



NAIA

Animal Policy Review

A publication of the National Animal Interest Alliance dedicated to analysis of legislation, regulations, and policies that affect animals and animal owners

Summer 2009

Volume 1, Number 1

© 2009 NAIA

Closure of US processing plants causes horses to suffer

Predictions come true; horses are neglected, abandoned in wake of plant closings

The predictions seemed counterintuitive. How could a prohibition on horse processing cause the cruelty it was supposed to prevent?

Sadly, despite denials by ban proponents, the evidence is mounting that the closing of the last three US horse processing plants has done just that. Deprived of the option to sell unwanted

Continued on page 5



NAIA introduces Animal Policy Review

New publication balances the scales on animal issues



NATIONAL ANIMAL INTEREST ALLIANCE

NAIA 2009 Annual Conference

Washington DC

November 1-4, 2009

Propaganda, Reality & Public Perception

Dispelling Animal Myths

in the Age of Images & Sound Bites

Details inside

Welcome to the inaugural issue of NAIA *Animal Policy Review*, a quarterly publication to highlight, discuss, and analyze issues facing animal owners and the federal, state, and local governments that regulate animal use. We will bring clarity and balance to issues often muddled by emotion and stoked by lobbying organizations that create outrage and conflict in order to increase their treasuries and expand their influence over public policy.

Animal Policy Review will counter the sensationalized claims of groups that promote laws, policies, and practices as part of fund-raising and publicity drives that vilify animal owners, breed-

Continued on page 2

NAIA Board of directors

Thomas L. Albert, Vice President, Government Relations, Feld Entertainment, Inc.

Lance H. Baumgard, PhD, Assoc. Professor, Nutrition & Physiology, Dept. of Animal Science, Iowa State Univ.

Sharon Beck, 4th generation cattle rancher & co-chair of the Wolf Task Force for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Nancy C. Campbell, Pure bred dogs, legislation, rescue, health & welfare

John T. Connolly, Respected AKC dog show judge, past president Boxer Club of America

Anne Edwards, Pedigreed cats & cat welfare

Marty Greer, DVM, Canine reproduction & animal law, International Canine Semen Bank-Wisconsin

Gene Gregory, President & CEO, United Egg Producers

Donna Herzig, Attorney at Law & advocate for responsible pet legislation

Larry S. Katz, PhD, Professor, Animal Sciences, Director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension - Rutgers Univ.

Patte Klecan, Pet care business & professions outreach

Kenneth A. Marden, Working dogs & canine sports

Paul Mundell, National Director of Canine Programs, Canine Companions for Independence

L. Gabriel Navar, PhD, Professor & Chairman, Dept. of Physiology, Co-Director, Hypertension & Renal Center of Excellence

Cindy Schonholtz, Director of Industry Outreach, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association

John Richard Schrock, PhD, Professor of Biology & Director of Biology Education, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas

Robert C. Speth, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology, Univ. of Mississippi, Fellow of the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science

Sharon K. Steckler, Attorney at Law & long time animal welfare advocate

Patti Strand, NAIA founder, purebred dog enthusiast, author & commentator on responsible pet ownership

Holly Stump, Biologist, purebred dogs, breed specific legislation, canine therapy work

Edward J. Walsh, PhD, Director, Developmental Auditory Physiology Laboratory, Boys Town National Research Hospital & Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University School of Medicine

NAIA introduces Animal Policy Review

Continued from page 1

ers, hunters, researchers, farmers, and tradesmen. Our experts will scrutinize issues ranging from regulation of exotic animal ownership to horse slaughter, from the Marine Mammal Protection Act to policies affecting live-stock care and animal-based research, from dog breeding restrictions to hunting regulations.

This is an ambitious enterprise in the current climate in the US in which science, tradition, and expertise on animal issues often take a back seat to emotional pleas, anecdotes, and political expediency, but NAIA – the National Animal Interest Alliance – has the broad-based knowledge and expertise to do the job.

