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# HSUS NEWS

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

SPRING 1994

VOL. 39 NO. 2

INSIDE:  
SPRING  
GIFT CATALOG!  
PAGE 33



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## The "Eating with Conscience" Fire Storm *HSUS takes the heat from agribusiness*

**E**ating with Conscience," as an HSUS national effort, is fast becoming a reality.

I thank all of you for your generous support and interest in helping us begin this important initiative, which I introduced to you one year ago. The effort brings together in collaboration three important themes: promoting human health, saving the environment, and ending animal suffering. "Eating with Conscience" is an important cornerstone in our effort to create a humane society, and I remain

encouraged by the hundreds of letters you sent and the financial support you provided that have enabled this effort to move forward.

We have learned the truth of that which many of you suggested in your letters: this initiative is complex. One year into the effort, we are beginning to breathe life into our concepts. We have developed materials around the theme "Choosing a Humane Diet" and have adopted the slogan, "Good for You." Our successful pilot program promoting free-range eggs is complete—the eggs are now widely available in supermarkets in San Francisco, Denver, Columbus, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. We are introducing similar programs in many of our ten regions this year. We are also making plans to present our Humane Diet theme and information in public forums; the first is scheduled for this fall in Boston. And we have unleashed a fire storm of controversy in the agribusiness community by publishing the advertisement you see above.

I am continually puzzled by some of the tactics frequently used by conglomerated agribusiness. In this instance it resorted to name calling, telling the HSUS chairman of the board that the president of The HSUS had become an animal-rights fanatic. Don't we all long for those occasions when the concepts behind efforts such as "Choosing a Humane Diet" are the subject

of educated debate rather than unvarnished hysteria?

Our effort is based on the thesis that the consumption of too much animal protein and fat is harmful to human health; that the intensive factory farming of livestock is creating environmental havoc; and that, even in the mad rush to produce—and profit from selling—more meat, the alleviation of animal suffering is an imperative. Both HSUS-affiliate scientists and those in the human-health and environmental communities continue to collect evidence and provide data that, in our opinion, verify the rationality of this thesis. However, if the agribusiness community and trade associations have countering data, I believe the great majority of the American people, and surely The HSUS, are willing to listen to them.

When we appealed to the public to consider these serious issues by publishing the advertisement I referred to earlier in a December issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, we evoked the scorn and ridicule of agribusiness. In a letter (parts of which were published in farm newspapers and magazines across the country) from eighteen national animal-producer groups and agribusiness associates, we were told that our campaign "places The HSUS squarely in the lead among animal-rights groups seeking a vegetarian society by using emotionalism to adjure the public to both 'reduce' and 'replace' animal products...with other foods." Farmers and ranchers have been told that The HSUS is bent on putting all who raise livestock and poultry out of business forever.

We were criticized in this letter for abandoning our "moderate" position on farm-animal issues, with the veiled implication that we had somehow betrayed the writers' trust. While it is true that we have, over the past decade, endeavored to establish a common ground and more open dialogue with the farm-animal industry, we have continued to voice our concern over the plight of farm animals and over the spread of factory farms and feedlots that blight, pollute, and impoverish the countryside.

Apparently, to be reasonable is to be perceived to be radical by both camps. Animal-liberation fundamentalists see us as selling out to agribusiness. They would like us to promote vegetarianism exclusively and not encourage *(continued on page 11)*



Paul G. Irwin, President

*Paul G. Irwin*

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# HSUS NEWS

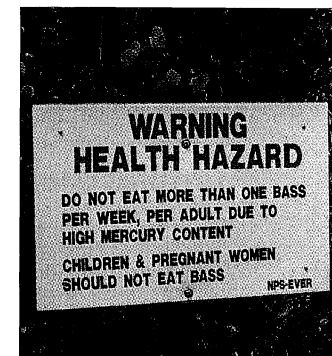
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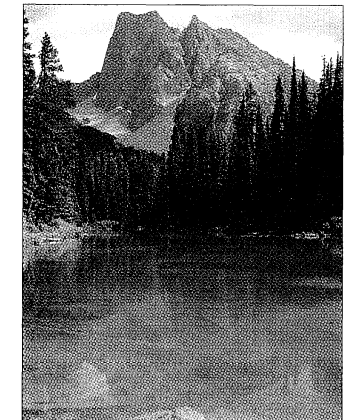
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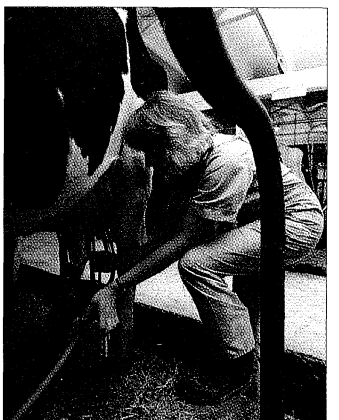
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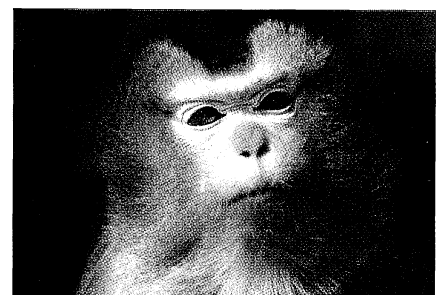
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Cover photo by Terry Wild

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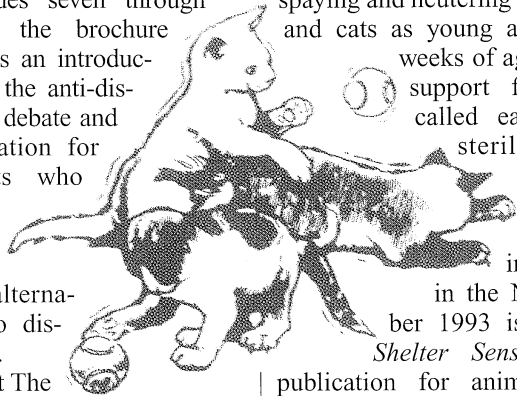


# SPOTLIGHT

NOTES,  
COMMENT,  
AND MISCEL-  
LANEY FROM  
THE HSUS

## A NEW BROCHURE,

*Putting the Life Back into Biology*, is now available from The HSUS's youth-education division. Designed for students in grades seven through twelve, the brochure provides an introduction to the anti-dissection debate and information for students who have decided to seek alternatives to dissection. Contact The HSUS, Youth Education Division, PO Box 362, East Had-

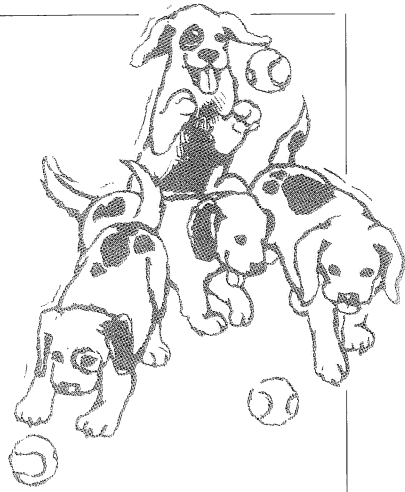


dam, CT 06423-0362 for prices.

**THE HSUS** recently announced its support for the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Our support for so-called early-age sterilization was described in detail in the November 1993 issue of *Shelter Sense*, our publication for animal-care and -control agencies. Early-age spaying and

neutering enable puppy and kitten owners to have their young animal companions sterilized before sexual maturity (which usually takes place at six to nine months of age). The early-age procedures also provide animal shelters with a guarantee that the animals they place in responsible homes will not breed.

For most of this century, traditional veterinary guidelines held that dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered only after they reached the age of six months. By the end of the last decade, however, veterinarians who advocated early-age procedures were re-



porting that surgeries on puppies and kittens were easier to perform and that the youngsters bounced back from the surgeries more quickly than older animals. The American Veterinary Medical Association has now approved the procedure.

Evidence suggests that the known advantages of early-age sterilization far outweigh the potential disadvantages. Increasing numbers of veterinarians agree, prompting animal-protection advocates to hope that widespread acceptance of early-age sterilization will help curb the numbers of homeless animals being euthanized for lack of responsible homes.

(Reprints of the *Shelter Sense* article on early-age sterilization are available from The HSUS.)

**THE HSUS** has been honored with a certificate of recognition given to the Midwest Regional Office and Midwest Regional Director Wendell Maddox by the American Red Cross for The HSUS's contribution to relief efforts in Missouri and Kansas during the July 1993 floods (see the Fall 1993 *HSUS News*).

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BARBARA KIWAK

## WHALES NEED HELP!

**W**hen the Clinton administration took a position against commercial whaling at the 1993 meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), The HSUS thought the war against the resumption of commercial whaling was virtually won. The administration's position has now shifted in favor of a U.S. whaling policy based on science alone rather than on both scientific and ethical considerations.

A science-only-based decision on whether to resume commercial whaling would consider only current numbers of whale populations. This is a grossly inadequate basis on which to make such an important decision. Current estimates of whale populations are guesses, at best, and unexpected environmental changes can cause whale populations to fluctuate more

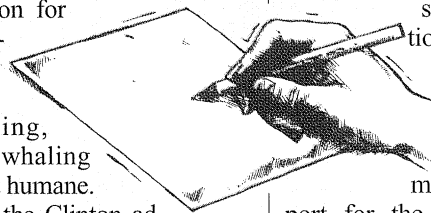
than anticipated.

A decision based only on numbers ignores pressing ethical and humane considerations. There is no ethical justification for commercial whaling, and whaling is not humane.

If the Clinton administration supports a science-based policy, the U.S. government will be contributing to the likely demise of the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling: any 1994 IWC action based on numbers alone would probably be a decision in favor of resumed whaling in some areas.

Because the IWC meets in May, we need your help. Write to your senators and representative and ask them to take strong action to ensure

that the United States does not support policies that will lead to a resumption of commercial whaling of any kind. Make it clear that any effort to seek the adoption of a science-only-based policy at the IWC meeting is synonymous with support for the resumption of commercial whaling. Urge them to tell President Clinton that Americans support a strong anti-whaling policy. Send copies of your letters to President Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20500; and Eileen Claussen, Special Assistant to the President for Global Environmental Affairs, National Security Council, Old Executive Office Building, Room 365, Washington, DC 20506. □



## THE MASSACHUSETTS

Superior Court has banned the use of padded-leghold traps on land in Massachusetts. The court's decision, made in December 1993, ends a four-year civil suit brought against the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife by The HSUS, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), and other concerned organizations.

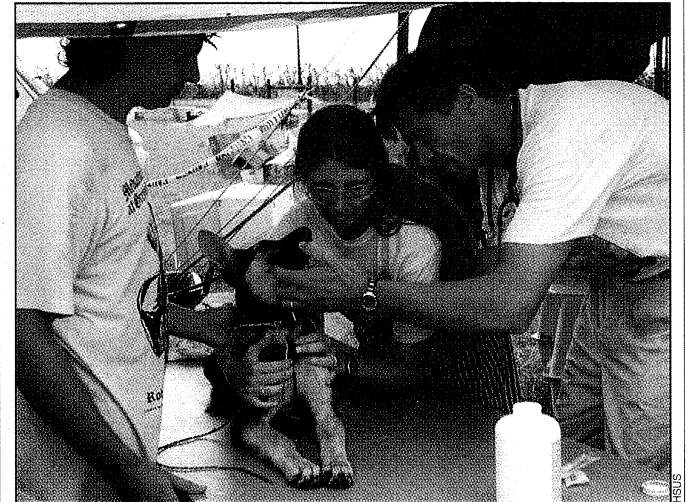
The case involved a 1989 regulation that permitted the use of padded-leghold traps on land. We argued that this regulation was in conflict with the 1974 Massachusetts law that bans the use of steel-jaw leghold traps as well as any other trap that "will knowingly cause continued suffering" to an animal or that will not either kill an animal immediately or trap it alive and unharmed.

In invalidating the regulation, Judge Patrick J. King found that the plaintiffs presented "uncontradicted evidence, including scientific

## IN MEMORIAM: STEVEN M. KRITSICK

**H**SUS/HSI staff veterinarian Steven M. Kritsick, D.V.M., was a man of quiet gentleness, who touched the hearts of all who knew him. His death on January 16, 1994, from AIDS-related lymphoma is a great loss to the animal-protection movement and a personal sadness to his many friends and colleagues.

Although Dr. Kritsick was perhaps best known for his television appearances as host of the PBS series, "The Gentle Doctor," as science editor of ABC-TV's "Good Morning America," and as "Dr. Steve" on WOR-TV's "Romper Room and Friends," his work in the humane movement began in 1975. He became staff veterinarian/spokesman for HSUS/HSI in 1990. In this capacity he made sig-



Steven Kritsick, D.V.M., aids a Florida hurricane victim.

nificant contributions to our efforts against puppy mills and in the area of disaster relief and helped to spread our message of responsible pet ownership through his many

media appearances.

Dr. Kritsick was the author of two books, *Creature Comforts: The Adventures of a City Vet* and *Dr. Kritsick's Tender Loving Cat Care*. □

studies, that the padded-jaw traps authorized by the regulation hurt animals."



At an MSPCA banquet in October, The HSUS's John A. Hoyt (left) receives from MSPCA President Gus W. Thornton, D.V.M., the MSPCA's George T. Angell Humanitarian Award "for dedicated efforts to improve the lives of animals." □

**THE WILD BIRD** Conservation Act was passed by Congress in 1992, and it has effectively stopped the importation into the United States of parrots captured from the wild for sale as pets. However, regulations for the Act, promulgated by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), allow the continued importation into the United States of 117 species of birds, such as hill mynas and a variety of finches. The regulations contravene the Act because they allow certain birds of species listed on Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to continue to be imported into the United States. The Act states that "effective [on October 23, 1993],

the importation of any exotic bird of a species that is listed in any Appendix to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species is prohibited."

The HSUS and Defenders of Wildlife have filed a lawsuit in a U.S. district court seeking to amend the regulations in order to establish a ban on the importation of all birds of species listed on any appendix to CITES. The HSUS will not let the DOI ignore the cruel treatment of such birds and the decimation of their wild populations for the pet trade. ■







never expected such concerted public opposition and unprecedented costs in bringing this unnecessary drug to market. Had this company more carefully considered essential bioethical criteria (as discussed on page 12) as well as potential profits before investing billions of dollars in research and development of its BGH product, it might have realized that it had taken a *hard path*\* and dropped the product. *Soft path*\* products, in contrast, such as genetically engineered vegetable rennet—which is now widely used in cheese-making as an alternative to rennet derived from the stomachs of slaughtered calves—are those that violate none of the bioethical criteria that, The HSUS believes, must be adopted by the biotechnology industry, the FDA, and other federal and state regulatory agencies. The pharmaceutical industry has made a bad decision in selecting a *hard-path* drug as the first major genetically engineered nonmedical drug for use in food animals submitted

for the approval of the FDA.

To an informed general public, the handling of BGH casts a shadow over the entire biotechnology industry and the FDA's ability to make decisions that are in the public interest and independent of corporate interests. All must wonder why BGH was approved by the FDA, given that surplus milk has been a chronic problem in the United States. A surplus of milk was one reason for a one-year moratorium on BGH put into place by the European Commission (which drafts legislation for the European Community—now the European Union). The Europeans were also concerned about small- and mid-sized dairy farms that would probably be put out of business by large "factory" dairies using BGH; the effects of BGH on bovine health and welfare (drug trials have indicated that BGH-treated cows have increased health problems, particularly mastitis); and the safety of dairy products from BGH-treated herds.

## HELP SHOW THE FDA THAT CONSUMERS WANT HEALTHY COWS, NOT BGH

Ask your supermarket manager to stock milk and dairy products that are labeled BGH-free. A demand for BGH-free products will force manufacturers to require their milk producers to sign affidavits that they will not inject their cows with BGH.

Ask your local school board to request certified BGH-free products from dairy suppliers.

