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The Probe NADCA
ISSUE 171
NOVEMBER 1996

Park Service Thwarts Cat Allies

Marilyn Davis, Native Species Network, Bodega Bay, California

National Park Service regulations protect all native wildlife. Pets or feral animals may not run at large, molest wildlife, or be introduced into park ecosystems, because human-fostered exotics could dominate park habitats instead of naturally occurring wildlife.

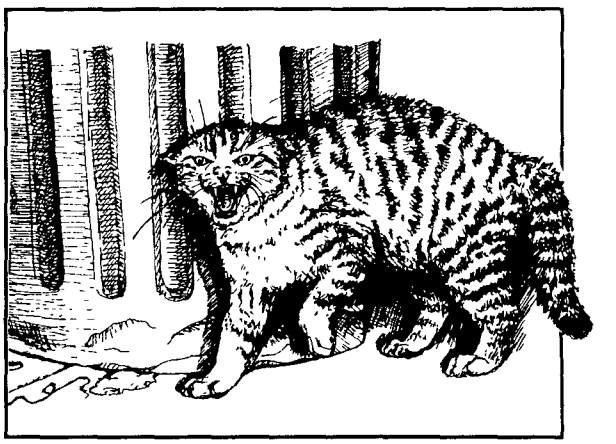
Last year, the national feral cat protection group, Alley Cat Allies (ACA), attempted to destroy this policy by targeting Riverside National Park in Virginia with both an emotive media campaign and a lawsuit seeking to legitimize the maintenance of cat colonies on federal land. Many such groups advocate colonies in parks as an alternative to euthanasia. They follow theories promoted in England by the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (UFAW), claiming that if a group of cats is trapped, sterilized, released, and fed, this "managed colony" will "stabilize," keep other cats away, and lessen wildlife predation.

Late in 1993, citizen complaints guided Riverside rangers to a group of cats, a feeding station, and signs asking people to feed cats so they would keep rats and snakes away. A notice was posted and respondents were informed that the cats would be removed to a local shelter. An early 1994 trapping date was delayed when Louise Holton of ACA asked for a meeting to present "scientific" information validating cat colonies as non-harmful. Materials from ACA and others were accepted, reviewed, and evaluated by the Regional Chief Scientist of the National Capital Area, who reported the following on April 21, 1994:

"All the arguments made to bolster the position of those who would maintain that cat colonies have little or no impact in parks and natural areas are refutable. In fact, the only irrefutable information concerns the impacts cats have on wildlife. The magnitude of their impacts on wildlife including birds, small mammals, and other small animals has been well-documented. This is true even with well-fed, free-ranging cats."

"One argument fostered by ACA is the idea that it is possible to maintain a 'stable' colony of cats, one that either has no new members and diminishes in time, or that at least does not grow. There are no colonies that have actually proven to be stable, i.e. no new cats moving into the colony. In the colony studied by Dr. Zaunbrecker, 6 new cats were found. In the UFAW study, one colony experienced 17 new cats. This refutes not only the idea that a colony diminishes in number over time, but also that an existing colony fends off any new cats, the so-called 'vacuum effect'."

"Diseases that can be transmitted within the colony, from the colony to neighborhood cats, from cats to wildlife, or from wildlife to cats are of significance and concern, in addition to concerns for cat to human transmission. Since there is no practical test for rabies, there is no way to guarantee cats are free of the disease. This is true for other communicable diseases such as toxoplasmosis as well, for which there is no test or vaccine."



"ACA is correct that many factors influence the decline of wildlife species, such as development and deforestation. This does not remove predation by cats as one of the contributing factors. In a situation where there are so many documented and suspected factors resulting in the decline of many wildlife species, the intentional disregard of a documented factor would be grossly negligent. Riverside Park provides habitat to exactly those types of animals where ample documentation of predation exists."

"In summary, there are compelling reasons to argue that not only do free-ranging cat colonies have negative environmental impacts on native wildlife species, but do not necessarily provide a humane environment for the cats themselves."

