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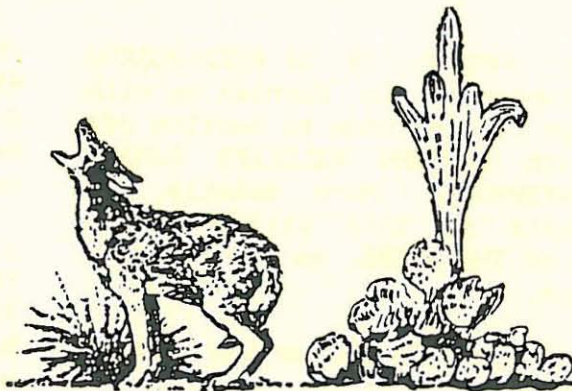
The Probe, Issue 92 - April/May 1989

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THE PROBE



National Animal Damage Control Association

APRIL/MAY 1989

NUMBER 92

HILITES - GT. PLAINS

The 9th session of the Great Plains WDC Workshop (Ft. Collins, CO) was good. A two-day session to these weary bones is enough especially when you have concurrent sessions and keep jumping from one to another. GEORGE ROST, RON JOHNSON, GUY CONNOLLY, and YE ED all attended as official NADCA reps plus a number of working stiffs.

Jack Berryman led off with comments that ADC was now a respected member of the wildlife management profession and encouraged us to get back in the mainstream by publishing and sharing our knowledge in an effort to educate the public to the alternatives to Animal Rights philosophy. Bobby Acord suggested less emphasis on the number of animals killed and more on the reduction of damage and also we might see more chemicals banned in the future because of registration costs rather than public pressure. STEVE PALMATEER buttressed this remark with the statement 25,000 pesticide registrations have been dropped since the first of the year leaving only some 22,000 in effect. Phil Gipson pointed out ADC is now one of eleven units instead of one in four in APHIS (*despite reassurances this would be better my bitter experiences with bureaucracy say "no way"*). BOB SCHMIDT offered an interesting philosophical observation that change in this world was as inevitable as the tide and ADC must adjust to survive. A "Doctor Wisdom" gave a graphic picture of the way the general public views anti-hunting which left his audience

squirming. (*It didn't relieve my state of mind much when it turned out he was a CSU professor pulling our leg as his comments were too close to the mark. I left the conference with the feeling "pain" would be a basic consideration in our choice of methods rather than cost/benefit ratios. Education, while an important tool in getting a more knowledgeable public attitude, is probably beyond ADC's reach.*)

In the technical sessions, monofilament line as a sparrow repellent, DRC 1339 and alpha-chloralose for gulls, hazing success with urban Canada geese, eyespot balloons on grackles, (*I missed most of the predator and big game sessions*) etc. were interesting but nothing particularly startling. As usual the most value from these sessions comes from meeting and discussing current problems and projects with your peers and reading the printed papers at your leisure on a latter date.

The best way to get your car to run better is to ask the price of a new one.

SORRY

The winner of the lottery on that great Ontario Trappers' book, WILD FURBEARER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN NORTH AMERICA, was Larry Windberg (DWRC, Laredo, TX) with #900829 which was in the middle of the six tickets he bought. The good news is that we collected \$324 to help our sick little treasury. Thank you for your contributions. Further good news is that at the conference,

J. BARTHELL JOSEPH, JR. of REED-JOSEPH COMPANY volunteered to furnish us with another copy of the book to auction off at the 4th EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE. More details and raffle tickets on this will be in the June issue of THE PROBE, so you'll get a second chance.

Never argue with the fellow who packs your parachute.

OL' MONEYBAGS AGAIN

Treasurer WES JONES sent in his quarterly report:

CREDITS

Jan/Mar 89	2,991
Donations	171
Dues - Active	2,380
Dues - Patron	100
Dues - Sponsor	150
Dues - Student	24
Interest - checking	30
Interest - savings	70
Reimbursement	5

DEBITS

JAN/MAR 89	1,580
Labor - PROBE	450
Miscellaneous	132
Office supply	21
Postage, general ...	25
Postage, PROBE	371
Printing, general ..	41
Printing, PROBE	339
Raffle expenses	61
Travel, auto/air ...	50
Travel, miscellaneous ..	40
Travel, per diem ...	50

BALANCE

Checking	\$2,811
Savings	3,050
TOTAL	5,861

It takes a lot of things to prove you're smart but only one thing to prove you're dumb.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT.

(The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPERS' JAW, etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.)

COYOTES: (TX) A trapper set six traps approximately 12 feet apart in Gray County. When he checked the traps he had a coyote in each. Misery loves company if it's a Texas coyote.

(ID) Coyotes plus deep snow are giving the deer a hard time. F&G report up to 200 dead white-tails on Dworshak Reservoir due to coyotes running them onto the ice. ADC flew the area and removed 43 coyotes in less than 2 hours. In another case an ADC pilot spotted six coyotes surrounding a deer with one holding on to the hind end. They killed all six and watched the deer running off into the brush.

