

A Zoo Story

A mother and baby camel are talking one day when the baby camel asks, "Mom, why have I got these huge toed feet?"

The mother replies, "Well son, when we trek across the desert your toes will help you to stay on top of the soft sand."

"OK," said the son.

A few minutes later the son asks, "Mom, why have I got these great long eyelashes?"

"They are there to keep the sand out of your eyes on the trips through the desert."

"Thanks Mom," replies the son.

After a short while, the son returns and asks, "Mom, why have I got these great big bumps on my back?"

The mother, now a little impatient with the boy replies, "They are there to help us store water for our long treks across the desert, so we can go without drinking for long periods."

"That's great Mom, so we have huge feet to stop us from sinking, and long eyelashes to keep the sand from our eyes and these humps to store water, but Mom..."

"Yes, son?"

"Why the heck are we in the San Diego zoo?"

Animal Matters
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ANIMALS TODAY
A Publication of Animal Matters
Winter 2000 Volume 1, Issue 5

Dog Racing: Death in the Fast Lane

Track animals live a life of abuse and neglect

Right now, thousands of bears are imprisoned on "bear farms" in China just to make shampoo, aphrodisiacs and "miraculous" medicines.

Up to 10,000 Asiatic black bears squashed into metal cages no bigger than themselves have a rusty steel catheter implanted in their stomach and crudely sewn to their gall bladder to drain the bile from their gall bladders.

Upon arriving at the farm, they're drugged and then strapped with metal waistbands and put into a cage under protest. The metal

An estimated 20,000 to 25,000 greyhounds are killed each year. Documented "disposal" methods include individual and mass euthanasia, abandonment (often with muzzles intact), gunshot, sale to third world countries for additional racing, starvation, electrocution, and bludgeoning.

vests are used to stop the bears from pulling the catheters out. Every few days their keepers will "milk" them of their bile - much prized health cure used throughout Asia. They'll endure this torture for up to fifteen years or until death - whichever comes first.

According to a long tradition of

the Chinese medicine, the bile cures many illnesses such as headache, kidney stones, cirrhosis, hangover and lately used to make shampoo and aphrodisiacs. There is very limited proof scientifically that any of this really works. In the past, only the Emperor and his court used this substance. Nowadays, thousands of Asians have access to the product. Its demand increased so much, that China is bringing bears in from many other countries to provide this market. Evidence also shows that a growing number of people in the United States are major consumers of medicines containing endangered species, despite a ban by the US Congress in 1998.

From the 8 different species that they buy, 6 of them are endangered. In expanding their business, in 1995, China created hundreds of farms of bears, where over thousands are kept imprisoned. The cage is so small that they cannot move themselves, not even to scratch. With their paw they pull the food through a small opening in the cage. When they're thirsty, these animals have to stretch their tongue to reach some licks of water on the bars of the

(continued on page 4 ...)

Fostering Can Save a Pet's Life

Roughly 5 million dogs and cats are euthanized every year at shelters, mostly due to overpopulation and a shortage of homes.

Foster programs are one humane way to lower that number. "Parents" usually open their homes for two to six weeks, depending on the pet's needs. Some shelters provide food and supplies, others ask you to foot the bill; sometimes there's a small, onetime fee (about \$25).

A More Enjoyable Life

Studies have shown that pets allow people to participate more in life. You walk more, you're more tuned in to what's around you, you smile and laugh more.

"Animals can give you unconditional love," says Nancy Peterson of The Humane Society of the United States. "They don't care if you have a big zit. Pets provide a distraction from our problems and make us feel needed."

Be Prepared

Fostering may not be for everyone. You've got to be able to have your heartstrings tugged a little. It's hard giving them back to the shelter not knowing their fate. But you have to remember that you've given that dog or cat the love he or she needs to better find a new home.

For the name of a pet foster program near you, call The Humane Society of the United States

Animal Issues in the News

Here's some stories currently in the media. They demonstrate that we are making positive strides but still have a long way to go to rid this world of useless cruelty.

Man threatens sharks' future
Marine researchers say the scariest thing about sharks isn't that they might be lurking in the murky depths. It's that they might not. Calling for an "International Action Plan for Sharks," shark experts who gathered at the world's largest pelagic shark conference said the deep sea creatures are in serious decline, threatened by overfishing for their fins and

The fawns of the survivors were placed in pens with mounds of South American fire ants to see if the toxic, painful stings would kill them.

meat.
"There's a sense of urgency here," said David Wilmot of the Islip, N.Y.-based Ocean Wildlife Campaign. "We really don't think sharks can wait any longer." More than 100 million

sharks are caught each year by crews from 125 countries. Of those, only four - Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S. - have implemented management plans for the shark fisheries.

Associated Press, February 15, 2000

The nation's largest circus prevailed against animal-rights activists when the City Council in Seattle rejected in a ban on exotic-animal entertainment on city property. Seattle would have been the first major U.S. city to ban traveling circuses that feature animals such as lions, tigers, and elephants on city property. The debated focused on whether circuses are cruel to their animals and endanger

public safety. The proposed law was supported by animal-rights organizations locally and nationally. It drew fierce opposition from Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Bailey, a circus that annually draws more than 10 million spectators to 90 cities, including Seattle.

