TUFTS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
CENTER FOR ANIMALS AND PUBLIC POLICY

THE ANIMAL POLICY REPORT

A NEWSLETTER ON ANIMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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TUFTS ESTABLISHES A CENTER FOR CONSERVATION MEDICINE

Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine has established a Center for Conservation Medicine (CCM), a collaborative environmental health effort with the Wildlife Preservation Trust International and Harvard Medical School.

Conservation Medicine bridges the health and ecological paradigms, and involves interdisciplinary collaboration of veterinarians, physicians and ecologists, among others. The CCM will investigate and develop new ways to study and monitor the impact of global loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation on human and animal health.

Dr. Gary Tabor, a veterinarian with a Master's in Environmental Studies from Yale and extensive field experience in Africa, is the new Director of the CCM. The CCM has also recently announced the addition of Dr. Rosalind Rolland to the faculty. Dr. Rolland is a graduate of Tufts Veterinary School and was recently a Senior Fellow in the Wildlife and Contaminants section at the World Wildlife Fund where she studied the effects of environmental estrogens on wildlife. ♦

RESEARCH LABORATORY IMPLEMENTS A SUCCESSFUL ANIMAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

Few biomedical research facilities have instituted programs allowing for, much less encouraging, the adoption of healthy laboratory animals after their use in biomedical experiments. The costs of implementing and maintaining a successful adoption program may discourage many facilities from doing so. Furthermore, biomedical laboratories may shy away from

(continued on pg. 2)

RABIES COMMITTEE ISSUES NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGING FERRET BITES

The Compendium of Animal Rabies Control Committee, during its annual meeting held November 1-2, 1997, adopted a policy of managing ferrets in the same manner as dogs and cats. According to Suzanne R. Jenkins, VMD, MPH, "the 1988 Compendium will list with dogs and cats, ferrets on all issues: from licensing and picking up strays; to mandatory vaccination and post-exposure management."

Prior to this, it has been the policy of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) to recommend that ferrets that have bitten humans be humanely euthanized in order to test for rabies infection by examining the brain tissue of the animal. In 1996, as data from virus challenge studies began to accumulate, the NASPHV indicated that ferret bites and post-exposure management decisions should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

The NASPHV had previously recommended a policy of euthanizing ferrets that had bitten humans due to a lack of information on ferrets' responses to different strains of rabies, virus, e.g. the precise shedding period and the duration of time in which an animal infected with the rabies virus could transmit this disease.

As the result of completion of a three year study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control in association with the Kansas State University's Rabies Laboratory, The Compendium of Animal Rabies Control Committee voted to amend their policy recommendations that ferrets biting humans be euthanized in order to test for rabies. Instead of being euthanized, ferrets may be quarantined for a minimum of 10 days, as are dogs and cats. ♦

Lab Adoption Program - (continued from pg. 1)

adoption programs because they tend to draw attention to the laboratory's use of research animals. However, The Animal Care Facility at the University of California, San Francisco, in cooperative efforts with two local humane organizations, has found homes for over 500 animals (including dogs, cats, sheep, goats, pigs, ferrets, rabbits, nonhuman primates, and chickens) since the inception of its unique adoption program in 1982.

This voluntary program originated as an alternative to the euthanasia of healthy animals who were no longer required for research, and over the years has come to be accepted, supported, and utilized by the researchers and staff at the University. A near tripling of the number of animals adopted in 1993, compared to previous years, has been attributed to a "heightened awareness and use of the program by investigators, and the continued dedication of the animal care staff and management to support these efforts." In certain instances, researchers have even modified their experimental protocols to allow for the adoption of their laboratory animals.

At the UCSF Animal Care Facility, animals must undergo physical and behavioral examinations, along with laboratory and clinical evaluations, before being considered for adoption. In 1993, 85 animals were adopted, at a cost of approximately $300 per animal. Out of an annual operating budget of $6 million, the adoption program accounted for only 0.4%.