MOUNTAIN LION: (TX) An APHIS trapper trapped a lion in Terrell County. The lion apparently swam the Rio Grande so the trapper swam the river to look for sign on the other side. Both the trap and the lion were lost but the good news is he didn't have to explain his actions to a Border Patrol officer.

MONGOOSE: (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) Sam Linhart attended a conference here to discuss controlling mongoose rabies in the Caribbean. Focus was on developing a genetically engineered oral rabies vaccine for use in baits.

PIGEONS: (NM) After 3 weeks of prebaiting, a 3,000 pigeon flock on a Roswell airbase was baited with 100 pounds of DRC-1339. Over 2,000 birds have been picked up so far and a followup treatment is planned in two months.

PRAIRIE DOGS: (TX) Odessa City Park personnel thought it would be easy to eradicate 5 prairie dogs remaining in a colony in the Park. At last count there were still 12 left (Remember the story of the two rabbits chased into a burrow by a pack of beagles? The male says, "Gee, Honey, looks like we'll have to stay here till we outnumber them.") They tried to flood them out. Using a hose that put out 3 gallons per minute, it took 48 hours for one burrow to completely fill. What an indoor swimming pool those gophers must have!

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PREDATORS: (TX) ADC is going to assist the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY again this year on an intensive predator program on various barrier islands in Redfish Bay. Raccoons and coyotes, primarily, are destroying nests and eggs of shore-nesting birds. It's nice to be good guys for a change.

STARLINGS: (PA) Studies suggest the lowest repellent concentration of methyl anthranilate to starlings is 0.4%.

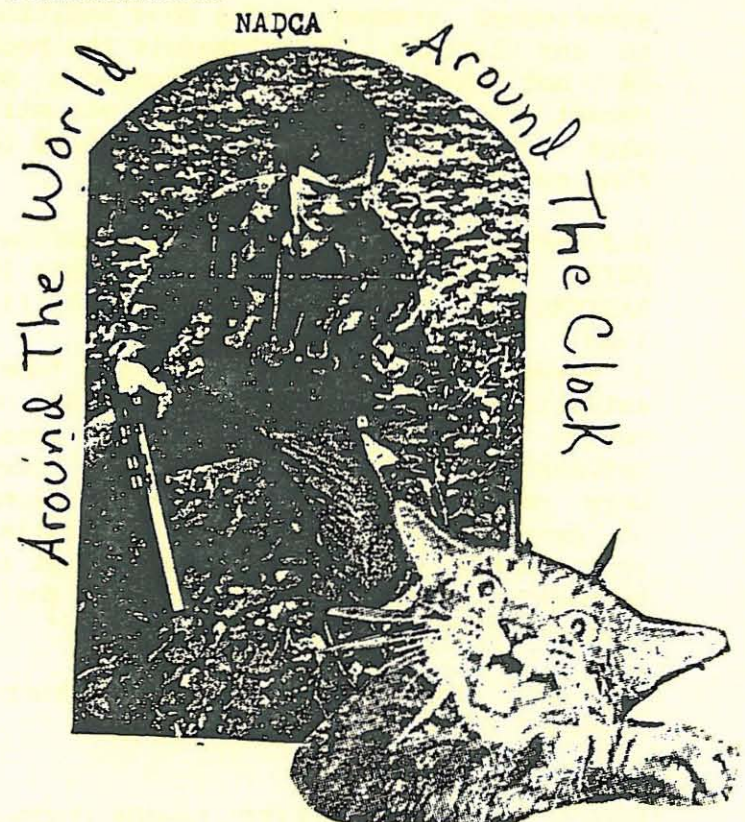
You can't fool all of the people all of the time but it only takes a few to make a decent living.

KITTY LITTER

(If you can't say anything good about cats - this column is for you)

CRAIG SWANSON, Trap Mfg., New Richmond (WI) sent in a patch idea for an "...alternative subversive society where cats receive their rightful treatment ...stressing the dedication needed to overcome this global problem."

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
DEDICATED
CAT
ANNIHILATORS



In the Soviet Union, there is no CAT IN THE HAT. the cat is the hat. Cooperatives have been set up to make and sell cat hats. The Moscow Fauna Club is visiting cat rescue missions in Britain for their advice as a cat hat, unlike other cat things like a house, is not illegal. (Thanx to California ADC & THE SACRAMENTO (CA) BEE, 04/27/89)

I want nothing I don't deserve unless I can't get it any other way.

READIN'

LAND SETS AND TRAPPING TECHNIQUES was sent to me by the author, CHARLES L. DOBBINS (POB 7082, Canton, OH 44705). This is a paperback publication (184pp), easily read, well illustrated with clear photos, and attractively printed. CHARLES has worked most his life since the age of nine as a trapper and is currently a nuisance animal trapper. This is a well organized record of his observations on trapping over the years. The main animals are gray and red foxes, raccoon, bobcat, and coyote, but there are observations on trapping of many other animals. His various tips and observations on making sets would be of value to both the beginner and the experienced trapper and a good addition to any library. Unfortunately the book is not dated (though undoubtedly of recent vintage) or priced (so you will have to write to him with an SASE to find out the price).