Dan Sealey, Resources Manager of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, noted "This is an either/or situation. Either we protect wildlife, or we protect domestic animals in parks and natural areas."

Continued on page 5, Col. 1

Jim Miller Elected VP of Wildlife Society

James E. (Jim) Miller, VP-East for NADCA, has been elected Vice President of The Wildlife Society. He will assume the position of President of the Society in September 1998.

Jim is currently National Program Leader, Fish and Wildlife, for the Cooperative State Research Education, and Extension Service, USDA, in Washington D.C. Prior to taking this position in 1979, he was Extension Wildlife Specialist for the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service from 1967 through 1978, after which he briefly worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As many NADCA members know, Jim has strongly advocated the importance of wildlife damage as an integral part of wildlife management. He served as chairman of TWS's former wildlife damage ad hoc committee, which evolved into the current Wildlife Damage Management Working Group.

Congratulations, Jim!

ADC Aerial Hunting Accident Kills 2

Two ADC employees were killed on October 2 in Utah when their plane crashed during an aerial hunting mission. Pilot trainee Jeffrey Yates, 41, and ADC veteran Darwin Mabbutt, 69, both died when their Piper Super Cub went down in Millard County, Utah, about three miles west of Holden. A county road crew reportedly witnessed the plane, which was flying at low altitude, nose-dive into the ground in an area of farmland. At this writing, FAA investigators were attempting to establish the cause of the accident.

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Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. Articles and notes can also be sent by e-mail to rmtimm@ucdavis.edu. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of NADCA.

Obituary: Carl R. Gustavson

Dr. Carl R. Gustavson died suddenly at his home in Arizona on July 31, according to a report on ABSnet, the electronic newsletter of the Animal Behavior Society. A memorial service was held on August 10 in Tempe.

Dr. Gustavson was well-known for his work on aversive conditioning. His 1974 publication in *Science* (184:581-583) entitled "Coyote predation control by aversive conditioning" generated much interest and spawned considerable additional research by other investigators. His subsequent promotion of the idea that coyotes could be effectively conditioned not to kill sheep after ingesting lithium chloride-tainted sheep meat was controversial.

NADCA caps, anyone?

We still have some NADCA logo caps on hand for mail orders. Color choices are limited, but you may request first and second preferences of teal, green, white, tan, light blue, or navy. If you don't specify a color or give "any" as your third preference, we are more likely to be able to fill your order. The hats are $10 each, and an additional $2.50 is requested to cover shipping and packaging for one, two, or three hats in the same box. These are top-quality, USA-made, with the logo embroidered in an appropriate contrasting color. Send your requests to the Treasurer, Wes Jones. (See address on membership renewal form.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3-5, 1996: 9th Annual Conference of the Australian Wildlife Management Society, Canberra, Australia. Information: Jim Hone, Faculty of Applied Science, Univ. of Canberra, PO Box 1, Belconnen ACT 2616, Australia, e-mail: hone@aerg.canberra.edu.au

December 8-11, 1996: 58th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska. For information, contact 58th Midwest F&W Conference, PO Box 4558, Lincoln, NE 68504-0641, phone (402) 471-0641, FAX (402) 471-5528, or visit http://www/ngpc.state.ne.us/iafwa/midwest.html

April 16-19, 1997: 13th Great Plains Wildlife Damage Control Workshop, Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Will include the annual NADCA membership meeting. For information: contact Charles Lee, Kansas State University, (913) 532-5734, or Scott Hygnstrom, Univ. of Nebraska, (402) 472-6822.

ADC News, Tips, Ideas , Publications . . .

HSUS Former Employee File Lawsuits

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has filed a lawsuit against David Wills, former head of its division which investigates animal cruelty, claiming Wills defrauded the organization of more than $93,000. According to an article in the August 14 *Washington Post*, Wills has countered with a lawsuit against HSUS claiming breach of contract.

