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July 1987

The Probe, Issue 73 - July 1987

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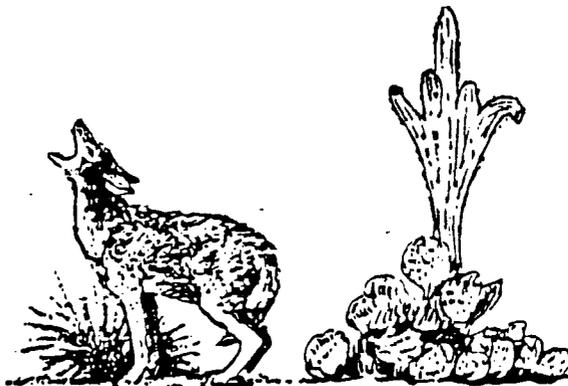


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"The Probe, Issue 73 - July 1987" (1987). *The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association*. 143.
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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

NUMBER 73

JULY 1987

DID WE MAKE A MISTAKE?

Three years ago we were busy trying to convince Congress that ADC would be more effective in the Department of Agriculture than the way it was being handled by Interior. Having spent my entire government working career with the ADC program, I was confident that "it couldn't be any worse off". I used the same argument with ADC personnel with whom I had worked many years. Some of them were eventually swayed to accept my belief.

What I didn't take into consideration was the chain of events that were to take place following congressional approval to fund the program in Agriculture. JIM LEE, Deputy Administrator APHIS, had worked so hard to make the shift happen. So it was refreshing to have a Director of the ADC program that actually believed in what the program goals were and openly supported them. But this didn't last long. Enemies of the program finally prevailed and Jim was transferred out.

I had talked to Bert Hawkins at San Diego (CA) during the National Woolgrowers Convention in January and voiced my concerns about the future of the ADC program. I made it clear that the one thing they needed to bolster the morale of the field personnel was for APHIS to let them know the Administration supported the program, not just by words but by actions. The other reservation I had, and told him so, was that since the ADC program was wildlife-oriented it should be administered by professional wildlifers. So what does Mr. Hawkins do when he replaced LEE as Deputy

Administrator ?? He replaces him with a retired veterinarian. Dr. Fichtner may be a good administrator, but he has very little knowledge of wildlife interactions with agriculture and knows NOTHING about ADC. Since he has taken over the program, the Budget is a shambles and some State programs are about to be shut down for lack of funds. This is happening in spite of the fact that an \$8 million supplemental and \$2 million in pay act monies are available to him. His indecision has caused some programs to come to a standstill.

Another indication that Mr. Hawkins is letting the professionalism of the program slip is his eliminating the wildlife degree requirement in announcing the job for the #1 assistant to Dr. Fichtner. Dr. Fichtner said in a speech at the Eastern Regional ADC conference held in Nashville (TN) that "if they (ADC people) didn't like a Vet for their Administrator they should train someone to take his place". For Dr. Fichtner's information, there are a number of people in the current ADC program fully capable to take his place as well as some who have retired like he had, but would be willing to come back to help save the program. GEORGE S. ROST, President, NADCA.

Beware of those who say they're on your side. So is appendicitis.

GRIZZLY TALES

Thanks to NORTON MINER, the mad clipper from Laurel (MT), for the following stories in Montana:

A state game warden trying to release a trapped grizzly finally had to kill it. The warden, Lou Kis, was on top of the cage when he was releasing the problem

bear (a male of some 10-15 years). But the bear reared around knocking the cage and Kis from the truck. Kis landed on the bear and the bear grabbed a leg. Kis pulled his service revolver and emptied it, feeling a big sense of relief when the bear went limp as his seventh shot clicked on a spent cartridge. (I was up there in Kalispell at an Outdoor Writer's meeting but missed all the fun.)

