

THE C.A.S.H. COURIER

THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of C.A.S.H. - Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting - is to accomplish what its name says in the shortest possible time. Understanding that abolishing hunting entails a process, a series of steps taken and not a single action that would effect our goal overnight, a time frame cannot be established. We hope for building a succession of wins, and if not wins immediately then at least a succession of stirrings of consciousness. We hope to encourage those who are still silent to speak out, awakening community after community about the heavy hand of state and federal wildlife management agencies. We hope to alter whatever belief still exists that sport hunters are conservationists and champions of the environment to a realization that they are destroyers of wildlife and ecosystems in the narrow and broad sense. Where the natural feeling for wildlife doesn't exist, we strive to engender among citizens outrage that their own rights are violated by legal hunting and their quality-of-life diminished.

Luke A. Dommer was the founder of the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting. He was its president from 1976 until his passing in August 1992. Mr. Dommer's research and publications served as the foundation for the anti-hunting movement. He remains, through this organization, an invaluable and dedicated warrior in the battle to save wild animals, the environment, and general public from the silent economy that encourages and preys on the passion of a few to kill the wildlife that belongs to all.

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C.A.S.H. COURIER

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Cooking the Numbers

The USFWS Survey does NOT show an increase in hunting from 2006 to 2011

BY PETER MULLER

Around the middle of 2012, many of us encountered claims in the popular media that the number of hunters in the US had been increasing over the last five years.

These claims were based on the 2011 edition of the "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." These surveys are published every five years by a consortium of federal agencies including the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The final 2011 version, the "2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" wasn't released until late in December 2012.

There were some "preliminary versions" leaked in the middle of 2012 on which these media reports were based, but the final report seemed to be taking an extra long time in cooking up the numbers.

We've been following the trends published in those reports since the 1980s, and reported on the steady decline of the number of hunters both in absolute numbers, as well as a percentage of the US population. We were surprised by the reported increase in the preliminary version – but waited patiently for the final version to appear before examining the claim of an increase in 2011



over the numbers from the 2006 survey.

After some sleuthing, we found two significant modifications in the methodology of the 2011 survey compared to the methodology used in previous surveys that account for disingenuously reporting an increase in the number of hunters.

Nobody, not the US government, not the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting, not Ted Nugent, and not even I know the exact number of people who hunted in the US in 2006, nor do we know the exact number of people who hunted in the US in 2011. If we follow a given survey methodology to come up with a reasonably close estimate of that number – then it is incumbent upon us to follow the same methodology in subsequent periods if the increases and decreases measured by the surveys are expected to reflect the **actual** increase and decrease of

Please see MAKING HUNTER'S STEW, Page 3

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Animal killing contests have been making headlines lately. A coyote killing contest held in central New Mexico caught the attention of international news agencies, and a squirrel hunting contest in western New York moved state politicians to call the event “insane” and call for its cancellation. New York state senator Tony Avella said of the event “I was absolutely shocked that in this day and age we are going to encourage young kids to get guns, which is an issue unto itself, and go out and shoot as many squirrels as they can to win prizes.” Another coyote hunting contest in California generated more than 20,000 letters and emails opposing the gratuitous slaughter.

So many lives are lost during these violent and nonsensical contests, but such outrageous events oftentimes bring action. As a result of the event in New Mexico, legislation to ban wildlife killing contests is being con-

sidered in Santa Fe. We will keep our supporters notified of nationwide efforts to ban these killing contests through our Facebook page. Stay tuned.

American hunters have also made international news after turning into violent criminals. Experts in mental health have long known that violence against animals is often a stepping stone to violence against people, and the tragic example of ex-police officer Chris Dorner is a good example



of this. C.A.S.H. explores this connection in a brief article in this issue titled: *Hunting Needs to be Part of the Gun Debate* on page 4.

In addition to the other excellent articles in this issue, please be sure to read, *New Mexico's Land Commissioner Says to Ban Coyote Killing Contests* on page 8.

C.A.S.H. is thankful for its members and supporters who have shown us they care about wildlife and are concerned with the way wildlife agencies mismanage nature and put us all at risk. If this newsletter has made it into your hands or across your computer screen, and you are not yet a dues-paying member, please become a member today. Your donations allow us to continue working on behalf of hunted and trapped wildlife.

Peace,
Joe

Joe Miele, President, Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting

How can I teach my kids to support your cause?

C.A.S.H. was recently contacted by a father looking for advice. If you have any advice for John that you'd like to pass along, please contact us at cash@abolishsportshunting.com and put “reply to John” in the subject line. We will send him your suggestion.

Dear CASH:

How can I teach my kids to support your cause? Do you have any experience with imparting your wisdom to children who are fascinated with killing animals in video games? My son is seven and I'm looking for tools to teach him empathy for nature.

Thank you for your website. It's comforting to know I'm not alone.

John, Traverse City, MI

Hi John:

*Thank you for contacting the **Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting**.*

I don't think there is any better way to teach children to respect nature and wildlife than to immerse them in it. Take your son camping in the state forest. Buy a book or

two on animal tracks, or birds who are native to the area and teach him how to identify them. Buy him a set of binoculars and a camera, and introduce him to bird watching and wildlife photography. Digital cameras are inexpensive and do not require parents to spend a fortune on film developing - hooray for modern technology!

One game that a friend has played with her children on camping trips is “nature bingo.” She created little bingo cards and in each box she's written in commonly found animals or natural features. You can adapt the content of the boxes to what you will find in your area. Some were easy to find, such as “jackrabbit” and “prickly pear cactus,” some moderate in difficulty, like “coyote” and “rattlesnake den,” and some difficult, such as “armadillo” or “horned toad.” The first person to get bingo would get their choice of dessert at dinner.

Children are taught best through positive experiences, and by giving them positive experiences with wildlife and nature they will feel more attached, and care more about what happens to it.

Sincerely,
Joe Miele

Cooking the Numbers

Continued from page 1

hunters. **If we use one survey method in 2006, and another significantly different method in 2011 to count the number of hunters in the US, we cannot claim that we found an increase or a decrease in the number of hunters.**

We found a major change in the 2011 methodology on Page 108 of the publication:

[Emphasis added]

“A modification of the 2011 sampling scheme was to **oversample** counties that had relatively **high proportions of hunting license purchases.**”

If, in the 2011 survey, they took more samples from counties that had higher hunting license sales –we would, obviously, expect a disproportionately higher report of hunting activity than if we sampled counties not so selected. **We found no indication in the discussion of methodology that the data was re-weighted to adjust for this blatant loading of the data source.**



In addition to that major change, loading the data in favor of finding a greater number of hunters in 2011, we found another rather obvious change in the 2011 methodology that would also tend to increase the number of hunting occasions reported. The survey consists of interviewing selected respondents by phone or in person regarding their hunting experience within a set “recall” period. That change in the methodology is

Excerpt of table C-1 on page 110

Table C-1. Major Characteristics of Surveys: 1955 to 2011-Continued						
Characteristic	1985	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Respondent's recall period.	1 year	4 months	4-8 months	4-8 months	4-8 months	4-12 months

found on page 110 of the “2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation”.

The recall period was extended by at least 33% for 2011 from the recall periods for the data collected for the previous twenty years.

