

**TRACS**

*The Responsible  
Animal Care Society*

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**aim**  
**animal issues**  
**magazine**



*Photograph by Michael Nichols (nationalgeographic.com)*

Precious and Few

**President's Message:  
Expanding Our Protective Umbrella**

I am so pleased to report on a major step that TRACS has taken this spring in terms of growth and, hence, our ability to help a greater number of animals.

On June 4, 2007, I boarded a flight to Toronto to attend a high profile media conference featuring actor Bo Derek. This event took place in Toronto's City Hall, where Ms. Derek, representing the U.S.-based organization WildAid, met with Mayor David Miller and spoke about the illegal trade in wildlife. She stressed how consumers worldwide can help to end the practice by simply not purchasing products obtained from endangered and threatened species. Two other speakers addressed these crucial issues as well. Peter Knights, Executive Director of WildAid, presented a graphic video regarding the sad plight of exquisite wild animals killed for their body parts. As the third speaker, I addressed the need for us *as Canadians* to be aware of a thriving underground trade involving the trafficking of animal parts, and what we can do to stop it.

This wonderful opportunity came about through networking and the fact that TRACS was recommended to WildAid by other organizations that we have shared projects with. We were asked to help launch WildAid's ACAP (Active Conservation Awareness Program) in Canada. It is indeed an honour to work with such a committed and far-reaching organization, and we are very grateful to the generous funding provided to us by the Charles E. Fipke Foundation for this and other projects.

During my two days in Toronto, I had the opportunity to discuss animal issues with Ms. Derek, whose dedication and passion has helped to achieve major steps toward the goal of ending horse slaughter in the U.S. As demonstrated through her work with WildAid, she is also committed to preservation of wildlife and their habitat.

Please hold TRACS in your thoughts as we continue to grow, meeting challenges set before us and striving to help make the world a little better as a result of our efforts.

For the animals,  
Sinikka Crosland

(See our feature article, "Precious and Few", on page 8)

**\*\*\*News Flash July 15, 2007: Two horses were tragically killed today in the Calgary Stampede's chuck wagon races. TRACS is working with the Canadian Horse Defense Coalition in order to expand the umbrella of protection over our nation's equine population, and a major campaign to defend our horses has been launched.\*\*\***

**TRACS Directors**

*President:* Sinikka Crosland    *Vice-President:* Linda Danners    *Treasurer:* Anna Schmidt  
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*Directors of Youth Programs:* Cory Davis & Carmen Crosland  
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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Carmen Crosland

## SAVE: Stop Animal Violence Early

### ***Brutal Sheep Killings at Kelowna Petting Zoo Prompts Launch of Reward Poster***

The Kelowna area has not been exempt from bizarre incidents of animal cruelty in the past: dismembered cats propped up for public display, and rabbits found bashed to death on a roadside. Recently, three sheep were discovered with broken necks at a petting zoo in East Kelowna. Falling prey to wildlife has been ruled out.

In an effort to glean information on this latest case of violence against animals, TRACS has launched a public appeal to find the killer(s) involved. We are offering up a **\$1000 reward** to any citizen who provides evidence leading to successful conviction of the offenders.

Spread the word! Please help TRACS in our efforts to bring to justice individuals who violate animal welfare laws. Tips can be phoned in: (250)768-4803, or e-mailed to [tracs@shaw.ca](mailto:tracs@shaw.ca). *All calls and messages are treated with confidentiality.*

Our sincere thanks are extended to the following local businesses that have shown their support by displaying our reward posters:

- The KLO Super Mart
- The Cold Beer and Wine Store
- Mike's British Car Repairs " Hillcrest Garage"

Public vigilance can make our communities safer for *all* who share them!

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Two years ago, a mother cat and 5 kittens decided to make a home on our porch. That was the beginning of our—and their—story. The first thing we did was to contact TRACS. We arranged that if we could catch them and take them to the vet to be sterilized, TRACS would pay the costs. One by one we enticed them into the house. A trap proved useless: they would walk in, eat the food, and walk out. The final one I caught with a butterfly net. Deciding to find homes for three, we advertised and received three replies. We warned the callers that these were not domesticated cats, but feral, and that it would take weeks of patience before they would come to a human. Obviously, we were not listened to...so back they came. We decided that we would not put them through that ordeal again, so they joined the family, consisting of our old cat Mulder and dog Barney. They have grown into the most adorable cats, though one is still shy. Mulder tolerates them, but they love Barney; when he comes in from his walk, they greet him and make a big fuss. So here we are: a happy home with 6 cats and Barney!

