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Autumn 2014

Price £2 (free to members)



animalwatch

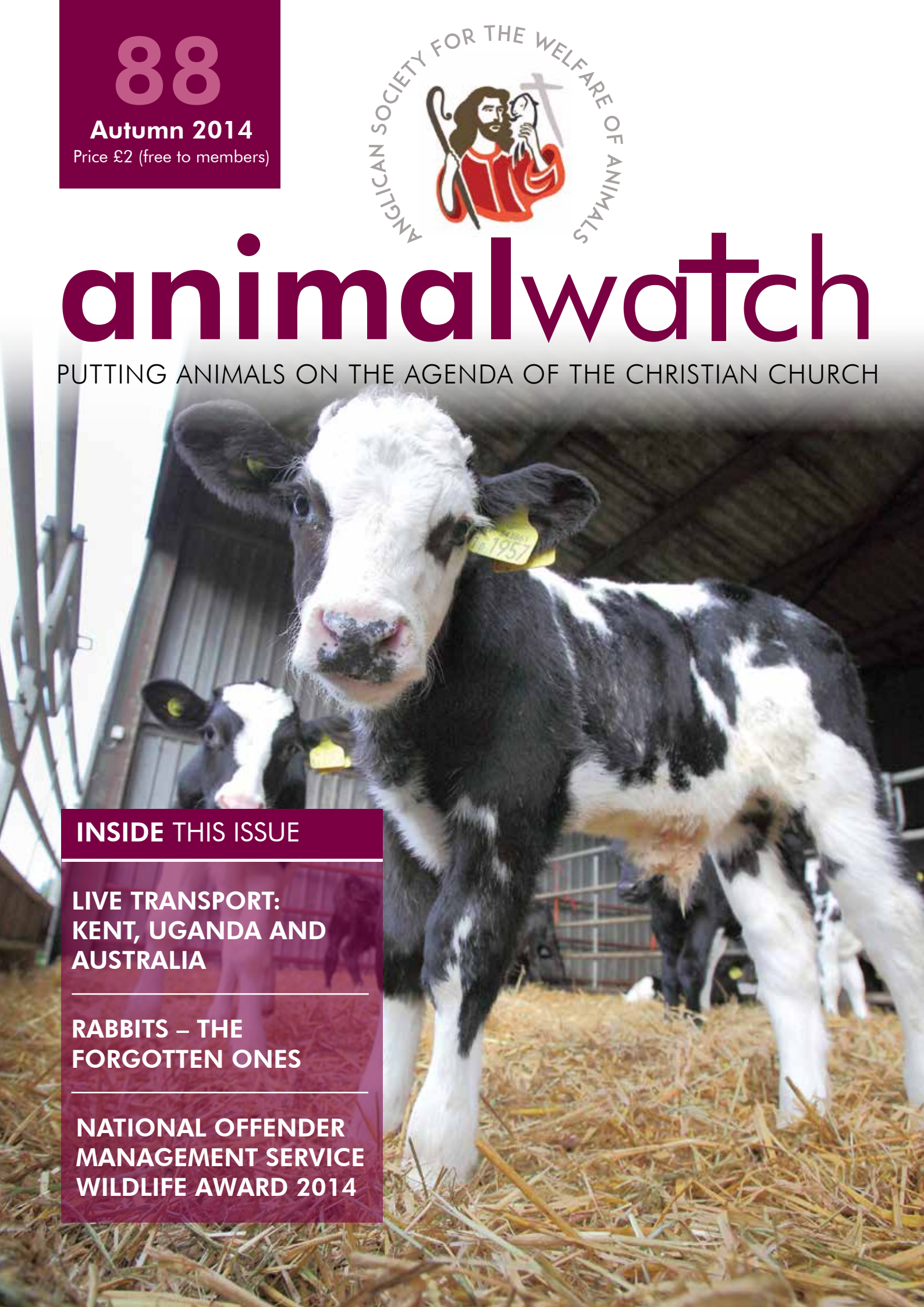
PUTTING ANIMALS ON THE AGENDA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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KENT, UGANDA AND
AUSTRALIA

RABBITS – THE
FORGOTTEN ONES

NATIONAL OFFENDER
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WILDLIFE AWARD 2014



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Cover image and photo of sheep p5 ©Compassion in World Farming. Used with permission.

DORIS' DIARY

Hello! My name is Doris, and I am a Border Leicester ewe with very large ears! I was rescued by ASWA secretary Sam Chandler, as I had outlived my usefulness as a breeding ewe.

Below are some great events ewe may enjoy!