Assume today is March 1st 2013 and I ask in my survey:

Did you make any trips to Florida between July 1st 2012 and November 1st 2012

Or, alternatively:

Did you make any trips to Florida between March 1st 2012 and November 1st 2012

Clearly, the Yes-answers to question 2) will be larger than the Yes-answers to question 1) since the trips recalled in question 1) will also be recalled in question 2) in addition to some other trips. **By extending the recall period about whether and how often they hunted – the survey is increasing the number of hunting occasions reported. These results of the 2011 survey are not comparable to the data from the previous 20 years of surveys.**

A further inaccuracy in the report, not resulting in reporting larger number of hunters, but misleading nevertheless, is the inclusion of “people who hunted

without a license, even though a license was required.”

In common English usage these people are referred to as “poachers” not “hunters.”

I would suggest that they reissue their survey, entitled:

“The 2011 National Tale about Fishing, Hunting, Poaching, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation”

The agencies involved seem to be striving to publish numbers that they would like to see rather than numbers as they are.

C.A.S.H. asked the science-based HRC to review our analysis. They wrote the following:

I, Che Green, executive director and lead researcher of the Humane Research Council (<http://www.humaneresearch.org>) have reviewed the analysis contained in this article and agree that this analysis is accurate without clarifying and contrary information provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Peter Muller is the Vice President of C.A.S.H.

Sally Jewell, Nominee for Secretary of the Interior

Given the fact that the Obama nominee for Secretary of the Interior is of huge concern to hunters, we at



President Barack Obama with REI head Sally Jewell

C.A.S.H. are hopeful that we may see some positive change should she be confirmed by Congress. **Sally Jewell**

would be the first Secretary of the Interior who is not a hunter, but who is still an "outdoor enthusiast."

The phrase "outdoor enthusiast" normally sends shivers down my spine, but what this term refers to in her case is climbing and hiking. Ms. Jewell heads the consumer co-op Recreational Equipment Inc. REI They sell what they call "sporting goods," which means items for those who do mountain biking, road biking,

kayaking, backpacking, rock climbing, outdoor photography, family hiking, and snowshoeing. **When asked by reporters why REI didn't carry hunting equipment, she said it was because she "didn't know that much about it," and REI had to be experts in everything they sell.** If you like outdoor recreation, as opposed to outdoor wreck creation, please visit:

http://www.rei.com/?gclid=CJm0l6kz7UCFe1QOgod8zAAnA&_kwcid=TC|13030rei.com.|S|b|17940421093&ef_id=8JdPJRyPvSgA AE5x:20130224154307:s

HUNTING NEEDS TO BE PART OF THE GUN DEBATE

Taking a Hard Look at the Pittman-Robertson Act

BY ANNE MULLER

Hunting as a part of the gun debate appears to be inconsistent with the current goal of the White House, which is to fracture the monolithic power of the NRA. **The common sense connection between hunting and violence has not merely been side-stepped, but the use of firearms to hunt has the explicit imprimatur of this administration.** Although there is clearly a concerted effort to protect hunting from proposed gun control laws, the subject needs to be examined for its connection to the government's role as both beneficiary and motivator of the use of firearms.



From the Arizona Game and Fish Department
http://www.azgfd.gov/h_f/hunting.shtml

In a New York Times op-ed, *Selling a New Generation on Guns*, the author, Mike McIntire, stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) financed a study to explore attitudes toward guns in order to counteract the trend of declining hunter recruitment. Strategies were suggested for generating a greater acceptance of guns among children. As the question of why a government entity would have a strong interest in promoting firearms use among children was left

unanswered, we would like to fill that gap. Not surprisingly, the reason is financial.

Mandated by the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act of 1937, an excise tax was placed on firearms and ammunition. The firearms and ammunition excise tax (FAET) is collected by the Alcohol and Tobacco Trade Bureau (TTB) within the US Department of Treasury. The tax is then turned over to the FWS. Eleven percent is retained by the FWS to cover administrative expenses. The rest is apportioned to all 50 states using a formula based on each state's hunting license sales and state size. The P-R Act prohibited the taxes from being used for any purpose other than to generate more hunting and shooting opportunities, i.e., more use of firearms and ammunition. A galling aspect of this Act is that, in order to receive their federal share, states must match those funds with 25% from state coffers. Those who celebrate the P-R Act claim that matching funds can come from hunting license sales, but left unsaid is that they can also come from the general fund of the state.

To illustrate how aberrant the P-R excise tax is, let's compare excise taxes collected on two other well-known products: alcohol and tobacco. Excise taxes on those products may be used for a variety of societal needs: education, health, housing, etc.

If the same government structure and financial mechanism that applies to firearms applied as well to alcohol and tobacco, the following would exist:

There would be two government agencies solely dedicated to the respective sale and use of alcohol and tobacco. They would collect excise taxes for the purpose of creating

drinking and smoking opportunities, and pay their employees based on the number of people they motivate to drink and smoke.

They would not share their funds with the public, even with the direct or indirect victims of alcohol or tobacco.

Would we tolerate such government agencies? Not likely. Yet, that is precisely how the FWS and state bureaus of wildlife operate. **The use to which the weapons and ammunition are put is irrelevant to the destination of the FAET. That means that firearms and ammunition used in drug-related or other crimes aid hunting and wildlife manipulation for hunting. The massacres at Jonesboro, Columbine, Aurora, Newtown, and thousands of individual murders in the urban areas of our country have, in fact, benefited wildlife management agencies.** How can murder with a firearm and ammunition whose excise taxes pay only for wildlife management be justified? Are the victims merely "collateral damage"?

The FWS and the firearms industry are focused on youth hunting. Their studies have concluded that placing firearms in the hands of children will hook them on using weapons, thus ensuring sales well into the future. Mr. McIntire's op-ed brought to light a suggested strategy for motivating disinclined children to hunt: "peer ambassadors." In the 1990s, when the drop in recruitment of young people into the "shooting sports" became worrisome to the firearms industry and wildlife managers, hunters used

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HUNTING NEEDS

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another recruitment tactic that they called the “buddy program.” The industry had determined that the decline of hunting (use of firearms) was partially attributable to a rise in the number of families headed by single moms. Through hunting publications, hunters were encouraged to befriend these women in order to take their kids hunting.

While hunting is touted as a clean-cut pastime that allows rural traditions to be passed from generation to generation, it is actually quite an intimidating experience for those who encounter hunters on their property, have had property damaged, pets and livestock killed, and their children frightened. Rural citizens who wish to keep hunters off their property, or keep them from shooting near their property, are often harassed, abused, and ignored by hunters, while law enforcement officers and local judges too often back up the hunters. In particular, women living alone have been forced to pay fines, and spend time in jail and courts, having been charged with “Hunter Harassment.” Hunter Harassment laws, instigated by the



Gavin Jacobson took a 159 pound, 8 point white-tailed buck with a muzzleloader on the 10th day of November, 2012 in Harford County. Photo from the Maryland DNR.

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/Junior_Hunters/md_jr_hunter.asp

NRA and others, now exist in every state, although they arguably violate the First Amendment.

Those who depend on the sale of firearms and their use are desperate to recruit children into the “shooting sports” to ensure profits and excise taxes well into the future. That is being done although studies have shown that for some there is but a fine line between killing animals and killing people, a line that can and has been crossed.

