

SEAALAS Newsletter



Volume 39, Issue 4

January 2007



2006 SEAALAS Officers

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Communications: Pam Rudd

Legislation: Ruth Connelly

Nominations: Selina Sumner

Program 2007: Marsha Howard

TBR: Peg Rentz

Web Site: Chris Carter

From the Editor..

Hi! I'm Chris and some of you know me as the soon to be SEAALAS president while others know me as "that idiot that..." or "that boy that.."

I just wanted to say that bringing this newsletter to you guys is tough stuff. My hat is off to anyone that volunteers for the Communications chair! It's like pulling teeth trying to get anyone to submit articles, jokes, news or even pictures of their pets!

So, in 2007, lets make the job of the newsletter editor easier! Let's get those submissions to them! Let's give them more material than they can use to fill the newsletter so they'll have extra for the next! Better yet, call up the editor and tell them you appreciate the hard work they do! Soooo, send those submissions to the following:

[Kristine Suzor](mailto:ksuzor@uga.edu)
ksuzor@uga.edu

One Last thought—contact me and....

GET INVOLVED!

-Chris

Submissions Needed!

If you have an interesting article, anecdote, or tid bit of animal news that you would like to see in the SEAALAS Newsletter send it to

Kristine Suzor:
ksuzor@uga.edu

Hello to everyone in SEAALAS world.

I hope you all had a great holiday season and have been able to enjoy some time off with your family. Along with the relaxation of days off over the past couple of months, comes the added stress of coworkers taking additional time off. All of our jobs can be very stressful but we shouldn't bring these stresses home with us. A few years ago, I took up Yoga at the gym here at Emory. I have been amazed at how I feel after a class. I am not standing on my head or anything, but just taking some time out to just concentrate on my breathing makes the day melt away. I am not writing this to try to get others to do yoga, but I would really like for each of us to take time out for ourselves to distress. There are many things that one could do. Maybe you could spend time volunteering in your community, helping out with children, taking time out to walk at lunch, trying Yoga or Tai-Chi, or just committing to reading a great book. Do what works for you and your personal schedule. Just imagine if we were all a little less stressed, how much happier would work be.



OK, back to the work at hand. Over the fall we wrapped up our elections for the 2007 SEAALAS year. The winners are the following:

President elect: Dean Blake
Treasurer: Krista Harris
Secretary: Amy Philips
Director: Marsha Howard
Director: Charlotte Joyner

I am excited to have a new group of people participating with SEAALAS and look forward to their ideas. I also want to thank Selina Sumner and the committee members for all of their help with the Nominations/Elections.

Our Award winners have been picked so I want to give a special thanks to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to nominate a coworker for an award. We have so many deserving people within our branch. I also want to say thank you to Ginger Peters and the awards committee for taking time to pick the winners.

The next **Big NEWS** is the upcoming SEAALAS meeting.
January 18-19, 2007 in Atlanta, Georgia.

We have a great meeting planned and I hope I get to see many of you there. If you have questions please see the SEAALAS website at www.seaalas.org. Also, if anyone is interested in being on a committee next year, please contact me at kbenjam@dar.emory.edu. The more people that volunteer the more we can achieve.

Namasté

Kim



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2007

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SEAALAS NEEDS YOU!

(Reprint from Fall 05, slightly edited—Thanks Pam Rudd!)

SEAALAS needs you. No, really, SEAALAS needs you; a rat-in-an-Uncle Sam suit poster with creepy eyes that follow you a round the room sort of needs you.

As an organization, we're at a transitional point. Much of the "Old Guard" has retired or moved on to jobs outside of SEAALAS's area while the ranks of new volunteers are too thin. There are too few new faces on the Executive Committee; it's the same old faces shuffling from position to position. If SEAALAS is to transition into a renewed and energetic organization, it must have input from all its members.

It's all so very vague, though, isn't it? What are you volunteering for, and how much time will it take, and what if you mess it up? Kinda intimidating, huh? When I first volunteered, I felt like I was being asked to take a high dive into the vasty deep, never mind the sharks and giant squids. I hoped and hoped I wouldn't do a complete belly buster. I was lucky, though, I had two experienced and active SEAALAS members with loaded spear guns watching for all the sharks and squids and reefs and jellyfish that the vasty deep could throw at me that first time I volunteered.

