

EYE ON THE NEWS
COYOTE
RESEARCHER
SAYS COYOTES
ARE NOT TO BE
FEARED!

Now let the truth be told! Dr. Stanley Gehrt who heads the Urban Coyote Research Center at Ohio State University, reported that in the 15 years that he and his team have been studying coyotes in urban areas, there has not been one attack on a human!

Dr. Gehrt has been studying the activities of coyotes in the Chicago area since 2000.



Dr. Gehrt with a very much alive coyote!

Photo by Urban Coyote Research Center

Wildlife Watch has been well aware of how wildlife management agencies, hunters, and trappers profit from stirring public fear of coyotes and other wild animals.

The research findings were brought to our attention in a post by Paul Caine where he reported that Dr. Gehrt's

COYOTES

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ASHA AND ASLAN
REUNITED AT
RAINBOW BRIDGE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TAMMY THIES OF THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



In 2006, Wildlife Watch rescued three African lions, three mountain lions, and a black leopard from the Catskill Game Farm and had them sent to the Wildcat Sanctuary. Over the years, we've done periodic follow-ups and reported on the progress of these precious animals. Recently, we contacted the Wildcat Sanctuary and were extremely saddened to learn that Asha, one of the African lionesses, had passed away.

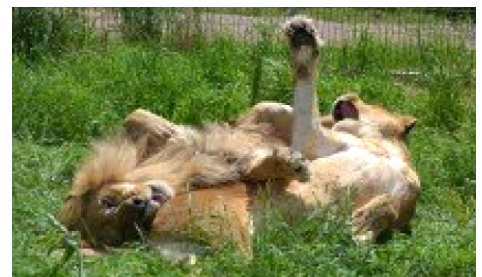
The staff at Wildcat Sanctuary gave us permission to publish the following slightly abbreviated version of the remembrance they wrote for Asha.

Asha has always been known for having such a zest for life.

She was feisty, with a brightness about her that always shined. You would think that, being so assertive

with humans, she would be the dominant lion in her pride. Instead, she would take Shanti Deva's lead on how to approach their daily routine. Enamored with Aslan, she followed him constantly.

Asha was such a vocal lioness, communicating very clearly what pleased and displeased her. Since she never



ASHA AND ASLAN

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ASHA AND ASLAN

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hid her emotions, we knew exactly what she loved. And how she loved meal time! Belly rolls with Aslan and curling up for a nap with Shanti Deva also topped her list of favorite things in life.

Being so bold and assertive, it was very obvious when things weren't quite right for Asha. You could see her eyes dim slightly and a calm set over her. Almost a year and a half ago, we knew something was dangerously wrong. Asha underwent emergency surgery for a mass on her liver and slow motility that caused a blockage in her intestines. Amazingly, 14 inches had to be removed from her colon. We breathed such a sigh of relief when Asha recovered fully. She returned to her feisty self, thanks to the love of her pride. Life was good again for them. She



would roll with Aslan and chase Shanti Deva as caretakers passed by.

Even though Asha said good-bye to her love Aslan earlier this year, she stayed strong in spirit. She found comfort in Shanti Deva who has always been the calming presence amongst the pride. We took comfort that Asha's bright zest for life continued, even with his loss.

But recently, we saw a little bit of that zest dim. It was different this time. We knew there could be no more emergency surgeries for this 19-year-old lioness. She had bravely conquered all she could. She was a little quiet, slept more than normal and was picky with food. An exam confirmed another mass in her abdomen and depleted red blood cells that were not regenerating.

Shanti Deva, the alpha of the pride, still resides over their habitat. She seemed to know it was time for Asha to join Aslan, even before we did. She continues to be calm and social with her caretakers. She remains very active and still loves to roar at her caretakers as they drive by after feeding. It's hard to get used to her single



roar, when we've been used to the roaring chorus of the entire pride. But her mighty roar is a symbol of how strong she is and that she continues their legacy here at the Wildcat Sanctuary. We will love and pamper her here until it is time for her to rejoin Asha and Aslan as alpha of their pride.

Visit

<http://www.wildcatsanctuary.org/lioness-asha-reunites-with-aslan-the-king-of-her-pride/>

On the Wildlife Watch website please visit:

<http://wildwatch.org/Binocular/binocular09/binocular02.07.pdf>

The Wildcat Sanctuary is accredited by the American Sanctuary Association and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

THE LOVE OF A LION BRINGS RARE COLLABORATION BETWEEN ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS

A coordinated effort by Israeli and Palestinian officials rescued an ailing lion from a zoo in the Gaza Strip and transferred him across Israel into the West Bank for better veterinary care.

