



# AWI Quarterly

*Spring 2008 Volume 57 Number 2*



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## ABOUT THE COVER

Asian elephants such as this 4-week-old calf in India are endangered, with a population of only approximately 30,000 remaining in the wild. Humans exploit the intelligent and gentle animals because they can be trained. In their native South and Southeast Asia, tamed elephants are used by the forestry industry to carry timber, and by the tourist industry to carry people in trekking camps, as well as other unnatural tasks. The inhabitants of Thailand's Elephant Nature Park spent the majority of their lives being forced to work by humans, but they have fortunately been rescued and relocated to a sanctuary where they can live the rest of their lives in peace. To learn more, please see "An Elephant Heaven on Earth," p. 14-15.

photo by Theo Allofs/Minden Pictures

# Wolves Under the Gun

On Friday, March 28, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) removed federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for gray wolves living in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Rockies region. Just one month earlier, the Bush administration handed down a license-to-kill rule to hunters in Wyoming and Idaho—where the majority of the region's 1,500 wolves reside.

Together, these two actions transfer wolf management to individual states and will allow the slaughter of hundreds of wolves by trapping, hunting and aerial gunning. Now classified as a trophy game mammal in parts of Wyoming and as a predator in other regions, the once-fully protected gray wolf currently shares "varmint" status with coyotes, skunks, jackrabbits and stray cats in much of the state.

Within five days of removal of federal ESA protections, at least 10 wolves were shot in Wyoming and Idaho, and several organized wolf hunts were reportedly carried out near Jackson Hole, Wy. Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has vowed to "bid for that first ticket to shoot a wolf," while Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal stated, "In terms of reducing the packs, that's always been a state objective from the outset."

Wolf populations could be reduced by as much as 80 percent in the tri-state region, from an estimated 1,500 to only 300 wolves, even though many scientists believe that assuring the future of this still-recovering species would require a population of somewhere between 2,000 and 5,000 animals.

Wolves fare no better in the Southwest, where fewer than 55 endangered Mexican gray wolves remain in the wolf recovery area of New Mexico and Arizona. While Mexican gray wolves will retain their endangered species status in the region, the FWS has authorized the removal of 70 Mexican wolves over the past decade at the behest of public lands livestock ranchers. Population numbers are further threatened by the fact that only four breeding pairs remain in the area.

After spending millions of taxpayer dollars to recover gray wolves from the brink of extinction over the last decade, the FWS appears poised to allow their systematic extermination for a second time. Wildlife advocacy organizations have filed several lawsuits challenging the US government's actions to remove federal protections for gray wolves across the country. 🐾



**Anyone can kill wolves—for any reason—across 88 percent of Wyoming.**

## ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY



# Spring 2008

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 2

## ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

- 12 Animal Dealing: A Family Tradition
- 24 Porcine Pals,  
by Jacqueline Schwartz
- 25 New Book Focuses on the Third "R"

## ANIMALS IN THE OCEANS

- 8 Heroes' Hayden Panettiere Cheers for Whales in Washington
- 10 Climate Change Devastates Seal Pup Population
- 10 Sea Turtle Goes the Distance
- 10 The Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A Deadly Landfill at Sea
- 11 Navy's Defeat is a Win for Whales and Dolphins
- 28 Illegal Killing of Gray Whale Must be Punished

## ANIMALS IN THE WILD

- 11 Judge Rules Lynx Must Be Protected
- 13 Bison Slaughter Continues at Yellowstone
- 14 An Elephant Heaven on Earth,  
by Tracy Silverman

- 16 Avian Flu Not Spread by Wild Birds
- 16 Little Penguin, Long Life

## ANIMALS ON THE FARM

- 16 "Wet" Markets Now Closed in Taiwan
- 26 Cruelty Behind Closed Doors
- 26 Shame on Ohio State University

## BEIJING OLYMPICS 2008

- 17 Beijing's Green Olympics?
- 19 Beijing's Shameful Cat Slaughter

## COMPANION ANIMALS

- 4 Hope for a Better Tomorrow: The dogs of post-war Bosnia need our help  
by Susan R. Johnson

## HUMANE EDUCATION

- 22 The Evolution of a Biology Teacher: Transforming the meaning of animals in the high school classroom  
by Tracy Basile
- 23 The Digital Frog

## INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 27 AWI's Updated Educational Brochures

## NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

- 12 Tracking Animal Cruelty

*Top Left: To supply China's market for bear bile, bears are housed in tiny cages and painfully milked of their bile every day. The substance is commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine. (photo: World Society for the Protection of Animals); Top Right: The problem of stray dogs has plagued post-war Bosnia, and a shelter in the self-governing Brčko District is serving as a model for other towns to emulate. (photo: Susan R. Johnson); Bottom Right: Hayden Panettiere poses in front of "Flo" the whale with AWI's Susan Millward and The Whaleman Foundation's Jeff Pantukhoff. (photo: www.hayden-collective.net).*







# HOPE

FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

the dogs of post-war bosnia  
need our help

The Bosnian capital city of Sarajevo and a special unit of local self-government called Brčko<sup>1</sup> District were both fought over fiercely during the Bosnian war from 1992 to 1995. During this time, the problem of stray dogs was severely aggravated because the civilian population was displaced. I know the situation in Brčko District well, having served from January 2004 to September 2006 as the US administrator for the Office of the High Representative, the civilian organization that is still overseeing implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords that followed the war.

I recently visited the country to get a firsthand reading of its stray dog crisis, as well as the immediate hardships facing BaZIL<sup>2</sup>, a special model spay and neuter, no-kill dog shelter located in Brčko. Meanwhile, there were well-founded reports of a planned round of mass-killing of dogs in Bosnia. Working to save these dogs was a mission I had to undertake. The four strays I adopted while I was there in 2004 are now in the United States, and I could not fail to do something for those who are still in Bosnia.

BY SUSAN R. JOHNSON

*Johnson is a career foreign service officer who loves animals and has been rescuing dogs and cats in many countries since the age of 12.*



All photos: Susan R. Johnson

**BaZIL can serve as an important public education and advocacy tool for the practice of spaying and neutering as the central pillar of a successful animal control policy.**



BaZIL is the heart of a long-term project to promote responsible dog ownership and government-supported spay and neuter programs as the only effective and humane way to break the cycle of dog overpopulation. It was established by ARKA, a non-governmental organization founded by Branka and Pavel Pasko, after two years of preparatory work and initial support from the Brčko local government. Dedicated to the protection of animals, ARKA also operates out of Novi Sad, Serbia, where it runs a small but wonderful sanctuary for bears.

With my encouragement and support, the Brčko District government made public land available for ARKA under a lease arrangement and several grants totaling about \$300,000 Konvertible Marks (KM)—about \$250,000 US—over a two-year period. In addition, a small number of local private businesses donated about \$25,000 KM for the construction of housing using the communal Dedication & Everlasting Love to Animals (DELTA) system.

ARKA then began work in Brčko in 2005 with a door-to-door survey of about 2,500 households with pets, implanting microchips in dogs and registering and establishing a database of all “owned” animals, plus informing people about responsible ownership. It posted billboards advocating these practices and also completed the first humane collection of 100 stray dogs in Brčko in early 2007—then local government support wavered and stalled.

When funding ended, so did the public education campaign, the collection of dogs, and the spaying and neutering. This development was apparently at least partly the result of a small-but-vocal campaign against ARKA’s

*Stray dogs are common in many areas of Bosnia.*



*One of only two full-time staff persons, Blagoja Maksimovic cares for a dog at BaZIL.*

spay and neuter, no-kill shelter project, aiming for a return to old methods of controlling the stray dog population via the periodic shooting of dogs for bounty payments, or collecting and killing them through a variety of cruel means. Sadly, on March 19, the Brčko Assembly approved a proposal to return to the old inhumane policy of “catch and kill.”