The article detailed some of the financial dealings of this growing animal rights organization, whose direct public monetary support grew from $7.3 million in 1989 to $37.6 million in 1995. During the same period, HSUS's net assets doubled from $22.4 million to $44.8 million. HSUS is a major supporter of anti-bear hunting initiatives which will appear on ballots in several states this November.

In 1995, HSUS Chief Executive Officer John Hoyt received a salary of $237,871, while President Paul Irwin received $209,051. Before they were employed by HSUS, both Hoyt and Irwin were ministers.

The *Post* further reported that HSUS purchased a $310,000 home for Hoyt in a Maryland suburb and reimbursed Irwin $85,000 for renovations to a cabin in Maine he used for family vacations. Hoyt also received a $100,000 interest-free loan from a board member, while another board member paid for overseas travel for Hoyt's wife for several years. Hoyt and Irwin together were responsible for hiring Wills in 1990. Apparently, the alleged fraud "came to light when the society began investigating claims that Wills had sexually harassed two women on his staff."

Additionally, HSUS is also being sued by the Humane Society of Canada, which charges that Hoyt, Irwin, and others transferred $1 million from the Canadian group's bank account to the U.S. organization without authorization.

U.S. District Judge André Davis, who presided over pretrial hearings in the HSUS vs. Wills case, offered an ominous prediction: "It's fairly apparent to the court that this case is going to be ugly."

Rats Shut Down Internet at Stanford

The lights, and the computers, went out at Stanford University on October 10, thanks to rats. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, rats that got into a steel cabinet housing electrical switching gear appeared to be the cause of a campus-wide power outage. The outage pulled the plug on a switching station at Stanford, which halted or interrupted Internet access for tens of thousands of users throughout the Bay Area, including some of Silicon Valley's most technologically advanced companies.

Call for Papers: A Symposium on Mammal Trapping August 1997 in Edmonton, Alberta

Abstracts are being solicited for this symposium, which will have sessions devoted to the following topics:

- ***Mammal Trapping: Importance and Concerns***
  Historical, Economic, Socio-cultural, Animal Welfare, Biological
- ***Trapping Technology: Scientific Facts & Future Direction***
  World Trap Inventory, Humaneness, Efficiency & Selectivity
- ***Trapline Management and Data Analyses***
  Trapline Designs, Management Practices, Data Handling with statistics and software

Abstracts are due Nov. 15, 1996. A refereed proceedings will be published. For information and instructions on submitting abstracts, or to be added to the mailing list for future information on the program, contact: Dr. Gilbert Prouix, Alpha Wildlife Research & Management Ltd., 9 Garnet Crescent, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada T8A 2R7, phone (403) 464-5228, FAX (403) 417-0255; e-mail: alpha@xpress.ab.ca

Fur in Cyberspace

The Fur Institute of Canada announces it is now using the newest technology to provide factual information about Canada's oldest business, the fur trade. The Institute has established a site on the World Wide Web, at the following address: http://www.fur.ca.

Founded in 1983, the Fur Institute of Canada is a national non-profit corporation with a broad range of membership including trappers associations, aboriginal groups, fur farmers, Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments, conservation and animal welfare agencies, auction houses, manufacturers, retailers, and other support groups. This new web site provides information on the history of the fur trade, publications, the latest research news, trade updates, and more, according to Alison Beal, Executive Director.

The Editor thanks the following contributors to this issue: Guy Connolly, Marilyn Davis, Mike Fall, Dwight LeBlanc, Wes Jones, and Robert Schmidt. Send your contributions to The PROBE, *4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.*

Book Review

Stephen Vantassel, Special Coorrespondent, The PROBE

Beaver and Otter: Open Water Techniques. by Charles Dobbins 1992. Beaver Pond Publishing and Printing, P.O. Box 224, Greenville, Pennsylvania, 16125. 114 pages.

