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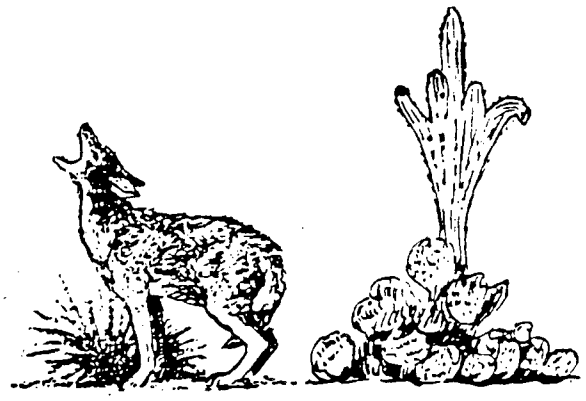
THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

No. 47 November, 1984

EPA VS STRYCHNINE

Just received notice from the Attorney General's office in Wyoming that the EPA hearing on strychnine has been postponed until April 15, 1985. Encouragingly, they state that recent developments and new data may make a settlement possible. The important development is that the USFWS finally got off its duff and asserted that limited use of strychnine for prairie dog control should be permitted as long as such use is not injurious to the black-footed ferret. They further asserted that there are adequate survey techniques to determine the presence of ferrets in areas subject to treatment and they are now conducting studies to back up this position. The EPA has stated in writing that it has no current plans to suspend the present use of strychnine for rodenticidal purposes. Hopefully, strychnine registration will not be cancelled and the case settled without going through a hearing.

Dogs in Siberia are the fastest in the world - the trees are so far apart.

CYANIDE DETERIORATION IN M-44S

A USFWS study of cyanide content in M-44s exposed for 6-12 weeks weather in College Station, TX showed that the capsules do not lose large quantities of cyanide in field use. The actual NaCN content dropped only from 0.75 to 0.70 grams. They concluded that if caked capsules fail to kill coyotes, it is because the caked cyanide cannot react quickly on ejection. As long as capsules contain dry, free-flowing powder they can be depended upon to kill any coyote that makes a good, straight pull. Thanx to **Guy Connolly**, USFWS, Twin Falls, ID.

I got this dog for my wife. Wish I could make a trade like this everyday.

LEGISLATION GOODIES

Howard Co. Council (MD) passed a sweeping rewrite of local animal control laws last month. These will require dog owners to leash their pets and double the fines for cruelty, but did not ban the use of steel leghold traps on wild animals as was expected. Their Solicitor ruled that only the Maryland General Assembly had the power to regulate trapping in the State. The WASHINGTON POST (2 Oct 84) injected their typically-biased observation that "...in another concession to hunters"...the use of live game to train hunting dogs which were also exempted from the leash law is permitted. Incidentally, they also levy a $50 fine for failure to stop after injuring an animal with a vehicle. So you'd better pick the butterflies out of your radiator before going through this place. Thanx to **John C. Jones**, RD VI.

The Senate passed S. 2423 to establish a fund for compensating crime victims. Funding would be by criminal fines, donations, penalty charges, and revenues from criminals cashing in on books and TV for their crimes. In a companion bill in the House (HR 3498), they want to redirect the manufacturer's excise tax on handguns from Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program to the victim's fund. Write your Representative telling him to go along with the Senate version. **OUTDOORS NEWS BULLETIN 9/7/84.**

Reply briefs filed by the livestock industry want to change the EPA 'across the board' ban on large 1080 bait stations, 30-day limit on single lethal dose (SLD) baits, and exclusion of qualified state certification programs and private applicators. They base their suit on the "credibility" of Richard Randall as a major witness (Randall is a discharged USFWS employee). His testimony differed with that of other witnesses familiar with the 1080 program but was the sole support of the EPA stand.

EPA got slapped on the other side by a Defenders of Wildlife suit that no new evidence was presented in permitting the consideration of SLDs. The Humane Society got into the act with a brief claiming that permission to conduct SLD tests by the USFWS were of political and not experimental nature. So EPA found itself arguing against old 'friends'. Thanx to **Rick Griffiths** (Port Deposit, MD) and PESTICIDE & TOXIC CHEMICAL NEWS.

