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The Probe
ISSUE 115
OCTOBER 1991

The Private Sector's Role in ADC

Kevin D. Clark, President, Critter Control, Inc.

Increasing urbanization and decreasing government funding, plus large numbers of certain wildlife species, have combined to provide a greater need for wildlife management amongst the private sector. There is a need for qualified individuals who can implement environmentally sound management techniques in animal damage prevention and control, especially in the urban areas.

The bulk of pest wildlife problems are reported in urban and suburban environments because in any big city you have large numbers of people who are unfamiliar with wildlife, and quite often large numbers of various wild birds and mammals crowded into relatively small spaces. Where there is a conflict, the homeowner rarely has the tools or know-how to alleviate the problem.

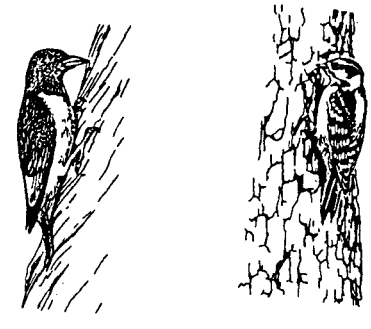
Many of the calls for assistance with wildlife-related problems go to state or federal wildlife agencies, local humane societies, animal shelters, police departments, animal control officers, or pest control operators. Most public agencies do not have the funding to handle the deluge of calls relating to urban wildlife.

The vast majority of local or county animal control agencies are already overwhelmed by an increasing caseload of unwanted domestic dogs and cats, and they often lack the specific training to handle wild animal problems. Police departments and animal shelters often loan traps or give trapping tips, but such advice offered over the phone seldom meets the needs of a public that has neither the time nor the inclination to handle wild animals themselves, especially if the animal is causing structural damage or poses a health risk. It is estimated that between twenty-five and fifty percent of all fires of unknown origin are caused by animals chewing electrical wires, so these concerns are valid.

In years past it might have been the responsibility of various government agencies to respond directly to nuisance wildlife complaints. This is not possible today. At the third Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference, Dr. Gerald Fichtner, the former USDA-APHIS-Animal Damage Control deputy administrator, stated that the agency's emphasis was on agricultural pest management (depredation and crop damage), rather than urban wildlife problems. As local, state, and federal government agencies are faced with tighter budgets, the ability of government to respond to urban pest problems will continue to decline.

The general public is naturally cautious toward the use of pesticide-based services, and these same attitudes are creating a need for environmentally sensitive approaches to nuisance animal problems. In addition, there is a societal need (and market) for the private sector's involvement in animal damage control. The increased demand for nuisance wildlife control is evidenced by the formation and continued growth of numerous individuals and firms such as Critter Control® specializing as "nuisance wildlife control operators" (NWCOs).

Interactions between NWCOs and government agencies will continue to develop and mature, and with this growth will come the addressing of concerns such as liability insurance, training, and continuing education. Most states have a permit system intended for dealing with wildlife depredation or crop damage control, but usually not one that addresses the growing problems with urban wildlife. Some states obviously have more development and urbanization than others, and these seem to be the ones making provision for urban wildlife control permits.



Minimum standards for insurance requirements and training should be called for when a NWCO is operating as a business. The NWCO may fall under pest control licensing when they remove animals from homes, under the state department of agriculture's "structural" pest control guidelines, (such as the case in California). Pest control boards have licensing, certification, and continuing education standards mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The private sector, such as pest control companies, increasingly are called upon to solve wildlife complaints, and many now offer specialized wildlife

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8-9, 1991: Symposium on the Eastern Coyote, Fredericton, New Brunswick. For further information contact Arnold H. Boer, University of New Brunswick, Bag Service Number 44555, Fredericton, N.B., Canada E3B 6C2

February 24-28, 1992: Ninth International Bear Conference, Missoula Montana. For further information, contact L. Jack Lyon, Intermountain Research Station, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, MT, 69807, phone (406) 329-3485.

March 2-5, 1992: 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Hyatt Newporter, Newport Beach, California. Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Business Manager, c/o DANR-North Region, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-8575, (916) 757-8874; FAX (916) 757-8817.

March 27-April 1, 1992: 57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel Charlotte and Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005. Two of the session at the conference will be "Wildlife Damage Management" and "Biological Diversity in Wildlife Management". For more information about the "Wildlife Damage Management" session, contact co-chair John P. Weigand, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bldg., Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-0322.

