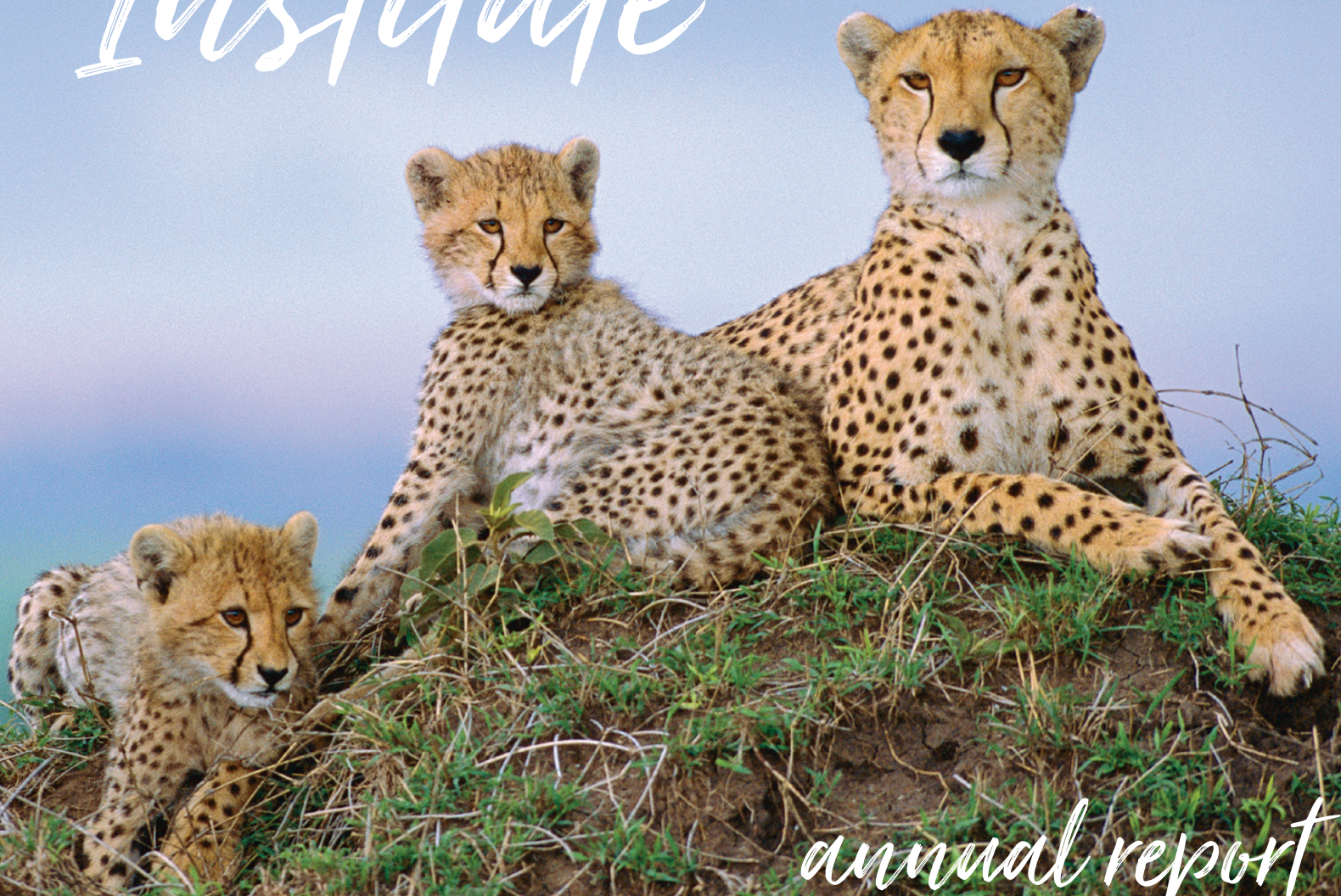


Animal Welfare Institute



annual report
twenty seventeen



Animal Welfare Institute

66th Annual Report
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

who we are

For over 60 years, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), a nonprofit charitable organization, has been alleviating suffering inflicted on animals by humans.

Our Aims

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

- abolish factory farms, support high-welfare family farms, and achieve humane slaughter for animals raised for food;
- 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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marine ANIMALS

Commercial Whaling

In October 2016, AWI participated in the 66th meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Portorož, Slovenia. Overall, IWC66 was a positive meeting for whales. Although Japan and its allies blocked a proposal for a sanctuary in the South Atlantic, the IWC approved an ambitious program of proactive welfare and conservation work, including a new initiative to mitigate the devastating impacts of bycatch. It also adopted a series of strong resolutions to (1) recognize the vital ecosystem services cetaceans provide (e.g., increasing marine productivity, storing carbon), (2) urge stronger steps to save the nearly extinct vaquita porpoise, (3) improve the review process for whaling under special permit, and (4) support the Minamata Convention on Mercury to address mercury pollution.

AWI contributed heavily to these outcomes thanks to new rules allowing nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to fully participate in all IWC meetings and intersessional working groups (a change we also helped bring about). AWI is active in several such groups, including those addressing cetacean bycatch, whale watching, and aboriginal subsistence whaling. Following the IWC meeting, AWI coordinated the drafting of detailed NGO comments on how to improve the governance of the IWC. In May, we participated in the first meeting of the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Working Group and helped draft the group's charter.

Saving the Vaquita

The vaquita porpoise hovers on the edge of extinction due to past bycatch mortality in shrimp gillnets and, more

recently, due to entanglement in illegal gillnets set by poachers of totoaba, an endangered fish. As of this writing, fewer than 30 vaquita remain, all in Mexico's Upper Gulf of California. In a desperate attempt to save the species, AWI and its partner organizations have (1) assisted Mexican NGOs in the preparation of a draft agreement—submitted to the president of Mexico—outlining concrete, urgent steps to protect the vaquita and its habitat, (2) initiated a nationwide campaign in the United States, supported by more than 40 organizations, urging consumers to avoid Mexican shrimp and encouraging the industry to collaborate in protection efforts, (3) helped prepare a petition to the National Marine Fisheries Service seeking sanctions against Mexico for failing to prevent vaquita bycatch, (4) advocated for a bill in the California legislature to

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





make it unlawful to sell fish products that are not vaquita-friendly, (5) secured both International Union for Conservation of Nature and International Whaling Commission resolutions demanding more effort by Mexico and the international community to save the species, (6) helped craft decision text on saving the vaquita at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and (7) advocated for an “in danger” designation for the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California World Heritage site by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (a designation that would spur protective action).

AWI also addressed bycatch affecting other species. The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) operates a certification program and accompanying ecolabel—ostensibly to identify sustainable fisheries and inform the public’s seafood buying practices. But the program has drawn severe criticism for its weak certification standards on bycatch of marine mammals and other ocean species. A January 2017 letter produced by AWI and Shark Project on behalf of 52 groups objected to MSC’s mishandling of marine mammal and shark bycatch. To help address this issue, AWI was invited to participate in a June 2017 MSC stakeholder workshop—a first for an animal welfare group.

Captive Cetaceans

On October 27, 2016, the National Marine Fisheries Service officially designated the Sakhalin Bay-Amur River population of

beluga whales in Russia as depleted under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. This represents a final definitive victory in a long legal and public relations battle AWI waged on behalf of these belugas, after Georgia Aquarium announced plans in 2012 to import 18 of them for display in various facilities. AWI and allies won a series of legal victories over the past several years to prevent this. The depleted designation represents the final step, making it illegal for any US institution to import belugas from this population for public display.

With respect to cetaceans currently held in the United States, AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose and Georgia Hancock co-authored, with Danielle Brown and Dr. Chris Parsons, an article in the June 2017 issue of the *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* entitled “Improving Captive Marine Mammal Welfare in the United States: Science-Based Recommendations for Improved Regulatory Requirements for Captive Marine Mammal Care.” The article argues that the proposed changes to the Animal Welfare Act regulatory standards for captive marine mammals, issued by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) in February 2016, are not sufficient to maintain their welfare. The authors suggest several recommendations for improvements to the proposed rule.

AWI was also heavily involved in efforts to end cetacean captivity outside the United States. Naomi participated in an October 2016 conference in Mexico organized by local activist groups. We are helping these groups push for federal

anti-captivity legislation and a municipal ban on dolphin displays in Mexico City.¹ In April 2017, Naomi testified before a committee in Canada’s Senate, which is considering a federal bill that would end all captive whale and dolphin displays in that country. Meanwhile, AWI continues our work to raise public awareness in China via the China Cetacean Alliance. Naomi visited three Chinese facilities in December 2016 with a film crew, who then prepared a series of short public service announcements that have reached approximately 20 million people online.

In May 2017, France passed a decree to end the breeding of all captive whales and dolphins in the country, a move that could eventually lead to the closing of French dolphinarium exhibits and shows (as cetacean imports into the European Union are strictly controlled). Naomi contributed to this effort, visiting dolphin facilities in France in October 2016 and writing a report for AWI’s French ally, One Voice, that was used to push for the decree. When the industry filed a legal challenge, Naomi wrote a statement that was submitted to the court by One Voice. Based on this and other submissions, the judge denied the industry’s preliminary motion to suspend the decree until a final decision is handed down later in 2017.