Perhaps it's only coincidence, but man's best friend can't talk !

HOWDY ON FORESTRY ANIMAL DAMAGE

Dr. Walter E. Howard, UC-Davis, made the following points at a wildlife workshop in Oregon this September:

Forestry ADC is becoming more sophisticated in its battles, but is in danger of losing the war due to extreme environmentalism, EPA's domination by pressure groups, and lack of support from the Washington office of the USDI. The general public and even most biologists do not understand the "balance of nature" in logged forests. It is a mistake to leave it to nature, man must manage and control wildlife in disturbed environments. Instead of a growing reverence for life of individual wildlife, society needs to develop a death ethic, and recognize how essential it is that many individual animals die prematurely, if a healthy population is to exist.

Lawyers have become serious environmental obstructionists due to the adversary tradition emphasized in law schools today rather than resolving conflicts through compromises. There is too much fictitious dogma about the balance of nature concept. Biologists seldom challenge biologically unsound lawsuits or the eco-guerrilla tactics of some environmental extremists. These groups are bilking a gullible public without offering any sound conservation or biologic principles. These exploiters, with their emotional propaganda and adversial lobbying techniques, have thoroughly confused the public about the balance of nature and population dynamics of wildlife. We need to individually do what we can to educate the general public in biologically sound practices.

A dog is the only friend you can buy with money.

LET'S YAK

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL THERIOLOGICAL ("beasts" according to the dictionary) CONGRESS (Edmonton, Canada, 13-20 August 1985): While the theme is more to basic ecological, behavorial, and zoological concepts, they have listed several papers of interest to ADC, e.g., Control of mammal pests, Regulation of lagomorph populations, Physiological ecology of reproduction in small mammals, Canids, etc. They are

apparently still looking for papers even though the deadline has long passed for a SYMPOSIUM ON CONTROL OF MAMMAL PESTS. It looks like an interesting meeting place. For further information on this write, Dr. C. G. J. Richards, ICI Plant Protection Division, Fernhurst, Haslemere, Surrey, UK.

California is also calling for papers for the 12th VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE to be held in San Diego on March 4-6, 1986. This is YE ED's favorite ADC conference and one he hopes to make. For more information write Dr. Terrell P. Salmon, Wildlife Extension, University of California, Davis, CA 95616.

I was the teacher's pet. She couldn't afford a dog.

CONGRESS PLAYING THE PONIES AGAIN

It always costs us when Congress feels good-hearted towards horses. The appropriations committee had to increase BLM's FY 1985 budget for feral horses and burros to $20 million which is far more than the $16.1 million recommended for all fish & wildlife conservation on BLM lands. There are about 60,000 feral horses and burros on BLM lands whereas biologists state the carrying capacity is 25,000. It costs $435 each to capture these animals. When BLM can't get rid of them through their adoption program, the government must keep them in corrals and feed them. Ask your representatives to push Senator McClure's bill to allow humane disposal of the excess animals. OUTDOORS NEWS BULLETIN (9/7/84).

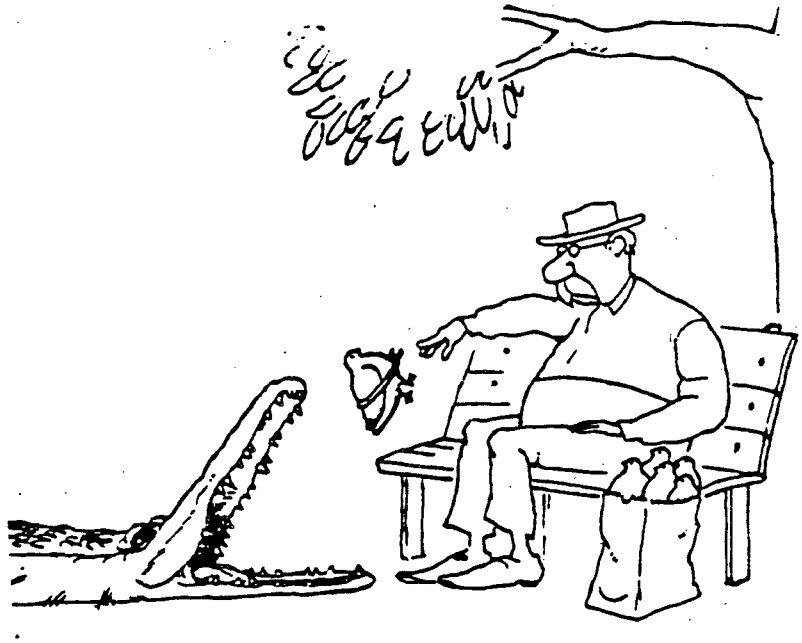
Along these same lines Nevada has a problem with a $500,000 bequest from Leo Heil of Sunnyvale, CA. This is for the "preservation of wild horses in Nevada". Heil died in 1972 and the fund has now risen to $1 million. Needless to say there is considerable controversy on how to spend it. The Humane Society rep on the panel wants all the horses preserved and is opposed to culling the herd. I have a suggestion. They can 'preserve' all the rear ends of the animals in alcohol and give them to the Humane Society to add to their membership lists. Thanx to RD 'Pink' Madsen and ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS (NV) 2 Oct 84.