A U.S. District judge ruled against 3 Montana woolgrowers who challenged the Endangered Species act after killing a grizzly to protect livestock. His ruling was that the Constitution does not give a property holder a fundamental right to protect and possess his or her property so that grizzly protection laws are legal.

On another theme, there was an illustration of "Bart" a 10-year old grizzly in Heber City (UT) whose owner rents him out to test grizzly-proof containers. New regulations require outfitters to store food, including horse pellets, in "bear-proof containers" when in grizzly country. Bart stands on candidate materials trying to break them down with his weight. If that doesn't work he is quite clever with his claws in finding flaws in the design. Thus the basics of bear-proofing seem to be to have a strong internal structure with no give, nothing loose on the outside like a hasp, and recessed lids.

Home is where you hang your head.

NORTON AGAIN

This time it was some clippings on the wolf problem and feral horses. In the first case, the USFWS is pitted against the Park Service. The latter wants to reintroduce wolves in Yellowstone Park. As usual support for the move comes from those who don't live in the area.

Horses were the subject of a talk by BLM Director Burford. He said that a possible solution of the captured feral horses is the training of the animals by prison inmates to make them more adoptable (horses or inmates?), placement in private sanctuaries, and as a last resort, killing. With typical bureaucratic stupidity, Burford proclaimed a moratorium five years ago on killing even though he admits maintaining

the horse herd costs \$9.3 million a year.

Women who dress to please their husbands wear last year's clothes.

DID YOU KNOW ?

that the DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE is teaming up with the State Conservation Department (Fish & Game) in Maine to create an ADC program outside the workings of the present ADC program? The scary part is that the Extension Wildlife Specialist (USDA) in Maine is helping put the program together. Mr. Leach is making a grab for APHIS-ADC funds allotted to Maine to fund his program, thus knocking out the present ADC State Supervisor. The really odd part is that this is being done with the help of the Maine Sheep Breeders Association. (How masochistic can you get?) If this comes to be, you can expect to see the DEFENDERS spread this gospel to the West. Come on National Woolgrowers - - don't you have any influence on the Maine woolies? GEORGE S. ROST (President, NADCA).

Some people with nothing to do still manage to make a mess of it.

ANIMAL RIGHTS STRIKE AGAIN

NETWORK (the Canadian Fur Institute of Canada) reports that in the drive of the animal rightists to save the world from itself, they are carrying on a heavy campaign in Australia to stop the export of live sheep (used for shish-kabob in some Arab countries) and the shearing of sheep. They liken the first to the slave trade and the latter to the wearing of furs.

While thousands of students screamed their approval in Orange Park (FL) a teacher resigned in protest. In a fund-raising event the football coach kissed a pig right on the snout. The teacher, an AR of course, said it was too stressful for the pig. The thing that worries me most about these people is that they have no sense of humor - neither did Hitler.

Friends may come and friends may go - but enemies accumulate.

YOICKS, YOICKS !

A bit of traditional Merrie ol' England has the colonists up in arms. It seems a

Lynn Lloyd (Boston-based (where else ?) Masters of Fox Hounds Assoc.) runs about 150 hunts a year over Canada and the USA. This is replete with red coats, champagne, bugles, and a pack of hounds. However, the traditional quarry is not the red fox but the coyote. On the other side of the fence a number of landowners in Washoe County (NV) object to these furriners riding roughshod over their property which I'm sure was standard procedure in the old country, but the natives were not as litigious as we have become since the big tea party. I was kinda on the hunters' side until I learned that when they are close to the animal, Lynn toots her bugle and they pull off looking for something else to chase. And here I thought we might have an interesting, innovative coyote control method started. Thanx to ANNE EDWARDS, Tigard (OR).

All the world loves a lover. His wife's attorney best of all.

