

# Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals

## Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation



### E-Newsletter



Volume 26, December 2012

#### In this edition:

CATCA and the Benue zoo animals in Nigeria, Yupi Campaign, our investigation for CITES CoP16 March 2013 (person able to read modern Chinese), educational wild animal's welfare-protection-conservation projects in Poland and Tanzania, news and petitions: Whistler sled dogs trial and so on.

#### Surviving animals at the Benue zoo in Nigeria

My colleague Shirley from IPPL and I, we are still trying to do our best with our Nigerian government contacts and other NGO's in Africa. Shirley has also tried to reach a couple of primate NGO's in the region right under Benue without much success. Sybelle she is from CEE4LIFE and she is registered in the UK. She is the only person that has sent some money to this man feeding the animals: Nat. Nat personally feeds small amounts of food a couple of times a week to the 23 adult zoo animals and croc babies, and he also coordinates their feedings. I have spoken with Nat. With the money that CEE4LIFE sent him, he pays to unemployed zoo staff to keep an eye on the animals and to feed the animals daily. There was a flood few days ago, and one of the adult crocs escaped, so the employees helped him to get it on its cage.

If you want to help the Benue zoo animals in Nigeria, DO NOT send any funds to F.A.W.S. or one international rescue group in the UK. That is a scam, and well known NGO's from South Africa to Australia and the UK have had problems with the person behind. If you want to donate to help feed these surviving animals at this zoo, do it at our CATCA website with **PayPal** (please send me an e-mail to inform me of your donation) or you can send us a cheque by mail.

**I will send some funds to feed the zoo animals in the middle of December.**  
**Any donations received after December 15<sup>th</sup> will be sent out in January 2013.**

I received a couple of days ago these updates from my colleague Sybelle from CEE4LIFE:

On Wednesday 28th November 2012, the University of Nigeria Veterinary Dept went into Benue Zoo, after Cee4life communicated the situation. One of the biggest concerns is to ensure that the animals internal organs have not been damaged so much from the lack of food they were receiving. Today, the University Assistant Dean got back in touch with me to let me know that they will be forwarding me a full report on the status of these creatures. Stay tuned and pray that they are all ok. Today, Nat is going back into the zoo to take more food top ups for them all. Just so you all know, Nat drives 3 hrs each way, every time he goes out there, which is usually twice - three times per week. However, the animals are fed by the zoo staff in between Nat's visits. We are also giving the zoo staff some pay to get by on as they are not getting paid at all. There are 5 zoo staff and all together they will be paid \$122 between 5 people per month to ensure the cages are cleaned, the animals are fed, and water provided etc. We are still waiting to get confirmation that the animals can be re-homed, that is up to authorities and the owner and we're doing our best to negotiate these things, however it looks hopeful. Be patient, these things take time, but in the meantime, these animals have to be kept alive. We are their lifetime; Nat is their savior right now. Never Give Up ~ Sybelle

**Bad news: Few days ago Nat had an accident. He is recovering at home. GET WELL SOON NAT and take care.**



© CEE4LIFE

Pictures sent by Mr. Nat to Sybelle. CEE4LIFE promptly actions saved the animals from starvation.



Unfortunately, my colleagues and I are still waiting for the zoo to disclose the results of the Yupi's vet assessment that took place on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We will push the issue in brief with national media and with the help of Mexican celebrities. Hopefully after feeling the pressure on the media, the zoo will be transparent and finally let us know (and also to the public), the results.

If you haven't done it yet, please join the **FB group SAVE YUPI** at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123510584465451/>

And sign the new **Save Yupi petition** here:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/482/708/512/save-yupi-the-polar-bear-in-mexico/>

### **URGENT! I need a volunteer that can read modern Chinese ASAP (No matter where the volunteer lives)**

We are still doing the huge project of monitoring the e-trade of elephant ivory in 14 countries.

Unfortunately, the person that was helping us with China in Chinese can't continue, so I **URGENTLY** need someone that can read modern Chinese to volunteer for an investigation that I am doing on the internet trade of elephant ivory in China, in preparation for the CITES CoP (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which is an UNEP organization). We are behind and we need to complete this by January 2013.