So, I will offer this, if you will volunteer to help SEAALAS, I'll volunteer to man the spear gun. I will either help you learn the procedures the position requires, or I will find someone else who can.

If you don't have the time or the inclination to fill a position, you can help by submitting articles, jokes, cartoons, puzzles, interesting problems you've encountered at your facility, or ideas for articles to the newsletter.

Please, think about it. SEAALAS is your organization, and only your input will keep it vibrant and exciting.

Please Volunteer to Help SEAALAS!!

Contact Chris Carter
edgey99@bellsouth.net

or

Kim Benjamin
kbenjam@dar.emory.edu



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Future AALAS Meetings:

2007—Charlotte, North Carolina,
Oct 14-18

2008— Indianapolis, Indiana
Nov. 2-6

2009— Denver, Colorado
Nov 8-12

2010— Atlanta, Georgia
Oct 10-14

2011— San Diego, California
Oct 2-6



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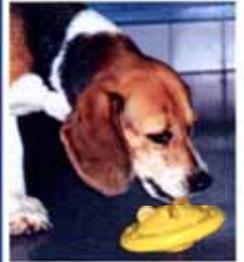
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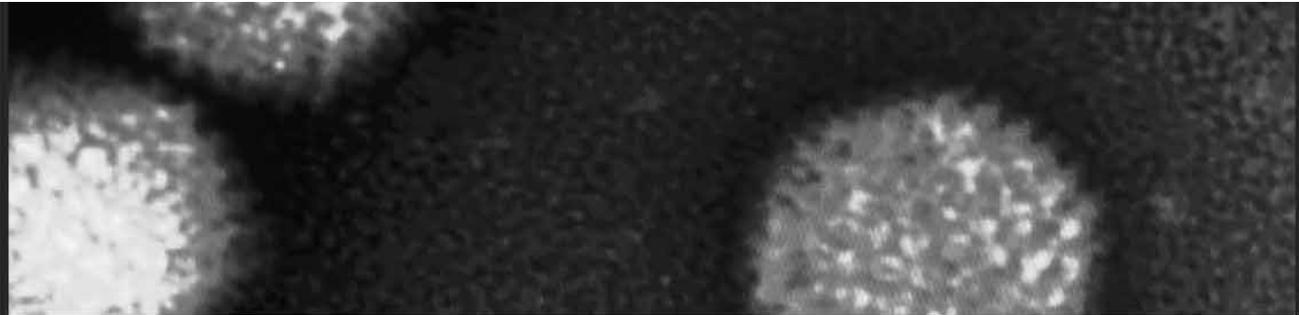
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2007

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2006 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Highlights Charleston, South Carolina

From the jampacked vendor area to ghostly tales of things that went bump in the night, The Francis Marion Hotel provided a wonderful backdrop for an unforgettable meeting.



There are many stories to be toldjust ask around...

Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act is Now Law

President Bush signed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) into law November 27, 2006. The new law expands criminal prohibitions against the use of force, violence, and threats involving animal-related businesses, including biomedical research, and increases penalties for violations.

Sponsored by Senators James Inhofe (R-OK) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Representative Thomas Petri (R-WI), the law amends the Animal Enterprise Act of 1992, addressing the new tactics of secondary and tertiary targeting employed by SHAC and other extremists.

"I am proud the President signed into law my bill that provides law enforcement much needed tools to adequately combat radical animal rights extremists' who commit violent acts against innocent people because of their work with animal research," Senator Inhofe said. "My bill, that gained unanimous support of Congress, is an important step in the effort to combat animal rights extremists' increasingly violent tactics. We can no longer tolerate criminally based activism regardless of the cause it allegedly advances."

-end-



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2007

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ANNUAL MEETING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JAN 18-19

Presentations

What are the 3 R's?