A dog has so many friends because he wags his tail, not his tongue.

TEXAS TALES

According to Jimmy Trampota, an exotic game breeder in Houston County has lost 10 animals to coyotes in the last six months. This is despite the installation of an expensive "coyote-proof" Snell System fence of 14 strands and 5,000 volts. This is one of the alternatives the Defenders want the ranchers to use.

Fireants are having their own picnic on M-44 baits in some areas. Their uninvited cleaning the bait off lowers the attractiveness and efficiency of these devices for coyote control. Insectides seem to have little effect on the ants and further lower the attractiveness of the devices for coyotes. Thanx to TEXAS TRAPLINE (August 84)



TEXAS COOPERATIVE PIGEON CONTROL
Recycling our natural resources.

My dog is a lousy bloodhound. I cut my hand once and he fainted.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

In another example of wasting money and resources, the NATURE CONSERVANCY is shooting wild sheep on Santa Cruz Island and letting them rot where they fall. This doesn't sound like a typical action by an environmentalist group, but when the vegetation on your own land is being eaten up that is apparently a different story. Incidentally, the Santa Barbara Humane Society has yet to take a stand on this issue. NRA BULLETIN

My dog visited a flea circus and stole the show.

RODENT SNAIL DARTERS

Peromyscus polionotus is kicking up a storm similar to the infamous snail darter that stopped the Tellico dam project. The media (ATLANTA CONSTITUTION 8/29/84; SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE 9/16/84; ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL 10/14/84) enjoy these "tempest in a teapot" situations. P.p. or the beach mouse is getting in the way of developers for beachfront property in Alabama and Florida. There are supposedly 1400 in three different subspecies of these very "important" mice left in the country (P. polionotus is the common oldfield mouse over the Southeast and just what makes these individuals so different depends upon which taxonomist you talked to last. Hall & Kelson list 11 subspecies, none of which I can identify with the above so these probably rank only as separate 'races'.). The number of each of these is estimated as follows: Alabama beach mouse 875, Chochtawatchee beach mouse 515, and Perdido Key beach mouse 26.

At last reports, USFWS in a momentus decision involving top echelon of the Washington office is going all out in the case of the Perdido Key variety by attempting to trap these 'rare' animals and "relocate" them. They are talking about a trapline of some 800-1000 traps, ignoring my advice that they could do it more efficiently with only a hundred snap traps. After all this expense probably other populations will show up like the snail darter. Thanx to **Dr. Harry Pratt, etc.** retd. USPHS, Atlanta, GA.

A dog is cheaper than a wife. The license costs less and he already has a fur coat.

PIGEON ECONOMICS

For those who believe that pigeon flocks wheeling around a city are an aesthetic joy to behold, there is a seamy side to the picture. Pittsburgh is spending $208,000 just to wash pigeon droppings off some 95 bridges in the area. The acid feces combined with rainwater and air pollution are able to eat their way through 1/2 inch steel plate and are considered the main source of deterioration of bridge steel infrastructures. Two cables that snapped on the Brooklyn Bridge three years ago killing a pedestrian were caused by pigeon dropping deterioration. PEST CONTROL, 52:10:16, 18 (1984)

A barking dog never bites - while barking.

