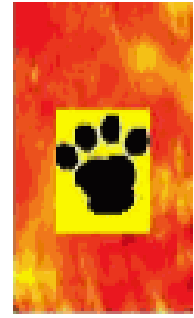




FIREPAW

Newsletter

Fall, 2005



THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE

Vol. V, Issue 3

Animals already get it. We teach people.

September 20, 2005

News & Special Announcements

New Research on Companion Animals

FIREPAW has begun an exciting new research project. Working in collaboration with a researcher from Carnegie-Mellon University on a study funded by Intel, the FIREPAW study will examine the effects pets have on relocation stress. More details about this project are in the Research Updates section of this newsletter.

Speaking Out for Animals

FIREPAW's President Pamela Carlisle-Frank, Ph.D. will be conducting a workshop at the upcoming American Humane Association (AHA) national conference for animal care professionals this Fall in Austin, Texas. The workshop is entitled, "The Social Psychology of Working to Stop Animal Abuse," and is based in part on Dr. Frank's soon-to-be-released book, Silent Victims: Recognizing and Stopping Abuse of the Family Pet.

New Animals & Art Page!

The FIREPAW web site has a new Animals & Art page. Proceeds from the sale of artwork will help support FIREPAW research and education programs. Check it out at: www.firepaw.org!

It's all in the numbers

FIREPAW Executive Director Joshua Frank, Ph.D., conducted a presentation on the importance of using Economics to help animals in July, 2005

at the Taking Action for Animals conference in Washington DC. The conference topic was co-presented with Jennifer Fearing of United Animal Nations and attorney Don Garlit. The presentation was surprisingly well attended; the conference hall was standing-room-only. Many members of the audience later said they found the information interesting and helpful.

How did the goods you buy get to the store shelves? And, did the process hurt animals?

A FIREPAW article, *Process Attributes of Goods, Ethical Considerations and Implications for Animal Products* was recently accepted for publication in the prestigious, peer-reviewed Ecological Economics Journal. The article discusses the importance of the production process (not just final goods), in economic decision-making. The article also analyzes the important role information about production processes plays in consumer decisions. It focuses specifically on the harm caused to animals in production. Although many people might think that the importance to consumers of a production process is obvious, many economists and organizations, such as the World Trade Organization, have rules specifically saying that production processes are irrelevant if the final goods are identical. The article argues how and why types of production decisions can (and often are) harmful to animals.



Guest Editorial

FireFeathers, an omen?

By Marc Johnson

It is a great honor to be able to address this forum and I would like to thank FIREPAW for the opportunity to bring to those of you who care about all animals an issue that needs your attention. Just as importantly, those of us who are now advocates of this emerging crisis need your attention and help as well.

In a country that is still euthanizing five million dogs and cats a year, the last thing that anyone involved with this overwhelming and often overpowering problem wants to hear is that they should join in the effort to head off yet another animal overpopulation problem. Sadly, it is a problem that is shaping up to be at least as heartbreaking, and if we do not address it now, we will all be attempting to deal with an even bigger problem after the fact. We should be acting now, proactively, rather than falling back on the old adage that "hindsight is 20/20"--a saying that is used all too often to justify our failure to act.

In the pet industry we are fortunate that the growing awareness surrounding the exotic pet trade has been making moves in a direction that will lead to fewer large cats, wolves/hybrids, etc. being subjected to captive and in most cases, wholly inadequate lives. It is now widely recognized that keeping large exotic animals as pets is cruel and dangerous. The keeping of primates, once very popular and readily available, is now accepted as not only dangerous, but inherently cruel to animals of such a high intelligence. Suggest that you are considering keeping a dolphin in your back yard pool and you will suffer endless ridicule from your friends, family and neighbors. Why? Not because you couldn't, but because everyone would recognize these actions as cruel, inhumane and self-

ish. Confining such intelligence to a sensory-deprived existence is, at the very least, widely recognized as a selfish and thoughtless act. Hence, for the most part, the keeping of primates is actually illegal in most (civilized) states.

But what if it we discovered that an animal with an equally high intelligence is not only amongst us now, being sold by the millions, but is also suffering from all the issues associated with domesticated animal overpopulation and our impulsive human nature? What if I told you that there were an estimated 20 – 60 million of them living and suffering in our homes, in basements, in breeding mills and dying of neglect? And, what if I told you that this animal is widely accepted as "domesticated" when in fact, every cell in their bodies is as wild as any tiger? Would you say to yourself, "I don't believe it, this can't be true!" Or, would you join us in a call to action to stop this crisis from becoming the next problem that you will ultimately have to deal with...sooner or later.