Retirement: Chimp Haven

Resources: Conservation
Medicine

Regulations: Common
Citations

Risk Assessment

Reptiles in Research

Revisit: Herpes B

"R" You Safe: Animal Rights
Week

Recycle

Relaxation: Stress Reduction

Location

Embassy Suites Hotel
Centennial Olympic Park
267 Marietta St.
Atlanta, Ga. 30313

Thursday, January 18

- 8:00-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-11:00 Tech Tips
- 11:00-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:00 What are the 3 R's?
- 1:00-1:30 Regulations (USDA)
- 1:30-2:00 Retirement/Chimp Haven
- 2:00-2:30 Recycle: Animal Facility recycling
- 2:30-3:00 Resources: Conservation Medicine
- 3:00-5:00 Vendor Exhibits/Raffle
- 5:00- 7:00 Tour Georgia Aquarium
- 7:00- 9:00 Banquet at Georgia Aquarium

Friday, January 19

- 8:00-8:30 Registration
- 8:30-9:00 "R" U Safe: FBI Guy
- 9:00-9:30 Reptiles in Research
- 9:30-10:00 Relaxation: Technician Stress Reduction
- 10:00-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:00 Retro-viruses: Herpes B
- 11:00-11:30 Risk Assessment
- 11:30-12:00 Revolutionary: Panel Discussion
- What the future holds for Technicians
- 12:00 Chateau Elan Raffle

For More information Contact:

Marsha Howard at mhoward@dar.embry.edu

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Hello to all from the Medical University of South Carolina!

As you all may already know an animal care Technician's job is never done!! Or so that is the way that most feel. So, there is a Tech week marked on a twelve month calendar that celebrates us all as one.

DLAR has a month that we celebrate a technician that has shown exceptional talent, observation, diligence, compassion, and so many other qualities that any facility would value.

I am proud to announce that **Tadd Driggers** was awarded May, **Tarah Hudnut** took home June and **Rebecca Taylor** was celebrated in July.

DLAR values all of it's employees all year.

The new Hollings Cancer Center Animal Facility with state of the art ventilated rack and cage wash sanitation technology is expected to be occupied in September.

We also have an ABSL3 animal facility which will be completed October 1st.

MUSC is in the design phase of two new research buildings which will also include animal facilities.

I, **Deidre Wright**, have been promoted to Supervisor of the new Hollings Cancer Facility. I promise to work hard and give DLAR my all.

Roxanna Vaughn leaves the animal husbandry side of the department to move to the Surgical Research Lab within Comparative Medicine.

Tarah Hudnut has chosen to go back to a private Veterinary Practice here in Charleston.

Sharon Martinez, the Supervisor of the Surgical Research Lab, is moving far away to Appleton, Wisconsin.

We will miss all of you, and we wish you well in your future endeavors.

From all of us here in the Department of Comparative Medicine we hope that everyone is well and is enjoying the end of summer.

-Deidre Wright



Medical College of Georgia

GEORGIA'S HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Since the last newsletter we have said goodbye to someone with many years of dedicated service. We would like to wish **Linda Griffin** a long and happy retirement. She will be missed.

Crystal Busbee was promoted to take **Linda Griffin's** place as Office Manager.

Ron Welch was also hired as Accountant for the division.

We would like to welcome some additional new faces to Lab Animal Services. **Chantal Dennis, Wilma Jones,** and **Chris Fick** have joined our team. We wish them well in their new positions.

We have the new Interdisciplinary Research Center II open and quickly reaching full capacity. We are also looking forward to opening the new Cancer Research Center sometime this year.

The Division of Lab Animal Services has moved into a newly renovated space with more room and beautiful new offices. We love the new office space and the fresh new look it has given our department.

Hats off and Congratulations go out to **Cedric Bouey** and **Kambre Curry** for passing their ALAT exams...great job ya'll!

We would also like to say Congratulations to **Asia Lindsey** on his recent promotion to Lab Animal Technician. Good Luck in your new position Asia!

We were happy to send **Kambre Curry, Asia Lindsey, Bobby Leverett** and **Wilma Jones** to the Lab Products Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia. A great time was had by all.

We are looking forward to attending the SEAALAS meeting in Atlanta in January... hope to see everyone there!

