

The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Summer/Fall 2015

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AFRICAN ANIMAL WORLD FAST DISAPPEARING 96 ELEPHANTS KILLED EVERY DAY IN AFRICA HENCE, THE TIMES SQUARE IVORY CRUSH June 20, 2015

By KIRSTEN VIBE PHILIPPIDES

Consider for a moment these facts:

Elephant poaching is at its highest level in decades, and African elephants are now listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Unless the illegal and inhumane slaughter of elephants, rhinos and other species is halted, these magnificent animals will disappear from the wild in the next several decades!

On September 26, 2013, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) announced a campaign to save Africa's elephants. In 1980 it was estimated there were 1.2 million African elephants. Today, there are less than 420,000. **Ninety-six elephants are gunned down every day. In 1989 they were added to the International List of the most endangered species.**

In July 2013 President Obama signed an executive order to combat wildlife trafficking.

Recently China, the major consumer market for wildlife products and exporter of ivory, announced it would end its ivory trade.

Consider this fact as well: The USA's ivory market is one of the largest in the world and New York was, until recently, the center for the sales of ivory and wildlife products.



Conveyor belt to the shoot

To call attention to the plight of African wildlife, **The Times Square Ivory Crush** took place in one of the most recognized and visible places in the world: right in the middle of the square.

Large tables with confiscated products were displayed for the public to see, such as elephant stools made from the cut off feet of elephants, stuffed birds of prey, reptile bags, leopard skins, mounted species of African butterflies, jewelry made from ivory, etc.

The media was heavily represented, recording the final crushing of one ton of ivory and all the TIMES SQUARE

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THE OMEGA INSTITUTE-- A STUDY IN INCONSISTENCY

By ANNE MULLER



Omega Visitor Center, Rhinecliff, NY

I wouldn't normally speak out about an action of the Omega Institute, but Canada geese are urging me to speak out on their behalf as they are powerless and maligned members of our community without a voice of protest, without anyone to hear their screams, and without a law to protect them at the present time.

Described by Omega's highest officer as "eat and poop machines," I was told that nothing works to remove them but death. I was told that "everything had been tried," yet they continued to congregate on the very lawns where residents of the Institute like to picnic and sit on the grass. I was told that Omega was totally transparent in what they

OMEGA INSTITUTE

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TIMES SQUARE

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displayed items by an industrial rock crusher, a huge, colorful vehicle with a conveyor belt where the products were being placed and then swallowed by the mouth of the vehicle and spat out in dust particles.

This event is one of many events held all over the world in order to raise the public's awareness and stop the demand for ivory.

It was an intensely moving event to be part of, and hopefully this and many other similar events all over the world may have a significant impact in saving these majestic wild animals all over the world



Kirsten holding sign "Take a Stand"

Kirsten Vibe Philippides is the NY local editor of the Danish newspaper, the **Danish Pioneer**, Chicago, IL.



Elephant foot stool

Internet photo of ivory carvings and other items to be crushed to a powder

EYE ON THE NEWS

Lion Siblings Rescued from Gaza Refugee Camp are Moved to Jordan



Max and **Mona** were finally rescued from a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip after months of negotiations. The cubs were purchased in March 2015 by a father of six from Gaza's Rafah Zoo, which has been suffering since being hit by airstrikes. The father only meant the best in taking the cubs away from the struggling zoo, but the situation very quickly grew into a potential disaster as lion cubs grew bigger and stronger. That's when **animal welfare group Four Paws** www.four-paws.us/ stepped in. They explained to the family how the cubs would ultimately suffer from being raised in the refugee camp, and thankfully convinced them to send the siblings across the border to Jordan in early July. Now, the cubs are safe and sound in a quarantine center in Jordan, and come this fall, Mona and Max will be moved to the **Al Ma'wa Wildlife Sanctuary** where they will be well taken care of.

www.facebook.com/AlMawaJordan

-- Alivia Messina

EYE ON THE NEWS

ENDANGERED WILD ANIMALS INSPIRE AWE Will There Be a Trickle Down Effect?