D.J.Harrison, et al, SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COYOTES AND RED FOXES IN EASTERN MAINE (J.WILDL.MANAGE, 53(1): 1989)

A 4-year study in Maine showed red foxes established home ranges outside of coyote territories or in boundary areas between adjacent coyote groups. Foxes were never captured within core portions of coyote territories. Smaller spatial requirements enable foxes to persist in boundary areas and prevent their complete displacement.

The only thing worse than a flooded basement is a flooded attic.

MEETIN'S

FOURTH EASTERN WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL CONFERENCE. Sept. 24-27, 1989 at The

Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. Call for papers. Contact: JIM WINNAT, APHIS-ADC, 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie WI 53590; TOM HAUGE, WI Dept. Nat. Resources. POB 7921, Madison, WI 53707; or Scott Craven, Ext. Wildl. Spec., 215 Russell Labs, Madison, WI 53706.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1989 at Colo. State Univ. Contact: Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish & Wild Biol., CSU, Ft. Collins, CO 80523.

FOURTEENTH VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE, Mar. 6-8, 1990 in Sacramento, CA (Red Lion Inn). Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Wildl. Ext., Univ. Calif.-Davis, CA 95616.

He who hesitates is last.

LETTERS TO YE ED

MAJOR BODDICKER, ADC-supplies, LaPorte, CO:

March 7, 1989: I enjoy reading the PROBE. It would be a shame if you sanitized it so it read like every other newsletter. Being the source of some of the more controversial input, I think it is good for the profession to exercise some self evaluation. One advantage of having a rabid radical to the right is it provides a standard where middle and left can feel comfortable. (MAJOR included some articles along with commentary that I will just have to put off until the next issue as this issue is already past reasonable length.)

April 24: Work has come on hot and heavy this Spring. The long dry spell has Richardson's ground squirrels and prairie dogs hatching out and extending their territories. I ran into a situation where the ground squirrels were digging the mortar out from between the foundation rocks on a 90-year old hotel.

Enclosed is the court record of the Ora Brady case where he was charged with possession of Coyote Getters. BATF had determined Getters were "other firearms". The judge determined they were not. The star witness for the defense was DARRELL GRETZ. According to

an observer at the trial, DARRELL did a superlative job as expected. It appears the old Coyote Getter can be used on private property using hand loaded shells for coyote control. In some of our field operations with comparative tests, the old Getter sure has an edge over the M-44. There has to be a way of re-engineering that device and method of delivery to make it as safe as the M-44, but keep the dependability of the Getter. (MAJOR sent me a copy of the decision in case anyone wants it. Send a 45¢ stamped envelop.)

MONTE DODSON, rtd USFWS and still trapping, Cookson, OK:

I like your label of the ARCs (Animal Rights Creeps). You must have had a bad experience with cats as a child! I think it's professional jealousy. Anything that competes with you in killing birds and rats is on your hit list. Margie and I have two cats and any dog that comes into our yard quickly goes to that great fireplug in the sky. All my life I've listened to hunters and biologists about cats killing quail. We have quail around but the cats never brought any in - not that they didn't try! They are death on baby cottontails so we seldom see any of them around.

At least in the Texas panhandle, skunks have died off. I attribute it to a nematode that attaches itself to the skin. They look like nylon fishing line and are found from the neck to the hind legs. During the 1987-8 season, I had 24 skunks in my traps and all were infected. This past season, I only caught 3, and all were infected. (The rest of MONTE's letter is under NOW HEAR THIS!)

ED HARTIN, APHIS, BOISE. ID:

I have never joined NADCA until this year since I never saw anything in the newsletter of any value (cat stories, siams against AR activists, etc.). However, I am seeing a strong change in the publication. I decided I had no reason to complain if I didn't pay dues. I appreciate the improvements you have been making. I will support NADCA anyway I can and encourage others to do

so as long as the members get what they want. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

RON ALLEN, Supplier, Montgomeryville, PA:

Just finished the March PROBE. I read them all and if it had covers I'd read it cover to cover. The Kitty Litter article along with THURMAN BOOTH's letter about drowning 2,800 odd cats needs comment. I started going through back issues and came to to conclusion you just don't like cats (All you cat lovers (and haters) see my note in the EDITORIAL). My wife and I have a cat. I wouldn't give you two cents for him but she paid \$5 to get him out of the pound when he was a kitten. If you read what you write, Bill, you sound like a birds rights activist yourself. Maybe you are but don't let the AR's catch you. Cats play an important role in urban pest control because they do make a dent in rodent populations, if left unchecked, would quickly get out of hand. (As an old urban rodent control specialist I disagree with that but as both you and Monte are accusing me of professional jealousy, I'll be mum.) This problem may be a little hard to grasp by the ADC's working in the pristine wilderness, but back here in the world of 9 to 5 rodents are no fun at all. Even less fun than cats.