NADCA POLICY STATEMENT

After PINK MADSON and GUY CONNOLLY worked so hard in getting up a policy statement (1984), I don't think I ever presented the final document to the membership when EL PRESIDENTE asked me about it the other day. So here it is. We welcome comments and would like to see it given a little more publicity to indicate we are not bloody-handed killers all the time despite what our critics say:

"Wild animals frequently damage other wildlife, livestock, pets, forests, rangeland, agricultural crops and other resources important to man, may threaten public health or safety, or may become a nuisance beyond tolerable levels. Therefore, control of wildlife conflicts is an integral tool in wildlife management. Effective animal damage control requires the damage be accurately identified and assessed, the tools used be legally and biologically acceptable, and the measures taken effectively mitigate the conflict.

Animal damage control is controversial because of conflicting social, economic, philosophical, and recreational interests in the resources being damaged and the animal species causing that conflict. Besides its controversial social and

political dimensions, successful control of animal damage often requires the exercise of special skills. Therefore, animal damage control is best carried out or directed by professional wildlife managers with training and experience in the field of problem wildlife management.

The NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION (NADCA) supports the use of lethal controls where nonlethal methods by themselves are impractical or ineffective. It also supports the use of preventive management for situations where the potential for animal damage is recognized as severe or critical by professionally trained and experienced wildlife managers. NADCA recommends that the number of target animals removed be the minimum needed to bring damage within tolerable limits. Toxicants or other lethal methods with the potential to cause adverse, nontarget impacts should be used only by professional animal damage control workers or appropriately trained cooperators.

Private industries, such as livestock producers and orchardists, that may be damaged by wild animals have an obvious need for management tools to reduce these losses. Public ownership of wild animals entails a public responsibility for damage caused by wildlife. Although state governments are responsible for the management of resident wildlife species, the Federal government is mandated by law to carry out an effective program of animal damage control.

NADCA believes that the current Federal-Cooperative ADC Program is the best concept yet devised to accomodate public and private interests and responsibilities into an effective and accountable animal damage control program. Such a Federal program can best manage and maintain an experienced and professional field force. It can best support applicable research and implement these research findings into management. It can provide the highest standard of responsibility, professionalism, and concern for environmental impacts of ADC activities. It is the only system that can cross all geographical and political boundaries, recognize conflicting interests, and coordinate logical and reasonable solutions to specific

problems. The Federally-supervised program should vigorously fulfill its obligations as defined in the 1931 Animal Damage Control Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Acts and should have at its disposal the widest possible array of control techniques so that the optimum mix of techniques can be applied to individual animal damage situations."

IN MEMORIAL

BOBBY TRAMMEL died July 13th. He had gotten a medical discharge from APHIS in 1985 after a long period of suffering. Bobby had been a WWII veteran serving as a medic in both the army and navy as well as a paratrooper and demolition expert. Upon getting his BA (wildlife biology) at Mississippi State, he had gone to work for the Mississippi Plant Board transferring to the USFWS (ADC) in Lexington, KY in 1957. In 1965 he became the District Agent for the Mississippi-Alabama district which post he held until his retirement. He was well-known for his ADC expertise and service to the residents of his district and was a long time supporter of NADCA. He is survived by his wife Marie and his son, Norman. Those wishing to honor Bobby are requested to send a contribution to the **ROBERT M. TRAMMEL** scholarship fund at MSU in care of Dr. Richard M. Kaminski, Assoc. Prof. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries, Drawer LW, Mississippi State, MS 39762. - Thanx to **FRANK BOYD**, APHIS, Starkville, MS.

Edgar F. "Buster" Knapp died May 15th in Miles City (MT). Born in Oklahoma, he had come with his family to Montana in a covered wagon at the age of 14. He worked for ADC for 25 years. Thanx to **NORTON MINER**, rtd. USFWS, Laurel (MT).

PERSONNEL

DR. ROBERT M. TIMM, NADCA Regional Director V, took the coward's way out and resigned. However, he had a really good excuse as he is being transferred out to California to head up the Hopland Field Research Station. This is a top-notch wildlife research endeavor that has an excellent track record. We wish Bob all the luck in the world in his new assignment.