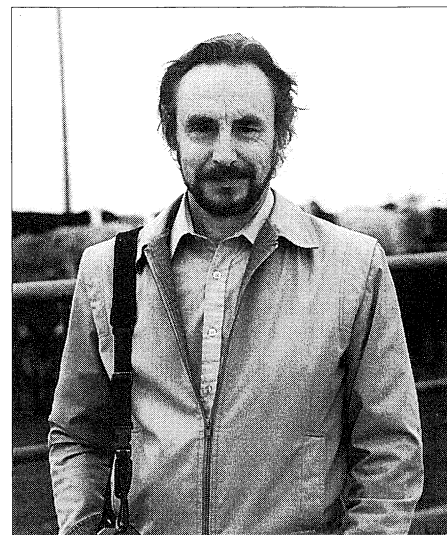


PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN AND JERRY'S HOMEMADE

Write Nick Ben & Jerry's Homemade products will carry a distinctive "no BGH" sticker (left).

Director, External Communications, Borden, Inc., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215; Richard P. Mayer, CEO, Kraft General Foods, 1 Kraft Ct., Glenview, IL 60025; Jack Gherty,

CEO, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Box 116, Minneapolis, MN 55440. Ask them to require BGH-free milk from their milk suppliers. Please send a copy of the letters you send and any replies you receive to the Farm Animals and Bioethics section of The HSUS. □



The HSUS's Michael W. Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D., B. Vet. Med., MRCVS, observes the condition of a herd of cattle.

The European Commission's one-year moratorium on BGH, coming as it does after rigorous bioethical evaluation, should give decision makers in this country pause for thought.

As a veterinarian with a long-time interest in farm-animal welfare and in recent developments in genetic engineering, I am deeply disturbed by the U.S. government's handling of BGH approval and labeling. What I find most disturbing is that, in spite of a dairy surplus that is so costly to taxpayers, in spite of the threat that BGH poses to small- and mid-sized family dairy farms, and regardless of the added stress and suffering that BGH will cause to dairy cows, the government has taken the *hard path* with a drug that no good, caring farmer would use and that will benefit few beyond the

\*The terms *hard path* and *soft path* were coined by Amory Lovins in his book *Soft Energy Paths*. *Hard paths* tend to disregard bioethical costs; *soft paths* violate no bioethical criteria.

\*\*Greg Simon, a domestic policy advisor to U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, Jr., has resisted scrutiny of BGH. He has stated that opposition to BGH was based on arguments against change, not on safety, and that, "If the Europeans insist on blocking a safe product for social and economic reasons, they'll see a flight of capital on biotechnology like they'll never believe."

drug's manufacturers.\*\*

In my testimony against approval of BGH last summer, I emphasized that one great economic and ecological virtue of the dairy cow is her ability, when allowed to graze, to consume grass and other forages and convert them into milk, enriching the soil with her manure and enabling the farmer to practice crop rotation to improve soil quality. Indeed, studies have shown that, with rotational grazing (as opposed to feeding cattle concentrates and injecting them with BGH), dairy cows can be as productive as BGH-treated ones. From the perspective of ecologically sound and sustainable agriculture, BGH has no place.

Information on the harmful side effects of BGH treatment accompanies every box of pre-loaded syringes. According to the manufacturer, the possible side effects include the following: reproductive problems such as infertility, retained placenta, and cystic ovaries; mastitis and poor general health; increased heat stress; digestive and foot disorders; anemia; and sometimes severe injection-site reactions. Farmers who care about their animals will not use BGH, and they need strong consumer and government support for their position. A BGH-free America would be a shining example of corporate and governmental responsibility. Moreover, BGH is just the beginning of a train of genetically engineered products to be considered by the FDA and about which the public needs to be aware and concerned. In view of the evident FDA bias favoring the biotechnical industry, grassroots action—consumer and farmer revolts—against *hard-path* products will be needed to awaken the FDA, the Congress, and other pertinent government agencies. The American public needs to send the message that it wants bioethical criteria afforded a central place in governmental deliberations about these products.—Michael W. Fox, D.Sc., Ph.D., B. Vet. Med., MRCVS, HSUS vice president, *Farm Animals and Bioethics*; author of *Superpigs* and *Wondercorn: The Brave New World of Biotechnology and How It May Affect Us All*



Paul G. Irwin (right) presents Coenraad F. Hendriksen, Ph.D., D.V.M., with The HSUS's 1993 Russell and Burch award during a special HSUS-organized luncheon held during the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. Previous recipients of the award include Alan M. Goldberg, Ph.D., and Charles E. Branch, Ph.D.

## LABORATORY ANIMALS

# Seeking Progress on Alternatives 3Rs come of age at World Congress

Few people actually want animals to be harmed, killed, or exploited in laboratories. Even those who conduct experiments on animals typically concede that, at least in principle, they would not use animals as subjects if more humane methods were available. Alternative methods of research and testing have already replaced or reduced many of the historical uses of animals. However, we are still far from the goal of replacing all harmful animal uses in the lab with humane alternatives. To hasten progress in developing and implementing humane testing methods, The HSUS recently helped convene the first international conference on alternatives in all major areas of laboratory animal use.

More than 700 scientists, animal protectionists, and other concerned individuals attended the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences: Research, Testing, and Education, November 15–19, 1993, in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference provided a forum for assessing worldwide research and development on alternatives, identifying priorities for future efforts, and bringing together scientists and animal protectionists whose shared interest in alternatives has often been overshadowed by the polarization caused by the animal-research controversy.

The World Congress considered alternatives in the broad sense of not only replacing or reducing animal use, but also refining it to mitigate animal suffering, thereby implementing the 3Rs. (The 3Rs of replacement, reduction, and refinement were devised by British scientists William Russell, D.Phil., and Rex Burch in the late 1950s. The HSUS's Russell and Burch



Award, bestowed annually on a scientist who makes an outstanding contribution to the advancement of alternative methods, is named in their honor.)

The HSUS was one of the first animal-protection organizations in the United States to popularize and promote the 3Rs. An approach emphasizing the development of alternatives to the use of animals is not only the foundation of our policy on the use of animals in research, but it is also the cornerstone of our program to reform research practices. Given the importance of the 3Rs to our efforts, The HSUS eagerly accepted when invited to help fund and organize the World Congress by the conference's host, the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing. HSUS Vice President, Laboratory Animals, Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D., served on planning committees and participated in both the World Congress's opening press conference and its program.

The highlight of the World Congress for The HSUS was the presentation of the Russell and Burch Award at a special HSUS-organized luncheon. HSUS President Paul G. Irwin presented this year's award to Coenraad Hendriksen, Ph.D., D.V.M., of the Dutch National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection. The award was in acknowledgment of Dr. Hendriksen's successful application



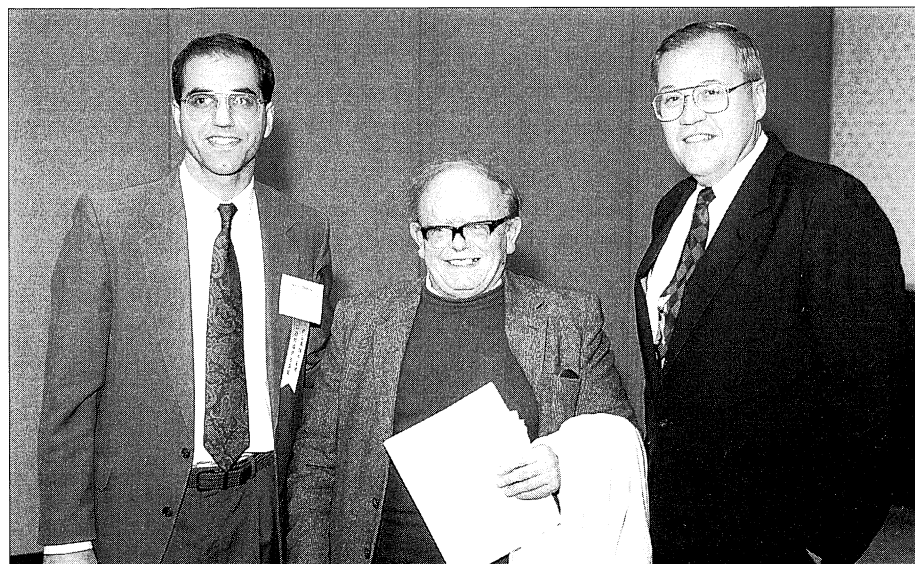
Dr. Hendriksen (center) is joined by World Congress attendees from the Netherlands. He received the HSUS award in acknowledgment of his use of the 3Rs in vaccine testing.

of the 3Rs approach to vaccine testing. His work on diphtheria and tetanus vaccines has eliminated official requirements for several painful animal tests, thereby sparing more than 10,000 animals per year in the Netherlands alone. Professor Russell, despite his advanced age and ill-health, gave a rousing keynote address at the awards luncheon and received a standing ovation from attendees.

Of particular interest at the World

Congress were updates on replacing, reducing, and refining the notorious Draize Eye-Irritancy Test and Lethal Dose 50 Percent (LD50) test. Potential replacements for the Draize Eye-Irritancy Test, in which chemicals are tested for irritancy in rabbits' eyes, are currently being evaluated in an international study coordinated by the British government and the European Union (or EU, formerly the European Community) through its newly established European Center for the Validation of Alternative Methods. Some observers expect this study to lead to the replacement of 90 percent of all Draize Eye-Irritancy tests with non-animal methods.

Unfortunately, the situation is not so favorable for replacement of the LD50 test, in which animals are poisoned to estimate a chemical's dose that kills 50 percent of the test animals. The Sweden-based Multicenter Evaluation of In Vitro Cytotoxicity is coordinating international efforts to replace the LD50 test with one or more test-tube methods, but that goal's attainment does not appear to be imminent. The British government and the EU, working toward reduction rather than replacement, have demonstrated that a more humane method can substitute for the LD50 test: although this Fixed Dose Procedure (FDP) still involves animals, it



Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D., (left) and Mr. Irwin greet keynote speaker William Russell, D.Phil., for whom The HSUS's Russell and Burch Award is, in part, named.

calls for fewer animals and entails less suffering for each individual animal.

Scientists not yet using the FDP or similar alternatives should at least avoid the infamous traditional LD50 test, in which fifty or more animals are used. The test's viability as a standard has been seriously questioned of late. In the mid-1980s the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (which includes the United States, Europe, and Japan) reduced the recommended number of animals for the LD50 test from fifty or more to thirty, then to twenty. There is no justification for using the classical LD50 test for any purpose, and The HSUS is taking steps to ensure that this outmoded procedure is discarded once and for all.

World Congress presentations on the LD50 and Draize Eye-Irritancy tests, as well as those on other animal-based procedures, indicated that Europe is leading the way in evaluating and implementing alternative methods. Recent U.S. congressional mandates on alternatives should help the United States to catch up: the 1993 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Revitalization Act directs the NIH to develop and carry out a plan to advance alternative methods and directs the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop and evaluate alternative methods.

Coverage of the World Congress in the scientific press was favorable, even in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (AMA), which is surprising given the typical position of the AMA on animal-research issues. Perhaps the World Congress will prod scientific organizations that have been lukewarm to the alternatives approach, including the NIH, to begin to take it seriously.

The World Congress marks the international coming-of-age of the 3Rs. The conference's true value in fostering progress on alternatives will be apparent when participants at the second World Congress, scheduled for 1996 in the Netherlands, look back on the progress made between now and then. The ultimate measure of success for the alternatives approach will be how quickly the scientific community can phase out all harmful uses of animals in laboratories. □

## COMPANION ANIMALS

### HSUS Issues a Challenge *After the moratorium, what next?*

**M**rs. X's home was a shambles. A beautiful view of the bay and the bridge was blocked by rags that had once been curtains. Furniture was torn and shredded, often covered with newspaper and other debris. Open and, for the most part, empty cans of cat food were scattered by the dozens on the floor and on every flat surface. Huge piles of feces-covered litter, sometimes as much as twelve inches deep, were in many of the closets and corners throughout the house; the odor was strong and sharp, hitting you as much in the back of the throat as in the nose. Unbelievably, the carpeted areas seemed to be moving as clouds of fleas traveled together. And the cats. . . .

Cats were everywhere, some running and hiding at the approach of strangers, others coming up to mark us with a gentle rubbing of their heads against our legs. Many of the animals were friendly enough

or so weak that they could simply be lifted and placed gently into carriers. For others, nets and gloves were needed for the protection of both the animals and their new keepers. Then, after hours of work, the true rescue effort began in earnest.

A weak mewling behind a rear stairwell wall revealed the existence of a cat trapped between the house and its neighbor, only inches away. Apparently the animal had fallen from the three-story roof and become wedged in what had become a death trap. Relying on a stethoscope and patience, I used ink to mark the wall at my best approximation of the cat's location, then used an electric drill, saw, crowbar, and chisel to make a hole large enough to accommodate my hand and arm at a safe distance below where the animal appeared to be. I drilled a second hole several feet above this location, through which a small quantity of olive oil



"Fancy" groups claim that backyard breeders and puppy mills, which keep animals in substandard conditions such as these, are the irresponsible element in the pet industry.



was poured to provide the animal with a modicum of "wiggle." More than two hours after the first sounds were heard, I was able to pull a frightened red tabby from his prison. My hand was torn, my arm was bruised, and my clothes were ruined beyond salvation, but my spirits, and the spirits of all who worked with me, soared when the cat's large amber eyes looked us over with an indescribable expression.

More than 140 living kittens and cats were found in that house. Several dozen bodies were discovered on the living room floor and in the refrigerator's freezer. Most of the living cats were sick, with obvious signs of upper-respiratory infections and malnutrition.

Mrs. X's home had been entered by the local health department, summoned by paramedics who were the first to see conditions in the house. They had taken Mrs. X., obviously confused and frail, to the hospital. Within days, members of her family had been located. Unable or unwilling to accept personal responsibility for the cats, they signed documents relinquishing to shelter officials ownership of the animals she had taken in from the streets, and fed, and allowed to breed. She had loved the animals without reason, without boundary, and without the ability to see what her love was doing.

Approximately three dozen animals were placed in new homes. The others we shelter workers put to death by lethal injection of barbiturate. Even before the drama of the case began to subside, it was clear that we were to be left with a large number of sick, frail, and unwanted cats to add to our everyday population of stray, injured, abandoned, and neglected animals. I once again held the red tabby with large amber eyes, felt his body soften, watched his eyes lose focus. I said goodbye. After these animals were checked for signs of life and removed to another quiet room, we began the daily shelter ritual of performing euthanasia on the other animals who were "surplus" and unwanted and who had no options left.

This is perhaps an extreme, but by no means uncommon, example of the life and death of companion animals in our world. I know. I've recently come to The



Shelter puppies await adoption. In order to reduce the number of surplus animals, we must reduce the number of births.

HSUS from fifteen years of work at local animal shelters. It is from that psychological vantage point—minutes away from Mrs. X.'s house and the kennels and inside the euthanasia room—that I work.

Like you, I know the numbers and statistics reported regarding the overpopulation of companion animals. Like you, I applauded loudly last year when The HSUS announced a one-year voluntary moratorium on the breeding of dogs and cats; not, as some critics would have it, to eliminate the opportunity for pet ownership but to make some difference in the endless, nightmarish line of dogs and cats awaiting euthanasia in our animal shelters. The message of the moratorium is simple and indisputable: dogs and cats die because they are surplus, and in order to reduce the surplus we must reduce the number of births.

The year is now over and, as was promised, The HSUS has not called for another such moratorium, although we will continue to support all responsible voluntary and legislative moratorium efforts conducted on the local and state levels. The success of the moratorium is indicated by the dialogue it engendered: more

people in more places began to confront this issue than ever had before. Yet the births have not decreased, the dying has not stopped, and therefore the breeding of dogs and cats cannot yet be seen to amount to anything other than cruelty to animals. What are our next steps together to be?

The HSUS issues a challenge.