Sunday 7 September
Animal Service, St Mary's Church, Childwick Green, nr St Albans, Hertfordshire, 11.15am.
Animals and people both welcome.

Monday 19 September
Animal Welfare and Blessing Service, Egleshayle Church (St Petroc), Wadebridge, Cornwall, 3.30pm. All Welcome.

Saturday 4 October
Animal Blessing and Thanksgiving Service for Pets, St Martin's Church, Mortimer Road, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5SN, 2pm.
Service led by the Revd Graham Noyce.
All well-behaved pets welcome. For more information, phone 07958 950 137 or email animalblessing@hotmail.co.uk.
The church is a 10 minute walk from Kensal Green station, and is on the no 18 bus route.

Ecumenical Animal Blessing Service, Arundel Cathedral, 2.30pm. Refreshments in the Cathedral Centre following the service. All animals and their owners welcome. For more information please phone 01903 882 297.

Pet Service, St Thomas à Becket, Pagham, West Sussex, 3pm.

Sunday 5 October
Animal Welfare Sunday

ASWA Annual Service, St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Wales, 10.30am.
Preacher: The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS
Please note that this is NOT an animal blessing service.

Animal Blessing Service, St Michael's, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey, 3pm.

Pet Blessing Service, Kirton Church at St Andrew's, Kirton-in-Lindsey, North Lincolnshire, 3pm.
Further details from Revd Kathy Colwell, katherine.colwell@btinternet.com, 01652 640552 or via the church website www.the-umc.org.uk.

Animal Blessing (Pets) Service, Great Malvern Priory, 3pm.
For further details please contact the Priory Office on 01684 561020 via email office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk or via the website www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk.

Service of Blessing for Animals, 3pm. At St Andrew's Church, Jarrom Street, Leicester (near the LRI).
Music by Badgerbrook County Primary School.
Free refreshments after the service and the opportunity to browse around a variety of animal welfare stalls.

Animal Service, Raglan Group of Churches, Monmouthshire.
Contact: 01291 690330 for further details.

Blessing of Animals, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA
Time TBA.

Sunday 9 November
ASWA service of Remembrance at the Animals' War Memorial, Park Lane, London, 3pm.

Monday 18 to Thursday 21 May, 2015
Annual Ecumenical Animal Welfare Retreat, Noddfa, North Wales. For more information, please contact Mrs Irene Casey, irene.casey@talktalk.net.

For further details of events, please visit the website: www.aswa.org.uk.



HELLO AND WELCOME TO ANIMALWATCH

Welcome to *Animalwatch*. Our focus in this issue is the transport of animals for slaughter. While we recognise that readers may find this subject distressing, it is a serious issue, and an area in which welfare is often compromised. Consequently, we feel that it is a subject that we need to cover. You will also find in this issue a survey and postage paid envelope – we would be grateful if our readers would complete and return the survey. We want to know what you think about *Animalwatch* and how we can make it better.

We hope that you enjoy keeping up-to-date with news and information on our website. Do check regularly for resources and information about upcoming events. Please do make a note of the dates in Doris' Diary – especially the annual service in October. We hope to see you there.

Please send any items for consideration for *Animalwatch* to Revd Jennifer Brown, Editor, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT. Email is even better – animalwatch@jenbrown.org.uk. Please note that, owing to space restrictions, it may not be possible to print all contributions, and that letters and other contributions may be edited for length.

Jennifer Brown, Editor

The deadline for the Spring magazine is **Monday 19th January 2015**.

ASWA SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

If you have a group or service that would welcome an ASWA speaker, we would love to hear from you! We often travel a fair distance so please call to discuss it. We usually bring a stall and literature and always liaise with our hosts to ensure the talk is appropriate for their particular audience. Keep the invitations rolling in!

A Warm Welcome to our new members. We look forward to hearing from you.

Revd Ben Bradshaw, Braunton, Devon

Jenny Cossey, Moordown, Dorset

Jose Maria Ibarguren, Geneve, Switzerland

Anne Littlefair, Longstanton, Cambridge

Judy Mayhew, London

Ms Hortencia McKechnie, Watford, Hertfordshire

Ms Karen Menczer, Jemez Springs, NM, USA

Terence Owen, Buckhurst Hill, Essex

Susan Railton, London

Walter Raymond, Monaco, France

Fiona Rosen, Colindale, London

To all our new members we extend a warm welcome and, along with our existing members, we would ask that you encourage others who share your concern for animal welfare to join. Introductory leaflets are available from the Secretary.

EMAIL ADDRESSES PLEASE!

ASWA is updating its membership records to include email addresses. This will keep the ASWA membership better informed of our activities and expand our influence to help animals.