Founded in 1991 by dog breeder and author Patti Strand, NAIA supports and promotes responsible animal ownership and use, is committed to preservation of the human-animal bond, rejects anti-human philosophies that place the interests of animals above the needs of people, and opposes animal rights extremism in all of its disguises. NAIA is a charitable organization recognized under the

Continued on page 6

Contents

Non-native species test lawmakers, conservationists, and animal owners	Page 3
NAIA conference explores the impact of activist propaganda and sound bites on animal interests	Page 4
Ohio lawmakers approve animal welfare board for November ballot	Page 4
Board member bios	Pages 5, 6, 10, 11
Sportsmen support heritage hunting bills	Page 7
USFWS temporarily returns Great Lakes wolves to federal Endangered Species Act	Page 7
Activists, lawmakers fiddle while state budgets collapse	Page 7
Canadian sealers hurt by declining pelt market	Page 9
Equine lovers unite to promote humane care and sensible management for horses	Page 11

NAIA Animal Policy Review

Norma Bennett Woolf, editor

NAIA Animal Policy Review is published quarterly.

All content © 2009 NAIA

Non-native species test lawmakers, conservationists, and animal owners

From exotic hitchhikers such as the brown tree snake and the zebra mussel to escapees like feral hogs and boa constrictors, non-native species pose a challenge to conservationists who value and protect environments, agencies and citizen commissions who write regulations, and legislators who set the regulatory stage with their laws and resolutions.

There's no doubt that escaped or released animals and those that hitchhike their way to non-native but hospitable habitats have the potential to damage environments, negatively impact rare or endangered species, interrupt commerce, and threaten human health and safety. Many plans for dealing with invasive species already exist. State wildlife agencies write policies and regulations to prevent or control troublesome exotics and develop resources to educate the public; special interest groups join in efforts to prevent or ameliorate these problems; and the federal government provides resources through the USDA National Invasive Species Information Center(1) and enforcement through the Lacey Act(2) and various other federal laws.

This spring, Delegate Madeline Bordallo of Guam, a US territory battling the accidental introduction of the predatory brown tree snake, introduced HB 669, an attempt to add to these protections at the federal level. However, this bill turns current law on its head by mandating an assessment of potential danger before a species can be sold or owned instead of the reasonable notion that danger must be proven before a species can be banned.

Critics note that the bill will unjustly impact the pet trade; overburden the US Fish and Wildlife Service and strain agency budget resources as they attempt to provide assessments of thousands of species; punish responsible pet owners; and interfere with legitimate introduction of species not yet approved for import.

The lure of exotics

If animals could be neatly divided into categories and clearly identified as "pets" or "wildlife," it would be relatively easy to write laws prohibiting importation, ownership, or sale of particular species. However, not



A conure with three chicks. Native to Central and South America, conures and other tropical birds will be banned from import into and travel within the US until they are added to the approved species list if HR 669 passes as introduced. Photo is from the article "Parrotkeeping: How do I raise my birds?" by Mary Covault. See it on the NAIA website at <http://www.naiaonline.org/issues/parrotkeeping1.htm>

only is such characterization impossible, people are fascinated by animals that may be wild in their native lands but also may adjust readily to captivity, even to living with families in apartments and suburban homes. Guinea pigs, ferrets, chinchillas, birds, snakes, lizards, tropical fish, and thousands of other non-native species are also more acceptable than dogs or cats as pets in busy households or in housing units with dog or cat limits or bans. As a result, millions of these exotics are sold to individuals as pets and schoolteachers as classroom projects that help children learn about animal care and the sanctity of life. Some of these species have the potential to become invasive in suitable habitats, but few have actually done so.

On April 23, Marshall Meyers of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council addressed the concerns of the pet industry in a hearing before the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife of the House Natural Resources Committee. Meyers noted that the 2009-10 National Pet Survey of the American

Pet Products Association reported that some 30 million US households own exotic animals ranging from tropical fish and birds to reptiles and small mammals.

Continued on page 9



Small mammals such as Guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils and others often kept as pets and school classroom projects will suffer the same fate as the conures pictured above.