--Joan& Bill Bennett

[Dear Joan and Bill: Thanks for giving these wonderful animals such a caring home! TRACS' Compassion Fund continues to help needy critters by paying for food, veterinary bills, and emergency kenneling and boarding fees. In 2006, we spent close to \$25,000 on direct animal care. We'd like to expand our list of qualified foster homes, so anyone interested in fostering large or small animals is encouraged to call TRACS at: 250-768-4803.]

## *Hot Off the Press*

**July 11, 2007—WISCONSIN**—“A Wisconsin state representative wants to make sure judges think about the family pet when deciding divorces and annulments. A proposed state law would control how couples who split up handle custody of their pets” (Scott Michels, ABC News).

**July 11, 2007—QUEBEC**—Major media across Canada reported on graphic undercover video taken at a Quebec foie gras farm. We heard on CTV: “All the females end up in the garbage where they just suffocate to death. It’s because they produce smaller livers.” We watched heart-rending footage of ducklings struggling and smothering in garbage bins. Ducks were routinely kicked by employees, and CTV reported: “The images are gruesome. A live duck is hurled against a cement pillar and another has its head pulled off while farm employees trade banter. Other ducks are crammed into holding pens to await their force-feedings.” *Global Action Network* and *Farm Sanctuary* are to be congratulated for their extraordinary investigative work!

**June 28, 2007—OREGON**—“Oregon passed a measure Thursday to phase out use of sow gestation crates, making it the first U.S. state to do so by action of a state legislature. Arizona and Florida both banned the crates as a result of voter ballot initiatives” ([azda.gov/AgnNews](http://azda.gov/AgnNews)).

**June 19, 2007—EUROPE**—“...the European Parliament voted unanimously to ban cat and dog fur from being imported or exported into Europe by the end of 2008” (Humane Society International).

**May 31, 2007—ANCHORAGE, USA**—“Whales and their protectors fared well at this year’s meeting of the International Whaling Commission, where the moratorium on commercial whaling was reaffirmed and further threats to whales were defeated. Two large Japanese fisheries and seafood companies have agreed to stop selling whale products, striking a huge blow to Japan’s whaling industry. The United States’ Dolphin Safe tuna label was kept intact, despite attempts to weaken it. And sharks found new friends in a Latin American coalition working to increase global protection for shark species and stop the cruel practice of shark finning” (Humane Society International).

**April 28, 2007—EUROPE**—“Tests of cosmetic products on rabbits and mice will soon be banned after European scientists announced that most experiments can now be carried out using non-animal alternatives” ([thisislondon.co.uk](http://thisislondon.co.uk)).

**April 2007—NEW ZEALAND**—“New Zealand farmers have stopped performing mulesing on merino sheep, a procedure whereby skin around the tail is cut off to prevent flies from laying eggs there. Instead, some three million sheep have been selectively bred to be bare of wool in that area....Australia has set a 2010 deadline for ending the practice” ([farmedanimal.net/faw](http://farmedanimal.net/faw)).

### Goose Management Fiasco in Kelowna

The City of Kelowna declared on September 11, 2006 that there would henceforth be “zero tolerance” for Canada geese on public beaches. This statement has certainly held true. Officials point to goose droppings in parks and on the shoreline as reason for eliminating this stately bird from areas frequented by tourists and locals. Yet, even with the Canadian Wildlife Service denying a kill permit to Kelowna, eyebrows continue to be raised over other methods used to “manage” geese in Okanagan communities.