¹ Update: The Mexico City ban passed in July 2017, following the close of the fiscal year. Over the summer, the Mexican legislature debated the nationwide bill and it is still under consideration.

humane EDUCATION

Science Conferences

AWI hosts educational booths each year at various biology and science teacher conferences across the country. This year, AWI's Regina Terlau attended the November 2016 Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching in San Antonio, Texas, and the April 2017 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference in Los Angeles, California. Attending these conferences allows us to meet educators such as award-winning middle school science teacher, Nancy Brown, who came across our booth at the NSTA conference five years ago. After reading through the AWI humane education materials she picked up at our booth, Nancy realized that she wanted to make a difference in how animals are used in science curricula. She successfully lobbied her principal to end animal dissections at her school and continues to incorporate lessons on biodiversity, inspiring her students to get


involved in local causes that benefit animals and the environment. Nancy shares her message of animal-friendly science with other educators and contributed an article to the summer 2017 *AWI Quarterly* entitled "Compassion in the Classroom."

A Voice for Animals

For the third year, AWI partnered with the Humane Education Network to cohost the "A Voice for Animals" contest. High school students from all over the world were invited to submit essays, essays with photos, or videos that examine animal suffering and present possible solutions. This year's contest introduced a climate change category, giving students a chance to examine how animal species have been affected by global warming and shifting weather patterns. The winning entries covered a range of topics, from the importance of pollinators such as bees to the mistreatment of captive Asian elephants.

Publications for Children

In 2017, a Chinese language edition of *A Dangerous Life*, a graphic novel for middle school-aged readers about the ivory trade, debuted in China. The book, written and illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka and published by AWI and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), follows teens from China, Kenya, and the United States as they encounter the grim realities of the global ivory trade. To produce and disseminate the Chinese language edition of *A Dangerous Life*, AWI and KWS partnered with Foreign Language Teaching and Research Publishing, a company affiliated with Beijing Foreign Studies University, China's largest university press. Nearly 10,000 copies of the book were distributed to school children throughout China. This publication coincides with China's own announcement this year that it plans to dismantle its domestic ivory industry and ramp up its efforts to educate the public about ivory's true costs in human and elephant lives (see page 35).



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

Wildlife

Wildlife Services

AWI is a leader in the fight against the inhumane killing of wildlife by the USDA's Wildlife Services program. In January 2017, we petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to cancel its registration for sodium fluoroacetate (a.k.a. Compound 1080), a poison used by Wildlife Services in "livestock protection collars" to kill coyotes. The petition argues that the use of the pesticide violates the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and that adequate and effective nonlethal alternatives exist.

After a spring-loaded M-44 cyanide device Wildlife Services set for predators in Idaho seriously injured a 14-year-old boy and caused his dog to die in agony, the program agreed to suspend (for now) its use of such devices in Idaho. In June

2017—after the M-44 deaths of two family dogs in Wyoming—we petitioned Wildlife Services and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for an immediate ban on the use of such devices in Wyoming, as well. We are also pushing for passage of federal legislation—the Chemical Poisons Reduction Act—to ban the use of sodium fluoroacetate and sodium cyanide in predator control devices nationwide.

We achieved a significant legal victory in June 2017, when the USDA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) agreed to a settlement of our lawsuit—filed in October 2016—pertaining to the threat posed to endangered ocelots from Wildlife Services activities in Arizona and Texas. Per the settlement, the program is committed to conducting a formal review, in accordance with the National

Environmental Policy Act, to assess the impact of its activities on ocelots.

We filed another suit against Wildlife Services in June over its wildlife-killing program in Northern California. The lawsuit seeks updated environmental analysis of the program's killing of native wildlife such as coyotes, bobcats, and foxes using steel-jaw leghold traps, snares, and poisons.

International Trade

The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), took place September 24 to October 4, 2016, in Johannesburg, South Africa. As in all past CITES CoPs, AWI was actively involved. At CoP17, we worked within the Species Survival Network to generate conservation

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.





victories for a number of species and strengthen the treaty itself. Despite some setbacks and ongoing compliance/enforcement issues, CoP17 was one of the most successful CITES meetings to date. Several species gained much-needed first-time protections or had their protection strengthened. These included all eight pangolin species, chambered nautiluses, silky and thresher sharks, devil rays, and a number of reptile and amphibian species.

Elephants and ivory poaching were once again of primary concern at CoP17. Thankfully, the parties agreed to end discussions over whether to develop guidelines that could set the stage for a future legal ivory trade. The parties also passed a resolution encouraging the closure of domestic ivory markets. These domestic markets encourage ivory trafficking and diminish the effectiveness of a ban on the international commercial trade in ivory that has existed since 1989. Unfortunately, a proposal to eliminate the split-listing whereby elephants in Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and South Africa receive the lesser protections of CITES Appendix II (restricted trade) while other elephants in Africa are listed on Appendix I (no commercial trade)—failed to pass.

Carrying on a tradition spanning two decades, AWI presented the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards at the meeting. The award—named in honor of the late chief of the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement—goes to individuals, organizations, and agencies that have

demonstrated excellence in the fight against wildlife crime. Eight individuals and two law enforcement organizations from China, India, Israel, Kenya, Nepal, the United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe were presented awards this year. Another twelve heroes for the cause—one from Tanzania and 11 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo—were recognized posthumously after giving their very lives in defense of wildlife.

Red Wolves

AWI continued to defend the red wolf against efforts by the USFWS to sabotage its own red wolf recovery program in North Carolina. In July 2016, AWI and allies submitted a petition containing nearly half a million signatures to the USFWS, urging the agency to fulfill its legal duty under the Endangered Species Act to recover the species in the wild. Instead, in September, the USFWS announced plans to remove nearly all red wolves from the wild and increase the captive population. That same month, however, in response to a lawsuit we filed, a federal court issued a preliminary injunction ordering the USFWS to stop capturing and killing—and authorizing private landowners to capture and kill—red wolves. In December, we petitioned the USFWS to develop an updated recovery plan that makes use of the best available science and complies with the Endangered Species Act.

Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards

This year's Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards were announced in July 2016. Through the award—named in honor

of AWI's late founder and president for over 50 years—AWI provides grants to support innovative and creative research on humane, nonlethal tools and techniques for wildlife conflict management and wildlife study. The 2016 award recipients:

- Dr. Karen Herman of the Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary and Dr. Allen Rutberg of Tufts University for developing more humane methods to assess wild horse population size and distribution in order to guide the use of immunocontraception for population management
- Dr. Brooke Maslo of Rutgers University for evaluating artificial roost structures to minimize the impact on bats evicted from human-occupied dwellings, and for determining which factors contribute to use of such structures by bats
- Suzanne Stone of Defenders of Wildlife for testing the E-Shepherd collar as a nonlethal deterrent to predators in order to protect sheep in the northwestern United States
- Dr. Deborah Woollett and Dr. Ngaio Richards of Working Dogs for Conservation for using scent detection dogs to warn of the presence of anticoagulant rodenticides and aid the development of mitigation measures to protect the endangered San Joaquin kit fox in California



COMPANION *animals*

Gathering Key Data on Animal Cruelty Crimes

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) started collecting data on animal cruelty crimes under its National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2016—an important development that occurred in large part due to the efforts of AWI’s Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour—it was apparent that animal control officers (ACOs) and humane law enforcement officers (HLEOs) would play a vital role. Such individuals are often the first responders to incidents of animal neglect and cruelty.

To ensure ACOs and HLEOs are aware of and fully equipped for this new role, AWI, in partnership with the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA), released the *NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement* in February 2017. In addition to providing guidance on reporting and working with local police departments, the manual contains a reporting form that was developed in cooperation with the FBI and conforms

to NIBRS requirements. To maximize the reach of the resource, AWI and NACA are jointly distributing the manual and training ACOs and HLEOs; we are also developing an e-learning video in partnership with other organizations within the National Coalition On Violence Against Animals.

Homes For Horses Coalition

Ten years ago, AWI cofounded the Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC), the nation’s premier professional organization for the equine welfare community, and we continue to cosponsor the HHC annual conference. This year’s conference, which took place in September 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee, brought together equine rescues from across the country to network and attend panels on various topics to help strengthen organizations working to help horses. Mary Lou, together with Nelson Ferry of the FBI and Dan DeSousa of the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services, held a panel on the FBI’s animal cruelty data collection efforts and how equine rescues can participate.

Helping Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Pets

Two years ago, AWI began publishing a series of manuals designed to guide attorneys and other advocates in helping domestic violence survivors get their companion animals included in state protection orders. Compiled by lawyers and law students working with AWI staff, the manuals summarize legal issues surrounding the inclusion of pets in civil protection orders, give details about the laws in the specific jurisdictions, and provide links to relevant forms and outside resources. This year, manuals for Pennsylvania, Texas, Michigan, and New Mexico were published.

Mary Lou also presented a workshop entitled “Adding animal abuse to the family violence paradigm” at the 33rd International Symposium on Child Abuse in Huntsville, Alabama, in March 2017—part of AWI’s continuing efforts to partner with human services professionals to address links between animal welfare, family welfare, and public safety.

AWI promotes *responsible* care of 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.



farm ANIMALS

Animals at Slaughter

AWI pushes for strong enforcement of laws designed to prevent undue suffering and distress at slaughter. In May 2017, we released *Humane Slaughter Update: Federal and State Oversight of the Welfare of Farm Animals at Slaughter*. Covering the years 2010 through 2015, the report analyzes enforcement data obtained from government agencies through public records requests. Among our findings: (1) although federal and state humane slaughter enforcement continues to rise, the level of enforcement varies dramatically by state; (2) repeat violators remain a major enforcement problem; (3) inspection personnel continue to demonstrate unfamiliarity with humane slaughter enforcement rules; and (4) humane slaughter enforcement remains low in comparison with other aspects of

food safety enforcement. The report offers a number of recommendations to address these deficiencies and reduce the suffering of animals at slaughter.