NAIA conference explores the impact of activist propaganda and sound bites

NAIA Annual Conference

Washington DC

November 1-4, 2009

**Propaganda, Reality and Public Perception:
Dispelling Animal Myths in the Age
of Images and Sound bites**

This bellwether conference will bring together a diverse array of animal interests to explore the effects of propaganda on public policy and society in general. Each invited speaker will discuss a widely misunderstood topic, describe the commonly held belief, expose the misinformation responsible for the belief and then make recommendations for how we deal with the real issues that challenge us.

Our rich schedule of events will include a welcome reception on Sunday evening, featured lectures and workshops on Monday and Tuesday, and a lobby day on Wednesday to deliver our coalition's unified message to Congress.

Speakers and topics include

Dr. Ron DeHaven, executive vice president and chief executive officer, AVMA: "Overview of animal welfare concerns."

Dr. Dale Bauman, Cornell University: "Dairy production's environmental impact: the good ole days may appear rose-tinted, but the future is green."

Dr. Edward Taub, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and **Dr. P. Michael Conn**, Oregon Health and Science University and co-author, *The Animal Research War*: "The continuing war on animal research."

Patti Strand, NAIA chairman and co-author of *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement*, and **Bill Bruce**, Calgary Alberta, director of Animal and By-Law Services: "Pet overpopulation."

Dr. Lance Baumgard, NAIA director, University of Arizona: "Dietary misinformation, animal fats in the diet."

The **Honorable Charlie Stenholm**, senior policy advisor at Olsson Frank and former Congressman (26 years, eight as ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Agriculture); **Scott Dutcher**, chief, Bureau of Animal Protection, Colorado Department of Agriculture; and **Cindy Schonholtz**, NAIA vice president and Director of Industry Outreach, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association: "The unintended consequences of banning horse processing in the US."

Margaret Poindexter, AKC general council and AKC Kennel Inspection Program chief: "Are all commercial kennels puppy mills?"

Steve Kopperud, executive vice president, Policy Directions, Inc.: "Unity in pursuit of freedom: The answer to animal rights."

Gene Gregory, president and CEO, United Egg Producers, and **Jeff Armstrong**, DVM - dean of College of Agriculture & Natural Resources at Michigan State University: "Propaganda, Science and the Ballot Box."

Mark Cushing, Attorney, partner Tonkon Torp; outside counsel, Banfield the Pet Hospital; counsel and lobbyist, NAIA and NAIA Trust: "Animal politics at the state and local level."

Justice Dept. Representatives: Civil rights and criminal issues related to the animal rights movement

Select Members of Congress and Federal Agencies: Animal welfare and agriculture

Ohio lawmakers approve animal welfare board for November ballot

Facing an initiative campaign to ban certain livestock practices, Ohio lawmakers and farmers collaborated on a resolution to add a livestock welfare board to the State Constitution.

The 13-member board will have exclusive power to set livestock care standards and will include family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert, and a representative from an Ohio humane society.

Fresh from a successful campaign that banned cages for egg-laying chickens and gestation crates for pigs in California, the Humane Society of the US met with the Ohio Farm Bureau in February to demand that some livestock housing practices be phased out. HSUS planned to back an initiative petition in 2010 to ban the practices if farmers didn't give in to the demand. Ohio farmers and lawmakers answered with their own ballot measure

Nationwide slaughter ban causes horses to suffer

Continued from page 1

horses for shipment to a US processing plant for consumption abroad, owners are faced with fewer outlets for their animals at a time when job losses, tax increases, and rising costs of feed, medical care, and other expenses place them in financial crisis. As a result, the supply of horses has outstripped the demand and more and more horses are abandoned, neglected or shipped across US borders to Mexican plants where US animal welfare regulations do not apply.

Yet in this heartbreaking climate, the Humane Society of the US and other animal extremist organizations are urging Congress to pass HR 503 and S 727, bills that ban shipping US horses out of the country for processing. Taking advantage of the emotional attachment Americans have for horses, these groups raise funds by stoking revulsion and anger towards those who disagree, even though the inevitable result will be even more suffering for horses.

More cruelty?