The BaZIL shelter, however, remains open. The facility is located on public land leased to ARKA for 10 years, on the site of the former McGovern Base that housed US National Guard soldiers immediately after the Bosnian war, as part of the international commitment to oversee full implementation of the Dayton Accords.

BaZIL is surrounded by a high-quality fence and consists of 16 completed DELTA shelters and six partially finished shelters, each enclosed by its own fence. Three layers of







fencing allow the shelter itself to be remarkably open. Dogs are not chained and have plenty of space and fresh air. The shelter’s current capacity is about 100 dogs, but plans allow for expansion to hold 300.

When dogs arrive at the facility, they are spayed or neutered, evaluated for compatibility and grouped into DELTA dog houses, then fed and cared for by two full-time staff employees. Adoptions are running at about 10 percent of the total dog population in the shelter and could be higher with proper media coverage. Just by existing, this model shelter demonstrates what can be achieved in the area.

Now, BaZIL must turn crisis into opportunity. It is working to stay open and to feed the dogs. It faces obstacles in the form of a local government that lacks understanding of the basic cause of the stray dog problem, and of the need for an effective and humane program to control reproduction and promote responsible dog ownership. Spay and neuter is not part of the cultural framework, although thoughtful citizens are quick to grasp the need for it.

With the continued operation of BaZIL at stake due to Bosnia’s current political climate, completion of the physical infrastructure of the shelter has been suspended. The immediate priority is to use the shelter, with its environmental and dog-friendly DELTA houses, as a platform for a more effective public education campaign to promote spaying and

neutering as the most important element of a sustainable and humane animal control program.

The future is uncertain for now. This is an election year for Brčko District and other municipalities in Bosnia. On March 13, a new dog control proposal was put on the agenda of the local assembly. Little information was publicly available about its authorship, though it proposes the “catching, keeping for 30 days and killing” of dogs who are not claimed by their owners. It seems to call for construction of a city pound, but no details are provided about the specifications. Many practical details are not addressed. Those familiar with the situation in Brčko foresee a brutal mess in the coming months, whether or not the proposal is adopted.

With the right help, little Brčko can implement a spay and neuter policy, with all that this implies, and can maintain no-kill shelters, as well as fund a public education campaign. This would be easiest to achieve if Sarajevo also adopted spay and neuter and no kill policies, but Brčko can take the lead either way. Its small size makes problems endemic to Bosnia less difficult to resolve. While other non-fiscally self-sustaining municipalities may need altered approaches, Brčko is a multiethnic microcosm of Bosnia that can set an example for innovative solutions.

On this trip, I also met with people in Sarajevo who are directly involved in animal protection efforts. Several Americans assigned to the US Embassy have adopted local strays and fostered dogs waiting for their turn to be taken out on the “underground railway” to Austria and Germany. This railway is the initiative of a group of local and international dedicated defenders of Bosnian dogs who live in Sarajevo and



organize these convoys. These good souls have saved hundreds of dogs from being killed by finding them homes outside Bosnia, mostly in the aforementioned countries.

This active group of individuals in Sarajevo is doing heroic work, but so far, it has not influenced public policy. The Sarajevo dog shelter has been struggling. While it is slowly improving with some international support, it is not able to accommodate more than a small fraction of the stray dog population.

According to local activists, the Sarajevo Cantonal Government 2008 budget includes \$850,000 KM, about \$750,000 US, for the stray dog line item. Unfortunately, unless things change, this money is more likely to be spent on killing dogs than on anything else. Owned dogs and strays will continue to reproduce, and the cycle will continue.

So what else can be done? The dogs and the people of Bosnia need reinforced support, new energy, and more voices dedicated to this cause, including groups with a background in establishing successful no-kill communities. Bosnian animal activists need help to organize for more effective advocacy to reject the entrenched approach of catching and killing dogs on a mass scale. They need partnership with international organizations for better credibility and access to the media.

We can launch a counter campaign that calls for spaying and neutering as the way to manage dog populations. BaZIL’s spay and neuter, no-kill model shelter, preceded by its door-to-door survey of dog owners in the town—as well as both the positive and negative publicity surrounding Brčko’s stray dogs—has put the issue before the public, front and center.



*Dogs receive wonderful care at BaZIL.*

An innovative and humane shelter representing a huge investment of time, effort and money is an asset not to be wasted. BaZIL can serve as an important public education and advocacy tool for the practice of spaying and neutering as the central pillar of a successful animal control policy.

To survive until next year after the elections and carry out a spay and neuter campaign in the meantime, however, the shelter needs private monetary and political support. If you are able to help, financial donations can be made to the BaZIL Model Shelter Project, care of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), and will be matched by AWI. If you would like to contribute to this effort in some other way, please contact me, Susan Johnson, at [srj4dgs@yahoo.com](mailto:srj4dgs@yahoo.com), or write ARKA at [ARKA@EUnet.yu](mailto:ARKA@EUnet.yu). 🐾



1



2



3



4



5

*The DELTA housing system was developed by Leo Grillo, owner of a large animal rescue organization in California. Constructed of straw bales over a plywood dog house (1), the entire structure is covered with chicken wire and concrete (2, 3). These relatively low-cost shelters are durable, easy to build, and friendly to the environment and the dogs who inhabit them—providing animals comfort with shade in the summer and warmth in winter (4,5).*



# HEROES'

## Hayden Panettiere Cheers for Whales in Washington



Addressing a crowd at Washington D.C.'s Dupont Circle, Hayden Panettiere speaks about her passion to save the whales and other marine animals.

As regular *AWI Quarterly* readers know, AWI joined forces with The Whaleman Foundation last year to launch the Save the Whales Again! campaign. This January, campaign spokesperson Hayden Panettiere, who plays the role of cheerleader Claire Bennet on the NBC hit series “Heroes,” visited Washington, D.C. to promote our efforts against a resumption of commercial whaling and to raise the issue with Congressional leaders.

Hayden’s visit kicked off with a lively Sunday afternoon rally at Dupont Circle, where she spoke about her passion for whales and her attendance at the 2007 International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, as well as her trip to Taiji, Japan last fall in protest of dolphin drive hunts. AWI’s Susan Millward and The Whaleman Foundation founder Jeff Pantukhoff also spoke at the event, chiding the U.S. government for its weakening resolve to protect the commercial whaling moratorium. Later that afternoon, the trio addressed a crowd of students at Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall.

The remainder of Hayden’s visit focused on international relations and politics, including meetings with representatives from the embassies of Japan, Iceland and Norway—the three IWC member nations that continue to whale commercially. Iceland Ambassador Albert Jonsson told us his country had ended its scientific whaling program, with no plans of resumption. We attribute this development in part to the country’s change in government and thanked the Ambassador for his candor—though we acknowledged the strong will of the Icelandic whalers to resume commercial whale hunting.

Our meeting with Japan was equally cordial, and while there was no hint at a change in policy, it ended with the Minister being willing to receive more information about the fact that cetacean meat is often contaminated with heavy metals and other persistent pollutants. However, the meeting with Mr. Petter Meier, Norwegian representative of the Fisheries Ministry, was far less amicable. Meier was not open to any discussion of the issue, and at one point, he even suggested that Hayden try whale meat.

The next day held meetings with key Congressional offices to discuss the US position on whaling. Senator Barbara



**“Whales face increasing threats from climate change, ship strikes, entanglement in nets, and chemical and noise pollution, yet Japan, Norway and Iceland continue to kill them in increasing numbers. We must do everything we can to end to whaling once and for all.”**

Boxer (D-CA) voiced her support for the Save the Whales Again! campaign, and Senator John Kerry (D-MA), House Natural Resources Committee Chair Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Representative Christopher Shays (R-CT) joined Hayden, Susan and Jeff at a press conference in Representative Rahall’s chambers. The speakers encouraged the administration to maintain and reinforce the whaling moratorium at upcoming IWC meetings; to fight for the closure of IWC loopholes; and to hold firm against any compromises.