Not to worry, we were most fortunate to catch **DR. RON J. JOHNSON** who worked with Bob at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in a weak moment. Ron agreed to take over the duties of RD V. It was nip and tuck as I had the new brochure at the printers and had to substitute Ron for Bob at the last minute. You'll see Ron's handsome face in the Directory (Yes ! I've finally got it done !) of the Officers. I'm keeping Bob's bio and pix handy as **BILL NELSON** has been making sounds that he would like to hang it up this year.

If at first you don't succeed check your wastebasket for directions.

NEW BROCHURE ! ?

Attached please find 2 copies of NADCA's new brochure. Why two you ask ? Pass 'em on ! We need new blood in the outfit and the only way we are going to get it is if you will do your share to push the organization. We start out our tenth year this fall and we really havn't gained much in size. We have just been running in place. Gain a few - lose a few. The first year (1979) we ended up with 326 members. This year we have 426. As the brochures cost us money, we can't afford to waste them so put them to good use. Don't worry about registration cards. All I need is name, address, occupation, and MONEY.

Another man's toothache never hurts very much.

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, n (216) 285/3786.

THIRD EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE, Oct. 18-21, 1987 in Gulf State Park Resort, Gulf Shores, AL. Am still missing details, but the NADCA Board is planning a meeting in conjunction with this.

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.

It is better to have lost in love than to have won and pay alimony.

OL' MONEYBAGS REPORTS

For the 2nd quarter of 1987, we expended \$289.86 (postage, printing THE PROBE, and miscellaneous) and took in \$503.92. This leaves us a total of \$6,857.87 in the kitty. WES JONES, Treasurer NADCA, Shell Lake, WI.

Self control is great as long as it doesn't interfere with fun.

PADDED TRAP TESTS

The preliminary results with the 1986-7 tests of the padded traps made in conjunction with the DWRC and the New Mexico ADC have been released. The conclusions were that only 70% of the coyotes caught were held by the Soft Catch trap whereas 100% were held in the standard traps. This is unacceptable. (NEW MEXICO ADC NEWSLETTER)

Unemployment isn't working.

LETTERS TO YE ED

DR. MICHAEL E. R. GODFREY (Director of Research & Development, J.T.EATON & CO.) Twinsburg, OH:

I enjoyed reading #72 as usual, but I must take issue with one statement credited to HARVEY SCHULTZ on page 3. His TALON dose for dogs is incorrect (13 oz.) and could give a false sense of security to people using TALON where dogs may be exposed.

According to I.C.I. data, the oral LD50 is 0.25mg/kg. For 10 pound dogs this is equivalent to 0.8 oz. of standard bait. Rex Marsh (PEST CONTROL, 53 (8) AUG. 85) quotes this same figure. CHEMPAR in a guide for professionals gives 1.8 oz. for a 10kg (22 lb.) dog as does Bert Engelman, Vector Control officer (Vancouver, B.C.)

My own research indicates that some dogs are more resistant and we actually obtained figures of about 3.5mg/kg for an acute oral LD50. However, even using this value, an LD50 for 10 lb. dogs is only 11 ounces.

Of course the LD50 is really a misleading value when referring to non-target species, as a responsible operator does not want to kill even one non-target.

Hence, an LD1 value or even the highest dose that does not kill any test animals is the value of importance and it would be considerably less than the LD50 doses.

My argument is not with you, Fitz, but with those who disseminate inaccurate data which can cause problems for the whole industry.

"HOWDY" HOWARD on retirement from University of California-Davis staff: Thanks for your kind letter upon my retirement. I do not anticipate many changes in my lifestyle after July 1 1987, except I will not be teaching formal courses. If I did, the Department could not recapture my position, and "younger" blood is always needed. I just accepted my 11th graduate student. He is from Argentina and starts Fall 1987.