Concerned Kelowna residents have recorded numerous abuses over the spring and summer months. One citizen writes:

*“I would like to let you know about a goose at the Rotary Marsh (Brandt's Creek) on Sunset Dr. at the end of the Waterfront boardwalk. She was sitting on her nest for weeks during this heat wave. Twice I saw her in the heat very stressed; she was panting and looked exhausted. I went back Saturday and because it was so hot, she was standing over her eggs shading them. I shooed her away from the nest so I could see the eggs. She didn't even have the energy to protect them. She hissed at me, then went right into the lake and drank water for a couple of minutes and dunked her head in the water. She was definitely suffering from the heat. The 2 eggs were each marked with a large X in pencil. I took that as being addled (shaken) eggs. I just can't bear to think of her suffering in vain. I wonder how many other geese are suffering because of this city's 'goose management program'.”*

Further, methods used to relocate these birds have come under fire. Another Kelowna citizen has expressed concerns about the way in which Canada geese were handled prior to relocation from Kinsmen Park to a pond by the landfill. She and her husband observed that goslings had been placed in burlap sacks and were “lightly tossed” into the back of a van. They saw no evidence of family units being captured and relocated at once, as there were no adult-size geese in the burlap sacks. A subsequent count at the landfill pond by yet another citizen revealed far fewer goslings than adult birds. It must be noted that goslings without their protective parents are easily targeted by predators.

An attempt at habitat modification in Kinsmen Park has involved the use of a 2.5 foot high fence running the length of the retaining wall. According to witnesses, this physical barrier has worked to deter the geese. Capture of the birds, however, has involved rolling back the temporary fencing to allow them entry to the park, then herding and corralling them into a pen formed by Moduloc panels. Of concern is this comment from a Kelowna resident: “...since Parks removed the temporary fencing in Kinsmen Park, geese have returned to the park, still flightless and [without] goslings.” Was this the result of egg addling, or relocation of goslings without the parent birds?

In sharp contrast to Kelowna's floundering efforts to control Canada geese, numerous other North American communities have achieved success through habitat modification and other methods, such as penning. The City of Oakville in Ontario operates a goose camp. Flightless (molting) birds are penned in a large enclosure in one of the parks, fed, watered, and protected until molting is complete. At that point, they are encouraged to fly away. This helps to prevent separation of family units.





*Photo credits: Helen Schiele*



*Kinsmen Park, Kelowna, B.C.*

*Ironically, the Sibell Maude-Roxby Bird Sanctuary is located in the wooded area visible in the background (top photo). Numerous goslings were hatched there.*

**If you are concerned about the way in which the City of Kelowna is handling Canada geese, please send the enclosed sign-on letter to the city for consideration.**

Mayor and Members of Council,  
City of Kelowna ,  
1435 Water Street,  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4  
250-469-8500 (p)  
250-862-3315 (f)  
e-mail: mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca

Dear Mayor and Members of Kelowna City Council,

## **Kelowna City Council**

### **Please Stop The Round Up And Relocation Of Canada Geese**

I am writing to ask that you stop the round up and relocation of Canada geese. I am concerned with the humaneness of the round-up, transport and relocation of the birds. I am also concerned that some of the dependant young birds may be accidentally separated from their parents during the roundup and relocation.

My concerns are well expressed by a Kelowna resident who witnessed the goose relocation programme first hand. Below is a description of what she saw:

At about 4 p.m. on Monday, June 25, my husband and I were driving by the entry to Kinsmen Park (south of the tennis courts on Abbott St.). As the passenger, I had a clear view of a large white van in front of the park. We were going slowly because of the right-angle turn in the street, when I noticed three burlap bags that appeared to be flapping in the wind. It was not windy outside. I asked my husband to stop so that I could check on what was moving in the bags. I got out and asked the man inside what he was doing. I asked him what animals he had in the sacks, and said this looked like animal abuse. He quickly lifted the bags one by one and lightly tossed them into the back of the van, just a little past a Border Collie dog lying in a pet carrier. There was a large number of burlap bags in the van, so I could not tell where the three bags landed. The man shut the sliding door and then asked me to calm down. He said he had a permit to relocate geese from Kinsmen Park. I was quite upset, as the size of whatever was inside the burlap bags suggested a gosling, rather than an adult Canada Goose. I asked him if he was catching goslings and he replied both goslings and adults. He had a permit to remove the birds and transport them to the landfill. He had no answer when I asked how the goslings were to survive if the parents were not caught at the same time. When I asked him how he managed to catch the birds, he did not reply. He showed me a permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service which he had on a clipboard. I asked him for a copy, but he would not give me one.