Hayden’s visit ended with an evening reception hosted by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), providing an opportunity for legislators, Hill staff and a small group of reporters to speak individually with campaign members about their work. With a successful trip to the nation’s capital under her belt, Hayden will next turn her attention to this summer’s IWC meeting. The Save the Whales Again! campaign’s momentum can only grow exponentially with the help of this cheerleader’s energy and international fame, both of which show no signs of slowing down.🐋

### No Compromises

With the IWC reaching an almost 50-50 split between conservation-minded and pro-whaling members, some delegates say the body is unworkable and needs fixing. One suggested “fix” is to allow Japanese whalers some measure of commercial whaling. Sadly, due to pressure from the pro-whaling bloc, the recruitment of new member countries to vote in line with these nations, and the weariness displayed by once-stalwart conservationist members (such as the United States), there is increasing support in the IWC to give the whalers something as a compromise.

What these proponents, including the IWC Chair and US Commissioner

William Hogarth, do not realize, however, is that this compromise will be disastrous for the whales. Allowing for a resumption of some measure of commercial whaling will result in yet more whales being killed. The existing loopholes in the whaling convention will continue to be exploited, and there is no mechanism in place for effective enforcement. Any lifting of the moratorium will also allow other members to legally engage in commercial whaling, and the path would open for a resumption of international trade in great whale products. Additionally, the coastal species that the Japanese whalers want to target are vulnerable to



**After many of the great whale species became depleted, whalers began targeting the smaller and more abundant minke whales.**

contamination from pollutants and are interspersed with visually identical but actually distinct whales who are highly endangered. Of course, the overriding reason against a resumption of commercial whaling is its inherent cruelty that cannot be avoided.🐋



## SEA TURTLE GOES THE DISTANCE

A leatherback sea turtle tracked by satellite tagging was reported to have traveled from Jamursba-Medi, Indonesia to the coast of Oregon—a total of 12,774 miles—over the course of 647 days. National Marine Fisheries Service scientists report that the leatherback’s journey is the longest ever to have been recorded for any ocean-going vertebrate, according to an article in *The State of the World’s Sea Turtles* magazine, launched by Conservation International and the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. 🐢

## Climate Change Devastates Seal Pup Population

The Baltic Sea has experienced its warmest winter since records began to be kept in 1720, and approximately 500 baby ring seals living north of Germany have died as a result. Ring seals, which are listed as endangered by the World Conservation Union, normally give birth on sea ice and care for their pups for about 40 days.

Because ice floes are melting more quickly, the pups are leaving the birthing lairs and entering the water before they are ready. Unprepared to take care of themselves and without enough blubber to stay warm, the animals often starve and die. Additionally, the lack of ice floes has caused mother seals to move to the mainland to give birth. On land, the baby seals are vulnerable to predators.

The species’ once-strong population of 180,000 animals in 1900 was dramatically reduced over the 20th century due to hunting and pollution. However, prior to encountering difficulties this winter, its numbers of 7,000 to 10,000 animals were growing steadily, with the hope of recovery. 🐾



Tui De Roy/Minden Pictures

Ring seal pups in the Baltic Sea are dying at a troubling rate.

## JUDGE RULES LYNX MUST BE PROTECTED

In a precedent-setting decision, the U.S. District Court for Minnesota found the state to be in violation of the Endangered Species Act for authorizing trapping and snaring within the range of the Canada lynx. The case, brought forth by the Animal Protection Institute and the Center for Biological Diversity, demonstrated that trappers injured or killed at least 13 of these animals between 2002 and 2005.

AWI Wildlife Consultant Camilla Fox served as an expert witness for the plaintiffs. She showed in her report that lynx suffered injuries and/or death in all trap types, including leghold traps, neck snares and Conibear kill-traps, and that lynx kittens were sometimes orphaned as a result of their mothers being trapped.

“Given the fact that 13 takings have been reported since 2002, and that the DNR has not taken substantial steps to further protect lynx from takings, the court finds it likely that additional takings may occur unless further regulations are implemented,” U.S. District Judge Michael J. Davis wrote in a 20-page order requiring the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to “promptly take all action necessary to [ensure] no further taking of threatened Canada lynx.” 🐾



www.FurBearingDefenders.com

Trapping regulations in Minnesota must change to better protect the Canada Lynx, a threatened species.



AP Images

In 2004, 150 to 200 melon-headed whales live-stranded during Navy exercises using active sonar in Hawaiian waters, milling in a huddle because of the noise. A calf died.

## Navy’s Defeat is a Win for Whales and Dolphins

In May 2007, AWI and four other plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the US Navy over its plan to undertake 12 undersea warfare exercises using mid-frequency active (MFA) sonar in Hawaiian waters. The suit sought to require the Navy to adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), as well as the National Marine Fisheries Service as regulatory authority to comply with the Endangered Species Act.

The Navy offered to partially rectify the cause of two of the charges by allowing for public comment on its exercises under NEPA and consulting with the local state planning authorities as part of the CZMA requirements. After the suit was filed, the Navy also reduced the number of its exercises to one in November 2007, conducted with restrictions, and gave notification of another planned for March 2008.

After several preliminary hearings, our case for injunctive relief over the March exercise was heard by Federal Judge David A. Ezra on February 11, and a final order granting our motion for preliminary injunctive relief in part was issued on February 29. In the order, the judge allowed the Navy to conduct the March exercise, but imposed significant restrictions. He said the evidence presented by AWI and fellow co-plaintiffs was both “compelling” and “convincing.”

Judge Ezra also stated, “[T]here is little disagreement that MFA sonar can cause injury, death, and behavioral alteration to these animals.” Further, he ruled that the Navy’s reliance on a noise level of 173 decibels, below which it claims harm to animals from its sonar will not occur, was “arbitrary and capricious.” 🐾

## The Great Pacific Garbage Patch: A Deadly Landfill at Sea

A plastic refuse twice the size of the continental United States, nicknamed “Plastic Soup” by scientists, is floating in the Northern Pacific Ocean. The polluted expanse was formed when two areas on either side of Hawaii—the Western and Eastern Pacific Garbage Patches—merged to form the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The mass was discovered 11 years ago by US oceanographer Charles Moore as he traveled by boat through the “North Pacific gyre” on his way between Hawaii and Los Angeles.

Inside territory normally avoided due to strong high pressure systems and a lack of wind, Moore uncovered an approximate 100 million tons of debris stretching from about 500 miles off the coast of California nearly all the way to Japan. A committed environmentalist today, he believes this patch could double in size over the next decade if people do not cut back on their use of disposable plastics.

University of Hawaii professor David Karl now wants to see the mass on an expedition to be held later this year. The “soup” can only be seen by traveling through it, he says, because the plastic is translucent and lies just under the ocean surface, making it undetectable by satellite photography. However, the threat to marine animals living in these waters is unavoidable.

An example of the lethal hazard posed by plastics in the ocean is the case of a young female minke whale who washed up from the English Channel in 2002 and was found to have swallowed almost two lbs. of plastic bags. Scientists discovered that she starved to death, with nothing besides the bags in her stomach. Plastic can cause serious damage and death by impeding the digestive tracts of whales and other marine animals, making them feel full and preventing them from eating. 🐾



# Animal Dealing: A Family Tradition

Brothers Danny and Johnny Schachtele began dealing in dogs and cats in 1987. Later, Johnny left the business and was replaced by Danny's wife, Mildred. Twenty years later, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) caught up with the Schachteles, and last December, the operation was finally forced to close its doors. The Schachteles had incurred repeated instances of apparent non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), dating back to the early days of their business.

The complaint lodged against the Schachteles by the USDA lays out 58 separate dates between November 2001 and October 2004 when Mildred and Danny allegedly committed AWA violations. These include failing to provide adequate and safe housing for dogs and cats and failing to hold animals for the minimum period of time before selling them.