-Crystal Busbee, LVT, LATG

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

The Office of Research Services wishes to announce and welcome **Dr. John Parrish** and his family to Clemson University. Dr. Parrish will take the position of Associate University Veterinarian on September 1, 2006. He is coming from the Maryland/DC area but his roots are in the South.

Dr. Parrish is an ACLAM board certified veterinarian with 24 years experience specializing in laboratory animal medicine, immunology and pathology. He obtained his D.V.M. at Auburn University and Ph.D. at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed a Laboratory Animal Fellowship at UAB and a Laboratory Animal Residency in the US Army.

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Parrish as part of our team. We hope that you soon have an opportunity to join us in welcoming him to the SEAALAS family.

-Melody Clarke Willey

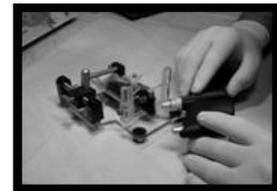


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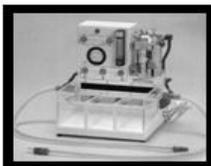
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News from Emory University Division of Animal Resources-DAR, Atlanta Ga

Hi everyone!

There are many DAR employees who deserve recognition for their committed services at Emory. DAR is privileged and proud to announce milestones for the following DAR staff members: Lynne Morelock-Roy, Division Administrator, for her **25 years** of dedicated service, making sure DAR employees get paid while the institution continues to financially thrive. DAR also acknowledges Wes Thompson, Operations Manager, for his 10 years of service, and Dr. Deb Mook, Assistant Director, for her 5 years of veterinary service, both of whom could not be doing a better job making sure our buildings and animals are taken care of as best as technologically possible.

In addition, there are many employees who have been promoted or reclassified based on their excellent leadership abilities and services at DAR. Ann Griffey has been promoted to manager of Woodruff Memorial Research Building, and Daniel Amankwah, who has been acting interim manager at Woodruff facility, has taken over as supervisor at Whitehead Biomedical Research Building. Additional reclassifications include Rashidat Ayantunji (animal care tech III), Roger Dixon (animal care tech II), and Monterris Fowler (cage wash technician I). Also, congratulations to Kendall Smith for passing the ALAT certification and for being reclassified to Veterinary Technician II.

Along with congratulating committed staff members, DAR has some new employees to welcome. DAR is excited to introduce Dr. Doug Taylor as our new clinical veterinarian. Dr. Taylor joins our team with an extensive background including five years private practice in Salt Lake City, a Masters of Science in Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology from the University of Michigan, and research experience studying environmental toxins at Clemson University and fracture healing in mouse models at the University of Michigan. When asked, Doug said he chose DAR primarily for the excellent training program for veterinary residents. Doug will be spending most of his time providing oversight of the surgical resource at Emory as well as contributing to the residency program.

Speaking of residents, we have reached that time again when two new veterinary residents join the staff, while we hand off the previous residents to the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Therefore, we say goodbye to Dr. Karen Strait, who did a great job and will be missed. Welcome to Dr. Lynn Collura, a graduate from the University of Illinois, who has spent time at Tulane Primate Center as an extern and Magee-Womans Research Institute as a research associate. Lynn began her year at DAR on clinical rounds and is eager to participate in the program. DAR also welcomes Dr. Christin Veeder, a recent graduate from the University of Pennsylvania, who has her Masters degree in Laboratory Animal Science from Drexel University, as well as research experience at GlaxoSmithKline, Salk Institute, and New Iberia National Primate Research Center. Christin will be spending her initial time working in the laboratory and pathology service along with assisting the enrichment department at Yerkes National Primate Center on primate clicker training. DAR looks forward to two great years with Lynn and Christin, and many, many years with Doug!

--Casey Brinsfield

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Well it has been a while since our last update and we have had a lot of changes in staff and even in our facilities. First and foremost, we'd like to welcome Dr. Michael Hart who will be joining us as the attending veterinarian and director of our department in September. Dr. Hart comes to us from the Texas Tech University and we're very excited.

We've also welcomed a new Animal Healthcare Technician, Matt Davis who started in May.