We challenge the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA), similar "fancy" groups, and individual breeders of dogs and cats, all of whom have agreed that there is a problem, but one created by other, irresponsible individuals. All of you have pointed your fingers at "backyard breeders" and puppy mills—those you classify as the irresponsible element. We challenge you to clean house; promulgate reasonable regulations and ordinances to control the activities of the breeding industry. We will testify on behalf of such legislation anywhere throughout the United States.

You in the AKC promote the production of purebred dogs because you say that individuals have the right to select a breed and be assured of a certain "quality." To a degree, your efforts have been successful—in 1992, the most recent year for which statistics are available, you registered record numbers of purebred dogs. In your own publications, however, you state that AKC registration in no way indicates the quality or state of health of the registered animal. As long as you promote the breeding of purebred dogs, we challenge you to make AKC registration stand for something. Insist that "responsible breeding" shall mean the breeding of genetically sound animals from healthy stock; insist that the purchase of AKC-registered dogs assures buyers of animals without obvious psychological and/or physical health defects. We challenge you to apply the highest standards to any breeder, including puppy mills and large commercial breeders, and to refuse to register those dogs who do not meet these standards.

Similarly we challenge those of you in the CFA to hold all breeders to a high standard and, being mindful of the steady increase in cat overpopulation, to discourage casual breeding, even of purebred cats.

We also challenge those of you in ani-

mal shelters. Your responsibilities include making every effort to ensure that the animals you adopt into your community do not contribute to overpopulation. To do this, you must work to make sure that every adopted animal is sterilized and is therefore unable to contribute to the surplus of companion animals. We cannot ask individuals and breed associations to pursue a higher standard than we in sheltering are willing to follow.

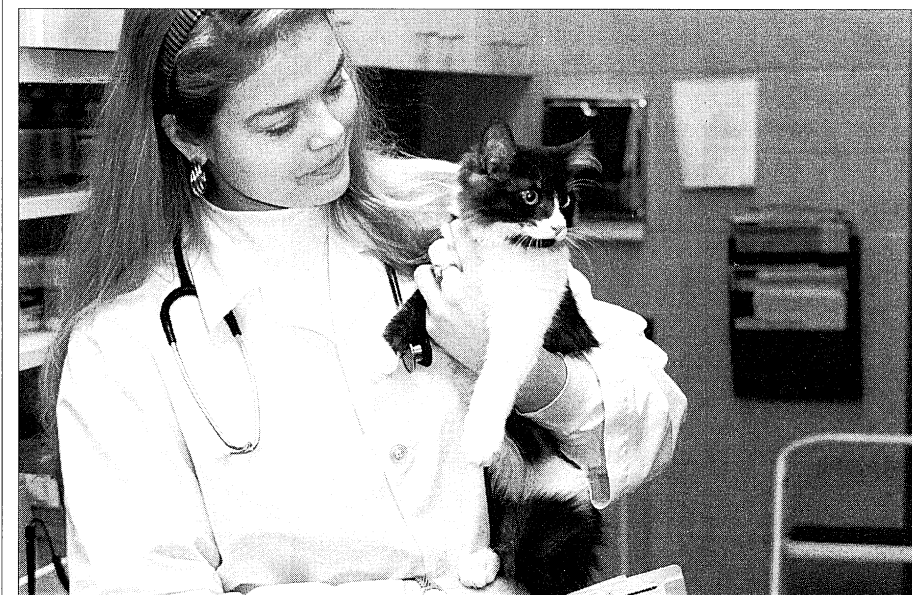
We challenge those of you in the mass media. In general you have sided with us, recognizing the need for and supporting the dramatic steps taken by The HSUS. We challenge you to continue to make this a priority on your pages and in your news programs. Without the heat you generate, the issues of pet overpopulation and mass euthanasia may once again slide to the back burner of the American consciousness. The situation is a tragedy, and it is newsworthy—not a "dog bites man" or a "man bites dog" story, but one that raises some basic and important questions about the condition of our society.

We challenge those of you who are part of the veterinary medical establishment, and each individual practitioner. The influence you wield in the pet-owning community is, obviously, quite considerable—there is a significant societal bias in

favor of listening to one's doctors. We know that more dogs and cats are victims of overpopulation and consequent euthanasia than of all fatal illnesses combined. We now ask you veterinarians to speak out loudly and clearly on this issue and to act responsibly and cooperatively along with humane agencies and advocates.

Finally, we challenge ourselves and HSUS members. Do not let this matter rest, and do not expect or ask us to let go of it. Pet overpopulation happens one litter, one animal at a time. Euthanasia—which results from but is clearly not an answer to overpopulation—also takes place one animal at a time. One at a time, each and every one of us must make a commitment to find real solutions to the problem.

In the months ahead, you will see us take definitive action, establishing model, replicable programs designed to have an impact on the cycle of breeding and killing dogs and cats in individual communities, both through the Companion Animals section of The HSUS and through Humane Society International. Such programmatic activity is the logical outgrowth of last year's call for a moratorium. It is the responsible path that we are walking.—*Kenneth White, HSUS vice president, Companion Animals and Field Services*



A veterinarian cradles a patient. The veterinary medical establishment must join those in animal protection in encouraging owners to spay/neuter their pets.

## President's Perspective

(continued from inside front cover)

nonvegetarians to refine their diets by consuming the produce of animals raised more humanely than are those on conventional factory farms. Some members of the farm-animal industry see us as siding with the animal liberationists. They would like us to be silenced.

But not all farmers and ranchers are being fooled by animal-industry ploys. Farmer Gene Logsdon, writing in *The New Farm* magazine, states that animal welfare advocates threaten the agribusiness giants, not family farms. He quotes Virginia poultry farmer Claude Nuckols, who says that believing that organizations like The HSUS "are a threat to farmers is playing into the hands of the big vertical integrators" (i.e., agribusiness). In an editorial in the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, Denny Caneff, executive director of the Wisconsin Rural Development Center, tells farmers and ranchers that the animal-protection movement, touted by agribusiness as one of agriculture's biggest threats, "may be the salvation of family farming."

Asking people to eat with conscience and choose a humane diet is asking them to act according to a common ground of values and a vision that will repair the Earth and provide an essential ingredient for a humane and sustainable existence. I am most grateful to all of you for enabling this important agenda to move forward.

In closing, and on a different subject, please watch for my letter about a new and exciting program we plan to launch. Because our program experience continues to point to the vulnerability of wildlife protection, we want to establish the HSUS Wildlife Land Trust. In the future I will discuss with you our intention to create a national system of wildlife refuges administered under the principles of humane stewardship. Since the government's wildlife refuges serve as shooting ranges for hunters and trappers who slaughter in the guise of managing wildlife, we must create an alternative system. Please start thinking about how you can help us with this important agenda. ■



BY MICHAEL W. FOX, D.Sc., Ph.D., B. Vet. Med., MRCVS

**B**IOETHICS ENTAILS THE OBJECTIVE APPRAISAL OF HOW OUR VALUES, DESIRES, AND ACTIONS AFFECT others, including animals and the environment. Medical bioethics focuses on issues, such as euthanasia, surrogate parenting, and genetic engineering, involving human health and well-being. These and other issues have been deliberated by the World Council of Churches and other groups. Increasingly, bioethical considerations are part of their discussions on remedying many social and environmental problems.

A healthy humanity is concerned about its humanity itself—its compassion for its own kind and other sentient beings. It has respect for all life, because it realizes that when it damages the environment, it harms itself. Bioethics, in this context, is a field of self-investigation and enlightened self-interest, and it therefore provides a foundation for meaningful human lives.

Bioethics offers a multi-layered, rational appraisal of our place in the world and how best we can live for the good of the planet's life community. It mandates equal and fair consideration for human rights, animal rights, and the environment. It includes a temporal principle of transgenerational equity—having concern for the well-being of future generations and a respectful understanding of the wisdom and folly of our ancestors. We should forget neither our history nor the maxim, "We do not own the land, we borrow it from our children."

The polemicized rhetoric and bickering within and among frustrated factions of the human-, animal-, and environmental-rights movements can be reconciled by the integrative approach of applied bioethics.

Bioethics can also be an antidote to our society's dominionistic attitude toward life. Subjugation of minorities and other communities and war and other forms of violence will continue until we abandon the belief that we are superior to and apart from nature.<sup>1</sup>

Within what some call the establishment—the government-industrial complex—bioethics is also taking root. Ethical conduct, ethical advertising, ethical products, and full-cost (social and environmental) ac-

counting are beginning to appear on its agenda. Protection of endangered species, sustainable use of agricultural and other natural resources, loss of biodiversity, global warming, air pollution, national economic security, and industrial-economic sustainability can and must be considered in a context of bioethics.

Application of bioethical principles can help lead policymakers and corporations toward the most equitable and ethical means to achieve their desired ends. Bioethics can help individuals establish a common ground for consideration of the needs of many constituencies: those who speak for the sick and dying and those who speak for laboratory animals; those who speak for jobs and logs and those who speak for spotted owls and treasured forests, or native peoples and cultural diversity.

Bioethics is clearly a philosophic integration of human, animal, and environmental rights. It fosters an Earth- or Creation-centered worldview—what E. F. Schumacher, the father of ecological economics (or eco-nomics), termed *metanoia*. In governmental terms, the democratic process can be facilitated by giving equal and fair consideration to all sides or aspects of a given issue concerning human, animal, or environmental rights.

Decisions and full-cost accounting based upon bioethics include scientific, economic, legal, moral, social, and environmental considerations. These are in contrast to decisions that are purely "science based," such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered bovine growth hormone (BGH) (see page 5), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's approval of the release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment.

A recently enacted one-year-long European Union (EU) ban on allowing dairy farmers to inject their cows with BGH will cost the product's manufacturers and investors billions of dollars. The European Commission (which drafts legislation for the EU) enacted the ban—and made its separate decision to put a mora-

JIM BRANDENBURG/ALLSTOCK  
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# BIOETHICS: ITS SCOPE AND PURPOSE



torium on the patenting of genetically engineered animals—based upon the bioethical principles I've outlined here. In light of such developments, it would be enlightened self-interest for corporations to include bioethical criteria in their research-and-development decision-making process. Developing new products like BGH in an ethical vacuum is good for neither the stockholders' nor the corporation's public image. The moral complexity of many of the contemporary issues facing corporate entities, notably in the area of genetic engineering biotechnology, is considerable; it cannot be treated as "business as usual."

The moral component of bioethics is based on the principle of *ahimsa*—of avoiding unnecessary harm and/or injury while furthering human interests and the good of human society. Bioethics begins with the premise that all living beings and natural processes have purpose. The derivative or inferred intrinsic value of other sentient beings and each being's inherent worth to its community are acknowledged as deserving of moral consideration.

The instrumental or extrinsic value of a given life form may appear insignificant when the life form is judged on the basis of its degree of sentience or intelligence. Such evaluation invariably proves to be in error. Without lowly fungi in the soil, for example, our crops and forests would grow poorly, and human beings would suffer the consequences.<sup>2</sup> We should, therefore, be mindful of "the least of these" forms rather than destroy them with agricultural chemicals and industrial pollution.

Every community—human and nonhuman—has intrinsic value, not only to its members (in terms of security, continuation, and so on) but also to the larger life community of the planet's homeostatic and regenerative biospheric ecosystem. As Al-

do Leopold wrote in his seminal book, *A Sand County Almanac*, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.

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JIM BRANDENBURG/ALLSTOCK

It is wrong when it tends otherwise." Philosopher Ralph W. Gerard observed, "If nature is found to be a world of interdependence, then man is obliged to consider that characteristic as a moral dictum."

Actions and products that disrupt others' lives and/or the life processes that compose our life-support system cannot be accurately forecast by using the scientific method alone. Bioethics demands that we pay attention to the long-term environmental consequences and to how our means and ends might violate the principle of *ahimsa*. For the sake of our humanity, dignity, and integrity, we are bound to avoid harming or injuring any sentient being or the biospheric ecosystem when such harm or injury can otherwise be avoided. We must all strive to live nonviolently, because to do otherwise is not only to harm ourselves but also to demean and impoverish ourselves and the Earth in the process.

Bioethics posits that all life has been created by forces we do not yet fully comprehend, and that life is ours only in sacred trust. One of the founders of bioethics, Albert Schweitzer, wrote, "Ethics is, in its unqualified form, extended responsibility with regard to everything that has life."<sup>3</sup> He is unequivocal about the sense of duty that bioethics instills, stating that, "The universal ethic of reverence for life shows the

sympathy with animals, which is so often represented as sentimentality, to be a duty that no man can escape."

In a highly pragmatic sense, bioethics teaches us that when we take care of the Earth, the Earth will feed us and that when we don't take care of nature, nature cannot take care of us.

Bioethics provides the framework to help us deal more effectively with a host of issues in our personal and professional lives. It enhances dialogue and facilitates conflict resolution and, because of its democratic process, provides a firm foundation for a just and humane society.

A reverential attitude toward all life may be too much to hope for in a society whose materialism and consumerism ignore the intrinsic worth and interests of other living beings. An attitude of "live and let live," at the least, would be a significant step toward recognizing such value. Aldo Leopold insisted that, "No man who would rather see a dead deer than a living one, no man who has not a profound belief in the doctrine of 'live and let live' has any right himself to a world so full of glorious living creatures."<sup>4</sup> The rights of fellow creatures to experience their own completeness, or *ethos*, and to fulfill their purpose on Earth, or *telos*, are supported by this doctrine. Those who contend that animals have no rights must deal with those who embrace the doctrine of live and let live and assert their right to insist that animals be treated with respect and compassion.

*The humane treatment of animals is a human right* that all people should respect and endeavor to live by, in accordance with the doctrine of live and let live. Any society that does not value this doctrine will invariably suffer from the erosion of ethical sensibility, and inhumanity and the violation of human rights will become commonplace, if not normative.

As Émile Zola observed, "The fate of animals is of greater importance to me than the fear of appearing ridiculous; it is indissolubly connected with the fate of men." ■

#### References

1. Jim Mason, *An Unnatural Order: Uncovering the Roots of Our Domination of Nature and Each Other*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.
2. *Agricultural Research*, "Underground Allies of Plants," November 1989, 10-13.
3. Albert Schweitzer, *Albert Schweitzer, An Anthology*, New York: Harper & Bros., 1947.
4. Curt Meine, *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988, 174.



HSICANADA

# NORTHERN LIGHT

Accompanied by a howling wind and pulsing with a life all their own, the colorful, shimmering lights of the aurora borealis flicker across the night sky. Each vibrant color of the rainbow merges seamlessly with the next, reminding us of the intricate patterns in the rich tapestry of life that we share with others across the vast wilderness we call Canada.

However, as we look around us, eyes filled with wonder, that wonder must be tempered by the knowledge that nature and the animals, both domestic and wild, which we cherish so greatly, are facing more clear and present dangers than ever before.

In the desolate windswept ice fields off the coast of Canada, more than 20,000 seals were killed last year.

Progress in finding alternatives to the use of animals in research is proceeding slowly, and hundreds of thousands of laboratory animals still endure avoidable pain and suffering.

The roar of chain saws shatters the serenity of Clayoquot Sound, one of the last old-growth forests left standing in the world. Several thousand miles away, the next phase of the James Bay hydro project will flood a pristine wilderness, endangering the lives of countless num-

bers of wild animals.

In the St. Lawrence River, the lifeless body of a beluga whale washes ashore, so riddled with pollutants that its corpse must be disposed of using guidelines for the handling of toxic waste.

Under cruel conditions tens of thousands of horses, many of whom have been discarded by the racing industry and are destined for slaughter, are imported each year from the United States. As many as 20,000 young dogs are imported from U.S. puppy mills, adding to Canada's problem of pet overpopulation.

