



Publication of:  
The  
Responsible  
Animal Care  
Society

## TRACS

*The Responsible  
Animal Care  
Society*

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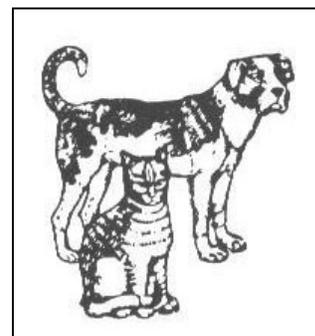
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A joyous and healthy new year to our animal-loving supporters far and wide! I am pleased to report that TRACS has moved forward into 2004 with a number of exciting projects on the go, including FAWN (Fire Affected Wildlife Needs) and involvement in the formation of a Wildlife Recovery Centre. Also, in January we were thrilled to compile information and supply video footage to NBC's Dateline for their documentary, "The HRT Horses". Stockard Channing, Dr. Ray Kellosalmi, and Helen Meredith of United Pegasus Foundation were interviewed and did a superb job! Please read on for updates on these and other issues related to animal protection.

--Sinikka Crosland

## HAVE-A-HEART CAMPAIGN

**Please join us on Saturday, February 14th (Valentine's Day), 12 noon, at the corner of Hwy. 97 (Harvey Ave.) and Gordon Drive, Kelowna.** We will be asking Kelowna citizens to "have a heart" for fur-bearing animals...*by not promoting the fur trade.* Bring your heart-shaped poster or placard with an anti-fur message. Believe it or not, some businesses in Kelowna still persist in selling the skins of farmed and trapped animals!



## IS IT ANOTHER NAME FOR AN ANIMAL LEFT TO SUFFER

by Jody Paterson (Victoria Colonist)

Given the combination of weapons technology and opposable thumbs, the human animal can lord it over the rest of the animals at will. We like to imagine ourselves benevolent and even loving dictators over the dumb masses, offering habitat protection or a nightly dinner of organic pet food in exchange for service or companionship, but it's a thin veneer. We'll kill them if we have to.

And so we love the animals who live in our houses and the wild ones that we rarely see and therefore covet, while consuming 500 million a year in Canada of the ones that didn't make the list. It would be upsetting if we thought about it, so we don't. It helps if we think of the utilitarian animals as 'livestock' and coin food names that shield us even further: cows are beef, pigs are pork, infant calves are veal, deer is venison.

Continued on page 2

## Meat is just another name...

[ continued from page 1 ]

University of Waterloo research student and animal activist Joseph Pace was 17 when he started wondering about the life of the animal he'd just participated in eating. "I looked at what I was eating and then at my pet dog and rabbit, and I thought I should look into how this food got onto my plate. So I phoned a slaughterhouse and asked how old a steer was when it was killed and they told me 16 to 18 months. This is an animal that could live 20 years. I'd actually believed up to that point that we kept animals like pets and when they got old, we'd take them out back. And that we used them like good people would."

The reality is much uglier, so ugly that we barely have a law that regulates cruelty to farm animals. B.C. law says you can't be any crueller than accepted farm practice dictates, without establishing whether accepted practice is itself cruel; Canadian law combines the words "willful" and "unnecessary" to do the same. Pace notes that someone who beats a farm pig balking at walking to its death may be willfully cruel, but getting the pig to slaughter is necessary. Case closed.

Keeping cows permanently pregnant is equally necessary if we are to have milk, that peculiar drink of our western culture. Costly ad campaigns and a hardwon wholesome image ensure that few will raise a most obvious question: What kind of animal would either God or evolution create that would be reliant on the breast milk of another species?

