



Animal Welfare Institute

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Animal Welfare Institute

70TH ANNUAL REPORT

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who we are

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

our aims

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

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

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WILDLIFE

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



WILDLIFE

wildlife management

In January 2021, AWI and allies secured a critical victory for red wolves when a federal court granted our request for a preliminary injunction in a lawsuit we filed in November 2020. The court held that the red wolf recovery efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service violated the Endangered Species Act by jeopardizing the species' continued existence. Based on these findings, the court issued an extraordinary mandate that required the agency to develop a plan by March to resume its previously successful practice of releasing captive red wolves into the Red Wolf Recovery Area in North Carolina. Subsequently, the USFWS released four captive wolves and fostered four red wolf pups with a wild female wolf, doubling the population, which had fallen from over a hundred in 2014 to seven collared wolves last year. This is a critical first step as our litigation continues.

AWI has taken a leadership role in a coalition of conservation organizations working to ensure that the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services program complies with the National Environmental

Policy Act by fully considering the environmental impact of its wildlife damage management programs. AWI co-drafted formal policy comments with other organizations and testified at public hearings on the program's operations in California, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming to encourage Wildlife Services to use nonlethal alternatives when managing human-wildlife conflict.

AWI is also working to protect beavers by funding and promoting innovations to prevent flooding from beaver dams, assisting Wildlife Services in obtaining nonlethal beaver management training for staff, and proposing a federal grant program to help local governments install water flow control devices—rather than rely on cruel traps—to protect roads from beaver-caused flooding.

This year, nine research projects were selected to receive grants of up to \$15,000 each through AWI's Christine Stevens Wildlife Awards. This grant program, named for AWI's founder, funds innovative strategies for humane, nonlethal wildlife-human conflict management and study. Projects funded included studies involving red wolves, urban coyotes, whales, amphibians, and ground-nesting birds. Since 2006, AWI

has distributed more than \$650,000 in program grants.

wild horses

In April 2021, the Bureau of Land Management announced it would reverse course on a decision (finalized the October before) to conduct risky sterilization surgeries on wild horses in Utah. AWI had successfully litigated to stop the BLM from performing experimental ovariectomies on a herd in Oregon, but the agency continued to aggressively pursue this unsafe and inhumane method. AWI rallied strong support among a bipartisan coalition of federal lawmakers, as well as support from the wild horse advocacy community, to press the Department of the Interior to abandon this misguided plan.

In May 2021, AWI delivered remarks to BLM officials on the dangerous overreliance on helicopters to remove horses from the range and the negative impacts such operations pose to equine welfare. AWI also submitted extensive regulatory comments outlining the legal problems with the BLM's sweeping proposal to permanently remove 3,555 wild horses from the Wyoming checkerboard region—roughly 40 percent of the state's population. AWI is actively

weighing all legal options and continuing to work with Congress to steer the agency away from a counterproductive management approach predicated on mass removals.

fur farming

AWI pushed for major reform of fur farming—an industry that is unnecessary, inhumane, and a threat to public health. We drafted federal legislation that would phase out mink farms to prevent transmission of COVID-19 between mink and humans and impose stricter reporting and inspection requirements on all fur farms. We urged the federal government

to increase industry transparency by collecting and sharing more information about fur operations. And we submitted extensive, science-based comments encouraging the UK government to end its commercial fur trade entirely.

international wildlife trade

AWI participated in virtual meetings of the Standing and Animals Committees of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna

and Flora (CITES). Progress during these virtual meetings has been limited, but they produced several draft decisions—including ones regarding the protection of European eels, marine turtles, West African vultures, sharks and rays, marine ornamental fish, and songbirds—for consideration at the next Standing Committee meeting or Conference of the Parties. Debate also continues within CITES and other international forums on how to prevent wildlife trade from triggering the next pandemic.

HUMANE EDUCATION

AWI encourages educators to teach about biological and ecological processes in a manner that instills a greater respect for animals and avoids methods that treat animals as disposable commodities.

For the second year in a row, AWI awarded scholarships of \$2,000 each to high school seniors in the United States who plan to use their post-secondary education to alleviate animal suffering. The 13 students chosen this year were already active in promoting animal welfare in their schools and communities. They seek to further their efforts on behalf of animals as conservationists, wildlife veterinarians, marine biologists, and documentary filmmakers.

AWI continues to actively partner with the Humane Education Network on the “A Voice for Animals” contest for high school students around the world. Entrants submitted essays, photos, and videos addressing the causes of animal suffering and proposed solutions to these issues. The winners displayed exceptional initiative in developing their own projects and recruiting

others to their cause. AWI was pleased to award prizes for efforts to provide compassionate veterinary care to Indian street dogs, protect wildlife from toxic electronic waste, and work with a local animal shelter to engage fellow students in volunteer opportunities.