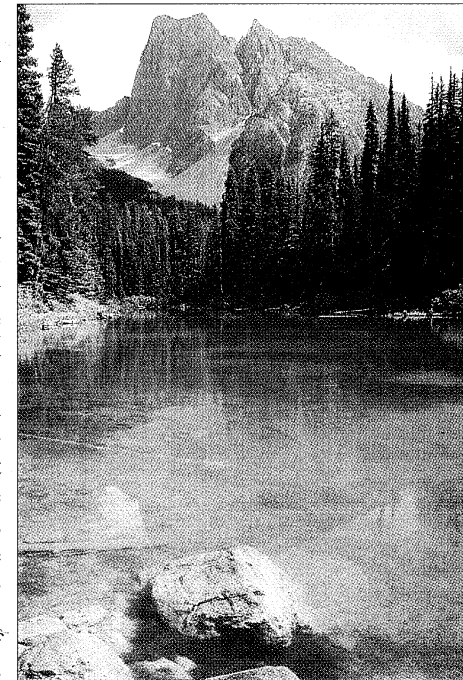
The situation facing us is serious; the problems, intimidating; the challenges, immense.

However, now there is a new symbol of hope for the protection of animals

and the environment. On January 1, 1994, with the help of The HSUS, a bold initiative was launched with the formation of The Humane Society of Canada (HSC).

Over the past two decades, I have been able to work across Canada and in many parts of the world, coming into contact with many dedicated men, women, and children who are striving to create and sustain a truly humane society.

If you believe as I do that one person can truly make a difference by force of his or her belief, we will draw inspiration from one an-



JACK HOEHN, JR./PROFILES WEST

**Mt. Burgess rises above Emerald Lake in British Columbia's Yoho National Park, part of Canada's vast, vibrant wilderness.**

## VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

*The New Creation*, a twenty-five-minute VHS video program produced and narrated by Dr. Fox, explores the ethical, economic, and environmental ramifications of genetic engineering biotechnology, as well as the risks and benefits of applying this technology in agriculture and medicine. *The New Creation* is available for \$20 from The HSUS.

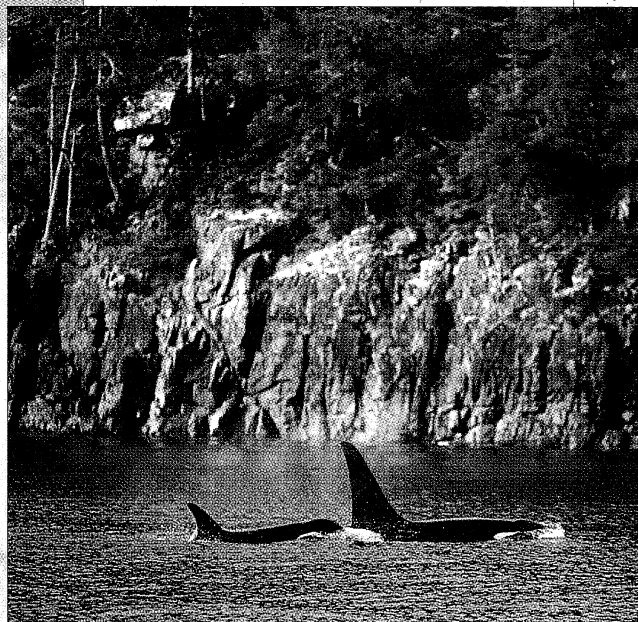
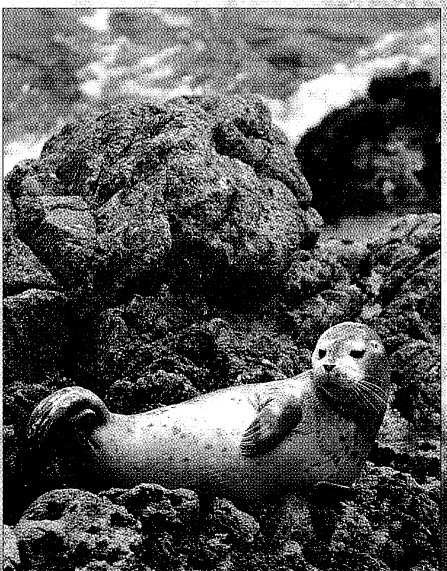
THE WORK OF  
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HUMANESOCIETYINTERNATIONAL





The arctic fox, a Canadian native fur-bearer, is trapped for its fur. *Inset, left:* Indigenous to Canada, the Rocky Mountain elk faces loss of habitat. *Inset, below:* The harbor seal charms local residents and tourists alike.



Orcas are sought for display by marine parks; the "Into the Blue" campaign will alert the public to physical and psychological cruelty to captive marine mammals.

other to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Our concerted efforts will represent a powerful moving force for social change.

Working as a new and important unit of HSI, we will add our voice to those of the many other concerned individuals and organizations battling the cruelty, suffering, and indifference that at times threaten to overwhelm our efforts on behalf of animals and the environment.

We are grateful to The HSUS for its willingness to assist us with our programs, and in particular for the confidence and friendship extended by HSUS Chief Executive John A. Hoyt and President Paul G. Irwin.

Despite the best efforts of committed organizations and individuals, both in Canada and around the world, there is still much work to be done. For now, the questions are more urgent than ever before, and their answers do not come quickly enough.

In addition to the problems mentioned earlier, here are just a few examples of the projects HSC will be working on in the months ahead:

- countering the efforts of the Canadian fur trade to overturn an impending Euro-

BACKGROUND: FOURBYFIVE INC.; TOP LEFT: TERRY A. PARKER/VIEWPOINTS WEST PHOTOFILE LTD.; INSET BOTTOM: DELANEY/PROFILES WEST





**A log-laden truck rumbles across Canada's Vancouver Island. Inset: Logging near Clayoquot Sound and the resulting deforestation, undertaken in the name of "sustainable use," destroy irreplaceable habitat.**

pean Union (formerly the European Community) import ban on furs from wildlife caught in leghold traps.

- promoting alternatives to the use of animals in research
- moving forward with the anti-captivity phase of "Into the Blue," an educational campaign to alert parents and children about the physical and psychological cruelty inflicted upon captive whales and dolphins
- formulating a comprehensive strategy for carrying out effective relief operations

in the case of natural and human-caused disasters

- addressing the problems of pet overpopulation through vigorous public campaigns aimed at instilling the principles of responsible pet ownership
- encouraging safeguards to slow down the headlong rush toward the use of biotechnology
- expanding the delivery of effective humane education programs in concert with other groups and individuals
- mounting specialized undercover investigations to expose animal abuse

- examining strategies to overcome the negative impact of international trade negotiations upon animals and the environment
- battling harsh conditions in faraway places: joining the staff of other HSI offices in the fight against cruelty and abuse, we will lend our strength and expertise to struggling organizations in developing nations
- encouraging farm-animal reforms and exploring the linkages between intensive-farming operations, predator-control programs, and environmental damage
- working to stem the terrible loss of habi-

tat and wildlife species caused by commercial operations aimed at the "sustainable" use of living natural resources

We will make real and significant progress in dealing with these issues, although progress may often appear overshadowed by reports of crisis or disaster. Progress may well be less rapid or more unevenly distributed than we might hope for, but that will in no way diminish the importance of our achievements.

For each setback and each obstacle in our path, there will be a moment of triumph and success. I would like to share with you just such a great adventure.

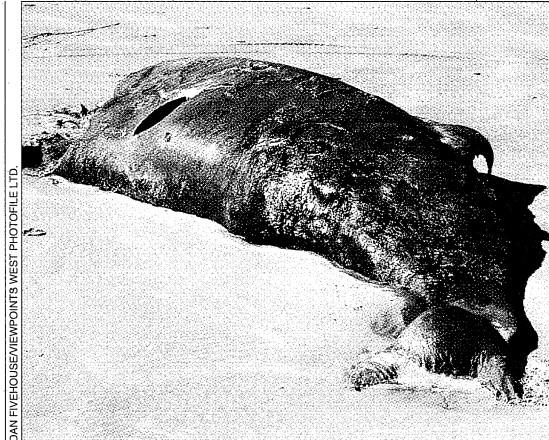
In September 1991, following a careful period of rehabilitation, and after a combined fifty-six years of captivity, three dolphins, "Rocky," "Missie," and "Silver," were released into the sparkling turquoise waters of the Caribbean.

I was fortunate enough to be in the water with these dolphins when they were returned to the wild. I have never had such an uplifting experience as the sight of those three dolphins, still bearing the scars of their years of confinement, streaking out into the open sea.

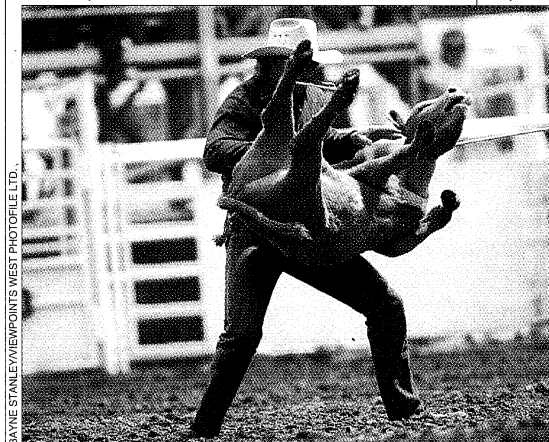
Post-release monitoring has confirmed the dolphins are thriving in their ocean environment. For Rocky, Missie, and Silver, the "oceans" no longer have walls.

Many people have asked if the dolphins displayed any signs of gratitude for their new-found freedom. In fact, as they swam circles around me, I had the distinct impression that they were asking me, to get out of their way!

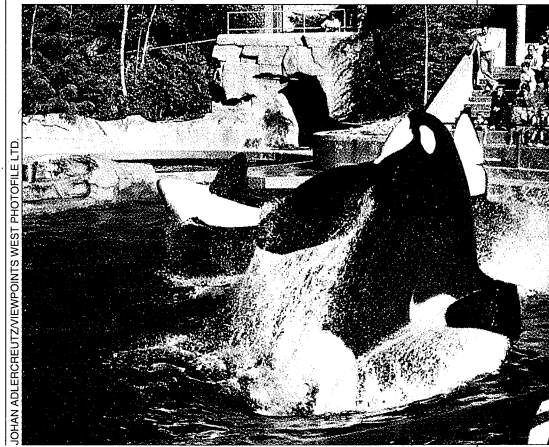
If they were trying to deliver any "message," I believe it was simply this: "What took you so long?"—*Michael O'Sullivan, executive director, HSC*



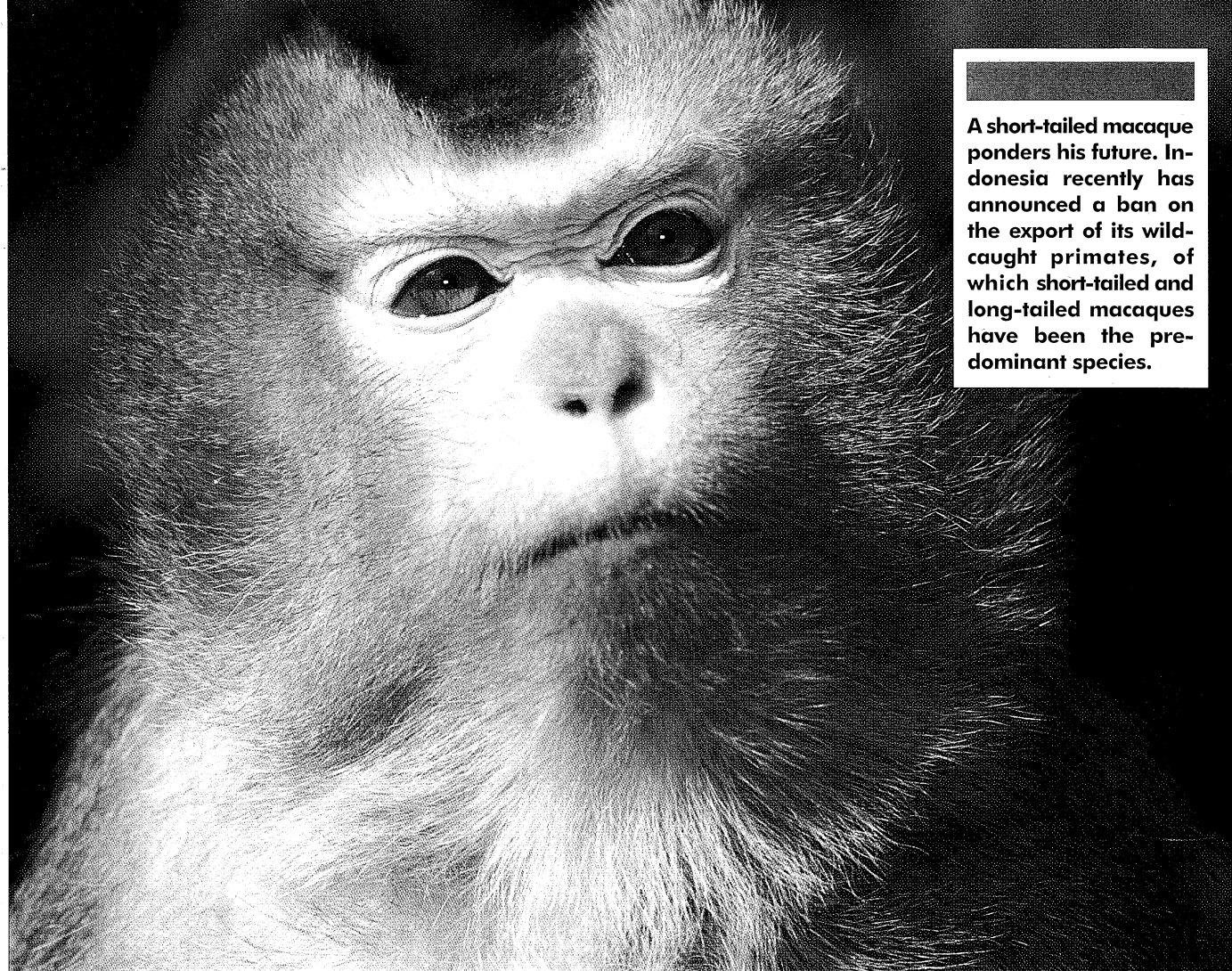
**Above: The carcass of a whale, victim of an oil spill, washes up on Combers Beach in British Columbia. The HSC plans to provide relief to animals caught in natural and man-made**



**disasters. Center: Rodeos are as much a part of Canadian lore as they are of the American Old West's. Below: A crowd-pleasing orca performs in a Canadian aquarium.**







A short-tailed macaque ponders his future. Indonesia recently has announced a ban on the export of its wild-caught primates, of which short-tailed and long-tailed macaques have been the predominant species.

THOMAS KITCHIN/TOM STACK & ASSOCIATES



# WILD-PRIMATE EXPORTS STOP

In January 1994 Indonesia banned the export of wild-caught primates. HSUS/HSI hails the decision, which came after an HSUS/HSI investigation in Indonesia revealed the cruelty of the wild-caught primate trade (see the Spring 1993 *HSUS News*).

"This bold decision may save Indonesia's primate populations, which were collapsing under extreme pressure from

the demand for primates for research and product testing," said David K. Wills, executive director, HSI, and the principal investigator on the case.

Indonesia exported approximately 10,000 wild-caught primates in 1990; this number represents about 30 percent of the worldwide trade in all primates. The primate species that Indonesia has exported in the last year are long-tailed macaques

and short-tailed macaques. In a statement Indonesia's minister of forestry said, "The long-tailed macaque and the short-tailed macaque, wild animals which have been exploited by human beings for a long time without having been protected by law, are showing signs of decline in the wild."

The HSUS/HSI investigation discovered that on Indonesia's island of Sumatra, rural dwellers set nets around trees where primates sleep at night. In the morning the hungry animals come down to find food and are captured. As many as fifteen primates of all ages are crammed into a small cage. They are then taken to crowded holding facilities in a nearby city, where they stay until an exporter's agent comes to claim them. Their wait exposes them to hot sun and driving rain. The HSUS/HSI investigation discovered that, for every ten primates captured from the wild, only two survive to be exported for research.