My three special goals are to get vertebrate pest control in this department on a sounder fiscal basis, as it is now on soft money. Second is to get a branch of the Denver Wildlife Research Center established on the Davis campus. Third is to be a catalyst to help the public realize that the extreme animal rights movement seldom benefits wildlife or helps the environment.

CLARENCE "KI" FAULKNER, RD VII, Falls Church, VA:

Your letter of July 9th hit a nerve and I dropped off letters to each of the non-NADCA members in the ADC program in my region. Hope I get at least a 50% participation. I attended the July WILDLIFE SOCIETY luncheon where Dr. Gerald Fichtner (APHIS) was the guest speaker. He did his homework and covered the ADC program in a broad sense. He has been effectively oriented to the western program but does not fully understand the eastern program. I asked if he planned to station eastern field personnel near college campuses so they could work along with extension personnel. He looked to JIM MILLER (Chief of Wildlife Extension), for response but Jim had already left so Fichtner said, "No". I sat with Dale Wade and GARY SIMMONS and caught up on ADC matters. Would you believe that Fred Courtsal is going to retire and they are moving the operation from Purdue University to Indianapolis? (This strikes a responsive chord as I spent 11 years at the Purdue Station and think

this is a stupid move. I always worked with the State Extension Entomologist and Horticulturist and they were officed in the University there.)

I have been utilizing my ADC background around the Lake as you can see. (He enclosed attractive leaflets on control of moles in the lawn and grazing geese from the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District).

The notice for nominees for the ADC Advisory Committee has not been published to date. I understand the number has been increased to 25. (We, NADCA, hope to be included on the list.)

GUY CONNOLLY, RD III, Twin Falls, ID:
Here's my latest morgue of clippings. (Guy is one of my faithful suppliers of goodies and you will find them scattered throughout.) It was good to get a newsletter, after a gap of a month or so. Several members asked about it. (Gee, thanks, I was beginning to feel like the Maytag repair man - "Is there anybody out there ?")

The way of the transgressor may be hard but it sure isn't lonely.

WESTERN SINGER WINS APHIS SONG CONTEST

A country singer, Charlie Albertson, won the APHIS song contest. He's a Plant Quarantine employee. ADC didn't have chance. Besides being the new boy on the block, it is hard to rhyme "gopher choking" with feeding the world. Thank to GUY CONNOLLY, APHIS, Twin Falls, ID.

Money won't buy happiness but it buys misery you can live with.

COYOTE LURE

A coyote lure having some success in New Mexico is described as follows:

1. Place 1 gallon of coyote urine in a wide mouth jar in the freezer.
2. Freeze, then pour off the liquid by punching holes in the ice.
3. Refreeze the liquid that was poured off.
4. Repeat for 3 evenings, about 1/3 gallon should remain (didn't mention what to do with the portion that froze - put in it your highball ?).
5. Add 1/3 glycerine (about 4 oz.).

6. Add sodium benzoate and 1 knife blade of zinc valerate.

7. Can use with 2/3 coyote urine and 1/3 bobcat urine. Bait with 2-3 drops. (This has been around for a while but it sounds powerful. Whatever you do, don't drop that last bottle !) From Bill Fletcher in NEW MEXICO ADC NEWSLETTER.

Be alert. Our country needs more lerts.

SAY THAT AGAIN ?

Dr. Fichtner is quoted in INSIDE APHIS (VOL.8, #2, 1987) on his new appointment as head of APHIS in place of JIM LEE: "I've found that ADC employees are both technically competent and highly motivated. My job is to provide an environment and the resources necessary for all ADC employees to perform beyond their dreams."