But to be fair many places have serious problems with roaming cats and dogs. The key word in ADC is CONTROL. I think ADC's get a bum rap from ARs but it's their own fault for not being able to communicate effectively to the public. Just a thought that will probably draw some flack, but that's what the PROBE is all about - new ideas, strange ideas. What about changing ADC to EE/ADC (ECONOMIC & ECOLOGICAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL)? Before the knee jerks let it sink in a minute. Isn't that a better description of what ADC is all about? To paraphrase something I read: Add some control to uncontrolled situations when it's needed, leave some things alone when it's for the better, and become wiser so you'll know which approach to take. Pretty philosophical, huh? Well keep up the good work. Maybe

you'll add covers to the PROBE someday.

BILL CLAY, APHIS, Bismarck, ND:

We're having our annual ADC meeting later this month (*Bill just moved from Texas to be State Director in North Dakota*). I'm going to make a pitch for increased membership to NADCA from the ADCS's here (*all of you take note*). A rancher here saw three cows fighting eight coyotes attempting to kill a calf. By the way, Texas ADC did give me a set of thermal underwear.

EUGENE LEBOEUF, former Cajun, now D.C. Bureaucrat:

In the "How can I miss you when you won't go away?" department it is now okay to miss me (*In typical screwup fashion I called him "LeBlanc" to whom I now profoundly apologize*). I guess when you enter the twilight zone of your career you are allowed to err as you please. Now one more time, LeBoeuf and LeBlanc are two different people, only the last names and state of birth are the same. LeBoeuf is the one in Washington, LeBlanc is in Louisiana.

Now you have loosed the lightening of my terrible slow typewriter, I will share some FAA ADC news. I had to investigate a bird strike near Ft. Meade (MD). A pilot flying at night in a small Cessna struck three Old Squaws at 1800 feet. The strike destroyed the windshield and he had to land at Ft. Meade. He had 20 stitches about the face but his son received only minor scratches (I know you're wondering what three elderly Indian women were doing at 1800 feet. For your benefit, we're talking ducks!) The over-due Memorandum of Understanding between the FAA and USDA is nearing approval. The FAA assures me it wants to establish a "kinder and gentler" relationship.

GREG ROST, USFWS REFUGE SYSTEM, Alaska:

Just got back from 2.5 months in sunny south Georgia at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Pretty strange twist for an outlaw coyote hunter, but it is good to be back in my

cold, white, fly-all-the-time world here in Alaska. Stopped to see my mentor in Elko but didn't have time to stop and chase a couple of coyotes with him. That I miss! Looks like everything is normal in ADC - still got coyotes and lions killing sheep and pilots and trappers killing lions and coyotes. Same old stuff - different year.

PAUL EDSTROM, APHIS, Pocatello, ID:

Almost every issue of THE PROBE concerns itself with support and continuance of NADCA. In the last issue someone remarked that they could not understand why "salaried ADC people have never jumped on the bandwagon" (joined NADCA). It was noted that only one of 33 Oregon DFAs was a member, while all supervisors were on board. Given the economics of the situation this ratio may be appropriate. The salaries of most supervisors and upper level managers have increased in greater proportion than those at field levels. NADCA direction is by supervisors or ex-supervisors so it may be thought of as a supervisory social club.

On the other hand, most of the work force consists of DFAs who receive salaries so low they can't afford to join NADCA. And it's a choice between bread and bull---t. NADCA may think its helping the field crew by preserving their jobs, however, slavery also accomplishes this objective and preserves work. If NADCA would promote increased wages and benefits for the field, you'd be printing more PROBES. Now consider the livestock industry is getting the most out of the ADC program. Remember predators are putting them out of business daily. However, there are only 32 cooperators on the 1988 membership rolls. Maybe some cheapmen (spelled correctly) should get off the gravy train and onto the NADCA bandwagon themselves.

PERSONNEL

DON HAWTHORNE was moved from State Director in Texas to the APHIS-ADC Western Regional Supervisor in Denver. Best of luck, Don.

NORTON MINER (NADCA RDIH) writes that

he has his place for sale and when sold is heading for Prescott (AZ). Gee, and it really wasn't a bad winter up in Montana this year! Rather a drastic step to get out of being an NADCA RD.

DICK WINTERS has announced his medical retirement effective April 2nd after 27 years in the ADC program. He is another old-timer whose influence in ADC affairs will be missed. Good luck.

GLORIA NOTAH has taken over as Acting District Supervisor in Las Cruces (NM) to replace BOB BEACH who was banished to Washington. MARK COLLINGE also left Utah for a Washington job. If they're not careful, they may soon have every Washington job filled with real ADC people.

OPM is carrying on its usual war against federal employees (*as a retiree you'll soon find they're not on your side*). Back in the early days of ADC, field employees were commonly switched back and forth between federal and state employment depending upon where money was available. OPM has ruled that even though you continued under federal supervision, this non-federal time does not count towards eligibility for retirement, leave, or reduction-in-force. Thus any of you thinking of retirement check your employment records (Rosann Hill, Employment Specialist, FTS 777-2234 or (612) 370-2234).

BOB PIERCE who has been a member of NADCA for a long time retired from his position as Wildlife Extension Specialist at the University of Arkansas on April 3rd. Best of luck, BOB!