The animals chosen by the agent to be exported for research are taken to another facility where they are quarantined and screened. The rest are killed or sold for

food. Primates can carry diseases deadly to humans; a quarantine period reduces the risk that diseased primates are exported, but humans in importing countries who come in contact with diseased primates could face a health risk.

The few primates who survive the stress and neglect this far into their journey from the jungle to the laboratory are shipped by air to their next destination. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan are the leading importers of primates. The United States, which imports the greatest number of primates, also provides animals for researchers in other countries following more screening and quarantine. The HSUS has drafted legislation to ban the import of wild-caught primates into the United States.

Mr. Wills explains the demand for primates in research: "Primates are intelligent animals with complex social systems and behaviors.... Their similarity to humans makes them prized as research subjects by a scientific community reluctant to change, but it also makes their pain and suffering undeniable."

HSUS/HSI met with international wildlife trade experts, primate dealers, and primate breeders and also worked with the research community to create awareness about this problem and to discuss solutions. The primate-trade community recognizes the problems associated with the trade in wild-caught primates and should be able to satisfy the demands of researchers with captive-bred animals. In fact, one primate breeder and exporter says that there is already a glut of captive-bred primates available to researchers. HSUS/HSI will continue to push for high standards in captive-breeding programs to ensure humane treatment.

Indonesia's action, combined with a Philippine decision to halt wild-caught primate exports in 1994, will stop about 80 percent of the world's wild-caught primate trade. Encouraged, HSUS/HSI is moving to reduce that trade further and forestall the entry of other nations into the wild-caught primate market. "We're working on finding a sponsor to introduce our draft bill to protect the wild populations of primates in other nations," said Mr. Wills. "We hope that other countries will follow Indonesia's lead and protect their natural heritage." □

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

### HSUS/HSI CONFRONTS WILDLIFE USE

In January HSUS/HSI Vice President John W. Grandy, Ph.D., attended the general assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources—The World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IUCN is an international organization unique in that it has both government and non-government organizations as members. At the IUCN's triennial meeting, the general assembly, conservationists, and animal protectionists gather to direct IUCN activities.

Unfortunately, in recent years the IUCN has begun to promote the so-called sustainable utilization of wildlife as a way for developing nations to achieve economic success—primarily through stimulating international trade (including trophy hunting) in their wildlife. The IUCN's sustainable use of wildlife programs has actively promoted the use of wildlife in countries such as Russia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and India.

Dr. Grandy attended the meeting on behalf of HSUS/HSI and the International Primate Protection League to confront the IUCN on its promotion of wildlife utilization.

Once wildlife is given monetary value, countries are unable to control the powerful and lucrative trade that results. Wildlife trade, therefore, is antithetical to conservation; it is also uniformly inhumane. HSUS/HSI will continue our public battle with organizations that promote wildlife utilization.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAPPING

Two years ago the (then) European Community (now the European Union, or EU) enacted legislation that, as of January 1995, will ban trade in furs from countries that permit the use of steel-jaw leghold traps, unless these

countries adopt "humane" trap standards. In an apparent effort to take advantage of this loophole and to avoid a potential boycott, trappers and fur-industry interests from around the world have spearheaded efforts to draft "humane" trap standards. Each EU country sends a delegation to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), where the delegations draft and vote on trapping standards.

The fur and trapping interests hope that addition of such standards will not only prevent a European fur ban but also confer new legitimacy on the steel-jaw leghold trap. They hope to dupe the American public into believing that these traps are humane and that the furs obtained have been humanely procured. In fact, the draft standards classify steel-jaw leghold traps as humane.

The U.S. delegation, organized under the non-governmental American National Standards Institute (ANSI), is dominated by pro-trapping interests that have obstructed the participation of humane groups, including The HSUS. The HSUS and others have had such difficulty participating in the process and making it representative that we have concluded that it has been fraudulent and should be started anew. (The HSUS and the Animal Welfare Institute will appeal to the ISO and ANSI and seek legal remedies to force a balance in the viewpoints of members of ANSI's technical advisory group on "humane" trap standards.)

It is inconceivable to The HSUS that a group representing U.S. interests would declare steel-jaw leghold traps to be humane, but it is possible: the U.S. technical advisory group met with delegations from twelve countries in February to discuss the draft standards.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals and HSI created a video describing the ISO strategy, and the cruelty of trapping, that was distributed at a press conference addressing the ISO proposal in Brussels, Belgium, in January 1994. □





**Mark Owens (right) and wildlife scouts watch over captured poachers; the poachers later joined the Owenses' Zambia effort, the North Luangwa Conservation Project.**

ious to get started, but first we had to build a primitive camp of mud-and-daub huts so that we could survive the infamous Luangwa rainy season.

Although lions and other wildlife were plentiful, we rarely saw elephants. When we did, they ran before we got within half a mile of them. One group of male elephants did accept us; they stayed within a mile of camp.

One morning, as we were smearing mud on the sides of our new mud-wattle hut, we heard gunshots from very nearby, just down river. We ducked for cover. When the shooting stopped, two male elephants from our "camp group" lay dead and mutilated, their tusks having been chopped out of their heads.

In our battered truck, we rushed up the escarpment to bring government game guards from the nearest post, so that they could capture the poachers. We found only seven guards to protect a park the size of Delaware! They had only four rifles and a single round of ammunition among them. Understandably, they refused to tackle the poachers, who were armed with AK47 military rifles.

That was our first glimpse of the evil forces that were destroying North Luangwa. Informants told us that the Zambian army was using its trucks to haul ivory, the police were issuing guns to poachers,

and the game warden himself was selling illegal meat from his back door. The game guards were seldom paid their salaries, so instead of protecting the park, they were poaching. Poachers had shot all of the black rhinos and more than 85 percent of the elephants. At that rate, in five years none would be left.

We decided to postpone our planned research on predators until we could stop the slaughter. But what could two foreign nationals caught in a snare of political corruption do to save an entire national park?

We learned that poaching of meat and ivory from the national park was the district's primary industry. It provided more jobs and edible protein than did any other. If we expected the people to stop poaching, somehow we would have to provide them with alternatives: employment and a protein source that did not involve the killing of animals.

Instead of radio-tracking lions, we began visiting the primitive villages near North Luangwa, where the poachers lived. We told the people that if they would stop poaching, we would give jobs to as many of them as we could. In each village we offered start-up money to anyone with skills who wanted to open a small business, and we offered training to those without skills. We encouraged cot-



# SAVING ELEPHANTS

**M**ark Owens and Delia Owens, Ph.D., have conducted wildlife-conservation work and research in Africa for twenty years. They are the authors of the best-selling books *Cry of the Kalahari* and *The Eye of the Elephant*. The conservation efforts of the Owenses are funded principally by the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Owens Foun-

dation for Wildlife Conservation. For more information on their work, contact the Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 870530, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. The HSUS provides financial support for the Owenses' work, which the Owenses describe here.

"Long Tail" stepped gingerly through the small stream, pausing briefly to spray a plume of clear water over his back with

his trunk. He was typical of many Luangwa adult elephants, small in stature and tuskless. We waited for him to cross; then we waded into the stream. From a distance of twenty yards, we took notes on his condition and the grasses he was eating. It is not unusual for two field biologists in Africa to have such an experience, but it would have been impossible in North Luangwa as recently as three years ago.

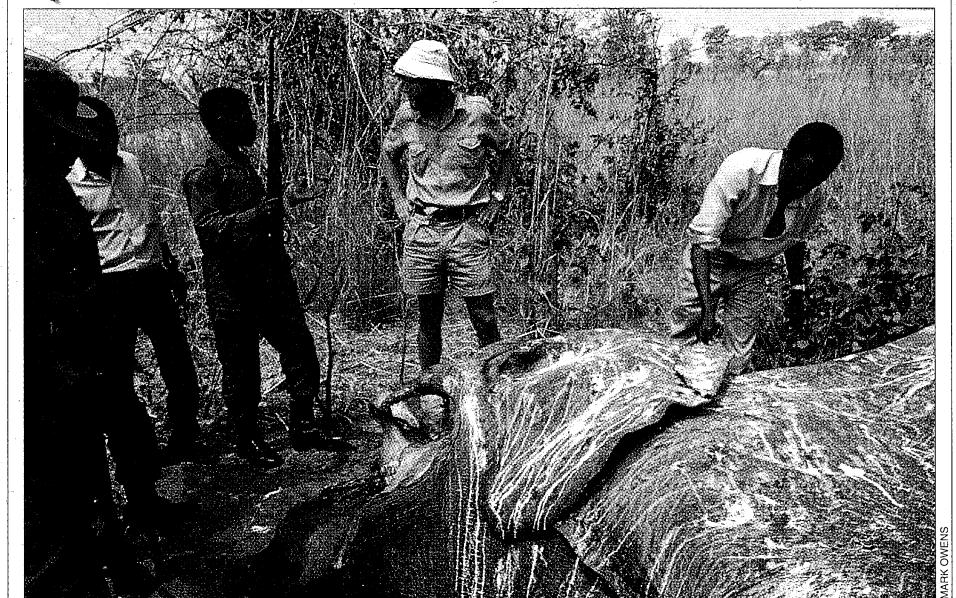
When we arrived in northeastern Zambia's North Luangwa National Park in 1986, poachers were shooting 1,000 elephants a year within the park's borders. As many as 100,000 elephants had been shot in the Luangwa Valley, a 400-mile portion of the Rift Valley. The gentle survivors of this carnage ran at the first sight or scent of humans; standing twenty yards from one would have been unimaginable. Yet in 1993 poachers shot no more than 5 elephants.

This is the story of how this remarkable achievement took place.

After studying lions and brown hyenas

in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana for seven years, in 1981 we traveled north through Africa, searching for a wilderness to continue our behavioral studies of carnivores. Flying our small Cessna 180 airplane (donated by the Frankfurt Zoological Society) over the Muchinga Escarpment, we scouted a route into the Luangwa Valley. There were no roads, bridges, or any other sign of human habitation. Herds of Cape buffalo galloped across the dusty plains, and hundreds of hippos wallowed in the pools of the Luangwa River. The savannas were dotted with zebra, wildebeest, waterbuck, impala, puku, eland, and other hoofed dwellers. Delia later drove the truck into the valley and found a safe, if primitive, landing site for the airplane on a narrow flood plain along the Mwaleshi River. Mark glided in and landed on the bumpy, grassy strip.

After a six-week-long expedition through the trackless park, we decided that, although a lion study would be difficult to undertake, it was feasible. We were anx-



**Mr. Owens and Zambian wildlife scouts examine the carcass of a poached elephant. When the Owenses arrived in Zambia in 1986, as many as 1,000 elephants a year were being shot in North Luangwa National Park.**



tage industries that would use local materials and produce goods and services that the community lacked. By doing this, and by requiring entrepreneurs to pay back the

loans to our project's "revolving fund," we kept overhead to a minimum and were able to use basically the same money over and over again. One man began to make

sandals from old tires. In a carpentry shop in Chibansa, others made school desks and furniture that was then covered by a sewing cooperative in Mwamfushi nearby.

In this way, one business began feeding another. And ambitions grew: we taught one villager how to start a fish farm; when we returned months later, he and



## FULFILLING AN ISLAND DREAM

In 1992 Kathy Deher and Lucie Sheldon had a dream. They wanted to bring to their home, the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, the lesson of kindness and sensitivity to all living creatures. For years the two women had been rescuing stray and abused dogs and cats on St. Maarten, and they felt they were getting nowhere. Ms. Deher and Ms. Sheldon decided to restart the St. Maarten Animal Welfare Foundation, which had been formed in the early seventies, and they contacted The HSUS for help. When The HSUS suggested the Foundation begin by educating children on the island, they agreed. In a little more than one year, the Foundation raised enough funds to "adopt" the teach-

ers of more than 7,000 students, every kindergarten- and elementary-school child on the islands of St. Maarten and neighboring St. Eustatius and Saba\*.

In a precedent-setting international humane education initiative, The HSUS's youth education division, the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education (NAHEE), was invited by the Foundation to present workshops on the use of *KIND News*, NAHEE's monthly classroom newspaper.

In October 1993 Rachel Lamb, HSUS director of companion animal care, and Wendell Maddox, director of the HSUS Midwest Regional Office, traveled to St. Maarten to conduct district-wide humane education workshops. The first workshop was introduced by Sara Wescott Williams, commissioner of education, and Maxime Larmonie, inspector of federal

education, on St. Maarten. Although St. Maarten is an island of lush beauty and friendly people, its homeless-animal problem is significant. The workshops represented a way to begin addressing the problem directly, while introducing educators to a philosophy of compassion and sensitivity toward all living creatures. In one week Mr. Maddox and Ms. Lamb trained more than 20 principals and 250 teachers.

As Ms. Lamb explained during the first workshop, "Humane education is more than teaching why it's important to care for a dog or cat properly. It's more than sharing information about pet overpopulation and the importance of spaying or neutering. Humane education is really about the Schweitzerian message of extending our circle of compassion." Mr. Maddox agreed, adding, "When a community teaches humane education, it is promoting and developing a humane society for people, animals, and the environment."

The training workshops focused on teaching the St. Maarten teachers methods for attaining the maximum educational benefit from *KIND News* and other NAHEE materials. Each teacher left the workshops with materials that could be used immediately on his/her return to the classroom.

The HSUS representatives also met with and advised local government officials, veterinarians, and individuals involved in animal protection. Mr. Maddox and Ms. Lamb visited with teachers from a school for Haitian immigrants on St. Maarten. The teachers at the Haitian school had no humane education materials to share with their students, and they were thankful for the materials and activities The HSUS provided to them.

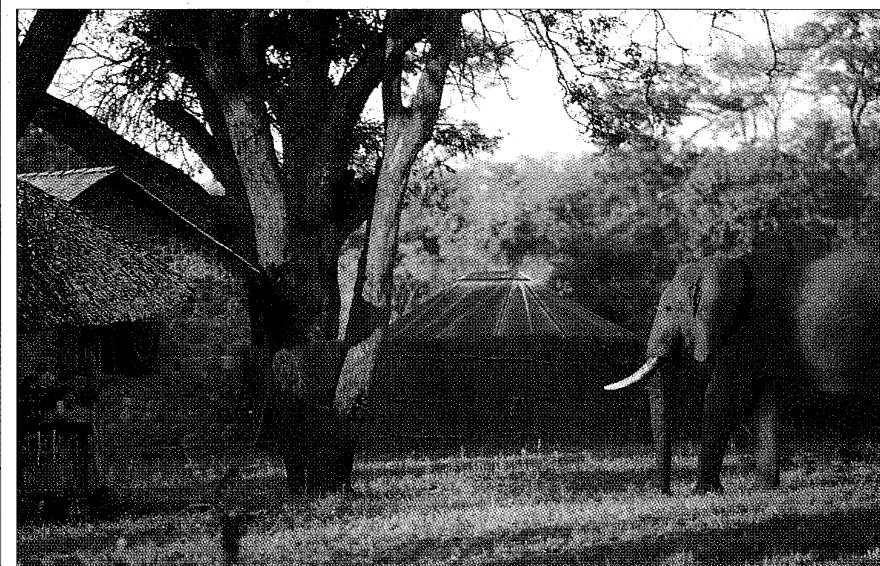
According to NAHEE Executive Dir-

ector Patty Finch, the St. Maarten workshops represent the first time that an entire elementary-school system has received on-site training in the use of *KIND News*. "We were delighted to have had this opportunity to reach so many teachers and students with our message of kindness, with such strong support from the commissioner of education. Her opening remarks at the workshop represented our mission extremely well," said Ms. Finch. "According to reports we have received from the school officials, Ms. Lamb and Mr. Maddox did an outstanding job, and they have been invited back."