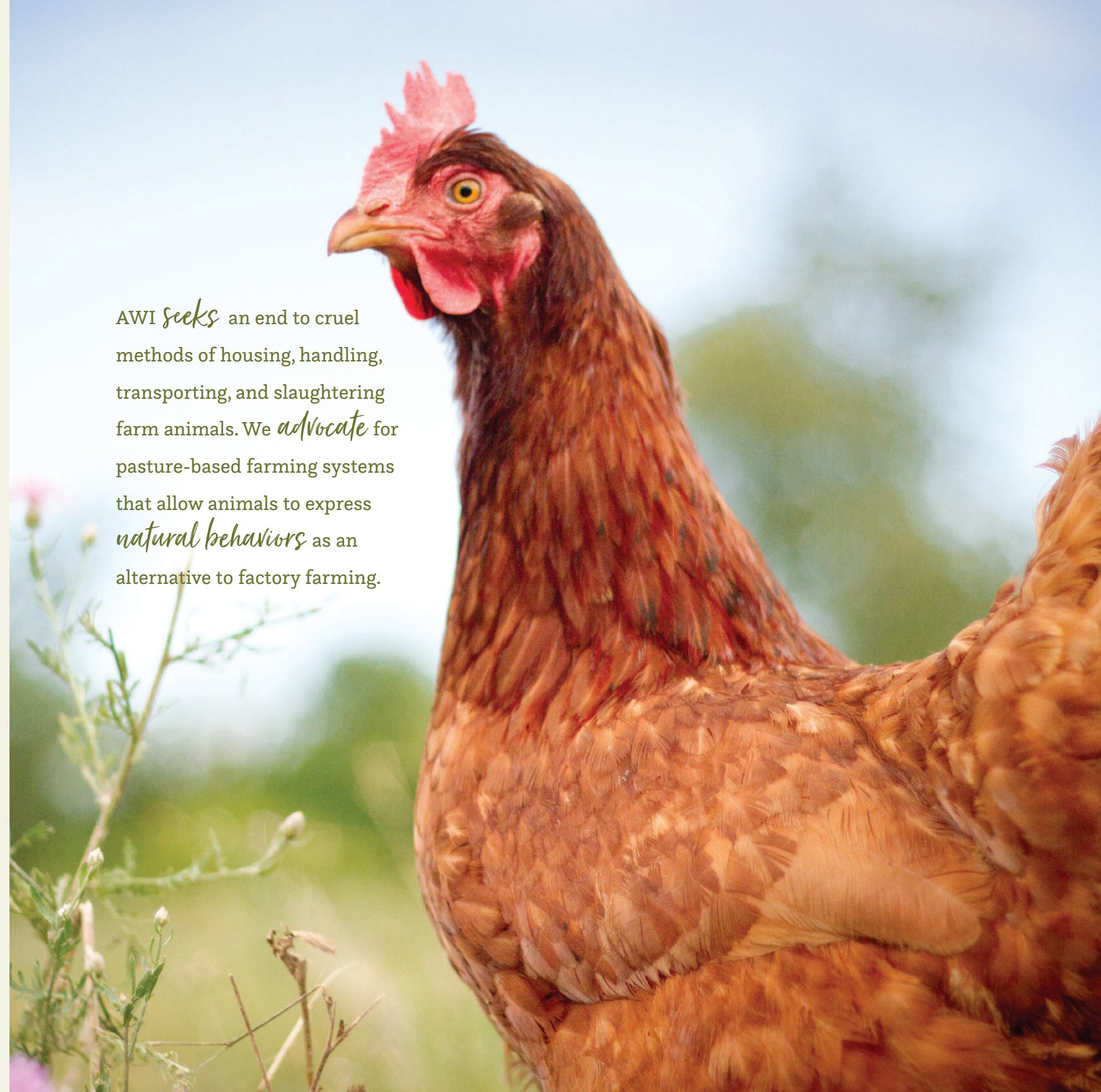
This is the third report we have published, all authored by AWI's Dena Jones, that reviews federal and state humane slaughter enforcement. In this edition, for the first time, a letter grade was assigned to each of the 27 state-operated meat inspection programs, based on how well those programs enforced the federal humane slaughter law during the years examined. This letter-grade rating proved to be a successful "hook"—helping generate much-needed media attention concerning the conditions under which animals are slaughtered. Press outlets in a majority of the states that received failing grades ran articles about the *Humane Slaughter Update* and its conclusions. One

such state, Vermont, is home to a plant with one of the worst animal welfare records in the United States. After that plant was suspended four times for egregious humane handling violations, AWI made the public aware of the situation and encouraged agricultural officials to take stronger action to prevent undue suffering at the facility. Eventually, Vermont fined the plant and placed conditions on its continued operation, the first time the state has taken such steps to ensure compliance with humane slaughter laws.

Cruel Euthanasia Methods

In January 2017, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) released draft guidelines for the mass euthanasia of animals during disease outbreaks such as avian influenza ("bird flu"). The USDA generally relies on the AVMA for

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.





guidance and, consequently, it is likely that these guidelines will determine the methods used to kill animals during future disease outbreaks for many years to come. Unconscionably, the draft guidelines allow for several blatantly inhumane methods, including live burial and shutting off the ventilation in animal housing structures.

AWI worked with Dr. Kenneth Litwak, an AVMA member veterinarian, to submit comments on the proposal. These comments, which we shared with other animal welfare groups to build support for our position, highlighted more humane, effective alternatives. Ultimately, as we have long argued, the answer lies in changing the cruel, unsanitary factory-farming conditions under which farm animals are raised—conditions that contribute to suffering and the rapid spread of disease.

On a more positive note, the AVMA did incorporate many of AWI's recommendations into its guidelines on humane slaughter. (Before issuing draft guidelines on mass euthanasia, the AVMA produced guidelines for the humane slaughter of farm animals. These guidelines were finalized in July 2016.)

Animals Raised Organically

AWI has been involved in the effort to establish strong animal welfare standards under the National Organic Program since the late 1990s, when the original organic regulations were proposed by the USDA without any substantive animal welfare standards. The USDA finally proposed

animal welfare regulations in April 2016, and the rule—which incorporated many of our recommendations concerning, among other things, space requirements, access to vegetation, and prohibition of cruel physical alterations—was finalized in January 2017 on the last day of President Obama's administration. Sadly, implementation of the regulations has been twice delayed, and the Trump administration has suggested that it may eliminate them altogether. AWI is working hard, in partnership with consumer groups and other animal protection organizations, to pressure USDA leaders to implement the standards as written. When the USDA reopened public comment on the animal welfare regulations, it received more than 47,000 submissions, with 99.5 percent of the comments (including those from AWI and our members) urging prompt implementation of the regulations.

Meat and Poultry Food Labels

More than three years ago, AWI formally petitioned the USDA to require third-party certification of all animal welfare and environmental stewardship claims on meat and poultry product labels. We also requested that the third-party standards backing the certifications exceed those of the conventional animal agriculture industry. To date, we have not received a response to our petition. However, in October 2016, the USDA released a draft of its guidance to producers regarding the documentation needed for approval of animal raising claims. Unfortunately, the guidance continues the current

USDA practice of allowing producers to establish their own definition for claims such as “humanely raised” and “sustainably farmed.” In AWI's 2014 report, *Label Confusion: How “Humane” and “Sustainable” Claims on Meat Packages Deceive Consumers*, we revealed that the government is regularly approving the use of animal welfare and environmental claims with little or no supporting evidence to document the accuracy of the claims. We organized opposition to the 2016 draft guidance, which resulted in the submission of more than 4,500 public comments, 99.6 percent of which were critical of the proposal.

Legal Protections Reports

Nine billion land animals are killed each year for food in the United States. AWI has published a series of reports examining the protections afforded to those animals under state, national, and international laws and guidelines. The series includes reports related to laws governing the treatment of farm animals while on the farm, during transport, and at slaughter, as well as the treatment of nonambulatory (or “downed”) animals. The reports address the history behind the various legal protections and their enforcement by relevant state and federal agencies. Both the benefits and limitations of enacting laws to improve the lives of farm animals are discussed. Updated annually, these reports have been used by law schools and government officials and are available on our website at www.awionline.org/farm-legal.

animals in LABORATORIES

USDA Transparency and Animal Welfare Act Enforcement

AWI played a key role in enactment of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and its amendments, and has long been a leading voice for strengthening the law and promoting more diligent enforcement by the USDA. We disseminate original research and analysis on enforcement issues to local, national, and international media; members of Congress; other animal protection organizations; and animal advocates.

As chronicled in last year's annual report, we used USDA records to generate enormous publicity regarding allegations of egregious AWA violations by Santa Cruz Biotechnology (SCBT), one of the world's largest suppliers of research antibodies derived from animals. We feel this exposure played a vital role in prompting the USDA to

forcefully prosecute the case and ultimately impose unprecedented penalties against SCBT—including permanent revocation of its dealer license, cancellation of its research registration, and a \$3.5 million civil penalty.

To monitor enforcement, AWI has relied on USDA inspection reports that were routinely posted online. We also reviewed USDA press releases—which linked to enforcement records such as warning letters, fines, and complaints—and obtained additional records and pleadings from the USDA Hearing Clerk's Office. In August 2016, however, the USDA began to limit transparency when it stopped posting or announcing enforcement records and actions.

AWI continued our watchdog role, however, and in October 2016, through a Freedom

of Information Act request to the Hearing Clerk's office, we obtained a complaint the USDA had filed in September against SNBL USA, a dealer and contract research organization that had a record strikingly similar to SCBT's—a 20-year history of ineffective citations without substantive enforcement. The complaint alleged dozens of AWA violations over the course of the previous five years, including actions that led to the deaths of 38 nonhuman primates due to strangulation, suffocation, hyperthermia, injuries from fights with incompatible cagemates, and lack of veterinary care.