To enhance the theme of wildlife protection, and the need to protect the fast diminishing African wildlife, **Joel Sartore's** and **Ron Robinson's** company called **Obscura Digital**, projected African animals onto the Empire State Building in NYC. The effect was magical as Cecil dominated the world's consciousness at that point in time. There was no question about the why and where-

fore... it was for the animals. New Yorkers of every ethnicity (as New Yorkers are) knew what it was about.

To learn more about these folks and let your imagination run wild visit:

www.obscuradigital.com or see their video:

<http://obscuradigital.com/work/racingextinction>



OMEGA INSTITUTE

Continued from page 1

were doing, and that they had the full support of all who knew about it.

Yet, Wildlife Watch received a message expressing grave concern that originated from someone at the Institute who, for fear of losing his or her job, did not give a name.

Wildlife Watch operates a wildlife hotline for injured and orphaned wildlife, and we receive calls from across the country from people who are concerned about individual animals. These callers stand in stark contrast to those who see only populations and species. The individual life somehow gets lost and undervalued, even unrecognized as a being.

It's easy and quick to simply kill what's in the way, especially wild animals who have no legal protection at this point in time. But to effectively, humanely and non-lethally resolve human-wildlife conflicts takes not just

a little effort, but a will to not kill.

Of course Canada geese as a species are not endangered, but as individuals they are in extreme danger. Take, for example, an off-duty employee of Maple Shade, NJ, who wounds geese with a shotgun, then steps on their heads to squeeze them flat pressing the blood and life out of them while they twitch and flutter on the ground until they take their last tortured breath. What he does is not illegal since he was carrying a permit, from both state and federal agencies, to kill the geese on behalf of a farm.

Take another example, Wildlife Services operating within the USDA, thrives off of wildlife killing contracts. Their tactics can include rounding up geese, shoving them into tiny crates, and gassing them on site.

An alternative method used to soothe the conscience of the public is to take the geese to a poultry slaughter house where they are hung by their feet and put through nightmarish "pro-

cessing."

That the health department declares E. coli and salmonella a hazard to human health should not lead to killing animals in the shared environment. To blame the occurrence of these bacteria on the geese, when there is no way to distinguish between goose poop and the myriad other poop (including human) that's in the water, is cunning.

Killing Canada geese isn't fitting for an institute that proclaims it is "Awakening the best in the human spirit." Omega's community needs to know what is happening and learn about the many non-lethal methods that can be used to dissuade Canada geese from places where people like to congregate. If it has worked for other areas, surely it can work for Omega. Where there's a will not to kill, there's a way.

Originally published in the **New Paltz Times**. **Anne Muller** is editor of the Wildlife Watch Binocular

EYE ON THE NEWS

HUGGING DOGS SAVED FROM BEING "PUT TO SLEEP"



Kala (brown) hugging Keira just moments before both were slated to die

Thank heavens that **Malena Evans** took this photo. It saved the lives of these two wonderful dogs.

They went to a foster home thanks to the photo going viral!

Thank you to **Angels Among Us Pet Rescue** in Atlanta, GA for putting the photo online.

Wildlife Watch has done a followup to find that both dogs tested positive for parvovirus that is spread in shelters, but they are being treated and hopefully will overcome the virus. We've outreached to the group for more information but have not yet heard back.

Visit their website at: www.angelsrescue.org

TO FEED OR EAT?

Hoping that pig roasts will be seen the same way

Most of us would say that there'd be something wrong with you if you looked at these guys and wanted to eat them rather than feed them, yet in the southern Chinese city of Yulin, a festival is held every summer solstice. But instead of celebrating the holiday, residents attend the "Dog Meat Festival" to kill and eat hundreds of dogs and cats. The animals are either strays or housepets, stolen from their homes to be shipped away to the festival, where they are crammed into tiny cages and poisoned or beaten to death. After years

of backlash from animal rights groups and activists, many of whom have been known to buy dogs to rescue them from the festival's main event, one retired teacher had enough. **Yang Xiaoyun, 65, traveled 1,652 miles and paid around \$1,500 to rescue 100 dogs before they could be eaten! She brought the dogs to her home-turned-shelter she calls "Common Home for Stray Animals", where Xiaoyun takes care of more than 200 cats and 1,500 dogs.**



Her rescue has inspired thousands around the world.

