

A publication of TRACS - The Responsible Animal Care Society

Newsletter Highlights:

- Letter writing campaign insert.
- TRACS receives fantastic support from the P.R.U. Stratton, Esq. Fund and Vancouver Foundation.
- Regional District moving toward Exotic Animal Bylaw.

Individual Highlights:

- Compassion for Animals Expedition Page 2
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- Youth Against Animal Abuse report Page 5

President's Message

With summer just beginning, we are reminded of the tens of thousands of PMU (Pregnant Mare Urine) foals born at this time of year in the Canadian prairie provinces. Long-legged, inquisitive, and playful, they are full of life- and *totally unaware of the fact that most of them will be entering the horsemeat market in a few short months.*

Recently, TRACS was the recipient of two large grants--\$15,000 to assist us with general management of

our growing organization, and \$50,000 for our PMU campaign (foal rescue, research and education). We are extremely grateful to the P.R.U. Stratton, Esq. Fund, as well as to the Vancouver Foundation, for these grants. Their kindness and generosity will help us to continue fighting for the animals and, specifically, to achieve goals that will directly benefit Canadian horses. With regard to this issue, we are in the process of communicating with other North American groups and

individuals who have offered to assist us in our campaign. Once again, horse rescuer Dr. Ray Kellosalmi will play a crucial role in this endeavor. The next two months promise to be a whirlwind of activity as strategies are formulated and implemented.

Our annual general meeting, held on May 7, 2003, was a success. We extend a warm thank you to Dr. Trevor Salloum, who gave a very enlightening talk that evening
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EXOTIC ANIMAL BYLAW NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

At a Regional Board meeting on May 26th, City of Kelowna reps were generally supportive of the proposed Prohibited Animal Bylaw (the resolution passed), but the reps from the outlying areas were not. Consequently, the draft bylaw has been sent to each of the municipalities for discussion. Since there was no support from Mayor Rolly Hein of Lake Country, Mayor Bob Harriman of Peachland, and Area Director Patty Hanson (Ellison/Joe Riche), these legislators will probably not be

encouraging their respective councils to agree to this bylaw.

If you would like to see protective legislation regarding the keeping and displaying of certain vulnerable and/or dangerous exotic animals in our city and regional district, ***please help to lobby for its enactment!***

Note: if you haven't seen the proposed bylaw and would like to do so, please contact me at: tracs@shaw.ca (or 768-4803) for a copy.

Important facts to keep in mind:

- 1) under a grandfathering clause, the proposed legislation would allow for existing exotic animals to remain with their caregivers, and
- 2) in the spirit of providing refuge for the abandoned, the proposed bylaw would allow a qualified person or persons to seek accreditation as a "recognized facility", provided they meet SPCA criteria.

See insert for letter writing campaign on this issue

Compassion for Animals Road Expedition - CARE

Invites you to join *The Global Anti-Hunting Coalition*



Anthony Marr

We've all asked at some point, "Wouldn't it be powerful for all groups of like mind to collectively wage a single coordinated campaign, from coast to coast, against a single adversary?" Thus was born the concept of the Global Anti-Hunting Coalition.

In the seven months between August 29, 2003, and April 2, 2004, wildlife preservationist and anti-hunting campaigner Anthony Marr, with best-selling local vegan author Brenda Davis and her son Cory Davis, will be conducting the Compassion for Animals Road Expedition (CARE) through 40 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces (see <http://www.HOPE-CARE.org> for the state-by-state itinerary). One of CARE's main objectives is to form the American chapter of the Global Anti-Hunting Coalition. Anthony Marr will be holding meetings with the directors and giving presentations to the members of interested animal advocacy groups en route to discuss participation, campaigns, strategy and tactics.