USA Today, February 15, 2000

(editor's note: Animal Matters opposes animals being used as entertainment. We believe animals belong in their natural habitat exhibiting their natural behavior. We ask you not to attend the circus where animals are routinely beaten and prodded to behave in unnatural ways.)

Harvard Law Offers New Animal Rights Class

Vegetarian Times - Harvard Law School now offers an elective course in the fundamental legal rights of animals. The class came about as a result of student interest. Nice to see higher minds thinking on a higher level.

Exotic Animal Acts Banned in Washington

On October 18, 1999, the Redmond, Washington City Council banned exotic animal acts and did it unanimously with a vote of 7-0 despite a last minute letter writing push from anti-animal groups nationally. There was even discussion among the city council of possibility including rodeos in future legislation.

Fishermen (continued on page 3 ...)

Support the Elephant Accident Prevention Act

U.S. Representative Sam Farr (D-CA) has introduced H.R. 2929, the "Captive Elephant Accident Prevention Act of 1999." The bill would ban the use of elephants in circuses, traveling shows and elephant rides across the country. This legislation was drafted in response to the increasing incidents of elephant rampages that have injured and killed dozens of animal handlers and spectators. In 1994, Officer Blayne Doyle, who had to shoot 47 rounds into Janet, an elephant who charged out of the Great American Circus arena, said, "I think these elephants are trying to tell us that zoos and circuses are not what God created them for. But we have not been listening." **Contact your U.S.**

Representative and ask him/her to support H.R. 2929 by writing:

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-3106

Or email him or her at <http://www.house.gov/writerep>

Animal Matters Starts Animal Rescue Division

We have assisted in saving the lives of six dogs, and with your help, we can do even more

Animal Matters believes that education is the key to stopping animal abuse and neglect. And through our distribution of various materials, we've gotten the good word out. However, we have recently taken up another endeavor: direct animal rescue work.

Since September, Animal Matters has been assisting in the rescue of dogs in southern Florida. The activities of our new Animal Rescue Division have helped **save six dogs from death at a local animal shelter**. What your money and our time does is: Remove the dog from the shelter when his or her time is up, get them into a boarding facility, place ads in the newspapers, pitch the story to the local press, get the word out on various websites, hang flyers and spend time with the animal. We've had success so far and we know we can continue to do this great work.

Please send any amount you can to aid in our rescue efforts. Your contribution will have a direct impact on saving lives. Isn't that a great way to spend your money?

Please cut out the form below and help us out any way you can. Your donation goes a long way toward helping Animal Matters achieve its goals. Here is what your donation can do:

\$10 prints 10 colored flyers

\$50 covers 5 months of webhosting

\$16 boards a rescue dog for 2 days

\$75 prints 500 educational flyers

\$26 prints 75 "Shop With Care" guides

\$300 pays for an entire mailing of *Animals Today*

Cut along dotted line and enclose in envelope provided

\$ _____ Donation Amount

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

EMAIL ADDRESS

Ask Scooter

Our staff expert, Scooter Wu, answers your questions on animal rights, liberation, cruelty and consumption. Email your questions to his new address at scooter@animalmattersonline.org or write Scooter c/o Animal Matters. Please take advantage of this forum to learn the answers to all those questions that seem to pop up as you attempt to live your lives free of animal cruelty.

Dear Scooter,

My drain is clogged and I need to fix it fast. Is there an animal safe alternative to Drano?"

Amy Chen, San Marino, CA

Dear Amy,

I always enjoy hearing from you. Yes, there is a product that will unclog your drain and it hasn't been tested on animals. It's called The Works. The company name is Lime-O-Sol. Their address is P.O. Box 395, Ashley, NC, 46705; 219-587-9151.

The Works is available in many supermarkets and drug stores.

Sincerely,



Scooter

Dear Scooter,

How about animal safe contact lenses solution...do they even exist?"

Amy Chen, San Marino, CA

Dear Amy,

If you wear contacts, your search for cruelty-free contact solution is over. Clear Conscious Multipurpose Solution is completely cruelty-free, plus they do not contain preservatives or CFCs. This solution is environmentally-friendly and the manufacturer is donating 10 percent of its profits to charitable organizations. 12-oz. Multipurpose solution is \$6.95.

Sincerely,



Scooter

Fashion Alert: Dr. Marten Adds Cruelty-Free Shoe

Dr. Martens recently announced the release of its first-ever vegetarian boots and shoes in its classic 1460 and 1461 styles. Answering the call of vegetarians who love Dr. Martens' styles, the company will release the new products beginning January 2000. Far from the typical non-leather alternatives, the new products are cellulose based and manufactured with a highly specialized Lorica microfiber injected with PVCs.

(What's in the News?, continued from page 2)

Want Permission To Shoot Sea Lions

Associated Press - A growing number of West Coast fishermen are fed up with sea lions, accusing the mammals of chowing inordinate numbers of salmon. They'd like government permission to shoot them.