I provide the training (even on other countries by Skype), the links to check the data and the charts to add the info. It just needs a couple of hours a week of the volunteer free time. The volunteer(s) that help me, will be credited on the printed and online reports. This report will be delivered to the Secretary General of CITES and the CITES Secretariat, the Director of Interpol, heads of governments of five continents, enforcement authorities, international media, etc. in March 2013 in Bangkok.

In my last report, two well known OBE wildlife experts helped me with my investigation and other worldwide recognized wildlife authorities and scientists.

The person that volunteers for this project will have a great reference for applying for a job in the future

**What we are doing with the ACWF?** With our sister NGO the ACWF in Poland, we are starting some educational projects of animal welfare, conservation and protection in Poland and Tanzania.

### **HELP ME TO GET AIR TICKETS TO SAVE ANIMALS!**

**I need to get one of these R/T tickets to be able to participate at the CITES CoP in March 2013.**

I will be lobbying there very intensively for two weeks with the heads of 5 continents for the protection of elephants, rhinos, sharks, polar bears, etc. but **I have no funds** to buy my air tickets to go!

Just click **that my story inspires you** EVERYDAY! <http://www.aircanada750.com/splash/gallery/4098>

Thank you very much on ahead!

Ericka



## **Conservative MP James Moore disappoints school children**

After three long weeks of waiting for the Conservative MP James Moore (Port Moody- Westwood- Port Coquitlam), to confirm a brief meeting with our delegation (Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals, some teachers from an Elementary school in Port Coquitlam and a City Council) regarding concerns about shark conservation, we received a very brief e-mail notifying us that Mr. Moore is just too busy to receive us.

We understand that Mr. Moore is a very busy person, but this was a big disappointment for all of us, especially to the children that had already done some shark artwork for Mr. Moore and were hoping that our delegation was going to deliver their art expressing their shark conservation concerns.

This is not the way to treat concerned children of your own constituency Mr. Moore.

We all are frustrated for the way how Mr. Moore deals with people's concerns, especially when it comes to protecting and conserving sharks in Canada and the urgency to ban the import trade of shark fins at a Federal level.

Ericka Ceballos  
President and Founder  
Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals (CATCA)  
New Westminster BC

## **Canada's Continuing Failure to Protect Animals From Cruelty**

**This letter below was written few days ago by our colleague Jan Olson from *A Better Life Dog Rescue* to a newspaper editor in response to the BC sled dogs slaughter Robert Fawcett..**

Our legal system has yet again proven it's total disregard for the welfare of animals in this country. Robert Fawcett not only receives no jail time for his slaughter of 100 sled dogs, but the judge states that Fawcett had the best interests of the dog at heart when he killed them. He isn't even banned from owning more dogs. And Brian Whitlock, who beat and stabbed to death his German shepherd, Captain, has still not been charged with cruelty and likely never will be.

Compare this to my case. I have been accused of stealing several abused dogs, including one who was near death from dehydration, one who had gone insane from captivity, two who was observed being beaten. So far I have spent a week in jail, required \$50,000 bail to be released, and have been denied owning any more dogs other than the two old dogs I currently own. The crown counsel is seeking 30 days in jail for me if I plead guilty. So while Whitlock and Fawcett will suffer no serious, if any, penalties for their horrific cruelty to their dogs, if I had stolen these dogs to prevent their suffering, I would have been prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

While only one quarter of one percent of animal abusers in Canada are ever prosecuted, 100 percent of the six women who took action to stop the suffering of abused dogs have been. So not only does our government not protect animals from cruelty, it even prosecutes those who do. When it comes to animals, Canada is one of the most inhumane and unjust countries in the world.

Janet Olson

For more information on the brutally murdered sled dogs in Whistler story and the trial info, check here:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/11/22/bc-sled-dogs-slaughter-robert-fawcett.html>

The sad story of abused and murdered German shepherd "Captain", an ex police dog in Vancouver:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/07/27/bc-captain-charges.html>  
<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2012/07/dog-dead-in-vancouver-kits-dumpster/>

## **U.S. proposes ban on polar bear trade**

### **Story from CBC News / The Canadian Press Dec. 2, 2012**

Canada is being forced to explain its polar bear policies to an international environmental watchdog.