Charles Dobbins has produced yet another book which demonstrates his mastery of the trapping craft. As I have said so many times, if you are looking for quality trapping information then Charles Dobbins' books should be high on your list.

The advantage that this text has over others he has written lies in the broader audience potential. Whereas many animal damage controllers will never be asked to control coyotes or fox, many will be requested to remove some beaver. In my opinion, if beaver are native to your state, you, the animal damage controller, should know how to trap them. If the Missouri text (*Missouri's Beaver: A Guide to Management, Nuisance Prevention, and Damage Control*; see review in July 1996 **PROBE**) gives you the foundation, Dobbins' book builds the edifice which will be completed when he publishes the 'under ice' technique book.

In my opinion, if beaver are native to your state, you, the animal damage controller, should know how to trap them.

As always, Mr. Dobbins explains the essential points of the animal biology that are pertinent for the trapper. Beaver trapping/handling comprises the lion's share of the pages constituting no less than two thirds of the text. Dobbins divides the beaver discussion into three main categories: footholds, conibears/snares, and pelt handling. He begins with a detailed discussion on trapping beaver with footholds. Advice on proper trap selection, bedding, and placement should hone even an experienced trapper's skills. As in his other books, Dobbins presents a wide variety of foothold sets to take beaver. Each set takes advantage of another opportunity or adds variety to catch wary beaver.

Next, Dobbins proceeds to explain proper conibear trap usage. He correctly advises the reader about conibear safety and even explains how to get yourself out of a 330 should you happen to be caught in one. Perhaps the most important trapping technique in this section deals with how to set your conibears so that trapped beaver won't spook other beaver. Dobbins also provides some brief information about using snares for beaver.

One of the most important chapters in the book is how to capture trap- and lure-wise beaver. Dobbins' willingness to provide some techniques and sets to capture the old wise ones makes this book truly worth the $12 price. Don't get the idea that these techniques are magical. Dobbins warns the reader that it will still take a lot of hard work and patience to catch those remaining problem beaver.

The last third of the text covers otter trapping. Dobbins openly admits that trappers including himself don't know anywhere near as much about otters as they do other furbearers. This fact is emphasized by the realization that most otter catches are made accidentally. Despite the paucity of information, Dobbins has picked up some useful techniques that should prove useful to any of you that want or need to catch an otter. Since Dobbins claims that he has yet to find a lure or bait that is effective on a consistent basis, perhaps this lacunae in the bait industry will one day be filled.

As in all trapping publications, space is given to pelt preparation. While not as important to the animal damage controller, these instructions are useful should one decide that the pelt should be kept. More important for our needs are the tips on obtaining the glands. Dobbins gives copious amounts of information on different ways to use beaver castors and oil sacks. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the otter glands.

This text would be a worthy addition to the bookshelf of anyone wanting to learn more about trapping beaver and otter in open water. While Mr. Dobbins doesn't discuss box trapping methods for these creatures, the information he provides is still invaluable. The text and photos are clear and easy to understand. Mr. Dobbins has even used bold fonts for certain words and phrases he believes should be emphasized. Overall I give the book an A minus rating. The only negatives concerning the text are his lack of discussion of box trapping, and the failure to warn the reader about animal diseases. Many photos show him handling animals without gloves, and the text doesn't caution the reader to take care with animal excrement. Those two criticisms aside, the book is well worth its price.

You can obtain a copy by sending $12.00 (includes shipping) payable to Charles Dobbins, P.O. Box 7082, Canton, OH 44705.

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American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians: Resolution on Management of Feral Cats

Background: Feral cats (*Felis domesticus*) are defined in this resolution as free-roaming or non-pet domestic cats. Feral cats are common worldwide and constitute a non-native, detrimental predator of native wildlife including birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

Animal welfare, animal rights, and humane groups have become active proponents of managed cat colonies which are groups of feral cats that are trapped, disease tested, vaccinated, neutered, and released (TTVNR) back to the original capture site. The feral cat colony is then maintained by routine provision of food and health care, including revaccination, when and if possible. The ultimate goal of a managed cat colony varies from continual perpetuation to extirpation of the colony through no replacement or recruitment.