As the security is tight across Israel, moving him required coordination between the Palestinian Agriculture Ministry, COGAT—the branch of the Israeli military that coordinates activities in the Palestinian territories—Israel's Defense Ministry and the Israel Nature and Parks Authority.

Palestinian officials transported the lion to the Erez border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip. From there the Crossings Authority of

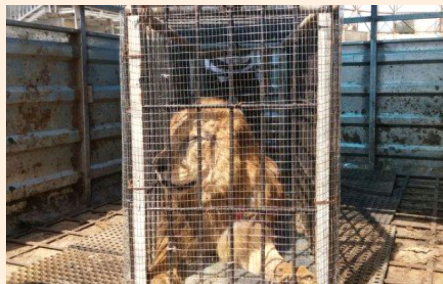


Photo: Israel Defense Ministry

the Defense Ministry moved him into Israeli territory, where an INPA veterinarian was waiting to accompany him as he was trucked across Israel and into the West Bank.

The lion safely reached his new home several hours later.

http://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-palestinians-pull-together-to-rescue-lion/?utm_source=The+Times+of+Israel+Daily+Edition&utm_campaign=664666020-2016_03_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=.a2d4666020-54907145

EYE ON THE NEWS

CHIMPANZEES GRIEVE FOR DEAD FRIEND



Credit: Jabrison/naturepl.com

DO CHIMPS MOURN THEIR DEAD?

<http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160517-chimps-grieve-for-dead-friend>

Please visit the website above to see the extraordinary article/video about chimpanzees in mourning. We at Wildlife Watch are not surprised, as we know the hearts and souls of animals; yet there are some scientists who still disagree that it's even possible. **Could it be that we are the ones without heart and soul?**

COYOTES

Continued from page 1

research showed that fears that coyotes may attack humans and their pets are largely unfounded. They discovered that coyotes are much more fearful of us than we are of them.

See story here

<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/07/18/urban-coyotes-set-get-city-protection>

Dr. Gehrt received a grant from *National Geographic* to put cameras on coyotes living in the Chicago area to find out more about how they made a living, and what their days and nights are like.

His careful research convinced Chicago Alderman Brian Hopkins to

introduce an ordinance that would stop animal control workers from trapping and killing coyotes unless they present a threat. Hopkins said the measure is to recognize that the presence of coyotes is largely beneficial as they reduce the rodent population.

Wildlife Watch did a follow-up of the Chicago vote and saw that the final version passed by the Council didn't impose any rules on animal control agents, but made clear the department should leave them to their own devices unless they appear aggressive or otherwise dangerous.

Nevertheless, for Wildlife Watch, this is an important breakthrough as a major city now rec-



Photo by Urban Coyote Research Center

ognizes wild animals as individuals and deals with them as such, rather than as mere members of a species subject to wholesale eradication.

Wildlife Watch reached out to Dr. Gehrt for an interview. If one is granted, we will report on it in the next issue of the *Binocular*.

To view an excellent video, visit <http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/03/26/chicagos-urban-coyotes>

MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION MOVES AWAY FROM ANIMALS

BY CAARE – CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL RESEARCH REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION

At the center of the expanding industry in non-animal technologies are the pioneering companies using innovative technology to develop and design these methods.

One such company, SynDaver Labs, is a booming biotech business that manufactures synthetic medical-grade tissue crafted into realistic models of body tissues and organs, including life-size synthetic cadavers for surgical education, training, and other research.

From its beginnings as a small company called Animal Replacement Technologies, SynDaver has grown to manufacture **more than 100 synthetic body parts made from novel materials that mimic the essential properties of living tissue.** They are used around the globe by medical device manufacturers, hospitals, universities, medical schools, and the U.S. military.

The company's flagship product, the SynDaver Synthetic Human, has gained widespread attention through appearances on *Shark Tank*, *MythBusters*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and in the prestigious journal *Science*. Why all the hype? SynDaver Labs claims that **their bleeding, breathing model of a living patient is more accurate, reliable, and cost-effective than real cadavers and animals.**

The company's synthetic tissues are specifically designed to replicate the structural and physical properties of their human analogues. These properties, like the density of a bone or the elasticity of a muscle, make a difference when a force is exerted upon the body, and can greatly impact the quality and outcomes of surgical training or research.

According to a SynDaver white paper, **the SynDaver Human also allows for better statistical controls and more precise results because its components are manufactured to specification.** This minimizes any natural variation and increases the reliability of the results. As an added bonus, any of its synthetic tissues or



Close-up SynDaver Human Patient Photo credit: SynDaver Labs

organs can be replaced with an identical one, allowing for multiple tests under nearly uniform conditions. This increase in control and reliability makes for better science.