Congratulations are in order to Robert Bynes, Jr. who was promoted from a student worker to an Animal Caretaker II! Hard work does pay off.

We've added more Animal Caretaker II's: Deric Long joined us last November, Laura Camerden came back from the Language Resource Center in July, and our newest member, Maryanne Day joined us in August.

Sadly, we've had to say goodbye to some of our other employees. Alexis Flournoy has gone back to classes, but she's bound to visit when her schedule frees up. Andrea Gibson has moved over to Georgia Tech University, but we hope she'll be back. She already says she misses us.

We're also expanding our facilities. A new facility is scheduled to open this September and will add 8 more animal rooms plus support areas. That's just the tip of the iceberg. The new Research Park is in the works, but no set date yet.



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The University of Georgia

UGA's Animal Resources-LS is going strong!!

We have completely moved into the new Coverdell Biomedical Research Center and all the mice are nestled into their new Tecniplast caging. It has been a trying time getting them used to automatic watering, but they seem to be catching on.

Our technicians are enjoying working with the new tunnel washer, however, we have yet to decide if the labor saving devices that were purchased are really going to work or not. There is a Garbel grinder at the entrance of the washer to dump all the bedding, but it clogs up, and at the other end, there is a bedding dispenser which does not put enough bedding in the cages so it is pretty much useless since we have to bed the cages by hand with extra bedding anyway! All in all the facility is very workable and the customers are happy which is what is important.

With the move of most of the rodents into CRV, our other large facilities have emptied up and we are soliciting projects and new investigators! It has given us a chance to really do some much needed improvements and clean ups. We have a beautiful new flooring the Life Science facility, and the Bioscience facility has been cleaned out and we have been able to increase rat numbers over there.

As for our continuing education report, several staff went to the AALAS meeting in Salt Lake City. They came back with bags of goodies and some interesting thoughts.

Most of them were very interested in the debate over CO2 use which has become a big topic of concern. Staff attending were Chris Carter, Todd McDaniel, Leanne Alworth, Amy Phillips, Terri McCurely, Vicki Ellis, and Kristine Wilcox. We were sorry that Lisa Wilson was unable to attend due to her mother's death and we express our condolences.

There will be a HUGE group of us at the upcoming SEAALAS meeting to celebrate the inauguration of the new President Chris Carter!

We have several new student technicians that we would like to welcome from the past semester and this new year: David Carlyle, Megan Fowler, Hayley Barnett, Buddy Roper, Marissa Stocks and Nicole Snell.

We are glad to have Heather Carr back with us after she spent a semester in school in Florida and decided UGA was better! These student technicians make our job very interesting and exciting as they always keep us on our toes!!

I hope everyone had a very meaningful and joyous holiday season and experiences a healthy and successful New Year!

--Robin Kavanaugh

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Georgia Aquarium Saddened by Loss of Beloved Beluga Whale, Gaspar

The Georgia Aquarium is saddened to announce that the Aquarium's beloved beluga whale, Gaspar, was humanely euthanized on Jan. 2, 2007. Over the past few weeks, Gaspar's health had deteriorated. This is believed to be the result of his weakened immune system due to years of chronic illness, prior to arriving at the Georgia Aquarium. Laboratories, veterinarians and other animal and human health specialists from across the country were engaged to assist with this complicated case. In the past couple of days, Gaspar's physical condition and medical test results declined rapidly. With Gaspar's failing health and quality of life in mind, the Georgia Aquarium's veterinarian team made the difficult decision to humanely euthanize the animal.



Gaspar had lived at the Georgia Aquarium since Oct. 17, 2005. Upon arrival, he was severely underweight and had visible skin lesions. He was later diagnosed with osteomyelitis, an infection of the bone. Gaspar won the hearts of Aquarium visitors and the Atlanta community by blowing bubbles to the pleasure of Aquarium guests. He was dearly loved and will be missed not only by staff and volunteers, but also by the many, many guests who visited him.

A beluga whale sculpture is being developed for the Georgia Aquarium entrance plaza. Guests to the Aquarium may sign memory books located on the first and second floors of the beluga exhibit. You can also support our ongoing beluga efforts through our 4R Program or by becoming an annual pass member.

