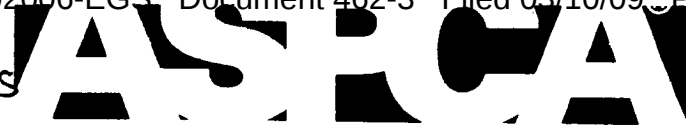


1998- Policy & Position Statements

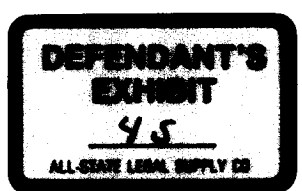


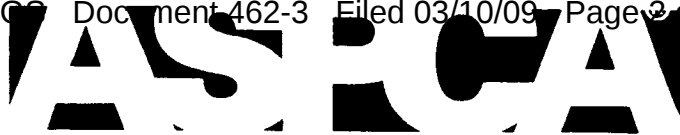
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# Policy & Position Statements

The American Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
424 East 92nd Street  
New York, NY 10128-6804  
(212) 876-7700 [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)  
©1998 ASPCA

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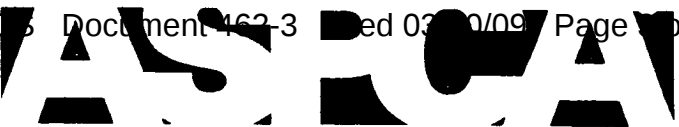




## The ASPCA Mission

**A**s put forth by founder Henry Bergh in the ASPCA bylaws published in The Society's first Annual Report, "The objects of the Society are to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States." Roger A. Caras, current ASPCA President, adds, "It is our mission to alleviate pain, fear and suffering in all animals."

9/98



## EXOTIC PETS

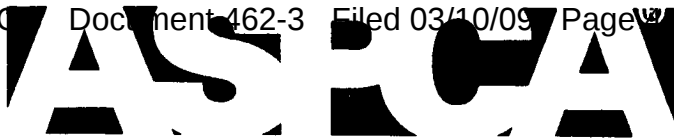
1/5

**T**he ASPCA's position on exotic or indigenous wild pets is precise and unshakable: No animal taken from the wild should be kept as a pet. No form of wild cat, wolf, coyote or hybrid thereof makes a suitable pet. No primate makes a suitable pet and no wild-caught birds are appropriate. Very few reptiles and amphibians make suitable pets and no venomous forms whatsoever. No bears or locally trapped mammals are acceptable, the exceptions being those taken in by trained and licensed wildlife rehabilitators and then only for as long as absolutely necessary. No "fad" wild animals such as hedgehogs are suitable.

We know from long experience that inappropriate pets suffer from improper care and frequent abandonment. The placement of exotics after their novelty has worn off is extremely expensive and frequently unsuccessful. The ASPCA is opposed to the traffic in exotic and wild indigenous animals in the pet trade. The ASPCA does not release exotic pets who come under its control to private individuals.

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A 00129



## CARNIVAL EVENTS

11/2

**C**arnival events such as “diving” horses and mules, greased pig contests, bear and alligator wrestling, donkey baseball and all other forms of unnatural demands made on animals (most often equids) should be outlawed, and the transportation of animals for these displays and events should be a felony. The abuse suffered by animals caught up in the “carnie” circuit is horrific and in no possible way can it be justified. All carnival animal acts and traveling animal contests must be banned.

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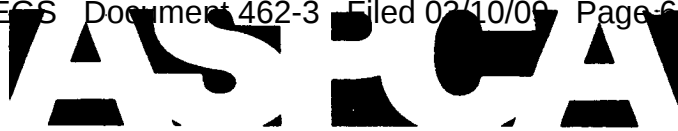
## CIRCUS

11/3

**T**he ASPCA is opposed to the inherent stress and cruelty to animals used in circus acts. The ASPCA does not believe it is possible to maintain wild and domestic animals on the road for a full circus season without inflicting abuse on the animals. The ASPCA does not believe it is possible to train elephants, big cats, bears and other wild animals to perform circus acts without abuse. While animals continue to be used legally, we will strive to reduce stress and cruelty in all cases.