AWI collaborated with educator Nancy Kellum Brown this year to add two new lesson plans to our teacher resources library. The plans, designed to accompany AWI books *Kamie Cat’s Terrible Night* and *Pablo Puppy’s Search for the Perfect Person*, include worksheets and classroom activity suggestions suitable for grades 1–3. Spanish translations of the lesson plans are also available to pair with the Spanish language versions of the books.

We remain committed to sharing *Kamie Cat*, *Pablo Puppy*, and our other colorful

children’s books with young readers and their caregivers. In addition to making these publications available for download from our website, we have been providing hard copies of books at no cost to humane societies and literacy programs around the United States. Since September 2020, AWI has shipped nearly 15,000 books to groups such as Reading Is Fundamental and The Lisa Libraries—an organization that provides new books to Head Start programs and underserved areas. When many schools shifted to remote methods of learning during the 2020-21 school year, we began receiving requests from several humane education programs that were unable to conduct their usual classroom visits. These books have allowed them to maintain a connection to the students and continue to deliver messages of compassion and respect for animals.



MARINE LIFE

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

MARINE LIFE

captivity

When Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut applied to import five beluga whales from MarineLand in Canada, AWI raised the alarm. The stated purpose of the import was for research, but the whales (captive-born offspring of a depleted Russian population) would also be on public display, and Mystic indicated it intended to allow these whales to breed. We urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to deny the permit, but emphasized that if a permit was issued, it should contain three conditions: no breeding, no public performance, and decisions regarding the future of these whales following the five-year period of the permit should be made by NMFS, not Mystic. When NMFS did issue the permit at the end of August 2020, we were gratified to see that it included all three conditions.

In September 2020, AWI's Dr. Naomi Rose gave a live remote keynote address at a symposium for legislators, academics, and the public in South Korea on potential legislative approaches to ending captive cetacean display in that country. The national government subsequently began

working toward an animal welfare law that would ban import of cetaceans for display, tourist encounters with cetaceans (such as swim-with-dolphin programs), and cetacean displays in any new facilities. Activists are also pushing for a breeding ban.

whaling

To coincide with the 75th anniversary of the International Whaling Commission this year, AWI's Sue Fisher drafted a declaration titled *A 50-year Vision for the IWC*. It calls on the IWC to fully establish itself as "the [center] of global, regional and local efforts to ensure the full recovery and health of all cetacean populations, safeguard their welfare, and [maximize] their ecological contributions to healthy oceans." The declaration was endorsed by over 50 conservation and animal welfare NGOs from around the world.

AWI staff were involved in a number of key IWC meetings this year (held virtually), including meetings of the Scientific Committee, the Conservation Committee, and the Working Group on Operational Effectiveness (which examines the functionality of the IWC). And with support from AWI and other organizations, a joint IWC/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

virtual workshop was held in April 2021 to identify and prioritize the research needed to advance our understanding of cetacean contributions to ecosystem functioning. A report from the workshop (published just after the close of the fiscal year) emphasizes the ways in which whales help mitigate climate change, transport nutrients, enhance marine productivity, and promote biodiversity in marine ecosystems.

fisheries

In August 2020, AWI staff members provided comments and attended meetings with Marine Stewardship Council assessment company MRAG Americas regarding MSC's sustainable seafood certification. Following these meetings, the Gulf of Maine lobster MSC certification was suspended due to concerns over entanglements involving North Atlantic right whales. In December, AWI's Kate O'Connell was invited by MSC Canada to present on concerns related to right whale entanglement and MSC snow crab certifications. The Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab fishery subsequently withdrew from the MSC certification program and is now engaged in a fishery improvement program that includes testing of ropeless gear.

FARM ANIMALS

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



FARM ANIMALS

on the farm

In response to pressure from AWI and other animal welfare and organic farming advocates, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in June his intent to resurrect the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule that was withdrawn by the Trump administration. The OLPP rule would improve the lives of millions of farm animals by setting minimum welfare standards for animals raised under the National Organic Program.

Extreme weather events claim the lives of tens of thousands of farm animals each year. AWI successfully lobbied Congress to include a provision in the fiscal year 2021 funding package directing the US Department of Agriculture to work with producers to formulate disaster preparedness plans that would help avoid mass animal deaths in such situations.

Over the past decade, millions of animals have suffered horrific deaths in barn fires. As a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Technical Committee on Animal Housing Facilities, AWI was successful in obtaining two changes to the NFPA code for animal

housing that will provide better protections for farm animals. The changes will be reflected in the 2022 edition of the code.

at slaughter

A major development occurred this year in our efforts to force the USDA to proactively release enforcement records related to the treatment of farm animals at slaughter. As a result of our lawsuit, the USDA posted approximately 3,000 humane slaughter enforcement records on its website in May 2021, providing a window into how animals are treated at slaughter, and exposing inhumane practices at specific establishments.