Recently, it was reported that a SEAL sniper attributed his indifference to killing people to having hunted

in his youth. That came to light when he himself was killed by someone with a hunting background. Such news reports indicate and dictate that hunting has to become a part of the debate.

There are many responsible citizens, gun owners and voters among them, who are disgusted with the arrogant perspective that the recreational killing of animals is considered to be a justification for the purchase of firearms and ammunition.

One need not play video games to learn violence. Lessons in violence can be learned as readily from killing animals in the woods. Recently, a live squirrel shooting contest was sponsored by the fire department of Holley, NY. Their flier showed an adorable squirrel with cross-hairs covering his little face. The flier announced that the children who killed the fattest squirrels would win firearms, including a semi-automatic weapon. Who benefits? The firearms industry and wildlife management agencies. Who loses? The children who are taught that killing other living creatures can be fun. In the end, the society loses.

It is simply prudent to keep firearms out of the hands of some adults and certainly out of the hands of all children.

Rural Enforcement of Law Non-Existent if Hunters are the Perpetrators

Merle Wilson of Iowa, shared his poignant letter written to numerous government officials, including the Governor.

I have lobbied for 15 years for more DNR [Department of Natural Resources] law enforcement. I've gotten no place, but realize that if there were more, it would not make a difference. As soon as law enforcement officers determine that an individual is a hunter, they leave the scene.

On December 28, ignoring our “no trespassing” signs, a pickup truck with a single occupant drove within 30 feet of our house, went another 200 feet beyond, turned around in my yard and started to back out. He only stopped when I asked

what he was doing on my property. He said it was none of my business, and if I gave him any trouble, he'd jump out of the truck and stomp me half to death. With that he drove off.

The sheriff deputy that answered my call determined that he was a hunter and failed to pursue the case.

I recently read an article by a retired Phoenix police officer. He said, if you are attacked, and you refuse or are unable to defend yourself, then by the time law enforcement arrives on the scene, one of two things will have happened: you will be dead or you will be brutalized. I had no way of knowing if this individual was a half-crazed dope addict looking to steal something, or

someone looking to kill my wife and myself for one reason or another.

These citizen abuses show the DNR's cavalier attitude toward rural property owners and their ever-eroding rights. Their attitude indicates to me that because hunters fund the DNR, they are given ‘favorite son’ status and allowed to do as they please, while the DNR looks the other way.

[Editor's note: We apologize for needing to print an abbreviated letter due to space, Merle cited many more instances of hunter violations that were deliberately unenforced. It is clear that hunting law enforcement simply means enforcing the unconstitutional hunter harassment laws.]

ONE PARK DOES NOT A RECOVERED SPECIES MAKE

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF JIM ROBERTSON

Posted on January 26, 2013 by
Exposing the Big Game

Ignorance must be such sweet bliss for anyone who visits Yellowstone National Park and thinks the wildlife they see there represents fully recovered populations of some of North America's most endangered species. Sorry to say, one park does not a recovered species make. For all its size, spectacularity and relative biodiversity, Yellowstone is little more than an island in an anthropogenic wasteland to much of its megafauna. If ranchers and hunters had their way, wolves and grizzlies would be restricted to the confines of the park. Ranchers already have such a death-grip on Montana's wildlife that bison are essentially marooned and forced to stay within park borders, battling snow drifts no matter how harsh the winter, despite an instinctual urge to migrate out of the high country during heavy snow winters.

Though Yellowstone is synonymous with the shaggy bovines, bison would prefer to spend their winters much further downriver, on lands now usurped and fenced-in by cowboys to fatten-up their cattle before shipping them off to slaughter.

Yellowstone's high plateaus are on average well over 5,000 feet in elevation and can hardly be considered prime habitat for the wild grazers. Much of the park actually sits within the caldera of one of the world's largest active volcanoes. Any sizable eruption could release enough toxic gasses to kill off all of Yellowstone's bison—the last genetically pure strain of the species now left on the continent.

People driving through cattle country on their way to Yellowstone often have no idea just how sterile the open



plains they're seeing really are. Gone are the vast bison herds that once blackened them for miles on end—killed off by hide-hunters, market meat-hunters or by "sportsmen" shooting them from trains just for a bit of fun. Gone are the wolves and grizzlies adapted to that arid habitat. And nearly gone are the prairie dogs as well as the ferrets, kit fox, plovers, burrowing owls and a host of others who depended on them for food or shelter.

Part of the reason I wrote *Exposing the Big Game: Living Targets of a Dying Sport* <http://www.earth-books.net/books/exposing-the-big-game> was to remind people about the wild species who once called so much of this continent home. No one's going to be able to claim ignorance on my watch; if I can't go through life blissfully then neither can anyone else.

The following is an excerpt from one of the **book's** two chapters on bison:

Selfless and protective, bison develop lasting bonds in and outside the family, not only between cows, calves and siblings but also between unrelated individuals who grew up, traveled and learned about life together. Juveniles help mothers look after the youngsters and will gladly lend a horn to keep potential predators away from the calves. I have witnessed cooperation among bison families often in the

years I've spent observing and photographing them. I've also seen them put themselves in harm's way to defend elk from hungry wolves, and even mourn over the bones of their dead.

But in a ruthless act of rabid backstabbing, 1600 bison—who had never known confinement or any reason to fear people—were slain to appease Montana ranchers during the winter of 2008. More than half of Yellowstone's bison were killed in what was the highest body count since the nineteenth century. 1438 were needlessly and heartlessly shipped in cattle trucks to slaughterhouses (those nightmarish death camps where so many forcibly domesticated cattle meet their ends), while 166 were blasted, as they stood grazing, by sport and tribal hunters. Two winters prior, 947 bison were sent to slaughter and 50 were shot by hunters.

Instead of making amends for the historic mistreatment of these sociable, benevolent souls, twenty-first-century Montanans are still laying waste to them. Spurred on by industry-driven greed for grazing land (veiled under the guise of concern about brucellosis, a disease with a negligible risk of transmission that has never actually been passed from wild bison to cattle), the state of Montana sued to seize control of bison ranging outside Yellowstone. Now their department of livestock has implemented a lethal policy and the US National Park Service is facilitating it. Since the dawn of the new millennium, nearly 4000 Yellowstone bison have been put to death.

Text and Wildlife Photography ©Jim Robertson, 2012. All Rights Reserved. You can contact Jim at wolfcrest@hotmail.com

COSTA RICA BANS SPORT HUNTING

BY E.M FAY

Costa Rica has just become the first Latin American nation to ban hunting as a sport. Taking wild animals from their habitat for sale and/or keeping them as pets are also penalized under the new law. The culmination of a provisional reform approved in October, 2012, the December 2012 vote by the Costa Rican Congress was unanimous and final. President Laura Chinchilla Miranda signed the bill into law.

The law "will allow us to live in peace with other living things that share our planet," said assembly president Victor Emilio Granadas.

"I believe this is a message we give to future generations, that an activity like sport hunting is not a sport but a cruelty," added Granadas.

<https://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/12/11-5>

Among the many native species that have long been hunted in Costa Rica, either as trophies or to be sold, are jaguars, pumas, and other "exotic" felines, and various types of parrots. When the new law goes into effect, anyone caught sport hunting will risk four months in prison or fines up to \$3000. Those taking animals for sale or pets will face a somewhat smaller penalty.