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## MARINE MAMMALS IN CAPTIVITY

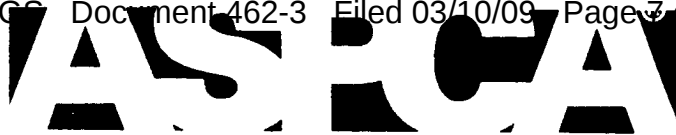
II/6

**T**he ASPCA is opposed to capturing, breeding, and transporting members of the whale/dolphin (*Cetacea*) family in captivity. Cetaceans are echo-locators and are almost certainly badly stressed by the instant return of their endless sonar signals. They live much shorter lives than their wild counterparts. It is simply not possible to reproduce in any sense a marine environment as it is naturally experienced by large marine mammals in the wild.

No more large marine mammals should be brought into captive environments, whatever the "educational" claims may be. No capturing should be permitted, and the international traffic should be eliminated for all time. Marine mammals now in captivity should not be bred.

(see also Zoos and Roadside Menageries, II/8)

9/98



## ZOOS AND ROADSIDE MENAGERIES

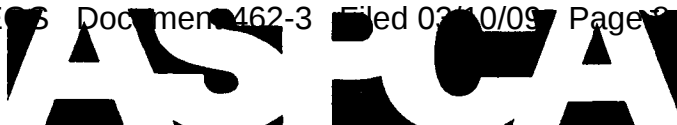
11/8

**T**he ASPCA believes that a clear distinction must be made between zoos and roadside menageries, and does not believe that the words can be used interchangeably. We feel there are no redeeming features to the typical menagerie, and the ASPCA is wholly opposed to their continued existence.

These menageries are, in the experience of ASPCA staff, virtually always substandard commercial enterprises. They are frequently roadside come-ons for citrus grove and nut retailers, diners, gas stations, souvenir stands, motels or simply free-standing low-level commercial operations. Typically, graphics are poor and of no educational value despite frequent claims to the contrary, cages and enclosures are cruel and far below any acceptable norm, and the animals imprisoned there are condemned to short, uncomfortable lives. The staff at these facilities often are untrained and unskilled, leading to heightened potential for abuse.

The ASPCA believes that, providing the mission of zoos is true conservation and education and that certain criteria, as follows, are fully met, there can be an intrinsic and practical value to their existence.

1. A zoo must be staffed by professionals who, through education, apprenticeship and intensive



training, have a high order of skills in wild animal maintenance.

2. All enclosures and containment systems reach or exceed standards set by the Animal Welfare Act as amended.

3. All animal containment and handling systems have as a minimum the standards set by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and the zoo as an individual facility shall regularly have been accredited by an AZA professional peer group.

4. The institution's graphics and displays shall have *bona fide* educational value and shall stress the problems of threatened and endangered species, wild habitat degradation and reduced biodiversity. The zoo shall provide a true educational opportunity for families and school groups and must actively pursue these ends.

5. In all ways possible, the zoo must be a humane facility, treating all of its inhabitants well and displaying this fact as part of the educational experience it provides.

6. The zoo shall participate in a tightly controlled breeding program availing itself of the International Species Inventory System (ISIS) expertise available and/or the international stud-book system for as many species as possible. The zoo shall under no conditions allow random breeding.



**ASPCA**

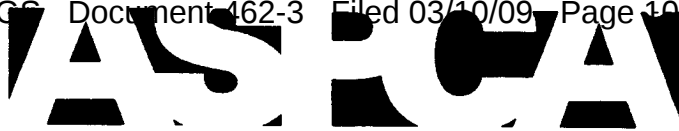
7. The zoo shall not permit excess young except insofar as it is unavoidable to maintain proper gender balance. Under no conditions may animals be rated as surplus and sold, traded or given to hunting "reserves" or dealers known to sell, trade or give animals to such reserves or their agents. No zoo animals may be sold at any auction where reserve operators or their agents may bid for them. A solid, humane and ethical surplus policy must be in place before any breeding is done.

Since there is an inevitable traffic between zoos, no zoo shall trade, sell or give an animal to another zoo or city's agent unless that institution has a similar and equal humane surplus policy. No zoo should sell, trade or give an animal to a circus, carnival, menagerie, traveling animal act of any kind or to their agents.

Zoos must always take and maintain the high ground, setting themselves apart from menageries and carnivals and their dealers and agents and refusing at all times to step down from that which is in all instances humane and ethical.

8. A zoo shall engage in real conservation efforts both in its captive breeding programs and in its scientific feedback to the wild that will genuinely help in the preservation of habitat and species.

