

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal  
Damage Control Association

Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for

---

May 1987

## The Probe, Issue 72 - May/June 1987

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe>



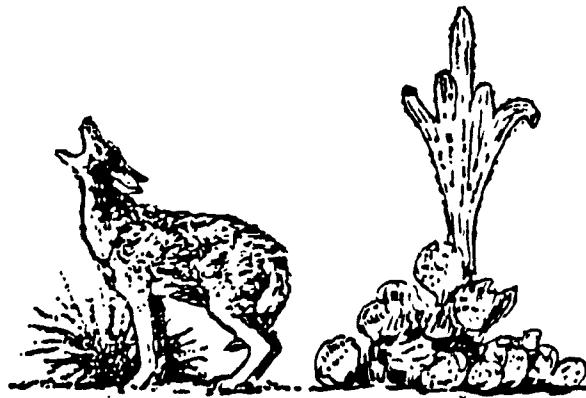
Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#)

---

"The Probe, Issue 72 - May/June 1987" (1987). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 142.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmprobe/142>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wildlife Damage Management, Internet Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

MAY - JUNE, 1987

NUMBER 72

### COYOTES COST !!!

The Denver Wildlife Research Center has recently reviewed studies on predation on livestock. Studies in 1978 found the average losses to coyotes were 4-8% for lambs and 1-2.5% for ewes. Using these percentages, they calculated the loss of lambs and ewes for 1977 to be \$19-38 million. The 1978 summary projected another \$4 million loss because of reduced supplies and higher prices.

A new review came up with the figures of 2.4% loss to ewes, 9.0% loss to lambs, and 26.0% to goats. In 1984 the estimated direct loss to predators in the western states based on these figures were \$60 million. A recent University of Wyoming/USFWS study developed methods for assessing the indirect costs of predation on the sheep industry and came up with the figure of \$1.06. This projection adds another \$8 million to the previous \$60 million loss to coyotes in the 17 western states. The substantial expenditures on predator control by private individuals and local, state, and federal programs are not included so one gets the picture that coyotes are expensive "pets" to have around our sheep pastures.

*Lady Chatterly had to get rid of her gardener - he was too rough around the hedges.*

### NOW THEY'VE DONE IT !

A couple of lion attacks in California induced the 1985 legislature to reclassify lion hunting from a "no-no" proposition to permitting hunters to take

them. Gov. Deukmejian vetoed the measure. However, with the moratorium expiring Jan. 1st this year, the State Fish & Commission is issuing 195 permits to hunt this fall for the first since 1972.

The lion problem is heating up in southeastern New Mexico where lions are coming off the federal park lands to predate on local sheep herds. This has happened while I've been away so if you are interested, check in with GARY NUNLEY (NM State Director APHIS) for more details.

On the same subject, here is a letter PINK MADSEN (former NADCA regional director) sent to a Utah newspaper editor:

"Reference is made to your story of May 26, "Stalking Big Cats...". I missed the original but have seen critical letters in response to it.

Empathy for "wildlife" is great, and I'm always encouraged when people show a legitimate interest. But it is sad when some of these "supporters?" are so biased in their priorities and so erroneous in their facts. Each of the letters correctly noted the territories of the cougar are shrinking, but they completely reversed the reasons for it. Ranchers have been using the same areas ever since about 1900 - - so guess who is crowding the big cats ? The very people who are now claiming to protect them ! Licensed trophy hunting isn't the culprit. It's the uninhibited spread of humanity.

If you want to reverse this trend, then go to the legislature and obtain laws to prohibit "foothill" development. Have them tear out Snow Basin ski area (as well as Alta, Snowbird, Powder Mountain, and all the others that have replaced the cougar). Tear out all the summer homes around Huntsville and the Mantus side of Ben Lomond. Block off all picnic and camping sites in the canyons. Pretty silly, huh? But that's more to the heart of wildlife problems. The incessant pressure and competition of humanity on wildlife makes it mandatory that Wildlife be MANAGED..not protected." CRM

While still on the lynx' subject, they have a problem in Africa. Ten persons have fallen victims to lions last month in southern Tanzania. This brings the total to 54 killed since the beginning of last year. I'll bet the anti-control people don't make any points with Tanzanians.