The first campaign of the Global Anti-Hunting Coalition will be to apply external pressure on Canada focusing on its:

1. East Coast Commercial Harp Seal Hunt (current quota – 375,000/year – the largest marine mammal hunt in the world, known as "Canada's Shame" – the HSUS has already taken boycott action against Canada on this issue, but the more groups, the better).
2. Western Canada Grizzly Bear Trophy Hunt (current quota ~300/year plus poaching deaths of ~300 out of a hotly debated estimated population of 4,000-13,000).
3. West Coast Commercial Harbour Seal Hunt (currently being tabled in parliament – quota: an incredible 50,000/year out of a total estimated population of only 110,000 – this must be nipped in the bud).
4. West Coast Grey Whale Hunt (currently being planned – this must be nipped in the bud).
5. Central Canada Gopher Derby (2002 kill – ~60,000).
6. Eastern Arctic Bowhead Whale Hunt (this species is classified "endangered" by CITES).
7. Trophy hunting and fur trapping (a passive-aggressive form of hunting – currently about 1,000,000/year) in general.

Groups need not have anti-hunting mandates in order to join. A vegan group, for example, is presumably intrinsically anti-animal-abuse, and therefore implicitly against hunting and trapping.

To join the Global Anti-Hunting Coalition, or if you have any questions, or if you wish to meet with Anthony Marr or arrange a presentation for him during the CARE tour, please contact him at:

Anthony-Marr@HOPE-CARE.org, toll-free 1-866-822-1169.

Anthony Marr has also authored
Omni-science and the Human Destiny.

Visit: <http://www.omni-science.org>
and scroll down to click on a link to the book.

Canada plans on further increasing the East Coast Seal Hunt.



chickens at Windybrae sanctuary

Animal Guardians Increasingly Recognized

Most people reading this page probably already consider their animal companion as a member of their family instead of as property (like your computer or your car). Reflecting this, there is a growing push to use the word 'guardian' instead of 'owner' when referring to our relationship with our pets, both in everyday language and in legal terms.

Leading the push is an American organization, In Defence of Animals (IDA).

IDA is running a campaign called *The Guardian Campaign*. IDA believes that a simple wording change from "animal owner" to "animal guardian" will help to elevate the status of animals beyond that of mere property to that of living, breathing, sentient individuals with needs and rights of their own.

Steps Taken in the U.S.: Several cities have already passed measures that characterize residents as "animal guardians," rather

than mere property owners. In San Francisco, for example, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance in January that amended city and county laws so that they speak of the "owner or guardian" of animals, as opposed to simply the "owner." (For good measure, the ordinance also eliminated the adjective "dumb" from its definition of animal, which previously referred to "any bird, mammal, reptile, or other dumb creature.") In passing the ordinance, San Francisco

became the seventh city in the country to codify animal guardian language. Ever since 2000, when Boulder, Colorado became the first city to pass such a measure, Boulder citizens have witnessed changes everywhere --- the Boulder newspaper is routinely using the word guardian (not "owner") in articles and editorials;

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Life With Non-Human Persons

Those of us who have opened our homes and our hearts to animals, living in close communion with them on a daily basis, will have stories to recount about their intelligence and endearing qualities. The Crosland's Windybrae Farm Sanctuary in Westbank abounds with unique personalities and the kinds of experiences that tend to pull us even closer to our non-human friends. Here is one:

Entertainment at the Farm

Two Windybrae residents, both female cats, will pick any excuse to fight and argue. One peaceful, sunny Sunday afternoon, they decided to duke it out in a small gulley just to one side of the coops and enclosures where a number of rescued egg-laying hens reside. The hissing and spitting brought my farm chores to an immediate standstill, and I strode over to see how I could best intervene. But an amazing scene prompted me to stop in my tracks. First, our male cat, a black and burly, yellow-eyed fellow by the name of Owl, sauntered over to the edge of the gulley to watch the action. Molly, our lab-shepherd cross, followed close on his heels. Thirdly, a large flock of free-ranging chickens wasted no time in scurrying to peer over the edge of the embankment. All animals intently watched the fight until I managed to separate the angry cats. Entertainment over, they returned to whatever they had been doing prior to the scuffle....

Do you have any special animal stories to share with us in a future issue of AIM? Please e-mail them to us!

President's message continued from page one

on the topic of osteoporosis and diet. Also--bouquets to the folks at Nature's Fare, who donated nothing short of a feast to those who attended the AGM. The food was delicious!

I would like to extend a special thank you and welcome at this time to Grant Rice, who has joined Madelon Keij, Connie Mahoney, Monika Penner and myself on the TRACS board of directors. Grant's continuing helpfulness in all areas has been a huge asset to our organization, and ultimately, to the animals. He continues to maintain our website, <http://www.tracs-bc.ca>, and does the layout for our newsletter as well. Kudos to you, Grant!