The final equine processing plant in the US closed in 2007. Analyzing the situation at that time, NAIA vice president and horse issues expert Cindy Schonholtz wrote:

“Instead of being processed at USDA regulated plants and transported under regulations the horse industry helped formulate, horses destined for processing can count on longer truck rides and an uncertain fate at Mexican processing plants.”

Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA vice-president

“Instead of being processed at USDA regulated plants and transported under regulations the horse industry helped formulate, horses destined for processing can count on

longer truck rides and an uncertain fate at Mexican processing plants. Additionally, anyone who pays attention to the news can see that the current economic conditions in the country and the elimination of commercial US horse processing has created a two-pronged problem: thousands

Continued on page 8

“Additionally, anyone who pays attention to the news can see that the current economic conditions in the country and the elimination of commercial U.S. horse processing has created a two-pronged problem: thousands of horses that otherwise would be processed are neglected and in threateningly poor health and condition; and because the processing market has been closed off, these horses are being placed on the active market, causing a drop in horse prices across the board.”

Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA vice-president



Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA Vice President

Cindy is the Director of Industry Outreach for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Working with 650 PRCA rodeo committees on animal rights and animal welfare issues, she administers the PRCA’s award-winning livestock welfare program. She handles media inquiries to the PRCA on animal issues, networks with veterinarians on animal care, works with law enforcement on animal-related security issues and assists in issue management with rodeos and other animal organizations. She also handles animal-related government relations for the PRCA and has led the effort to defeat many bans on rodeo.

Cindy networks with other animal use industries and works to educate the public on animal welfare issues. She has written many articles about animal rights and animal welfare and offers presentations on the topic at conferences. She is on the Executive Committee for the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance and the Colorado Horse Council and is a member of the Public Policy Committee for the American Quarter Horse Association.

Cindy is a graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

NAIA introduces *Animal Policy Review*

Continued from page 2

Internal Revenue Code as a 501 (c) (3).

NAIA believes ...

- ★ that the people who keep, utilize and care for animals have a duty to assure the well-being of the animals in their care by providing appropriate housing, nutrition, medical care, humane treatment and handling, and when necessary, humane euthanasia.
- ★ that the animal rights campaign to limit and ultimately abolish human-animal interaction is unnatural, misguided and harmful to both people and animals.
- ★ that the privilege of using animals for human benefit carries with it a clear obligation to treat animals humanely, responsibly and respectfully.
- ★ that others are entitled to disagree with our point of view, but not to break the law or use threats, lies, intimidation, harassment or violence to force their views on others.

NAIA supports ...

- ★ responsible and humane use of animals for food, clothing, medical research, companionship, assistance, recreation, entertainment and education.
- ★ ethical and regulated hunting and fishing of abundant species as vital components of wildlife

management programs, which help sustain and perpetuate healthy wildlife populations and natural habitats.

- ★ enforcement of state and federal laws that mandate the proper treatment of animals and provide penalties for animal abuse.

NAIA board members are volunteers from a variety of animal fields, including dog and cat sports, agriculture, medical research, veterinary medicine, wildlife management and hunting associations, entertainment and education. They are distinguished and esteemed members of their respective communities and serve without compensation in support of NAIA's mission and goals.

NAIA members come from virtually the same backgrounds as the NAIA Board of Directors. They are pet owners, breeders, trainers, veterinarians, research scientists, farmers, fishermen, hunters, biologists and teachers. They are also associations, agencies and businesses; dog and cat clubs, obedience clubs, rescue groups, rodeos, circuses, animal shelters and others.

NAIA receives its primary financial support from dog and cat breeders, fanciers and trainers; veterinarians; sporting groups; medical researchers; dog, cat and horse associations; pet owners; livestock, poultry and egg producers; and other interested individuals, associations, and businesses. Funding also comes from sponsorships, grants and advertising.

For more information about NAIA, visit our website at www.naiaonline.org.



Patti Strand, NAIA founder and national director

NAIA founder and guiding light, Patti Strand is a recognized expert, speaker, and consultant on contemporary animal issues, most notably responsible dog ownership and the animal rights movement. She often appears on radio and television and her articles on canine issues, animal welfare, public policy and animal rights have appeared in major US news publications and in trade, professional and scientific journals. In 1993, Patti and her husband Rod co-authored *The Hijacking of the Humane Movement: Animal Extremism*, the first US book exposing the extremism of the animal rights movement.