Pace once expected everyone to give up all animal products once they heard the truth of the short and miserable life of a farm animal. He is 26 now and has softened some of the zealotry of youth and just hopes people will do whatever they can. To help them along, he has terrible stories and a headful of slaughterhouse statistics for the book he's working on for 1999. Dairy cattle have been carefully bred to the point that they now produce three times as much milk as they did in 1950, their udders swollen and often infected from a short life of constant demands. The chronic offspring that result from being permanently pregnant become either the next generation of dairy calf or a veal dinner, the males taken away from their mothers at birth and kept in tiny pens for a few weeks before being killed in the name of fine dining.

The typical chicken we eat lives just 42 days. The chickens whose eggs we take live 16 months, stuffed four deep into 16 x 18 inch cages, beaks and sometimes toes cut off to keep them from pecking at each other or getting their feet locked around the cage bottom. I was in an egg barn many years ago and watched the artificial light trick the chickens into laying longer and more often. "Spent" hens sell for 10 or 20 cents each. Life is ever briefer for newborn male chicks, 40,000 of which are killed daily in Ontario alone as the industry purges the unneeded by-product of breeding the next generation of food chicken. Some of the chicks end up as chicken feed, a practice that has led to a new antibiotic-resistant form of salmonella.

And in the end, that's what will lead us to ponder the lives of farm animals. We are eating misery and sickness and the animals' revenge is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, salmonella, E. coli, superbugs that we have no ability to battle. We either get nicer or kill ourselves.

Pace monitored one Ontario slaughterhouse where one in nine of the steers arriving for slaughter were 'misstunned', the steel shaft fired out of the pistol missing their frontal lobe in that step just before they're hung up by a hind leg and eviscerated alive. But at \$200 a minute in lost revenues, the conveyer just keeps on moving. If the thought of the suffering doesn't get to you, think how you feel about eating the meat of an already miserable animal left accidentally conscious through a terrifying death.

Pace welcomes the smallest of efforts toward change: the food on your plate is massive power, more leverage than any decision you'll make in a day. He'd prefer that we quit eating animals because we couldn't bear to any longer, but he also has a long list of health and environmental arguments just in case. Either way, we must come down from the top of the food chain long enough to question practices that are not only intolerably cruel, but increasingly proving to be health hazards served up as good nutrition.

[**Note:** TRACS is presently conducting a study on causes of mortality in rescued egg-laying chickens. While textbooks state that these birds can live up to 20 years, we have lost the majority of our sanctuary flock within seven years. Euthanasia and autopsies have been performed on terminally ill birds by a local veterinarian since July 2002. The cause of death in most of these hens? *Ovarian carcinoma (cancer)*. Modern egg-layers are bred to mass-produce large eggs. In spite of our efforts to provide the rescued birds with free-range conditions, fresh water to drink, and nutritious food, we are seeing the results of genetic manipulation in factory farming....]

## THE HRT HORSES

On Sunday, January 18, 2004, NBC's Dateline aired a superb 8-minute documentary about the current PMU (Pregnant Mare Urine) industry crisis. Due to major downsizing of the industry\*, thousands of pregnant mares, foals, and stallions are out of a job...and many have already been sold to slaughter. Watch the streaming video, "The HRT Horses", and read the text on Dateline's website: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3995076/%20>. (TRACS assisted Dateline by compiling information and, in conjunction with Last Chance for Animals, supplied video footage of our undercover investigation at a recent PMU mare auction.)

Please contact TRACS if you can adopt or sponsor rescued horses. E-mail us: [tracs@shaw.ca](mailto:tracs@shaw.ca), or phone (250)768-4803.