Among the problems documented by these records is the suffering of millions of birds at slaughter plants due to being crushed and asphyxiated, exposed to extreme weather, and immersed in scalding hot water without being properly rendered unconscious beforehand. In August 2020, AWI and Farm Sanctuary sued the USDA for denying our 2013 rulemaking petition requesting that the department create regulations to require humane handling of birds.

The AWI farm team's efforts to oppose faster slaughter speeds were rewarded

when the Biden administration decided in January 2021 to withdraw a proposed rule that would have allowed poultry plants to increase line speeds by 25 percent and then elected in May not to contest a court decision halting line speed increases (which were approved in 2019) for pig slaughter plants.

accuracy in food labels

AWI continued its work to end deceptive practices used to market meat and poultry products, which undermine markets for high welfare production. In February, AWI filed two Federal Trade Commission complaints against Boar's Head for its deceptive use of the claim "humanely raised" on its chicken sausage and turkey products. These complaints represent the first time an FTC complaint has been brought against a product based on the contents of its pre-market label approval file from the USDA.

AWI also submitted comprehensive scientific and legal comments arguing that the beef cattle standards of a new third party certification program—Care Certified—fail to meet consumer expectations. The program made two updates to its standards in response to our input, and AWI is continuing to advocate further changes.

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.

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

animals for research in urgent need of aid

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, AWI received hundreds of photographs of chinchillas at the premises of Moulton Chinchilla Ranch who are clearly suffering from a lack of needed veterinary care. The US Department of Agriculture filed a complaint against Moulton in November 2018. After the complaint was filed, however, a hearing was delayed, and USDA inspectors continued to cite the dealer for failing to meet the basic needs of the animals, who are sold for experimentation. AWI called for the USDA to take further action against the dealer, such as filing a second complaint given these ongoing allegations.

scientific meetings

Although the COVID-19 pandemic halted in-person meetings, AWI was still able to present at various virtual events. The vast majority of animals used in research are rodents, thus our strong focus on their welfare. In October 2020, AWI's Dr. Joanna Makowska gave a presentation at the RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Meeting

on designing research programs around animals' needs rather than fitting animals into programs focused on practicality. In February 2021, she gave a webinar hosted by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) on the importance of good welfare for both animals and caretakers. In May, she gave a keynote address on appropriate housing and care of laboratory rats at the 3Rs Rat Welfare training event for a major international laboratory. In June, Joanna showcased AWI's activities on behalf of animals in research at the 8th Annual 3Rs Symposium and presented on rat-centric care at the CALAS Annual Symposium.

refinement grants

Six proposals were selected to receive AWI Refinement Grants this year: Dr. Lucía Améndola (University of British Columbia) for a literature review to critically evaluate the effects of various environmental enrichment strategies on affective states in mice; Brittney Armitage-Brown (Queen's University) for testing rhesus macaque preferences for physical versus touchscreen tasks as cognitive enrichment; Dr. Giridhar Athrey and Constance Woodman (Texas A&M University) for testing 3D-printed materials as environmental enrichment items for birds and other species; Dr.

Christopher Cheleuitte-Nieve (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center) for assessing the effects of natural, species-appropriate, visual environments on stress and behavior of indoor-housed macaques and African green monkeys; Margaret Dye (Duke Lemur Center) for building and assessing an enrichment management tracking system for documenting and monitoring multiple enrichment activities; and Sasha Prasad-Shreckengast (CUNY Hunter College) for a project assessing voluntary interaction of carp with novel environmental enrichment items that promote cognitive stimulation and agency.

LAREF

AWI's Laboratory Animal Refinement & Enrichment Forum (LAREF) moved to a new online platform in November 2020. The transition was smooth and animal care personnel, veterinarians, researchers, and students were able to continue engaging in discussions related to improving the conditions under which animals are housed and cared for in research institutions. Popcorn enrichment for primates, eliminating boredom in cats, social housing of hamsters, and environmental enrichment for sheep were among the many topics of conversation.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

116th congress

An omnibus appropriations bill that was signed into law at the end of 2020 included an impressive number of animal welfare wins that AWI championed and worked with members of Congress to help bring about. The bill provides significant funding for

- + programs to provide shelter to survivors of domestic violence and their companion animals,
- + conservation efforts on behalf of critically endangered North Atlantic right whales,
- + efforts to combat wildlife trafficking and dangerous wildlife practices that threaten global public health, and
- + Horse Protection Act enforcement.

Conversely, the bill includes funding bans that, during the fiscal year, prevent

- + licensing of Class B dealers (who acquire animals from random sources and seek to sell them to laboratories for experimentation),
- + operation of horse slaughter facilities within the United States, and

- + sale to foreign slaughterhouses of wild horses and burros managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service.

The bill further directs

- + the US Department of Veterans Affairs to formulate a plan to reduce or end the use of dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates in research,
- + the US Department of the Interior to ensure there are adequate state management plans in place before delisting any species under the Endangered Species Act,
- + the US Department of Agriculture to ensure that inspectors document each instance of noncompliance with the Animal Welfare Act in their reports, and
- + the US Department of Agriculture to resume posting online reports of Humane Methods of Slaughter Act enforcement actions.