Hunting had been big business in Costa Rica, as elsewhere. Senor Arturo Carballo, the Deputy Director



Laura Chinchilla
Miranda

Victor Emilio
Granadas

of Apreflofas, an environmentalist group who were in the forefront of this reform, said, "We do know there are currently clandestine hunting tours that go for about \$5,000 per person."

A positive sign is that this new law is the first proposal that arrived in Costa Rica's Congress by way of a popular initiative, with 177,000 citizens' signatures calling for the ban. (Guardian, Dec. 11, 2012)

A small country, Costa Rica is possessed of a stunning array of varying landscapes and abundant natural resources. It has been a haven for an estimated 5% of the world's bio-diversity. Despite its size, Costa Rica has more bird species than the United States, and more species of butterfly than the continent of Africa. The human population is approx. 4.5 million, with relatively high education levels, compared to other parts of Latin America.

http://www.indexmundi.com/costa_rica/economy_profile.html

While sugar, bananas, coffee, and beef are still staples of Costa Rica's export trade, industry and high-end goods and services have broadened their commercial markets. In particular, their remarkable biodiversity is a key draw for ecotourists from all over the world, with tens of thousands of visitors daily experiencing the incredible variety of local wildlife.

Ecotourism is touted as having a minimal impact on the environment. Its income is meant to help preserve protected areas as well as benefit local people, by reducing their dependence on activities that hurt wildlife and natural habitats.

With such treasures as 4500 species of butterfly, 212 types of mammals, 163 types of amphibian, 220 species of reptiles, approx. 870 varieties of birds, 1600 species of fresh and salt-water fish, and 13,000 plant species living in the diverse eco-systems of Costa Rica, there is a lot of life and beauty to protect from hunters and others who have no respect for nature. Thus, the new ban on sport hunting has the potential to save Costa Rican animals from a great deal of suffering in the future.

We can but hope that this milestone legislation, banning sport hunting, is emulated in other countries, including the United States.

YOU CAN DO IT –

HOORAY! A proposed Sunday Hunting Bill in Howard County, MD, was DROPPED.

At a public hearing on December 19, 2012, Delegate Gail Bates introduced a Sunday Hunting bill at the request of 'one' hunter from a neighboring county, to add insult to injury. In the State of Maryland only three counties continue to prohibit Sunday hunting. They are Prince George's County, Baltimore County and Howard County.

In Howard County less than one per-

cent of the residents purchased hunting licenses during the 2012 hunting season.

Individuals who opposed the bill outnumbered the hunters three to one at the hearing. The equestrian community joined the anti-hunting advocates against the bill. **The public strongly expressed their opposition unanimously stating, "They have six days, all we want is one".**

As a result of the public's outcry, the proposed Sunday Hunting bill for Howard County has been dropped for the 2013 legislative year. Unfortunately, Delegate Bates has stated that she may reintroduce the bill again next year.

Reported by a C.A.S.H. member who wishes to remain anonymous
Howard County, MD

NEW MEXICO'S ELECTED LAND COMMISSIONER SAYS BAN COYOTE KILLING CONTESTS Includes Interview with NM Land Commissioner Ray Powell

BY E.M. FAY

Coyotes are among the most far-ranging mammals on the North American continent. They can be found from Alaska to Mexico, and virtually everywhere from the Atlantic to Pacific Oceans. Nearly ubiquitous in the United States, these intelligent, social, wild dogs – canis latrans – are unfortunately also one of the most maligned of native species.

Wildlife Watch has long been an advocate for coyotes, recognizing equally their intrinsic value as individual beings and their essential place in a healthy natural environment. Therefore, we have been deeply disturbed by the indiscriminate killing of coyotes for whatever reason; but it is especially appalling when the motivation is a commercial enterprise that encourages the wanton taking of life just so someone can win a prize.

In November, a gunshop owner in Los Lunas, New Mexico, advertised a coyote-killing contest as a promotion. Whoever could bring in the most dead coyotes would win either a 12-gauge shotgun or two semi-automatic rifles. **Carole Altendorf**, a citizen concerned about the proposed slaughter of innocent coyotes, started an online petition, asking that people write to local officials to stop the contest. Altendorf noted that the contest sponsor would not reveal where the hunt was to take place on public land throughout New Mexico, which could put people who were lawfully on the land at risk of being shot accidentally. Over 5000 persons eventually signed the petition, but the contest was not cancelled.

Another voice was raised against the contest, making several cogent points as to why it was a bad idea. New Mexico's elected Land



Dr. Ray Powell

Commissioner, Ray Powell, M.S., D.V.M., made a statement (quoted on November 15th in the Albuquerque Journal) explicating the situation:

“The non-specific, indiscriminate killing methods, used in this commercial and unrestricted coyote-killing contest are not about hunting or sound land management. These contests are about personal profit, animal cruelty, and the severe disruption of the delicate balance of this desert ecosystem. It is time to outlaw this highly destructive activity.”

In addition, Commissioner Powell pointed out that “The participants in this commercial and unregulated exploitation of wildlife do not have a permit or lease to be on State Trust Lands.”

When the author spoke with Commissioner Powell, he explained some of the New Mexico Land Commission's responsibilities. The Land Commission safeguards and manages some 13,000,000 acres of land, all of which is held in trust for 22

beneficiaries. Virtually all of this land is leased to agricultural and other enterprises. Monies from the leases go to beneficiaries which include: public schools, universities, and hospitals, including schools for the blind and deaf population.

In order to have access to state trust lands, permission is required. As trustee, the Land Commissioner works for the public beneficiaries, so if anyone wants to use state land, they have to compensate the trust for that use. **The store owner who sponsored the coyote-killing contest noted above had not applied to use the land for this purpose. Nor was any application made to the Bureau of Land Management to use the approx. 13,000,000 acres of federal land that the BLM holds in trust. These facts show that the contest organizer and his contestants were technically “in trespass” when they used state land to kill the coyotes.**

But there are more significant reasons than the laws of trespass for opposing such contests – issues of morality and biology.

Commissioner Powell is a veterinarian. His doctorate in veterinary medicine from Tufts University emphasized wildlife medicine. A native of Albuquerque, he earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology and biology, and his master's degree in botany and plant ecology, at the University of New Mexico. Before being elected Land Commissioner in 2010, he worked with the world-renowned scientist and humanitarian Dr. Jane Goodall at the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife

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Research Education and Conservation. Powell also served as State Land Commissioner from 1993-2002 and was President and Vice President of the Western States Land Commissioners Association from 1996-1998, working closely with federal and state officials and Native American tribal leaders to improve public policy on trust lands. (Information courtesy of www.nmstatelands.org)

With this extensive background in the natural sciences and land management, Commissioner Powell is uniquely placed to explain with clarity the importance of preserving native species such as the coyote.

Deploring the fact that there has been an increase in the number of coyote hunting contests in recent years, Powell confirmed his earlier statement that they are a clear example of animal cruelty. He then elaborated on the important ecological issues.

“From a biological aspect, killing coyotes creates a problem where there isn’t one. The biological importance of coyotes to a healthy eco-system is affected negatively by this kind of unregulated, random killing. Especially as New Mexico has been in a severe drought situation since 1998, many agricultural families are hanging on by their fingernails.