\*Sales of Premarin, PremPro and PremPhase have dropped since the National Institutes of Health halted a study in 2002 that revealed serious potential health risks to women using these drugs. *Women are encouraged to speak with their physicians about alternate therapies.*

### THE CONCERNS

Due to recent major cutbacks in the Pregnant Mare Urine industry, tens of thousands of horses are now out of a job. U.S.-based corporate giant Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, having profited from the Premarin family of drugs for over 60 years, has initiated an Equine Placement Fund on behalf of PMU ranchers and their horses. (Premarin is made from the urine of pregnant mares.) However, it appears that this fund, as well as the efforts of numerous rescue organizations throughout North America, has not been sufficient. *Undercover videotape and information gathered during November and December 2003 reveals that thousands of pregnant mares, foals, and stallions are being routinely shipped to Texan and Canadian horse slaughter plants, where many have already met a gruesome and terrifying death!*

*TRACS and other animal protection organizations are asking Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to take full and immediate responsibility by removing industry horses from slaughter plant and other feedlots, and to cover costs of transporting and maintaining these horses until permanent homes can be found for them.*

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**PLEASE** help to make a difference in the lives of industry horses by sending a letter to Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Steven Tasher, Senior Vice-President  
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals  
Five Giralda Farms  
Madison, New Jersey 07940, U.S.A.  
Fax: (973)660-7111

See sample letter next page.



Whose warm heart will bring this adorable young cat out of the cold?

Please contact TRACS at 250-768-4803 if you have room on your hearth--and in your heart--for a new family member!

### Good news:

***We received word in January 2004 that the import and sale of dog, cat and seal fur is to be banned in Belgium!***

Sample letter to Wyeth Pharmaceuticals (continued from page 3)

Dear Mr. Tasher:

It has come to my attention that the majority of PMU (Pregnant Mare Urine) farms have now had their contracts ended by your company. In spite of the Wyeth-initiated Equine Placement Fund and your 167% compensation package offered to ranchers, recent evidence shows that many industry farmers are choosing instead to send their horses to auctions, where thousands of these animals are actively being purchased by feedlot operators (killer buyers). Ultimately, they will end up slaughtered--unless your corporation intervenes.

Thus, I call upon Wyeth Pharmaceuticals to take full and immediate responsibility for the lives of industry horses at risk. I expect your company to purchase and remove all PMU horses from slaughter plant and other feedlots, and to place them in equine sanctuaries. Furthermore, Wyeth must show accountability by covering all of their maintenance costs until they are relocated to good homes.

Yours truly,

## Local Wildlife Efforts



### Okanagan Wildlife Recovery Centre

Canadian EarthCare Society has headed up the establishment of a much needed wildlife recovery centre in the Okanagan. TRACS is involved in the project. The plan is for the centre to take in injured wildlife, treat them and allow them to recover in a natural setting, eventually releasing them back into their natural environment. Acquiring a suitable piece of land and fundraising are two primary steps currently underway. There is a lot of interest in the recovery centre from veterinarians and other professionals, as well as many dedicated individuals of the Kelowna area. The Okanagan population continues to grow, and so does human encroachment onto wildlife habitat. The number of human/animal encounters, which is already high, and which often result in animal injury or death, will increase. It has been reported that there was double the number of calls from the Kelowna area to the new call centre in Victoria concerning encounters with wildlife in 2003 as compared to the last few years. A wildlife recovery centre, which can accommodate a variety of species of wildlife, is desperately needed in this area.

For more information or to volunteer your help please call EarthCare at 861-4788.

-Linda Janicki

### FAWN (Fire Affected Wildlife Needs)

TRACS has banded together with local individuals to create and operate an interim emergency program to feed and support ungulates, such as deer, in the Central Okanagan affected by the Okanagan Mountain Park fire of 2003. During the fire some animals were destroyed because they had been burned, and some swam the width of Okanagan Lake to escape the flames. Many animals have been orphaned, and there are those that are presently starving. The wildlife, whose habitat was destroyed by the fire, is now facing a difficult winter with little food and shelter. Their residence of the Okanagan Mountain Park and surrounding area now resembles a war zone. A bad winter, combined with a lack of habitat for the deer, elk, and sheep, could lead to a large number of animal deaths in the South Slopes near Kelowna. As well, it is hoped that providing food will lessen conflict in the urban interface areas that occurs when wildlife travels into human-populated areas in search of food. The feeding stations have been successful. You can help us promote this message by

joining FAWN, donating to the cause or volunteering your time. Contact: [ridebike@okanagan.net](mailto:ridebike@okanagan.net) or phone Grant at 979-0009.  
-Linda Janicki

## BRITISH COLUMBIA'S BLACK BEARS ARE FACING HARD TIMES

By Elli Kohnert, Barriere, B.C.