The Commission on Environmental Co-operation, which is part of the North American Free Trade Agreement, has accepted a petition from a U.S.-based group that says Canada isn't following its own laws on protecting the bears.

In accepting the petition, the commission has found that the Center for Biological Diversity has registered a legitimate concern under the terms of the treaty.

"The commission found that we had a sufficient allegation and provided sufficient documentation of the violation that we can move forward in this process," Sarah Uhlemann, a lawyer with the center, said Friday.

The petition, filed in November 2011, alleges that Canadian officials ignored the most recent science on climate change and the loss of Arctic sea ice when they ruled last year against changing the status of the bear from "special concern" to "threatened," which would rule out hunting. It also says that the Tory government had already broken its own laws by being more than three years late in filing a mandatory management plan for the Arctic predators. The petition concludes by suggesting that hunting quotas for the bears set by Inuit co-management boards are unsustainable for some populations.

Uhlemann said Canada's most recent scientific assessment of bear populations minimized the impact of ice loss. The bears use sea ice as a hunting platform for seals, their primary food. "They really didn't address the effect of climate change, which is the biggest threat to this Arctic species."

The U.S. listed polar bears as threatened in 2008, leaning heavily on a 2007 study that predicted the loss of sea ice could reduce bear numbers by two-thirds by 2050. "The (Canadian) analysis dismissed this study as preliminary," Uhlemann said.

"It's not. In 2010, the same study was published in Nature magazine, which is one of the world's pre-eminent scientific journals."

Polar bear expert Andrew Derocher at the University of Alberta said Canada's assessment downplayed the impact of sea ice. "Every polar bear scientist in Canada knew it was a flawed report from the outset," he said. "They were told it was flawed and they chose to ignore the advice. The only position that Canada can really take now would be to do a new status assessment."

Adam Sweet, a spokesman for Environment Canada, said federal scientists conduct regular polar bear research and the government is currently developing a management plan for the animals, as required by legislation. Responsibility for management is shared by provinces, territories and regional wildlife management boards and a request for a new assessment would also have to involve those groups. "We will be delivering a clear and timely response that illustrates how Canada has effectively enforced the Species at Risk Act with regards to the listing of polar bear," Sweet said in an email.

## **Other interesting animal welfare + animal conservation articles**

<http://wildlifeneews.co.uk/2012/kenya-loses-over-1000-elephants-in-4-years/>  
<http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1296372--toronto-councillors-outraged-after-shark-fin-ban-struck-down>  
<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/7-reasons-to-adopt-a-senior-dog.html>  
<http://fitbie.ca.msn.com/eat-right/tips/8-cruellest-foods-you-eat/tip/1>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/23/us/gulf-of-mexico-dolphin-killings-inquiry-escalates.html>  
<http://wildlifeneews.co.uk/2012/chinese-tv-investigation-leads-to-forestry-officials-sackings/>  
<http://www.care2.com/causes/video-exposes-shocking-dog-meat-industry-in-bali.html>  
<http://www.care2.com/causes/outrage-grows-after-third-captured-dolphin-dies.html>  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/poachers-trade-in-rhino-horn-is-pushing-species-into-decline-8364904.html>

## **Petitions**

Sign this important petition: <http://antifursocietyinternational.org/tivoli-denmark.php>  
Killing bears is not a sport! <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/151/762/110/help-stop-bear-hunt-in-nj/>

**For more animal news, petitions and alerts go to our CATCA FB page:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/CampaignsAgainstTheCrueltyToAnimals#!/CampaignsAgainstTheCrueltyToAnimals>**