Even in a non-drought period, there is a limited amount of grass. Grass is the ecological engine for agriculture, so it is disastrous if it is eaten up by the larger populations

of mice and rabbits, etc., that occur when coyotes are killed off. And naturally, during the current long-term drought, there is much less grass to begin with, so maintaining balance by letting the coyotes do their “job” in the food chain is even more vital.

Most members of both the agricultural and hunting communities do not see [the contest] as a wildlife management issue. They recognize that it is a commercial enterprise – about winning prizes for indiscriminate killing. They are opposed to that abuse of wildlife. The overwhelming response from both communities to this has been opposition.”

Powell described other ways that coyotes are of great benefit to hard-working farmers. Coyotes live and work in family units. They are territorial and protect their patch of land from outsiders, i.e., younger, more aggressive coyotes. When people co-exist with their local coyotes, the coyotes defend that land from interlopers who are more prone to take vulnerable newborn farm animals. Conversely, destroying a settled coyote family by random killing hurts not only the coyotes, but also the agricultural community. Wildlife and humans across the board suffer. Experienced hunters understand this fact of life, which is why they do not generally support the contests.

Commissioner Power said, “We are fortunate in New Mexico that we have a lot of really good people who understand the issues. The vast majority of them look at this killing

contest as an aberration.”

Besides ensuring that 90% of the revenue from leased state land goes to the public schools, the Land Commissioner strictly monitors all use of the land to ensure it is kept healthy. Healthy land is not only more productive for humans, but provides better habitat for native fauna and flora.

In partnership with the Department of Energy, Powell also established a 3000-acre nature preserve in Albuquerque. La Semilla is the largest nature preserve inside a city in the world, providing a haven for numerous species.

Another program of his is called Conservation Medicine – One Health. Its concerns are healthy animals, healthy plants, and healthy people. It’s about making decisions that are based on natural history and biology, alongside commercial interests, and basing them on generational impacts to the eco-system. **This rationale includes banning commercial coyote hunting contests. “They are anathema to productivity and the health of our lands for future generations,” Powell said.**

We at Wildlife Watch appreciate Commissioner Powell’s views on the contest killings of coyotes, and hope that his courage in speaking out will embolden other public officials to denounce killing contests and any similar cruel activities, in any state. Such words and deeds may also inspire legislators to ban these mindless pursuits, so that our wild friends have a better chance to live their lives in peace.

Homeowners Association Decides Against Trapping Coyotes

John Eberhart of Georgia Earth Alliance and LOHV-GA sent this great news:

The Vinings Village Homeowners Association (metro Atlanta) sent a letter to residents informing them that, based largely on the recent public meeting in

Druid Hills, they decided AGAINST trapping coyotes! Money that was previously collected for paying a trapper is being refunded to residents!!!!

If you need to protect coyotes in your neck of the woods, please visit <http://coyotecoexistence.com/>

Bill To Ban Coyote Killing Contests

Sadly, as the Courier was being finalized, the NM Legislature defeated the bill that would have outlawed coyote killing contests by a vote of 30-38.

C.A.S.H. and others are working to see it reintroduced.

Recreational Hunting: Would You Kill Your Dog For Fun? and Compassionate Conservation

BY MARC BEKOFF, PH.D.

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Due to space, and link references, the article has been shortened. Please see the article in its entirety at:

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animal-emotions/201302/recreational-hunting-would-you-kill-your-dog-fun-0>



Photo of Jelly Belly added by C.A.S.H. Courier editor

Killing other animals for recreation amounts to killing them for fun. I realize that many of the issues centering on sport hunting are highly contentious, but they need to be discussed openly. For those who choose to kill animals in the name of whatever serves their purpose, including conservation, if you wouldn't do it to your (or a) dog why do it to other sentient beings?

Recreational or sport hunting and fishing are very popular activities.

Trophy hunting also is a form of recreational hunting. One example of this egregious activity that made the news involved Donald Trump's rich sons Eric and Donald Jr. who wrote off their killing sprees during pricey canned hunts in Zimbabwe in the name of conservation by claiming their activities save animals and habitats and help local people. (The teaser image of them dressed in the "right and expensive gear" with various weapons and proudly showing off their slain animals can be seen at http://gothamist.com/2012/03/13/photos_donald_trump_sons_awesome_at.php#photo-1). How much fun it must be to pay a lot of money to kill animals in these staged encounters. Of course, rich kids aren't the only people who kill animals for fun, either recreationally or for trophies to hang on their walls.

Killing in the name of conservation: Compassionate conservation to the rescue

Most people who hunt do not do it with conservation in mind. Many do it for unneeded food or clothing, whereas others do it for fun, quality family time some claim. Hunting for food or clothing that aren't needed really amounts to sport hunting. And, hunting is not especially "efficient" in terms of animals being killed painlessly. Some people argue that it's okay to kill in the name of conservation. Individuals of invasive species (or species more appropriately called "out of place species" accord-

ing to my Australian colleague Dr. Rod Bennisson in his discussion of "ecological inclusion") are often killed as are animals who humans decide are "pests".

Next week I'll be giving a talk at a meeting in Sydney, Australia at the University of Technology called "Compassionate Conservation: Is recreational hunting defensible?" My talk is called "First do no harm: Would you kill your dog for fun?" and my colleague Dr. Daniel Ramp will talk about "Shooting Our Mouths Off About Conservation".

Compassionate conservation is a growing global movement. The first meeting devoted to this topic was held at Oxford University in 2010 and was followed by another in Chengdu, China in 2011 and a workshop in London (UK) in November 2012. Individuals from around 30 countries attended these meetings. **One of the goals of compassionate conservation is to focus on the importance and value of individual nonhuman animals (animals).** This is because those people interested in animal welfare are drawn to the animals themselves, whereas those people interested in conservation and environmental ethics concentrate more on species of animals, animal populations and ecosystems. **Individuals are considered dispensable to achieve certain goals.**

Focusing on larger entities such as species, populations and ecosystems is a fundamental driver of conservationists. **Those motivated by concerns about animal welfare argue against killing individuals, whereas conservationists accept that killing individuals might be permissible 'for the good of the members of the same or other species'.** The guiding principles of compassionate conservation seek to create common ground between those who are concerned with the well-being of individual animals and those who are concerned more with conservation.

What is clearly obvious from the Oxford, Chengdu, and London meetings is that people all over the globe are extremely concerned with humans continuing to move incessantly into animal habitats and redecorating nature. Once they've moved in, people often label the animals as "pests" when the animals act as the beings they are. **Compassionate conservation considers both human and nonhuman animals and how to work out solutions that are satisfactory to both. Often it is not possible to attain these goals and there usually are trade-offs that**

Please see **Recreational Hunting Story, Page 13**

DOLPHIN KILLINGS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

BY E.M. FAY

Dolphins are under more stress than ever before. These intelligent, gentle creatures – known for their empathy and for having saved drowning humans and dogs – are being persecuted in many ways and on a large scale. The mass slaughter of dolphins in Japan, as exposed in the Academy-Award-winning film, *The Cove*, is a well-known case in point, but there have been other threats to the highly evolved marine mammals.