According to Dr. Beverly Wyrick, a veterinarian involved with the adoption program at UCSF, this kind of program benefits all who are involved. "An adoption program in fact demonstrates the institution's commitment to responsible animal care and use. Adoption of research animals provides a unique and visible opportunity to raise community and individual awareness of the excellent care that research animals receive." Dr. Wyrick believes that these types of programs are good morale builders among the staff and can actually have positive effects in helping one cope with the daily stresses of having to euthanize animals. Though most of the research animals will eventually be euthanized, interviews with animal care personnel indicated that it provides them with relief knowing that some animals will be adopted.

From: Wyrick, B. J. 1996. A Successful Animal Adoption Program: Observations on the Animal Care Facility Program at the University of California, San Francisco. *Contemporary Topics*, AALAS 35 (1): 43-47. ♦

GRADUATION SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES GULL MANAGEMENT CONTROVERSY

The graduation commencement for the Masters in Animals and Public Policy class of '97 was held on Saturday, November 15, in conjunction with a symposium focusing on wildlife issues. The symposium, which preceded the graduation, examined a controversial wildlife management program used by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Monomoy Island.

Speakers were Anne Hecht, Endangered Species Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service; Sharon Ware, Refuge Manager for the US Fish and Wildlife Service; Tom French, Ph.D., Assistant Director of the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program for the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife; and Dan Morast, President of the International Wildlife Coalition, an advocacy group involved in the public protest.

In recent years, the gull population on Cape Cod and the surrounding islands has increased to a size that has made it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for other native bird species to compete and thrive. Monomoy Island was of specific interest to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the US Fish and Wildlife Service due to the overpopulation of gulls in this region, and their predation and encroachment upon the habitat of endangered bird species such as the Piping Plover and several species of tern. The problem has been escalating for nearly twenty years on Monomoy Island.

As far back as 1979, the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System implemented gull population control programs to maintain the diversity of bird species on the Island. Over the years, strategies for carrying out these programs have involved both lethal and non-lethal means, including, hazing devices, scarecrows, patrolling of the area to keep gulls away, trapping of nesting gulls, nest destruction, oiling of gull eggs, limited shooting of gulls, and a controversial method that has now become the focus of attention, the use of DRC 1339.

DRC (Denver Research Code) 1339 is a poison that has been used traditionally to eliminate nuisance animals, or animals that are believed to pose a threat to public health and safety. Monomoy Island has become one of the few areas in which poison has been used to kill one wild species in order to protect another.

(continued on pg. 3)

M.S. Graduation Symposium - (continued from pg. 2)

This use of DRC 1339 to encourage breeding of less abundant bird species was part of a four year plan to severely diminish the gull population from approximately 350 acres on South Monomoy Island. It was believed that DRC 1339 would quickly disable the birds, and cause death within 24-48 hours by inducing renal shutdown. Unfortunately, some poisoned birds were documented as living twice as long, and left the island and flew to the coastal communities of Cape Cod.

The appearance of dying birds in residential areas resulted in a sustained public protest. As a result, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that DRC 1339 would not be used in the foreseeable future, and alternative plans were developed to create a gull-free zone using both lethal and non-lethal methods that were more acceptable to the public.

After the Symposium, a buffet luncheon was held for the Master of Science in Animals and Public Policy graduating class and their families and friends. Dr. A. Lanny Kraus, Professor of Laboratory Animal Medicine and the Medical Humanities at the University of Rochester, addressed the class. Dr. Kraus attended lectures with the students for six months while on sabbatical last year, and was considered an honorary member of the class.

Three graduates have joined the staff of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Natalie Di Giacomo works as a program coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Flanders, NJ. Lori Donley, a researcher in the lab animal division, and Jon Rankin, a researcher in the investigations division, both work at the HSUS headquarters in Gaithersburg, MD. Dr. Gary Block has taken over management of the Warwick Animal Hospital, a private practice and emergency clinic with close ties to the Tufts Veterinary School. Peggy Shunick and Margaret Reynolds are continuing their education in other graduate programs. Diane Moore is currently pursuing a humane education position in Macon, GA that takes an interdisciplinary approach, and will encompass working with animals and children.