On St. Maarten, a positive change in children's attitudes toward animals has already become evident. According to one of the adopted teachers, after her students began reading *KIND News*, they stopped poking and hitting the land crabs that abound on the island. Instead, the students can now be spotted transporting the small creatures carefully out of harm's way. Teachers who participated in the workshops called the presentations "enriching," "exciting," "practical," and "enlightening."

NAHEE is committed to assisting educators more effectively to teach children to act with kindness toward people, animals, and the Earth, and also to helping young people as they seek to live the ideal of respect and reverence for all life. For information about how you can take part in fulfilling this mission, contact NAHEE, PO Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362. □

\*As part of NAHEE's Adopt-A-Teacher program, local humane organizations, businesses, and civic groups provide the funding necessary to "adopt" teachers whose students receive *Kind News* in their classrooms.



Survivor visits the Owens' home base, Marula-Puku Research Camp, in North Luangwa National Park late one afternoon. The elephant's family has probably been coming to the camp's grove for generations.

## "SURVIVOR": A SYMBOL OF HOPE

At first he was no more than a shadow. Now and then we would see his large gray form moving silently through the trees on the other side of the river. The elephants have been so heavily poached that they are extremely wary of man; we had seen elephants from the ground only four times in four years. Each time they had screamed and run away from us, leaving us standing alone on some dusty, deserted spot. From our airplane we had counted 5,000 elephants in North Luangwa National Park, so we knew that there was a viable population there.

We desperately wanted some of the elephants to accept us; we needed a sign that our program to conserve them was working, not just to bring back the numbers of elephants, but to repair the damage to the relationship between the gentle creatures and man. One afternoon we heard loud rustling noises in the small combretum trees that border our camp. Mark and I stalked to the trees and watched in wonder as an elephant stood at the edge of camp. He held his trunk high in the air, taking in the sweet scent of thousands of marula fruits, which lay

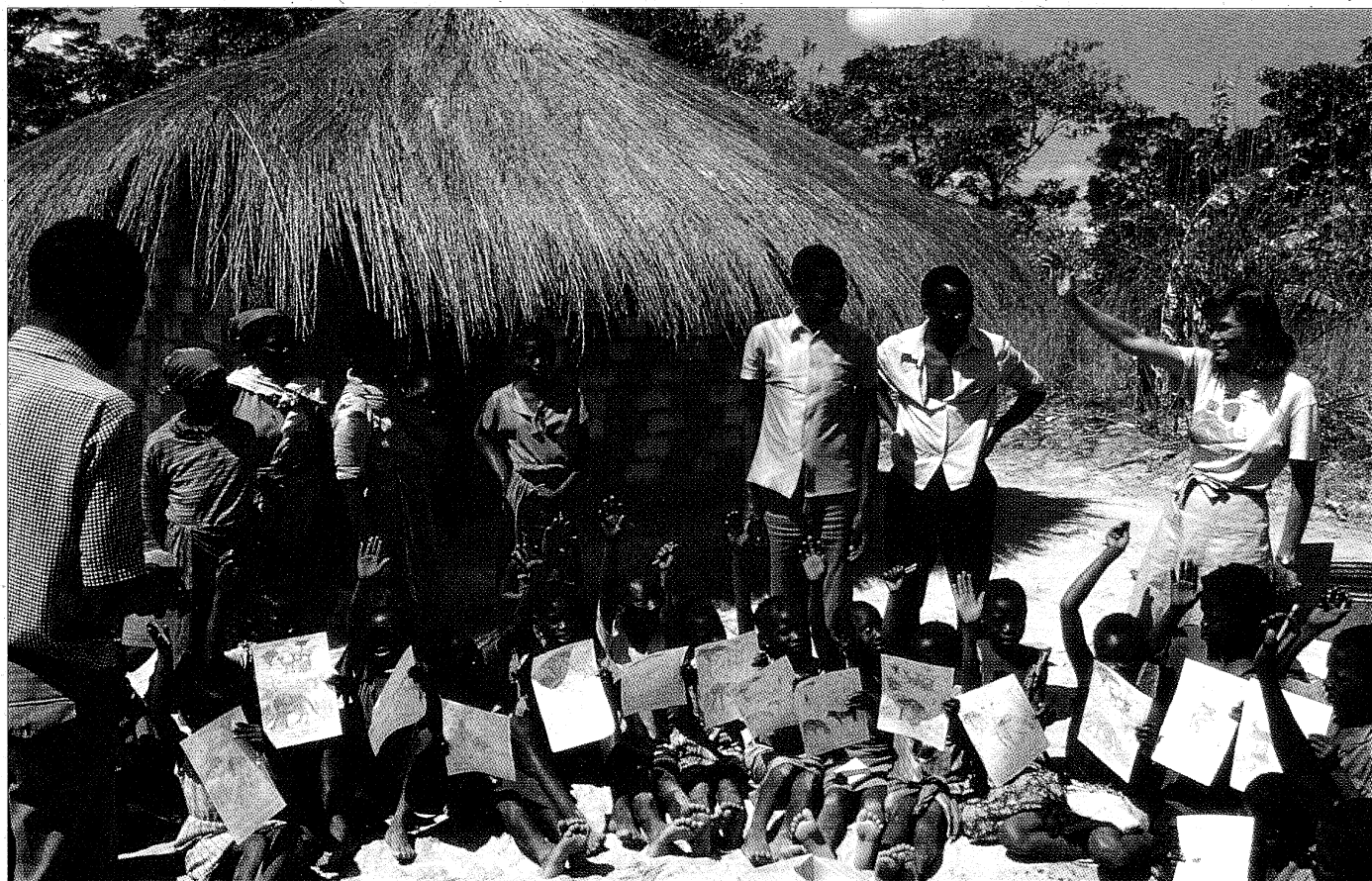
as thick as honey over the ground. We had built our camp there because the marula trees offer lush shade in the hot season, but this elephant's family had probably been coming to this grove to eat the fruit for many generations. Now our camp stood in his way.

The elephant took one step toward the fruit. Then he stopped and stood, swinging his right foot back and forth above the ground. Silently we willed him to keep coming. If only he would come into camp, it would be a sign that he trusted us. Again he took a step forward; again he stopped. He could see us standing thirty yards away, but he did not run. For twenty minutes he stood there, periodically holding his trunk up high to take in the tempting, sugary scent of the marulas. Finally, as if released from some invisible grip, he walked quickly into camp to within ten yards of the office cottage, where he began feeding on the fruit.

The elephant began coming into camp every day, feeding as we stood no more than ten yards away. There were four other males in his group, whom we would see from time to time in the distance. Only this male would come into camp. He had learned to trust us. He represents hope for all elephants; we've named him "Survivor."—Delia Owens, Ph.D.



The HSUS's Rachel Lamb demonstrates to primary- and elementary-school teachers at the Lycée Professionnel College, in the French-governed state on St. Maarten, effective ways to promote humane education in the classroom.



As part of the Owens' conservation-education program, Delia Owens, Ph.D., talks with school children in the village of Katibunga, which is situated on the perimeter of North Luangwa National Park.

others had dug thirty ponds!

After several years of providing job opportunities in the villages, we saw the poaching decrease slightly, but elephants were still being shot at the rate of 600 a year. Workers had discovered that they could work in their businesses during the week and still poach on weekends.

We had provided the carrot; now it was time for the stick. We encouraged Zambia's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Services to move more wildlife scouts into the area. We supplied them with new firearms, sleeping bags, mosquito nets, uniforms, and boots. We helped train them and gave them pride in their jobs. After years of hard work, the North Luangwa wildlife scouts became the best in all of Zambia.

Mark trained some of the scouts to be an airborne special unit. Using our project's airplane, and later a helicopter, he and the scouts flew anti-poaching missions night and day. Inevitably, the poach-

ers began shooting at the aircraft. Mark could not fire back—that would be illegal! Instead he fired special shotgun shells filled with cherry-bomb firecrackers. The firecrackers exploded with a thunder and a flash of light. They were harmless, but the poachers didn't know that. Suddenly the poachers were on the run, and the number of dead elephants plummeted dramatically.

In 1990 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, banned trade in elephant parts, including ivory. The HSUS was very instrumental in ensuring that this ban was passed. Within a few months, the price of ivory in our area of Africa dropped from more than \$200 a pound to just \$2.00 a pound. Suddenly there was less incentive than ever to be an ivory poacher; it made economic sense to become a carpenter, a sawyer, a fish farmer, or a cobbler. Poaching declined even more. At about this time, the people

of Zambia elected their first democratic government. The new president fired many of the corrupt officials who had been involved with poaching and ordered the burning of the country's stockpiles of confiscated ivory.

Realizing that education is one of the most important tools for conservation, we began a conservation-education program in the schools of fourteen villages that harbored poachers. That program now reaches 12,000 students with the message of the importance of the wildlife in North Luangwa to their future.

Ultimately, eco-tourism must save North Luangwa National Park. The government has wisely agreed that a portion of tourism revenues will remain in a local trust for village development. When that happens the local people will begin to see that it is in their own best interest to help conserve their native wildlife. By 1993 we had helped start fifty-two cottage industries. Coincidentally that same year, for

the first time in twenty years, the elephant population of North Luangwa began to grow. Ninety-three percent of the population had been poached. It will take many years for a recovery, but at least a recovery has begun.

ery has begun.

Long Tail and several other elephants wander into our camp often now. On Christmas Eve 1993, we heard an elephant feeding nearby and looked up to see

"Cheers" walking straight toward us in the darkness. We stood very still while he fed on the lush new grass only five yards away. It was our best Christmas present, and the only thanks we'll ever need. ■



HSI EUROPE

## WILL NORWAY WHALE IF IN EU?

Norway is trying to soften the European Union's (EU) (the new name for the European Community) negative view of commercial whaling, but it is meeting opposition at every turn. While talking with the EU, Norwegian negotiators are also attempting to pave the way for Norway to continue to whale commercially if it does join. Although the EU does not formally ban member nations from whaling commercially, it has issued several resolutions condemning whaling's inherent cruelty and Norwegian commercial whaling in particular. Nations such as Portugal and Spain had to give up commercial whaling before becoming members of the (then) European Community.

Negotiations between the EU and Norway have yet to be resolved in thirteen discussion categories, and as a result, a March 1, 1994, deadline for concluding negotiations may not be met. Commercial whaling is a key issue now on the table, and Norway has played its whaling "card" with arrogance.

In January the European Commission (which drafts EU legislation) announced that it had rejected Norway's request that, as part of the negotiations, the EU change the protected status of minke, fin, and orca whales under its Habitat and Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora directives. The Council of Ministers' working group (made up of individuals from each member country who advise ministers on how to vote) also rejected Norway's request.

To Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's annoyance, Euro-

pean Parliament (EP) members (who are elected by EU citizens) have shadowed her and her policymakers whenever they are in Brussels and Strasburg (where the EU meets) to remind them that not only does commercial whaling violate international law, but the public also finds commercial whaling intolerable.

Ms. Brundtland met with EP President Egon Klepsch and some of his colleagues in late January. During her briefing of the EP's external relations and environment committees, British member Tom Spencer reminded her of the Brundtland Report, a comprehensive assessment of global environmental policy. In the report's preface, Ms. Brundtland had stated that, "utility aside, there are also moral, ethical, cultural, aesthetic, and purely scientific reasons for conserving wild beings."

Ms. Brundtland answered Mr. Spencer by saying that, although she passionately supported international environmental law, "based on sentiment, how can we have a common basis to decide which species are threatened? This is the bottom line."

Ms. Brundtland's appearance at the EP came just hours after it had reaffirmed its outrage over commercial whaling during a debate over a resolution intended to acknowledge the high environmental standards of potential-member nations Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Austria in areas such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions controls and the transport of dangerous substances. It urged the European Commission and Council to permit new members to retain their own strict national standards in these areas rather than insist that they be lowered so as not to create trade barriers. Dutch Member of Parliament Hemmo Muntingh added to the res-

olution an amendment condemning commercial whaling. Mr. Spencer reminded the EP's plenary session that, while Norway is a leader in many environmental areas, it has not set a good example in its pursuit of commercial whaling and should give up the practice. Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Austria have been actively engaged in discussions with the EU to determine whether each would join.

MEP Anita Pollack, president of the EP's Intergroup on Animal Welfare, and Mr. Spencer, both of whom strongly oppose whaling, have formed an informal parliamentary working group to focus specifically on the commercial-whaling issue. Called the Whale Action Group, its objective is to keep up intense pressure on Norway, and the EU as a whole, so that Norway's role in commercial whaling is not "glossed over" and the moratorium on commercial whaling is not lost at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in May. HSI has been asked to serve as a resource for the group.

Ms. Pollack and Mr. Spencer announced that they will co-sponsor an "urgency" resolution in the EP in April. It will urge the EP to support the continuation of the moratorium and to condemn Norway's whaling activities, which have included the killing of pregnant minke whales. Norway has also failed to control illegal shipments of minke meat to South Korea.

Although EP resolutions do not establish law, they do reflect the views of the EP and often form the basis for regulations later. Such resolutions are viewed by IWC participants as gauges of public sentiment regarding the commercial-whaling moratorium.—Betsy Dribben, Esq., European Director, HSI



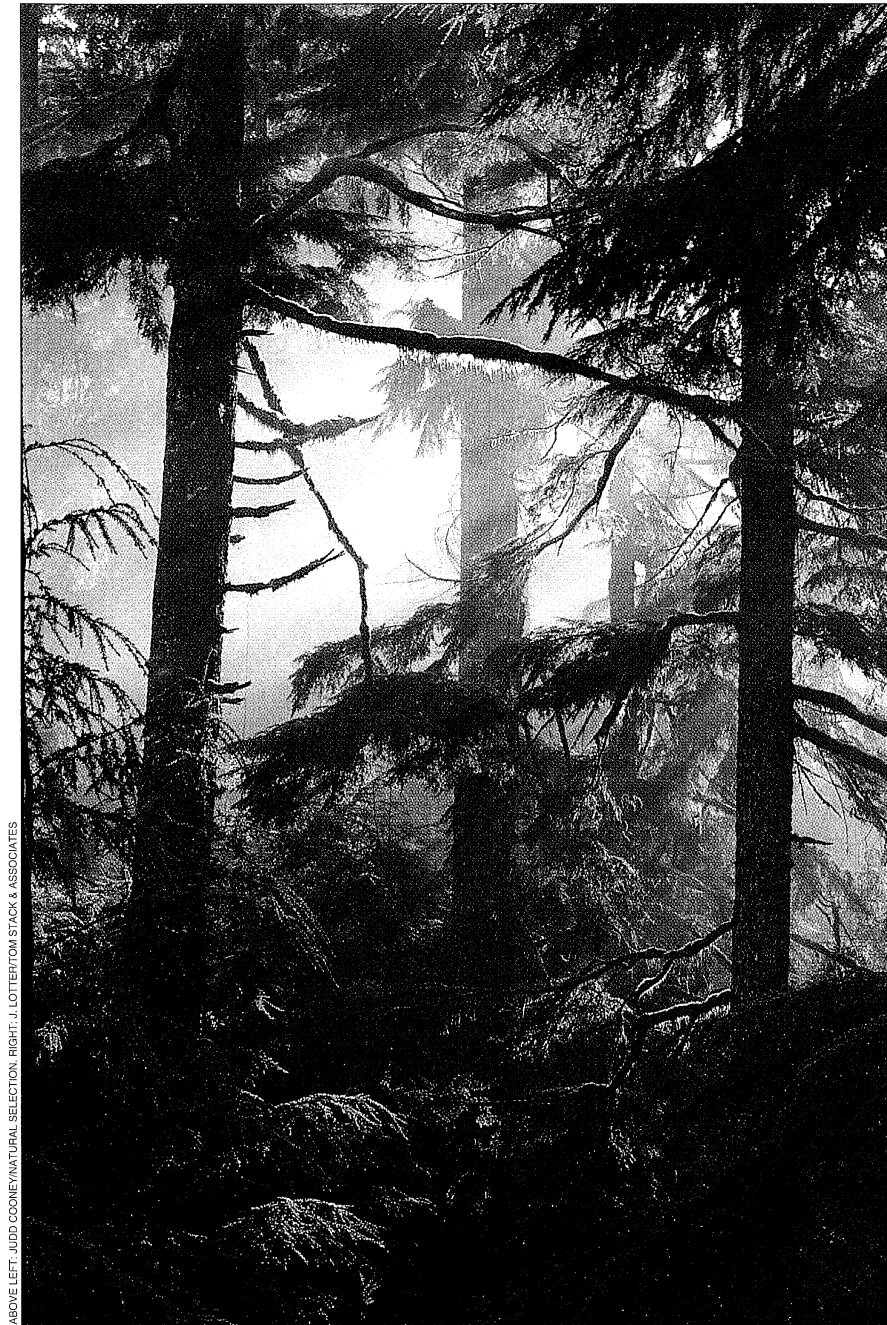
# PROTECTING THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE PLANET

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
THOMAS E. LOVEJOY, PH.D



FEW INDIVIDUALS ARE better qualified to speak on the importance of biodiversity than Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D., because few in-

dividuals have done more to preserve it. Dr. Lovejoy, a conservation biologist with a special interest in tropical biology, is known for developing the concept of the *debt-for-nature swap*, which has allowed a number of tropical countries to reduce the crushing burdens of national debt in exchange for commitments to protect significant natural areas. He also conceived an ambitious cooperative effort between the United States and Brazil to define experimentally the minimal possible size for an effective nature reserve. Now assistant secretary of external affairs for the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Lovejoy recently played a key role in assisting Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to organize the National Biological Survey.