There is a strange dichotomy regarding humans' relationship with dolphins. On one hand, we are fond of them. From the early television series "Flipper" – which brought widespread attention to dolphins, including the perpetuation of some false perceptions – to aquatic theme parks around the globe that feature performing dolphins, several generations of children and their parents have "oohed" and "aahed" at the antics of the clever, versatile swimmers. Scientists have studied their speech patterns, sonar-controlled navigational ability, and family life, and pronounced them among the most intelligent beings on earth.

On the other hand, **no consideration for dolphin safety is shown by the fishing fleets of the world, as their gigantic nets, meant for catching tuna, cod, and other edible fish, have trapped and killed countless dolphins over the past few decades. When this problem was brought to the attention of fish-processing corporations, some attempted to appease public opinion by asserting that they are more careful in their**

netting operations now, adding a symbol to cans of tuna that promises no dolphins were harmed; but this is a dubious reassurance, at best. Public relations exercises, like advertising, should not be taken at face value.

Another longstanding threat to dolphins is the **continued dumping of toxic chemicals into the oceans.** Pollution of the seas has been a mounting concern since well before the first Earth Day in 1970. Nowadays, there are also huge mountains of manmade debris in the ocean, **floating "islands" of plastic refuse that ensnare wildlife.**

Add to this the insatiable demand by the burgeoning human population of the planet for "seafood," which is wiping out fish stocks in every ocean. **Over-fishing is causing starvation amongst many ocean-dependent species, including pelicans, seals, polar bears, whales, and dolphins.**

Competition between humans and other animals for fish has been known to provoke violent reactions. Fishermen in the Pacific Northwest have admitted to shooting seals who were simply seeking sustenance. In North Carolina and elsewhere, pelicans have been killed and mutilated, possibly because they were competing with humans for scarce fish supplies. And there is reason to believe that the recent brutal murders of dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico may be related to their consumption of food that humans want for themselves. Whether this is the motivation or not, the dolphin killings have shocked and dismayed wildlife advocates, law enforcement officials, and the general public alike.

A number of dolphin corpses have washed up on the coast between Louisiana and Florida, shot to death and in some cases horribly mutilated, including one animal's jaw having been cut off, probably post-mortem. The heartlessness of the slayings was commented upon by the lead biologist at the Institute of Marine

Mammal Studies in Gulfport, Miss.

Calling the murders "senseless," and "repugnant," the biologist stressed the importance of finding whoever is responsible for them before the birthing season begins in the Gulf, when newborn dolphins and their mothers will be most vulnerable.

The illegality of the killing is undisputed: the Marine Mammal Protection Act authorizes a sentence of one year in prison and a fine up to \$100,000 for anyone convicted of killing dolphins.

Wildlife Watch spoke with the gentleman in charge of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration investigation into the crimes, Deputy Special Agent in Charge Jeff Radonski, of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement. He works in the Southeast Division, a vast area that stretches from the Texas-Mexico border to the North Carolina-Virginia border and into the Caribbean.

Special Agent Radonski noted the practical difficulties inherent in searching for any perpetrator along the lengthy coastline and into open water.

"This is an ongoing case," Radonski said. **"NOAA has many people active on it, but this is a difficult type of investigation, and we are highly dependent on the public to supply us with information.**

"Unlike when human beings are killed, with wildlife we aren't able to go through their life histories for clues. We need to have witnesses come forward. We need public input."

Although he acknowledged the terrible nature of the killings, Radonski was concerned that some news outlets sensationalize the story in a way that does not help NOAA's efforts.

Please see **DOLPHIN KILLINGS**, Page 12

IN MEMORY OF DR. AHMED HALIMA

- Passed away on December 26, 2012

Dr. Halima was known and loved by many in the animal protection movement. His deep commitment to people,



Photo of Ahmed Halima and Anne Muller Riverdale, NY, 2007

world peace, and animals was known by too few. If you were in his sight, you were in his embrace. A medical doctor, a dear friend to people from all walks of life, a vegan, an inspired soul who had many plans and dreams for a better world. Ahmed was Muslim, he married a Jewish woman, and after her unexpected death, he started a center in her honor, at their home in New Paltz, NY, called the **Sharon Shapiro Peace Center**. Unbelievably, tragedy struck again when Ahmed had a stroke. After many years, he sadly passed away in Cairo, Egypt, surrounded by his loving family. He will be deeply missed.

I want to share Ahmed's one and only recipe with you. No matter how large the dinner crowd, this is what he

made. I call it "**The Halima**" and make it often. It fills the tummy with warmth and happiness, and not one ingredient harmed an animal. When you make it, please think of precious Ahmed.

Ingredients:

Cake of tofu cut into 2" cubes

Can of fava beans

Fresh garlic/tomato/onion/mushrooms, Chili, curry (use your own spices to)

In a large frying pan, add olive oil and heat, then add chopped garlic, onions, mushrooms and tofu, sauté till brown. Add coarsely chopped tomatoes and whole fava beans in brine with spices.

Serve with sides of warm pita, rice, and a salad that includes hearts of palm.

Enjoy The Halima. Ahmed would want you to! A.M.

DOLPHIN KILLINGS

Continued from page 11

"We don't have reason to believe this is the work of one person."

With no reliable way to know the motivation behind the dolphin killings, a certain amount of guesswork is necessary. There are a lot more people in the gulf doing scientific research since the BP disaster.

"One of our theories is based on what scientists have seen in the area. Dolphin feeding by humans is prevalent. People are giving them inappropriate, unhealthy food, such as potato chips. **It's a crime to feed wild dolphins. They are not doing them any favor, just the opposite. They are getting them accustomed to people and putting them in more danger.**

"When dolphins get too familiar with people, they often come in close to boats and may get hit by the props. Dolphins who lose their fear of people don't keep a safe distance, and often interfere with fishing boats, as well."



In a couple of cases in the past, charter fishing boat captains have been convicted of shooting at dolphins that approached their boats, or tried to take fish from passengers.

"People don't understand that a wild dolphin is a very powerful animal," Radonski said. "They have ended up getting into boats and doing damage."

NOAA regularly looks into criminal deaths of marine mammals; some animals are covered under the Endangered Species Act. We asked Radonski if he had seen an increase in instances of wildlife killings.

"We had a case several years ago where someone was using pipe bombs

in the water. It's not a brand new problem, but it's hard to say if it is increasing or how much is just more reporting."

NOAA agents' enforcement challenges include seafood fraud cases and illegal imports.

In the dolphin murders, whether it's a case of deranged "thrill" killing, competition for fish, or something else, if there is to be any chance of finding and stopping the killer or killers, widespread public involvement is essential.

Wildlife Watch joins Deputy Special Agent Radonski in asking that if any member of the public has information, please call the NOAA Law Enforcement Hotline, at 1-800-853-1964.

Read the Marine Mammal Protection Act at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa>.

Don't Feed Wild Dolphins PSA www.dontfeedwilddolphins.org

E.M. Fay is the Assoc. Editor of the *C.A.S.H. Courier* and the *Wildlife Watch Binocular*.

Recreational Hunting

Continued from page 10

have to be made in the “real world”.