I am deeply concerned that Kelowna City Council would condone such treatment of the Canada geese. I am asking you to implement a fully integrated non-lethal goose management

programme to prevent geese from concentrating in areas such as beaches, sports fields and golf courses where the human wildlife conflicts arise.

It appears from the Okanagan Regional Goose Management Strategy and Action Plan that the only habitat modification used by Kelowna is fence barriers. In fact, aside from fence barriers, not one single municipality in the Okanagan Valley has implemented an integrated habitat modification plan.

As has been demonstrated elsewhere, the most effective, and in the long term the most cost-efficient, permanent technique is habitat modification. This includes re-naturalizing large grazing areas, thereby reducing the large concentrations of the birds.

I urge you to consult with non-lethal organizations such as GeesePeace and Animal Alliance to assist in resolving any real or perceived conflicts between Kelowna residents and the geese. Animal Alliance ([www.animalalliance.ca](http://www.animalalliance.ca)) has developed a habitat modification manual available online. The manual is titled *A Source Book – Habitat Modification and Canada Geese – Techniques for Mitigating Human/Goose Conflicts in Urban and Suburban Environments*.

Sincerely,

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Signature

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Name

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Address

Apt#

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City

Province

P/Code

Date:

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**Creature Feature:  
Non-surgical Sterilization**

***It Is Still Raining Cats and Dogs - Pet Overpopulation Is a Huge Concern***

It is difficult to visualize, but an estimated five million dogs and cats die every year in US shelters alone, and Canada is not far behind that number. In many countries the situation is even worse because of cultural and economic reasons, but mostly because there is no sterilization available to have any control over the reproduction of pets, owned or strays. Much of this tragedy could be prevented with an already possible, but not yet fully researched and accepted non-surgical sterilization method.

Imagine, being able to have your companion animal spayed or neutered without surgery or anesthesia, but with a simple injection, like that of an immunization. This is already feasible but there are hurdles to overcome before it becomes available to pet owners. Research has been ongoing for more than 30 years on several different approaches to the procedure and the approval of products for this process.

A survey of several thousand companion animal owners rated the problem of reducing pet overpopulation as the most important issue. The cost of surgical sterilization has been rising constantly and low income owners are unable to pay the price. Those owning cats are especially reluctant to pay a high cost for spay/neuter, as felines tend to get lost or are killed accidentally more frequently than dogs. So the rise of unwanted cats and kittens is spiraling upward at an alarming rate. Obviously, non-surgical sterilization has enormous benefits. It will be cost effective, easier to manage and less harmful to animals than the traditional surgical method.

In order to bring non-surgical spay neuter into actual use, more awareness is necessary. It needs the support of the public and animal advocate groups, to speed up the process. New approaches have emerged over the past few years, but few have had the support they need. It takes committed funding and time to work through technical hurdles and get through the many stages of development before veterinarians can actually use this method to alter companion animals.

A non-profit organization has been formed. The "Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs" is working to create the networking and financial support to speed up the process that will bring non surgical sterilization into use, and advancing the idea of "no more homeless pets" into the near future. Anyone interested in more information may go to these websites: [www.acc-d.org/](http://www.acc-d.org/) or [www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org)

--Elli Kohnert

*June 16, 2007 - If you're a squirrel or a trout, we've got some good news for you: Americans are hunting and fishing less...as a nation we're gradually finding new, less violent ways to interact with nature. If this keeps up it won't be long before Elmer Fudd goes after Bugs Bunny with a pair of binoculars (Steve Tuttle, Newsweek).*

## Precious and Few

The tentacles of the illegal wildlife trade, with major roots in Africa and Asia, have reached all over the world, and our nation is not exempt. As Canadians, we need to understand how our consumer habits can help or hinder populations of elephants, tigers, black rhinos, and other exotic species.

Did you know that there may be fewer than 5000 tigers surviving in their natural habitat, that Asian elephant herds have diminished to approximately 50,000, and that the Spix macaw is now believed to be extinct in the wild? While habitat destruction, human eating habits, sport hunting and the effects of climate change are all contributing factors to the plight of endangered species and wildlife as a whole, illegal trafficking takes a destructive toll.