Ten days later, following substantial media coverage critical of SNBL, AWI discovered that the USDA, the *prosecutor* in the case, had filed a motion to seal the complaint—despite the fact that it had already been

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.



made public. Once AWI obtained the motion, we were stunned to see that the USDA had asked the court, clearly at the behest of SNBL, to redact key elements of its own complaint. This indicated that the USDA did not plan to vigorously prosecute the case—which was confirmed when the department levied a short 30-day suspension of SNBL's license and a relatively inconsequential \$180,000 fine (against a company that grossed nearly \$10 million in animal sales alone in 2014 and 2015).

On February 3, 2017, the USDA abandoned any semblance of transparency when, without notice, it scrubbed all inspection reports from its searchable database and removed all enforcement actions that it had archived online since 2010. On February 7, the department issued a clarification, vaguely citing the Privacy Act and pending litigation as justification for its action.

Using the USDA's wording from its February 7 clarification, AWI searched online and discovered that a pending lawsuit supported by a powerful segment of the walking horse industry had prompted the department's decision. The plaintiffs in *Contender Farms v. USDA*—which concerned alleged violations of the Horse Protection Act, another law under USDA jurisdiction—asserted that posting enforcement records naming individuals violated the Privacy Act. The USDA's sudden action, coupled with AWI's revelation of this behind-the-scenes motivation, resulted in a detailed *Washington Post* story and garnered significant coverage in other major news outlets.

Later in February, a besieged USDA began to post an extremely limited number of inspections, which continued through March and April. AWI dove deeper into these records, however, and determined that the department still had not restored inspection reports covering 94 percent of the 3,333 USDA-licensed breeders and dealers that provide animals for the pet trade and, in some cases, research. We provided this latest analysis to the journal *Science*, which reported on our findings in its May 26 issue.

AWI will continue to fight for full transparency, including release of all USDA enforcement records that are so critical to holding accountable both those who fail to comply with the AWA's modest requirements and the department charged with ensuring the protection of animals under the law.

Improving Lives of Animals in Research

AWI's Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum (LAREF) marked its 14th year in September 2016. The online discussion group, established by AWI Scientific Committee member Dr. Viktor Reinhardt, is open to animal care personnel, animal technicians, students, attending veterinarians, and researchers who have or had first-hand experience in the care of animals kept in laboratories. The forum, with hundreds of members from more than 20 countries, facilitates the exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences about ways to improve the conditions under which animals in laboratories are housed and

handled. During one discussion this year, a member of the group described the depth of its benefit: *"This forum has really shaped not only my career in working with animals in research, but really provided me with insight and alternative methods of thinking when it comes to the animals in our care. Thank you one thousand times over for providing a source like LAREF that can supply so many different perspectives and experiences from around the world to better support and care for all the living creatures we are all responsible for each day. The animals deserve our very BEST and LAREF helps us provide them that."*

Topics covered by LAREF this year included reducing fear and stress in mice subject to injections, preventing widespread barking of dogs through training, pair housing male and female macaques, food enrichment, handling stressed cats, social housing of rabbits, group housing of chinchillas, Nylabones for rats, abnormal behaviors in captive macaques, adopting rats and mice from the lab, and how to cope with the death of animals with whom you have bonded.

In the fall, selected discussion threads from the forum from 2013 to 2016 were compiled and edited by Viktor to create AWI's latest book, *Committed to Animal Welfare*—the fourth such volume of LAREF discussions. AWI offers this book at no cost to those who work with animals in research, and we widely distributed it via our exhibit booth at the fall 2016 national meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, in Charlotte, North Carolina.



government AFFAIRS

AWI on Capitol Hill

January 2017 ushered in a new Congress and with it—as feared—an increasing number of efforts to undermine key laws and regulations to protect animal welfare. Dozens of bills have been introduced thus far in the 115th Congress attacking the Endangered Species Act alone. Throughout the year, AWI’s legislative team diligently sounded the alarm over the potential dire consequences of these measures and campaigned to defeat them.


Compounding matters, the new administration acted immediately to nullify or stall regulations enacted late last year that were designed to protect animals, including a rule to crack down on “soring” of show horses and a rule to establish welfare standards for farm animals raised under the federal organic program (see

Farm Animals section). The administration also elected to shield abusers from public scrutiny by removing a database of Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act enforcement records on the USDA website. (See Animals in Laboratories section.) At a congressional briefing in June 2017, hosted by the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus (CAPC) and the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, AWI’s Cathy Liss served on a panel to discuss the ramifications of this move and call for the swift return of the records in order to increase government transparency, industry accountability, and public awareness of violations.

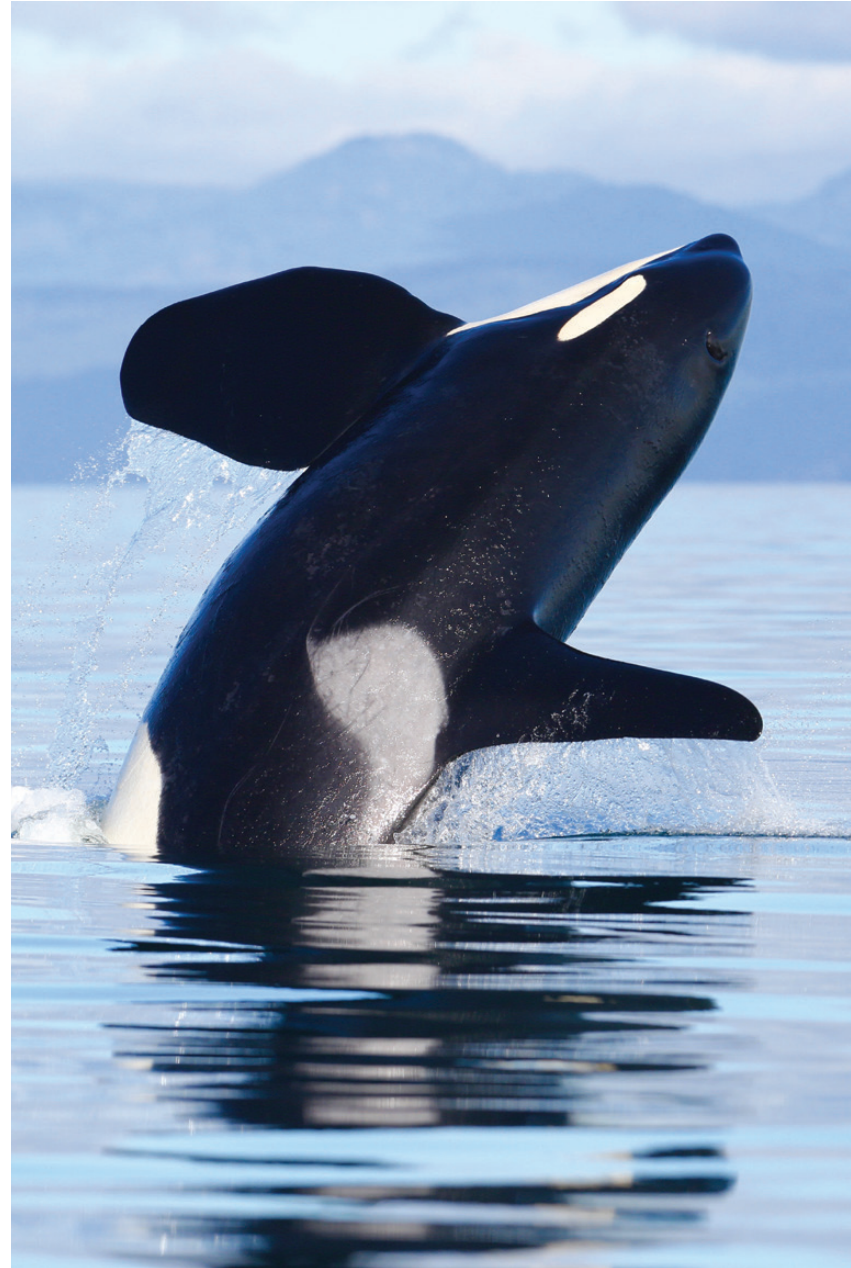
Nevertheless, members of Congress on both sides of the aisle continue to fight on behalf of animals. AWI welcomed Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) as the new co-chair

of the CAPC, replacing Representative Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), who retired at the end of the last term. Rep. Buchanan joins co-chair Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), who is serving his second term in the role. AWI’s own legislative team experienced a changing of the guard, as well: Nancy Blaney was appointed director of government affairs in April. Nancy brings decades of animal advocacy experience to the role, including the past decade as a federal policy advisor at AWI.

The legislative team met with all new members of Congress and their staffs in January to introduce them to AWI and discuss animal welfare issues. Throughout the year, we helped congressional animal protection leaders introduce a number of positive animal welfare bills. We cohosted congressional briefings on several of these bills and helped drum up support for them



Since the 1950s, AWI has been a *leader*, at both federal and state levels, in *securing* landmark laws and tougher enforcement to *shield* animals from cruelty and needless suffering.



in both chambers of Congress. Among the AWI-supported bills introduced or reintroduced this year:

- The Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, to prohibit the slaughter of horses in the United States for human consumption, as well as the export of live horses for slaughter abroad
- The Pet and Women Safety (PAWS) Act, to support programs that provide shelter and housing assistance for the companion animals of domestic violence victims and thereby help both human and animal victims escape abusers
- The Pet Safety and Protection Act, to end what has long been an abuse-ridden system under which “Class B” (random source) dealers supply non-purpose-bred dogs and cats for use in research
- The Orca Responsibility and Care Advancement (ORCA) Act, to phase out the captive display of orcas for entertainment in the United States
- The Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act, to help veterans with physical and mental health needs resulting from their service obtain service dogs and to ensure such dogs are sourced from humane suppliers and trainers
- The Humane Cosmetics Act, to phase out animal-based testing for cosmetic products and sale of such products in the United States
- The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, to amend the Horse Protection Act so as to end the show horse industry’s

failed system of self-policing and crack down on the abusive practice of “soring” horses for shows

- The Chemical Poisons Reduction Act, to ban the use of sodium fluoroacetate and sodium cyanide in federal predator control programs

California Orca Captivity Bill

On September 13, 2016, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a trailblazing bill to prohibit the breeding and theatrical performance of captive orcas in California, as well as their export, consistent with federal law, out of North America. AWI campaigned heavily for this bill and worked with its author, Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), for two years to secure its passage. AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose helped draft it and testified in its favor at a hearing before the Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife. With this tremendous victory in hand, AWI now seeks to make the California law a legislative tipping point toward finally ending the captivity of orcas and other cetaceans in the United States.