In addition, the omnibus spending bill incorporates the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act in its entirety. AWI campaigned heavily for this law, which will curb the widespread doping that has plagued US horseracing and led to countless racehorse injuries and fatalities.

117th congress

The 117th Congress got underway in January, and a number of animal welfare bills AWI worked on and helped promote were reintroduced within the first six months. These include

- + the Preventing Future Pandemics Act (HR 151/S 37) to prohibit the import, export, and interstate trade of live wildlife for human consumption in the United States and support diplomatic measures to curb live wildlife trade and consumption abroad,
- + the Big Cat Public Safety Act (HR 263/S 1210) to prohibit private individuals from possessing lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars, or any hybrid of these species as pets, and prohibit public petting, playing with, feeding, and photo ops with cubs,
- + the Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act (HR 763) to require that data collected by the federal government from state child protection agencies include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse, in order to help identify opportunities to prevent both child and animal abuse,

- + the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act (HR 2811/S 1106) to prohibit the sale, purchase, and possession of shark fins in the United States,
- + the Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 3135/S 1588) to end the pet primate trade in the United States and restrict direct public contact with captive primates,
- + the Pet Safety and Protection Act (HR 3187) to permanently ban USDA licensing of Class B animal dealers,
- + the Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (HR 3277) to protect animals from unscrupulous dealers and exhibitors and close existing loopholes in the licensing process,
- + the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act (S 2295) to improve USDA enforcement of the Horse Protection Act in order to combat the practice of soring show horses for competitions,
- + the Marine Mammal Research and Response Act (HR 2848/S 1289) to support efforts by local governments and nonprofit organizations to rescue and rehabilitate sick and injured marine mammals and efforts to determine the causes of such injuries and illnesses, and

- + the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act (HR 3355) to permanently ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption, as well as their export for that purpose.

On the day following the end of AWI's fiscal year, the House of Representatives passed two of AWI's equine welfare priorities as part of the INVEST in America Act (HR 3684), a transportation and infrastructure package. During the fiscal year, AWI led efforts to get these vital provisions included in the package. The first is an amendment, which passed the House by voice vote, to ban the transport of equines to slaughter, thereby ending the current export of American horses across the border to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico. The second is the Horse Transportation Safety Act, which would prohibit the dangerous transport of horses in double-deck trailers designed for much shorter livestock.

states

AWI helped thwart legislation in Montana that sought to make trapping a constitutional right (and thereby harder to limit). We testified against the bill twice, published an op-ed in Montana's largest newspapers, and submitted a petition signed by Montana constituents.

In January 2021, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed HB 33, a bill AWI initiated and helped push through that expands the cross-reporting among law enforcement, veterinarians, and social service professionals of abuse of both animals and people to better protect both. Following the bill's passage, AWI organized a training webinar on cross-reporting under HB 33.

In April 2021, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Wildlife Conservation and Public Safety Act, which bans the use of traps, snares, and poisons on New Mexico's public lands. AWI helped organize and present a widely attended webinar on trapping to build support for the bill.

AWI is a member of the steering committee of the National Coalition to End Wildlife Killing Contests. We collaborated with national and local organizations to get a Maryland law enacted in May 2021 that bans wildlife killing contests targeting foxes, coyotes, and raccoons. This follows upon our successful effort the previous year to get a similar law enacted in Colorado and continues our momentum to get such laws passed across the nation. Thus far, eight states have banned certain forms of wildlife killing contests.

AWI PRESSES USDA TO ENFORCE ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS

Following the November 2020 election, AWI flagged critical issues for the Biden transition team regarding enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA) by the US Department of Agriculture. Seven years of enforcement data collected by AWI revealed a precipitous drop in enforcement that indicates the USDA had abrogated its responsibility to ensure humane care and treatment of the animals these laws are meant to protect. From 2016 to 2020, there was a 67 percent drop in the number of AWA inspections in which citations were documented, and a nearly 90 percent drop in new investigations. Under the HPA, there were no warning letters, no new investigations, and only

one administrative complaint filed since 2018. The enforcement drop-off predated the pandemic so cannot be attributed to that disruption.

HPA rules initially prepared during the Obama administration to prevent soring of Tennessee walking horses and other gaited breeds need to be reissued. A new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *A Review of Methods for Detecting Soreness in Horses*, helped underscore this need. Among its recommendations: discontinuing the use of industry inspectors (referred to as "designated qualified persons") at shows to detect for soring, to be replaced by inspections by trained veterinarians.

As AWI does each year, we organized a meeting between the humane community and the USDA regarding the department's administration of the AWA and the HPA. Due to the pandemic, the half-day meeting was held virtually, with 32 representatives from 15 animal protection organizations and approximately 15 USDA staff. We emphasized the need for the USDA to prevent animal suffering at horse shows, puppy mills, other animal dealers, zoos, circuses, handlers, and research laboratories, as well as during air travel. The USDA in recent years has been unable or unwilling to acknowledge these problems, and thus seems ill equipped to fix them. If the USDA can't or won't do its job, AWI will look to Congress to remedy the situation.