Thanks to SynDaver and pioneering scientists in the U.S. Military, it looks like the sun may finally be setting on the days of brutally mutilating animals for combat medic training. The SynDaver Patient can be cut, crushed, and damaged in any way that a human being can, and it actually responds like real person, not a goat or a pig.

But what will we use for veterinary training? That's where the new SynDaver Surgical Canine comes in.

Dr. Christopher Sakezles, president and founder of SynDaver Labs, tells CAARE that the company recently started a veterinary medicine division, and they are building animal surgical simulators now. They are starting with dogs but will be moving on to high-quality simulation models for cats, horses, cows, and others. **The canine model, which is being rolled out at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine this year, is expected to completely replace the use of live dogs there.**

But why stop there? Next on the list, according to Dr. Sakezles, "will be introduce the canine model to the 50 other vet schools in the U.S. and later the 500 or so worldwide."

Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research (CAARE), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, established to highlight and promote research without animals.



photo credit SynDaver Labs

WILDLIFE WATCHING IN AFRICA: OUR DREAM SAFARI

BY KIRSTEN VIBE PHILIPPIDES



Photo: By Kirsten Vibe Philippides

Recently, my family and I visited the Olduvai Gorge, in Tanzania, which is a gigantic canyon carved many millions of years ago by a river which runs through the middle of it. The Olduvai Gorge is one of the most important paleo-anthropological sites in the world. It has proven invaluable in furthering our understanding of early human evolution. The fossil remains provide the most continuous

known records of human evolution during the last two million years.

Although we were all interested in our human evolution, we really went to see the *living* animals. We were fortunate to have a guide whose thorough knowledge of the animals and their habits, and his invaluable knowledge of birds in Africa, allowed us to see close to 100 species. He drove us on nearly impassable, muddy roads and took us to admire the wild animals of Africa.

The trip left us with so many memories and a deepened commitment to preserving animals in the wild. It was a reminder that we must do everything within our power to protect these magnificent beings which we feel so privileged to have been given an opportunity to see in their native environment. It was a gift that will always stay with us.

Wildlife Watch unfortunately had to shorten Ms. Philippides's article in order to share her beautiful photo. These lions are the free ones. Of those who aren't, the Wild Cat Sanctuary's motto says it all: "They may never know freedom, can they at least know compassion?" Of course, the need for compassion applies to free animals as well, just ask Cecil.

EYE ON THE NEWS

HOORAY FOR OHIO! NEW LAW MAKES HARMING A PET A FELONY FOR A FIRST OFFENSE

Ohio lawmakers passed a law that make it a fifth-degree felony to knowingly harm a pet by inflicting pain or depriving the pet of food, water, or shelter – **for a first offense.**



Under Ohio law, a fifth-degree felony is punishable by six to 12 months in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

House Bill 60 passed through the state **Senate unanimously with a 33-0 vote, and the House approved of new amendments by a 92-1 vote.**

The new law will make it illegal for anyone to "knowingly torture, torment, needlessly mutilate or maim, cruelly beat, poison, needlessly kill, or commit an act of cruelty against a companion animal."

The news report points out that the law is indicative of a larger shift within national law enforcement toward protecting animals from abuse. In January, the FBI started

tracking animal cruelty as a separate offense in its National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Public Animal Welfare Society (PAWS Ohio) had been pushing for this for years.

<https://www.facebook.com/OhioAllianceForAnimalCrueltyReform/>

Ohio Alliance for Animal Cruelty Reform reported on July 7 that **Gov. John Kasich has signed the bill, which will take effect on Sept. 13, 2016.**

The law is named Goddard's Law for weatherman **Dick Goddard**, who pushed for its passing.

See the whole story here:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/ohio-to-make-first-offense-pet-cruelty-a-felony-with-goddards-law-211516888.html?src=mail&src=ma>



MORE GOOD POLITICAL NEWS

Wildlife Watch was part of a coalition effort that successfully blocked a bill that would have allowed snare trapping in New York State.

R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

Wildlife rehabilitators are aware of the many perils facing individual wild animals in their daily existence. Some can be avoided by personal steps that we can take, others need to be dealt with through education or lobbying efforts.

Wildlife rehabilitators are **licensed by state game agencies, yet they are given no support**, nor are they

allowed to charge for their "services." Sadly, animals often come to the attention of rehabbers when they are found by people who either don't want them near their house or don't know how to help them. When the DEC's, DNR's, or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

SOUTH CAROLINA HAS PAWS!