**PIG DOGGING, SLAUGHTERING WOLVES AND COYOTES,
AND SLAMMING SQUIRRELS**

One trade-off for some (far too many), but not all, people in the name of conservation really amounts to the needless killing of other animals recreationally, for fun, because they're pests (for example, iconic kangaroos and dingoes in Australia; see the website for THINKK for information about the horrific killing of kangaroos and what is being done to stop it). In the United States, the war on wildlife on animals such as wolves, coyotes, and many other sentient beings results in the reprehensible and inhumane slaughter of millions up millions of individuals each and every year, at least 25 million between 2004 and 2011. [Please see the original article for the many links provided by Dr. Bekoff.]

Recreationally shooting pests and other animals is not permissible in the paradigm of compassionate conservation. Indeed, killing animals for fun is ethically reprehensible and it's likely that most if not all recreational shooters would not shoot their dogs for fun. The question that should cause pauses in thought for recreational shooters is, “Why is it okay to shoot other animals for fun but not dogs?”

The authors in my forthcoming book, *Ignoring Nature No More: The Case For Compassionate Conservation*, argue that humans, including conservationists, have been ignoring nature for too long, something that has to change right now, not when it's

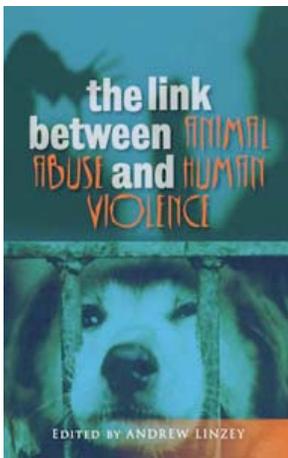
“more convenient”. For example, elephant poachers in Kenya have now been educated to protect them, swapping their payments for killing for payments for protecting these magnificent animals. The compassionate conservation movement is really a social movement with a broad number of supporters. It is clear that it is our nature to be kind, empathic and compassionate. And, individual animals certainly count on the goodwill of big-brained, big-footed and invasive humans to take their lives seriously.

For compassionate conservation the first premise is “First do no harm” (see also) and the second is that *individual lives count*. By following these guidelines it will be easy for people to expand their compassion footprint and to rewild their hearts and stop killing animals for fun or for some misguided premise of saving the environment or for protecting threatened or endangered species. Slaughtering sentience is wrong.

... killing for fun and killing in the name of conservation should not be accepted as if they're the only shows in town. And, for those who choose to kill animals in the name of whatever serves their purpose, if you wouldn't do it to your (or a) dog, why would you choose to do it to other sentient beings?



Marc Bekoff, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence

The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence is the most up to date, authoritative, and comprehensive volume on the relationship between animal abuse and human violence. Published by Sussex Academic Press, it comprises 27 chapters (350 pages) by a range of international scholars.

The following chapters are included:

25. HUNTING AS AN ABUSIVE SUB-CULTURE
John Cooper

26. HUNTING AS A MORALLY SUSPECT ACTIVITY

Priscilla N. Cohn and Andrew Linzey

Visit the site for full table of contents:

<http://www.oxfordanimaethics.com/what-we-do/publication/the-link-between-animal-abuse-and-human-violence/>

Contact the Director, **Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics**, 91 Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1EG, England. Please email the Director to check availability.

director@oxfordanimaethics.com

God's Dog

We were happy to learn from Hope Ryden that her amazing book, *God's Dog*, is back in print. We encourage you to read it and give it to others to read. Ask libraries to order it, and give it to friends for holidays and birthdays. It will be a gift that will last a lifetime, for it will change the reader's perspective of coyotes forever.

“Full of charm and tenacious inquisitiveness as the appealing animal she pleads is allowed to live.”—*The Washington Post*. \$24.95 or \$20.95 members.



*God's Dog :
A Celebration
of the North
American
Coyote*
by Hope Ryden

ASK UNCLE JOE



BY JOE MIELE

GOT A QUESTION FOR UNCLE JOE? YOU CAN E-MAIL IT TO CASH@ABOLISHSPORTHUNTING.COM. WOULD YOU RATHER SNAIL MAIL YOUR QUESTION? SEND IT TO:

**ASK UNCLE JOE,
P.O. Box 13815, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88013**

UNCLE JOE GETS A LOT OF MAIL SO DON'T BE OFFENDED IF HE CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION IN THE COURIER. HECK, HE'S GOTTA WORK A DAY JOB, TOO.

LETTERS ARE PRINTED AS RECEIVED. THEY ARE UNEDITED.

Dear Uncle Joe:

I don't think you understand the importance of hunting in minimizing the incidence of diseases such as CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease). It has been discovered in the southeastern part of Minnesota and would be more widespread if not for hunting. It's really a terrible disease. It turns the brains of deer into sponges and causes them to lose weight and suffer. I have been hunting for ten years and I never want to see an animal suffer. I have a keen interest in keeping the herd as disease free as possible since I want to make sure that the meat I eat is healthy and clean. I don't agree with everything hunters do. Drinking and hunting is inexcusable and insane. Spotliking deer is unsportsmanlike. Fenced hunting ranches and safari's where trained guides bring you to tame animals is a blight on the sport. We can agree on those things. But there are good things about hunting, and minimizing the spread of CWD is one of them.

Jackson

Maple Grove, MN

Dear Jackson:

I see we are in agreement on several key points including that CWD is a terrible disease, but we disagree on how it's best controlled. First discovered in Colorado in 1967, CWD has been documented in 22 states and Canadian provinces. The disease is transferred from deer to deer through nose to nose contact, through social grooming as when one deer licks another, and also through contaminated soil. Hunters actually spread the disease when they provide supplemental bait piles or salt/mineral licks for wildlife. These activities concentrate many animals in one area and in such circumstances the disease is likely to spread. Hunters who improperly dispose of spinal tissue also spread CWD to healthy herds.

As a hunter you know that the average hunter will be unlikely to waste a tag on an animal visibly sick who may not be safe to eat. When hunters intentionally pass up these animals for healthy and stronger deer, they allow the sick animal to not only suffer longer, but to pass their condition to others.

What can be done? Isolating and possibly humanely euthanizing infected and hopelessly ill animals while simultaneously banning recreational hunting would go far in preventing the spread of CWD.

Peace,
Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

I'm an ethical hunter. I am not here to cuss or call you names so my letter will probably not be printed in your newsletter, but I wanted your thoughts on something. I have been hunting for several decades and have taken college-level courses in wildlife conservation and know that wildlife biologists are tasked with not only maintaining adequate numbers of wildlife, but also they work hard to strengthen the herd. I'm not a trophy hunter. I do have one mount in my den (a state record at the time) but I have never seen the sense in hunting just for a trophy. Seriously Joe, our deer herd is as strong as it is because of the efforts of hunters

Mark, Dubuque, IA

Hello Mark – thanks for writing.

It's not uncommon for hunters and those who support hunting to sincerely believe that hunting has strengthened the condition of the deer herd. Here's something for you to think about, however. A study in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B. [Simone Ciuti et al, Human selection of elk behavioural traits in a landscape of fear] showed that hunting is having a detrimental effect upon elk herds. Back when cavemen were hunting with stones and spears, speed and boldness among wildlife were survival assets, and those animals survived longer to pass on their genes. But in today's age of high-powered rifles, speedy and bold animals are more at risk than those who are shyer and more secretive. Of 122 elk who were fitted with GPS collars, those who were characterized as "shy hidlers" were more likely to avoid hunters. This poses a problem for elk because while hunters are more likely to kill those who are "bold runners" as the study labeled them, the "shy hidlers" were more likely to fall prey to wolves and grizzlies. By targeting bolder animals, hunters are not only weakening the herd but they are putting its survival at risk.