*Talk dirty to plants and you get obscene fern calls.*

### TEXAS TALL TALES

A ranch manager thought he was losing calves to coyotes on a regular basis. CON THOMAS and 2 super cubs moved in and took 58 coyotes off his ranch in 9.5 hours of flying time. He did have a problem.

Sonny Brooks shot a "wet-back" coyote swimming the Pecos river. We can believe the coyote part, but "swimming" in the Pecos?

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. were rounding up a herd of antelope when one collapsed in the corral. There was no pulse so the biologists gave him up for dead. Mike Acklin (ADC) who was helping out started to pound on the pronghorn's chest despite the snickering of the biologists. To everybody's surprise, the antelope's pulse returned and it got shakily to its feet. It was soon well enough to load on the bus for Arizona where the herd was destined. (CPR on an antelope? That's as bad as mouth-to-mouth on a goldfish as reported previously.)

Another Texan reported coyotes climbing a

6-foot high chain link fence to rummage in his garbage.

Still another Texan awoke to a commotion outside and found a couple of a neighbor's guard dogs happily killing his chickens. When confronted with the accusation, the neighbor said if he could prove it was his dogs he would pay for the damage, but he was sure it wasn't his guard dogs as he didn't know where they were!

Then there was the family who was troubled by something eating the cat's food. They took the food away to discourage whatever it was and were awakened at 3:00 AM when the blender started going. Rushing downstairs they found a raccoon who was looking for something to eat had somehow turned the blender on. In its haste to get out of house, the overweight raccoon got stuck in the pet door by which he had entered. The householder obligingly sent him on his way with a swift kick in the tail. Anything can happen in Texas.

*Winter is nature's way of freezing your grass off.*

### PERSONNEL

ALBERT WIMBERLY retired recently from his ADC job in Real County, Texas.

E. G. Pope, the legendary old timer died recently in Uvalde, Texas. He worked in the ADC program from 1951 to 1973.

LAURENCE R. JAHN was appointed President of the WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE on May 1st. Dr. JAHN, 60, joined the Institute's staff in 1959, serving as the northcentral field representative before transferring to Washington in 1970. He has been Vice President of the organization since 1971 and has served as chairman of the NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF AMERICA, president of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY, and with many other conservation groups.

Russ Reidinger has been appointed as Chief of the DENVER WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER.

*Proton to electron - goin' fission?*

## THOUGHT YOU MIGHT MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

The effect of venom from snake bites has been blocked by 20,000 volts of low-current electricity to patients in Ecuador. Shocking, isn't it?

At 500 knots, a bird must be sensed from a distance of at least 3,242 feet to avoid an aircraft strike.

In China, 7,600 trained exterminators killed 1.6 million rats in a 50-day anti-rodent campaign. They really got their tickes punched.

The British Medical Journal reported a weekend bird watcher so engrossed in his observations, he was eaten by a crocodile. Wouldn't that be a croc!

Birds build strange nests. A pair of canyon wrens built a 2.5-pound nest entirely of paper clips and other office supplies. Florida bald eagles have used everything - chlorox bottles, light bulbs, magazines, tennis balls, etc.

One-third of all accidents on Swedish roads are caused by collisions with large wildlife especially moose. It is calculated that one in every ten Swedes who drives more than 12,500 miles per year will collide with a moose during his lifetime.

The smallest calculated amount of Talon rodenticide which could theoretically kill half of a test lot of 10-pound dogs is about 13 ounces.  
(Thank to HARVEY SCHULTZ's GOTCHA, etc.)

A litre is a nest of young puppies.

## WE PAUSE FOR STATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flyer in this issue announces control products available from a long-time supporter of NADCA - BONIDE CHEMICAL CO. (NY)

USFWS announces the release of a 394-page hardcover new book, RESTORING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE. This is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Bill which certainly did a lot for wildlife research and management. It traces the conservation movement in this country and should be a necessary addition to any

wildlifer's library. It is selling at the unbelievable price for a book today at \$15 postpaid until November 1, 1987. You can write for it through the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 120402-9325. Ask for stock number 024-010-00671-4.