As our members are from across the country, Wildlife Watch features a different wildlife rehabilitation center, rehabilitation organization, or individual wildlife rehabilitator in each issue. This issue highlights PAWS ANIMAL WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

<http://www.paws-sc.com/> in South Carolina. The organization's Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/PawsSC>

Though we only know the group from its website, we like what we see. PAWS appears to have the right type of compassion, even keeping wild animals who cannot be released as they would not be able to survive in the wild. Here is a photo of the founder, **Mercedes Curry**, who, the organization's website indicates has 30 years of



The founder with a vulture pecking at her hair.

experience with North American wildlife. She holds multiple federal permits and has been licensed for wildlife rehabilitation in two states.



photo by PAWS

Here's one of the little guys who was treated at the center: We guess he's saying, "Thanks."

THE CUTEST BIRD IN BROOKLYN!



Photo by Lesa McHale

Wildlife Watch received a call from Lesa McHale, who found this little bird in her garden in Brooklyn as it was getting dark. She hadn't seen the parents and wanted to know what to do. We suggested that she soak some hard dog food till it was spongy and then pull off a pea-sized piece and pop it into the bird's mouth when he opened it. She did that, the bird ate, and slept soundly. In the morning we suggested that she put the bird outside and watch to see if the parents came before taking him to a rehabber. She did that and reported that the mom came with a big fat worm and the baby seemed very happy. I asked for a photo and never expected to see such an adorable little bird. She reports that he's doing well. Lesa asked what kind of bird he was. From other photos, we determined he was a killdeer. They're called "killdeer" because someone thought his song sounded like "killdeer." You can hear his song at this website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4u6ax5P-o8>

Let us know if you think it sounds like "killdeer." We don't!

DO NOT LEAVE ANIMALS IN HOT CARS

On the Care2 site,
<http://www.care2.com/causes/what-to-do-when-you-see-a-dog-in-a-hot-car.html>

Laura S. reported that in certain states, **you can legally smash the window of a hot car to save a dog.**

Checking further, we found this on the website of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF):

- "Hot car" laws are becoming increasingly more prevalent, with six enacted in just the last two years and two more pending.

- While only Tennessee and Wisconsin currently allow concerned citizens to break into vehicles to rescue an animal, prosecutors may be reluctant to bring charges against rescuers, given the public relations nightmare and scant chance of a conviction. In Georgia, for example, **charges were dropped** against a man who smashed a car window to rescue a Pomeranian mix who was in distress.

- Former ALDF fellow Jennie James **writes:** "Given bloated dockets, crowded prisons, and mandatory sentencing schemes, prosecutors are generally motivated to dismiss or settle cases brought against meritorious



Photo Credit: eRa Kibn / Twitter

defendants. Thus, the person who breaks a car window to free a trapped dog may be lauded, not charged. In fact, since police enjoy similar discretion, the dog's rescuer may not even be arrested."

- In states without hot car laws, perpetrators may still be prosecuted under general anti-cruelty laws. In **Lopez v. State**, the defendant left his dog in his car on a hot day to go and watch a movie in a theater. Though Texas does not have a "hot car" law, he was ultimately convicted under the state's anti-cruelty law.

To see ALDF's entire page on this subject, visit:

<http://aldf.org/cases-campaigns/action-alerts/dogs-in-hot-cars/overview-of-state-laws-leaving-unattended-animals-in-vehicles/>

SOME DON'T MIND THE FLOODING

PHOTO BY NATALIE JARNSTEDT



England's beloved mute swans

WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital wildlife hotline service to the public. We receive calls from across the country and occasionally from Canada from people needing help with injured and orphaned wildlife. Our easy to remember number 877WILDHELP is recommended by veterinary offices, SPCAs, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we publish the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** to inform the public about animals and the people who help them, to promote wildlife watching, and to provide the understanding that all animals are individuals deserving of kinder treatment.

**Will you help our work?
YES**

<http://wildwatch.org/join/join.htm>

ANOTHER NANCY FURSTINGER BOOK TO KNOW ABOUT

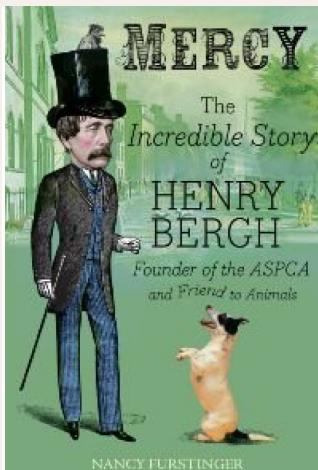
Be sure to put this on your gift list

Mercy: The Incredible Story of Henry Bergh, Founder of the ASPCA and Friend to Animals

(PUBLISHED BY HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT)

Nancy Furstinger is the author of nearly 100 books, including many on her favorite topic: animals! She started her writing career in third grade, when her class performed a play she wrote while recovering from chicken pox. Since then, Nancy has been a feature writer for a daily newspaper, a managing editor of trade and consumer magazines, and an editor at two children's book publishers. She shares her home and heart with big dogs and house rabbits (all rescued), and volunteers and fosters pets for several animal organizations. Nancy has been speaking up for animals since she learned to talk, and she hasn't shut up yet!