September 13-16, 1992: International Conference on Avian Interactions with Utility Structures, Hotel International, Miami, Florida. Will focus on avian interactions with powerlines, towers, buildings, and aircraft. Contact: Ed Colson, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 3400 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA 94853, (415) 866-5461; FAX (415) 866-5318.

The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 10 times per year.

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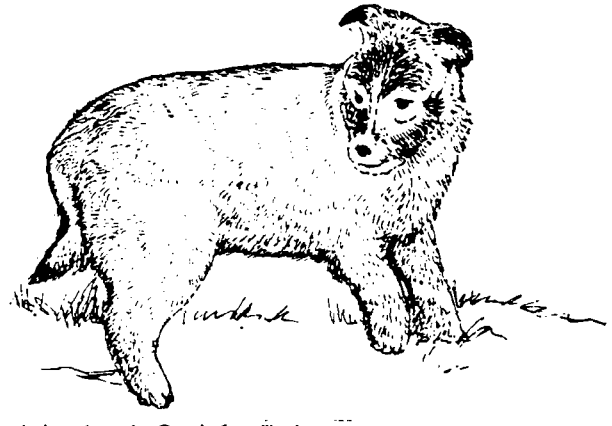
Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Field Station, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month.

CALL FOR PAPERS:
The 4th North American Symposium on Society and Resource Management will be held on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus 17-20 May 1992. The Symposium theme, *Integrated Resource Management*, includes many general themes such as: Managing Agricultural Production Systems and Environmental Quality; Aquatic Systems; Conservation and Sustainable Resource Development; Cultural Resource Management; Environmental Ethics; etc. If you wish to submit a paper or poster, please submit a typewritten, 2-page (double-spaced) abstact **by 1 December 1991** to: Donald R. Field, Program Chair, School of Natural Resources, 146 Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.



Feral dog (pup), *Canis familiaris*

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Private Sector's Role In ADC

pest services. Some states (Arizona, Michigan, and California) require that NWCOs have a pest control license to remove animals from homes. With the new EPA pesticide re-registration requirements, many pesticides are being taken off the market and the pest control industry is being forced to make changes toward "biorational" control methods. The pest control technician, when properly trained, is well suited to provide bird and mammal removal services. They have the tools and equipment (ladders, flashlights, traps, and expertise) to handle many of the varied urban wildlife complaints.

Wildlife is too important a natural resource to let just anybody handle it, but government cannot do it alone. Integrated pest management, utilizing ecologically responsible control techniques, customer education, and a realistic expectation of what results are to be achieved pave a clear path to successful wildlife management. The NWCO must not only be aware of the biological aspects of animal damage control, but must be well versed in the sociological aspects as well. With this rationale and training, NWCOs should continue to flourish.

Animal Damage Control in the News

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DOG PROBLEM IN CHINA

According to a September 6 article in the *Albuquerque Tribune*, China is suffering its own unique dog problems. Chinese authorities claim that there is a "...cult surrounding dogs in the West" and that "...the majority of Chinese have no time for a culture which raises dogs as pets." The China Youth News stated that dog owners pamper their pets in special clinics, feed them trendy diets, and bury them in cemeteries. As a result of their concern with the growing fashion for canine pets, the Chinese have recently implemented programs to wipe out dogs in urban areas, sometimes grabbing them from their owners and immediately killing them.

SLOGAN CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

"Shoot for the Future — Don't Use Drugs" is a slogan that has caused problems for South Carolina state wildlife department officials. The slogan was patterned after a successful "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" campaign in South Carolina and other states. Urging youngsters to shoot doves instead of drugs (according to an article in the September 1 *Sacramento Bee*), the slogan is under attack by animal-rights organizations. Special dove shoots began a year ago as an opportunity for parents and children to enjoy the outdoors, said Brock Conrad, director of the state Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Although biologist Skip Still says the hunt in each county is limited to 35 adults who must bring no more than two children, the group named Fund for Animals are "outraged". "We are outraged of the absurdity of giving people two choices — shooting doves or shooting drugs," said Heidi Prescott, national director for the group. The Fund for Animals joined with the Animal Rights Alliance of South Carolina and the Greenville-based Peaceable Kingdom to protest the hunt on September 7 and 8.