EDDIE OLSON who worked for the Navajo Nation is now working for the Coast Guard as an Environmental specialist in the Pacific Region. He and Barb are still living in a hotel, but hope to close on a house on Alameda Island (CA) soon. See what ADC can lead to?

Truth is my most precious possession so I use it sparingly.

IN MEMORIAL

AL JACKSON died March 1, 1989, of liver cancer. He had served as Chief of the ADC Branch in the late '60s and early '70s. He was the Regional Supervisor in Atlanta until he became Area Manager in Phoenix (AZ). Any who wish can send a card to Mrs. Bobbie Jackson, POB 156, Moran, TX 76464. GARY NUNLEY

BUNNY'S SWAN SONG

The above title may seem like mixed metaphors, but a legendary character named "B. V. (BUNNY) FENNESSEY" has retired from ADC work "down under". As he has been a good personal friend, YE ED publishes a tribute (AUSTRALASIAN WILDLIFE MGT. SOCIETY Newsletter, March 1989) for the benefit of those of you not fortunate enough to have met him:

There is a line in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" where the Village Preacher is described as a man "more skilled to raise the wretched than to rise". This surely encapsulates Bernard Fennessey's role in vertebrate pest management and research in Australia.

Those who scan the literature with an eye cast towards the citation index might suppose that Fennessey has been only a minor player - a few early papers and conference proceedings. However, the real measure of the man's contribution can only be obtained by reading the "Acknowledgements" section of the papers on pest animals in Australia. Here you will find literally hundreds of papers where B.V. Fennessey is thanked for his critical appraisal or help and advice. In this respect and others, he stands far taller than many a scientist whose success is measured in more egotistical currency.

At conferences, he was the quiet little man in the corner with the annoying habit of bringing the debate back to reality. God (and Fennessey) only knows how many times he has heard the wheel being re-invented with respect to rabbit control or the use of 1080 or some

similar issue...Who will explain to some distraught Canberra housewife, enormously moved by a TV "documentary" on the extinction of the noble macropod, that there is still the odd roo left in Australia and that CSIRO cannot readily supply a male contraceptive to prevent the unfortunate consequences of macropod lust?

Who will write back, in courteous terms, to the man in the American Embassy and point out that there is no scientific basis to the assertion of some American animal rights group that the use of 1080 poison against rabbits had done untold damage to the ozone layer?

Above all, who will point out to that growing army of single-issue fanatics that the management, yea even destruction, of pest animals is a form of conservation no less important than the management of forests, soils, and streams?

B.V.Fennessy joins a small and select group of men and women of whom it can be said that they helped in the foundation of pest animal management and research in Australia. His retirement marks the end of an era that saw its beginning when Francis Ratcliffe sent his youthful sidekick up to the Murray Valley to investigate a disease outbreak in rabbits.

For us - and we speak on behalf of scores of scientists in Australia - Bunny's retirements will create an enormous gap...Vale Bunny!

BUNNY writes, "I have been keeping in mind your advice about not getting involved in too many voluntary jobs. I was recently asked to be vice-president of the Canberra group of CSIRO retirees, but said I was not yet old enough for that!" Despite what he says my advice was wasted. He was already a respected narrator (500 cassettes in his spare time!) for a program of taping books for those physically handicapped in reading ability. Besides continuing to edit some materials for CSIRO (COMMONWEALTH

SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION), he has doubled his commitments on narrating books. He is taking a course in calligraphy and made me an offer to make name cards for some occasion.

Internal recollections of an intern:

Dr. Daws cut deftly and decisively. I stared at the sinewy mess with queasy fascination. Though I'd known this situation would arise, I'd not quite anticipated the grisly sight, the pungent smell of warm flesh and fluids. The doctor had done this before. But not me. My very first pizza. (Thanx to BUNNY FENNESSY from a MINI-SAGA writing contest (50 words) in a Melbourne paper.)

Alimony is like having the TV on after you've fallen asleep.

HUMANS GOT RIGHTS???

(This is confined to Fitzwater's personal vendetta against the Animal Rights (AR) movement so any purists should skip it.)

HOW FUR WILL ANIMAL LOVERS GO?

Dear Ann Landers: The Minneapolis paper ran an ad from the Humane Society urging people not to wear furs. I was shopping downtown in 20-below-zero weather, when a stranger asked me, "I wonder how many beautiful rabbits died so you could have that coat?" I noticed she was wearing a down coat, so I asked her if the geese they got the down from were still alive. She looked surprised as though she had never thought about it. If people are so upset about cruelty to animals, why don't they go after the folks who refuse to spend money to have their animals neutered? Thousands of dogs are put to death every year because animal pounds can't take care of them. That is the best example of cruelty to animals. "Baby it's cold outside."