The Schachteles were also charged with failing to maintain records that fully and correctly disclosed the identities and other required information of the persons from whom dogs were acquired on 51 separate occasions, including one incident that pertained to 43 dogs. Further, they were charged with failing to provide certifications that contained the complete addresses of the persons from whom dogs were acquired on seven separate occasions, including one that pertained to 195 dogs.

Danny Schachtele died prior to the resolution of the case. Shortly before the hearing, Mildred Schachtele agreed to the revocation of her dealer's license and a \$107,250.00 fine to avoid having to go to trial. However, \$100,000.00 of the fine was suspended.

Now we have learned that there are new random source dog and cat dealers in Missouri—Mildred and Danny's son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Becky. In fact, Tony even helped his



mother close down her business before stepping up to fill the void.

The USDA does not have the tools to stop this trade, but the US Congress does. When the Pet Safety and Protection Act is adopted, procurement of animals via this cottage industry will finally end. The measure has been attached to both House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill. If conferees stand firm for the protection of pets and integrity in the supply of research animals, the language will remain in the final version of the bill, and the door will at long last close on a shameful legacy. 🐾

## TRACKING ANIMAL CRUELTY

Animal cruelty is a serious crime against society, and the Tracking Animal Cruelty Crimes Act (S. 2439) aims to give it the recognition it deserves. Introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the bill would require the US Attorney General to modify Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime reporting programs to designate "cruelty to animals" as its own separate reporting classification.

The FBI uses crime reporting programs to track the incidence and patterns of offenses nationwide, allowing law enforcement agencies to better target their resources and to implement more successful prevention and prosecution. Because there is currently no specific category for animal cruelty, police and prosecutors lack the valuable information that they have for many other types of crime.

Improved information about animal cruelty crimes would lead to a better understanding of—and more effective responses to—both animal abuse and other offenses, as there is a recognized link between animal abuse and other forms of violence. The FBI was actually one of the first to establish this connection. Passage of S. 2439 would make it possible to track trends at the state and national level and determine the demographic characteristics and other factors associated with animal abuse.

Though cruelty to animals is a crime in all 50 states, with certain acts categorized as felonies in 43 states and the District of Columbia, this bill would foster better investigative and prosecutorial resources for the problem at both state and federal levels. S. 2439 would yield significant benefits for efforts to prevent and intervene in the cycle of violence that victimizes so many animals and people. 🐾

# Bison Slaughter Continues at Yellowstone

Since fall of 2007, a total of more than 1,500 Yellowstone National Park bison have been killed while emigrating near or beyond park boundaries—almost all of them over a period of only eight weeks. These animals are the most recent victims of a controversial management plan implemented in 2000 that has since caused the deaths of over 3,500 bison. Officials claim the bison must be killed to prevent the transmission of the disease brucellosis to cattle, even though there has never been a confirmed case of transmission from bison to cattle under natural conditions.

The majority of bison killed this winter were captured by the National Park Service (NPS) inside the park's northern boundary, in an effort to prevent them from accessing lands owned by the Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT). CUT received \$13 million in tax dollars in 1999 as part of a land deal to remove cattle, while providing park wildlife, including bison, increased access to its lands. However, cattle still graze on church lands and bison continue to be killed. Now, under a new controversial deal, CUT may be given additional millions of dollars to remove cattle and allow a small number of bison to traverse its land in fenced corridors to access public lands while in the crosshairs of hunters.

Meanwhile, population numbers are plummeting. This year's cull has already removed more than a third of Yellowstone's bison. Hoping for immediate action, AWI has joined with several animal protection, conservation and tribal



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please write or call the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park to encourage the responsible, humane management of bison. Tell her that the NPS has a mandate to protect bison, and that it must withdraw from the current bison management plan and work with other agencies to provide bison access to protected habitat outside of Yellowstone.

### Contact:

Ms. Suzanne Lewis, Superintendent  
Yellowstone National Park  
P.O. Box 167, Mammoth, WY 82190  
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*Due to an unjustified fear of disease transmission, over 1,500 bison have been killed outside Yellowstone this year.*

organizations to demand that the NPS and the state of Montana stop the killing—and instead permanently protect enough bison to ensure the genetic health of their populations in the park. On April 10, we submitted an emergency rulemaking petition to the Department of the Interior asking that federal officials halt the slaughter of the migrating bison. In a separate action, Buffalo Field Campaign and other groups asked Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer and state and federal agency officials to discontinue bison captures on Horse Butte, an area west of the park.

In early April, the Government Accountability Office issued a report strongly criticizing the current bison management plan. Though the plan was enacted eight years ago with the intent of increasing tolerance for bison outside the park, it is currently stalled. House Natural Resources Chair Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) have criticized the bison plan as "plagued by deficiencies" and "severely limited" in its ability to protect these animals. 🐾



# AN ELEPHANT HEAVEN ON EARTH

Approximately 35 miles from northern Thailand's city of Chiang Mai, in a lush green valley surrounded by steep mountains, is a magical place called the Elephant Nature Park. Established in 1995 by Sangduen "Lek" Cailert, the park is a sanctuary for abused, neglected, and orphaned elephants from all over Thailand. When I first arrived there, I was overwhelmed with feelings of peace and hope that remained with me throughout my stay.

The soulful eyes of an elephant can tell many life stories. Unfortunately, for the Asian elephants of Thailand, these tales often contain a great deal of pain and misery. Whether it be Mae Dta Keow, once a logging and trekking elephant who was repeatedly chained, deprived of food and water and severely beaten to be made more submissive; Boon Khum,



the former working elephant who almost died from an infection left in the holes where his tusks had been removed with a chainsaw; or Jokia, who was blinded after her *mahout* (elephant handler) shot rocks at one of her eyes with a sling shot and her owner shot the other with a bow and arrow to get her to work harder, each elephant has a heartbreaking past.

Fortunately, however, Mae Dta Keow, Boon Khum, Jokia and others like them have been given a chance to live freely without fear of further neglect and abuse in the park's natural, tranquil environment. More than 30 elephants inhabit the sanctuary, ranging in all ages, from babies to elders. Most were rescued after having been purchased from private owners.

In Thailand, some individuals use elephants to beg for money on the hot, busy, and polluted city streets of Bangkok and Chiang Mai, causing the animals stress, dehydration and malnourishment. Others use elephants in trekking camps, where they are forced to carry people on their backs through dense jungles, paint pictures with their trunks, and perform circus-like tricks in shows. What tourists visiting such trekking camps do not know, however, is that they are paying to interact with elephants who were previously placed in wooden "crushing boxes," in which they are immobilized, beaten with sticks, and gouged with sharp nails for days on end in an effort to break their spirit and make them submissive to their mahouts. This ritualistic process known as the *pajaan* is just the beginning of what typically becomes a lifetime of suffering for these animals.

Due to many factors, including poaching and habitat reduction caused by Asia's fast-growing population, the number of elephants in Thailand has decreased dramatically from 100,000 a century ago to an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 today. Sanctuary owner Lek Cailert has dedicated her life to their plight. Her passion for these animals began at an early age, when she spent many hours with Tongkum, an elephant

who was kept by her grandfather. Lek saw Tongkum as a member of the family, just as she sees all the elephants at the Elephant Nature Park today.

To rehabilitate the elephants at the park and create strong bonds with them, Lek showers the elephants with love, kindness and compassion. Positive reinforcement is the only teaching and training method she and her staff use with the animals—there are no bull hooks or other instruments of torture at the park. The only tools that can be found are the staff's hands and voices, plus the occasional treat, such as a piece of coconut or bread.

The work that Lek and her staff have done to rehabilitate some of the neglected and abused elephants of Thailand is truly awe-inspiring. Watching these majestic creatures interact so gently and in such a trusting way with humans gave me hope, not only for the rest of the working elephants in Thailand, but also for the

performing circus elephants in the United States who regularly fall victim to human cruelty as they are beaten with bull hooks and chained for prolonged periods of time.