9. A zoo must be a true conservation and education facility. It is only secondarily an entertainment and



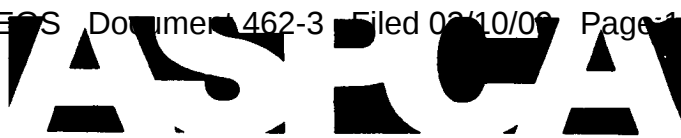
family recreational activity. Its contributions in these regards must be demonstrable and never mere publicity or public relation stunts.

10. A zoo's mission should be to instill an appreciation and respect for animals and their environment. Animals should not be taken from the wild except in cases where species preservation is involved.

(see also Marine Mammals in Captivity, II/6)

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## BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

III/2

**T**he use of animals in science, medicine and education is one of the most difficult issues with which the humane community must deal. The ASPCA takes strong positions on many aspects of this issue. The ASPCA believes that the “3 R’s” are fundamental and must in every possible instance be applied:

1. **Reduce** — The number of animals used in any protocol should be reduced to the smallest possible number. The Internal Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) already in place at a research site and external peer reviewers should be attentive to ensure that this mandate is being served.
2. **Replace** — The animals used should be as far down the phylogenetic scale as possible. All animals should be replaced as quickly as possible in as many protocols as possible with computer programs, tissue cultures and other means yet to be determined.
3. **Refine** — It is axiomatic that all animals must be:
  - a. Maintained as humanely, appropriately and comfortably as possible;
  - b. Provided with social opportunities as would be considered normal for their species. All protocols to the contrary — e.g.

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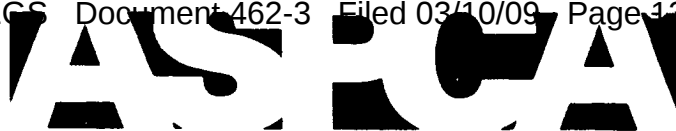
**ASPCA**

isolation for primates —should be subject to extremely careful review;

c. Provided with as much anesthesia as needed; post-use comfort-giving drugs and medications should be used to the maximum;

d. Provided with regular veterinary care; and

e. Allowed a plan for their ultimate disposition, with their needs taken fully into account before the research is begun.



## DISSECTION

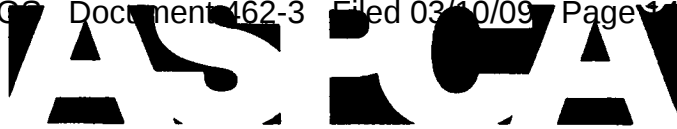
III/3

**T**he ASPCA does not believe that live animals should be used in secondary education unless by way of example and for observational purposes only. Every effort should be made to observe animals in the wild, including butterfly gardens or bird feeding stations, or by visiting a reputable zoo with a quality education program. There are also suitable models and fine video tapes available.

The use of animals in post-secondary education should be under the strict supervision of internal and external committees, and veterinarians and humane professionals should be engaged in this oversight activity.

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IV/2

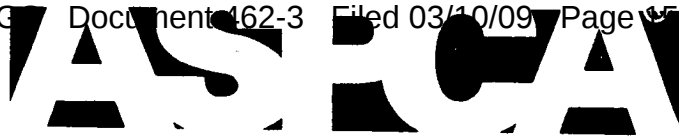
## DAIRY COWS AND VEAL

**D**airy cows must be freshened or allowed to bear a calf every year or they will not give milk. That means that 50 percent of all the dairy cattle in the world will bear a male calf annually, and all but a small fraction of these male calves will be surplus. When slaughtered as calves, these surplus males will be rated as veal. It is unrealistic to suppose this veal will be discarded. As natural or "pink" veal, there is little if any distinction to be made between the morality of eating mature beef or immature veal.

However, when veal calves are closely confined, denied exercise, fed an artificial, anemic diet in order to produce white or so-called milk-fed veal, The ASPCA is totally opposed. Milk-fed veal production facilities and finishing operations should be closed down and only natural or pink veal marketed. All calves should be accorded the same humane safeguards in the slaughter house as adult cattle, i.e. humane handling, stunning and no shackling and hoisting while conscious.

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## FACTORY FARMING

IV/3

**T**he term “factory farming” defines itself. It represents an unacceptable attitude whereby animals are seen as and treated as machines.