The control and management of feral cat colonies is of concern to wildlife management and public health agencies and humane groups. This resolution is offered in support of efforts by governmental agencies and public or private organizations to regulate and control feral cats in a humane manner on public lands managed for natural resources.

Whereas: Feral cats are present worldwide and are considered an exotic or non-native species in all habitats in which they occur;

Whereas: Governmental wildlife agencies are charged with the management, conservation, and preservation of native flora and fauna and the habitats in which they exist;

Whereas: Feral cats can exert significant, detrimental predatory effects on native birds and small mammals in local ecosystems and the maintenance of feral cat colonies does not eliminate predation on native birds and small mammals by feral cats;

Whereas: There are no standard guidelines for the quality of care or maintenance provided to feral cat colonies and the effectiveness of TTVNR programs for management, control, or elimination of feral cat colonies is largely unknown;

Whereas: Bites, scratches, and feces from feral cats can be a significant risk for exposure to several zoonotic diseases to the people that care for feral cats as well as the general public;

Be it resolved: That the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians support actions by governmental wildlife agencies, public health agencies, and public and private organizations to ban or eliminate feral cat colonies in a humane manner on public lands managed for natural resources and discourage feral colonies on private lands.

Be it further resolved: That the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians recognizes the need for further scientific study of the feral cat issue; encourages cooperation and positive discussion between groups involved in the feral cat issue; and supports efforts by the American Veterinary Medical Association and animal welfare groups to increase public awareness of and initiating programs to decrease cat overpopulation and the abandonment of unwanted cats in urban and rural areas.

Resolution Passed June 24, 1996

Editor's Note: This resolution was provided by Marilyn Davis of the Native Species Network.

Continued from page 1, Col. 2

Park Service Thwarts Cat Allies

The removal proceeded as planned. ACA filed a lawsuit against the Department of the Interior, National Capital Region, and George Washington Memorial Parkway on May 5, 1994, seeking to halt the action and restore cats to the park. Two restraining orders were denied, and trapping was substantially complete by June 13. All the cats were adopted.

On August 31, a motion for dismissal or summary judgment was filed by Helen Fahey, U.S. Attorney, in which she noted "The conclusion reached by the National Park Service as a result of this extensive review was in accord with the vast majority of the research and opinions received: the cats in Riverside Park were both a threat to the native wildlife and were a potential public health threat."

The motion was not acted upon. ACA later approached the Assistant U.S. Attorney's office about filing a joint dismissal order, which was agreed to under very specific wording: that the program was moot.

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the Fall 1995 Native Species Network Newsletter, with permission of the author. See related articles above and on page 7.

Use of Zinc Phosphide for Marmot Control

Mark Collinge, NADCA Northern Rockies Region Director, USDA-APHIS-ADC, 1828 Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705

Yellow-bellied marmots, or "rockchucks" as they are referred to in many areas of the west, can cause significant agricultural damage to field crops and gardens. Alfalfa, sugar beets and beans are some of the crops most commonly fed upon by marmots, and their digging activities around dikes, buildings and other structures may also cause considerable damage.

The eastern version of the rockchuck is the woodchuck, or groundhog. Damage control methods discussed in the "Woodchuck" chapter of the *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage* handbook include exclusion, shooting, trapping, and the use of den fumigants. The handbook also indicates that no toxicants are registered for control of woodchucks.

Although no toxicant was registered for nationwide use on marmots at the time this chapter was prepared, a very useful toxicant is now available. Zinc phosphide is one of the most widely used rodenticides in the world, and it has been successfully used for years in the U.S. to control mice, voles, rats, ground squirrels and prairie dogs. It is generally well accepted by rodents, presents very low secondary poisoning risks, and requires only a single feeding to achieve a lethal dose.