Note: The Tufts Center for Animals has revised and expanded its Web Site. The web site contains updated information about our M.S. Program in Animals and Public Policy, including course descriptions, a program outline, and faculty biographies along with a publication list. Our site address is:

www.tufts.edu/vet/mspubpolicy.html

COMMISSION TO STUDY LINKS BETWEEN ANIMAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE TOWARDS HUMANS

In January 1997, the Rhode Island General Assembly, through an act of legislation, established "The Special Legislative Commission to Study the Association Between and Amongst Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Animal Abuse." This is believed to be the first statewide commission in the nation to investigate the associations between violence towards humans and animals.

The 15 member commission consists of State Senators, a State Veterinarian, directors or designees from the Department for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), and the Department of Health, animal welfare advocates, a mental health professional, a member of the Animal Control Officers Association, a member of the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Society, and three members of the general public.

Rhode Island Senator Rhoda E. Perry (D-Dist.3), was the main sponsor of the Senate Resolution establishing this commission, and is now its Chairperson. She stresses the need to compile and review existing research to examine the correlations between violence toward humans and animals, and convince legislators of the importance of these correlations. Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH, graduate of the Tufts University Veterinary School, and Chronic Disease Epidemiologist with the Rhode Island Department of Health, is the commission member responsible for systematically reviewing and assessing the scientific literature.

The commission's task is to explore the links between domestic violence, and child and animal abuse, to recommend legislation mandating cross reporting of suspected abuse between Animal Control Officers and The DCYF. It is believed that cross reporting will facilitate in the prevention and intervention of abusive conditions for both humans and animals.

The commission must make recommendations for legislative action to the General Assembly by January 22, 1998 and will be dissolved on March 22, 1998.

It is hoped that diversity within the commission will promote networking, the development of coalitions between individuals and organizations who may not traditionally work together, and an interdisciplinary approach facilitating better management of abusive situations involving humans and animals. ♦

INDIANA DEVELOPS STATEWIDE ANIMAL BITE REPORTING FORM

Indiana established a statewide task force to address the approaching epizootic of raccoon rabies. Representatives from the Department of Health, Indiana Association of Animal Control Personnel, Board of Animal Health, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, 4-H, and Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine have joined the task force.

The task force developed what is believed to be the first statewide form to facilitate investigating, reporting, and collecting information concerning animal bites. Detailed information on the victim, the owner, the animal, the extent of injuries and circumstances surrounding the bite is gathered.

Use of a standard statewide form will aid in the consistency of the information collected, promoting a uniform investigative method, ensuring appropriate quarantine and follow-up. Additionally, standardization will make it possible to collect high quality data available for epidemiological studies and public health purposes.

Dog bites have been described as becoming almost epidemic. Hopefully, information collected from a statewide reporting system will be invaluable for developing interventions to decrease the frequency of dog bites. It is also hoped that this information will be valuable for dangerous dog investigations or civil suits that end up in court.

Contact the State Department of Health in Indiana for additional information: (317) 233-1325. ♦

CENTER BIDS FAREWELL TO STAFF ASSISTANT

The Center for Animals & Public Policy staff bids farewell to staff assistant, Ms. Donna Pease. Donna has been with the Center for over a decade, and has been particularly helpful in the development of the graduate program in animals and public policy. She helped organize numerous conferences and workshops, managed the layout and design for many Center publications, and is a familiar voice to those of you who have contacted the Center over the years.

We wish her happiness and good fortune in her future endeavors. Donna will be missed! ♦

3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW CONFERENCE

The Third Annual International Wildlife Law Conference will be held at American University's School of Law in Washington, DC on March 31, 1998.