--Alivia Messina

www.reshareworthy.com/woman-rescues-dogs-from-yulin-festival/

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**, and they

are **not 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, DNRs or police are called, they normally recommend killing or letting the animals die; and most veterinarians cannot take time from their busy schedules.

THE WILDLIFE WATCH HOTLINE SAVES LIVES

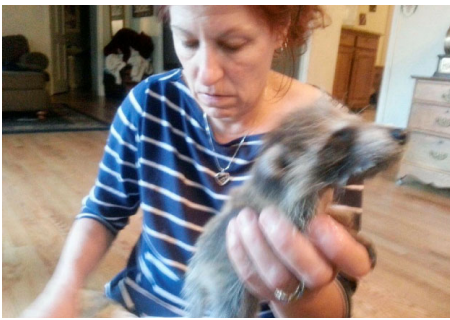


Photo by Nelli Zarytska

Rehabber Leslie Hyder with baby raccoon

Nelli Zarytska from Queens, NY, called Wildlife Watch in May about a baby raccoon. We provided the name of Leslie Hyder on Long Island. Leslie is

one of very few rehabbers who takes raccoons as they are labeled "rabies vector species," thus making it difficult to get a permit. Couple that with game agency threats to euthanize the ones who can't be released.

We asked Nelli to tell us what made her pick up the baby raccoon and here's what she said:

We never could pass an animal in need. We have five turtles at home - two of them we found injured next to the park lake. They are both doing very well now. We were just walking in the park, and heard a strange noise,

then we saw three baby raccoons, two of them were dead, and the one alive appeared to be really thin, cold and hungry. We just felt that we must help him. We put him in a soft sweater and took him home. We then found the Wildlife Watch website.

In a followup with Leslie, Wildlife Watch learned that the raccoon will be ready to be released at the end of August, and she will send photos of the release. We look forward to sharing them with our readers when they are sent! Nelli is hoping to be there with her son as well.

R.O.C.K. EDITORIAL

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT INDIVIDUAL WILD ANIMALS

Over the years, Wildlife Watch has received thousands of calls about injured and orphaned wildlife.

The callers are humane and compassionate people who want to help animals in need of help.

Often they are shocked by the DEC, or the game agencies in other states, when they sadly are told either "Let nature take its course" or "If we go there, we'll kill it."

They implore Wildlife Watch to give them *only* the names of people who will help the animals and not kill them.

As wildlife rehabilitators are granted permits by the game agencies (DNR, DEC, DEP, etc.) the rehabbers would naturally be concerned about disagreeing with the position of the those departments.

Two deer were found orphaned at

separate times, Dierdre was found about 5 years ago, and Lily came to the rehabilitation center about a year ago. She was blind at birth. She's dependent on Dierdre to get around Ms. McGinley's property. **Now the NYS DEC wants Dierdre either released to the wild or killed; and they want blind Lily killed.**

We completely agree with Ms. McGinley's stance that it should be up to her to decide when the deer can or should be released. If a wildlife rehabber is willing to keep unreleasable animals in a setting that's perfect, then why should the mandate be death?

We have a theory: Game agencies are in the hunting business. They make money from firearms and ammunition, and bows and arrows, that kill deer. Individual animals are useless to

them, to be discarded callously or put back into the wild to be killed by their customers, the hunters.

We hope policies will change and evolve to embrace individual animals, and hope that Gov. Cuomo will allow Ms. McGinley to keep the deer. Instead of a place for killing deer, her wildlife center would serve as a place where people can visit deer who won't run from them because they won't be terrorized. That's vastly more important to a much larger population of people who wish to interact humanely with animals, as well as to the individual wild animals themselves. You can reach Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390.