THE PLIGHT OF THE SANDHILL CRANES

This is a sad story that should have been brought to the attention of the 'DEFENDERS' and their fund-raisers (THE OREGONIAN (Portland, OR) 9/13/84). C. D. Littlefield is a dedicated bird watcher who scratches out a living on the USFWS Malheur Refuge. His speciality has been the large sandhill cranes on which he has worked 18 years. He is worried about his charges as they are getting old and reproduction has fallen drastically, "In 1973, we produced two chicks out of 236 pairs. In 1974, again only two." As Littlefield sees it, when the environmentalists pressured Nixon in 1972 to ban poisons to control predators on public lands that's when the flock became endangered. For the flock to remain stable, recruitment must average at least 10%

and it now averages only 6.4%. Littlefield blames it all on the environmentalists and the coyotes who have prospered under the Nixon executive order. Last year he trapped and shot 214 coyotes on one breeding area and left them alone on a check area. On the predator-reduced area, 80% of the cranes produced young compared to 65% on the check area. Thanx to RDII 'Pink' Madsen, AZ.

IN MEMORIAL

Henry S. Mosby died in Blacksburg, VA August 12th. He was a respected wildlife biologist who spent most of his life at VPI where he was the department head of the fisheries and wildlife sciences there for many years.- Don Gnegy

LETTERS TO YE ED

At the Utah State Fair I ran into a Humane Society booth signing up voters to change some laws that are cruel to animals, including the eventual abolishment of steel trapping. Authorization for animal and property protection would be delegated to the State Commissioner of Health. RDII 'Pink' Madsen, Florence, AZ.

I continue to enjoy receiving THE PROBE as well as enjoy my 'retirement'. Still try to keep current on what's going on, doing library reading, etc. Ever since we blasted the last bunch of birds out of the trees we have been spared the huge ## of that year. Maybe their tiny bird brains remember a bit. I see by the FARMER'S ALMANAC that next January will be cold and stormy. This might also be the time for a million or so of them to arrive. We'll watch this with detached interest. Sally Erdman, Denton, TX

I play chess with my dog, but he really isn't smart. I beat him all the time.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR NADCA TRAINING PROGRAM

Bill Spalsbury (Reg.II, USFWS) brought the following to our attention:

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

SI100: Creative suffering
SI101: Overcoming peach of mind
SI102: You and your birthmark
SI103: Guilt without sex
SI104: Ego gratification through violence
SI105: Molding your child's behavior through guilt and fear
SI106: Whine your way to alienation
SI107: How to overcome self-doubt through pretense and ostentation

BUSINESS & CAREER

BC100: "I made $1.98 in real estate"
BC101: Money can make you rich
BC102: Making out MIS reports with invisible ink
BC103: Career opportunities in El Salvador
BC104: How to profit from your own body
BC105: Disassociating yourself from a trap that caught a DEFENDERS' pet dog
BC106: The underachiever's guide to very small business opportunities
BC107: Tax shelters for the indigent
BC108: Looter's guide to American cities

HOME ECONOMICS

HE401: How to convert your family room into a garage
HE402: Cultivating viruses in your refrigerator
HE403: Burglarproof your home with concrete
HE404: Sinus drainage at home
HE405: Basic kitchen taxidermy
HE406: Mixing getter scent in the living room
HE407: Repair and maintenance of your virginity
HE408: How to convert a wheelchair into a dune buggy

HEALTH & FITNESS

HC302: Creative tooth decay
HC303: Exercise and acne
HC304: The joys of hypochondria
HC305: Taking your foot out of a No. 3 trap at a location you had forgotten
HC306: Suicide and your health
HC307: Tap dance your way to social ridicule
HC308: Optional body functions

CRAFTS

C101: Needlecraft for junkies
C102: Gifts for the senile
C103: Bonsai your pet
C104: Getting the Humane Society to put out pigeon bait
C105: Talking supervisors into running your trapline

I have a good watch dog. Whenever I hear a noise, I wake him up and he barks.

DUES REMINDER

I was chided for making a strong pitch for joining NADCA in the last issue and complaining about the lack of support we were getting from the troops in the field. But just look at what the opposition has to work with !