ABOVE LEFT: JUDD COONEY/NATURAL SELECTION. RIGHT: J. LOTTERDOM/STACK & ASSOCIATES

Very often a species becomes endangered because its ecosystem has not been managed properly," says Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D. The loss of the Northwestern old-growth forest habitat (above) of the spotted owl (opposite) is a case in point.

**HSUS:** Today one hears the word "biodiversity" used every day, but many people aren't really sure what it means. What is biodiversity?

**Lovejoy:** Biodiversity refers to the inherent variety of the natural world. It is probably most easily thought of as referring to the diversity of plant and animal species with which we share this planet—but it means more than that. It includes the genetic variation within species, the vast assortment of ecosystems and major vegetation types of the world.

**HSUS:** How did you come to recognize the importance of protecting biodiversity?

**Lovejoy:** My own attraction to the natural world and my fascination with different forms of life led rather directly to a concern with the protection of biodiversity. Then I began to learn about important ways in which other species contribute to human welfare through medicines, intellectual inspiration that leads to advances in the life sciences, and the natural cycles of the planet performed for free by myriad species.

I also came to realize that biological diversity constitutes the most sensitive set of environmental indicators we have—alerting us to problems before they affect us directly. More recently I have come to realize that sustainable development will not be possible unless a major element is biologically based, and that the dawn of the age of biotechnology allows us to generate wealth from biodiversity at the level of the molecule. The 1993 Nobel Prize for chemistry was only possible because of an enzyme from a Yellowstone hot spring bacterium.<sup>1</sup>

So in the end, I found that what simply attracted me also turns out to be the fundamental underpinning to human society.



Pollution and modification of habitats have endangered two-thirds of the species in U.S. fresh waters. Water in Florida's Everglades (*inset*) is hazardous. A sudsy shoreline in California's Imperial Valley reveals pollution.

**HSUS:** How does management for biodiversity differ from, say, protection of endangered species or more traditional wildlife management?

**Lovejoy:** Management for biodiversity is obviously more complicated than management of an endangered species or a game species, but in the end it makes more sense because it saves a lot of last-minute problems with tiny populations of imperiled plants or animals. Very often a species becomes endangered because its ecosystem has not been managed properly. The California gnat-catcher and the coastal sage ecosystem is an example; the spotted owl and Northwest old-growth forests constitute another.<sup>2</sup> The endangered species are actually a symptom of a larger problem, and, if management is concentrated on the larger problem of the ecosystem and its biodiversity, a large number of last-ditch efforts can be avoided.

**HSUS:** Is there a reason still to focus on the protection of individual species, such as grizzly bears or spotted owls?

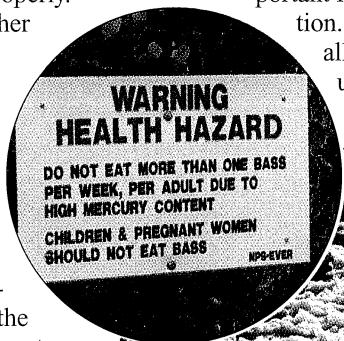
**Lovejoy:** Management for biodiversity will never obviate the need for [the] protection of individual species. This is because we are so late in the game with many ecosystems; there will most likely be imperfections in our understanding of ecosystem management, and acts of God and their consequences are rarely predictable.

It is important to think of the [U.S.] Endangered Species Act as a safety net to be used when a species does become endangered. Management for biodiversity—ecosystem management—should minimize the number of species needing special treatment under the Endangered Species Act.

**HSUS:** What do you think are the most important threats to the preservation of

biodiversity in the United States and in the rest of the world?

**Lovejoy:** The most immediate threat to biodiversity in the United States and the rest of the world is habitat destruction, but the ever-growing soup of toxic substances is surely taking a greater toll than we are aware. Pollution and modification of freshwater habitats have endangered two-thirds of the fish species in American [fresh waters]. Human population growth, at 90-plus million people every year, is an important force behind habitat destruction. Ultimately climate change, if allowed to proceed by [the] unchecked accumulation of greenhouse gases, will have a



PHOTOS BY JOHN CANCALOS/NATURAL SELECTION

devastating effect on biodiversity.

Introduction, sometimes deliberate, of alien species can have devastating effects. For example, the brown tree snake has eliminated several bird species from Guam.<sup>3</sup> The [U.S.] Congress's Office of Technology Assessment has just issued an important report on this subject.

**HSUS:** In your view, do introduced, non-native species such as the ring-necked pheasant and dandelion have a place under the umbrella of biodiversity?

**Lovejoy:** Non-native alien species can often have deleterious effects on native biodiversity, but not always....Of course, sometimes species arrive naturally, as did the cattle egret.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless, in instances

that have deleterious effects on native biodiversity, which tend to be in the majority (there are now more alien than native plant species in the Hawaiian flora), active management to protect native species is in order. That is...because those species do not occur elsewhere and so, from the global as well as national perspective, they should be protected at home.

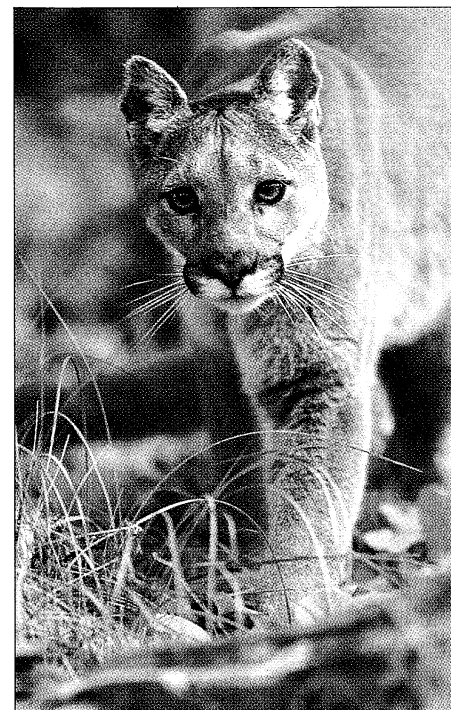
**HSUS:** Do you think that captive propagation of vanishing species can play a major role in the protection of biodiversity?

**Lovejoy:** There is little question but that captive propagation is a valuable conservation tool. Ideally the captive and wild populations should be managed jointly. This has been the case for the Puerto Rican parrot.<sup>5</sup> Captive propagation should not be a substitute for protection in the wild (except where it is too late [for such protection to be successful]). It is a tool that can augment conservation in the wild and provide a form of insurance. Franklinia, the flowering tree named for Benjamin Franklin that may have been the first recognized American endangered species, is [now] abundant because of propagation in horticulture. Père David's deer and the ginkgo tree have never been recorded in the wild.<sup>6</sup>

**HSUS:** You played a key role in creating the new National Biological Survey (NBS) in the Department of Interior (DOI). What is the job of the NBS, and what can it offer that other agencies in the DOI couldn't?

**Lovejoy:** The National Biological Survey is a new federal science agency devoted to field biology in support of wise management of the nation's natural resources. It combines in one agency research related to [the] management responsibilities of the Interior Department's agencies such as the National Park Service and the [U.S.] Fish and Wildlife Service. It will endeavor to conduct research relevant to management missions larger than those of a single agency—e.g., ecosystem-management re-

Management for biodiversity will never obviate the need for the protection of individual species (such as the puma) in the wild. *Below:* the growth in human population is an important factor in the destruction of habitat.



JOE McDONALD/NATURAL SELECTION

search for the Everglades (essentially the lower half of the Florida peninsula).<sup>7</sup>

In addition, the National Biological Survey will tie together existing biodiversity data sets that exist, in the hundreds, in federal agencies, state agencies, the heritage programs started by the Nature Conservancy, natural museums, and botanical gardens and environmental organizations.<sup>8</sup> It will then collect additional biodiversity data where needed and, in a broad collaboration, provide for an increasingly comprehensive picture of the status and trends of the biodiversity of the United States.

**HSUS:** What would you like to see the NBS accomplish in the first ten years?

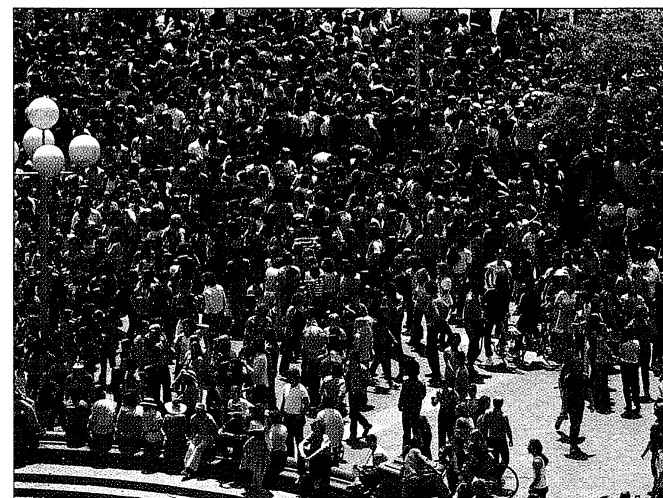
**Lovejoy:** One, a broad collaboration in biological survey work among all institutions and agencies. Two, a broadly used and accessible data network. Three, data for suc-

cessful ecosystem management in particular locations where it can be evident that environmental and economic interests do not have to be at odds. Four, a highly respected periodic publication on the status and trends of the United States biodiversity. Five, quality and prestige equivalent to other great federal science agencies such as [the] National Science Foundation, [the] National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

**HSUS:** How will the NBS help protect animals?

**Lovejoy:** The purpose of the National Biological Survey is to provide the scientific basis for protection and management of animal and plant species. By taking a comprehensive approach, the National Biological Survey should be able to identify [potential] conservation problems long in advance, when it is easier to do something about them. This, together with ecosystem management, should avert problems which currently all too often consist of an endangered species competing against vested economic interests. The survey won't protect species [themselves], but it will generate the objective information necessary for their protection.

Biodiversity is an essential element in the ecological processes that permit all creatures to flourish on Earth. A commitment to the humane stewardship of wildlife and its habitat requires nothing less than a commitment to preserving biodiversity. ■



WOLF VON DEN BÜSSCHET/IMAGE BANK

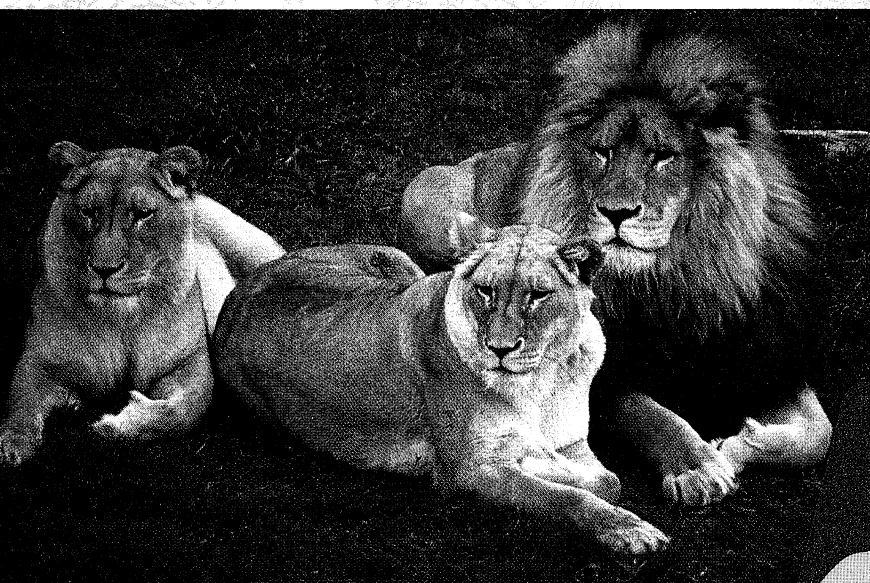
## Notes

1. The 1993 Nobel Prize in chemistry was given for the development of a technique for duplicating minuscule quantities of DNA. (Among its numerous uses, this technique allows a researcher to extract DNA from a small tuft of hair and conclusively identify the species from which that hair comes.) Because the duplication only works at high temperatures, it can only be carried out by an enzyme from bacteria that live in and are adapted to hot springs in Yellowstone National Park and elsewhere.
2. Considered prime real estate, roughly 80 percent of the "coastal sage scrub" habitat required by the California gnat-catcher has been developed. Unfortunately, the habitat that remains is fragmented into small plots that, in the long run, are not likely to preserve gnat-catchers or other coastal sage scrub inhabitants. The old-growth forest occupied by the spotted owl has been reduced by almost 90 percent because of poorly managed logging. The destruction of old-growth forests has imperiled not just the spotted owl, but the marbled murrelet (which is also classified as threatened) and a multitude of salmon populations whose fresh-water breeding areas have been destroyed by the erosion that followed clear-cutting along stream beds.
3. Natives of Australia and New Guinea, brown tree snakes were accidentally introduced to Guam by military transports during World War II. By preying on eggs and nestlings, brown tree snakes have helped drive the Guam rail and other bird species native to Guam close to extinction.
4. Cattle egrets, beautiful white birds of the African grasslands, found their own way to South America in 1880. Since then, they have spread through much of eastern and southwestern North America. Cattle egrets are named for their habit of following cattle and other large grazers and eating insects and other small animals that are flushed by the grazers' movements.
5. The destruction of Puerto Rico's forests, hunting, and capturing for use as pets reduced the wild population of Puerto Rican parrots to a low of only thirteen birds in 1975. A captive-breeding program combined with rigorous habitat protection, provision of artificial nest sites, and other habitat-management actions increased the wild population to approximately forty parrots as of late 1992; the captive population numbered fifty-eight.
6. No historic records exist of Père David's deer and the ginkgo tree in the wild. At the time they were first described by Western scientists, Père David's deer lived only in Chinese deer parks and ginkgos grew only as ornamentals in Chinese temple gardens. Ginkgos are now widely planted as ornamentals in the United States.
7. Although tightly integrated by water and nutrient flow and the movement of wildlife, the Everglades ecosystem is subject to an intricate jigsaw puzzle of administrative and ownership boundaries. This ecosystem, which is inhabited by the Florida panther and other highly endangered species, includes private lands, state lands managed by five or more state agencies, federal lands managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Defense, and other concerns. Coordinating ecosystem management among these jurisdictions is very challenging.
8. The Nature Conservancy's "natural heritage programs" work closely with state agencies and other concerned parties to inventory plant and animal species and to identify areas of special biological significance.



