

## TRACS

*The  
Responsible  
Animal Care  
Society*

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# President's Message

In the days and weeks following the Asian tsunami, pelted by images of disaster and overwhelming grief, those of us who live at a distance may have found comfort through donating to humanitarian organizations. We have been awed and warmed by accounts of miraculous escapes, reunions, and rescues, and have even seen animals making headlines in some of those stories. From elephants whisking tourists to safety on their backs, to dogs and even a python towing people to shore--human lives have, incredibly, been salvaged from lethal waters by animals. We have also marveled at the intuitive powers of Asian wildlife fleeing into the hills before the tsunami struck; according to media, very few bodies of wild animals were found amongst the casualties. Whether pure science or a sixth sense, wildlife "knew" that something horrible was about to happen, and they fled for their lives.

Domestic pets and livestock were hard-hit, however, since they were in homes and enclosures with no chance to escape. A number of large animal protection organizations have mobilized their forces to help starving and injured animal survivors of the tsunami, and TRACS chose to send our contribution to WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals), whose hands-on relief efforts have been particularly commendable. We encourage donations to WSPA and other organizations on the front lines, but caution donors to research recipient groups thoroughly before making their contributions. If preferred, donations can be sent to TRACS, and we would make sure that all funds to help tsunami animals are forwarded to credible charitable organizations.

Closer to home, the wrath of winter has made life extremely painful for those who are not fortunate enough to enjoy a roof over their heads. TRACS' Compassion Committee and concerned Kelowna citizens have reached into city streets to feed dogs of the homeless; we have also donated warm clothing and blankets to people with no place to go. Anyone wishing to be a part of this project may phone TRACS at 250-768-4803.

Warmest thanks are extended to our volunteers and supporters, whose generous contributions of time, energy, and funding make our programs possible. A happy, healthy New Year to all!

For the animals,  
Sinikka Crosland, President

## DIRECTORS

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## ***FEBRUARY FEAST WITH EXCITING SPEAKER!***

***When:*** A Tuesday, February 5, 2005, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

***Where:*** Inside Out Leadership Development Group office, #101-1974 Moss Court, Kelowna, behind Art Knapp's

***Why:*** You deserve to eat hearty, then stay for good fellowship and an after-dinner lecture by...

***Who:*** World-renowned wildlife advocate, Anthony Marr! Mr. Marr's tiger preservation work has been featured on the Discovery Channel, and he has recently returned from a trip to Japan, where the beautiful, intelligent dolphin is in dire need of protection....come and learn all about it!

***Potluck Feast Details:*** Bring a vegan dish (please phone **TRACS at 250-768-4803** if you are unsure of recipe ingredients), as well as your own dinnerware and serviette.

***Cost:*** Your admission fee of \$5.00 will cover facility rental and a portion of delicious catered food from Lake Tai Restaurant. We

will gratefully accept an additional donation

### **Anthony Marr**

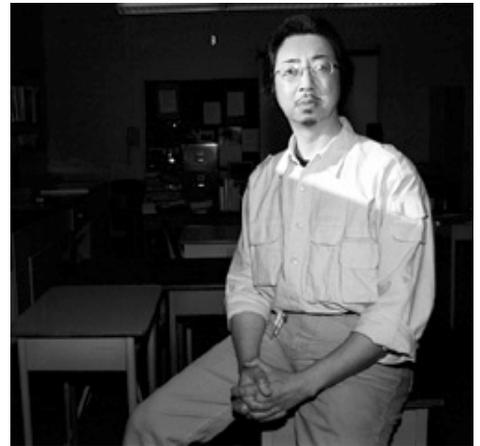


Photo credit Richmond News

## ***CARING FOR THEIR FUTURE***

Animals need long-lasting protection, and **TRACS** has a proven history of acting staunchly and valiantly on their behalf. Please consider making a bequest to The Responsible Animal Care Society in your will, and your compassion will help the animals for years to come....



## Wolves In Peril

Aerial gunning of up to 900 wolves in the state of Alaska has begun, with the carnage first described as a "secret slaughter" by the Defenders of Wildlife ( <http://www.defenders.org/> ). Fortunately, recent news articles inform us that the grisly project has since caught the attention of a huge number of wildlife biologists. As documented by Joel Gay of the Anchorage Daily News on January 7, 2005, "more than 100 wildlife professionals have slammed state efforts to produce more moose and caribou by killing wolves and bears, saying the new predator control programs ignore the best advice developed by the National Research Council." But Alaska Board of Game officials appear to be calling themselves the experts. Wayne Regelin, acting commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, argues, "This is a predator management program, not a research program."