Cracking Down on Cruelty in Illinois

AWI worked with our partners in Illinois to strengthen the response to animal cruelty crimes. In addition to continuing to build support for bills to require mandatory arrests in animal cruelty cases and to treat animals as individual victims (rather than allow for a single charge of abuse when multiple animals are involved), we joined the Cook County Sheriff’s Office to support a bill authorizing the appointment of special

court advocates in animal cruelty cases to represent the interests of the animals. Such advocates can help alleviate the burden on prosecutors while expanding their ability to present animal cruelty cases. Work on these bills will resume in January 2018.

Trapping

In August 2016, the Law Library of Congress released *Laws on Leg-Hold Animal Traps Around the World*, a compendium of national laws governing use of steel-jaw leghold traps. AWI worked closely with congressional offices to request this study, which—merely by presenting the data—pointedly illustrates how the United States lags far behind other nations in outlawing cruel trapping methods. More than 100 countries worldwide prohibit or impose stringent limits on use of steel-jaw leghold traps; many national laws, as the report shows, make it clear that the bans were enacted specifically because these traps cause undue suffering.

An article by AWI’s Tara Zuardo, “How the United States Was Able to Dodge International Reforms Designed to Make Wildlife Trapping Less Cruel,” in the June 2017 issue of the *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* further bolsters the case for US legislation banning steel-jaw leghold traps. The article provides an overview of wildlife trapping regulations and the traps most commonly used in the United States, describes how the United States has undermined international efforts at trapping reform, and suggests ways to overcome resistance in this country to such reforms.

All meetings held in Washington, DC, unless otherwise noted

twenty sixteen

Naomi Rose participated in Whale Sanctuary Project strategic planning meeting; Los Angeles, CA; July 6–7

AWI staff organized and participated in Save the Vaquita rally outside Mexican Embassy; July 7

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney presented National Resource Center on Domestic Violence webinar on link between animal abuse and domestic violence; July 7

Bill Clark, Cathy Liss, and D.J. Schubert participated in meeting of African Elephant Coalition countries to discuss CITES conference priorities; Kenyan Embassy; July 14

Naomi Rose gave presentations on scholar-advocacy and marine mammal policy; Superpod 5 event; Friday Harbor, WA; July 18–21

Bill Clark participated in meeting with USFWS staff and African Elephant Coalition representatives to discuss CITES conference priorities; July 19

D.J. Schubert chaired and Kate O'Connell and Sue Fisher participated in Whales Need US coalition teleconferences; July 19 and October 13, 2016, March 9 and May 17, 2017

Bill Clark participated in meeting of Clinton Global Initiative's Elephants Action Network; New York, NY; July 27

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney participated in US Department of Justice roundtable discussion on police shooting of dogs; July 28

Naomi Rose presented talk on the "Blackfish Effect"; International Marine Conservation Conference; St. John's, NL; July 29–31

Bill Clark met with Ambassador Michael Moussa-Adamo of Gabon to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 5

Brittany Horton and Cathy Liss staffed AWI booth and distributed new AWI posters to help veterinarians identify animal abuse; American Veterinary Medical Association Convention; San Antonio, TX; August 5–9

Bill Clark met with Tamar Cooper, Head of Clinton Global Initiative's Environmental Stewardship Track, to discuss support of Kenya Wildlife Service's Manyani ranger training school; New York, NY; August 10

Bill Clark participated in Elephants Action Network teleconference on ivory trafficking; August 16

Bill Clark participated in public hearing on urban deer management; Alexandria, VA; August 16

Bill Clark met with Ambassador Pham Quang Vinh of Vietnam to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 19

Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney met with USDA Animal Care Deputy Administrator Bernadette Juarez to discuss various issues, including USDA oversight of animals used in entertainment; August 22

Bill Clark participated in Cambodian Embassy meeting to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 22

Bill Clark met with Director Dan Ashe and other USFWS officials to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 23

Bill Clark met with Caroline Vincini of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States to discuss elephant protection under CITES; August 25

Bill Clark attended Singaporean Embassy meeting to discuss elephant protection under CITES; September 11

Dena Jones and Michelle Pawliger met with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Administrator Elanor Starmer to discuss animal welfare standards for poultry suppliers to federal nutrition assistance programs; September 12

Nancy Blaney directed National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference workshop on animal cruelty legislation and moderated discussions on prosecuting animal cruelty; September 14–16

Bill Clark attended Thai Embassy meeting to discuss elephant protection under CITES; September 19

Bill Clark attended Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting; New York, NY; September 19–20

Michelle Pawliger hosted National Fire Protection Association Agriculture Task Group meeting to discuss greater fire protection in farm animal agricultural facilities; September 21

Naomi Rose gave presentation on the welfare of captive cetaceans and met with officials to discuss improving captive cetacean welfare; National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium's Popular Science Forum; Checheng, Taiwan; September 23

D.J. Schubert and Tara Zuardo participated in 67th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES; D.J. chaired side event on impact on vaquita porpoise from totoaba poaching; Johannesburg, South Africa; September 23–October 5

Mary Lou Randour participated in Homes for Horses Coalition Conference panel discussion on the addition of animal cruelty crimes to FBI national crime database; September 23

Naomi Rose gave lecture on welfare of captive cetaceans; Stetson University College of Law; Gulfport, FL; September 29

SPEECHES & meetings

D.J. Schubert testified before New Jersey Assembly’s Regulatory Oversight and Reform and Federal Relations Committee in support of resolution to declare enclosed foothold traps among class of banned traps in state; Trenton, NJ; October 6

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on *NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement*; National Animal Care & Control Association Training Conference; Seattle, WA; October 7

Naomi Rose gave presentation on impacts of captivity on marine mammals; International Conference on the Captive Dolphin Industry in Mexico and the Caribbean; Playa del Carmen, Mexico; October 20–22

D.J. Schubert, Sue Fisher, and Kate O’Connell participated in 66th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (plenary, subcommittee, working group, and discussion group meetings); D.J. served as NGO representative on US delegation; D.J. chaired international NGO meeting; Portorož, Slovenia; October 20–28

AWI board of directors meetings; October 21, 2016, and March 9 and June 23, 2017

Tara Zuardo participated in Connectivity Policy Coalition meeting on federal legislation to protect and promote wildlife corridors; October 27

Brittany Horton and Michelle Pawliger staffed AWI booth on improving care and handling of laboratory animals; American Association for Laboratory Animal Science National Meeting; Charlotte, NC; October 31–November 2

Bill Clark met with Raquel Melo Abrantes of Clinton Foundation and Elephants Action Network staff; New York, NY; November 2

Tara Zuardo attended oral arguments on motion for summary judgment in AWI case to protect Canada lynx in Maine from trappers; US District Court, District of Maine; Bangor, ME; November 2–4

Bill Clark met with Ronald Clarke and Justin Kurland of the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice to discuss prosecution of wildlife crime; Newark, NJ; November 3

Naomi Rose gave lecture on inadequacy of current regulations and proposed rule on captive marine mammals; State Bar of Arizona continuing education series; Phoenix, AZ; November 4

Regina Terlau staffed booth to promote dissection alternatives and animal-friendly biology lessons; Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching; San Antonio, TX; November 10–12

Naomi Rose gave lecture on impacts of captivity on marine mammals; James Madison University; Harrisonburg, VA; November 16

Nancy Blaney participated in DC Bar’s “Outlook for an Animal Agenda” panel discussion on potential animal-related legislation in 115th Congress; December 1

Cathy Liss, Georgia Hancock, and Naomi Rose gave presentations on laboratory animal welfare and marine mammal regulations; Harvard Law Schools’ Animal Welfare Act at Fifty Conference; Cambridge, MA; December 2–3

Naomi Rose gave presentations on captive marine mammal welfare; Sichuan Provincial Library and Fangsuo Book Store; Chengdu, China; December 9

Georgia Hancock; Kate O’Connell, and D.J. Schubert participated in US government/NGO summit to discuss efforts to save vaquita; December 12

Kate O’Connell, Naomi Rose, Georgia Hancock, and D.J. Schubert met with Barb Taylor, Sarah Mesnick, and Nina Young of the National Marine Fisheries Service to discuss Mexico’s plan to take vaquita into captivity; December 12

D.J. Schubert, Georgia Hancock, and Kate O’Connell participated in meeting with Ambassador Alberto Székely of Mexico to discuss draft regulations to protect the vaquita; December 12

Georgia Hancock and Naomi Rose participated in Marine Mammal Commission/USFWS meetings to discuss permit requirements for necropsy of SeaWorld orca Tilikum; December 14, 16

Twenty seventeen

Michelle Pawliger participated in meeting of the DC Food Policy Council’s Sustainable Procurement Working Group to address animal welfare aspects of Good Food Purchasing Project; January 18

Nancy Blaney co-chaired meeting of Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ Animal Cruelty Advisory Council; February 2–3