Dear Baby: I did some homework and learned that 75% of the fur produced in North America is raised on family farms. There are about 3,700 mink and fur farms as well as lynx, bobcat, rabbit, and chinchilla. Sable comes from Asia, USSR, and Canada. Furs such as raccoon and beaver do not need to be produced on farms, since there is an over-

population among these animals and trapping is not only legal but essential for their survival. In my opinion it is no more cruel to kill animals for their fur than it is to kill them for their hide or for food. I wonder if those folks who don't want us to wear fur are willing to give up their shoes, belts, handbags, and luggage? What did they have for dinner last night? Ann Landers (Thanx to NORTON MINER NADCA RDIHI & THE BILLINGS (MT) GAZETTE, 03/27/89 & ED HARTIN, ID) --

Dear Ann Landers: Why on earth are you still supporting the use of animals for medical research when they now have computers and mechanical models that do the job far better. My friends tell me that these are the state of the art and that using animals is passe'. Read up and learn something. R.J. Miami

Dear Miami: Your "friends" are misinformed. This is from people who know more about it. Dr. David Hubel (Harvard Medical School) says they are using computers and cell cultures but they still need animals for testing. He studies abnormalities in the brain and says, "Any research about the brain involving a computer is based on earlier studies with animals."

Dr. Donald Kennedy (Stanford Univ.) says, "Much extremely important research cannot be done today without animals, no matter how we wish it were otherwise. The harsh truth is that stopping research with animals would mean stopping much critically needed fundamental research in biology and medicine."

Dr. Michael DeBakey who performed the first successful coronary artery bypass: "In my own field, virtually every pioneering development in cardiovascular surgery was based on animal experimentation...(there is) no alternative to the use of animals for experimental advances." Ann Landers (ALBUQUERQUE (NM) TRIBUNE 03/22/89) sounds like this lady is on our side.

LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT

George Cave (Pres. of TRANS-SPECIES UNLIMITED.. a real cooky group of ARs) has picketed the HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE

UNITED STATES calling their president, John Hoyt, the "Jim Bakker of Animal Welfare". Cave is upset with the \$136,000 salary Hoyt gets. He feels the astronomical salaries given HSUS top executives, the large sums spent in recruiting more members and fund-raising, and their acceptance of issues on the basis of their perceived effectiveness for raising more money gives the AR movement a bad name. What's that old saying about people in glass houses? AMERICAN TRAPPER 29(2):22 (1989).

THIS IS WAR! There have been a number of terrorist actions by the ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT (ALF) and other AR groups lately that makes the PLO Sunday schoolers. In a Detroit (MI) Convention Center some 75 high class fur coats valued at \$400,000 were attacked with razor blades and chewing gum. A Santa Rosa (CA) fur store was heavily damaged by fire. A caller bragged, "The ALF will continue its war against this Nazism until the bloody fur trade is abolished from our society forever." This same outfit has fire bombed three stores including the famed Harrod's in London recently. The ALF along with a new bunch of kooks (Animal Abused Society) used high explosives to bomb the University of Bristol (UK) in a protest against using animals in experimental medicine. (AMERICAN TRAPPER 29(2):22-23 (1989) & SCIENCE 243:1133 03/03/89)

A friend in need has a hard time finding friends.

NOW HEAR THIS!

MONTE DODSON (trapper, Cookson, OK):

I had an experience worth sharing. I made a bobcat set at the base of a cottonwood windfall where the stump had an opening. I put the hind quarter of a beaver back in the stump and set two Montgomery #4s out in front, 4 inches apart. The chains were staked out at right angles. On my return I had a bobcat in each trap.

Willis Kent showed me how to dispatch bobcats without getting blood on the fur. The dog choker works fine. It's unbelievable how fast they expire.

After having 30-inch cross stakes pulled. I think I have solved the blow sand problem. I have developed a cross stake anchor that holds great. Also have improved on the cable drive-in deadman that you have to dig up to get out. Anyone having trouble can write to me for the particulars (POB 12, Cookson, OK 74427).

ODON CORR, APHIS, Steele, ND: One of the sheep ranchers in my area was checking ewes in one of his lambing sheds. He spotted a lamb partly under the sill of the shed. When he pulled it back in, he found a male mink on the other end. He managed to club the mink. Next day I checked it out. The mink weighed 3 pounds and the lamb 8 pounds. The attack was on the throat. We found another lamb in the shed with a chunk out of its nose.

DAVE OTIS, DWRC, Denver, CO: Alpha-chloralose (A-C) is a narcotic that has been used in the USA and elsewhere to capture wild birds for research. There has been considerable interest lately to capture, nuisance, urbanized geese and other waterfowl on golf courses, airports, and reservoirs. PAUL WORNECKI on trials with geese, mallards, Pekin ducks, and coots (reported at Ft. Collins) indicates the chemical is safe, effective, and acceptable to the public. It might also prove an humane alternative to strychnine in pigeon control by upping the dosage.

Studies indicate that a combination of insect control, resistant cultivars, and recognition of redwing beneficial feeding habits can all work together in a corn management plan.

*Everything seems to be going great.
What am I overlooking?*

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT

RAT-FREE SASKATCHEWAN

The Saskatchewan government is planning to make that province the largest rat-free zone in the world. They have announced a \$17 million program spread out over six years. The government will make the necessary changes in the

Provincial Pest Control Act so the program will become mandatory across the Province. They will hire 130 full-time pest control officers by August. ERIC HUTCHINGS (Regional Super. Problem Wildlife, Lethbridge, Alberta) says that Alberta has been virtually rat-free since the 1950s so they welcome the effort on their east border.