Hijacking alerted researchers, farmers, dog breeders, furriers, hunters, and others who raise and depend on animals that their efforts to provide for animal well-being were being twisted by organizations and individuals who vilified animal use as a fund-raising tool. NAIA provided the framework for these legitimate animal interests to work together to expose the radicals.

Strand has been a Dalmatian breeder and enthusiast since 1969, is an approved AKC judge and has been a member of the AKC Board of Directors since 1995. She holds a degree in political science from Portland State University.

Sportsmen support heritage hunting bills

The US Sportsmen's Alliance announced its support for S 1348 and HR 3046, companion bills that assure continued hunting on certain federal lands.

Known as the Hunting Heritage Protection Act, the bills recognize that hunting is an important and traditional activity and acknowledges that hunters are among the leading supporters of sound wildlife management and conservation practices in the country. The preamble to the bills also point out that hunters have raised billions of dollars through the purchase of hunting licenses, permits, and stamps and guns and other hunting gear. The bills mandate that Federal public land management decisions and actions result in no net loss of land area accessible for hunting on Federal public land.

S 1348 is sponsored by Senator Saxby Chambliss of Georgia. The senator introduced similar legislation in 2000 and faced the wrath of environmental and animal rights organizations. The Clinton Administration opposed the bill and it went nowhere. In August 2007, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13443: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation to accomplish the same goals as the bills introduced by Chambliss and Representative Denny Rehberg of Montana. However, executive orders can be revoked by subsequent administrations.

S 1348 has been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; HR 3046 is in the House Natural Resources Committee.

USFWS temporarily returns Great Lakes wolves to federal Endangered Species Act

On April 2, the US Fish and Wildlife Service removed the gray wolf population in the western Great Lakes state from federal Endangered Species Act coverage, thus returning responsibility for the species to the states. Five anti-hunting groups, including the Humane Society of the US, sued to return the wolves to the list. On June 29, US FWS announced a settlement in the case that returns the wolves to the list until an additional comment period can be completed.

The agency proposed the rule removing the wolf from federal protection in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin in March 2007 and announced a 90-day public comment period. The com-



ments were gathered and studied, and the wolves were delisted in February 2007. A lawsuit resulted in return of the issue to the agency, which reissued its decision this year.

The agency notes on its website that the goal of the Endangered Species Act is to improve the status of a population so that it no longer needs protection under the act. The agency also said that the Western Great Lakes area supports "a healthy, self-sustaining population of wolves" and that numbers and distribution have "exceeded the criteria identified in the recovery plan." As part of the recovery package, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin have developed protection plans to assure the species survival in their borders.

There oughta be a law??

Activists, lawmakers fiddle while state budgets collapse

Budgets in many states faced major deficits this year unless lawmakers brought spending under control, yet many legislatures were distracted by debates over such issues as the reproductive status of dogs and cats, the type of housing provided for chickens, and the use of confinement and husbandry techniques that keep dogs in their homes.

While California grappled with a budget deficit of more than \$20 billion, lawmakers considered mandatory sterilization for dogs and cats, a ban on docking the tails of dairy cows, and an attempt to broaden the state's housing requirements for chickens to include eggs produced in other states.

Massachusetts also faced budget trouble, yet lawmakers argued about an activist-led proposal to ban bark-softening in dogs, a technique used as a last resort to keep noisy dogs in their homes.

Ohio lawmakers couldn't agree on a budget, but both representatives and senators heard testimony on bills to mandate the type of water bowl allowed for dogs and require criminal background checks for dog breeders. Some jurisdictions debated bills to ban tethering of dogs, and some considered bills to limit the number of dogs a breeder can own.

These bills not only distracted from the serious issues facing lawmakers and citizens, they represented policies that simply don't work. Laws mandating sterilization of pets, limiting the number of breeding dogs, or banning certain practices increase the number of dogs entering – and dying in – shelters, and laws affecting livestock or poultry farming increase the cost of food for cash-strapped taxpayers.

