevens Publication Fund	35,669	28,144
Total net assets released from restrictions	<u>35,669</u>	<u>28,144</u>
Total unrestricted revenues and other support	<u>5,059,038</u>	<u>4,715,778</u>
EXPENSES:		
Program service	3,264,109	2,457,481
Management and general	261,446	229,117
Fundraising	54,816	50,711
Total expenses	<u>3,580,372</u>	<u>2,737,309</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>1,478,666</u>	<u>1,978,469</u>
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(35,669)</u>	<u>(28,144)</u>
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(35,669)</u>	<u>(28,144)</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	<u>1,442,997</u>	<u>1,950,325</u>
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	<u>13,367,444</u>	<u>11,417,119</u>
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 14,810,441</u>	<u>\$ 13,367,444</u>

Statement of Functional Expenses Year Ended June 30, 2018

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 1,350,255	\$ 92,772	\$ 29,559	\$ 1,472,587
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	105,148	7,223	2,293	114,663
Employee benefits	111,053	11,638	2,425	125,117
Retirement Plan	30,786	4,362	671	35,819
Advertising	52,840	240	2,950	56,030
AWI Quarterlies	187,072	-	3,066	190,138
Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)	115,954	271	7,804	124,028
Research, writing, and editing	19,547	-	-	19,547
Grants	632,542	-	-	632,542
Conferences, meetings, and travel	140,741	1,903	7	142,652
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)	40,197	195	1,140	41,533
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	59,678	18,449	326	78,453
Professional services	68,840	25,375	-	94,216
Memberships and subscriptions	17,730	9,001	507	27,237
Consultants	166,299	-	-	166,299
Internet services	19,673	-	-	19,673
Schweitzer Award	25,520	-	-	25,520
Occupancy costs	61,936	30,651	638	93,225
Bank and investment fees	-	52,507	-	52,507
Total expenses before depreciation	3,205,811	254,587	51,387	3,511,786
Depreciation	58,298	6,859	3,429	68,586
Total expenses	\$ 3,264,109	\$ 261,446	\$ 54,816	\$ 3,580,372

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

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Tara Zuardo, Esq.
Senior Wildlife Attorney

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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