Then why this letter (29 May 97) from Dan Murphy (NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION addressed to Dr. Fichtner - "We are greatly alarmed and disturbed by information that the ADC program and its activities are being considered for substantial reduction for the remainder of FY87. We understand the reasons outlined for these reductions. We are all aware of other programs within APHIS that must be carried out. Nevertheless, we strenuously object to the reduction of any predator control activities, especially at this time of year. It is our belief that either through contingency funds or critical need funds, that adequate funding can be earmarked for ADC. Almost to a producer, the United States sheep industry hailed the transfer of the ADC program from the USFWS to USDA. Now only two years later, these proposed reductions are extremely distressing and disquieting. The U.S. sheep industry needs an enhanced ADC program, not one that is shrinking. We need a dependable and consistent program, not one unpredictable and subject to sudden alteration."

and why the letter from a Congressman to the Secretary of Agriculture bringing him to task for not providing sufficient funding for the blackbird damage problem ?

and why the diversion of \$50,000 operational money to blow on a guard dog

program in Montana after all the research has shown that while it may work under certain situations there are too many limitations to make broad application practical?

The trouble with making mental notes is that the ink fades so fast.

TERRORIST MANUAL

You think the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) is an ugly terrorist group? Well right behind them is the home-grown, but not as well known, ALF (Animal Liberation Front). Recently a terrorist manual published by this group entitled, ACTION FOR ANIMALS, PART ONE has surfaced. This would turn the PLO green with envy except it does advise against violence towards humans, though the line seems to be very fine. The anonymous author defines the aims of ALF as, "Eventually to end totally the exploitation and persecution of animals by human beings. In the short term, we hope to save as many animals as possible." If you raise any livestock you are at risk in their book as confinement violates the animals' right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of anything they want to chase. It suggests putting sand or sugar in the gas tank of a car, stopping up the exhaust, slashing tires (being careful to get the sides not the tread), spreading black plywood squares on roads with nails sticking out of them, or a black steel cable across the road. Fence cutting requires only a good pair of cutters and somebody to watch while you merrily clip away. There are some tidbits on the use of explosives and writing messages to the authorities by clipping letters from magazines and newspapers - never in your own hand or on your own typewriter. These people are really sick. Thanks to GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA RD III) and the LIVESTOCK WEEKLY (June 11, 1987).

The trouble with speaking your mind is that conversation is very limited.

GETTING CLOSE TO RECOGNIZING A PROBLEM

While it seems difficult for our legislators and bureaucrats to recognize that wildlife can cause problems to the farmers, they do become aroused when their own lives are threatened. There have been a number of "deer-strikes" or

near misses on Dulles International Airport in the last two years. Despite controlled hunts that "harvested" 300 deer last fall, the problem continues so the airport plans to spend \$42,000 (taxpayer money) on a 6-foot, electrified fence. Thanx to KI FAULKNER (NADCA RD V11) and the WASHINGTON POST (16 Jul 87).

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.

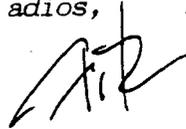
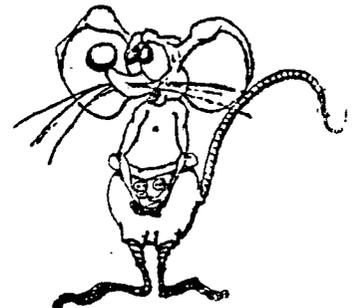
YE ED -

William D. Fitzwater

I'm a real blabbermouth. The above represents current stuff and didn't permit me to get at some I have backlogged. That's good, I guess, but I apologize for what I have been unable to print. I'll try to get the August issue in the mail soon as my desk is becoming even more cluttered. However, keep sendin'.

It was suggested by a member of the Board that we start a regular column with members expressing their views (which may differ at times from mine - impossible as that may seem). Please be my guest. I have never intentionally shelved any comments in my LETTERS TO YE ED that might be opposed to my philosophy (I do cut the words down sometimes as I get tired of typing - this stuff doesn't write itself, you know). But I would welcome any editorializing you care to do and would give it column space rather than bury in LTYE. If you are really out there, I'm listening.

adios,

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