The editors of The Probe *thank contributors to this issue: Ron Thompson, Mike Fall, Milt Caroline, Jeff Green, Bill Fitzwater, Jim Forbes, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to* The Probe, *4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.*

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES RAID STATE AGRICULTURAL LAB

A report in the September 6 Wyoming *Casper Star-Tribune* stated that federal agents searched the state Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures Laboratory and a ranch in Albany County for banned poisons that were allegedly being sold and used to kill eagles and other wildlife. Search warrants had been issued following an undercover operation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The article stated that the investigation documents claimed that a Department of Agriculture predator control consultant and an Albany county rancher were allegedly selling and using Compound 1080 and other chemicals to poison wildlife, including bald eagles and golden eagles. The documents also claimed that the consultant, on at least five occasions, "...sold 1080, strychnine powder and capsules, and sodium cyanide to a person working undercover for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." No arrests had been made or charges filed at press time, but disciplinary action was being considered by the state Attorney General's office.

BLACKBIRDS AND STARLINGS INVADE BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

What seems like millions of blackbirds and starlings have invaded Butte County, California farmlands. The birds have damaged 1,200 acres of wild rice with losses estimated at $4,000 per day. The farmers are desperate and are using all methods available in efforts to keep the birds away from the crop. ADC has provided technical assistance and scram rockets to help the stricken farmers.

HOGS DAMAGE CROPS IN TEXAS

ADC personnel in Texas recently responded to a complaint of feral hogs that were damaging grain crops in Matagorda County. In one instance rice was the target, and damage was estimated at $1,360. Corn was damaged on another farm with the loss estimated at $1,400. ADC removed ten feral hogs with dogs. Two farms in Wharton County were also sites of hog damage to corn. One had a loss estimated at $900, and the other had a loss estimated at $1,000. An ADC specialist removed two hogs with dogs to decrease further loss on the farms.

NRA INSTITUTES WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The September 1991 issue of *American Rifleman* reported that the National Rifle Association (NRA) has officially announced the creation of its own Wildlife Management Department. According to *American Rifleman*, the department's primary responsibilities include "...the development of educationally sound pro-hunting materials for school curricula, and providing biologically sound expertise on hunting related issues, legislation and regulatory proposals." Gary S. Kania, formerly a wildlife researcher with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, has been chosen to manage this newly formed NRA department.

NADCA Nominations Announced for 1992-93

James E. Miller, Vice President - East, NADCA

The NADCA Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the Nominating Committee, chaired by Wes Jones, has recommended a slate of candidates for consideration by the membership for election to serve NADCA for 1992-93. However, additional nominees are also being requested to be added to the mail ballot which you will be receiving in November. In accordance with the NADCA Bylaws, both Officers and Regional Directors shall be elected by the general membership, via a mail ballot. The only difference is that when voting for Regional Director, only members residing within a Region may vote for the Regional Director who will represent them.

Terms of office for both Officers and Regional Directors are for two years, beginning January 1, 1992 and every two years after. *Any member in good standing is qualified to hold any office in NADCA.* Therefore, if you wish to nominate someone for one or more of the offices noted below, only three things are necessary: (1) Talk to the person you wish to nominate and be sure that they are a paid-up member of NADCA and are willing to serve NADCA in that office if elected for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1992; (2) If they are being nominated for one of the Regional Director positions, be sure that they presently reside in the appropriate Region; and (3) Forward their name, address and phone number by *November 12, 1991* to: Wes Jones, Chair - Nominating Committee, NADCA, Rt 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871.

For your information and use in nominating someone for either an Officer or Regional Director, below is a list of the Officers and Regions of the United States pertinent to NADCA membership:

Officers
President
Vice President - West
Vice President - East
Secretary
Treasurer

Regions
Region 1 - AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA
Region 2 - AZ, CO, NM, UT
Region 3 - ID, MT, WY,
Region 4 - AR, LA, OK, TX
Region 5 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
Region 6 - IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
Region 7 - CT, PA, RI, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT
Region 8 - DC, DE, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV
Region 9 - AL, FL, GA, KY MS, TN

The slate of Officers and Regional Directors recommended by the Nominating Committee for your consideration for 1992-93 are as follows:

Officers
President - Terrell P. Salmon, CA
Vice President, West - Derrell Gretz, CO
Vice President, East - James E. Miller, VA
Secretary - Michael D. Hoy, AR
Treasurer - Wes R. Jones, WI

Regional Directors
1. Tom R. Hoffman, OR
2. Franklin Anderson, CO
3. Craig L. Maycock, WY
4. Albert V. Bivings, AR
5. Charles S. Brown, NE
6. Laine Stowell,WI
7. James E. Forbes, NY
8. Phillip W. Eggborn,VA

Unfortunately, we do not have the space in this article to provide a personal vitae for each of these nominees. However, if you don't know them, who they work for, or what their agenda for serving NADCA is, ask another member, contact your present Regional Director or one of the officers, or contact the nominee. Remember, NADCA is your organization, it is your individual responsibility to vote either for the nominees provided by the Nominating Committee, or those nominated by the membership when you see the final ballot later this year. Please take the opportunity when the ballot comes out to vote for the candidates of your choice. Also, make it a point to encourage prospective members to get their dues in and don't forget to send your own dues in for 1992 if you haven't already.