In the coming months, as we enter the final stages of preparation before going to trial against Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus for cruel treatment of elephants under the Endangered Species Act, I will think about the elephant heaven on earth that I visited in Asia and be reminded of how critical it is for us to prevail in our case. Hopefully one day soon, the Ringling elephants can be spared additional suffering and live in a place like this, too. 🐘

—story and photos by Tracy Silverman

**Photos, counter-clockwise from top: Tracy Silverman offers corn to an elephant during feeding time. The herd roams freely on the grounds of the Elephant Nature Park. Elephants congregate at the viewing platform before feeding time.**



**Photos, clockwise from top left: Lek shares a playful moment with one of her rescued elephants. A trio plays together in the water and mud after being bathed in the river. Two baby elephants interact with an older member of the herd. An elephant stands proudly among the herd at the sanctuary.**



## AVIAN FLU NOT SPREAD BY WILD BIRDS

Dr. Scott Newman, international wildlife coordinator for avian influenza within the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has confirmed there is no substantiation that wild birds are culpable for the spread of the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus from Asia to Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Speaking earlier this year at the Bangkok International Conference on Avian Influenza, he also said there is no evidence that wild birds are a reservoir for the virus, as many scientists first suspected. Carriage of H5N1 across large scale spatial distances, spreading to other birds and causing mortality in poultry flocks, has not been identified, Dr. Newman told the media. He also emphasized the need to direct attention to other factors, such as the poultry trade, and he recognized smuggling in particular, which may be spreading and sustaining the often-fatal disease. 🐾

### “Wet” Markets Now Closed in Taiwan

As of April, Taiwan’s cruel “wet” markets, at which live poultry are sold and slaughtered, are no longer legal. Horrific conditions typical at these markets were documented and exposed through a campaign by the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the Environment and Animal Society of Taiwan. Stacked in cages on top of each other, animals often struggled to move with broken wings and legs, and many were thrown into scalding tanks to be de-feathered alive. The ban will also help prevent the spread of avian flu. 🐾



Little penguins await pool rehabilitation after the 1995 Iron Baron oil spill off the coast of Tasmania.

## Little Penguin, Long Life

On July 10, 1995, a ship named the Iron Baron grounded on Tasmania’s Hebe Reef at the entrance to the nearby Tamar River, spilling 600,000 lbs. of fuel oil into the sea. Though many thousands of animals died as a result, including 10,000 to 20,000 penguins, a large wildlife rehabilitation program established close to the site was instrumental in saving many of the impacted species. One survivor, a Little penguin, was successfully rehabilitated and lived until this year—surviving more than twice as long as the typical 6.5 year life expectancy for the species. According to a band fitted to the penguin at the center, the animal was brought in as an adult, weighing 1.7 lbs., and released about two weeks later at 2.1 lbs. He continued to live in the area for over 12 years, and his body was found less than five miles from where he was released.

“It is an incredibly valuable record to get as it highlights that the massive wildlife rehabilitation efforts that are put in after oil spills can certainly be effective in reducing the impacts of a spill,” said Rehabilitation Manager Mark Holdsworth, noting that over 100 volunteers assisted the efforts to clean, feed and house approximately 2,000 Little penguins taken in after the spill. Unless seabirds are treated immediately, even small amounts of oil on their plumage can be lethal, as it may cause drowning, hypothermia or acute toxicity, explained Dr. Rosemary Gales, head of wildlife and marine conservation at the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water. 🐾

All illustrations: [www.istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com)

IN JUST A FEW MONTHS, Beijing, China will host the 2008 Olympic Games. Spectators will see thrilling victories and agonizing defeats, as well as plenty of hype about the “green” Olympics. While images of adorable pandas and stories of China’s efforts to conserve the species will be plentiful, the country’s abysmal treatment of animals and the environment will continue to go unreported.



From the capturing, organ harvesting and killing of those who follow the ancient meditation practice of Falun Gong to China’s occupation of Tibet, news of the country’s human rights violations are receiving needed attention as the games approach. However, there is still a lack of news coverage concerning China’s mistreatment of animals.

To raise awareness, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) has exposed some of the country’s cruelest animal industries in the past several issues of the *AWI Quarterly*. Both human and non-human animals are suffering due to the Chinese government’s actions. However, the lifelong confinement of bears in tiny cages, where they are milked of their bile daily for its use in traditional medicines, will

not be shown on television. Nor will audiences witness captive tigers unskillfully tormenting and killing live prey to the delight of onlookers at massive tiger breeding farms run by Chinese entrepreneurs.

China is a large country with a unique, vibrant culture. With a booming economy and a productive population, it is emerging as one of the world’s most powerful nations. Yet, with such power comes a responsibility to promulgate laws that protect basic human rights, promote sustainability, and ensure the humane treatment of all animals.

In the final installment of our series leading up to this summer’s games, we will focus on the reality behind China’s push to make Beijing the site of the first “green” Olympics.



In preparation for the games, alternative energy sources such as **SOLAR POWER, GEOTHERMAL** and **HEAT PUMP TECHNOLOGIES** have been extensively used for the lighting and heating of stadiums and common areas.

What does it mean to be “green?” Ask 100 people and you’ll probably get 100 different answers. For some, recycling the morning paper and installing energy efficient light bulbs is sufficient. For others, being green means going all the way—adopting a lifestyle that reduces one’s environmental footprint on the planet. For China, promoting a green Olympics was key to the selection of Beijing as the host city for the 2008 Olympic Games. Fortunately, that decision was made in July 2001, giving Beijing seven years to implement its green Olympic plan. However, with only a few months until the opening ceremonies, the plan is not yet complete.

According to an October 2007 report from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Beijing has made “significant strides” to improve its environmental record. With over \$12 billion US invested, upgrades have been made to Beijing’s waste management and water treatment systems and its transportation system. The city has also accelerated the phase out period for ozone depleting chemicals and installed energy efficient appliances at buildings and sports venues.

In preparation for the games, alternative energy sources such as solar power, geothermal and heat pump technologies have been extensively used for the lighting and heating of stadiums and common areas. Reclaimed sewage water will be used for heating and cooling systems to save electricity, while rainwater harvesting and intelligent irrigation systems will help save water.

UNEP reports that up to 430 natural gas-powered buses have been added to the Olympic fleet, and Olympic organizers claim to have purchased 2,810 new “environment-friendly buses,” including 900 diesel-powered, 250 natural gas-powered, and 50 lithium battery-powered vehicles. New bus and rail lines have expanded the capacity of Beijing’s public transportation system to 19 million passengers per day, but at present, less than half of that capacity is used.

Extensive use of a wood and recycled plastic composite has been made for decorative facades, floors and picnic tables to reduce demand for timber. At Olympic venues, organizers have set a goal of recycling 50 percent of the waste (paper, metals and plastics). For landscaping, drought resistant and indigenous species have been planted around the various Olympic stadiums



All photos: www.iStockphoto.com



and other buildings; a large Olympic Forest Park containing landscaped hills and water features serves as the “green lung” for the Olympic Village and surrounding boroughs.

Despite this progress, there is much more to be done. Air quality, which is of great concern to the athletes, is better, but still poor. The closing, retrofitting, and/or relocation of highly polluting factories away from the city has reduced some key pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide, but with over a thousand new vehicles registered daily in Beijing, and with coal remaining a key form of energy, some pollutants continue to exceed World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines.

In fact, air quality concerns have prompted world record holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia to forgo competing in the Olympic marathon to avoid putting his health at risk. Other countries have elected to establish athlete accommodations in Japan or Korea to allow their athletes to prepare for the events without being exposed to such pollutants. The International Olympic Committee is also prepared to postpone certain endurance events, if necessary, due to air pollution concerns.

AIR QUALITY CONCERNS have prompted world record holder Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia to forgo competing in the Olympic marathon to prevent putting his health at risk.

## BEIJING’S SHAMEFUL CAT SLAUGHTER

While China has made some measure of progress on the environmental front in Beijing, animal welfare issues have not been addressed. Only a year after the country’s controversial slaughter of many thousands of dogs in response to a concern over rabies, the United Kingdom’s *Daily Mail* reported in March that cats are being rounded up in Beijing due to supposed disease concerns.