Another one that shouldn't cost you anything is entitled, BREEDING BIRD SURVEY: ITS FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS, 1965-1979. This is available from the Publications Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240.

BOB TIMM (Univ. of Nebraska) reports that PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE has sold approximately 6,100 copies and they are on their third printing. A supplement was issued earlier this year to authors and registered owners. This has 4 new chapters, BIRDS AT AIRPORTS, BIRD DAMAGE AT AQUACULTURE FACILITIES, GULLS, and HAWKS AND OWLS, and a revised chapter, BLACK BEARS. If you haven't gotten your copy better check with BOB.

*Today's young don't leave footprints on the sands of time. They leave tyre tracks.*

## LETTERS TO YE ED

CARL R. JONES, Private trapper, (OH)  
Just received my application and copies of THE PROBE. I was greatly impressed. I really enjoyed them and read all three cover to cover. I do private control work on beaver and coyotes out of state in the winter. I'd like to get on somewhere as an ADC agent and would like to know who to contact.

DR. HARRY D. PRATT, Rtd. USPHS (GA):  
Your latest (#71) arrived yesterday. I like your new section, APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.. In connection with the Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance Co. processing over \$1.3 million in claims for property damage caused by deer, you may be interested in the enclosed clipping (see SEXUAL EQUALITY).

PETER C. NELSON, Agric. Pests Destruction Council, Wellington, New Zealand:

Looking forward to seeing you and Ann in Queensland in May. Currently in New Zealand the Government funding is steadily reducing to a supposed zero by

1993, there there is still hope to get Government to pin their input at about \$3 million (and you think you have financial troubles ?!). We are currently getting very much involved in bird control as we have Alpha Chloralose and DRC 1339 registered and hope to get DRC 2698 and DRC 1347 as well as Fenthion and Avitrol which we have just ordered from the States for trials.

**JIM FLEMING**, Trapper, New Sharon, ME:  
Enclosed is an article (STRANGE ENCOUNTER ON COHO CREEK) from READER'S DIGEST (May '87, pp 11-16). More of the "Don Coyote" crap. They're really on a roll with this stuff. Oh well, I like a good dose of fiction now and then. Thank Jim, I couldn't agree more.

*Advice to worms - sleep late.*

### SEXUAL EQUALITY

Georgia is trying to get its hunters to take more does by increasing the number of either sex days in an effort to reduce deer depredations on farmlands. But this is certainly not a panacea as many farmers won't permit hunters on their land and the "macho" image of some hunters is reduced if they take does. While I believe sexual equality should extend to either sex deer hunts, this has been mandated by the Georgia General Assembly and I feel wildlife laws should be framed by professional wildlife managers instead of politicians.

*Women who seek to equal men lack ambition.*

### MEETIN'S

NATIONAL TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, Aug. 20-23, 1987 in Mansfield (OH). Demonstrations on trapping techniques will be given by expert trappers. Contact: Tim Albright, 9936 Cutts Road, Chardon, OH 44024 (216) 285/3786.

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION, Oct. 28-31, 1987 in Boise (ID). Meeting features a symposium on raptor migration in western North America. Contact: Rich Howard, USFWS, Rm. 576, 4696 Overland Road, Boise (ID) 83705.

*When 200 hares escaped from the zoo, they combed the area.*

### SNUGGLES IS BACK

The Humane Society is expecting something extra in their Christmas stocking from J. C. Penney Co. The Snuggles logo appears on children's comforters, throw pillows, curtains, and wall hangings in the Penney Xmas catalog. The Company offers to make a donation to the Humane Society for each unit sold. Write letters to David F. Miller, President, J.C.Penney Stores and Catalog, 1301 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10119. Also to the licensing agent, Stewart Seidman, President, Flair Licensing, Inc., 192 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016.