So, you might ask, what animal is at the center of this looming crisis? The answer is flying monkeys, or as most of us refer to them: parrots.

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FIREPAW

THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROMOTING
ANIMAL WELFARE

JOSHUA FRANK, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PAMELA FRANK, Ph.D., PRESIDENT

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Newsletter design by Jennifer Petruzzini

Animals already get it. We teach people.

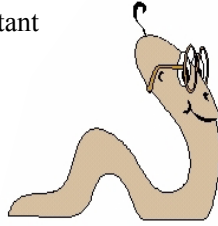
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Research Update

New 'Pets and Relocation' Research

In science, the word “serendipity” is an important one. It signifies the findings that result unexpectedly—sometimes from unexpected sources. Sometimes a research project itself can result from serendipitous sources. That was the case with the new FIREPAW research projects on pets and relocation...



Background: It was back in the late 1980's when FIREPAW's President, Dr. Pamela Carlisle-Frank, began researching the phenomenon of 'relocation stress'—the serious, and sometimes dangerous effects people experience as a result of moving. Relocation, as it turns out, ranks second only to 'death in the family' for significant stressful life events that can have serious harmful effects on emotional and physical well-being. In the early 1990's, Dr. Frank conducted a major empirical study with the U.S. military (who move frequently) on Relocation Stress. She tested multiple personal, social and environmental factors to

determine what factors might make people more vulnerable to the deleterious effects of moving, and what factors may actually make for healthy adaptation following a move. This past summer, Dr. Frank was contacted by a researcher at Carnegie-Mellon University who requested a copy of her research on relocation stress; the researcher was involved in a new, national, longitudinal research study on relocation. After reviewing the new study, Dr. Frank inquired whether the researcher would consider including the 'pet variable' in the study. Her idea? Pets may serve as an important source of support during the relocation process. Just as important, Frank says, is whether there is a difference in the level of adjustment and overall health and well-being following relocation, between those people who move with their pets and those who relinquish their companion animals just prior to the move.

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Special Delivery

Pet-Friendly Hotels

Several major hotel chains have developed pet-friendly amenities and even luxury pet packages:

Kimpton hotels, www.kimptonhotels.com, offers luxury pet amenities at its properties in 11 North American cities: including everything from a how-to book on pet massage at the Hotel Allegro in Chicago to monogrammed coats for dogs at the Hotel Monaco in Seattle.

W Hotels, www.whotels.com, provide amenities and a room-service menu for pets as part of a "Pets Are Welcome" (P.A.W.) program, including psychic readings and doggy birthday cakes.

The Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida provides everything in-house under its "Pampered Pup" packages. In addition to serving gourmet dinners like filet mignon stew, the hotel had its team of massage therapists certified in animal massage. Pets at the hotel's spa can also get shampoos and pedicures right alongside their owners.



But what if you don't have your own pet? The Red Lion Inn, www.redlioninn.com, in Stockbridge, Mass., can provide one on those lonely nights. The inn offers guests the company of Wilbur the cat (as available) with a guesthouse suite.

Source: New York Times

New York Issues New License Plate to Fund Low-Cost Spay/Neuter

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has issued a new pet friendly license plate. Proceeds from the annual registration fees for the plate go to the state Animal Population Control Fund which provides low cost spay and neuter vouchers to New York residents who adopt their pets from shelters and humane societies in the state.

Source: ASPCA

Literary Corner

Book Reviews

A Dog's Life

By Peter Mayle

Reviewed by Joshua Frank



A Dog's Life is a work of fiction published about a decade ago (1995) that narrates an “autobiography” from a dog’s perspective. This book is a light, quick read. The canine perspec-

tive does not have the depth of realism of perhaps London’s White Fang or The Call of the Wild, but Mayle’s goal here is humor and entertainment, not realism.

Mayle’s dog narrator has his share of hardship early in the story. The issue of abuse, neglect, unwanted pets and strays are all touched upon. It is good that readers are introduced or reminded of these issues. However, for most of the book the protagonist is living the good life, as he himself admits. The vignettes in these chapters mostly revolve around mishaps caused by the dog at dinner parties, excursions outdoors, and at art sittings. The stories have many amusing moments as the dog does things that dogs will do and explains his sometimes very dog-like sometimes amusingly-human thoughts about the incident.