ARE WE READY FOR TOWNSHIP HOME RULE? CHARLEY DOBBINS points out a big push is on in Ohio to get home rule for such governmental entities as townships. He warns that while it might make for easier administration, the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources better get a clause in the bill to prevent anti-trapping ordinances in some townships. (THE REPOSITORY (Canton, OH) 04/24/89) This goes for any other States as California is finding out.

CHOCOLATE FOR COYOTES

A possible new coyote control tool could be the Easter basket. A Springer spaniel was reportedly killed (Amer. Animal Hospital Assn.) after eating a 2-pound bag of chocolate chips. Chocolate contains theobromine which can be lethal to canines depending on size of the animal and the type of chocolate. Ounce for ounce, baking chocolate has six to nine times more theobromine than milk chocolate. Any trapper wishing to try this bait is requested to invite YE ED to visit the trap line and clean the traps after a trial. (Thanx to Texas ADC)

CITY BEAVER

Denver is having a serious problem in their Metro parks with beaver. The beaver are taking the big trees down and preventing replanting of new ones. Add to this the twin problems of tularemia and restrictive ordinances against trapping in most metropolitan areas. An environmentalist group (WILDLIFE 2000) is pushing for a sterilization program - livetrapping, tagging, and sterilizing (tubal ligation, vasectomy, or synthetic progesterin implants) before releasing on the same sites. The COLORADO WILDLIFE FEDERATION is suggesting (1) allowing professional trappers to harvest excess animals with underwater conibear sets, (2) live trap and relocate some beaver

as long as sites are available*, (3) protect mature cottonwoods and willows with chickenwire and chain link, (4) use exclosures to allow regeneration and protect new plantings, (5) educate public as to need for beaver management, and (6) monitor a sterilization experiment to see if intolerable habitat destruction occurs.

* WILDLIFE 2000 has been involved with this project but the impracticality of these groups is illustrated by the following incident. An individual requested them to relocate beaver on his property but the Div. of Wildlife said the habitat wasn't good enough. So WILDLIFE 2000 planted 50 golden willows on the property - probably all of a couple days' food supply. (Thanx to ALAN FOSTER, APHIS, Grand Junction, CO)

PELT PRICE PLUNGE PRECEDES PESTILENCE

Raccoon tails, 6000 of them, hang from the warehouse ceiling. The buyer says he got stuck with \$40,000 worth of raccoon pelts when the bottom dropped out of the fur market. From a high of \$22-23 a pelt in early 80s, they dropped to \$15-16 the year before last, and today are bringing only \$3. The drop is blamed on change in styles from long hair to flatter, sleeker furs and the impact of Animal Rights movement on the European markets. For the past ten years, Louisiana has had between 10,000 to 12,000 licensed trappers per season but last year it dropped to 5,500. The price of a trapper's license went up from \$2 to \$25 in 1986. The Game Department admits that if it catches under 200,000 raccoons in the state, they'll experience die-offs as density-related diseases like distemper can run through the whole population. (Thanx to LOUISIANA ADC & BATON ROUGE (LA) SUNDAY ADVOCATE 03/5/89)

SOME WRITERS NEED COVOTES FOR MATERIAL

Calling all covotes. You have been found out! People have discovered some of you are actually living within the Boise city limits. Everybody seems out to get you covotes. And this is your baby season, your most vulnerable time of the year. You have grandfather rights? Well, you were here first. But so were the Indians. The Animals-in-Distress people want to live-trap you

(nice work if you can do it) so that you and your babes can be transported to a safer habitat. Far, far away so your nose won't lead you back to Boise. The ADC people use snare-traps which can choke you, maybe not to death. So who will decide about you? The mayor? The legislature? God? Maybe you'll just move on your own.

ED HARTIN says ADC was requested by the mayor and some prominent citizens in town to do something in the city parks, but the project was cancelled due to coyote movement, equipment tampering, and people like the above writer, Betty Penson, and Animals-in-Distress. The cards are sure stacked against us with 'bleeding hearts' whose stock in trade is anthropomorphism. (IDAHO STATESMAN, 03/26/89)

He won't listen to his conscience. He doesn't want advice from a total stranger.

EDITORIAL

As YE ED's desk has been buried with material, this is an heroic effort to clean the pile - and it fell far short. This issue is too long for the easy reading he strives for and some excellent materials have been left out. He has enough AR stuff to fill a complete issue. So despite objections from some of you, the majority of the membership seems as disgusted with these people as YE ED.

YE ED was told again at the Gt. Plains meeting that some ADC people were reluctant to join the organization because of his slanted views. He repeats again he has and will continue to print any view, pro or con, expressed by any NADCA member without editing (except for length). THE PROBE remains the best (it is the only) voice for ADC on a national outlook. So it should have the support of every ADC professional as well as ranchers, farmers, control suppliers, and householders who directly or indirectly benefit from its expertise. To the extent that the members cooperate, it attempts to keep you informed as to meetings, published papers, new techniques and tools, and other matters

of importance to the profession. The complaint has been raised that too much is made in trying to get more subscribers to NADCA. A closer examination shows this is a stupid approach, because more members means more boring, folding, labeling, stapling, and mailing. We started out with a reformer's zeal, but we're getting older and wondering if it is all worth while.