Speakers are being sought to address:

- Interface of the WTO & International Wildlife Treaty Regimes; Wildlife Conservation Legislation
- Sustainable Use of Wildlife
- Regional Wildlife Treaty Regimes

Individuals interested in participating as speakers in the conference should submit 1-2 page abstracts to the address below. Additionally, if you would like to be placed on a mailing list for information pertaining to the conference, please contact:

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5208 Claremont Ave, Suite B
Oakland, CA 94618

ph: (510) 658-4380
fax: (510) 658-5946

e-mail: greenlifesociety@msn.com
http://**EELINK.umich.edu/~greenlif/index.html**

ASPCA'S NEW WEB SITE MONITORS ANIMAL-RELATED LEGISLATION

The ASPCA has published a useful web page for anyone interested in monitoring animal-related legislation. Both State and Federal legislation are included, along with the text of both House and Senate bills. Access it through their home page: **www.aspca.org**

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ANIMAL WELFARE / RIGHTS PUBLISHED

The Encyclopedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare, published by Greenwood Press, is tentatively scheduled for release in early 1998. Edited by Dr. Marc Bekoff of the University of Colorado, this one-volume reference work will provide essays from recognized authorities in the field, addressing many aspects of animal rights and animal welfare.

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GUIDE TO ADDRESSING ANIMAL ABUSE AVAILABLE

In recognition of the growing concern about cruelty to animals, The American Humane Association, in cooperation with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, has published the first book to guide veterinarians in dealing with animal abuse. *Recognizing & Reporting Animal Abuse: A Veterinarian's Guide*, edited by Patricia Olson, DVM, Ph.D., will be available January, 1998.

Table of Contents

1) *Definitions for Animal Cruelty Laws*
Douglas Trowbridge; Nicholas Gilman

2) *The Link between Animal Abuse and Violence to Humans: Why Veterinarians Should Care*
Frank Ascione, Ph.D.; Suzanne Barnard, MS

3) *Prevention of Animal Abuse: Reflections on a Public-Health Malady*
Dario Ted Cappucci Jr., DVM, MS, Ph.D., MPH

4) *State Animal Anti-Cruelty Laws*
Charlotte Lacroix DVM, JD; James Wilson DVM, JD

5) *Issues and Guidelines for Veterinarians in Recognizing, Reporting, and Assessing Animal Neglect and Abuse*
Gary Patronek, VMD, Ph.D.

6) *Recognizing Animal Abuse: What Veterinarians Can Learn from the Field of Child Abuse and Neglect*
Loretta Kowal, LICSW

7) *Reporting Animal Cruelty*
Carolyn Butler, M.S; Laurel Lagoni, MS
Patricia Olson, DVM, Ph.D.

8) *The Veterinarian's Role in Investigating Animal Cruelty*
Bonnie Yoffe-Sharp, DVM; Leslie Sinclair, DVM

9) *The Veterinarian as an Expert Witness*
Harold Hannah

10) *A Call for Veterinary Forensics: The Preparation and Interpretation of Physical Evidence for Cruelty Investigation and Prosecution*
Lila Miller, DVM; Stephen Zawistowski, Ph.D.

11) *Prosecution and Punishment in Animal Abuse Cases*
Pamela Frasch, Esq.

12) *A Community Response to Violence*
Wesley Metzler, DVM; Cynthia McVay
Donna Straub

13) *The Battered Pet Syndrome*
Helen Munro, BVMS, MRCVS

To order, send payment of $25.00 to:
American Humane Association
63 Inverness Drive East
Englewood, CO 80112

or fax with credit card number or purchase order to: (303) 792-5333. ♦

CENTER PUBLICATIONS

Symposia Proceedings

Living with Wildlife Report: Analysis of the Biology, Sociology and Ethics of the Beaver and Deer Issues. 1996. (220 pp) $20.00.

The Animal Research Controversy: Protest, Process & Policy. 1995. (210 pp) $20.00.

Wildlife Conservation, Zoos and Animal Protection: A Strategic Analysis. 1994. (232 pp) $20.00.

(All three proceedings may be purchased for $45.00)

Workshop Summary Publications

Farm Animals Workshop Summary Report. 1992. $10.00

Politics of Farm Animal Welfare Report. 1992. $5.00

Refinement and Rodents Report: A report concerning the well-being of laboratory rodents. 1991. $10.00

Periodicals

The Animal Policy Report (published quarterly) $20/yr. US; $30/yr. Non-US

Please make checks or money orders payable to: Trustees of Tufts College - CFA. ♦

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IN THIS ISSUE

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