<http://www.nancyfurstinger.com/>



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Anne Muller, Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

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Let's Go Wildlife Watching

CHIHUAHUAN DESERT NATURE PARK

Outside Las Cruces, New Mexico

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY JOE MIELE, JULY, 2016



There are few visitors to Southern New Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park in early July, and the lack of human traffic affords one the opportunity to make the most of their trip. Bring plenty of water, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, and a love of hot weather and your day will be enjoyable.

The 200,000-square-mile Chihuahuan Desert is the largest in North America. While the park itself is small –

just 960 acres – it is teeming with life. Plants such as Honey Mesquite and Crucifixion Thorns survive by having shallow root systems that absorb rainwater before it has a chance to evaporate. **The wildlife who thrive here are burrowing animals such as kangaroo rats (who can live their entire lives without drinking water), horned lizards, and spadefoot toads.** Their underground dens are routinely 30 degrees cooler than the surface temperature of the desert they are dug into.

The hiking trails throughout this beautiful desert are easy to slightly moderate and some are adorned with informative signage. From US Hwy 70 westbound in Las Cruces, head north on Jornada Road and proceed for approximately six and a half miles to the park entrance.



Spadefoot toad photo from Discovery.com site

Then be sure to visit...

MESILLA VALLEY BOSQUE STATE PARK



Less than an hour's drive from the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park – **a place nearby in distance but a world away in flora and fauna.** In New Mexico, "bosque" refers to the plants and trees that grow along a river – in this case the Rio Grande. Within the park the bosque and Chihuahuan Desert overlap to create a unique oasis with a rich variety

of plants and animals.

Bird watching is a popular activity as the bosque is home to Swanson's hawks, Kestrels, Black Chinned Hummingbirds, and Gambel's Quail, among others.

Lucky visitors

may catch a glimpse of the bobcats and foxes who live here, and of course there are rattlesnakes to keep everyone on their toes. Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park is an Audubon designated IBA (Important Birding Area) and is stop No. 43 on the Statewide Birding Trail.

From Interstate 10 in Las Cruces, take the Avenida de Mesilla exit and make a right onto Calle del Norte in the Town of Mesilla. Proceed two miles to the park entrance on the left.



Black Chinned Hummingbird from Audubon photo site

If you've had an enjoyable wildlife watching experience that others will be able to have as well, please share it with us. Photos needed.



**NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHEL(P)
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed at our discretion up to the amount available. You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400
✓ Contribute by mail: Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

EDUCATED COEXISTENCE- PROJECT COYOTE PUTS OUT EXCELLENT INFORMATION TO DISSUADE COYOTES FROM HANGING OUT



<http://esmithphoto.zenfolio.com/p688474848/h3C35A7C2#3c35a7c2>

Urban landscapes offer an abundance of food, water, and shelter for coyotes. Take the following steps to prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home.

- 🐾 Wildlife-proof garbage in sturdy containers with tight fitting lids.
- 🐾 Don't leave pet food outside.
- 🐾 Take out trash the morning pick-up is scheduled
- 🐾 Keep compost in secure containers.
- 🐾 Keep fallen fruit off the ground. Coyotes eat fruit.
- 🐾 Keep birdseed off the ground; seeds attract rodents, which draw coyotes.
- 🐾 Remove feeders if coyotes are seen in your yard.
- 🐾 Keep barbecue grills clean.
- 🐾 Eliminate accessible water sources.
- 🐾 Clear away brush and dense weeds near buildings.
- 🐾 Close off crawl spaces under decks and around buildings where coyotes may den.
- 🐾 If you frequently see a coyote in your yard, make loud noises with pots, pans, or air horns, and haze the coyote with a water hose.

Approximately one coyote is killed every minute of every day. Help stop the killing by practicing peaceful coexistence. Please visit Project Coyote's website and read about the organization's excellent work to save the coyote by educating the public.

http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Coexisting_Brochure_oct2015.pdf
<http://www.projectcoyote.org/>