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.

COMPANION ANIMALS

animal abuse + family violence

In October 2020, AWI unveiled a new website in support of our Safe Havens for Pets initiative, which aims to help domestic violence survivors and their pets escape abusive situations. Launched during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the newly revamped Safe Havens Mapping Project (safehavensforpets.org) features a directory of more than 1,200 sheltering services in all 50 states and the District of Columbia that will assist individuals experiencing domestic violence in placing their companion animals out of harm's way so that they may seek safety for themselves.

The listings, searchable by zip code and updated regularly, feature organizations that either provide sheltering services for the animals of domestic violence survivors, have a relationship with an entity that does, or provide referrals to such facilities. They include humane societies, veterinary offices, foster homes, and domestic violence shelters that house humans and pets together. Other tools

available on the new website include links to information on safety planning for pets of domestic violence survivors, questions to ask about these pets during intake, and a map of states that allow companion animals to be included in temporary protection orders. Meanwhile, we have continued to update and expand our catalog of state-specific manuals providing instructions on how to include pets in protection orders.

animal cruelty crimes

AWI's Nancy Blaney and Dr. Mary Lou Randour serve on the boards and task forces of several partnerships involving law enforcement agencies, other government entities, and nongovernmental organizations working to combat animal cruelty. This year, Nancy continued as co-chair of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Animal Cruelty Advisory Council, the planning body for the APA's annual National Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference, and participated in a virtual meeting of the National Sheriffs' Association's Animal Abuse and Cruelty Committee. Nancy also joined the Advisory Council and the Animal Cruelty & Humane Law Enforcement Committee of the Small & Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA). She helped draft the committee's mission

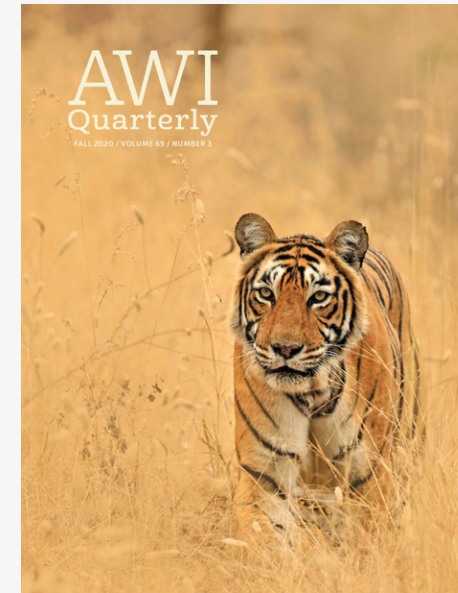
statement and prepared an SRLEEA endorsement letter for the federal Child and Animal Abuse Detection and Reporting Act, which would require that data collected by the federal government from state child protection agencies include information about animal abuse as a risk factor for child abuse.

equine rescues

During the year, AWI provided grants to defray the costs of hay, feed, and veterinary care to equine rescues that were severely impacted during natural disasters. Through the Homes for Horses Coalition—a national network of over 500 equine rescues and sanctuaries that AWI leads—we organized a webinar series for those working in equine rescue to stay connected during the pandemic, covering topics such as veterinary care for burros and disaster preparedness measures to move horses to safety. During the catastrophic winter storm in Texas in February 2021, which caused widespread disruptions, one of several actions AWI took on behalf of wild and domestic animals was to provide emergency grants to two rescue facilities, housing a combined 200 horses, that were facing catastrophic shortages of food, water, and critical supplies.

AWI QUARTERLY

The *AWI Quarterly* magazine is distributed to over 51,000 individuals and organizations, including public libraries, deans of medical and veterinary schools, laboratory technicians, scientists, farmers, teachers, law enforcement officers, shelters, animal protection organizations, members of Congress, and AWI members. The following are summaries of some of the articles featured in the magazine this fiscal year.



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Kentucky has ended its prohibition on veterinarians reporting animal abuse, and vets in the state may now make good-faith reports of suspected animal abuse to law enforcement in most cases. All 50 states now either permit or require vets to report suspected animal cruelty. After a 2017 survey disclosed a need to improve education and communication among vets regarding animal abuse, AWI developed posters for vet offices on abuse warning signs and what to do if abuse is suspected.

While animal dissection remains commonplace in K-12 science education, non-animal methods have been shown to be more effective, inclusive, and economical. To help teachers make the shift, AWI teamed up with the Animals in

Science Policy Institute to highlight some of the most engaging non-animal methods currently available. Froggipedia, 3D Frog Anatomy by Biosphera, Frog Paper Dissection by Getting Nerdy with Mel and Gerdy, and Merge Cube were particular standouts.