NADCA Logo Contest Still On!

From Rosemary Heinen and Wes Jones

In case you missed the notices in previous issues of *The Probe*, the NADCA logo contest remains open until march 1992. We are still soliciting your ideas for a logo that would be appropriate for such things as patches, letterheads, and publications. We are also also planning on making a hat with embroidered logo available. Let us have your concept via a sketch. The judges will make a selection based on the suitability of your idea to represent NADCA, not on your artistic talents. If the winning submission needs a little refinement, we will get a professional artist to put on the finishing touches.

Rules for this contest are minimal. Send your logo sketch to the Treasurer, Route 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871. We hope to be able to confirm the selection at the Vertebrate Pest Conference in California in March 1992. The prize for the creative winner, besides the pride in seeing your idea in use, will be a fine set of predator calls donated by Lohman Manufacturing Col. of Neosho, Missouri, along with one of the aforementioned hats plus one year's prepaid membership.

If that prize is not enough to motivate you, how about this? All the names of the persons submitting entries for the contest (but not selected) will be in a drawing for one of our official NADCA hats. Two chances at a prize — one based on creativity, the other on luck!

It's the concept that counts, not the quality of your sketch. Hop to it and start scratching out your ideas. Send your entry now, while this thought is still in your mind.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editors:

Enclosed is a clipping from the *Livestock Weekly* issue of August 22, 1991 (San Angelo, Texas).

Perhaps you are already aware of the matter discussed by William Perry Pendley; but it was news to me that Defenders of Wildlife had been given status as an authority on wolves. I know that they have made this claim again and again over the years. It now seems that there are some who pay heed to what they say without checking for facts.

On another matter: The obituary announcing the death of Galen C. Oderkirk which appeared in the Layfayette (IN) *Journal Courier* on June 21 carries the notation that memorial contributions may be made to Epilepsy Foundation of America, 4351 Garden City Drive, Landover, MD 20785.

Many thanks for your excellent handling of *The Probe*!

Sincerely,
Milton Caroline, San Antonio, Texas

From the Editors: Mr. Caroline referred to an article by William Perry Pendley which referred to Pendley's disagreement with the disclaimer seen at the end of the Walt Disney movie ***White Fang****. According to Pendley, the disclaimer was added to the film in response to a request from the Defenders of Wildlife; the disclaimer stated that there "has never been a documented case of a healthy wolf or pack of wolves attacking a human in North America." Pendley gave numerous examples of wolf attacks and stated his belief that the Disney film was doing a disfavor to people by telling them that wolves pose "no threat to them or to their livestock."*

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MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE CONTEST
Strengthen NADCA and win two ways!

THE PRIZE — A handsome 12-gauge automatic shotgun, Remington Model 11-87 Special Purpose, with ventilated rib and choke tubes. New for 1991 at a suggested retail price of $605! Shipped to a USA address.

CURRENT MEMBERS — The rules are simple — pass this page on to a person you believe should be a member of NADCA. If they submit a paid membership application using this page, your name will be placed in a group from which one name will be drawn for the prize. Two-page or double-sided photocopies are legal for multiple entries; the more you hand out, the more chances for you to win. The determining factor for members — check the expiration date on the mailing label on the reverse. If it isn't the current month or later, you better get out that checkbook pronto!

NEW MEMBERS — You have a chance to win a prize also; in fact, you have two chances if you sign up early! If your membership application is the one drawn for the grand prize above, you will be refunded the amount you paid for membership. Your second chance? New members signing up before the next mailing of this newsletter will then be "Current Members" as above, and will also be competing for the Grand Prize by recruiting additional members.

CLOSING DATE — The contest will close on March 2, 1992. The drawing will be at an open meeting at the 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Newport Beach, California.

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Terrell P. Salmon
DANR-North Region
University of California
Davis, CA 95616-8575

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Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Office Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

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

(Underline: Student $7.50, Active $15, Sponsor $30, Patron $100)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

[ ] Agriculture
[ ] USDA - APHIS - ADC
[ ] Federal - other than APHIS
[ ] Foreign
[ ] ADC Equipment/Supplies
[ ] Other (describe) _____
[ ] Pest Control Operator
[ ] Retired
[ ] State Agency
[ ] Trapper
[ ] University

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