Who should have the final say in issues that impact ecosystems, species, and animal welfare? Too often, government officials working in fish and game or wildlife departments are hunters themselves with transparent agendas that support "harvesting and culling", as opposed to sound principles of conservation, based on research and responsible stewardship.

### *More information:*

Scientists' letter on predator control to Gov. Frank Murkowski is at <http://www.adn.com/static/images/pdf/NRCScientistLetter.pdf>.

The National Research Council's study "Biological Standards and Guidelines for Predator Control in Alaska" is at <http://www.adn.com/static/images/pdf/NASStudyPaper.pdf>.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Web site, at <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/management/fur/wolves/wolfhome.cfm>, has information on wolves and wolf control in Alaska.

### *What You Can Do*

( from [www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org/)):

Send an email to the major network news shows that you watch. Urge them to send a reporter to Alaska to cover the planned killing of up to 900 wolves from airplanes.

(U.S.) National Network News Links:

ABC News: [NETAUDR@abc.com](mailto:NETAUDR@abc.com) Subject: World News Tonight

CBS News: Go to [CBSNews.com](http://CBSNews.com) and click on "contact us" to use their Feedback Form.

CNN: Go to [CNN.com](http://CNN.com) and click on "contact us" to use their feedback form.

FOX News Channel: [newswatch@foxnews.com](mailto:newswatch@foxnews.com)

MSNBC: [viewerservices@msnbc.com](mailto:viewerservices@msnbc.com)

NBC News: [Nightly@NBC.com](mailto:Nightly@NBC.com)



Photo credit: Saskatchewan Interactive

<http://interactive.usask.ca/ski/index.htm>

## Okanagan Health

### Forum

When we look at it, the dietary habits of humankind are intrinsically linked to substandard, insensitive, and routinely cruel farm animal management. Modern factory farming and slaughter methods, where large-scale productivity is the goal, often does not take into account the suffering of animals who are supposedly "lower on the food chain" than we are. While certain species, ("livestock"), are considered fit for the dinner table in North America, we need only to look to the Orient for shocking menu variations. In China, for instance, dogs and cats are not only killed for fur, but their flesh is commonly eaten as well. North Americans cringe at images of caged "meat" puppies, and cats being slaughtered like pigs or cattle. According to our society's standards, the documented conditions that these animals endure during their lives are nothing short of appalling. Yet who can trivialize the suffering of a veal calf in a dark crate, or a laying hen crammed into a barren cage...in our own country?

For the sake of animal protection, environmental integrity, and human health, TRACS supports society's transition to a plant-based diet. This is why we have chosen to help put together the Okanagan Health Forum--an opportunity set aside in our valley to explore what constitutes an optimal diet and healthy lifestyle. Organized by Canadians for Health Action, the forum will feature four world-renowned speakers: Dr. T. Colin Campbell, Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, Jr., Brenda Davis, R.D., and Vesanto Melina, R.D. In addition to a series of public lectures, the forum will include a separate health professionals' conference and presentations at physicians' grand rounds in Penticton and at a Sponsor-funded dinner in Kelowna. Please see the bio on Dr. T. Colin Campbell in this issue of AIM; we will follow up with facts about Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn and registered dietitians Brenda Davis and Vesanto Melina in our spring newsletter.

Saturday, April 9, 2005 is the date set aside for the forum in Kelowna. It will take place at the Rotary Centre for the Arts, 421 Cawston Ave., in the Mary Irwin Theatre. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m., and we would greatly appreciate the help of volunteers who could spare a few hours or stay for the entire day. If you can assist, please phone TRACS at (250)768-4803. An evening event with music and a video is also in the works for April 9th; we will have more details on this in our next issue of AIM.

In Penticton, lectures will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2005, at Penticton Lakeside Resort, 21 Lakeshore Drive West. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Stay tuned for more details!