The USDA admitted negligence and agreed to pay the Mansfield family of Idaho \$38,500 after an M-44 “cyanide bomb” placed by USDA Wildlife Services killed the family dog and came perilously close to killing 14-year-old Canyon Mansfield after the pair stumbled upon it near the Mansfield home. The Mansfields have since become vocal advocates for the Chemical Poisons Reduction Act, which would prevent the use of sodium cyanide and sodium fluoroacetate (used in livestock protection collars) in predator management devices nationwide.

Predators have enormous ecological value—keeping prey populations from overrunning natural landscapes and croplands, reducing disease transmission, providing food for scavengers such as California condors and bald eagles, and keeping smaller mesocarnivores (e.g., coyotes, foxes, martens, and skunks) in check. These and other services mean predators have significant economic value as well—from bats eating crop-damaging insects to bobcats boosting tourism in Yellowstone. The ecological and economic value of predators demands that we discard old prejudices against these species and promote their protection.

International transport of farm animals by sea vessel raises serious animal welfare issues. A rule enacted by the USDA in 2016 in response to a petition filed by AWI requires inspections

prior to export to ensure the animals meet the World Organisation for Animal Health’s fitness-to-travel standards. Records AWI received through the Freedom of Information Act indicate that, since the rule was enacted, no especially egregious mortality incidents have taken place. However, the incompleteness of the records received means further investigation is warranted.

A United Nations Environment Programme report, *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission*, identifies major trends driving the increasing emergence of zoonotic diseases—including increased demand for animal protein, a rise in intense and unsustainable farming, and increased use and exploitation of wildlife. The report also calls on nations to adopt animal welfare standards for the care, housing, and transport of live animals along the entire supply chain to reduce disease transmission.

A committee of experts convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has concluded that few areas of research conducted by the Veterans Administration actually require the use of dogs. The report lists the types of research for which laboratory dogs should no longer be used and encourages a shift toward clinical trials with companion dogs who naturally develop some of the same diseases as humans—dogs who might benefit from the research in which they participate. It also recommended funding independent literature searches that emphasize replacement of dogs, not just a reduction in numbers.



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The National Institutes of Health announced in October that 37 retired research chimpanzees at the Alamogordo Primate Facility in New Mexico will spend the rest of their lives at this research facility rather than be moved to more species-appropriate living space at the Chimp Haven sanctuary in Louisiana. As the NIH gives a host of excuses for denying sanctuary to certain chimps, the fate of over a hundred retired research chimps held at two Texas research facilities remains under review.

Greyhound racing is rounding its final turn in the United States. Florida, the erstwhile capital of the notoriously abusive sport, shuttered its last track at the end of 2020, after voters in the

state overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment that prohibits betting on live dog races. Texas closed its one remaining greyhound track in June 2020. Tracks in Iowa and Arkansas will close by the end of 2022. That would leave West Virginia, with two active tracks, as the last holdout.

Around 72 million turkeys are killed in the United States for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners each year. Sadly, most are raised in industrial facilities, packed together in dimly lit warehouses and subject to painful mutilations of their beaks and toes to prevent feather pecking, cannibalism, and other stress-induced aggressive behaviors. Higher-welfare alternatives exist, but deceptive labels on conventionally grown birds make it hard for consumers to analyze animal welfare claims. AWI's free guide to label claims on meat, egg, and dairy products can help.

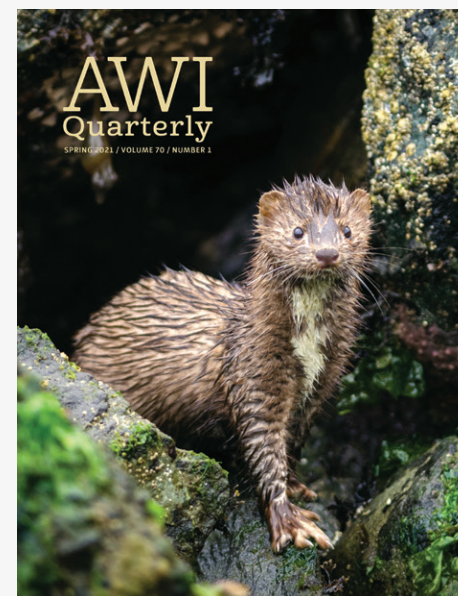
AWI participated as an invited expert in the fourth series of meetings (held virtually) of the Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM) in October and November 2020. CARI'MAM comprises marine mammal stakeholders and experts in the Wider Caribbean and provides countries with a way to share information, combine resources, and cooperate on marine mammal conservation issues. The meetings included sessions on "knowledge acquisition and scientific monitoring," "threats, protection, and awareness raising," and "marine mammal watching."