Mary Lou Randour and Nancy Blaney participated in National Coalition On Violence Against Animals meeting; February 5

Nancy Blaney participated in National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges workshop on family violence, juvenile crime, and animal abuse; New York, NY; February 13

Dena Jones hosted delegation from the South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program to discuss farm animal welfare issues; February 16

Bill Clark met with Clinton Global Initiative staff to discuss support of Kenya Wildlife Service’s Manyani ranger training school; New York, NY; February 16

Nancy Blaney and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act; February 28

Michelle Pawliger and members of the Good Food Purchasing Project met with Laine Cidlowksi, DC Food Policy Director, regarding project implementation in Washington, DC; March 3

Nancy Blaney gave presentation on Pet and Women Safety Act; University of Maryland School of Law; Baltimore, MD; March 13

Nancy Blaney and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on Prevent All Soring Tactics Act; March 15

Bill Clark met with Keith Roberts, Executive Director of Wildlife Trafficking, Conservation International; March 15

Naomi Rose testified at Hawaii House of Representatives Agriculture Committee hearing in support of resolution urging Hawaii captive cetacean facilities to discontinue breeding and phase out captivity; Honolulu, HI; March 22

Cathy Liss met with Marc Richir, Senior Expert, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission, on trapping cruelty and fur trade; New York, NY; March 23

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on link between animal abuse and child abuse; International Symposium on Child Abuse; Huntsville, AL; March 29

Regina Terlau staffed booth to promote dissection alternatives and animal-friendly biology lessons; National Science Teachers Association National Conference; Los Angeles, CA; March 30–April 1

Naomi Rose testified before Canadian Senate Fisheries and Oceans Committee hearing in support of Ending the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins Act; Ottawa, ON; April 4

Tara Zuardo, Dena Jones, Nancy Blaney, and Cathy Liss hosted students from Harvard Law School to discuss animal welfare law and policy; April 7

Cathy Liss and Bill Clark met with Chinese Embassy staff to deliver Chinese-language versions of *A Dangerous Life* graphic novel on ivory trade for school children in China; April 13

Naomi Rose participated in workshop and public forum on planned offshore wind farms’ threat to Taiwanese white dolphins; Taipei, Taiwan; April 13–22

Naomi Rose gave lecture on Russia-China orca trade; George Mason University; Fairfax, VA; April 24

Nancy Blaney and Chris Heyde co-organized congressional briefing on horse slaughter and Safeguard American Food Exports Act; April 26

Naomi Rose gave lecture on marine mammal policy; Tufts University; Medford, MA; April 28

Naomi Rose participated in panel discussion on marine mammal welfare and seaside sanctuaries; Global Animal Welfare Congress; Detroit, MI; May 3–7

Naomi Rose participated in IWC Scientific Committee meeting and served as rapporteur for whale watching; Bled, Slovenia; May 8–22

Bill Clark attended congressional briefing on existing and potential legislation affecting migratory bird conservation; May 9

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on *NIBRS User Manual for Animal Control Officers and Humane Law Enforcement*; Animal Care Expo; Fort Lauderdale, FL; May 11

D.J. Schubert participated in African Pangolin Conservation Strategy Workshop; May 15–16

Nancy Blaney attended the Veterinary Forensic Sciences Conference and distributed AWI posters to help veterinarians identify and report animal abuse; New York, NY; May 16

Cathy Liss and Nancy Blaney participated in annual meeting between USDA staff and animal protection community on enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and Horse Protection Act; Riverdale, MD; May 19

Bill Clark met with Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) to discuss predator poisoning by USDA Wildlife Services program; June 7

Cathy Liss gave presentation during Congressional Animal Protection Caucus briefing on USDA’s removal of online enforcement documents and its impact on laboratory animal welfare; June 8

Nancy Blaney hosted meeting with students from Capitol Hill High School to discuss animal welfare issues and careers; June 8

Dena Jones met with Roberta Wagner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, to discuss farm animal welfare; June 12

Dena Jones and Cathy Liss hosted NGO meeting with Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and members of his cabinet to discuss farm animal welfare; June 20

Nancy Blaney participated in Take Your Dog to Work Day at GMMB advertising agency; spoke with employees about animal welfare issues and distributed AWI materials; June 23

Dena Jones met with Office of Management and Budget staff to discuss animal welfare impact of proposed rule on pig slaughter inspection; White House Executive Office Building; June 23

Mary Lou Randour gave presentation on reporting of animal cruelty crimes by animal control officers and training of police on dog encounters; National Coalition On Violence Against Animals meeting; June 24

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to approximately 41,000 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 year.

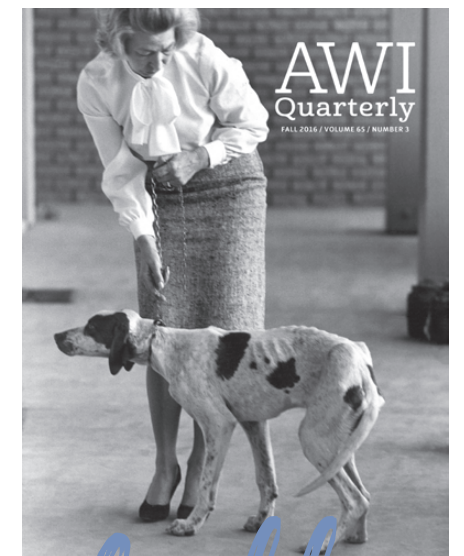
Volume 65, Number 3

The Animal Welfare Act, the chief federal law for the protection of animals in research, on exhibition, in transport, and in the hands of dealers, turned 50 in 2016. A *Life* magazine photo essay published in February 1966—based on investigations by AWI laboratory animal consultant Dorothy Dyce—exposed the horrific conditions at the premises of a Maryland dog dealer and proved a major catalyst for the law's passage. Over the past five decades, the Animal Welfare Act has greatly reduced animal suffering in the United States. Still—many animals are denied its protections, and much more must be done to broaden and strengthen this important law.

Thanks to the efforts of the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Police Service, and others, ivory trafficker Feisal Mohamed Ali is behind bars—sentenced to 20 years

in prison plus a fine of 20 million Kenya shillings (about \$200,000). A June 2014 raid on Ali's facilities in the Kenyan port city of Mombasa turned up 4,744 pounds of contraband ivory, worth \$4.5 million on the black market—and all that remained of at least 200 elephants slaughtered by poachers. Ali initially fled and was a fugitive for five months before being caught in Tanzania and brought to justice.

For poultry on their way to slaughter, abuse and unnecessary suffering can occur before the birds even enter the plant. Through a review of US government records, AWI found that large numbers of birds are suffering and dying as a result of being abandoned for extended periods of time without food or water—often during extreme weather conditions—in the holding areas of slaughter plants. AWI has requested that the USDA revise its poultry slaughter



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regulations and directives to give inspectors the authority to take strong action against this unconscionably cruel practice.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore announced in June 2016 that it plans to move its colony of eight dolphins from its indoor amphitheater pool to a seaside dolphin sanctuary—the nation’s first. Transfer to the sanctuary is expected to take place by the end of 2020. Aquarium CEO John Racanelli explained: “Although this decision is about a group of dolphins, it is every bit as much about our humanity; for the way a society treats the animals with whom it shares this planet speaks volumes about us.”

Many veterinarians are reluctant to report potential cases of animal abuse to law enforcement authorities. Possible reasons for this include uncertainty about what abuse really looks like and what to do when it is suspected. To raise veterinarians’ awareness of the likelihood that some of the problems they see in their patients may be due to abuse, and to demystify the process for reporting such concerns, AWI created posters listing some of the most frequent signs of abuse and the proper steps to address the situation.

Appropriate use of pain relief in laboratory animals is a scientific and ethical imperative. Yet, a recent analysis published in *PLoS ONE* found that over 75 percent of manuscripts examined contained no description of what, or whether, analgesia was used. Clear descriptions of a study’s

analgesic regimen allow other scientists to critically analyze and replicate the research outcomes, and provide assurance that animal welfare was rigorously considered in the study design. When this doesn’t happen, the animals suffer and the data may be compromised.

United Egg Producers, an industry group representing egg farmers in the United States, says it will seek to eliminate the culling of male chicks. Because male chicks cannot produce eggs—and other breeds are used to produce meat chickens—males of the egg-producing breeds have no economic value and are routinely killed using grotesque methods, such as maceration in a high-speed grinder. Research is currently underway to find a method of determining sex before a chicken has hatched, which would allow producers to ensure only female chicks are born.

Outbreaks of algae may once again be taking a heavy toll on the West Indian manatee population in Florida’s Indian River Lagoon. Since May, nine manatee carcasses have been found, all bearing signs of gastric trauma related to the spread of algae in the polluted lagoon. Algal blooms block sunlight needed by sea grass, a primary component of the manatees’ diet. Given the many threats the animals continue to face from habitat loss, boat strikes, and pollution, AWI sent detailed comments to the USFWS strongly opposing the downlisting of manatees from endangered to threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

In Swansboro, North Carolina, a great horned owl was caught in a steel-jaw leghold trap and languished for days before being rescued. Fortunately, a volunteer at the Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary found the owl and came to her rescue. The owl recuperated at a local raptor rehabilitation center. Two of her toes had sustained cuts down to the bone, but under the care of the center, the owl escaped infection and amputation. Once recovered, the owl was released back to the wild.