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### **Dr. T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Division of Nutritional Science**

T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., nutritional biochemist at Cornell University, is the author of the landmark China-Cornell-Oxford Project. The New York Times called this "the most comprehensive large study ever undertaken of the relationship between diet and the risk of developing disease." Trained at M.I.T. and Cornell University, Dr. Campbell is the Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of nutritional biochemistry at Cornell. He is amongst the world's leading experts on the nutritional causes of cancer, and has conducted original research both in laboratory experiments and large-scale human studies. Dr. Campbell has authored over 350 publications, and has lectured extensively on consumer nutritional information and food policy.

Findings from the China Project, based in rural China, strongly indicate that a substantial change in American dietary patterns from animal foods to plant foods must occur before there will be a substantial change in chronic disease incidence patterns in North America. The study reveals that the risk of developing obesity, breast cancer, large bowel cancer, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease can be minimized through dietary choices, in fact: "...the vast majority, perhaps 80-90% of all cancers, cardiovascular diseases, and...degenerative illness can be prevented, at least until very old age, simply by adopting a plant-based diet."

Dr. Campbell's book, *The China Study*, is being released in early 2005.

## FUR: It IS The Skin Off Their

### Backs!

Don Rosbuck of Action Volunteers for Animals (AVA) based in Ontario writes: "Once again, we are asking animal protection groups across Canada to unite against the fur industry by marking the 16th National Anti-Fur Day..." This annual event traditionally takes place on or around St. Valentine's Day, when Canadians are asked to open their hearts to fur-bearing animals...and to snap shut their wallets and purses against the archaic, cruel fur trade. AVA reports that the number of fur retailers in Canada has continued to decline over recent years--an important observation, especially in the face of industry claims that "fur is back". It appears that teenage girls are being heavily targeted through advertising, and some recent investigations by TRACS volunteers have revealed a number of local stores, popular with teens, displaying fur coats on their racks, as well as jackets with fur trim. We have politely spoken with employees at these shops, explaining how animals suffer in leg-and-body-hold traps and snares, and how fur farms keep animals cruelly confined in tiny, barren cages until their death by bludgeoning, strangulation, or electrocution. We have also expressed our firm resolve to *not patronize* shops that carry fur in any shape or form. Today's merchants have a choice! So do modern shoppers. Faux fur is beautiful, warm, trendy, and carries no history of suffering...why contribute to the torture of animals just as intelligent, personable, and "cute" as the dogs and cats we love?

#### *What You Can Do:*

- 1) Be on the lookout for local shops that carry fur, fur trim, or even fur dog and cat toys. Make a note of where the products originate (check the label or ask the merchant). Note: dogs and cats are commonly killed for fur in China. Politely tell the merchant how you feel about fur products. Consider boycotting such stores until they sell no more fur, and let the merchant know about your decision.
- 2) Attend a public awareness event sponsored by TRACS on Anti-Fur Day. See details on back cover of this newsletter.

## Two Good Reasons Not to Wear Fur

Orphaned baby raccoons: these little ones were taken to a rehab centre by TRACS, and later released to the wild.



## Youth Against Animal Abuse

### By Gaten Crosland

The Youth Against Animal Abuse members have been brainstorming many new ideas these last few months and we hope to get a good start on them in the new year....

#### **School**

Youth Against Animal Abuse members are noticing the lack of awareness in schools about dissection *alternatives*. The Ministry of Education already has a policy covering students who wish to go the compassionate way; now it's just a matter of educating. Teacher's don't seem to be communicating. By rights, they should be telling their classes they can use computer models and books instead of cutting open innocent creatures raised for people to dissect. The children not aware or worried they won't get full marks, are forced to go along with something that is against their ethics. So it's up to us to help make them aware, for the animals' sakes, for their own sakes. It's up to us to make sure they know they can get full marks using a dissection alternative, as two of the Youth Against Animal Abuse members did on their Grasshopper Lab. Also, two high school students, a part of TRACS, got A's on the alternative assignment they completed. YAAA members have been communicating with an animal protection worker in Vancouver who wants us to write our letters to the Vancouver school board telling them students want a choice. In the near future, we plan to advertise in schools about dissection alternatives and have packages handy which we will give out to students.

We also plan on asking for more healthy vegan choices in our school surveys for those who would like to buy their lunches at school, but won't eat anything containing animal products.

So, tying these two plans of action together we are thinking of having an educational activity after school in gymnasiums and maybe showing videos that will get the wheels turning. On our posters we would advertise that we will have food there, to attract attention. It is very important to get the younger generation thinking about our planet so when they are in the position of decision-making they can make conditions better for the critters and clean up the planet.