In a change of editorial format, YE ED's biases are currently confined (well, he tries) to two columns which can be skipped if they are offensive - KITTY LITTER and HUMANS GOT RIGHTS??? The first is more a tongue-in-cheek approach to *Felis domesticus* as while YE ED is not particularly fond of cats, he has been known to pet one once in a while. The second is a no-holds-barred report on the Animal Rights movement which YE ED regards as an asinine, criminal assault on ADC and an affront to the intelligence of the American public.

Another objection to THE PROBE has been the chauvinistic "humorous" inserts. In rebuttal, YE ED checked over several issues sometime back when the remark was first made and found the small percentage of sexist remarks that appeared were almost evenly balanced between "him" and "her". The world is a sadder place to live when we can't laugh at ourselves. The inserts have also been criticized as detracting from the "professional" appearance of the newsletter. To those critics, YE ED points out the majority of comments received from readers have been highly favorable towards their inclusion. His personal belief after reading the daily newspaper is we all can use a lighter outlook. Some readers can't grasp that THE PROBE goes to a very diverse audience, proving you can't please everybody all of the time no matter how hard you try. So there!

It isn't what you know in meetings - it's what you can think of in time.

THE SAYINGS OF
CHAIRMAN MAO (HOWARD)
Dr. Walter (Howdy) Howard the guru of

UC-Davis (CA) sent me a list of one-liners to put Animal Rights in perspective. Here is a random sampling:

A positive value of the animal rights movement is the increased consciousness most people now have about the welfare of pets, livestock, and laboratory animals.

All of nature's animals, wild or domesticated, have legitimacy and value, and so do people.

I do not ascribe rights to animals, yet I believe they have a moral value, deserve humane treatment, in fact, unnecessary pain and suffering should be prohibited. But who defines "unnecessary?"

What is right or wrong concerning the treatment of animals is often in the eye of the beholder and is really determined by one's personal ethics.

People are part of nature, and they are not going to go away.

It is an axiom that man must exploit the environment and deliberately unbalance it to survive.

Nature controls population densities with predation, starvation, disease, cannibalism, territoriality, infanticide, etc.: euthanasia or humane slaughter is not available to them.

Nature does not give animals a "right" to live a long life.

No animal populations can be healthy without a high premature death rate.

Nature is composed of populations of organisms and single animals are rarely of biological importance, therefore are we justified in being inhumane to a few individuals to save a population of the species?

All species are programmed to over-produce; the surplus must die prematurely.

Mainly as a result of research with animals, people in the USA now live an

average of 20.8 years longer.

Animals are used in research and teaching because there are no effective alternatives to the living organism.

How can an animal miss a freedom it has never experienced?

Do we have a moral obligation to protect from predation animals we have domesticated?

Opposition to hunting and trapping is primarily for personal ethics rather than being based on biological facts.

How can humanistic philosophers condone coyotes disembowling live sheep and raptors and carnivores brutally killing prey yet be opposed to sport hunting?

Furbearers and game usually die with much less suffering when harvested by people.

A philosophy that emphasizes a reverence for life of animals may be contradictory to the necessities for quality of life.

Skins and furs are nature's natural renewable resource. Let's use them and not exhaust the finite supply of oil.

In modified environments true harmony between people and the fauna can be established only through management of animal populations.

Few recognize that virtually no agricultural crop could coexist in a productive condition with free-ranging native animals. Kelp is probably an exception.

Is rodent-proofing your house denying rodents of their rights?

Vegetarians eat almost exclusively unnatural exotic plants. They probably could not survive on just native plants.

Why should people become vegetarians? Nature demands meat consumers to preserve the balance of nature.

To grow edible vegetables, fruits or nuts, it is necessary to destroy natural

communities that originally occupied those habitats.

Animal welfare is the expression of kindness and concern for the welfare of animals people use, whereas animal rightists oppose all use of animals and think the human race should become vegetarians.

Objecting to research with animals yet wanting better health and a longer life are contradictory.

The emotional concerns of animal rightists do not necessarily mean their actions are humane.

The roots of the aversion to killing of animals are partly in the current urbanized bambi society that has lost touch with nature's life and death roles.

Should primitive people, with low infant survival and high premature death rates, be westernized to improve their quality of life? Are they like battery chickens and veal calves?

Animal rightists seem to consider themselves judge and jury and use their dogma to justify disobedience and terrorism.

Animal rightists feel prolonging the life of a laboratory animal is more valuable than obtaining knowledge.

Many "anti" activists seem to be professional crusaders who would be lost if their cause was resolved. Perhaps me also.

Will a dedicated animal rightist offer his or her body to science in place of a rat's?

What type of respect do animal rightists give dead animals?

What are animal rightists' views about the merciful killing of injured animals and the killing of terminally ill people? Does quality of life enter the decision about terminating an unwanted embryo?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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