Nationwide slaughter ban causes horses to suffer

Continued from page 5

of horses that otherwise would be processed are neglected and in threateningly poor health and condition; and because the processing market has been closed off, these horses are being placed on the active market, causing a drop in horse prices across the board.” (1)

The number of horses trucked to Mexico has increased dramatically since 2007, veterinarians and cruelty investigators have seen an increase in neglect cases, and rescues and sanctuaries are overloaded. In addition, closing the US plants has also eliminated an option for those who have unwanted, dangerous, old, or injured horses that they cannot sell and cannot afford to euthanize and bury.

How did we get here?

Although it was not always so, eating horsemeat is anathema to most Americans. Ban proponents capitalized on this disgust by appealing to the emotions of urban and suburban residents who idealize horses or think of them as pets and by disseminating pictures of horses that arrived at processing plants in bad shape. Some of these photos were part of USDA investigations of cruelty complaints before or during transport of the horses but activists implied that they were typical of treatment at the plants.

In 1996, Congress passed a Farm Bill that ordered USDA to regulate the commercial transport of horses for processing. USDA worked with animal welfare experts in and out of the industry and with truckers, veterinarians, and others to study the issue and write regulations. The agency also funded research at Colorado State University on the physical conditions of horses arriving at processing plants, at Texas A&M University on the ef-

fects of water deprivation in equines, and at the University of California, Davis, on stress in equines shipped to processing facilities.

Here’s what USDA had to say in “Transportation of Horses to Slaughter: Separating Fact and Fiction”(2):

Fiction: Disturbing images of abused horses being shown on some websites and other media say they were taken during a 10-month period at one horse slaughter plant in Texas.

Fact: The photos were taken by a USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service field coordinator for the Equine Transport program over a six year period at more than one slaughter location as documentation of abuse of the transport law.

USDA commissioned livestock management expert Temple Grandin, PhD, to study the condition of horses arriving at two Texas plants in 1998. In the “Survey of Trucking Practices and Injury to Slaughter Horses,”(3) Grandin and her colleagues observed that most injuries occurred before or during transport, not at the processing plants. They wrote:

“Welfare problems in slaughter horses are listed in order of priority: It is the authors’ opinion that the top ranked problem causes the most suffering.

- Conditions caused by owner abuse or neglect.
- Injuries due to fighting when strange horses are mixed in the marketing and transport channels.
- Injuries directly attributed to the design of the trailer”

The recommendations and findings from these efforts were included in government regulations published in 2000. Extremists then campaigned to close the remain-

ing US equine processing plants. Ban bills failed to pass Congress, but lawsuits and public pressure closed both plants in Texas and the last one in Illinois in 2007.

What now?

In 2007, NAIA’s Schonholtz wrote: “From worldwide commerce, nutrition, environmental and ownership standpoints, the US horse industry must figure

Continued on page 10

Fiction:

Disturbing images of abused horses being shown on some websites and other media say they were taken during a 10-month period at one horse slaughter plant in Texas.

Fact:

The photos were taken by a USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service field coordinator for the Equine Transport program over a six year period at more than one slaughter location as documentation of abuse of the transport law.

USDA report “Transportation of Horses to Slaughter: Separating Fact and Fiction”

Canadian sealers hurt by declining pelt market

The European Union banned the importation of seal pelts this spring, a move that caused a dramatic drop in the market for seal hunters from eastern Canada and Greenland. Based on the claim that the seal hunt is cruel, the vote spelled disaster for fishermen who depend on the income and for the environment that is threatened by an overpopulation of the marine mammals.

Experts estimate that the population of harp seals, the most abundant species, totals nearly six million animals. There is evidence that the seals are damaging the natural environment and retarding recovery of fish stocks that people in the New England states and eastern Canadian provinces depend on for their livelihood. The Canadian government has prepared reports on seal populations, impact on environment, and needs of the people who depend on the hunt to supplement their income. (See Overview of the Atlantic Seal Hunt 2006 – 2010, <http://tinyurl.com/ld6t4y>.)