Just put "ASWA email address (and your name)" in the subject line and send it to:

aswamembership@btinternet.com

Thank you to all those who have already done this in response to the appeal in previous issues.

ASWA NEWS

A new approach to Animal Welfare Sunday

Most of our members will know that, each year, ASWA produces materials and resources for Animal Welfare Sunday. In the past, a different theme has been the focus of the annual service and the materials and resources made available. This year, we've taken a different approach. Rather than focusing on a specific theme, ASWA has produced a collection of fact sheets relating to a variety of subjects. These fact sheets provide key material (facts and figures, biblical references, etc) that can be used as the basis for sermons, Bible studies, and group discussions. Providing material on a variety of subjects offers churches more flexibility in how they approach Animal Welfare Sunday. Materials for children and youth on selected subjects are also available. The new Animal Welfare Sunday materials can be downloaded from the web site or, alternatively, the complete pack in an attractive display folder is available from the Secretary.

ASWA Donation Envelopes

If you are planning an ASWA animal service, don't forget there are ASWA Donation Envelopes for you to give out at those services.

For more information please contact:
Tel/Fax: 01252 843093
Email: AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com

GOOD NEWS

Animal welfare campaigner made a member of the Order of Australia

Animal welfare campaigner Lyn White was made a member of the Order of Australia in this summer's honours. Ms White began working for Animals Asia in 2001, and is an active campaigner against live exports. It is definitely good news to see someone of Ms White's calibre and commitment honoured for the work that she does to bring an end to cruelty.



NEWS & NOTICES

Don't forget, you can follow ASWA on Twitter – [aswanews](#)



You can also keep up with what's new via our website – [www.aswa.org.uk](#). Check the website for the latest resources for youth & children.

Animal Welfare Sunday Sunday 5th October 2014

New Animal Welfare Sunday resource packs available now via the web site.

ASWA Annual Service Sunday 5th October, 10.30am

ASWA's annual service this year will take place at St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, Wales. The speaker will be ASWA president the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS.

Badger Cull

The badger cull in Gloucestershire and Somerset is due to resume shortly. ASWA continues to oppose the cull on the grounds that it is inhumane and scientific evidence shows that it will also be ineffective. We would ask our UK membership to pray about the problem of bovine TB and the badger cull, and to contact their local MP to urge government to abandon the cull and instead put funds and effort into finding an effective and humane means of eradicating this terrible disease.

ASWA Local groups

Don't forget that there are ASWA local groups in different areas. The Oxford group meets quarterly in different locations around the Oxford diocese. The contact for the group is Revd Martin Henig (martin.henig@arch.ox.ac.uk). The Surrey/South London

group meets monthly on either Friday or Saturday afternoons at 2pm. The contact for this group is Janice Hoyle (01372-842884).

The Watford group meets monthly. Members come from as far as Tring, Milton Keynes and Chesham to this group. The contact for this group is Sarah Dunning (01923-467502). In addition, there is an Ecumenical group, the Three Counties Animal Welfare Prayer Group, who meet for a service at Gloucester Cathedral at 12.15 on the first Saturday of each month. The contact for the ecumenical group is the Revd Helen Hall (01633-677775 or helen.hall123@ntlworld.com).

ASWA is always keen to support the formation of new groups. If you are interested in starting a group in your area, please contact the Secretary.

TALKING POINT

Autumn has arrived and, here in the UK at least, that means that fireworks will soon be with us, too. Bonfire Night, which is the 5th of November (though often celebrated the weekend before or following), and New Year's Eve are both celebrated with extensive firework displays. But it seems that people no longer celebrate just these special days. Fireworks are, in many places, an almost nightly activity. It is well known that many pets are terrified of the loud noise made by fireworks. At this time of year, an evening walk with the dog can become almost impossible. Farm animals, particularly cattle and sheep, are also affected by the noise of fireworks. Wildlife, too, must find fireworks frightening and disruptive – especially those animals that hunt by night. Is it time to ban the sale of fireworks? Should the legal use of fireworks be restricted to set dates throughout the year? Or do we have the right to amuse ourselves regardless of the cost to others, including animals who have no way to voice their objections or escape the noisy world we create?

LIVE TRANSPORT: LIVE EXPORTS FROM KENT



Live export is the transport of live animals from one country to another for slaughter (in this case from the UK to the EU and beyond). The long distance transportation of animals causes great stress, fear and in some instances injury resulting in severe pain to the animals being transported, mainly sheep and calves.