A new report, *Illegal Otter Trade: An Analysis of Seizures in Selected Asian Countries (1980–2015)*, by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC examines the black market trade in live otters and otter parts in the region. The authors found an extensive otter fur trade centered in India, Nepal, and China—one that “is likely to be taking a toll on wild otter populations.” They also saw evidence of a growing (primarily domestic) trade in otters as pets. This trade chiefly occurs within Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Volume 65, Number 4

While the federal outlook for animal protections worsened considerably with the 2016 election, some positive outcomes did occur at the state level. Citizens of Massachusetts voted to prohibit the use of (and sale of products originating from) small wire battery cages for egg-laying hens, gestation crates for breeding pigs, and confinement crates for calves raised for veal. Oregonians passed a measure to prohibit intrastate trade in parts and products of elephants, rhinos, big cats, and other wildlife. And Oklahoma voters defeated a measure that would have stifled animal welfare reform in agriculture.

Georgia Aquarium has thrown in the towel. After losing a two-year court battle to acquire an import permit for 18 wild-caught Russian belugas, the aquarium announced in June 2016 that it would no longer seek dolphins or beluga whales from the wild. Days earlier, the Russian documentary *Born to Be Free* premiered, focusing on the international trade in Russian belugas and strongly critical of Georgia Aquarium’s efforts. A media kit prepared by the aquarium to defend itself against the documentary misrepresented so many facts that AWI (which had intervened on behalf of the government in the aquarium’s lawsuit over the permit denial) issued a point-by-point rebuttal.

After 14 military German shepherd dogs in a registered animal handler’s care died in an overheated transport van just prior to their deployment to Afghanistan, a

USDA administrative law judge levied a \$68,600 fine against the handler. However, a loophole regarding regulation of carriers and intermediate handlers under the Animal Welfare Act allowed the individual who left the animals in the van to keep his registration and continue operating.

In 2013, the Korean Animal Welfare Association (KAWA), local scientists, and government officials undertook the release of five captive bottlenose dolphin who had been illegally captured off Jeju Island, South Korea. AWI’s Dr. Naomi Rose advised this effort, visiting South Korea twice at KAWA’s invitation to discuss the release plans. Initially transferred to a sea pen, the five have since been released to the wild and have been seen swimming and socializing with wild dolphins. Two have even been seen with calves.

Carbon dioxide gas stunning—used in many large slaughter plants—can be extremely distressing to pigs, who take up to 60 seconds to lose consciousness when exposed to the gas. Research suggests that inert gases (argon and nitrogen) cause less distress. Unfortunately, at present, CO₂ is the only gas that can be legally used in the United States to stun pigs or other mammals for slaughter. However, the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service—in response to a petition by longtime animal advocate and AWI supporter Lorna Moffat—says it will now allow companies to request a waiver of the current regulation and test inert gases.



Companies with the worst animal handling records are currently supplying the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), which provides government-subsidized school lunches. This is allowed because the USDA has not set animal welfare standards for poultry supplied to the program, despite having standards for the handling of cattle, hogs, and sheep. AWI has been urging the USDA to incorporate bird welfare standards into the NSLP, but the USDA has not acknowledged the food safety benefit of humane handling standards—despite decades of scientific research demonstrating a link between how animals are treated and subsequent meat quality.

An AWI Refinement Grant helped Dr. Brittany Backus of Texas Tech University study whether providing environmental enrichment to pigs in research might help them adapt more easily to changes in their environment, thereby improving their well-being. She found that pigs who had access to enrichment (e.g., toys, treats, playful interactions with humans) spent more time exploring an unfamiliar space than did pigs in a control group, suggesting that enrichment does indeed enable pigs to cope better in novel environments.

For the first time in a decade, a new captive dolphin attraction has been built in the United States, in Arizona. Dolphinaris, where customers pay to swim with dolphins, opened its doors on October 15, 2016. The concrete tank is a mere 10 feet deep, with little shade to protect eight captive-born dolphins from the intense

desert sun. A public opinion poll by AWI and allies found that opposition to the attraction outpolled support in Arizona, 49 to 32 percent (with 19 percent undecided).

The red wolf recovery program was showing progress until the USFWS, in response to pressure from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, suddenly halted all red wolf recovery efforts. In September 2016, the USFWS announced that it intended to remove nearly all red wolves from the wild. Several of the scientists hired by the agency indicated that it had used “alarming misinterpretations” of data to falsely state that there exists a need to capture wild wolves in order to save captive populations. Red wolves have no hope of recovering in the wild unless the agency recommits to the program and reintroduction efforts. It must (1) reinstate a recovery implementation team that includes red wolf biologists, (2) reduce mortality and provide protection through law enforcement efforts, and (3) secure commitment from local officials to aid with conservation efforts, law enforcement, and education.

The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA Protocol) is a critical and collaborative mechanism to protect biodiversity in the Caribbean region, and AWI remains committed to ensuring its success. At the SPA Protocol’s November 2016 Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee biennial meeting in Miami, Florida, AWI secured

commitments to identify and respond to activities by member nations that violate the treaty. AWI also compiled data on activities, such as hunting, that continue in direct violation of the protocol, but which are not currently being reported.

This fall, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization’s Committee on World Food Security developed 12 broad recommendations that aim to promote a sustainable global food system. Farm animal welfare recommendations were included. Specifically, the committee addressed access to veterinary services, sustainable grazing systems, unnecessary use of antibiotics, and adherence to the “five freedoms”—freedom from hunger, thirst, fear, and distress and the freedom to express natural behaviors. The committee recommended use of the animal welfare guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health as a baseline standard.

In *Voracious Science and Vulnerable Animals: A Primate Scientist’s Ethical Journey*, author and scientist Dr. John Gluck tells of a crisis of conscience as an animal researcher: “I slowly became conscious of the animals’ point of view and recognized that much of what I was doing as a scientist did not square with my own moral standards.” His growing unease eventually motivated a change in direction toward bioethics. He offers his story “in hopes that it will cause some members of the animal research community to take seriously the notion that research on animals should always present ethical questions.”

Volume 66, Number 1

What are the best methods for providing rabbits in research with effective enrichment? This question was raised in a discussion among animal care personnel that took place last year on AWI’s online Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum. The participants affirmed the benefits to rabbits of frequent, friendly interactions with caregivers and discussed which toys, food treats, and housing environments keep rabbits stimulated and encourage natural behaviors, notwithstanding the unnatural setting of a laboratory.

After 146 years in operation, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus announced in January 2017 that it would close down in May. AWI spent years raising awareness of the circus’s cruel treatment of elephants, and joined others in filing suit in 2000 against Feld Entertainment—Ringling’s owner for the past 50 years. “There is no question,” said AWI counsel Stephen Neal Jr., “that the closing of the circus is due in large part to the publication of evidence of the circus’s cruelty to animals [resulting from the] litigation.”

The USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit in late 2016 of the research practices and operations at the USDA’s Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska. Though the audit was spurred by myriad allegations published in a *New York Times* exposé of appalling animal welfare conditions at the facility, it proved a disappointment. The

OIG did state that the Agricultural Research Service provided insufficient oversight of animal welfare at MARC. But it claimed not to have found evidence indicating a systemic problem with animal treatment and care, while keeping much of its findings regarding the allegations in the *Times* article hidden from public view.

In December 2016, China made the stunning announcement that it plans to shut down its billion-dollar ivory industry. China’s State Council, the government’s highest administrative authority, says it intends to “combat illegal trade in ivory” by ending “the commercial processing and sale of ivory and related products” in four stages, to be completed by the end of 2017. Hardly anyone anticipated that the decision would be so sudden, comprehensive, and authoritative. This would be the single most positive development for elephant conservation in many decades. Currently, China consumes an estimated one half to three quarters of all ivory from elephants poached in Africa.

A resort development on Oahu, Hawaii, has abandoned plans to include a captive dolphin attraction at its facility. Atlantis Ko Olina had pursued a dolphin display permit in the early days of planning. But developer Jeff Stone confirmed in a letter to Animal Rights Hawaii that captive dolphins are no longer in the mix. Stone even referred to swim-with-the-dolphins exhibits and dolphinariums as “dated concepts.” AWI supported outreach to local authorities and community opposition when news of the original captivity plan emerged.



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In his new book, *A Plea for the Animals*, Author Matthieu Ricard describes the sufferings imposed upon animals resulting from factory farming, unchecked animal experimentation, trafficking in wildlife, and “animals in entertainment”—everything from shooting animals for trophies to bull fighting to circuses. Adeptly sprinkled throughout the text are thoughtful comments explaining why these abuses are wrong: biologically, environmentally, philosophically, and morally.

Tilikum, the SeaWorld orca featured in the documentary *Blackfish*, died in January 2017. That same month, the death of southern resident orca J2, known as Granny, was also confirmed. Tilikum spent 90 percent of his life confined in a space less than 1/10,000th of one percent the size of an orca’s natural home range, without family. J2 spent her life in the wild, traversing the Puget Sound area, the matriarch in her population. Two iconic orcas have died, but only one was allowed to truly live life as an orca.

Polly Schultz, director of OPR Coastal Primate Sanctuary in Longview, Washington, has a high regard for monkeys’ mental and emotional capacities. But rhesus macaque Isaac still managed to surprise her when he began to groom and interact with a stuffed monkey, then added a stuffed chimp to his “troop” and established a social hierarchy within it. It was apparent to Polly in watching their interactions that Isaac was pretending, like a human child, that his dolls were alive. This was a stunning first-time observation for Polly in her many years

providing a nurturing home for monkeys retired from research or rescued from abuse and neglect as pets.

Mute swans in New York State have finally gained protection under AWI-supported legislation introduced by Senator Tony Avella and Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz. The new state law imposes a two-year moratorium on swan eradication—the solution originally proposed by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)—and mandates that the DEC prioritize nonlethal management techniques, rely on scientific evidence to assess the swans’ actual environmental impact, and hold public hearings before adopting plans to manage the animals.