## Our year 2012 in pictures (In Canada, Mexico, Poland and Kenya)

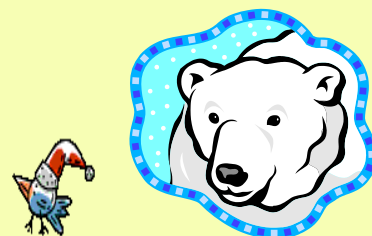


The 2012 has been a busy year. I started the year returning to Canada from the CEE CITES Seminar. As ACWF/CATCA, I had a presentation for the CITES Authorities of nine Eastern and Central European governments about my three investigations on the e-trade of wildlife. This year I got the amazing support of the Mexican Green party and dozens of NGO's for the Yupi Campaign. As a result of the attacks from the zoo director to the media, Zoocheck Canada sent me to Mexico in May to deliver 82,006 petitions collected in 4.5 weeks worldwide for the Morelia zoo in Mexico, for them to reconsider to relocate Yupi the Polar bear to a better location abroad. I meet the new zoo director and the zoo BoD. Also I had meetings with our fantastic team of the Save Yupi Coalition in Mexico: The Mexican Green Party, Animaturalis, my colleagues from AMICHAA and the Morelia NGO's Coalition supporting Yupi's campaign.

I launched this summer the ACWF in Poland. CATCA started in June our investigation on the e-trade of elephant ivory in 15 African and Asian countries, in preparation for the very important CITES CoP in March 2013. I had meetings with the Kenya Wildlife Service and in August we started cooperating with the KWS on the e-trade of wildlife. I participated at the IV European Ground Squirrel Meeting representing ACWF. I was co-author of a scientific poster with PTOP Salamandra Poland, and we won the international poster competition from all the participant countries.

This autumn I got busy with the shark fin bans in Canada, while still working on the e-trade investigation, with the Yupi campaign and now I am trying to help the Benue zoo animals in Nigeria, among other daily urgent animal issues.

**Our work never ends!**



**Thank you for all your support this year!**

**Ericka Ceballos and the CATCA Team**

***Give this holiday season, a real meaningful present: the gift of life for many animal species!***

**To donate for the Benue zoo animals or to my CATCA work, go to:**

**[www.catcahelpanimals.org](http://www.catcahelpanimals.org)**

***Please, let us know where you want your donations to go***



### **Acknowledges**

Special thanks go to our great supporters who helped us with donations for our work: Yvonne and Dale, Joe Jazz, Susan and Peter Wong, Jason Khaira, Prad, Ranjana and Kyron Basu, Cezary Wyszynski, Mrs. Jetta Molter, Andrea Farmer, Karl Losken, Inge Bolin, Yumiko, Beth, Marcie, Rennea, Suzanne Bury, Oscar Jimenez and Michael.

Also I want to thank to my wonderful international animal colleagues, especially to Dr. Andrzej Kepel, who so kindly donated his air miles this year for me to go to my meetings and for all his support to my campaigns and projects; to Prad Basu for his great infinite patience having to deal with me in an almost daily basis as my super creative web server, e-mail manager and for all technical issues that always arise. He is also helping me with the data of our e-trade. Bless your heart Prad! To my other amazing colleagues: Cezary Wyszynski, Borys Kala, Bernard Franovic, Annelise Sorg, Rob Laidlaw, Susan Hirsch, Doug Imbeau, Brendan Price and Andy Sinats. In Mexico, MUCHAS GRACIAS a Oscar Velez of the PVEM, Liz Viveros, Talia Coria, Juan, all my colleagues of Animanaturalis and all the enthusiastic and very active other animal rights/welfare NGO's, groups and individuals all over Mexico (and the world), for all their support to the Yupi Campaign and my other multiple animal campaigns.

Many special thanks go to Yumiko, Ranjana, Jason, Marcie, Alice, Cheryl, Terita, Faiza, Elodie, Anne, Tatiana, Sue, Dora, Beth, Leslie, Owen, Lori, Sarah, Sophia, Hanna, Franc Buve, Frank, Laura-Leah, Judith, Chrissy, Borys, Sonja, Krzysztof, Joanna and Wojtek and all the other fantastic activists and friends that helped us this year in so many ways; to my long time friend Seth for his support and to my friends Kelly and Sam for helping me when I had to go away.

**P.O. Box 16021, 617 Belmont Street, New Westminster BC, Canada  
Campaigns Against the Cruelty to Animals [www.catcahelpanimals.org](http://www.catcahelpanimals.org)  
Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation [www.ACWFeu.org](http://www.ACWFeu.org)**