See full story at:

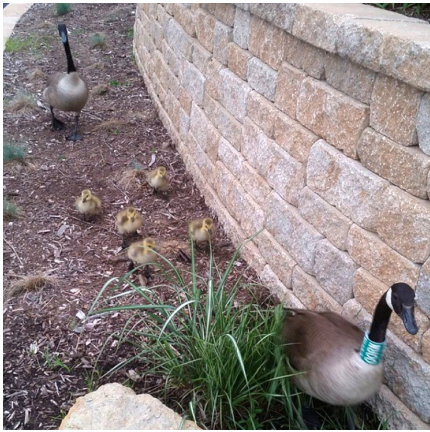
www.legislativegazette.com/Articles-Top-Stories-c-2015-07-27-92574.113122-Central-NY-woman-fighting-DEC-to-keep-wild-deer-.html

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

My Personal Rescue High Suspense

BY EMILY CAMILLE BOULLEAR

I often see dogs, cats, deer, possums, birds, and squirrels killed on our roads and highways. Their mangled bodies, disrespected by most passersby, are left to rot on the asphalt. Even if by a miracle a hit animal were to survive an inhumane blow by a vehicle, who would or could save him or her at that point? These tragedies fall under the "that's life" category of the *human* condition. I find it heartbreaking.



When I saw a family of Canada geese walking up a semi-busy street towards a major intersection during rush hour a few weeks ago on my drive home from work, I couldn't just let them walk to their death. Two parents and their five fuzzy goslings walked in single file towards danger as eager IKEA shoppers slowed down to take pictures for their social media friends and followers... and then drive away. I instinctively turned my car around, put my blinkers on, and was determined to drive

slowly behind the geese until help arrived. I called Animal Control but they weren't available to help as it was after five.

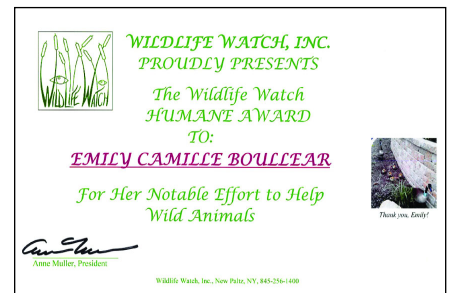
A concerned woman pulled up to me and suggested we herd them into a park across the street that they were clearly avoiding. Together we were able to lead them into the park but they wouldn't stay there because it didn't have fresh water for their goslings. **I later learned that their eggs had been moved by the city to the edges of this barren park without regard to whether the geese would need to flee once their babies were born.**

Shortly after my ally left, the geese walked out of the park and onto a fast food construction site as it began to thunder and rain. The scene was apocalyptic. They were headed directly towards the highway. Finally, once again, a couple of IKEA shoppers stopped to help, and we guided the geese back up the street through torrential rain. The street we were stuck on was surrounded by office buildings, fast food restaurants, a major highway and two, busy, four lane streets. The goslings had trouble crossing the street through the rushing water heading toward a storm drain, and I had to prepare myself to catch goslings if they were washed away.

I knew we had to chaperone them about six blocks to a fresh water pond. During the homestretch of our path, an angry man in a beat up

minivan slowed down beside us to yell out of his window, "kill them, kill them, kill them". This extraordinarily inhumane gesture shook me up but all of us were able to safely cross the last major street towards their oasis. Their last challenge was getting past the backyard fences surrounding it. They spotted a hole in the fence before I did and began to intuitively run-waddle in that direction. After passing under the fence, they quickly found the pond and glided into a scene just as picturesque as their passage had been grotesque.

**THE 2015
WILDLIFE WATCH
HUMANE AWARD
GOES TO
EMILY CAMILLE BOULLEAR!
FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR
HEARTS,
THANK YOU, EMILY!!!**



If you have a wildlife rescue story that you'd like to share, please contact Anne at wild-watch@verizon.net. We'd love to let our readers know about it.