If you are looking to get great insight into the world, this is perhaps not the right book. If you want to get great insight into the way an animal might see the world, this is also not the right book. But if you are seeking an easily readable and amusing story with the twist of a “dog’s-eye view”, then this is an entertaining novel.



Drawing the Line

By Steven M. Wise

Reviewed by Joshua Frank

Wise follows up Rattling the Cage which makes the case for legal rights for some animals, with Drawing the Line, an attempt to determine just which animals are deserving of legal rights.

The case for legal rights for certain animals is in itself the least interesting part of the book. Though he is courageous for even attempting to rank and quantify how complex the mental capacities of various animals are, his attempt to assign numerical values between 0 and 1 for animals (a 0.68 for dogs and 0.93 for an orangutan, for example) ultimately fails. He is guilty of false precision, where one is often left wondering why he chose 0.68 rather than 0.69 or 0.70 for a certain animal, and very little justification for the numbers are typically given. Certain animals in particular appear to be misjudged based on his own narrative (for example the elephant with a 0.75 rating). In addition, certain characteristics of the rating system appear flawed; for example he appears to give points just for being more closely related to humans. Not only is this specieist, but it is exactly the opposite of what should be done since Wise himself acknowledges that the more different an animal is from us the more likely we are to underrate their capacity.

But if one can put aside his attempt to “draw the line”, the book is quite worthwhile. It is wonderfully researched and as good a popular account as any of the intellectual capacities of animals. It includes the latest research at the time it was published on the behavior of a variety of animals from parrots to honeybees. Wise clearly has sympathy for the subjects, acknowledges the problems with laboratory research (as opposed to field research) while still fairly representing the results, and Wise is generally careful to give all sides of a topic.

For people interested in reading stories and learning about research uncovering the amazing mental capacities of animals, this is a worthwhile read.

Expert Corner

Barking Up the Right Tree

Doggie Décor

By Jody Diehl,
email: bestdog@mhcable.com



Couch cushions are always turned up; to be turned down 2 seconds before company arrives. Doggie-fur dust bunnies roll across the floor like tumbleweeds across the plains mere moments after the entire house has been vacuumed. The backyard looks like an archaeological dig. The water on the floor around the bowl looks like you've been hit by a tsunami. Your nice, green lawn has brown spots. The floor is perpetually blanketed with the carcasses and innards of eviscerated toy critters. The house looks like it has been hit by every possible natural disaster. Martha Stewart would cringe. Does this sound like your house? If it does, then you must live with a dog.

Dogs are not people. They make a different kind of mess than humans do. Some of their messes are downright gross. And they do not clean up after themselves. This is the reality we must accept when we bring a dog into our homes. If you are providing for your dogs needs, then your home will look like a dog lives there. We must realize that there are inconveniences that come along with a dog. Who wants to walk in the rain and sleet...except, maybe, the dog? But it is worth the effort and minor discomfort to make sure your dog is fully exercised. Don't forget about your dog's mental stimulation needs. Dogs have a way of telling us what their preferred activities are. If your dog likes to dig, chew or rip things apart find ways to let him! It can make a mess that we have to clean up. But dogs must be dogs. If we don't provide activities that are natural for them that we can live with they will come up with their own. Better to clean up ripped apart fuzzy toys than to clean up ripped apart furniture. A dog whose needs have been provided for is a more content dog. Satisfied dogs are easier to live with.

When planning gardens and landscaping it is in your best interest to go with the flow. Study your dog's habits in the yard and work around them. Don't

plant flowerbeds right in his favorite squirrel-chasing flight path. By thinking ahead you avoid frustration and the necessity for damage control. Fences are a dog guardian's best friend (after the dog, of course). Put your prize peonies outside of the fence

and doggie resistant plants inside. Dogs don't know for gardens. Please don't expect them to. A fence also provides a safe, off leash area for your dog to exercise. Digging is a great energy burner. If your dog is a digger, give him a place in the yard where he can dig. He's going to dig whether you provide the place or not. Forsythia bushes are great for diggers. The dog has a blast and wears himself out. The bush doesn't get damaged and nobody knows what a mess it is under there.