"We're talking about a big furry animal that everyone loves to look at and a slithery animal that many people say is just a fish, but we have to protect the one that's diminishing even if it isn't the cutest," said Rich Hughett, executive director of the Fisherman's Alliance of California. Studies of commercial fishermen in Monterey Bay show that about 30% of the fish on their lines are eaten by sea lions and harbor seals which flock to the boats for easy meals.

Mad Cow Disease a Wolf In Sheep's Clothing?

Associated Press - Larry and Linda Faillace of Vermont are excited about their plans to change the American sheep industry. Since importing their first East Friesian sheep from Belgium three years ago, they've established a breeding stock of milk-producing animals and are introducing a line of sheep-milk cheese.

"The government believes it is wrong for animals to be farmed and slaughtered for their fur," said agriculture minister Elliot Morley. "It is not consistent with a proper value and respect for animal life."

But the couple's flocks have been locked up under quarantine amid government fears that a form of mad cow disease is lurking under the wool.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to buy the animals for slaughter to check for illness. Behind all of this is BSE, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the scientific name for mad cow disease. The fatal brain ailment has affected some 180,000 head of British cattle and has been linked to a similar illness in humans, known as Cruetzfeld-Jakob disease.

England May Ban Fur Farming

InfoBeat - Carrying through on a campaign promise, the Labor government unveiled a bill Tuesday that would ban fur farming in England and Wales by the end of 2002. Britain's remaining 13 fur farms now slaughter about 100,000 mink for fur each year. Those farms would receive compensation, although the amount has

ANIMALS TODAY
Is a publication of

Animal Matters

Animal Liberation Through Education

est. 1998

P.O. Box 880353
Boca Raton, FL 33488-0353

Animal Matters is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating the public of the use and abuse of animals through producing and distributing educational materials.

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Director of Multimedia: Scott Wu

This issue of Animal Matter's *Animals Today* was made possible with the financial support of caring, supportive friends and family members.

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Contact Animal Matters at
info@animalmattersonline.org

Dog Racing, continued from page 1

cage. They feel horrible pain and spend years in the same position deforming their bones. During the bile extraction, they put a tube entering the gall bladder and exiting out of the bears belly where a special mechanism sucks out the bile. They roar with pain, mutilate or kill themselves.

There are herbal alternatives to bear bile and doctors know that they work. "We definitely do not have to use bear bile as it can be replaced by herbs, which are cheaper too," says Dr. Sun Ji Xian of the Chinese Association of Preventative

Each year approximately 100,000 small animals - most of them rabbits - are used as live bait to teach young dogs to chase lures around the track.

Medicine, Beijing, China. To preserve the cultural reputation of Chinese medicine, the authorities are considering closing the more recent farms when they can declare an herb which can substitute for the bile. International appeals did get the Chinese government to close 2 of their Farms in 1993 Zhuhai and 1995 Huizhou.

Groups like the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) are working with the Chinese Government, the Chinese Association of Medicine and Philosophy, Animals Asia Foundation (AAF), and the group

EarthCare to eventually eliminate bear farming, provide humane treatment for bears currently imprisoned on "farms," and to promote herbal alternatives to bear bile in Traditional Medicine. But the process is slow.

Today, because of animal welfare group's intervention, the Chinese authorities are no longer issuing new bear-farm licenses, they are closing

down the worst farms and bringing in new regulations to improve conditions for those 7,632 bears which now remain on farms.

What You Can Do

Please write to the following individuals expressing your thanks for China's commitment to bringing an end to the cruel practice of

(continued on next page ...)

Key facts

- 7,632 bears still suffer on 481 bile farms across China.
- Bear farming began in China and South Korea in the early 1980s to supply bile for heart- and liver-related illnesses, high fever, and burns.
- Today, inexpensive herbal and/or synthetic alternatives are readily available for bear bile. There are at least 54 herbal alternatives to bear bile in various medicinal applications including Chinese ivy stem, periwinkle herbs, dandelion and rhubarb.
- Contrary to popular belief in Asia, farming bears does not protect wild populations. Bears are also being hunted for their parts in all their range countries.

(Dog Racing, cont ...)

bear farming, but also your horror at the suffering still being inflicted on thousands of live bears across China:

His Excellency Mr Ma
Yuzhen
Embassy of the People's
Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place, London
W1 N 3AH.

Mr Zhen Ren De
Senior Engineer
Ministry of Forestry
Hepingli, Beijing, 100714,
CHINA.
u

Cruelty-free Product of the
Week

H2O Natural Crystal
Deodorant
An all-natural, fragrance-
free and chemical-free
alternative for long-lasting
deodorant protection. The
stick is really a transparent
stone that lasts for one year.

"A real pain in the neck"

Remember when Earth Day started and celebrities were pushing different ways the public could keep our environment safe and clean? Olivia Newton John's plug was to cut the 6-pack plastic ring holders so wildlife wouldn't get trapped in them. That was one tip my family and I took to heart and I'm glad we did. Recently, we witnessed a duck who had a ring caught around his neck. We tried feverishly to remove it but the duck was too quick! That incident struck home with all of us who witnessed it. We are proud to take the extra moment to cut those rings – the payoff is well worth it. We encourage you to do the same!