China’s leaders believe cats pose a serious urban health risk and may have contributed to the 2003 outbreak of the lethal respiratory virus SARS. Notices have been posted throughout the city urging residents to give up their cats. In response, cats are being dumped on the streets, where they are captured by special collection teams, stuffed into tiny wire cages, and carted off to holding facilities. Since July 2007, tens of thousands of the city’s estimated 500,000 cats have reportedly been collected.

Though officials claim people can adopt cats from 12 facilities in the city, few can access these sites. Even when cats are rescued, they are so sick that most die. According to activists working to save the cats, the government will not give sick cats lethal injections, despite the rapid spread of disease in the facilities. Instead, they wait for the animals to die slowly in agony and distress.

If the cats do not die from disease, they may be killed for food. Despite the government’s claim that cats pose a health risk, there has been a surge in the number of Beijing restaurants serving cat meat. Cats are also being shipped to the town of Guangzhou in southern China, which is infamous for restaurants serving cats, dogs, and other exotic animals. 🐾





Rampant development pressures, POLLUTION and HUNTING are devastating plant and animal populations and their habitats.

Meanwhile, critics have questioned the overall impact of relocating some factories, the proposed shutdown of other factories, and the prohibition on the operation of a sizable number of the city's private vehicles during the games, saying these acts amount to little more than window dressing on a

serious environmental problem. Given the city's geographical location surrounded on three sides by mountains, the presence of highly polluting factories in surrounding areas and the vagaries

of prevailing winds, air quality may remain at unhealthy levels during the games.

To suggest that Beijing's efforts to make the Olympics green have failed would be wrong. Progress in cleaning up Beijing has been made, and considering the starting point, in some cases, progress has been substantial. Beijing has long been ranked as one of the most polluted cities in the world. Its successful Olympic bid has helped Beijing immensely, with urban sewage treatment doubling since 2001, the use of natural gas jumping nearly 40 percent through the conversion of dirty

coal-fired furnaces and boilers, and the planting of millions of trees.

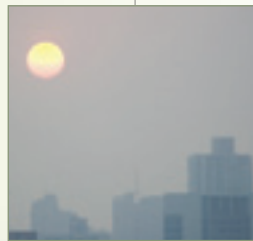
Unfortunately, this progress has been offset by a boom in urban construction, including new office buildings and apartments, mostly unrelated to the Olympics. The resulting skyline may be impressive, but it requires significant energy and produces enormous amounts of pollution.

According to *The New York Times*—which compared the city to an athlete trying to get into shape by walking on a treadmill while eating double cheeseburgers—Beijing's goal of reducing coal consumption has not been met, as coal use peaked in 2006. Moreover, with over 3 million vehicles using Beijing's roads and another 400,000 new cars and trucks being added each year, traffic jams

and vehicle pollution have worsened.

With sulfur and nitrogen dioxide levels reduced, the number of "Blue Sky" days in Beijing have increased from 100 in 1998 to 244 in 2007. Still, all is not well.

A Blue Sky day may signify an improvement in air quality, but particulate matter (soot, dust, dirt, smoke) attributable to construction, industry and cars is still highly present and has risen in recent years.



Beijing's environmental problems are a microcosm of the problems ubiquitous throughout

China. As a consequence of past political decisions, China's environmental health continues to be sacrificed to promote economic growth. Polluted rivers and lakes, dropping underground water tables, expanding deserts, the massive release of untreated industrial and residential effluents, choking smog, inadequate laws, political corruption, and lax enforcement have all contributed to this environmental catastrophe. Though China has embarked on a massive tree planting exercise that has reversed its forest loss, its insatiable demand for imported wood is decimating forests in many Asian and African countries. Moreover, the Chinese government has not addressed its other environmental crises that have significantly harmed animals, people and the environment.

Rampant development pressures, pollution and hunting are devastating plant and animal populations and their habitats. Scientists have stated that almost 40 percent of all mammal species, 70 percent of non-flowering plants, and 86 percent of flowering plants in China are endangered. Conservationists face an uphill battle, as they must convince the government that

protecting wildlife is important, as well as counter the common mentality that animals are merely commodities.

It is clear that Olympic organizers have gone to great lengths to "go green." Given China's environmental record, will these improvements spark the start of a countrywide push to become more eco-friendly, or will they be forgotten after the world leaves Beijing? Only time will tell. 🐾

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If you plan to travel to Beijing for the Olympics, there are several things you should keep in mind. In restaurants, you may encounter turtle soup, a dish that is contributing to the decimation of wild turtles in Asia and even the United States. The soup could be made from a turtle captured in a Texas pond, a Florida swamp or a Georgia lake—states that have imposed or are considering restrictions on turtle captures due to the significant export of live turtles to China.

Shark fin soup and fish dinners made from imperiled species such as wild grouper, snapper and humphead wrasse may also be found at restaurants in Beijing. In some areas, cats, dogs and exotic animals may be served.

When shopping, please avoid all products made with fur, including fur trim and products labeled as faux fur. China's fur farms are notorious for their cruelty to furbearing animals; animals live in small, cramped cages, only to be pulled out and smashed to the ground. This cruel alternative to stunning may not be successful, in which case the animals are skinned alive.

One may also find carved ivory made from the tusks of elephants killed illegally to satisfy an increasing demand for ivory trinkets and other products. China's demand for wildlife products, including ivory, contributes to the slaughter of at least 23,000 African elephants each year.

If you witness animal abuse on your trip, try to document it, and contact the local authorities in Beijing as soon as possible. Please also report the abuse to AWI.



# The Evolution of a Biology Teacher

## Transforming the meaning of animals in the high school classroom

by TRACY BASILE, adjunct professor at Pace University

Bonnie Berenger used to fill her classroom with live animals: an iguana, a chameleon, gerbils, mice, even a rat saved from becoming a snake's dinner at a local pet store. Students often brought her their cast-offs. She cared for them all, transporting the animals back and forth to her home on weekends, holidays and vacations, and weaving them into as many lesson plans as possible. In addition to her post as biology teacher at Hunterdon Central High School in Flemington, N.J., Berenger volunteered to be the advisor to the school's environmental club.

When it came time to lead laboratory class dissections of frogs or fetal pigs, however, she quickly reached a point of saturation. "I saw many unethical practices occurring in other science classrooms, and morally, I just couldn't do it anymore," says Berenger, who notes that she observed students violating animals with scalpels and dissecting probes. A growing number of students expressed to her that they were bothered and discouraged by the process, too. This compelled her to find out how other students felt, and the more teenagers she spoke to, the more obvious it became that Hunterdon High needed a non-dissection biology course.

So, in 2000, Berenger and a colleague designed one. They used a virtual CD program, movies, human plastic models that students can take apart and manipulate, and interactive labs in which students test human functions, such as heart rates. After a few months, they won the support of their supervisor. Moreover, the course quickly



**Bonnie Berenger (shown above with daughters Eden Brook and Dakota Brynn and her sister's dog, Maceo) brought non-dissection biology classes to her high school in New Jersey.**

became more popular than the traditional biology course at Hunterdon High, and has earned the reputation that, "if you take non-dissection, you learn more."

Around the same time that Berenger began teaching only non-dissection biology courses, she made the decision not to have live animals in her classroom and brought them all home instead. "I feel that seeing an animal caged devalues the organism and encourages control over the species. It perpetuates the idea that you can take an animal out of its ecosystem, give it food and water, and that's okay. "Take gerbils, for example. What is their natural habitat? Where do they come from? What are their natural behaviors?" she asks. The first image that comes to mind for most of us is not the desert, but a glass tank furnished with shavings, a few toys and a wheel.



www.istockphoto.com



**Non-dissection high school biology classes can include hands-on activities, such as examining microorganisms through a microscope or manipulating real-life plastic models.**

Currently, New Jersey's science standards are molecular-based. Consequently, students spend a great deal of time learning about DNA, protein synthesis and genetics. "That fosters a huge disconnect between themselves and the natural world," Berenger says. She worries that "students have lost any tangible understanding of their world, and the neighbors with whom they share it." Instead, she explains, "they are forced to abstractly dissect these creatures without even an appreciation for the organism's niche within the fine threads that weave us all together in the same web."