As always, think ahead before choosing a dog. Decide what is important to you and make the appropriate breed choices in terms of energy level, exercise needs, shedding, etc. Train your dog to have the habits and manners that are important to you. You decide what you can live with. Manage your household to minimize the messes that make you most crazy. But remember that no matter what you do your dog will always be a dog. Have realistic expectations. Dogs share our space and will have impact on that space just as we do. These are very important points to keep in mind. Dogs whose guardians don't think these things through often end up at the end of a chain alone, bored and unhappy. If you cannot live with the impact that a dog will make, maybe a dog is not for you.

By investing your time, effort and money in providing for your dog's needs you are essentially investing, in the long run, in your own sanity. Plan ahead. Train and exercise your dog. Accept the impact and inconvenience that comes along with a dog and you will not have any rude awakenings when your home looks like a page out of Better Bones and Gardens.

Provided by Jody Diehl,
Certified Dog Trainer and Behavior Counselor
Phone: (518) 966-5684
email: bestdog@mhcable.com

Animals & the Media

New Animal-Human Bond Documentary!

PET PROJECT ALLIANCE, INC.

P. O. Box 1926
New York 10159-1926
212-674-1406
www.petprojectalliance.org
info@petprojectalliance.org



James A. Serpell, BSc., PhD
School of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania
Director CIAS

Pet Project Alliance ("PPA") is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness of the human animal bond and its ability to foster healing, development and well-being in people and to implement programs that work to that end. (fiscal sponsor – Delta Society)

PPA 's first project, is a documentary film, *Rescue Me*, whose goal is to show the effectiveness of the human-animal bond. PPA is currently in the initial stages of creating this film that will chronicle the development of a group of 3-4 boys and girls ages 9-13 who are facing challenges. The film intends to capture the healing bond that takes place between children and animals as they learn to form new and beneficial relationships with the animals they have rescued. The objectives of the film are:

To show the positive changes in the children and thus increase the awareness of the human-animal bond and show how this bond promotes healing, learning and well-being in people

To show that children with some learning difficulties can overcome them through their involvement with animals and to show the positive changes in the children such as increased self esteem and feelings of acceptance

To encourage the adoption of shelter animals who may otherwise be put to sleep

To promote humane education

To create interest and spark focus groups, begin dialogues encourage scientific research and the utilization of the bond in teaching, mental health counseling, physical therapy etc

Our Chief Advisors are:

Stephanie LaFarge, PhD
Senior Director of Counseling Services –
ASPCA

The Advisory Council consists of:

ASPCA

Dr. William Samuels
Director of Humane Education

Jennifer Dragotta, M.S. Ed.
Manager NYC Education Programs

Michele Siegel
Animal Trainer, Class and Seminar Instructor
Delta Society

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center

Carolyn Currey
Director of Community Services

Pia Silvani
Director/Behavior Counselor
Dog training School

Dr. Joel Gavrielle-Gold,
Ph. D. psychoanalyst and psychologist practicing in New York City. Exec Dr. of The Institute for Expressive Analysis - Author

Penny Donnenfeld Ph. D psychology – practicing in New York City and New Jersey.

Lynne Lerner, President of PPA, is licensed by the Delta Society as a Pet Partner with her dog Woody (now retired) and an Animal Evaluator. She has a passion to produce a film about the bond and its effectiveness.

Marisa Pearl and Melba Williams, partners in Turnstile Films, will be the filmmakers. They have received various honors and awards including: official selection at the Sundance Film Festival; Winner, best short documentary at the Full Frame Film Festival; Regional Finalist at the Student Academy Awards.

Continued on page 11

Animal Fun Facts

Did you know that...



-Scientists are finally discovering that animal communication is quite sophisticated. The chirp of the chickadee, for instance, can convey a lot of vital information. When the little black-capped songbird sings "chick-a-dee-dee" it may be warning flock mates, "Watch out! A predator is near!" The familiar "chick-a-dee" sound may indicate a stationary predator. Variations in the singing can convey how dangerous the predator is, whether it flies, or moves on the ground (such as a snake, or a ferret), and the location of the predator. The "chick-a-dee" can also be a call to arms, bringing in the whole flock of birds to mob the sitting predator and drive it away. *Source: Associated Press*

- A typical hen lays 250 eggs a year. Of the 89.1 billion eggs produced in the U.S. last year, 12.9 billion hatched; the rest remained eggs. *Source: U.S. Poultry & Egg Association*