*The bears are suffering the consequences of drought – wildfires and human intolerance*

British Columbia, Canada's most western province, has a breath-taking natural beauty that must be experienced to be fully appreciated. Spectacular landscapes sweep from seashore to great mountain ranges, to raging rivers, great tranquil lakes, lush green valleys, and open grasslands in the northern regions. It is also home to a wonderful, diverse wildlife population, in which Black Bears stand out as one of the largest and most prominent species in the region. According to surveys, one quarter of all Black Bears in Canada are found in BC.

Bears have roamed North America for millennia, living in harmony with nature and coexisting with all other life forms – until man came on the scene, that is. As civilization encroached more and more on the habitat of these powerful and impressive animals, conflict between them and human settlers was inevitable. Not only did bears and people compete for territory, man also did what he does very well--hunt and kill them for his own purposes. Fundamentally, little has changed for the bruins since the settlement of this continent, but they are still here, and they do make their presence felt. It is important now more than ever to consider their needs in the wake of a year of drought and the ravages of devastating wildfires.

The Summer of 2003 was a season of extreme drought in BC, with the lowest registered precipitation in recent memory. It created hardship for all wildlife, and the bears were no exception. Although bears belong to the order of Carnivores, they are actually Omnivores, and plant foods make up the bulk of their diet. So with their berry patches dried up and a scarcity of other vegetation due to this summer's unusual heat wave, the bears had to forage over large areas to find remnants of their preferred foods. Due to low water levels in woodland streams, even fish were hard to come by for the bears. To survive, they relied on their keen sense of smell and their ingenuity.

They wandered more often than usual into backyards, farms, campgrounds and even into semi-urban areas, anywhere they could find food. Bears have an incredible sense of smell; their noses pick up the aroma of human garbage and other potential food sources over great distances. They are intelligent and persistent, and will return to a food source until it is gone. They come to feed, not to attack humans. According to the observations of a well-respected Wildlife Biologist, who is also involved with several conservation groups: "I believe that we need to be a lot more sympathetic about what the bears have suffered these past months, and more tolerant when they infringe on our 'habitat'. The supposed danger these 'refugees' pose is often exaggerated. A bear may act aggressive when cornered, but will rarely attack..."

Black Bears are not "cuddly" Walt Disney characters. They are very powerful and intelligent animals; people do well to respect that, but fear of these creatures is generally unwarranted. According to the BC Vital Statistics Agency, in a period of about 30 years (1969 – 1997) five human fatalities resulted directly from encounters with Black Bears in BC. (Grizzly Bear attacks and subsequent fatalities were more numerous during the same time period.) Each year in the US and Canada, 1 in every 16,000 people commit murder; 1 in every 35,000 Grizzly Bears has killed a human; one in every 100,000 black Bears has killed a human (US Department of Justice). Since every single Black Bear/human encounter is widely covered by the entire spectrum of the media, it creates the impression that these encounters are far more wide spread than they actually are.

"Bears are NOT ferocious. Bears are NOT mean or malicious. Bears are normally shy, retiring animals that have very little desire to interact with humans. Standing up on their hind legs allows a bear to get more information from its senses of smell, sight, and hearing. It is a sign of curiosity, not aggression." (J.J. Whistler Bear Society)

The summer continued hot and dry into August this year, and then came the Wildfires. They devoured many thousands of hectares of forestland, and destroyed an entire small town in BC. The fire-ravaged woodland is desolate, totally silent, and only scorched tree trunks stretch toward the horizon. There is not any living vegetation for miles – even the rocks are black. Whatever creatures have lived there, are either dead or, if they were lucky, have escaped to less-affected regions, where they have to compete with those who are there already. With their compromised habitat now destroyed by fire, the immediate future for the Black Bears looks dismal.