Peace, Uncle Joe

Dear Uncle Joe:

I'm a student writing a paper for my Wildlife Sciences class and I would like to ask you a few questions.

1. What are the effects of legal hunting of game animals (not including poaching or illegal harvest)?

2. What would be the outcome if the hunting animals was banned? Would there also be negative outcomes?

3. Do you think there could ever be a compromise

between the C.A.S.H. movement and Hunters?

*Thank you so much,
Joran, Raleigh, NC*

Thanks for writing, Joran. We are always happy to answer questions asked by students.

1. The effects of legal hunting are different depending on the species being hunted. Animals such as deer and coyotes increase their populations in response to hunting pressure, but wolf hunting can devastate the species since killing the alpha members of a wolf pack can result in the population taking years to rebound.

The increase in the deer population due to hunting increases the risk of deer/car collisions, increased damage to ornamental foliage in people's yards, and an expansion of their range to areas where they normally would not live.

Also to be considered is the number of wounded animals who are not retrieved. These add to the kill total though they are not counted in the official numbers. Studies have shown duck wounding to be upwards of 30% and bow hunting stats indicate that wounding rates could be as high as 50%.

2. If hunting were banned, wildlife would no longer be managed for the purpose of killing them for recreation. Pheasant breeding farms would go out of business, saving hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Other wildlife would no longer be bred for the canned hunting industry - saving thousands more lives. It would take several seasons, but free-living wildlife would fall into balance with the biological carrying capacity of the area. With hunting off the table, people would learn to live in peaceful coexistence with wildlife, and would learn to solve human/wildlife conflict issues humanely.

I'd predict that the number of domestic violence cases would increase. As there are clearly some hunters who kill animals because it is a legal outlet for them to express violence and rage, those hunters would take their rage out on their family members if they were unable to do it to wildlife

3. C.A.S.H. has worked with hunters on campaigns to ban federal trappers from using Compound 1080 and we've worked with hunters to oppose the opening of canned hunting ranches. We have no problem working with anyone who shares our vision, even if it is in only one area. We will continue to work with hunters as the need arises, but working with them will always be on our terms.

Sincerely, Uncle Joe

C.A.S.H. CATALOG

A Voice in the Wilderness

Videotape approximately 20 minutes.
\$12.00 and \$8 for members.

This video is an expose of wildlife management by **Luke Dommer**, founder of C.A.S.H. It was produced by **Focus on Animals**, CT. **Esther Mechler** of Focus has generously given C.A.S.H. the right to sell this videotape. Copies have been generously donated by **Nancy Gordon of HAVE**, an audio-visual company in Hudson, NY.



Luke Dommer

CASH HAT

Neon Orange, one size fits all. \$7.50



C.A.S.H. T-SHIRT,

X-LARGE,
BRIGHT ORANGE—\$12.00



Front of shirt

HOW YOU CAN HELP US DO MORE:

- √ Become a member
 - √ Include WILDLIFE WATCH, INC. in your will (you may earmark bequests for C.A.S.H.). If you have general questions about leaving a bequest in your Will to Wildlife Watch, or making Wildlife Watch the beneficiary of life insurance or other assets, you can contact Frances Carlisle, Esq. at 212-213-0172. Frances Carlisle is a trusts and estates attorney with expertise in advising clients about bequests and other types of disposition to charitable organizations.
 - √ Donate shares of stock, avoid capital gains and get a tax deduction! Notify your broker or the company whose stock you hold. Ask them to transfer stock to Wildlife Watch, Inc. Federal Tax Identification Number: 13-3076705
- A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained from Wildlife Watch, Inc., or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

PETER'S HUMOR? C.A.S.H. apologizes if you are not amused

BY PETER MULLER, V.P. C.A.S.H

What is the difference between an intelligent hunter and Bigfoot?

A number of people claim to have seen Bigfoot.

☺☺☺

In a small rural town, the hunting club was holding its monthly meeting. Just before they got started, Joe, the town's only animal rights activist, ran to the front of the room, grabbed the mike, pointed to the right side of the room and declared, "You are nothing but a bunch of sadistic perverts!!!" He then pointed to the left side of the room and emphatically stated, "You are bunch of totally misguided idiots!!!"

He then left the room in a huff. At the next month's meeting he repeated the same routine.

On the third occasion of the monthly meeting, after Joe had finished his pronouncements, one of the hunters stood up and said, "I really resent that - I'm not an idiot!" Joe was perplexed; so he asked him, "But you're a hunter aren't you?" "Yes, but I'm not an idiot," replied the hunter. Joe thought for a while and then pointed out, "In that case, you should be sitting with the perverts."

☺☺☺

What would you call a hunter with two brain cells? Pregnant.

☺☺☺

Question on an exam in photo-journalism:

You are in the woods with a camera during hunting season to document what hunting is really like. You see one hunter take aim at what appears to him to be a bear, but from your vantage point you see quite clearly that it is another hunter.

Should you use a wide-angle to show everyone's position or a zoom for a close-up?

☺☺☺

A hiker, an environmentalist, and a hunter were planning an extended trip on foot to scout out an area that they'd never visited. The hiker brought along a bottle of water, so they wouldn't suffer from dehydration. The environmentalist brought some bags of nuts and raisins so they had something to eat. The hunter brought along a car door so he could roll up the window if it got too hot.

☺☺☺

What should you do when a hunter throws a pin at you?

Run like hell -- he's got a hand grenade in his mouth!



Fans of Pete's Humor

www.ebaumsworld.com/pictures/view/557305/#

Your generous contributions will help us to do much more. Thank you for your support. Please visit:

www.abolishsportshunting.org

As always, we are grateful to
**The Mary T. and Frank L. Hoffman
Family Foundation**
for hosting the C.A.S.H. website!



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- ☺ YES, I WANT TO HELP THE COMMITTEE TO ABOLISH SPORT HUNTING END THE WAR ON WILDLIFE:
- ☺ I AM HAPPY TO BECOME A Basic Plus Member for \$50 _____
I will receive the C.A.S.H. hat, return address labels, and newsletter. Check if you do not want a hat. _____
- ☺ I am happy to become a Basic member for \$35 _____
I will receive the C.A.S.H. newsletter and return address labels.
- ☺ I am happy to contribute but cannot become a member now _____

C.A.S.H. accepts MasterCard or Visa:

Card # _____

Amount _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____

All donations are tax-deductible.

My e-mail address is _____

You can also pay through PayPal at www.abolishsporthunting.org link to "Donate" Thank You!

C.A.S.H. CATALOG ORDER BLANK

Description	Qty	\$ Each	\$ Total

Subtotal: _____

Shipping and Handling: \$4.00

NYS residents must add appropriate sales tax: _____

Additional contribution to help

C.A.S.H. carry on its work: _____

Total: _____

You can now pay with:

Mastercard/Visa # _____

Expir. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Your Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Day Phone: _____
 Eve Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Date: _____
 Special Instructions: _____

 Ship to address below (if different from above):

Please make checks payable to: C.A.S.H. or Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting or Wildlife Watch, Inc.