At the Sept/Oct 2020 virtual meeting of the International Whaling Commission's Conservation Committee, AWI and colleagues

worked alongside representatives of 30 governments to increase protection for the world's cetaceans. We were able to contribute substantively to every agenda item, including principles for whale watching, future work on marine debris, a new initiative for South American river dolphins, the workplan of the IWC's bycatch mitigation initiative, and ensuring the IWC secretariat has adequate resources to implement the Conservation Committee's overall workplan.

A number of the notorious big cat dealers and exhibitors who appear in the hit Netflix series, *Tiger King*, have now been caged or collared. Joe Exotic had been sentenced to prison before the series even aired. Subsequently, Jeff Lowe, who took over the GW Zoo from Exotic and continued the animal abuse, lost his exhibitor's license and faces a hefty fine or jail. Tim Stark lost his roadside zoo in Indiana and was arrested after hiding animals from authorities. And Doc Antle of Myrtle Beach Safari was charged by the Virginia attorney general with wildlife trafficking, conspiracy, and animal cruelty.

Tracking wild wolves is vital for understanding factors that influence their interactions with livestock. Radio collars are traditionally used, but are expensive and time consuming. A study funded in part by an AWI Christine Stevens Wildlife Award demonstrated that the movements of wolf packs can be tracked noninvasively via devices that record and triangulate the pack's location based on their howls. The technology is now being tested in South Africa to study interactions between livestock guard dogs and predators there.



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Cuttlefish can delay gratification. In an adapted version of the famous "marshmallow test," most cuttlefish chose to wait to receive a higher-value treat rather than consuming a lower-value treat immediately. Those willing to delay longer were also quickest at learning a discrimination task. This is only the third species (after humans and chimpanzees) in which a link between self-control and intelligence has been shown—yet more evidence that cuttlefish, along with other cephalopods, are cognitively complex.

A recent study estimates that 111.5 million rats and mice are used each year for experimentation, testing, and teaching in the

United States—over 99 percent of the total animals in research. The exact number is unknown, as rodents are not covered under the Animal Welfare Act, the primary federal law for the protection of research animals. If rodents were covered, the number in use would be reported and the animals would benefit from the law's stipulations regarding housing, handling, and use (including consideration of alternatives to any potentially painful procedures).

The ability to exercise control over one's environment is recognized as an important component of good welfare. Animals in research, however, rarely have such control, even over features designed to enrich. Scientists in Finland recently provided white-faced saki monkeys a way to switch audiovisual stimuli on or off themselves—essentially handing them the remote. The monkeys showed clear preferences for certain sights (earthworms over forest scenes) and sounds (traffic over rain). Such "on-demand" enrichment can readily be adapted to other species.

An AWI Christine Stevens Wildlife Award helped scientists study whether acoustic signals might steer birds away from collisions with buildings. When the researchers broadcast 4–6 kHz sounds in front of tall communication towers in the Atlantic migratory flyway of Virginia, birds flew slower and gave the structures a wider berth. Creating such an "acoustic lighthouse" could reduce collision risks associated with many human-made structures, such as wind turbines and tall buildings, potentially saving billions of birds annually.

In the United Kingdom, gray squirrels are an invasive species, badly outcompeting native red squirrels. They have been subject to lethal control for decades, but immunocontraception is showing promise as a humane, nonlethal way to control gray squirrels in the country. Researchers placed contraceptive-laced baits in traps or hoppers accessible only by the larger, stronger grays. Four days of baiting was sufficient to treat over 90 percent of gray squirrels in a given woodlot.

A rare winter storm hit Texas in February 2021, causing widespread power outages, burst pipelines, and water shortages. Freezing temperatures took a heavy toll on humans, domestic animals, and even wildlife. When approximately 4,500 cold-stunned green sea turtles washed up on South Padre Island, a local nonprofit group stepped in to coordinate the rescue effort, with support from AWI and others. The animals were gathered, allowed to warm up and rehabilitate, and released back into the Gulf of Mexico.

Thus far, the Biden administration has shown a welcome inclination to undo much of the prior administration's efforts to sabotage laws and policies meant to safeguard wildlife and habitat. President Biden's early executive orders (e.g., halting oil and gas activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate change, establishing a bold vision for conserving habitat) are heartening, but it will take an ongoing record of truly courageous leadership to adequately confront the alarming crises that wildlife and the planet face.



SUMMER 2021 volume 70, number 2

In February 2021, a massive oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea caused hundreds of tons of tar to wash ashore along the Israeli and southern Lebanese coastline with devastating impact—covering beaches and rocky shorelines, coating turtles and birds, and killing fish and other marine life. Rapid and organized response helped alleviate some of the devastation. To aid this effort, AWI provided an emergency grant that was used for essential cleaning equipment and supplies to aid in the rehabilitation of rescued animals.

AWI staff participated in the ninth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to UNEP’s Protocol Concerning

Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPA-W), held virtually in March and April 2021. Unfortunately, technical difficulties led to disjointed sessions and stymied progress. Nevertheless, there were some positives. AWI accomplished one of its main goals for the meeting—to garner support for the creation of a Regional Activity Network that would provide for better communication and collaboration among those working on marine mammal protection across the Caribbean.