Please note the information and alert on exotic animals in this newsletter. TRACS has worked long and hard on this campaign since last year, and we are most grateful for the assistance of Zoocheck Canada and the Vancouver Humane Society for their continuing involvement in this Okanagan initiative. The commitment and expertise of representatives from these organizations has been invaluable. At this time, we ask citizens to contact legislators in the City of Kelowna and the Central Okanagan Regional District to express their support for the proposed bylaw. Non-indigenous, "exotic" species are no different from any other living beings in this respect--they all need and deserve our protection.

For the animals, Sinikka Crosland, President

Seal Hunt Ruins Canada's Reputation

In spite of reassurances by Fisheries Minister Robert Thibault that the Canadian commercial seal hunt is conducted in a "humane manner", reality hits home. The following op-ed piece in the Toronto Star, written by Rebecca Aldworth of IFAW (one of the leading campaigners against the seal hunt on this continent) details what life--and death--is really like on the ice floes in eastern Canada. Please read this. Then send a piece of your mind to: Hon. Mr. Robert Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6 or fax him at: (613)990-1866.

Don't let Canadian legislators whitewash the seal massacre with lies, and justify their suffering by supporting this archaic, cruel, and unnecessary industry. The commercial seal hunt is a blight on our nation's international reputation, and cannot be condoned any longer!

The Toronto Star May 9, 2003 by Rebecca Aldworth

The commercial seal hunt is in full swing off Canada's East Coast. More than 224,000 pups have already been clubbed or shot to death; another 126,000 will likely be killed by mid-May.

The seal nursery, one of the world's great wildlife spectacles, is once again soaked in blood.

I grew up in Newfoundland. It was there I first saw the seal slaughter on CBC television; horrific black-and-white images of sealers clubbing baby seals.

We lived in a small outport of 340 people. I had eaten seal meat, and my family knew sealers. But I had never seen a live seal. I had never truly understood - until I saw the agony in those pups' eyes - the brutal reality of this hunt.

Two weeks ago I returned from observing, for the fifth time, what few Canadians ever see - the commercial seal slaughter both in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Newfoundland. This "hunt" is as brutal as ever and no compassionate person could ever support it.

This year, the ice cover was unusually thick. The sealing boats formed a circle around huge pans measuring more than a mile across. We filmed from the centre.

Moving towards the sealers, we passed giant pools of blood with trails leading back to the boats. Everywhere, carcasses stared up at us, left behind by the sealers. The pups left alive moved miserably through the carnage, bewildered and covered in blood.

We got very close to the sealers, and could see and hear everything: The splatter of blood as the clubs hit, the cries of seals as they were struck.

The killing methods were cruel. The sealer would club a seal, and it would lie still. He would begin to cut it open, but all too often, it would start to move. The sealer would react by clubbing the animal again. It would lie still, and the sealer would resume skinning. Again the seal would move. Usually the sealer would give up and finish skinning the still thrashing animal.

The Marine Mammal Regulations require that sealers perform a simple test to ensure the seal is dead prior to skinning. It involves quickly touching the animals' eyeball and watching for a reaction. But almost none of the sealers did it.

I also witnessed sealers hooking conscious animals through the skull, dragging them to the boats. Tossing wounded seals across the ice. Allowing seals that had been shot to escape and die slowly. Some seals would bite at the gaffe as they were hooked through the mouth. Journalists and sealers report seal pups regaining consciousness on the deck of the boat. I have witnessed these scenarios each and every year that I have observed this hunt.

Much of the time, the Coast Guard circled and watched us from the air. They did nothing to stop the abuse.

There are journalists who romanticize this "hunt," disenchanted urbanites portraying a fantasy version of rural life. They are of the school that equates brutality with bravery, greed with tenacity.

But there is nothing noble about slaughtering 350,000 baby seals; there is nothing brave about a grown man clubbing or shooting a 3-week-old animal with no means of escape.

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Somewhere in the debate, it has been overlooked that Newfoundlanders sealed so their children wouldn't have to.