Save The "International Symbol of World Peace"
NY Governor Cuomo:
Sign The Mute Swan Bill # S01555

"Nikola Tesla said it best!" "It's not the love you make. It's the love you give." "If we loved wildlife conservation more than we loved to kill our wildlife, no species would ever be at risk!"
-Sheila A. Bolin
CEO
The Regal Swan® Foundation, Inc.

The Regal Swan
Foundation, Inc.
John Muir Conservation Award Recipient

WE STILL NEED YOUR CALLS TO GO IN TO GOVERNOR CUOMO TO SIGN THE MUTE SWAN BILL

NY Governor Andrew Cuomo has yet to sign the mute swan bill. Last session, he vetoed it after a long delay. **Sheila Bolin** of **The Regal Swan Foundation, Inc.** has been in full gear to get this bill passed in order to save New York's gentle and magnificent swans from destruction by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Please contact Andrew Cuomo's office at Phone: 518-474-8390; Fax: 518-474-3767 gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us to let him know that you want the swans given a reprieve and to please sign A3675/S1555 into law.

Let's Go Wildlife Watching

The White Deer of Seneca

BY PETER MULLER



In Western New York, not far from Rochester, just a short ride from exit 41 of the NY State Thruway, a truly spectacular wildlife watching experience can be found in Seneca, NY. In 1941, the U.S. Army created a fenced in depot in Seneca County, unintentionally entrapping a small herd of white-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer have a recessive gene that causes leucism. Leucism is a condition that results in an absence of cells capable of making pigment. That condition turns their coats white instead of the usual brown color. **They are not albinos.** In albinism cells fail to produce melanin, whereas with leucism there is total cellular pigmentation failure. The condition is not harmful to the deer. In nature the recessive gene that causes leucism is rare among deer; and the chance of a fawn's receiving two leucistic genes, one from each parent, which would cause the condition to manifest, is even rarer. It seems that the herd enclosed in Seneca Depot evidently had more than the normal share of the leucistic recessive genes. Owing to their entrapment by the fencing in 1941, the herd has been inbreeding for nearly 75 years. The trait has manifested itself to such an extent that today there are an estimated 200-300 white deer in the herd of about 700. They can be observed from the roads (Hwy 96 and 96A in Romulus) that pass near the fence

For more information about the Seneca white deer herd, please consult:

www.advocacy.britannica.com/blog/advocacy/2008/12/the-white-deer-at-the-seneca-army-depot

The online **Encyclopedia Britannica** article was written by **Peter Muller** of Wildlife Watch.

While the world mourns Cecil, a similar tragedy is unfolding in New York State. We're sad to report their future existence is not a certainty. The Seneca County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is contemplating proposals for what to do with the depot area once the US Army relinquished it back to the county. **There are proposals that would make the white deer herd a tourist attraction, however these include hunting as a means to "control the population," which is tantamount to permitting the area to become a canned hunt facility for trophy animals.** Wildlife Watch fought hard for turning the white deer area into a prime wildlife watching area several years ago. We were joined by many local residents and our dear friend, **Rita Sarnicola.**

Letters and phone calls are needed to persuade the decision makers to permit the development of the tourist attraction (using immuno-contraception, if needed, to control the size of the herd) without the canned hunt adjunct to the project.

You can contact:
Seneca County Industrial Development Agency
County Government Office
Address: 1 Dipronio Dr, Waterloo, NY 13165
Phone: (315) 539-1725
NY State Senator Michael Nozzolio Albany Office
188 State Street, Room 503, Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2366
Fax: (518) 426-6953
District Office
119 Fall Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
888-568-9816
Fax: (315) 568-2090

Please contact **Wildlife Watch** if you are interested in a tour. wildwatch@verizon.net, and please put **"White Deer Tour"** in the subject line.

EYE ON THE NEWS

THE WEST AFRICAN BLACK RHINO IS EXTINCT

You may have heard that the West African black rhino was officially declared extinct when the sad news spread last month in the media and online.

It turns out, however, that this is old (but still sad) news - the black rhino went extinct in 2011!

But if there is any good news to this story, it's that the power of this rumor has brought a surge of awareness to the looming crisis of mass extinction we are now facing. Researchers believe that a new mass extinction is approaching, and they fear that as much as 75% of the species we know today could disappear in just two generations' time!