Zinc phosphide is a grayish-black, fine, crystalline powder, essentially insoluble in water or alcohol, but slightly soluble in alkalis or oils. Although it is quite stable in air, it breaks down into elemental zinc and phosphine gas when exposed to moisture under acidic or alkaline conditions. When ingested, zinc phosphide reacts with dilute acids in the gastrointestinal tract and produces the highly toxic phosphine gas, which then enters the bloodstream. Phosphine gas acts as a metabolic inhibitor, causing death from a combination of oxygen depletion and carbon dioxide buildup in the blood, typically within several hours to a day after ingestion.

Marmot damage is a significant problem in southern Idaho, and the first experimentation with zinc phosphide to control marmot damage was carried out in Idaho beginning in 1990 under an Experimental Use Permit issued by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The results were promising, and a "Special Local Needs" (Section 24c) registration was then sought and obtained through the Idaho Department of Agriculture to allow for the use of zinc phosphide to control marmot damage. The label allowed for use of zinc phosphide concentrate on carrot baits in Idaho only by employees of the APHIS-ADC program or persons under their direct supervision. The product was used solely by Idaho ADC employees for this purpose up until 1996.

In April, 1996, APHIS received EPA approval on a revised Section 3 label which now allows for use of this product by any certified pesticide applicator. This new label, titled "Zinc Phosphide for Rodent and Lagomorph Control" (EPA Reg. No. 56228-6) covers the use of zinc phosphide 63% concentrate for a variety of species and application sites, including marmots in rangelands, pastures, and noncrop areas. It is an APHIS product that can be used nationwide, as long as it has been registered with the respective State regulatory agency.

As with any pesticide product, it is extremely important to read and follow the label directions. Certain restrictions apply on use of zinc phosphide in areas where threatened or endangered species may occur, and baiting operations must not be conducted in any area where the baits may be exposed to livestock or any nontarget wildlife.

While all of Idaho ADC's use of zinc phosphide for marmot control has been done with carrot baits, the new product label allows for the use of carrots, sweet potatoes, alfalfa, cabbage, potato, apples or pears as bait. Prebaiting is recommended to assess the potential for risks associated with nontarget exposure to the bait, and also to enhance acceptance of treated bait and determine the amount of treated bait that needs to be prepared. Prebait should be prepared by cutting the fruit or vegetable material into 1- to 2-inch pieces. Ten pounds of cut-up prebait material should be placed in a 5-gallon container and tumbled or stirred with 1 ounce of corn oil until all the bait is evenly coated. Prebaiting should be done in the morning, with 4-5 pieces of bait placed at each location under rock overhangs, in protected crevices, or near earthen burrows where marmot sign is present.

When preparing treated baits, rubber gloves and a respirator should always be worn. Treated baits are prepared similarly to the prebait, by first coating the bait material with corn oil at the rate of 1 ounce oil/10 pounds of bait material. A total of 7.5 tablespoons of zinc phosphide concentrate (40 grams) for each 10 pounds of bait is then sprinkled over the oiled bait pieces and stirred or tumbled until a consistent coverage is attained. (Please note that a transcription error in the new label resulted in these directions mistakenly prescribing that the zinc phosphide be mixed with the oil before putting the mixture over the bait material. This error was discovered during the preparation of this article and it will be corrected.)

The treated bait pieces become very dark-colored, but this condition is apparently not a deterrent to bait acceptance. Treated bait should be applied in locations where prebait was accepted, using the same procedures that were employed for prebaiting.

Any uneaten bait and any marmot carcasses should be collected and properly disposed of after completion of the baiting project, which should ordinarily not extend beyond 2-3 days. Baiting should be discontinued if animals other than marmots are taking baits. One of the advantages of using zinc phosphide for marmot control is that most of the victims

Continued on page 7, col. 1

Cat Colony Ordinance Adopted by Santa Clara County, California

On June 25 the Santa Clara County, California, Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance which approves the maintenance of feral cat colonies and specifies standards under which such colonies are to be maintained.