To counter this perception, Berenger teaches a unit on bioethics that focuses on the use of animals in research. She also takes her students outside as often as possible. Her school has a stream and pond that are just right for performing macro-invertebrate studies and contemplating the effect that humans have on what Berenger refers to as our "shared" spaces, which are often visited by white-tailed deer, heron, snapping turtles and flocks of Canada geese.

With 12 years of experience in the field, Berenger has a piece of advice for teachers who are interested in making similar changes: "Let your reputation speak for itself. If you are a solid teacher who can remain objective in the classroom, then your students, parents, peers and administrators will support you. Present factual, unbiased information and you will be fine." 🐾

## The Digital Frog

More and more teachers are turning to technology in the biology classroom, to the benefit of both students and animals. Incorporating features such as full-screen video, animation and interactive quizzes, newly released version 2.5 software from Digital Frog International allows middle school to college-aged students to "open up" a frog with a digital scalpel, as well as see how a live frog's body works. A section on ecology provides a valuable reminder that biology is the study of living organisms.

The Digital Frog program also includes a comprehensive section that teaches amphibian anatomy and physiology, with human anatomy comparisons. In fact, a recent study by Ph.D. candidate Christine Youngblut concluded that the virtual model is more effective than hands-on dissection in teaching students about the frog's anatomy. To learn more about this wonderful software, please visit [www.digitalfrog.com](http://www.digitalfrog.com). 🐸



Digital Frog International



# PORCINE PALS

ANIMAL TECHNICIAN JACQUELINE SCHWARTZ OF HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA'S DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY WORKS WITH PIGS IN THE RESEARCH LABORATORY

Anyone who has had the pleasure of working closely with pigs knows that they have many positive attributes. Pigs are intelligent creatures who possess very determined minds of their own. Because they are such social beings, they readily bond with any person they trust. In fact, they typically demand a lot of attention. An affectionate human-pig relationship can be very useful in accomplishing tasks and mitigating stress for the pig during and after research-related procedures.

Not surprisingly, pigs abhor being restrained, so it can be difficult to work with them in the research setting. They are very sensitive and become stressed easily. Therefore, I developed a swine conditioning and training schedule with the goal of decreasing or even avoiding the stress they may experience due to procedures performed during a study.

When the pigs arrive at our laboratory, they are very shy and afraid because they have had little contact with people. We place them individually in prepared pens with food and water and leave them undisturbed until the next morning, so that they may settle into their new homes. Socialization begins on the second day.

As a first step, I patiently habituate the new pigs to my presence until they no longer try to stay at a “safe” distance. I sit quietly on the floor of the pen at the opposite end and let the pig learn that I am harmless. Initially, I avoid making any eye contact because I get the impression that

the animals feel intimidated when I look straight at them during this early stage of the conditioning.

Age is a very important factor in determining how long the “warming up to me” phase will take. The very young pigs socialize quickly, probably because their curiosity is stronger than their fear when meeting a strange-looking two-legged animal. The relatively old, very large pigs also have little problem socializing with me, presumably because their body weight advantage “tells” them that they have nothing to fear from this weak human being. The middle-aged pigs are more of a challenge. It can require quite a bit of time to overcome their mistrust, but patience usually pays off.

When I know for sure that the pig has adapted to my presence, I start moving slowly in a semi-seated position in the direction of the pig, but stop whenever the animal shows any sign of fear. I avoid abrupt movements and speak softly so that the animal becomes used to my voice. If the pig appears to be frightened, I carefully move away, wait at a distance, and approach again after the animal has calmed down.

We will be in close proximity for a few minutes before I slowly move away and leave the pen. I repeat these maneuvers for several days, with short sessions in the beginning, followed by progressively longer sessions as the animal begins to accept me. Sooner or later, curiosity wins and the pig will make contact with me. I usually wait until it is the pig’s idea and not mine, so that the animal can initiate contact and hence is in control of the situation. A pig who seeks contact with me is “socialized” and gives the impression of feeling completely at ease when I am around.

Specific training may begin once the pig is comfortable being touched by me, which all “socialized” pigs seem to enjoy thoroughly. They typically lean into my

hand or fingers while I rub or scratch them. Once a pig finds out how nice it is to be touched, he or she will often settle down in your lap for a good old scratching.

When petting or scratching a pig, I pay special attention to areas where injections will be given, such as the rump and the back of the neck. I pat the animal firmly on these areas on a daily basis. An injection using a butterfly needle can be given during a petting session, without any ado. The animal may rub the injection site against the fence, but usually will return quickly for more attention. During petting sessions, I am on the floor with the pig. This would not be a safe idea with very large pigs. I have found that they can easily be distracted with a good back scratch or a bowl of treats while I stand safely beside them.

When training a pig, I pay special attention to his or her tail and handle it frequently. In the beginning, the animal is suspicious of having a part of the body touched without being able to see what I am actually doing, but this initial phase of apprehension is quickly overcome. Most pigs actually enjoy having their tail manipulated—especially when I rub the head of the tail. Once a pig allows

this contact, anal temperatures can be obtained easily during a good rump or belly scratch.

I also give attention to any body part that will receive a bandage after a surgical procedure. When I take extra time to rub and scratch those areas

**A PIG WHO SEEKS CONTACT WITH ME IS “SOCIALIZED” AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF FEELING COMPLETELY AT EASE WHEN I AM AROUND.**

beforehand, removing or changing a bandage can be accomplished without unduly disturbing the pig. Additionally, I first socialize with pigs assigned to a study that requires frequent eye ointment applications, rubbing my index fingers gently over the pig’s eyes regularly during our petting sessions. Later, when I treat the pig, he or she will show no resistance when I part the upper and lower eye lids with the gentle

pressure of my fingertips to apply the ointment onto the eye.

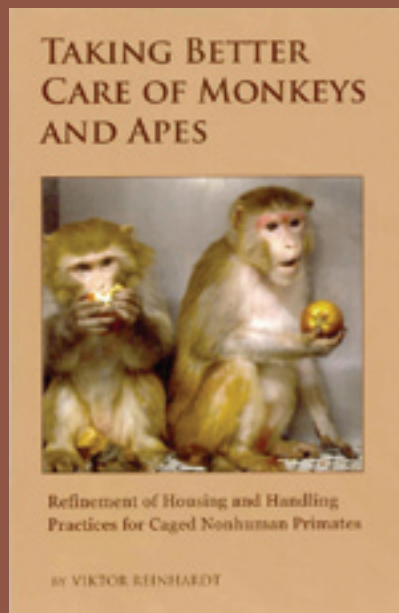
Pigs adore food. This circumstance makes oral drug administration a relatively easy procedure under the condition that the animals are well-socialized and trusting. I disguise oral drugs in jam or peanut butter, depending on the individual pig’s preference, and offer the mixture. It sometimes takes a little coaxing, such as touching the roof of the pig’s mouth with a mixture-coated finger, so that the animal gets the taste of the nice jam or peanut butter and then consumes the mixture without any further reservation. Usually, however, a pig will spontaneously eat the mixture out of a bowl immediately!