*Water your garden with Scotch whiskey to raise stewed tomatoes.*

### AR GAME PLAN UNFOLDS

As if you didn't know the Animal Rightist game plan is doing well in New Jersey. They've outlawed leghold and padded traps already, so that wire loop snares are the only traps allowed above ground in New Jersey. And they are now starting on the bow hunters. AB3477 introduced by Assemblyman Mazur who originally sponsored the ban on the leghold trap in 1984 is pushing this to ban all types of bows.

*When I was asked to start a garden the first thing I dug up was an excuse.*

### SPEAKING OF AR GOALS

this is a good place for them: Still sits those biffies by the road, two ragged beggars sunning.

The woodchucks and the pack rats to them are now running.

The school house has long been gone, but they were left behind.

They gave relief, a place to rest, and also peace of mind.

While classes were in session, or, perhaps while out at play

Many a youngster's problem was dropped here on the way.

*The snake charmer married a funereal director so they named their towels - hiss and hearse.*

### NETWORK

DICK WETZEL (APHIS - WI) sent me the first copy of NETWORK, a quarterly publication put out by the FUR INSTITUTE OF CANADA (60 Bloor St. West, Suite 205,

Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 3B8). This is aimed at protecting the trappers future by helping keep trappers informed about themselves and their animal rightists opponents.

One interesting article is on a national symposium on the northern use of wildlife last January. Stephen Best (International Wildlife Coalition) stated he and other taxpayers "owned two-thirds of native culture" because of subsidies provided by the federal government which didn't please the aboriginal participants. Anne Doncaster (Toronto Humane Society) called on the native people to get their children off the traplines so they could get a "real education". At the end of the two day seminar, she backed off a bit: "I thought native people were set up by the fur industry to elicit public sympathy. Now I realize that...they are sincere when they talk about the importance of hunting and trapping to their culture...(but apparently not enough as she continued)...I'm sorry it has to be native people who get hurt, but we can't back off just because it's a tough situation." Peter Ernek (Keewatin Inuit Assoc.) was dismayed to hear animal rights campaigners protesting activities which they really knew very little about. He suggested they visit the native communities to see how they live before launching international campaigns to destroy one of the few income sources they have. He felt it showed considerable arrogance for urban dwellers to assume they have nothing to learn from native hunters who spend most of their lives studying animals and depending on them for survival.

In another item on a crackdown on the ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT (ALF) 7 men and 3 women were jailed for attacking businesses with fire bombs, acids, crossbows, and hammers causing more than \$600,000 worth of damage. The leader, Ron Lee, 35, was sentenced for ten years with the remark - "It is clear you are a fanatic and while it maybe that some of your ideals are worthwhile ones, you have no right to use terror to get your own way and persuade the public to accept your point of view." The ALF has poisoned turkeys in shops with mercury, put bleach into shampoos, and rat poison

into candy bars.

There is a lot more in this which I will report on later as this is a cause I believe in.

*Save plankton - kill the whale.*

## WE DIDN'T NEED THIS EITHER !

A United Airlines jet approaching the Raleigh/Durham (NC) airport was struck by a bullet while 500 feet off the ground. It passed through the plane and hit a passenger on the thigh and cheek. A Robert Proulx, 23, was charged with damaging an aircraft and using a firearm to damage an aircraft and faces a maximum of 20 years. He claims the gun went off by mistake while he was checking his rifle. Needless to say this opened up a can of worms for stricter gun control laws in the county. (Thank to OUTDOOR ETHICS, Izaak Walton League, Spring, 87)

*To err is human.*

## OL' MONEYBAGS REPORTS

There is \$3,843.81 in checking and \$2,800 in savings for a total of \$6,643.81. Not as good as the ALF but we're solvent.