About Beluga Whales

Beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) are gregarious animals that are entirely found in arctic and sub-arctic waters. There are between 125,000 and 197,000 beluga whales in North American waters today. An adult beluga whale can grow to 15 feet in length and weigh up to 3,300 pounds. Beluga whales become white as adults; they have teeth and a single blowhole. They are called the "canary of the sea" for the sounds they make, which can be heard above the water. As with all marine animals, they are protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. They are not listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. There are currently eight facilities in North America managing beluga whales in a cooperative breeding alliance.



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Evacuating at a moments notice: DAR vet techs are put to the challenge
Submitted by: Crystal Busbee

At 9:00 am Wednesday, a call came through instructing the veterinary technicians to vacate their office so that floor work could be completed. Because of the potential exposure risk to the toxic floor repairing chemicals and process, the veterinary technicians were happy to comply with instructions.

So at a moments notice, the four veterinary technicians packed up everything in the office that would be necessary for use for at least 72 hours, and relocated to the break room. Since the office computer and the phones could not be transferred, the challenge was to quickly decide what was going to be needed to handle clinical cases, contact investigators, and train personnel per the pre-arranged veterinary schedule.



Despite the prolonged contracted time to fix the floors, the veterinary technicians handled their duties to perfection, realizing that the most important objects retrieved to the break room included the granola bars, the coffee maker, and the huge bottle of ibuprofen, marked now as "the essentials". By Monday, veterinary personnel were back to business in their original office.

Lesson learned: there is a difference between "emergency" equipment and "essential" equipment

Bill Reintroduced to Protect Wild Horses from Slaughter

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 8 – A measure to protect wild horses from being sold for slaughter was introduced on the second day of the new 110th Congress by House Natural Resources Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WV) and Representative Ed Whitfield (R-KY). H.R. 249, which was first introduced in the last session to repeal the 2004 “Burns rider,” would restore the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act to its original language.

“The horse is an integral part of the tapestry of this country – a symbol, a promise of possibility, a companion and a treasured childhood memory,” Chairman Rahall said. “Americans have always championed their survival, and they expect that these creatures will be protected. To allow them to be sacrificed and slaughtered represents great disrespect to the will of the American people and is an affront to our nation’s history.”

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation (SAPL), the Washington, D.C. based legislative division of the Animal Welfare Institute, is urging Congress to act on this bill swiftly to protect the overwhelming number of wild horses being rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

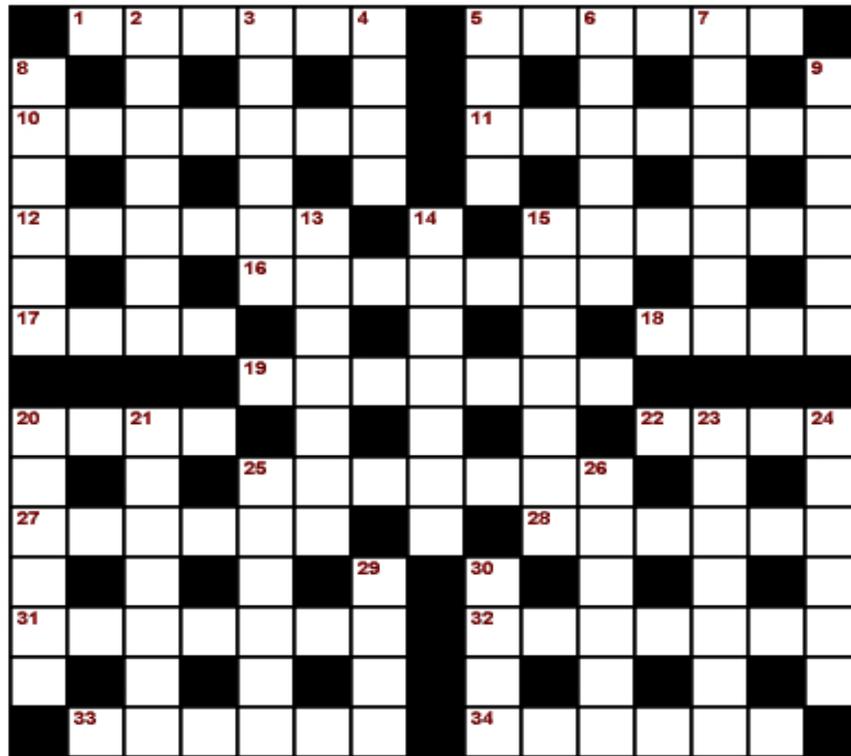
“For the first time in our history, there are more wild horses in BLM holding facilities than roaming free on our public lands,” said SAPL Deputy Legislative Director Chris Heyde. “This is a national tragedy being perpetrated by an agency more concerned with catering to special interests than upholding its legal responsibility to protect wild horses.”