1. Chickens, turkeys and other fowl: While the ASPCA understands all too well that the billions of birds in meat and egg production on any given day precludes the idealized backyard scenario of birds pecking in the grass, it does know that conditions can be improved. What is most lacking is space appropriate to the needs of the birds. Tight confinement that makes it impossible for the birds to move, stretch and interact in a way natural to their species is not necessary, only cheaper and perhaps somewhat more convenient. Alternate systems providing the space the birds need are available, and The ASPCA urges the industry to move in that direction. Under no circumstances should it be necessary to deform the birds by debeaking them.

2. Feed-lot cattle: When cattle are moved into “finishing” operations to fatten them just prior to slaughter there is no justification for considering them already dead. Up until the moment of their death all livestock should be given every possible consideration, providing them with food and water and as much space as possible. Under no conditions should the animals be brutalized, stampeded or abused during movement and transport.

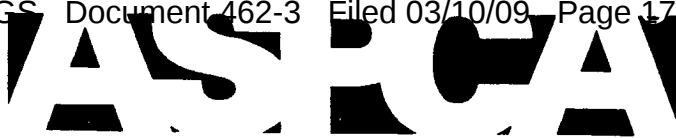
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**ASPCA**

Electric prods (“bull prods”) and other pain-inflicting devices should be banned. Far more humane systems have been demonstrated. For instance, methods suggested by Temple Grandin, Ph.D., currently with Colorado State University, should be reviewed for installation and utilization.





## CANNED HUNTS

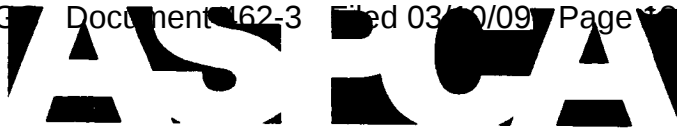
V/2

**T**he ASPCA believes that shooting animals bred and raised or captured and conditioned under human control is a totally unsupportable form of hunting. All pretense of sport, contest or challenge is removed in the canned hunt, and it is reduced to its lowest, and inevitable, common denominator — easy slaughter. The ASPCA urges that all guises under which canned hunts appear should be eliminated once and for all time. It should be illegal to raise, capture, hold, sell, buy, trade, give or transport animals, be they hybrid wild or domestic, pure bred indigenous wildlife or exotic wildlife, for the purpose of “hunting.”

(See also Hunting, V/5)

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**ENDANGERED SPECIES  
AND OTHER WILDLIFE**

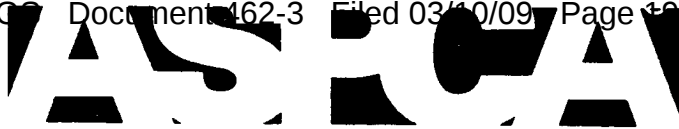
VV1

**T**he ASPCA advocates that all traffic and trade in wildlife parts and products, especially from threatened and endangered wildlife, should be halted forthwith. Wild animal products (furs, skins, antlers and horns, organs, ivory, marine mammals parts) should be declared illegal, the pharmacopoeia of some contemporary cultures notwithstanding. Bear gall bladders, seal penises, bear paws, deer antlers in velvet, tiger bones and the reproductive organs of all other species are examples. The ASPCA supports without reservation all plans, laws and operations to protect wildlife habitat on land and in the seas, rivers, ponds, lakes and streams of the world.

(see also Zoos and Roadside Menageries, II/8)

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## FUR-BEARING ANIMALS

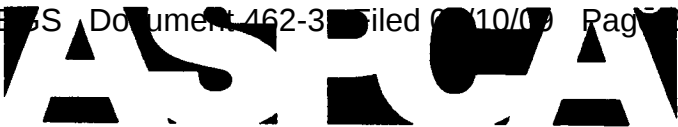
VI/3

**T**he ASPCA is totally opposed to the use of animal furs in clothing and accessories. No distinction is made between wild, caught and ranch-or-farm raised animals because there is tremendous cruelty involved in fur ranching and the slaughter of fur-bearers.

(see also Traps and Trapping, VI/6)

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A 00145



## MARINE MAMMALS IN CAPTIVITY

VV4

**T**he ASPCA is opposed to capturing, breeding, and transporting members of the whale/dolphin (*Cetacea*) family in captivity. Cetaceans are echo-locators and almost certainly are stressed badly by the instant return of their endless sonar signals. They live much shorter lives than their wild counterparts. It is simply not possible to reproduce in any sense a marine environment as it is naturally experienced by large marine mammals in the wild.

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