*When they asked the chimney sweep if he liked his job, he said, soots me.*

## THEY BEAT NO PATH TO THE DOOR FOR A BAD MOUSETRAP

I was reading THE AUSTRALIAN (Melbourne, May 25, 1987) and came across a headline with MOUSETRAP in it which always sets bells ringing and lights flashing in my mind (pardon the ill-disguised name-dropping about my being in Australia). It turned out to be a clever column by Bryce Courtenay who was berating the fact that they don't build mousetraps today like they use to. While the design is the same it "...is carelessly made so the piece of cheese doesn't attach snugly to the two little hooks and the bit of wire on which the cheese sets doesn't release properly." He tells the tale of two mice walking up to it and the younger one asks his Dad what it is. His old man tells him it's a mousetrap but no cause for alarm. "There, you see where Made in Australia is burnt into the wood?" "Yeah." "That

used to mean something in my day. All you had to do was sniff that cheese and your breath would set it off and take your head with it." The old mouse then walks over to the trap. Kicks the cheese off and jumps up and down on the trigger.

Bryce then asks, "Why is it that a Japanese-made Mazda costs \$3000 more than an Australian-made Ford Laser and still sells? They have the same body and engine. The difference is attention to detail. The business of making it right in the first place...We are uncompetitive because with a few exceptions, our goods are too expensive and are not reliable...It's time we went back and looked at our mousetraps."

The more you travel the more it seems like home. That could be written for America's predicament today. That also leads into another thing I wanted to talk about.

I mentioned the gaudy blue and yellow plastic mouse trap ("Trap-Ease") I had gotten recently. RICK GRIFFITHS (U.S. Army, MD) kindly sent me this estimate of the trap's efficacy. "The 'Trap-Ease' will catch mice, but our tests with high mouse populations indicate the trap may have drawbacks. (1) The end is removable to allow placement of a dab of peanut butter. However, either the mouse in the trap or his buddies outside knocked the top off and the mouse escaped. (2) The trap may get knocked over onto its side and it doesn't work in that position."

He also enclosed an illustration of a very similar trap by Woodstream - "Both hit the market in the summer of '86 so I presume they were independently developed. It works O.K. for a few mice but when the population is high, they tend to knock it over or spring it before finding the entrance. It needs to be accessible from the entrance only for best results. Neither trap works well on an uneven surface. We plan more tests in the future and will summarize the results at that time."

Thanks, RICK. RICK along with GUY CONNOLLY, WALTER HOWARD, JOHN JONES, PINK MADSEN, NORTON MINER, DICK WETZEL, and a very few others are my salvation. As I

have said before, I'm way out in the boonies with no official status so I need your help in keeping current on ADC matters - tools, policy, newsbits, personnel, etal. I can't do the job I'd like to do if you don't send me the help I need.

*The motorist who never runs out of petrol is in the backseat.*

## 8TH AUSTRALIAN ADC CONF

Had an enjoyable time in Australia. Met old friends, learned a bit, and saw a good part of a most interesting country without once hearing, "Yankee go home." There were some good papers given but not many were applicable to USA conditions. However, here is a listing of the talks in case any of you are interested in details. They do things differently there. A series of "working papers" are printed before the conference instead of having to beg for speakers to turn them in within reasonable time frames. (I'll not include the authors as most are unknown to you)

*The impact of rabbits on sheep production.*

*The production and ecological costs of rabbit grazing.*

*Quantitative effects of rabbits on crop and pasture and the economics of rabbit control.*

*Distribution, structure and function of rabbit warrens.*

*Predation by foxes and cats on rabbits relative to other prey.*

*The dynamics of managed rabbit populations on New Zealand pastoral farmland.*

*Economics of warren ripping in arid areas.*

*The use of Rhodamine B in Rabbit control research and its practical application in predicting success.*

*The control of a pest animal (rabbit) in an arid environment.*

*The eradication of rabbits from Phillip Island near Norfolk Island.*

*The development of low level aerial baiting for the control of rabbits.*

*Processing and monitoring quality of bait produced for large-scale possum and rabbit poison operations.*

*The European rabbit flea in Australia.*

*Molecular approaches to studying the ecology of myxomatosis.*

The epizootiology of myxomatosis in western Australia.

A review of performance indications in vertebrate pest control.

Development of a pest animal industry.

Wild dog predation in NE New South Wales.

Do dingoes control agile wallaby and pig populations ?

Ecological studies of dingoes in Western Australia.

Target selective and humane dingo/wild dog trapping.

Aerial baiting to control dingoes in Western Australia.

The effectiveness of trail baiting against wild dogs.