- There is an illegal market for black bears. Bear teeth are used in jewelry, and in Korea, a bowl of bear paw soup, considered an exotic delicacy traditionally reserved for royalty, can cost as much as \$1,000. Black bear gallbladders and bile sell for exorbitant prices on the black market. In traditional Chinese medicine, bile and gallbladders are used as a remedy for fever, internal bleeding, ulcers and heart and liver disease. A 1997 University of California-Irvine report on bear poaching said a gallbladder costs as much as \$10,000 in east Asia. *Source: Chicago Sun-Times*

- Newborn dolphins and killer whales do not sleep for a whole month after birth. New research has also revealed that their mothers stay awake as well--to keep a close eye on their offspring. Research findings revealed that newborn whales and dolphins are continually active, surfacing for air every 3 to 30 seconds. They also keep at least one eye open to track their mothers, who seem to set the frenetic pace by always coursing ahead of their offspring. *Source: New Scientist*

- Voles have close family ties. Recent studies conducted on voles by the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University and the Atlanta-based Center for Behavioral Neuroscience indicate

that certain genetic material actually contributes to how the animals function as parents and in a social group. Humans, voles and bonobos (pygmy chimps known for strong social bonds) have fairly lengthy microsatellite regions, and the three species as a whole tend to be somewhat sociable. (Chimpanzees, as it turns out, are low on the empathy scale, and don't have many microsatellites in their genome.) So the next time your neighbor says he plans to poison the voles digging up his garden, tell him that their families will probably miss them! *Source: CNET News*

-Cats have no sweet tooth. Scientists say they have now discovered the reason for feline indifference toward sweet-tasting goodies: The gene for cats' sweet taste receptor is riddled with errors and does not work. The research was published in the Public Library of Science Genetics Journal and was conducted by scientists at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia and the Waltham Center for Pet Nutrition in Britain. And by the way...the same holds true for big cats such as lions, leopards, tigers and jaguars. *Source: Los Angeles Times*

Animal Law Odd Animal Laws



-In Virginia, under the terms of a 1950 law, no animal may be hunted on Sundays except raccoons, which may be hunted until 2:00 a.m.

-A 1974 Tennessee law states: "It is unlawful for any person to import, possess, or cause to be imported into this state any type of live skunk."

-In Minnesota a person may not cross state lines with a duck atop his head.

-In Idaho, you may not fish on a camel's back.

-In Ohio, it is unlawful to get a fish drunk or to fish for a whale on Sundays. *Source: (Reuters)*

-In Massachusetts it's the law that if an animal you are passing appears frightened, you must pull your vehicle to the roadside and stop. You may proceed only when it is safe.

Source: TRI-TOWN Transcript

Strange But True Animal Stories

- Two Amur tiger cubs in Moscow who were rejected by their mother have been adopted by a dog whose owner answered a Russian zoo's appeal for a foster parent. The two tiger cubs are being breastfed by a brown and black mixed breed dog called Naida, whose own puppy has been content to share her milk with her new siblings. Amur tigers are the largest cat species in the world, and only 400 still live in the wild in Russia's Far East. When the tiger cubs grow up, they could weigh up to 1,000 pounds and measure up to 10 feet long.



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-American scientists have come up with a new, high-tech method of keeping track of elephants, using military-designed seismic sensors to detect their footsteps. The "geophones" (originally designed by the US military to detect enemy troop movements in the Vietnam War) were used by researchers to pick up vibrations caused by African elephants walking to a waterhole in Namibia. The researchers then analyzed the digital recordings of the footsteps to separate out the unique sound signatures of different species.

The researchers had to go back to the drawing board, however. The technique turned out not to work so well at tracking and counting elephants. When it comes to monitoring elephant numbers, geophones, it seems, are not yet a realistic alternative to good, old-fashioned foot patrols.

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-According to biologist Bruce Bagemihl, an estimated 450 species of non-human animals display some form of homosexuality, which can include same-sex courtship, displays of affection, sexual activity, long-term pairings and parenting. In some penguin species, males form lifelong same-sex partnerships — especially in captivity. Male giraffes spend most of their time in bachelor groups, where they entwine necks and rub against each other for up to an hour at a time. These "necking" sessions often

culminate in mounting, and can outnumber heterosexual encounters 9 to 1.

.....