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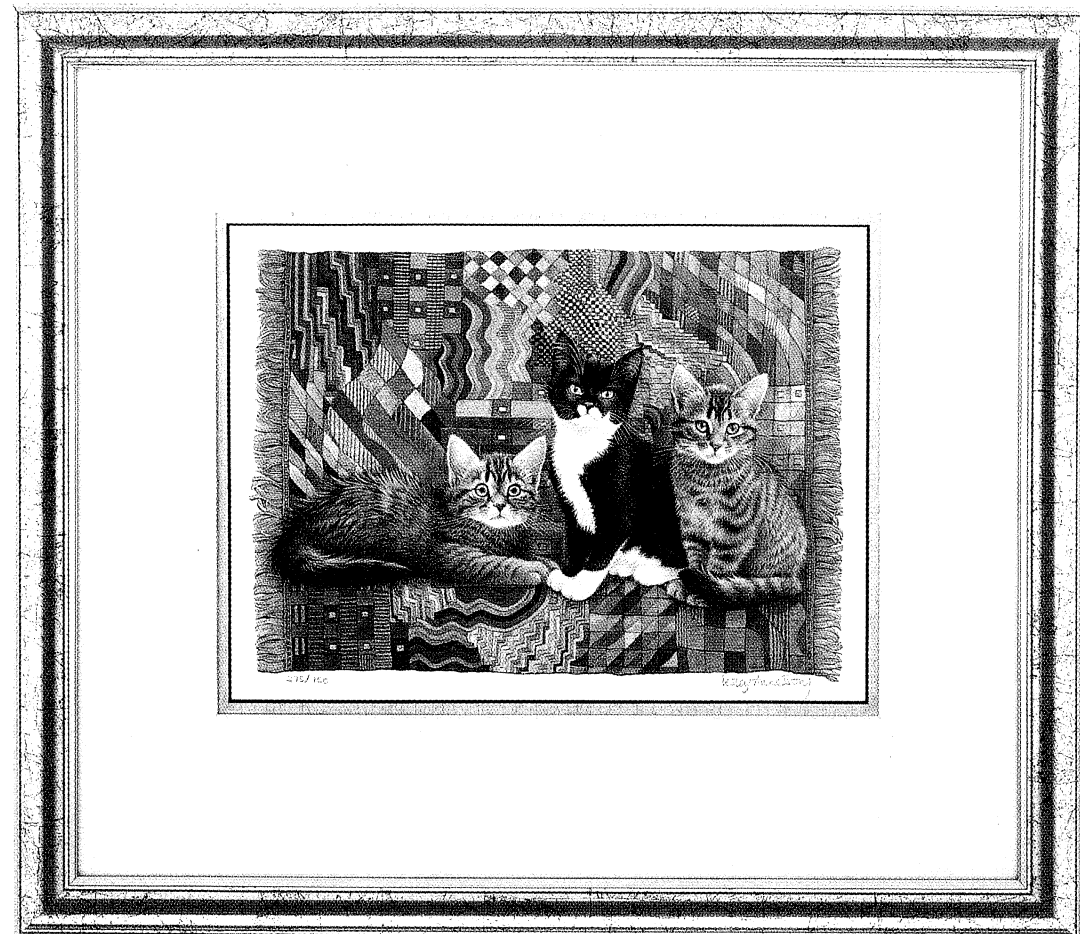
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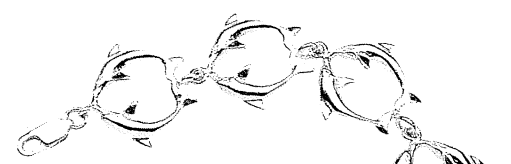
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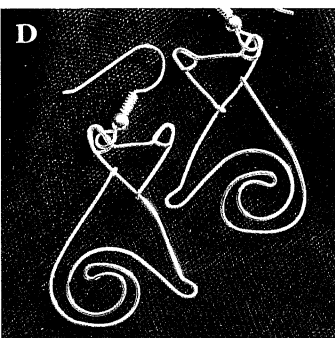
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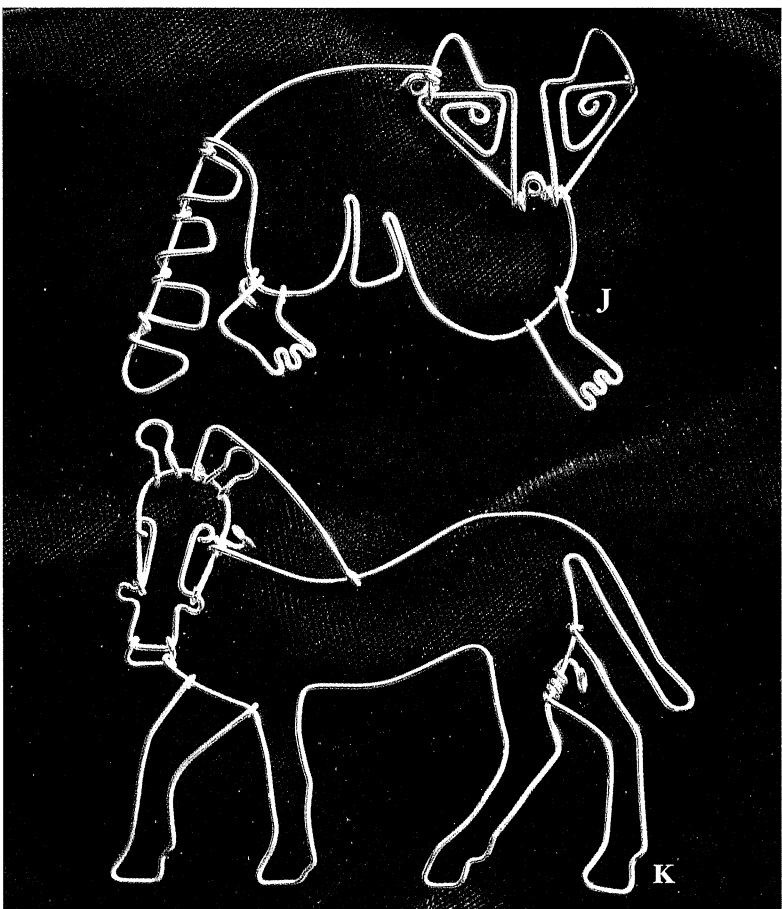
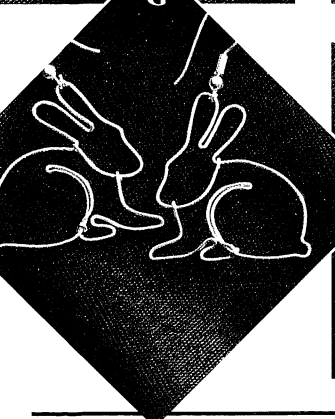
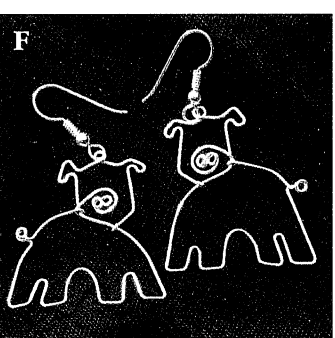
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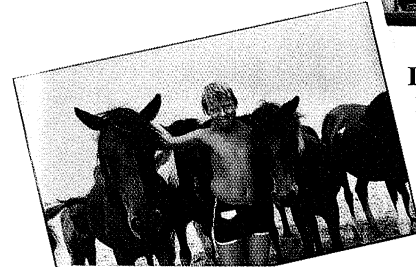


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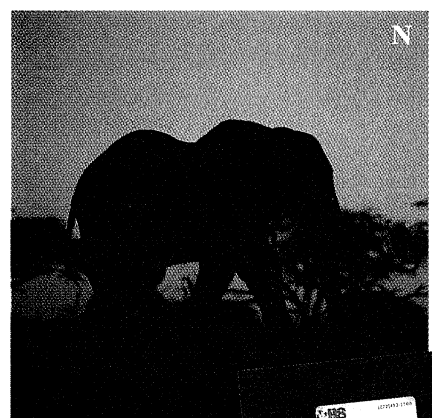


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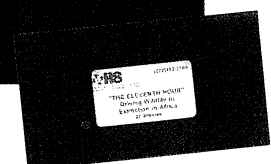
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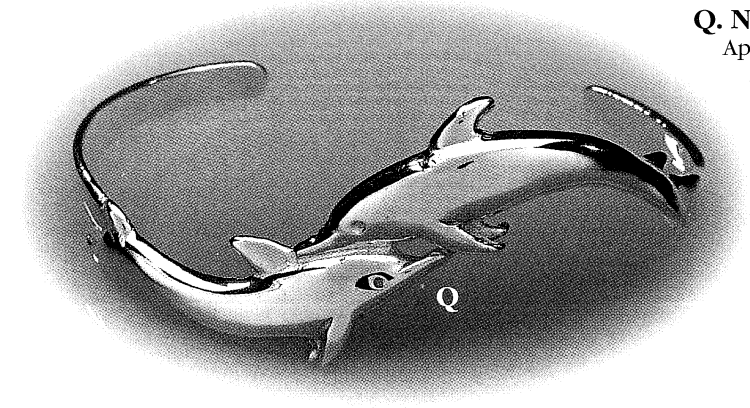
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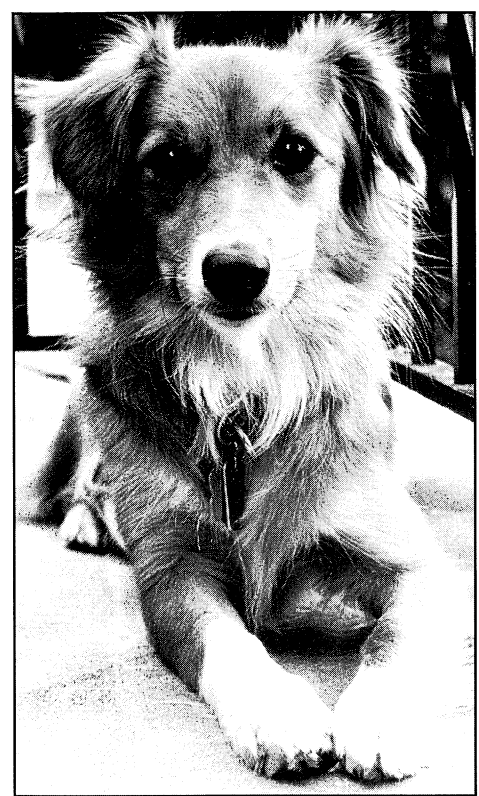
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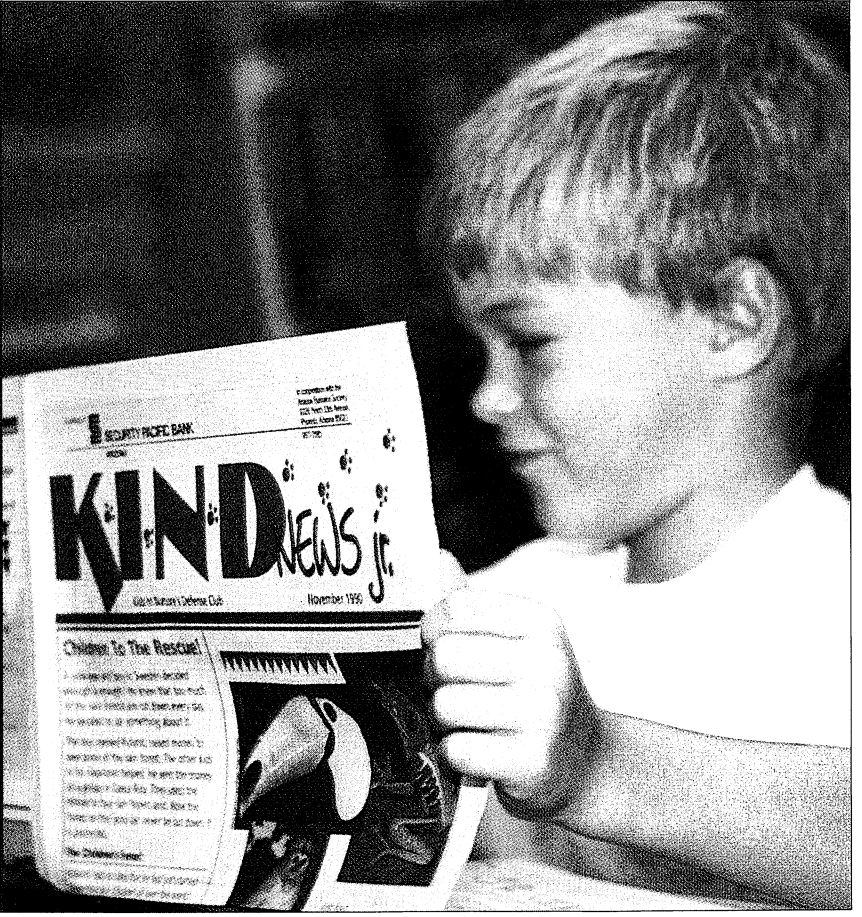
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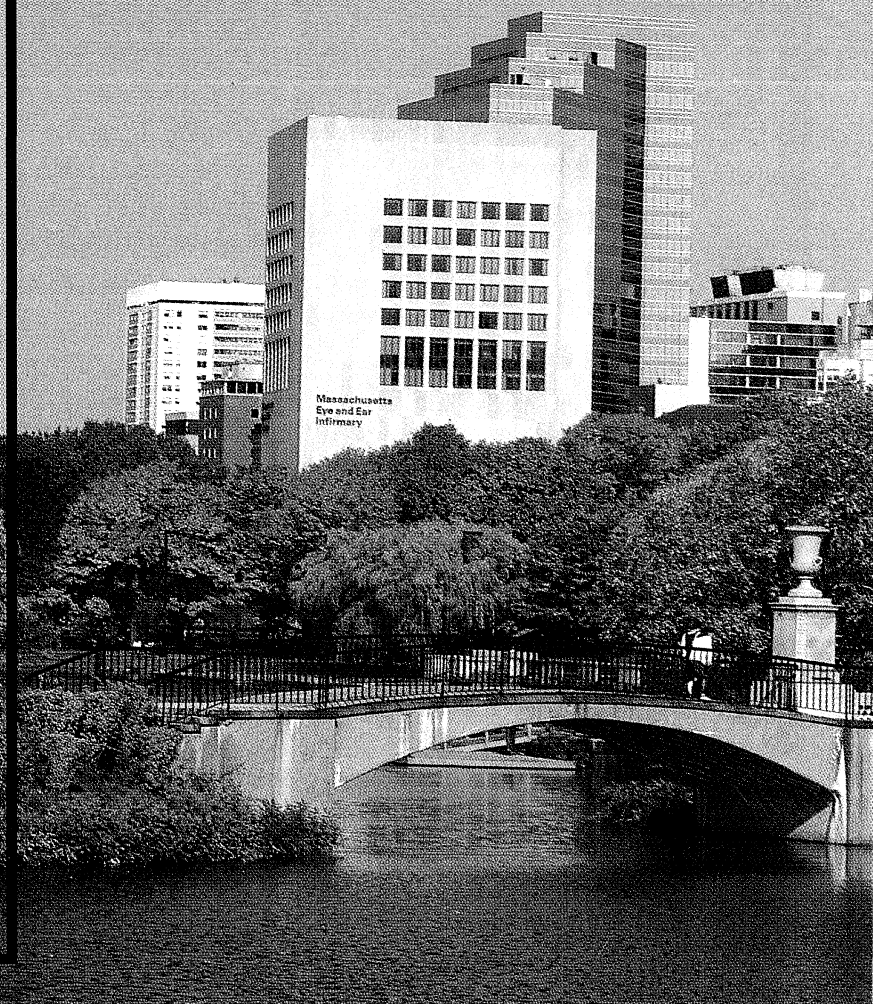
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