Earth has seen five mass extinctions of this scale before; the last event sealed the dinosaurs' fates sixty-five million years ago. The sixth and current mass extinction stand apart from the rest for a disturbing reason: us. For the first time, species are dying off at an alarming rate because of the human race's impact on the planet. **The issue of mass extinction is very serious, but there are still measures we can take to prevent it from getting any worse. Living sustainably, refraining from hunting and fishing, and choosing to live a vegan lifestyle are all important ways to help protect our planet from future harm.**

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/06/20/world/mass-extinction-animals/index.html>

-- Alivia Messina



Photo of baby black rhino at Lincoln Park Zoo

EYE ON THE NEWS

GO VEGGIE FOR THE SAKE OF THE PLANET

Although 93% of Americans still eat meat, more and more have been cutting back their meat consumption. According to the Department of Agriculture, annual meat consumption per capita fell 10% since 2007. **That means that 400 million animals were not bred to be tortured and slaughtered!** Refraining from eating red meat has been proven to reduce the chances of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, stroke, and a score of other issues. Plus, it saves thousands of lives!

-- Alivia Messina

www.latestvegannews.com/400-million-fewer-animals-were-killed-for-food-last-year-because-people-are-eating-less-meat/



STONES IN YOUR BIRD BATH

As was pointed out by Care2, putting some stones in a bird bath will keep baby birds from drowning.



EYE ON THE NEWS

In Australia: ANIMAL RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER MARK PEARSON HAS WON A SEAT IN THE NEW SOUTH WALES UPPER HOUSE.



Photo by Mark Scott.

His priorities will be to introduce legislation that bans factory farming, to stop the commercial killing of kangaroos for export, and to oppose the power lease on the basis that it is an industry that destroys animal habitats.

From article by **Alicia Wood** for *The Daily Telegraph*

Recently elected Animal Justice Party member **Mark Pearson** has promised to work with all other MPs — even the Shooters and Fishers — to promote the cause of animal rights.

Mark Pearson is 'thrilled' by the result.

"It is really thrilling to know that we are joining the EU in having elected to parliament people on the basis of animal protection," Mr Pearson said.



WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital services for helping injured and orphaned wildlife. In addition to our national hotline, Wildlife Watch lobbies for wildlife protection bills, does pick-ups locally, and contributes to the local rehabbers for their care of the babies we bring to them. Through our publication, the **Wildlife Watch Binocular**, Wildlife Watch empha-

sizes the unique spirit of individual animals and promotes wildlife watching as a means of spiritually and ethically relating to other beings, and as an enhancement of our life enjoyment.

Will you become a part of our team?

YES

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

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Anne Muller - Editor;

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.
Contributions are tax-deductible.



**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

CECIL THE LION

BY ANNE MULLER



Through our mourning, what message do we bring away from this brutal crime? Fortunately, it was a crime in that laws were violated. **So many other killings are legal.**

Is the message we bring away merely that a perverted and heartless individual be severely punished for his terrible deed?

If Cecil had lived outside of the park, where it would have been legal to kill him, would killing him have been okay?

If Cecil hadn't been such a large lion, would killing him have been okay?

If Cecil hadn't been collared by researchers from a prestigious university, would killing him have been okay?

If Cecil hadn't had an unusual black mane, would killing him have been okay?

If Cecil had no name, would killing him have been okay?

I can't guess what the myriad responses to these questions would be, but I certainly trust that one day all lions, tigers, rhinos, water buffalos, elephants, and Canada geese, swans, deer, and so many other "game" animals will all have the name Cecil in our hearts, and that all of their deaths will generate outrage of the same magnitude.

Please support NYS Senator Tony Avella's Bill S4686, which is a comprehensive ban on the importation, transportation and sale of the "Big 5" African species. Call your NYS legislator to urge support of this important bill. If you are in another state, please contact the League of Humane Voters WWW.LOHV.ORG to push for a similar bill.