I have had the good fortune to work with pigs from the same facility for the last 22 years. It has been very rewarding to repeatedly experience the ease with which a trust-based bond with the animals can be established—and to make use of this bond by conditioning the pigs to calmly cooperate, rather than fearfully resist, during common research-related procedures. With compassion and patience, stress and distress reactions can usually be avoided, and the pigs’ welfare thereby enhanced. 🐾



Tamara Godbey

**Socialized pigs at Dalhousie University enjoy being petted and scratched by their caretakers in the laboratory.**



## NEW BOOK FOCUSES ON THE THIRD “R”

*Taking Better Care of Monkeys and Apes: Refinement of Housing and Handling Practices for Caged Nonhuman Primates*, a new book by AWI Laboratory Animal Advisor Viktor Reinhardt, reviews literature on the refinement of traditional housing and handling practices for nonhuman primates living in cages alone, in pairs or in trios. Traditional practices often expose animals to unnecessary distress—a problem that is both an ethical and a scientific concern. The reaction of distress is a sign of impaired well-being, as well as an uncontrolled variable that increases statistical variables.

Fortunately, professional and scientific journals document that

housing and handling practices for caged nonhuman primates can be refined, without undue labor and expenses, in such a way that distress responses are minimized or avoided when basic ethological principles are applied. With a little bit of good will and earnest concern for animal welfare and scientific methodology, the systematic implementation of refinement for caged nonhuman primates is a practical option.

A free copy of the book is available for individuals at research facilities, and additional copies are available for the cost-price of \$3.00. If you are interested, please send a request by mail or email to AWI. 🐾



# CRUELTY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

On the heels of the latest exposé of slaughterhouse cruelty, followed by the largest meat recall in history, the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) has released a 150-page report authored by Dena Jones analyzing humane slaughter enforcement at state, federal and foreign slaughter plants. *Crimes Without Consequences: The Enforcement of Humane Slaughter Laws in the United States* reveals an ongoing lack of sound enforcement at plants around the world.

Unfortunately, the horrific treatment that made headlines with the latest recall is nothing new. Not only did roughly 800 separate company recalls take place between Jan. 1, 1994 and Nov. 31, 2007, but cruel treatment of animals has been documented in myriad US Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection reports.

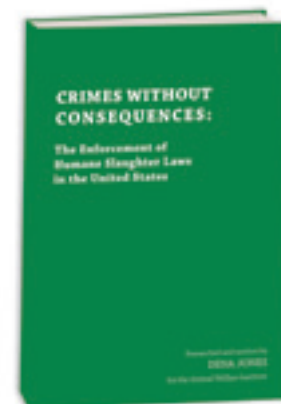
"The hog was lying in the cradle and all four feet had been removed. The hog was observed to be kicking and shaking its head. It exhibited skin twitching and irregular but rhythmic breathing with deep abdominal and thoracic movement. It appeared to be gasping for breath," a USDA inspector wrote about a still-conscious hog at a slaughter plant in Frankenmuth, Mo.

At plants around the country, handling, stunning and slaughter is conducted with little of the needed

oversight by federal and state departments of agriculture. Workers who are responsible for ensuring proper treatment of the animals are typically untrained, uneducated and transient. Animals are slaughtered at high speed to maximize profits. And while it is technically banned by federal law, ill and diseased animals may still be sent to slaughter to minimize losses.

Enforcement of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act by the USDA is woefully inadequate. Only 42 enforcement actions beyond issuances of deficiency reports for noncompliances were taken in the United States between 2002 and 2005. Whistleblower accounts and undercover documentation suggest the majority of crimes are not observed or recognized by inspection personnel, not reported through the proper channel, or the appropriate remedial measures are not being taken.

All poultry are exempted from current law, an egregious situation that should be rectified by Congress. Though species that are covered by law must be rendered insensible with one stunning attempt before they are killed, industry data itself reveals that this is not the case. American Meat Institute guidelines consider an acceptable pre-slaughter stunning effectiveness rating



of 99 percent for pigs and 95 percent for cattle and sheep. The National Chicken Council has set an acceptable stunning standard of 98 percent for chickens. Even if every US plant met these *voluntary* industry goals, 185 million chickens, 1.8 million cattle and sheep and 1 million pigs would still be killed inhumanely each year.

At the very least, the 10 billion animals killed annually for food in the United States are entitled to a merciful death. AWI calls on Congress to: 1) extend the federal slaughter law to include poultry; 2) assign a minimum of 50 USDA inspectors the sole task of ensuring the humane handling, stunning and slaughter of animals; 3) reject the notion that sound enforcement can be achieved by use of cameras in lieu of inspectors; and 4) abandon the notion that industry self-regulation is adequate. 🐾

*Crimes Without Consequences: The Enforcement of Humane Slaughter Laws in the United States* can be viewed online at [www.awionline.org/farm/pdf/SlaughterReport\\_3-25-08final.pdf](http://www.awionline.org/farm/pdf/SlaughterReport_3-25-08final.pdf). Print copies will be available from AWI in May for the cost price of \$3.00.



## Shame on Ohio State University

In a show ring fad known as short docking, the entire tail of a lamb is cut off purely for cosmetic purposes. AWI Quarterly readers will remember our spring 2007 article that noted scientific research demonstrating an increase in rectal prolapse in sheep who have been short docked. One of the institutions involved in that research, Ohio State University (OSU), is apparently continuing to short dock, despite both its own research and a university policy prohibiting the practice. AWI has received a series of photographs taken this year at the OSU Sheep Center, featuring lambs and ewes who have been short docked. One image clearly reveals a ewe with a repaired prolapse. 🐾

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**AWI's Updated Educational Brochures**

Available free of cost for educational purposes, new pamphlets from the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) detail some of our most important programs. Our farm animal brochure describes the inhumane treatment experienced by animals confined in industrial facilities, from hens who are debeaked and caged to pigs who are forced to live in their own filth inside tiny metal crates. "Whales & Dolphins" explains threats to the International Whaling Commission's ban on commercial whaling, as well as anthropogenic threats to these species. The new shark brochure, released in light of our campaign to stop US restaurants from serving sharkfin soup, explains the cruelty inherent to this "delicacy." As we fight to end the use of steel jaw leghold traps, our trapping brochure details the problems with the brutal and indiscriminate device. Our updated free trade brochure discusses how animals are negatively impacted by certain provisions of trade agreements. To request copies, please contact AWI. 🐾

## 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, D.C., the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ and/or (specifically described property).*

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



# Illegal Killing of Gray Whale Must be Punished

Three of the five members of the Washington State Makah Tribe who killed a gray whale in September 2007 have accepted a deal offered by the federal government to plead guilty to violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) in exchange for a recommended sentence of probation and community service. Considering that they each faced up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine if convicted of violating the MMPA, in addition to penalties if found guilty in tribal court, the leniency offered by the government is disturbing.

Ringleader Wayne Johnson and another whaler initially refused the deal, but later agreed to the plea in US District Court. Sentencing of all five in federal court will take place in June. They will also stand trial in tribal court for charges of jeopardizing public safety for discharging a firearm too close to a town and hunting in a marine sanctuary. The tribal charge with the stiffest penalty—violating the tribe's whaling-management plan—was dropped.

This purposeful, cruel and deadly assault on a protected marine mammal merits jail time to provide a deterrent for others who may contemplate engaging in an illegal whale hunt. In light of the brutality of the crime—in which significant suffering was experienced by the stricken whale, who took over 10 hours to die after being struck with four harpoons and shot with 16 bullets—probation and community service are not appropriate penalties.

The Makah tribe is currently prohibited from whaling due to a 2002 lawsuit filed by animal protection



Jeff Pantukoff/Whaleman Foundation

organizations that required the government to comprehensively evaluate the environmental impacts of Makah whaling and consider issuing an MMPA waiver to allow tribe members to whale. Nearly 80 years have passed since the Makah have engaged in whaling, with the exception of a single whale killed in a controversial hunt conducted in 1999, before the court terminated the activity.

The five Makah tribe members decided to kill a whale because they were no longer willing to wait for the courts or the federal government to decide whether their tribe is allowed to whale. Many Makah tribe members believe their right to whale is guaranteed in a treaty between the tribe and the US government, though a large number of members oppose efforts to resume whaling. The Makah cannot satisfy the legal criteria to initiate a whaling program. Therefore, the government's efforts to facilitate the tribe's resumption of whaling must be opposed. 🐾



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