“Waif” gopher tortoises (those injured, collected illegally, or of unknown origins) could be released into the wild to augment declining populations of the species in the southeastern United States. But concern over introduced diseases has been a barrier to such releases. With support from an AWI Christine Stevens Wildlife Award, University of Georgia researchers evaluated the viability of releasing waifs into the wild. They found that over 90 percent of the released waifs survived, most remained near their release location, and disease transmission was low—all extremely encouraging signs for a humane alternative to life-long captivity or euthanasia for these animals while aiding species conservation.

A raccoon in Tennessee was euthanized after spending untold days in agony dragging around a “dog-proof” trap that had nearly amputated the animal’s leg. Unlike conventional traps, dog-proof traps feature a metal tube surrounding the trap’s spring-loaded bars, which is supposed to prevent nontarget animals from getting trapped. Wildlife managers claim they are more humane, but for those animals who

are captured—especially raccoons with their hypersensitive front paws—these traps are no less vicious than other leghold devices.

Ships carrying hundreds of thousands of animals were stalled in and around the Suez Canal for several days in March 2021 when the cargo ship *Ever Given* ran aground, blocking all traffic. The incident illustrated the precariousness of such journeys. Ocean travel is hard on animals to begin with, and delays can deplete food supplies quickly, potentially causing immense animal suffering. Given scientific advancements in artificial insemination, refrigeration, and air transport, shipping animals via sea vessel seems increasingly unnecessary.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recommended in March 2021 that grizzly bears in the contiguous United States continue to be listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The recommendation applies to the population as a whole, however, not to individual ecosystems. The agency could still attempt to remove ESA protections from bears in one or more of the individual recovery areas (as it has twice tried to do with the Yellowstone population).

A study funded by an AWI Refinement Grant found evidence that playtime for mice in research reduces anxiety. Mice—even those raised in standard, mostly barren “shoebox” cages—responded well when provided early-life access to play areas. They subsequently ventured more freely into novel spaces and displayed less physiological evidence of stress. They were even willing to forego food rewards in order to spend more time in play areas.



statements of activities and changes in net assets

	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30,	
	2021	2020
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
REVENUES:		
Contributions · Foundations and trusts	\$ 515,643	\$ 832,219
· Legacies and bequests	1,041,180	1,765,660
· Memberships and other	2,753,743	2,066,992
Tenants net rental income	46,323	64,965
Sale of publications and reports	2,768	3,061
Dividend income	99,492	106,298
Interest income	24,551	66,643
Realized and unrealized gain on securities	2,307,368	96,877
Other income	26,435	-
	<u>6,817,503</u>	<u>5,002,715</u>
EXPENSES:		
Program service	3,832,738	3,773,499
Management and general	364,503	336,136
Fundraising	45,028	47,911
Total expenses	<u>4,242,269</u>	<u>4,157,546</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>2,575,234</u>	<u>845,169</u>
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Contributions	46,305	-
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	<u>46,305</u>	<u>-</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	<u>2,621,539</u>	<u>845,169</u>
NET ASSETS · beginning of year	<u>16,909,887</u>	<u>16,064,718</u>
NET ASSETS · end of year	<u>\$ 19,531,426</u>	<u>\$ 16,909,887</u>

statement of functional expenses, year ended June 30, 2021

	PROGRAM SERVICES	MGMT & GENERAL	FUND RAISING	TOTAL
Salaries	\$ 1,522,924	\$ 152,303	\$ 16,923	\$ 1,692,150
Payroll taxes and unemployment insurance	124,453	12,676	1,353	138,482
Employee benefits	134,459	18,752	1,494	154,705
Retirement Plan	32,889	3,289	365	36,543
Advertising	38,500	1,860	1,980	42,340
AWI Quarterly	224,017	-	8,034	232,051
Printing and publications (except for Quarterlies)	65,910	524	12,366	78,800
Research, writing, and editing	48,645	-	-	48,645
Grants	873,005	-	-	873,005
Conferences, meetings, and travel	15,229	295	-	15,524
Postage, mailing, and addressing costs (except for Quarterlies)	19,874	1,806	466	22,146
Telephone, duplicating, and office supplies	85,345	14,979	284	100,608
Professional services	54,897	28,635	-	83,532
Memberships and subscriptions	54,417	15,168	375	69,960
Consultants	367,104	-	-	367,104
Internet services	46,714	1,229	131	48,074
Occupancy costs	57,429	44,986	498	102,913
Bank and investment fees	390	61,347	20	61,757
Total expenses before depreciation and amortization	<u>3,766,201</u>	<u>357,849</u>	<u>44,289</u>	<u>4,168,339</u>
Depreciation and amortization	66,537	6,654	739	73,930
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,832,738</u>	<u>\$ 364,503</u>	<u>\$ 45,028</u>	<u>\$ 4,242,269</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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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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