-A puppy with six legs and two penises was found sleeping outside a Chinese temple in a Malaysian town, and devotees are treating the puppy as a good omen. The puppy, believed to have been left at the temple by someone, is being cared for by the temple committee. The puppy has been named, "Lucky One".

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- Really want a pet chicken but can't have one? The Touchy Internet system may have a solution. It connects users to a real chicken via a chicken-shaped doll, an array of sensors and a web-cam link. Visitors stroke the doll, and then the real chicken, who wears a lightweight jacket containing tiny vibration motors, feels the touch in the same place.

Sources: BBC NEWS; Reuters; Seattle Times; Associated Press; New Scientist

Animal Well-Being



Large animals such as horses and cows may soon be at risk due to a lack of veterinarians to care for them. Fewer vets than ever are going into the specialty of large-animal medicine.

In 1980, about 17 percent of veterinarians worked mostly or exclusively with large animals. Today, it's less than 7 percent. Today, 4,483 vets in the United States work mostly or only with large animals, compared to 35,458 who spend most or all of their time with small animals. Women make up the majority of veterinary school students, but only about 18 percent of vets working exclusively with large animals are women, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

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Animal-Related Events

ANIMAL ESSAY CONTEST

Lantern Books - publishers of books on animal advocacy, vegetarianism, and environmentalism - is pleased to announce our first annual essay competition. The aim of the competition is to allow new thinking to emerge on the key subjects of Lantern's publishing program and to encourage new voices to step forward to shape the debate for the future.



The first prize is \$1000. There is no entry fee. Essays should be no longer than 1500 words. The deadline is December 31, 2005. Complete guidelines can be found at:

<http://lanternbooks.com/essay.php>

Lantern Books
 1 Union Square West, Suite 201
 New York, NY 10003
 212 414 2275 x16
www.lanternbooks.com

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Phil Arkow, Instructor,
arkowpets@snip.net

Phone: 215-563-6417 (days) or 856-627-5118 (evenings/weekends)
www.animaltherapy.net

Animal-Related Resources



Cruelty-free shopping; a portion of the profits benefit rescued farmed animals
www.dropSoul.com

.....
Animal calendars, 2006
<http://www.teamhart.org>

.....
 Multi-disciplinary anthrozoology website
www.anthrozoology.com.au

.....
 A service where dozens of animal shelters around California post information, and often photos, of dogs turned in
www.petharbor.com

Pet Fire Alert Decals for Animal Welfare Organization Fundraising

PAW
 1511 East Commercial Blvd
 PMB #129
 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33334

.....
Humane education and animals & religion resources
www.humanewisdom.net

Animals!

Cows:
www.goveg.com/feat/hiddenlivesofcows/index.asp

Baboons:
www.peta.org/feat/baboon/

Continued on page 10

Animal Well-Being

Continued from page 8

This trend may soon turn around, however. A bill filed this past April by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard, R-Colorado, would provide \$300 million in 2006 and \$1.2 billion over the course of the next nine years to fund expansion of programs and facilities at veterinary colleges. The plan is to increase the number of veterinarians willing to work in areas of public health and safety of the food supply, including working with large animals. *Source: Orlando Sentinel*

Firefighters and other rescue personnel often find that human beings aren't the only accident victims. Like their human owners, pets also are injured or die in house fires, car crashes or falls. With one out of every three U.S. households estimated to include a dog or cat, fire departments and rescue workers increasingly are likely to learn animal lifesaving techniques or carry emergency equipment such as pet-sized oxygen masks.

Incidents involving pets have become common enough that several fire-rescue units in Palm Beach County now are carrying the animal oxygen masks. Pet owner clubs and animal-rescue groups are raising money so they can purchase the equipment for their local fire departments. *Source: South Florida Sun-Sentinel*

For more information about animal safety and planning for your pet in disasters, go to the Humane Society of the United States Web site at www.hsus.org or the American Veterinary Medical Association Web site at www.avma.org. For information about local American Red Cross classes on pet first aid and CPR, go to www.redcross-pbc.org, or call 561-833-7711.