Development of attractants for use in dingo/feral dogs. control programmes.

1080 usage for wild dog control in New South Wales.

The economics of dingo control.

Population, ecology and control of pale field rat in hoop pine plantations.

Rattus sordidus control in a plague situation.

Towards the control of rodents in sugar cane.

Rattus villosissimus - a plague hypothesis.

Changes in physiology & population levels of mice.

The ecological basis of the 1984 outbreak of mice in wetlands.

Computer simulations of mouse plague.

Ecological basis for feral pig control.

Test of feral pig control techniques.

Movement of feral pigs during poisoning campaign.

Toxicity of 1080 to feral pigs. Influence of bait type on mortality and bait uptake.

Control of feral pigs in Western Australia.

Movement and control of feral pigs in New South Wales.

Feral donkeys on Northern Australia.

Cost of control.

Buffalo control in the Northern Territory.

Feral cattle- Significance and possible control.

Ecology of feral horses in central Australia.

Eye lens view of feral goat growth.

Methods of controlling feral goats.

Changing face of animal damage control in USA (Dale Wade).

Native birds and the southwest fruit growing industry.

Assessment of bird damage in cherry orchards.

The flying fox problem.

Alphachloralose as control agent for the Tasmanian native hen.

Impact of grey kangaroos on emergent wheat.

Kangaroo management and conservation.

Kangaroo management and mitigation of damage to rural production.

Fox predation and rock wallaby populations dynamics.

Vertebrate pest control and management of island nature preserves.

Vertebrate pests and exotic animal disease plans.

Simulated control of exotic diseases in buffalo and pigs.

Simulated wildlife rabies exercise.

Model disease control exercise using feral donkeys.

Planning for control of exotic disease in feral pigs.

Assessing effectiveness of feral pig control programmes.

Dynamics of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in feral pigs.

Risks to human and domestic animal health from parasites and diseases carried by feral pigs.

History and management of tuberculous possum populations in New Zealand.

Aerial survey techniques.

Evaluation of helicopter shooting of feral pigs.

Role of electric fences in protecting sheep and goats from feral pig and dingo predation.

Dyed bait for wallaby control.

Buried baits for predator control.

Alternative traps for dog control.

Residual tissue levels of 1080 and warfarin in poisoned feral pigs.

Contraception. Concept and practical applications in wildlife management.

Grandma reads the bible all day - she's cramming for the finals.

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 CONSENSUS OF OPINION IN ALL INSTANCES.

YE ED -

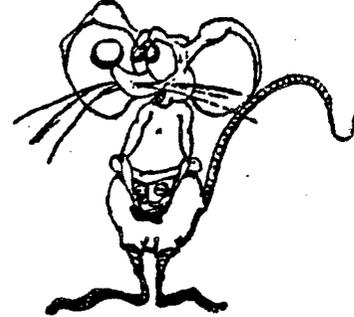
William D. Fitzwater

I suddenly woke up to the fact that I was running a bit behind on writing the

PROBE. The jet lag from the month of May spent in Australia is still with us. When you get old you don't snap back as fast. Furthermore, we finally got back on a Friday (MAY 31) (I know you will sympathize with our plight of being bumped in Honolulu for 4 days) and had to leave for South Dakota the following Wednesday (JUNE 3) for ROCKY MT. WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS as I am the new president of that organization. We returned from that June 7 and I had to write two monthly newsletters for ol' folks organizations. I was busy packing

for the national OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA which is in Kalispell (MT) June 17-26 when the thought occurred to me that I hadn't written a newsletter for NADCA since April. I'm committed to ten a year so this means I'll have to write one a month for the rest of the year. Again I'll have to put off the Directory, but next issue - I promise ! Incidentally the one-liners are Aussie in origin. They have a good sense of humor but I had to throw out some of the better ones as this is a family paper. Gotta go now !

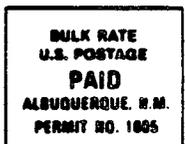
Adios,



**National  
Animal  
Damage  
Control  
Association**



3919 Alta Monte, NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110



**FORWARDING AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**