WildAid's ACAP (Active Conservation Awareness Program) site explains: "Canada loses wildlife to the illegal trade every day, as people purchase bear gall bladders and other parts made from endangered animals. It is also a source of demand. As an affluent and multicultural society, Canada has a wide variety of illegal imports as tourist souvenirs like ivory and turtleshell, traditional medicine like tiger bone and rhino horn as well as live parrot and exotic animals for the pet trade...." (<http://www.wildaid.org/index.asp?CID=16&PID=504> ).

Exotic sources are not the only direction from which illegally and cruelly obtained animal products reach the consumer. In Canada species neither endangered nor threatened—for example, the black bear—are illicitly killed for their body parts. An example of this horrified residents in upper Glenrosa (Westbank, B.C.) in 2006. A young black bear was found with paws removed on the roadside. (This was not the first such incident in the area.) Bear paws and gallbladders are used in Asian markets as medicine and food. TRACS posted reward signs locally, but to date no one has come forth with information leading to the identity of the killer. It should also be noted that rampant hunting exploitation of any species can lead to population decline, as history has proven time and time again. The California Grizzly Bear, the passenger pigeon, the dodo, and the quagga (a sub-species of zebra) are but a few examples of species hunted completely to extinction.

Whether indigenous or exotic animals are involved, the message is the same: until consumers stop buying jewelry, trinkets, ornaments and so-called medicines obtained from animal body parts, this underground industry will maintain its foothold and thrive. As stated by WildAid: "...buyers are often unaware of the law or of the devastation they are financing. *We can change this in our lifetimes.*"



[www.wildaid.org/](http://www.wildaid.org/)

**Shocking Statistics: Rhinos are one of the most critically endangered species on the planet. Black rhino populations fell from 60,000 in 1970 to 2,500 in 1990 as poachers targeted their horns. Traditional Chinese medicine has posed the greatest threat to rhinos ([www.wildaid.org/](http://www.wildaid.org/)).**

## KUDOS!

*The Cloverdale Rodeo in Surrey will no longer include calf-roping, team roping, steer wrestling or wild-cow milking in their repertoire of events. The **Vancouver Humane Society** is to be commended for their exemplary work on this issue! They have been campaigning against rodeo cruelty since 1989, and have now achieved a monumental victory in their fight to protect livestock animals abused for profit and tradition. States VHS Executive Director Debra Probert: "I think this decision shows that the Cloverdale Rodeo is admitting what the Vancouver Humane Society and the humane community have been saying for over 20 years - that these events are explicitly cruel and that there's no place for them in a progressive society." Well done, Vancouver Humane Society!*

## Recipe Corner

### Blue Ribbon Flaxseed Cornbread

Flaxseeds are exceptionally rich in essential omega-3 fatty acids and a great source of fiber, folic acid, manganese, and vitamin B6. Although often overlooked, flaxseeds are very versatile and can be used in dishes whole, ground, or in the form of oil. Treat yourself to this award-winning, egg-free cornbread. This moist, home-baked bread actually won the blue ribbon at the Iowa State Fair... and those folks know their corn!

#### Ingredients:

2 Tbs. ground flaxseed  
 6 Tbs. water  
 1 cup all purpose flour  
 1 cup cornmeal  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 4 tsp. baking powder  
 3/4 tsp. salt  
 1 cup soymilk  
 1/4 cup vegetable oil

#### Directions:

1. Adjust oven rack to middle position preheat oven to 425F; spray an 8-inch-square baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Bring water to a boil in a small saucepan; add ground flaxseed, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer for 3 minutes or until thickened, stirring occasionally; set aside.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cornmeal, sugar, baking powder, and salt until well-combined.
4. Add the ground flaxseed mixture, soymilk, and vegetable oil to the flour mixture; beat just until smooth (do not overbeat).
5. Pour into the baking pan and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.
6. Cool on wire rack for 20 minutes or longer; cut into pieces and serve.

For this and other great veg recipes, visit [www.VegWeb.com](http://www.VegWeb.com)!