Animal-Related Resources

Continued from page 9

Rats & Mice:
www.stopanimaltests.com/feat/hiddenrats/

Turkeys:
www.goveg.com/feat/TurkeysLife/

Fish:
www.fishinghurts.com/feat/fishlives/

Pigs:
www.goveg.com/feat/Pigslife/

Chickens:
www.peta.org/feat/hiddenlives/

Sheep:
www.savethesheep.com/f-fascinating.asp

FREE CAT FOOD 4 RESCUERS
www.nutroproducts.com/yourfamily/

All Natural for Cats! Scratching post made of a tree branch from a "salvaged naturally felled tree" (\$86).
www.smithindustries.com

Cruelty-Free products
Cruelty-free vegetable soaps, lip balms and lotions. ("NO animal testing!!!")
www.greengirlbasics.com

Crazy crooning cats!
www.Rathergood.com

Animal Antics!
www.ifilm.com

Badly drawn cats!
www.tiddles.co.uk

Scary Cats!
www.mycathatesyou.com

Psycho-Kitty?
Go to "Educational Videos" on
www.zefrank.com

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Animals & the Media

Continued from page 6

The film location will be in the New York – New Jersey area. The film length will be 60 minutes. The budget is \$150,000.

We are looking for support on all levels from financial, administrative, promotion to actual film crews and hope that some of you can help us network to get the film produced.

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## **Guest Editorial**

*Continued from page 2*

Anyone who has had a close relationship with a parrot, from the smallest parakeet to the largest macaw, can tell you that these animals harbor an intelligence that science is only now demonstrating to be on par with primates and dolphins. Parrots are now widely recognized as being some of the most intelligent species inhabiting our planet. Ongoing studies with African grey parrots by Dr. Irene Pepperberg have demonstrated that this species, in particular, is capable of very complex thought processes. Science is now discovering that the brains of all birds are wired in a way very different to our own, and that evolution has provided them with abilities that cannot be explained by the actual brain size. Being called a “Bird brain”, in fact, should now be considered a compliment!

For the last 30 or so years the pet trade has taken full advantage of this latest “fad” pet and the fact that they carry a hefty price tag has led many to rush into becoming parrot breeders. As a rescue organization dedicated to the re-homing or long-term care for parrots, Foster Parrots is now seeing a problem far outpacing our ability to deal with the frightening number of unwanted birds. Parrots are now suffering the same abandonment, neglect and overpopulation issues that have led to the current state of affairs in the dog and cat world. Just this weekend we had a parrot left on our doorstep with a note attached asking us to “take good care of Emmet.” A couple of years back an Amazon parrot was found at the local trash dump “recycling area”, cage and all. The signs are as plain as day to those of us in the parrot rescue arena and with Petco’s recent decision to stop all large bird sales on April 12th, even they admitted that most of their customers were not equipped to deal with the complexities of caring for such an intellectually complex and sensitive creature.

How long will it be before the rest of the pet trade follows the example set by Petco? Too long we fear, and by then the damage may already have been done. With hundreds of requests for surrender coming into our shelter on a monthly basis we can see the writing on the wall. We hope that you too will at least listen to our warning. Are you prepared to retrace your steps down the path that is now littered with millions of dead dogs and cats? Their bodies may not be huge but their minds are...

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Research Update

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The researcher not only agreed to include the ‘pet variable’ in the study, but will be working together in a collaborative effort with FIREPAW researchers on this portion of the study. This is particularly exciting as it dovetails nicely with FIREPAW’s Companion Animals Renters Study and Program. Stay tuned to future newsletters for updates on this new Pets and Relocation study.

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## **Animal-Related Resources**

*Continued from page 10*

### **Cat-within-a-cat-within-a-cat!**

[www.infinitecat.com](http://www.infinitecat.com)

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### **Live litter-box cam!**

[www.Litterboxcam.com](http://www.Litterboxcam.com)

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### **Dog Poop!?**

[smellypoop.com/photogallery.html](http://smellypoop.com/photogallery.html)



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### **Express Yourself!**

Do your part to change public consciousness about animal suffering. Speak up for the animals by getting a really cool FIREPAW T-shirt (two slogans), button or extra-sturdy shoulder tote-bag. See them online or stop by the headquarters.

Outside of Albany? You can order online at [www.firepaw.org](http://www.firepaw.org) or by calling (518) 462-5939. Proceeds go to support our research, education and community outreach programs.

### **Send Your Contributions and Announcements to:**

email: [info@firepaw.org](mailto:info@firepaw.org) -or-  
[firepaw@earthlink.net](mailto:firepaw@earthlink.net)  
 Web: [www.firepaw.org](http://www.firepaw.org)

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