Bears hibernate beginning about November, and they stay in their dens until early spring. It is imperative that the bears have a sufficient food supply to gain enough weight to last the winter months. Up to 30% of body weight is lost while denning. Female bears undergo delayed implantation of fertilized eggs, and they do not develop into embryos until the beginning of hibernation. In the case of a female bear not having gained enough weight, her embryo will not develop, and there will be no bear cub from her in the spring. Wildlife experts expect that in the spring of 2004, fewer bear cubs will be born than in previous years.

**Continued next page**

**Black Bears** . . . continued from previous page

To add insult to injury, BC has two yearly bear hunting seasons, one in the spring and one in the fall. The fall hunt began in September and will end in late November. The spring hunt, beginning in April, and ending in June, has raised considerable protest in the past, but so far, it goes on. Even now, after the bears have already suffered severely (yes they do feel pain and the misery of hunger), humans will stalk and kill them for sport. No, there is no other reason; no one needs to hunt the bears for food – or for the need of their pelt. Hunting is a business for government and for a variety of private enterprises; it is not a necessity for human survival.

Out of eight "Resource Management Regions" in British Columbia, four of them experienced extreme wildfire damage. No initiative has been taken to cancel the spring bear hunt so far. This is not a numbers game; it is simply unethical to further harm these animals--for no other reason than to satisfy one segment of the population that wishes to pursue selfish pleasure at the cost of animals whose survival has already been made difficult by natural forces.

It is hoped that readers of this article will be interested in finding more detailed information about BC's Black Bears, not because they are an endangered species, but because they are wonderful, impressive animals and understanding them better will improve human/bear relations. Also, anyone who feels that the Spring 2004 Black Bear Hunt should be cancelled, please contact the following ministry, which is also responsible for wildlife.

**The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection**

Minister Bill Barisoff

PO Box 9339 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9M1  
Telephone: 250 387-1161 Fax: 250 387-5669  
E-mail: <mailto:www.wlapmail@gems5.gov.bc.ca>

For excellent information about bear issues please contact the following organization:

**J.J. Whistler Bear Society**  
Phone/Fax: (604) 905-4209 email: [info@bearsmart.com](mailto:info@bearsmart.com)

**GREAT GIFT IDEA!**

TRACS continues to provide vegetarian resource to membership.

TRACS will send you a copy of **The Second Compassionate Cookbook** by Monika Penner for **FREE** (\$8 CDN shipping not included) with membership or renewal! Additional copies can be purchased for \$12 apiece.

Contact Sinikka at:  
(250)768-4803 or  
[tracs@shaw.ca](mailto:tracs@shaw.ca) .

Great source for dishes to bring to our potlucks!

**MEMORIAL****TRIBUTE TO RINGO**

*We'll never forget your soulful eyes and air of complete contentment when visitors stopped by to say hello. You were so special and loved, and seemed to know that, at last, you had found a home where you could stay.*

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Bill and Joan Bennett, whose caring hearts have sheltered many homeless animals over the years...including Lady and Ringo, two older dogs in need of TLC. They lost Lady a while ago, and now Ringo has joined her good friend.

*Bill and Joan, thank you so much for being angels to the animals!*

TRACS would like to continue this section to honour our generous donors' animal friends. If you have recently lost a beloved companion please contact us and we will include a memorial in an upcoming newsletter.

## **You are invited to a vegetarian potluck dinner!**

TRACS is now hosting regular vegetarian potlucks.