Approximately twenty years ago, after a public outcry, the normal passenger ferries stopped carrying live animals for slaughter or further fattening because of the concerns about welfare during the transportation. The people who wished to carry on with this trade, which is legal under the EU Treaty of Rome's free passage of people and goods, decided to charter their own ships starting firstly at Shoreham-by-sea and eventually Dover. Shoreham was unsustainable because the whole town turned out against the cruel trade and it was taking 1,000 police per day to get the vehicles through the town and on to the ships. Dover was an easier option, as the roads to the

port no longer go through the town and the townsfolk can pretend it isn't happening. However, a number of brave people decided to campaign against the trade and we joined them in 1995. Since that time, with constant pressure and surveillance which gave us evidence to take on the trade in the courts, the amount of exports has gradually decreased. The legislation in the European Union has become much tighter and the rules are reasonably strong.

Unfortunately there are always people who will break the rules and there are not enough police to ensure they remain within the law. That's where we come in. We monitor the trade at every sailing and with the help of the RSPCA, who joined our efforts some 3 years ago, gather evidence at every point. The ship now used for transport, the *Joline*, a former Russian river barge, came into use in December 2010, moved to Ramsgate port in May 2011, returned to Dover in May 2013, and moved back to Ramsgate in March this year. The exporters prefer Dover because Dover Harbour Board refuses to allow the RSPCA into the port to inspect the animals before embarkation. The ship is so small, however, that they have trouble with the berths, and Ramsgate is the better option even though the RSPCA is present.

We have to be constantly alert but our efforts have resulted in the trade now being very small. One of the exporters was convicted in February at Dover Magistrate's court of causing suffering to a consignment of sheep in 2012. He received two 6-month sentences, suspended for two years, and various fines and costs.

Since 1 December 2013 there have only been 19 transport sailings, 18 with sheep and one with calves, leaving Dover and Ramsgate. But even one ship is too much. We lobby the government constantly for a ban on the trade and for the animals to be exported as meat following slaughter here. We do not believe that to eat meat we need to make the animals suffer first. We can be better than that and extend compassion to creatures that cannot fight back and must accept their fate in silence.

We work with governments of other EU member states and since those early days there is now more understanding in the EU about animal welfare, a phrase not used in Europe when we started.

Yvonne Birchall
Kent Action Against Live Exports
(KAAL; www.kaale.org.uk)

Yvonne and Ian Birchall were the guest speakers at the 2014 ASWA AGM. – Editor.

ASWA MERCHANDISE

ASWA 2014 Christmas card

Once again, our Christmas card has been designed exclusively for ASWA by Thea Olrog. Cards cost £4.50 per pack of 6 (including postage). Made from good-quality stiff card with high-quality envelopes, each card is printed with a Bible verse and has ASWA's details on the back. Sending an ASWA Christmas card is a great way to help raise the profile of ASWA and the work that we do. Cards are available from the Secretary. Please order via the website or send a cheque payable to ASWA to: ASWA, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT.



Other available from the ASWA web site

PAWS for Prayer cards: paw shaped cards with a prayer for companion animals printed on one side. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10)

Egg Cards: egg shaped cards with a prayer printed on one side. £0.35 each (minimum purchase 10).

ASWA postcards: 2 designs sold together in a pack of 6. £4 per pack.

ASWA bags: handy cotton shopping bag with the ASWA logo. £4 each.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

SWEDEN:



Troubled times for Sweden's wildlife



This report offers updates on three different areas: 1) global warming and its effect on Swedish wildlife, 2) meat production, and 3) waterfowl. We are becoming more aware of climate change and the imperative need to address this. Several large wildlife parks, including Jarvso and Rovdjurscentret, have embarked on a campaign to enhance awareness of how we can take responsibility and try to prevent an ecological disaster. It isn't only polar bears that are affected by global warming and the ice melting. Animal habitats are seriously disrupted by climate change. In the campaign "pole to pole," the agenda is set on making visitors aware of the gravity of the situation by, amongst other things, guided tours providing information on how climate change threatens animals requiring snow and cold to live well. Global climate change causes havoc in the opposite way also! Cold winters in geographical areas used to mild ones are now causing insect and larvae death. We are seeing a decrease in butterflies and bees, not only up North but also in the South and middle of Sweden. This of course becomes a domino effect. The scarcity of insects creates a food shortage problem for many birds. The situation is alarming, especially for willow warblers that may give birth to a second batch of chicks only if there are insects to feed on.