Organization	Members	Budget
Environmental Defense Fund	40,000	$1.6 million
Friends of the Earth	22,000	$0.7 million
Natl. Resources Defense Council	35,000	$1.9 million
The Conservation Foundation	?	$1.5 million
National Audubon Society	350,000	$18 million
National Wildlife Federation	3,500, 000	$17 million

So where does our 400+ membership and $5,000 budget fit in ? My thanks to you generous souls who have already contributed. It makes my job of getting mailing lists organized for next year that much easier.

My dog works for the fire department locating fire hydrants.

ANIMAL RIGHTISTS MAKE THE "60 MINUTES" CIRCUS

TV's "Sixty Minutes" had a segment on the Animal Rights movement (shown in Albuquerque 14 October 84). Except for the emphasis on a tear-jerking appearance by TV's Gretchen Wilder and the lab-coated presence of a vet for the Animal Protection League, the show did present a more balanced view than its normal format. If you saw it I'm sure you were wondering how many more susceptible souls were being converted to the cause that human's moral obligation is to take care of the "lower" animals. Of course, the emphasis was more on photogenic dogs than on the fate of mosquitoes. Even considering the reputation of California as a state somewhat different from the other 49, it was scary when the legislators turned down a resolution that would prevent use of pound animals in medical research by a vote of 9 to 4. I haven't been crying "wolf" when I have been warning you that we must counteract this movement with facts whenever it rears its ugly head.

A dog is a man's best friend as he gives no advice, borrows no money, and has no in-laws.

EPA IS TOLD BY SOMEBODY ELSE THEY'RE ALL WET

It doesn't come as a surprise to those who know it well, but now the FIFRA SCIENTIFIC

ADVISORY PANEL has confirmed what we have been contending all along - that there are no data in the agency's record to support the recommendation that the ten eighty dose be cut to 0.02% and 4 pounds per acre. They were unhappy with the bureaucratic snarl that has prevented USDA in getting an experimental permit to test 1080 against prairie dogs in the field so they would have more data on which to make recommendations. The Panel stated, "There is virtually no direct evidence that non-target species are at hazard." This in contrast to EPA's stand, "If you use 1080 on ground squirrels carnivores are going to be killed...Should we treat endangered species differently than humans ?...the reasonable position is to be careful and prudent." (Big brother government - protect us from ourselves) - Thanx to **Guy Connolly & Rich Griffiths** and PESTICIDE & TOXIC CHEMICAL NEWS, 20 Jun 84.

My dog's a photographer too. He always snapping people.

NOISE IS FOR DA BIRDS

In trying to scare pigeons, gulls, and cormorants away from night roosts on seacoast towers, a test was made of several noise-making devices. These are the results:

Dates	Test Device	Effectiveness*
4/10-4/25	Ultrasonics	95%
4/26-5/14	Biosonics	27%
5/15-6/4	Biosynthesizer	51%
6/5-6/20	Bio-Alarm call	22%
6/21-7/3	Visual propane cannon	11%
7/4-7/29	Ultrasonic + Biosonic	94%
7/30-8/28	Propane cannon (1)	27%
8/29-9/17	Propane cannon (1)	22%
9/18-9/25	Propane cannon (2)	27%
9/26-12/3	Propane cannon (2)	8%

*Effectiveness is measured inversely by the percent of the roof covered with droppings, thus the higher the percentage the less effective the device.

There are some questions regarding the equipment that I will ask Bill Martin (former NADCA member who wrote the article) and hope to have answers for the next issue, but not unsurprisingly it points out that ultrasonics are valueless as bird repellents, that biosonics were only slightly better (there were 3 spp. involved), and that the cannons, probably because of loud sounds at lower frequencies and the percussion were most effective. He claims that two cannons are better than one, which I wouldn't argue with, but his data don't confirm that conclusion. The better results appear more dependent on the length of the treatment than the number used. PEST CONTROL, 52:10:52 (1984)

Then there was the army dog who wanted to be transferred to a new post.

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF NADCA. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY OR A CONCENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED - William D. Fitzwater

Apologize for letting my one liners go to the "dogs" in this issue.

Got this out a little hastily as I'm headed for knee surgery next month and wanted to get as much out of the way as possible.

Adios

National
Animal
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