## Respect for

Letter to Editor  
Frogs  
Date: A17, Saturday, January 15, 2005

Re: Let Students Refuse Dissections, Board Told, Jan. 12.

It is noteworthy that when people share their high school dissection experiences, most describe it as traumatic at some level.

This is quite telling, and shows it is not the positive learning experience it is intended to be. Personally, I chose not to take any biology classes solely because of the dissection involved.

Dissection forces people to view animals as objects that can be pulled apart and studied, instead of treated as living, breathing and feeling beings who deserve our respect. We need to learn and express compassion for other species; dissection creates the opposite effect, hardening our feelings.

Dissection should be eliminated from high school curricula altogether. I hope Vancouver will lead the way.

Marianne Verigin, president  
Society for Animal Freedom and Equality  
Burnaby, B.C.

# Zoo Vows to Continue with Breeding

**Program** *From a news report from the Canadian Press*

*POSTED AT 5:09 PM Wednesday, December 8*

Animal rights groups say the death of a baby elephant at the Calgary Zoo didn't have to happen.

Groups like Zoocheck Canada say programs to breed elephants in captivity are pointless.

The organization says breeding programs are designed to replenish the numbers of zoo animals and have no benefit to diminishing populations in the wild.

"The only way to conserve these kinds of animals is to protect the habitat and deal with poaching problems," said Julie Woodyer of Zoocheck.

Zoocheck says zoos do not have the animals best interests in mind when breeding them in captivity.

They also say elephants biological and behavioural needs are too complex for humans to deal with in a captive setting.

But at the Calgary Zoo, officials say that perspective is wrong and the elephant breeding program will continue.

"We're going to prove them all wrong because they're dead wrong," said Alex Graham, the Calgary Zoo's CEO. "It is really important that we go forward with courage, with anticipation, and the next time we're going to be highly successful."

It is not unusual for elephant mothers to reject their offspring.

In the wild, Asian elephants do not normally conceive until they are at least 18 years old.

Maharani, the mother elephant at the Calgary Zoo, is 14 years old.

In their natural setting, new elephant mothers also have help from the herd, where maternal knowledge is passed along.

## Hunters shoot more than 1,000 people in the US & Canada Annually

ABC News, Dec. 8, 2004 — Loved ones of a pregnant woman injured in a shooting, apparently by a hunter's stray bullet, believe she is lucky to be alive, but they want new hunting regulations that will give greater protection to suburban homes and businesses.

Casey Burns, 18, remains hospitalized as she recovers from a gunshot wound to the head. She was shot while sitting in her car outside her North Whitehall Township, Pa., home on Nov. 30. Burns, who is seven months pregnant, was preparing to follow her fiancé to his mother's house at the time.

"When I looked through and saw the hole in the window, I opened the door and saw her bleeding," Robbie Katner, Burns' fiancé, told ABC News' "Good Morning America." "I took off my sweater and put it on her head to try and stop it [the bleeding] until the ambulance and everybody got there."

According to the International Hunter Education Association, hunters accidentally shoot more than 1,000 people in the United States and Canada every year. Authorities in Pennsylvania worry that more bystanders will be injured by hunters' stray bullets as more homes are built near wooded areas where hunting is common.

"We have had several incidents of people reporting that their houses have gotten struck by stray bullets," said Sgt. Andre Stevens of the Pennsylvania State Police.

### Need for a New Common-Sense Hunting Law

Pennsylvania game laws require hunters to remain 150 yards away from occupied homes and businesses when they use firearms. However, Burns' relatives say lawmakers should consider requiring greater distances because bullets can travel farther than 150 yards.

"They [authorities] are telling us that it [the bullet that wounded Burns] came from the orchard nearby and these guns are actually capable of going anywhere from 800 yards to 1,000 yards," Allie Dickinson, Burns' mother, said on "Good Morning America." "To me, that seems like a common-sense thing, that if a gun [gunshot] can travel a mile, then you need at least a mile safety distance between the hunter and a person that's just an innocent bystander like my daughter."



# Paws Come With Claws, That's One Of Nature's Laws

Article reprinted from Animal Writes - *The official ANIMAL RIGHTS ONLINE newsletter*

Many cat owners, who genuinely love their cats, have no idea what declawing means to their animals. Declawing means far more than leaving your cat defenseless against an attack outdoors.