The ordinance and associated changes in County Code were brought to the Supervisors by Greg Van Wassenhove, County Agricultural Commissioner and Animal Control Director. According to Marilyn Davis of the Native Species Network, Van Wassenhove is an advocate of feral cat colonies. Davis notes that the county accepted claims and theories promoted by feral cat protectionists without any apparent investigation into the scientific merits of the arguments. The county filed a Notice of Exemption, exempting this project from the California Environmental Quality Act, stating that there was no possibility of environmental impact.

The public's goal of native wildlife protection is being replaced by a special interest group's desire to protect "unowned" domestic animals at the expense of wildlife and public health

Ms. Davis stated, "The ordinance was kept under wraps and none of us found out about it till a few days before. We expect it to spread rapidly and quietly to other jurisdictions, especially those where Humane Societies or SPCAs are already involved in supporting TTVAR programs. The implications for residual habitats are grave, and we know of colonies already in areas flanking endangered and sensitive species. The public's goal of native wildlife protection is being replaced by a special interest group's desire to protect "unowned" domestic animals at the expense of wildlife and public health. Public officials are going along with it without getting the facts, and are promoting misinformation to the public at the same time."

A draft "Professional Standards for the Caregiver of a Homeless Cat Colony," forwarded by Van Wassenhove to interested parties, included the following guidelines:

- *Every effort must be made to spay or neuter all cats in the colony.*
- *Kittens and new arrivals must be humanely trapped or otherwise safely removed from the colony. If tame, cats should be placed in adoptive homes. If not tame enough for adoption or not adopted, cats must be spayed or neutered, vaccinated and ear-notched for identification, then returned to the same colony and location from which they were removed.*
- *The cat colony must be provided with food and fresh water daily, to maintain good health and to encourage the cats to remain near the feeding site.*
- *Establish a regular feeding schedule so that the cats will become conditioned to show up at feeding time, enabling the caregiver to observe them to make sure they are safe and healthy... Every effort should be made to assure that the location of feeding stations is safe and inconspicuous... Feeding stations should be located where neither the feeding station nor the cats is visible or intrusive to people... Camouflage shelters and food containers, using materials that blend with the surroundings.*

The Native Species Network is an all-volunteer, non-profit corporation that was formed in 1995. Its purpose is to collect and distribute information about our unique and diverse, but steadily declining heritage of native species. The Network has recently been active in the feral cat colony issue. If you wish to be a member, send your name, mailing address, and e-mail address (if available) to: Native Species Network, P.O. Box 405, Bodega Bay, CA 94923. Donations are optional but are welcome, in order to defray costs of the newsletter and other organizational expenses.

Continued from page 6, Col. 2

Marmot Control

apparently die down inside their burrows. Very few carcasses are found above ground.

Where only a few marmots are involved in a damage problem, trapping or shooting may be the most appropriate control method. But if large numbers of marmots are involved and there are no nontarget hazards, use of zinc phosphide may be one of the most appropriate control strategies.

Baiting is usually most effective when conducted in the spring, shortly after marmots emerge from hibernation, and before there is an abundance of alternative food available. "Zinc Phosphide for Rodent and Lagomorph Control" can be obtained from the Pocatello Supply Depot by contacting your State APHIS-ADC office for information and approval. The current price is about $1.00/ounce or $13.00/pound.

TIME VALUED MATERIAL –
DO NOT DELAY

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Membership Renewal and Application Form

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, W8773 Pond View Drive, Shell Lake, WI 54871, Phone: (715) 468-2038

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Home

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Office

Additional Address Info: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____ - _____
Please use 9-digit Zip Code

Dues: $_____ Donation: $_____ Total: $_____ Date: _____

Membership Class: Student $10.00 Active $20.00 Sponsor $40.00 Patron $100 (Circle one)

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Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

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