Canada has gone to great lengths to assure that the harvest is as humane as possible and to help build a market for seal oil and meat so the entire animal is used. The government works with veterinarians to assure that the hunt is humane and requires that observers accompany sealing boats to make sure the rules are followed. They banned the harvest of white-coated harp seal pups and blue-backed hooded seal pups in 1987 (http://www.thesealfishery.com/seal_hunt_regulations.php), but anti-hunt activists were not satisfied. Even though these young pups are no longer hunted legally, radical groups such as Sea Shepherd, the Humane Society of the US, and others continue to use photos of appealing white seal pups to accompany their pleas for dollars and to pressure governments to block markets for seal pelts. Their victory in Europe spells hardship for Canadian families that depend on the sale of seal oil, pelts, and meat for their income.

Non-native species test lawmakers, conservationists, and animal owners

Continued from page 3

Meyers noted that the only animals commonly kept as pets that were exempted from the bill are dogs, cats, and goldfish, making the provisions of HB 669 potentially detrimental to millions of American families. Under HR 669, all other exotic animals must undergo a “risk assessment process” by USDA, a mandate that would overload the agency, throw the pet industry into turmoil, and has the potential to criminalize pet ownership and lead to the release or euthanasia of tens of thousands of pets that are not a threat. Only species that pass the assessment will be approved for sale or for transport across state borders. Owners will be allowed to keep pets they can prove were obtained prior to the effective date of the law but will not be allowed to give them away or take them to a new home in another state.

More than 70 organizations, including NAIA, oppose HR 669, and opponents sent more than 50,000 e-mails and faxes to

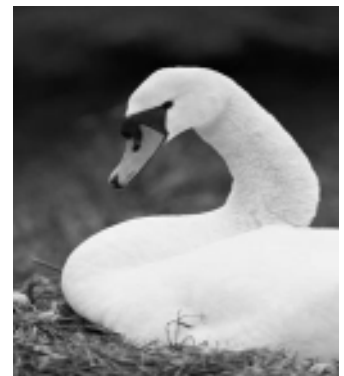
their representatives.

NAIA urges adoption of reasonable laws, policies, and regulations that solve invasive species dilemmas and do not turn responsible animal owners into criminals, cause the deaths of healthy pets, or severely impact legitimate American business.

Notes

- (1) USDA National Invasive Species Information Center, <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml>
- (2) Lacey Act, <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

The mute swan represents introduced species gone awry. Native to Europe and Asia, the birds came to the US with European immigrants and escaped or were turned loose. In Maryland, about 4000 mute swans cause considerable damage to native habitats by eating thousands of pounds of submerged vegetation that other species depend on. Efforts to eliminate the swans has been challenged by activists who don't want them killed.



Nationwide slaughter ban causes horses to suffer

Continued from page 8

out a way to inform and educate the public; eliminate ignorance from the policy making process and be recognized as a respected and thoughtful contributor to the resolution of this issue.”(4)

Legislatures in Montana(5), Tennessee, and North Dakota have taken a new look at horse processing. Montana passed a law allowing construction of processing plants in the state and North Dakota has commissioned a study to determine whether to do the same. Tennessee lawmakers are considering bills that would allow processing plants in that state. In addition, the number of organizations that do not support a ban is growing. NAIA, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Arabian Horse Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the United Organizations of the Horse(6) and others look for more reasonable and effective solutions for disposal of horses that are unwanted, dangerous, sick, or injured. Several horse owner associations have banded together to form the Unwanted Horse Coalition, a nonprofit group dedicated to solving the problem without getting involved in the processing debate(7).

NAIA supports education for current and potential horse owners and breeders and urges lawmakers to reject the one-dimensional solution offered by a ban, continue to enforce the transport and processing regulations devised by USDA and industry stakeholders, and let states make their own decisions about allowing processing plants within their borders. For more information about

the NAIA position, contact naia@involved.com or call Cindy Schonholtz at 719-594-9778 or cschonholtz@yahoo.com.