**WHEN:** Last Saturday of the month at 6:00 p.m. (please arrive promptly so the food doesn't get cold! Also call ahead to confirm date)

**WHERE:** The EECO Centre – 2363 Springfield Road at Mission Creek Park

Dinners usually followed by a guest speaker or film. Information and books are always available. We will all be voting on the best dish, so get cooking and win a great prize!

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

- Please bring a vegan dish (no meat, fish, eggs, dairy, honey, or gelatin). Check ingredients for whey powder or casein, often found in margarine or even “non-dairy soy cheese”.
- While we welcome members who are not vegan or vegetarian, this policy helps to ensure that everyone can share in the food.
- Your dish should be a substantial soup, salad, entrée or dessert that will provide at least 6 adult servings.
- Please prepare a list of ingredients to display with your dish.
- Please bring a serving utensil and your own plate, bowl, cup, cutlery and serviette.
- We request a \$2.00 per person donation to cover the cost of the facility rental.

Questions? Call Grant at 250-979-0009 or Lauren at 250-766-2555

For recipe ideas, check out the links from our website at [www.tracs-bc.ca](http://www.tracs-bc.ca)

### **GARAGE SALE ALERT**

It's time to start thinking about the next yard/garage sale to be held in the spring. This event is a worthwhile fund raiser for TRACS.

Please start putting aside any items we could put into the sale.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the garage sale itself.

We will let you know the time, date and location as the time gets closer.

**Please call Louise Adams at 868-2880 if you need help with a pick-up or if you are able to assist in another way.**

A big thanks goes out to all of you who donated items last fall. As well, thanks to Helen Schiele, Mary Treend and Shannon Grain who helped out with the sale. You were terrific and we had fun!!

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Open letter to Dateline:

I, and all the animal Lovers around the world, want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for featuring the program concerning Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and the PMU horse farms. In presenting this program to the general public, you have helped all of us who care about animals search deeper into our souls and ask ourselves if this is the humane way for man to find cures for mankind's illnesses, when nature's plants have been used throughout the centuries to achieve the same goals.

Stop the killing of all species for monetary profits and let's enjoy all of our earthly friends.

Thank you so very much once again for airing this program.

Yours truly,

Roland R Houle

Proud member of TRACS [The Responsible Animal Care Society], Kelowna, B.C. Canada

REMORSE

Truman P. Reitmeyer, Philadelphia

A hunter shot at a flock of geese  
That flew within his reach  
Two were stopped in their rapid flight  
And fell upon the sandy beach

The male bird lay at the water's edge  
And just before he died  
He faintly called to his wounded mate  
And she dragged herself to his side

She bent her head and crooned to him  
In a way distressed and wild  
Caressing her one and only mate  
As a mother would a child

Then covering him with her broken wing  
And gasping with failing breath  
She laid her head against his breast  
A feeble honk -- then death

This story is true, though crudely told  
I was the man in this case  
I stood knee-deep in snow and cold  
And the hot tears burned my face

I buried the birds in the sand where they lay  
Wrapped in my hunting coat  
And I threw away my gun and belt in the bay  
When I crossed in the open boat

Hunters will call me a right poor sport  
And scoff at the thing i did  
But that day something broke in my heart  
And shoot again? God forbid!

\*\*\*\*\*

To all the men who are no long hunters....

**APOLOGIES....**

TRACS tries hard to be conscientious and, in an effort to recycle, the blank side of scrap paper was used for printing. Unfortunately, one of these pages was inadvertently copied into The Second Compassionate Cookbook. We apologize for this oversight, and will gladly replace any cookbooks containing this error.

**TRACS Membership Form**

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

**Mail to :**

**TRACS  
PO Box 26097  
Westbank, BC  
V4T 2G3**

( Special Offer! We will send you a copy of **The Second Compassionate Cookbook** by Monika Penner for **FREE** (\$ 8 CDN shipping not included) with a gift membership or renewal!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing the following for annual membership:  
(pls. Check)

\$ 15 for Individual Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 20 for Family Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I am further supporting your  
work with a donation: \$