

Animal Welfare Institute



Our Vision

A world where no animal suffers because of humans.

Our Mission

The Animal Welfare Institute is dedicated to alleviating animal suffering caused by people. We seek to improve the welfare of animals everywhere: in agriculture, in commerce, in our homes and communities, in research, and in the wild.

What We Do

Through the lens of animal welfare, we work to protect animals from suffering and/or extinction that result from

- the use of animals for food, clothing, health products, experimentation, education, entertainment, companionship, or other purposes;
- the means used to breed, raise, capture, manage, transport, or kill them;
- cruelty to or neglect of individual animals; and/or
- human activities that threaten species' survival.







How We Work

Since 1951, AWI has advanced its mission through strategically crafted policy and legal advocacy, educational programs, research and analysis, and engagement with policymakers, scientists, industry, educators, other NGOs, the media, and the public.

We seek scientifically grounded protections for animals in all settings, and robust enforcement of those protections.

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

AWI works to foster the development and implementation of science-based housing and handling refinements that reduce pain and distress and provide opportunities for species-appropriate mental and physical stimulation and social interaction. We promote practices that replace animals with non-animal alternatives and minimize the number of animals used in research. We also endeavor to identify and address reports of animal abuse in laboratory settings and the supply chain.



COMPANION ANIMALS

AWI champions the mutually beneficial relationship between people and pets and promotes responsible care of companion animals. We seek strong legal protections for companion animals and develop tools and trainings to help law enforcement, social service providers, and other professionals address the link between animal abuse and interpersonal violence—including resources for domestic violence survivors with companion animals.





EQUINES

AWI seeks stronger protections against all forms of abuse, mistreatment, and neglect of equines, both wild and domestic.

We campaign to end the slaughter of American horses and promote humane management techniques that allow wild equines to remain with their family bands on the range.



FARMED ANIMALS

AWI seeks to advance the welfare of animals raised for agricultural purposes—on the farm, during transport, and at slaughter. We support plant-based food choices and higher-welfare options when animal products are consumed and work to ensure accuracy and transparency in animal-product marketing claims pertaining to the welfare of farmed animals.

HUMANE EDUCATION

AWI aims to foster a respect for all living things and an understanding of the positive impact that compassionate attitudes and behaviors can have on animals, the environment, and ourselves. AWI seeks to empower students of all backgrounds to improve the lives of animals and encourages educators to develop animal-friendly lesson plans that avoid treating animals as disposable commodities.





MARINE WILDLIFE

AWI strives to minimize humaninduced harm to marine wildlife.
We work around the globe to
prevent and counter inhumane and
ecologically harmful commercial
exploitation of marine animals and
stem the destruction and degradation
of their habitats.

TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE

AWI seeks to reduce the detrimental impacts of human activities on wild terrestrial animals. We work to foster humane, nonlethal, science-based solutions to conflicts with wildlife, protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats, and restrict global wildlife trade.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

AWI seeks to promote the welfare of animals and shield them from maltreatment by securing federal, state, and local animal-protection laws and policies. We also work to ensure vigorous enforcement of animal-related statutes and regulations, and combat efforts to roll back hard-won legal protections for animals.





Animal Welfare Publications

The highly informative AWI Quarterly magazine is sent to our members and others, including deans of medical and veterinary schools, public libraries, humane societies, law enforcement officers, members of Congress, veterinarians, teachers, and scientists.

AWI also publishes and distributes valuable materials on animal protection and conservation, including brochures (e.g., A Consumer's Guide to Food Labels and Animal Welfare), in-depth reports (e.g., The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity, Barn Fires: A Deadly Threat to Farm Animals), and books (e.g., Comfortable Quarters for Laboratory Animals and Pablo Puppy's Search for the Perfect Person).

Most of our materials are provided free to those who can put them directly to use helping animals, and at cost for all others. For a complete list of available publications, please visit awionline.org/pubs.

The Schweitzer Medal

In 1951, AWI struck a medal in honor of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare. In granting AWI permission to use his name, Dr. Schweitzer wrote, "I would never have believed that my philosophy, which incorporates in our ethics a compassionate attitude toward all creatures, would be noticed and recognized in my lifetime." Medalists have ranged from well-known public figures such as Rachel Carson, Dr. Jane Goodall, Sen. Robert Dole, and Temple Grandin, to ordinary citizens such as Greg Fett, a tire shop manager who twice interceded to protect beleaguered horses being hauled to slaughter.





Membership

We need your help to continue our battle to protect animals from pain and suffering. Please join us by making a membership donation. AWI member benefits include a subscription to the AWI Quarterly magazine—which you can receive in the mail and/or in digital form. Members also receive print and/or digital copies of our annual report and have the opportunity to obtain free copies of AWI books and other materials upon request.

We use your tax-deductible contribution in direct defense of animals, with minimal overhead. AWI has consistently received top ratings from charity watchdogs in recognition of our wise allocation of funds.

To become a member of the Animal Welfare Institute, call us at (202) 337-2332 or visit us at awionline.org/joinus. You may also set up recurring donations, set up a gift membership, or make a donation in honor of or in memory of a special person or animal.



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