Notes

- (1) “Animal rights win, horses lose!” NAIA Newsletter October 2007, by Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA vice president. (See Schonholtz bio elsewhere in this issue of NAIA’s *Animal Policy Review*.)
- (2) See Slaughter Horse Transport Program (SHTP), http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/horses/horse_transport.shtml.
- (3) Survey of Trucking Practices and Injury to Slaughter Horses by Temple Grandin, Kasie McGee and Jennifer Lanier, Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1171: http://www.grandin.com/references/horse_transport.html
- (4) “Animal rights win, horses lose!” *NAIA News*, October 2007, by Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA vice president.
- (5) Montana horse processing bill become law, <http://www.aqha.com/news/2009PressReleases/050509montanaprocessing.html>
- (6) See the story on page 10 and visit the United Organizations of the Horse at <http://www.UnitedOrgsoftheHorse.org>
- (7) Unwanted Horse Coalition, <http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org/>



NAIA board member Sharon Beck

A fourth generation cattle rancher in northeast Oregon, Sharon is the former president of Oregon Cattlemen’s Association and the Oregon Agricultural Legal Foundation. She also headed the Endangered Species Committee for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and has been active on a number of state boards and committees dealing with natural resources. She now sits on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Committee dealing with the potential migration of the Canadian gray wolf into Oregon, and co-chairs the Wolf Task Force for the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association.

Equine lovers unite to promote humane care and sensible management for horses

The United Organizations of the Horse, a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to humane and responsible care of horses, has proposed HORSE, the Humane and Optimal Restoration and Sustainability of Equines Act, to return decision-making about the care and disposition of horses to their owners.

Founders of the organization include former Texas Congressman Charles Stenholm; Wyoming State Representative Sue Wallis; cowboy poet and former large animal veterinarians Baxter Black; Cindy Schonholtz, NAIA vice president and animal welfare coordinator for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association; and representatives from the American Quarter Horse Association, various state horse councils, veterinarians, and other individuals.

On May 13, the National Tribal Horse Coalition joined the United Organizations of the Horse in a statement that said: "The ability of tribes to manage their horse herds is severely constrained by the loss of markets for unusable horses, and they are coming together to find solutions that will benefit all tribes."

HORSE emphasizes humane treatment of horses from birth to death, protects the rights of horse owners who want to salvage some value from an unusable horse, and strengthens enforcement of humane transport laws for horses en route to processing plants and inspections at international borders.

Key points of the Humane and Optimal Restoration and Sustainability of Equines Act are:

- Euthanasia of horses should be carried out by a method approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

ners.

- Agencies and organizations that accept unwanted horses should follow the AAEP "Care Guidelines of Equine Rescue and Retirement Facilities."
- Transport regulations should be tightened, penalties strengthened, and enforcement increased and inspections at international borders should be strictly enforced.
- Employees charged with humanely euthanizing horses at processing plants should be trained and certified.
- Sellers of horses to processing plants or for export must provide documentation stating that they consent to processing.
- Horses must be inspected for tattoos or microchips at plants and international borders to see if they are registered with the "do-not-slaughter" national registry. Horses with matching identification must be held for 48 hours to allow the owner to reclaim them.

The HORSE Act does not impede the marketing, transport, or processing of horses and does not take away the private property rights of horse owners. For more information, visit the United Organizations of the Horse at <http://www.UnitedOrgsoftheHorse.org> and read the HORSE Act at http://www.unitedorgsofthehorse.org/index_files/HORSEAct.htm. Read the full statement of the National Tribal Horse Coalition at http://www.equivox.org/index_files/tribes.htm.



Dr. Larry S. Katz, NAIA president

As professor and former chairman of the Department of Animal Sciences at Rutgers University, Dr. Katz is an accomplished scientist and published author and currently serves as Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. He studies the reproductive behavior of domesticated ruminants and certain species in the wild. He has worked extensively with state wildlife agencies on strategies for managing wildlife populations through understanding their reproductive systems.

Dr. Katz received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and earned his PhD in Animal Behavior from the University of California at Davis. He sits on the board of directors of the Foundation for Animal Use and Education. He is an outspoken advocate for biomedical research in print and broadcast outlets across the US, and his effectiveness in these appearances has made him a frequent target of animal rights harassment.