The United States has lost an estimated 80 percent of its monarch butterfly population over the past 20 years. Much of this can be attributed to loss of the monarch’s required food source—milkweed. Other species also suffer as ruthlessly efficient industrial farming plows native plants under, while suitable habitat elsewhere gets paved over by the relentless march of suburbia. The US government is doing very little to address this issue. Concerned homeowners, though, can at least offer an oasis amidst the monocultures and macadam, by planting milkweed and other butterfly-friendly flora.

Dr. Naomi Rose, AWI’s marine mammal scientist, traveled to China in December 2016 to visit and evaluate several captive marine mammal facilities. She also gave

two public presentations in Chengdu, one of China’s largest cities, about the negative impacts on marine mammal welfare when they are displayed in captivity. A volunteer who has a popular social media page in China streamed the presentations, allowing another 20,000 people to watch them live online. After the talks were archived, an additional 320,000 people viewed them within a few days—an amazing level of interest in the message.

Dr. Alexey Yablokov, the “grandfather of Russian ecology,” passed away on January 10, 2017, at the age of 83. As a young scientist, Dr. Yablokov studied whales and dolphins and soon became a strong advocate for their conservation. Later, he became a member of the Soviet Parliament and advisor to Russian presidents. In 1993, he exposed the threat posed by Russian dumping of military reactors and nuclear submarines in the Arctic. From 1989 until his death, Dr. Yablokov was a member of AWI’s International Committee of advisors. We will be forever grateful for his bold advocacy and his many contributions to our understanding of our place on the planet.

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State wildlife agencies typically set limits on trapping, hunting, and fishing based on “sustainable use” models—how many animals can be removed while still maintaining a stable population. Sustainable use assumes that “surplus” animals can be killed without harming the species. But this reliance on simple replacement numbers ignores the social and ecological contributions of the individual, and often results in a form of “unnatural selection” that robs the gene pool of its fittest contributors.

Birds, including chickens, are commonly used in animal research. However, housing facilities are typically optimized for mammals and contain no ultraviolet (UV) light—an important component of how wild birds visualize and interact with their environment. An AWI Refinement Grant helped Dr. Rachel L. Dennis of the University of Maryland examine the effect of UV-A lighting on the behavior and well-being of chickens. Her findings suggest that such lighting can enhance social behaviors and reduce fear of humans, and should be considered when developing avian research housing facilities.

The Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW) released a report in early 2017 that scored restaurants, producers, and grocery stores on their commitment to farm animal welfare. The report placed companies in tiers from 1 (“Leadership”) to 6 (“No evidence that [animal welfare is] on the business agenda”). Most US

companies landed in tiers 4 and 5; none achieved tier 1; one—Kraft Heinz—fell to tier 6. Reports like the BBFAW are important. Although companies across the world continue to announce that they are improving animal living conditions, it is often hard to measure actual corporate commitments. The BBFAW promotes increased transparency and more serious engagement on animal welfare issues.

Maryland has placed a two-year moratorium on killing contests targeting cownose rays. The new law also directs the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to create a fishery management plan for the species by the end of 2018. In the past, participants in the contests shot the rays with arrows and hauled them up to bludgeon them. Once the contest was over, the dead rays were most often discarded. AWI submitted testimony to both houses of the Maryland legislature in favor of the bill.

A World Trade Organization (WTO) arbitrator ruled in April 2017 that Mexico can retaliate against the United States for the \$163 million a year Mexico claims to lose because of US import restrictions on tuna not caught in accordance with US “Dolphin-Safe” standards. To sell tuna labeled as Dolphin-Safe in the United States, fishers must not have intentionally encircled dolphins with nets or killed or injured dolphins when setting tuna nets. Instead of agreeing to these restrictions, Mexico pursued trade discrimination claims through the WTO. The Mexican government



summer
2017

says its retaliation will target US imports, which could include tariffs on goods.

After Corey Knowlton won a Dallas Safari Club auction for the right to kill an endangered black rhino—which he did, in Namibia, in May 2015—he was incensed to find that Delta Air Lines, like many others, now refuses to ship rhino (as well as elephant, lion, leopard, and buffalo) trophies. So he sued. But in March 2017, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Delta is under no legal obligation to carry such cargo. Perhaps if trophy hunters can't display the spoils of their unethical hobby, they may be less eager to pursue it.

In February 2017, a bald eagle near Bonneauville, Pennsylvania, was photographed with a steel-jaw leghold trap on her foot. Three days later, an eagle with a trap on her foot (who may or may not have been the same bird) was found 65 miles away in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and freed. She flew away, but often such injuries cut off blood supply, leading to gangrene, loss of digits, and certain death for birds of prey who can no longer hunt. Each year, an untold number of raptors and other nontarget species fall victim to these barbaric traps.

In early 2017, the USDA filed a complaint against Wild Wilderness, Inc., an unaccredited zoo and drive-through “safari” in Gentry, Arkansas, featuring black bears, wolves, big cats, zebras, and a host of other exotic animals. The complaint describes several disturbing instances at the park

and alleges willful violation of the Animal Welfare Act. After AWI called public attention to the situation, several news outlets in the state broadcast the story. AWI is calling on the USDA to impose a significant fine against Wild Wilderness and revoke its exhibitor's license.

Filmmaker Craig Leeson traveled the world to chase down the 8 million tons of plastic humans dump into the oceans each year. He found some of it spinning in massive gyres such as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Some was lodged in the stomachs of animals who ate plastic and died. Much of it breaks apart into tiny fragments that are ingested by microorganisms and subsequently work their way up the food chain to top predators—including us. Leeson's documentary, *A Plastic Ocean*, sheds harsh light on the consequences for aquatic life and human communities of a global culture awash in disposable plastic.

In 2015, Florida's black bears suffered an estimated 20 percent population decline amidst the first state-authorized hunt since 1994. In 2016, the controversial hunt was put on hold for a year. In the spring of 2017, Florida wildlife officials went further, announcing that they wouldn't consider holding another hunt until 2019 at the earliest, in large part due to significant opposition from the public—including many letters sent by AWI members. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission reported that close to 90 percent of the more than 4,000 emails the commission received were opposed to holding another hunt.

AWI has been working to help the Kenya Wildlife Service battle poachers in sunlight and in darkness. AWI is shipping three replacement aircraft engines to KWS to bolster its critically important air patrols over the country's 59 national parks and reserves, as well as the surrounding countryside. The air patrols have effectively chased poachers into the cover of night. Some months ago, AWI also shipped night vision goggles to KWS, which have contributed to a reduction in nighttime poaching, as well.

When nearly 200 dogs and over 50 cats were saved from an abusive North Carolina animal testing facility in 2010, AWI and others worked with rescue groups from New Jersey to Florida to find homes for the animals. Two of these dogs—Moxie and Huckleberry—landed with the family of Carol Vinzant. Six years later, Carol provided an update: she gushed about the charming antics of Moxie and “Huck,” who are thriving and who remain much beloved members of the family—a heartwarming happily ever after for these two beagles and their humans.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2017	2016
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
REVENUES:		
Contributions - Foundations and trusts	\$ 569,587	\$ 437,400
- Legacies and bequests	1,874,260	1,669,138
- Memberships and other	1,511,840	1,146,068
Tenants net rental income	78,000	92,048
Sale of publications and reports	1,388	1,598
Dividend income	95,374	136,472
Interest income	1,156	17,244
Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities	556,029	(297,358)
Gain on sale of building	—	283,199
	<u>4,687,634</u>	<u>3,485,809</u>
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS:		
Satisfaction of program restrictions:		
Roger L Stevens Publication Fund	28,144	84,913
Bosnian stray dogs	—	2,085
Marine mammals	—	5,200
Total net assets released from restrictions	<u>28,144</u>	<u>92,198</u>
Total unrestricted revenues and other support	<u>4,715,778</u>	<u>3,578,007</u>
EXPENSES:		
Program service	2,457,481	2,802,772
Management and general	229,117	193,465
Fundraising	50,711	58,631
Total expenses	<u>2,737,309</u>	<u>3,054,868</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>1,978,469</u>	<u>523,139</u>
CHANGES IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Grants and contributions	—	25,700
Net assets released from restrictions	(28,144)	(92,198)
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(28,144)	(66,498)
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	<u>1,950,325</u>	<u>456,641</u>
NET ASSETS - beginning of year	<u>11,417,119</u>	<u>10,960,478</u>
NET ASSETS - end of year	<u>\$ 13,367,444</u>	<u>\$ 11,417,119</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 1,144,095	\$ 77,365	\$ 22,507	\$ 1,243,967
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	89,030	6,048	1,690	96,768
Employee benefits	131,952	13,178	2,354	147,484
Retirement Plan	25,974	1,762	485	28,221
Advertising	1,664	180	9,683	11,527
AWI Quarterlies	192,029	—	1,787	193,816
Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)	89,645	384	5,566	95,595
Research, writing, and editing	14,787	—	—	14,787
Grants	141,689	—	—	141,689
Conferences, meetings, and travel	100,720	1,144	100	101,964
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)	27,651	89	1,676	29,416
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	54,600	46,258	130	100,988
Professional services	86,954	28,624	—	115,578
Memberships and subscriptions	26,850	3,700	1,239	31,789
Consultants	202,466	—	—	202,466
Internet services	18,060	—	—	18,060
Occupancy costs	59,882	41,461	550	101,893
Miscellaneous	116	3,122	43	3,281
Total expenses before depreciation	<u>2,408,164</u>	<u>223,315</u>	<u>47,810</u>	<u>2,679,289</u>
Depreciation	49,317	5,802	2,901	58,020
Total expenses	<u>\$ 2,457,481</u>	<u>\$ 229,117</u>	<u>\$ 50,711</u>	<u>\$ 2,737,309</u>

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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Animal Welfare Institute

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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