SAPL encourages concerned constituents to contact their Representatives and request that they cosponsor H.R. 249. Similar measures were passed in 2005 and 2006 as amendments to the Interior Appropriations bill, but the Senate did not consider them. This bill should not be confused with the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA), a bill that would end the slaughter of all horses in the United States and ensure that none of the animals are sent to meet a similar fate outside of the country. The AHSPA, which passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives during the 109th Congress, is also expected to be reintroduced soon.

Founded in 1955, SAPL is the unsurpassed leader in obtaining laws to benefit animals in need, including the protection of domestic and wild horses. Please sign up for SAPL eAlerts to stay informed on important animal welfare measures that may come before Congress. To learn more about this legislation and find your legislators, please visit www.saplonline.org/horses.htm.

Animal Crossword!

(Answers available at <http://www.seaalas.org>)



Across

- 1 courses
- 5 group of fish
- 10 giant tortoise
- 11 tiny parasitic arachnid (2 words)
- 12 hedgehoglike Madagascan mammal
- 15 bony head adornment
- 16 large terrestrial monkeys
- 17 bowl
- 18 venomous snakes
- 19 hunted
- 20 pigs
- 22 elongate American fishes
- 25 descendants
- 27 Thanksgiving fowl
- 28 oxygen-requiring microorganism
- 31 horse feed
- 32 Australian jumping pouched mouse
- 33 warming device
- 34 Arctic whale

Down

- 2 squirrels, rats, and covies
- 3 spider's snare
- 4 command for Fido
- 5 finch food
- 6 wading birds
- 7 songbirds of America and Europe
- 8 insectivorous insect
- 9 tiny tropical fish
- 13 cat breeding facility
- 14 branch of biology
- 15 feeler
- 20 land-dwelling nutria relatives
- 21 tall African savannah denizen
- 23 large freshwater bony-tongue fish
- 24 shaves
- 25 kibble
- 26 "Old _____"
- 29 mate
- 30 epidermis


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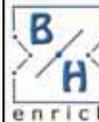


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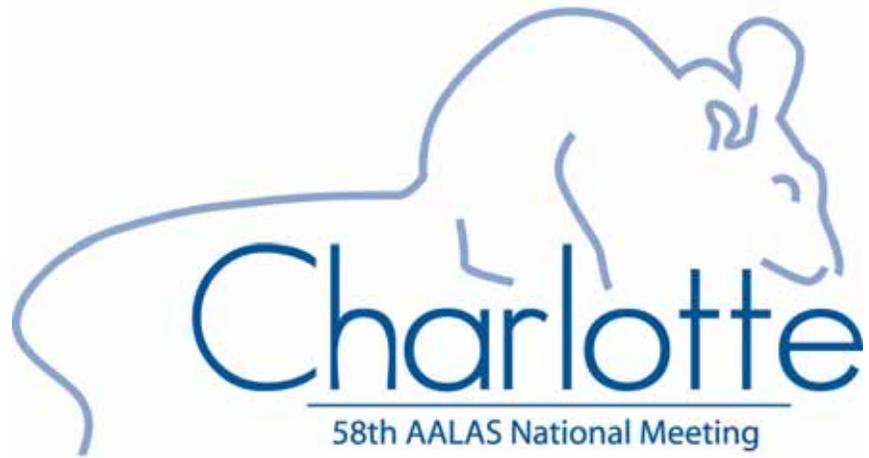
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