People are injured and die in the course of the slaughter; others are emotionally damaged by the violence they witness. In an average year, sealers return with sealskins to find rock-bottom prices. In some years, they have dumped them into the ocean because the processing companies stopped buying.

This is not work future generations of Newfoundlanders will choose to do. The young adults who are leaving the province grew up with higher expectations than eking out a miserable existence on a bloody sealing boat.

But we continue to sink massive subsidies into this dying industry and then lay off the rural schoolteachers who offer young people their only hope to compete on the national business stage.

In truth, it is far cheaper for the federal government to support this hunt than to put any real money into education and sustainable job creation. It is far easier to blame seals for disappearing cod than to take responsibility for two centuries of over-fishing.

This slaughter provides little income for the people of our Atlantic provinces, puts the already fragile ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic at risk, and badly tarnishes the image of our nation. It is time this outdated and cruel slaughter was relegated to the history books where it belongs.



Molly from Windy - brae sanctuary.

Rebecca Aldworth is a campaigner for the International Fund for Animal Welfare - Canada. The IFAW works to reduce commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress.

Youth Against Animal Abuse

New Name:

Please note that our name was the Pony Pal Club, and Youth Against Animal Abuse is our new name because we decided that the Pony Pal Club sounded like it was about just horses, and we want our group to be about all animals.

Good News:

We got veggie dogs added to the menu at Helen Gorman Elementary school on hot dog day, and we asked students at the school to sign a petition against the seal hunt, which we then faxed to newspapers and politicians, including the fisheries minister.

Ideas:

We are thinking of having a barbecue with veggie dogs and veggie burgers, so that people can find out that meat alternatives are delicious, cruelty-free and healthy. We are also thinking of having a bake sale with vegan foods, and a craft sale.

Fundraisers:

We have also had little garage sales to raise money for animals who need help.

-Carmen Crosland (Youth Against Animal Abuse president)

To join Youth Against Animal Abuse, please call Carmen at: (250)-768-4803, or tracs@shaw.ca

It is free to join, and you will receive four, free newsletters each year.

Thank you for your time!

"veggie dogs added to the menu at Helen Gorman Elementary school on hot dog day"

TRACS Membership



Join with a group of animal loving people!
Help TRACS continue its work by
becoming a member and receive our
quarterly newsletter as part of
your membership.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please enclose the following for Annual Membership

Individual \$10

Family \$15

If you can contribute an hour or so a month to help
with information booths, mailing or similar activities,
please check this box.

Mail To: TRACS,
The Responsible Animal Care Society
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.tracs-bc.ca

the Humane Society of Boulder Valley is using guardian in their daily language and in all printed material; and signs erected by City Staff in dog parks now use the new terminology. In February of 2001, West Hollywood and Berkeley, California made similar changes to their ordinances to reflect the fact that their citizens are indeed guardians of their dogs, cats and other companions. Since that time, the cities of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Amherst, Massachusetts and Sherwood, Arkansas as well as the state of Rhode Island have also enacted laws that recognize the legal status of the word

"guardian."

There is no doubt that some people think that their companion animal is a possession, which contributes to the abuse perpetrated every day on animals. Think of the changes we might see if we educate our children to the fact that they are guardians of living beings rather than "owners of property".

IDA, TRACS, and numerous other animal advocacy organizations believe that when people come to view animals as fellow travellers on this earth and not simply commodities to be bought and sold, the treatment they receive

from humans will improve either voluntarily or via legislation passed as a result of the new ethic.

Do you want to help? You can begin by using the word "guardian" in place of "owner" when referring to companion animals. If "owner" must be used, put the word in quotation marks to indicate a negative connotation. Let's follow the example set by IDA and start the momentum in Canada!

If you would like to help or to know more about the campaign being run by In Defence of Animals, check out their web site www.guardiancampaign.org, or email [:jennifer@idausa.org](mailto:jennifer@idausa.org)

Helping TRACS

There are many ways one can help us with our work. Bequests, donations, volunteer time or even contributing stories to our newsletter all contribute to our group's success.

This year was a difficult one for volunteer hours. We missed out on two area events we have participated at in the past.: the Wildlife and Fat Cat Festivals.

TRACS is in our 9th year and is a well known and respected animal rights group. We thank you for your continuing support and encouragement.