Scratching is a normal characteristic of a healthy cat. It exercises the foot muscles and removes dead tissue from the nails. It also has a soothing, comforting effect that creates a tranquil disposition.

## *IT MEANS:*

The severing of ligaments and tendons that bring pain.

The creating of an imbalance that can lead to injury.

A change in personality and temperament.

A cat may go berserk, bite and growl.

It means you, as the cat guardian, have renounced the responsibility you assumed when you fell in love with that kitten or cat.

## *WHAT HAPPENS TO A CAT WHEN IT IS DECLAWED?*

First, it awakens from anesthesia, with its feet throbbing under the bandages, next, it has pain and then it finds it has trouble walking.

The physical effect of declawing is gradual weakening of the muscles of the legs, shoulder and back. Balance is impaired. Emotionally cats feel defenseless and thus live in a constant state of stress, making them more prone to disease.

Despite its grace, a cat is not sure-footed. Without the lightning-quick ability to grasp with its claws, it can easily be injured in a fall.

Deprived of its claws, a cat may turn to its only other form of defense- its teeth. It is fairly common for a declawed cat to become a biter. They do this out of fear and frustration.

## *GIVE YOUR CAT A MANICURE INSTEAD*

It's best to start when it's a kitten. Take your cat to a professional groomer, or you can do it yourself. Use a pair of clippers made especially for cats. Have your vet show you how.

**SO IF YOU LOVE YOUR CAT, DON'T DECLAW**

## Cat Overpopulation: A Growing Concern

Judging by the nature of phone calls we receive, one of the major animal issues troubling Okanagan residents is that of cat overpopulation. Feral colonies and numbers of abandoned domestic cats are on the increase, and several community animal protection organizations, including TRACS, are preparing to tackle the problem. Spay/neuter initiatives, a major public education blitz, and even a possible cat bylaw are under consideration. We are interested in the enactment of legislation that would prohibit feline guardians from allowing their *unsterilized* cats outside (mandatory spaying and neutering)--*not* in a bylaw that would limit the numbers of cats in any one given household. Homes for cats are desperately needed...and so is an educated community that will deal responsibly, progressively, and humanely with the root causes of overpopulation.

The next meeting of participating organizations will take place at the end of January, and we'll keep you informed about the progress of this important project. In the meantime, all groups are working individually on sterilizing as many felines as resources will allow.

Photo of Perky when he was a feral - before he was tame.  
Now he's just a purring pussycat



## Jane Goodall Meets With Prime Minister

in work for animal welfare,

In light of our shared role as organizations who have sustained the effort to amend Canada's animal cruelty law, we at the Jane Goodall Institute wanted to share word of a recent, encouraging occurrence and to extend our wishes for the New Year.

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, met with Prime Minister Martin on October 19, 2004 on Parliament Hill to discuss Bill C-22, an attempt to update Canada's 112-year-old cruelty-to-animals law. Although not delving into the depths of Canadian politics, Dr. Goodall told Prime Minister Martin, Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler that it "would be terrific if Canada could take the lead in actually passing a bill that does give a different kind of respect for animals."

As you are aware, Bill C-22 amends the animal cruelty sections of the Criminal Code of Canada, making animal cruelty a criminal offence and introducing tougher sentencing provisions. (Animals are currently considered property under the law; as such, sentencing provisions are significantly more lenient.) The current bill, which has been passed by the House of Commons and brought to the Senate on three previous occasions, now has the support of farming, hunting, trapping and fishing groups and the Assembly of First Nations. Eighty percent of Canadians want to see Bill C-22 passed, yet the Senate continues to stall.

Dr. Goodall was also presented to the House of Commons, receiving a standing ovation. The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada hopes that Dr. Goodall's presence and support for Bill C-22 to share her encouragement with you, welfare. Together, we are making a difference.

Warm regards,  
The staff of the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada

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# Be

# There...

Attend a public awareness event sponsored by TRACS on Anti-Fur Day. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 2005, on the SE corner of Hwy. 97 (Harvey Ave.) and Cooper Rd. Please plan to be on site for at least an hour. TRACS will supply the placards. Bring your love for animals, and see you there!



## Join TRACS...

Help TRACS continue its work - become a member and receive our quarterly newsletter



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

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

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

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

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing the following: (please

\$15 for Individual Membership

\$20 for Family

Membership Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

TRACS PO Box 26097 Westbank, BC V4T 2G3