With regard to meat and the consumption of rabbit, the Swedish Board of Agriculture has looked into the increase in the breeding of rabbits for meat and fur and the increased need for regulating cage hygiene

and slaughter procedures. They have introduced new directives which have to be adhered to concerning the size of the cages and the need for a separate area for sleeping apart from the main area for the rabbits in each cage. There are seven legitimate rabbit butchers registered, but this year a definite increase is expected. Sweden produces about 225 tons of rabbit meat per annum according to the Rabbit-breeders' Association's statistics. This is, according to market research, 30% of demand, so breeders now aim at increasing production up to 300 – 400 tons which would entail around half a millions rabbits being slaughtered. Legitimate slaughtering methods are hitting the back of the head or using a so called slaughter mask. The latter is advocated, not for ethical reasons but to avoid bruising the meat!

Disease in ducks and waterfowl discovered in Swedish waterways is causing severe concern in Southern Sweden. Domestic mallards seem to have been infected by wild ones from Asia, the USA and Europe. It is an entiritis based on a strand of herpes virus and is 100% deadly. This is the first time it has been detected in Sweden and it is unknown how widespread it is. It seems our ecological system is in severe distress.

Sandra Kinley

SOUTH AFRICA:



Help for animals in distress

The Society for Animals in Distress is an organisation that delivers professional welfare and veterinary care in Johannesburg, South Africa. The cornerstones of our work are based on veterinary care, education, fundraising and God's immense grace. Our areas of operation are informal settlements throughout the north and north east of Johannesburg where poverty is rife and services to communities sorely lacking. We have our hospital and headquarters on a farm within the Midrand area.

It has been our privilege to host troubled children and pair them with our equine patients, resulting in a mirrored journey of healing. Our

'Coal Yard Project' began in 2004 with 380 working equines serving fourteen coal-yards. Delivering coal to impoverished communities daily, driven by uneducated carers, unshod and in need of primary veterinary care, these horses and donkeys were in a sad state. Ten years later, through our focused education and readily available veterinary care, the same fourteen coal-yards are boasting sound herds of only 180. Volunteer carers have been trained in farriery and harness making, and every hoof is shod.

We assist animals ranging from chickens to cows but our main patients are dogs. Averaging 100,000 veterinary treatments a year, our canine work constitutes in excess of 80% of these. Through the use of mobile clinics based in our impoverished areas of operation we are able to provide door to door primary veterinary care daily, while more severe cases are transported to our farm-based hospital. The trust and respect required by an owner releasing their animals into our veterinary care is substantial. Our efforts in healing animals reaches much further than the God-given talent of our veterinarians, it heals mistrust, and it often leaves us humbled. The 14,000 primary school children attending our formal animal care education classes reflect awe when we discuss the many animals God created. Their delight when meeting us in their meagre homes is tangible and they are leading their families in the ways of animal care that they have learnt. Out of meagre earnings communities are contributing more and more to the care of their animals, and responsibility and gratitude are growing through the earned trust.

The fruits of the spirit are evident, and our team who have all been called to serve in this part of God's harvest field remain resolute. Leading this organisation in the power of the Holy Spirit is the reason for my existence and his mighty hand is upon us. We lack for nothing as we know that his love, provision and timing for all he has created is perfect and unfailing.

Heather Muller & Anne Hemmings

LIVE TRANSPORT: CATTLE TRANSPORT IN UGANDA



Ankole cattle, with their long horns, thin, even delicate, legs and huge bodies are regal animals. They're strong and beautiful, and they elicit a feeling of respect. Ankole are commonly found in Uganda, and Ugandan farmers are as fond of their cows as British dog owners are of their dogs. Yet once a cow leaves the owner's farm and is traded from middleman to slaughter, the Ankole goes from regal animal to "meat on the hoof." From transport to slaughter, the Uganda Society for the Protection & Care of Animals (USPCA) is committed to changing the way cattle are treated in Uganda.

Most Ugandan cattle owners would rather keep their cows than sell them, but sometimes they have no choice (money is needed for weddings, funerals, school fees, or there's a drought). When a farmer sells his cow, the animal is loaded onto a truck for transport to the slaughterhouse in Kampala. Sometimes the truck will stop on its way to Kampala at a market to try to sell cows or to buy others.

Livestock trucks in Uganda aren't specifically designed to hold cattle; they transport whatever goods need to be carried. To transport an Ankole, its huge horns are tied with a rope to the overhead bars. The road ahead is

bumpy and potholed, and the knots in the rope loosen, the rope slips, and it ends up around the neck of the cow. The cow hangs by his neck, as the truck continues onward to Kampala.

A cattle truck holds about 15 cows. The truck surface is slippery, and the cows get agitated on this long, uncomfortable trip. Horns of one cow may puncture its neighbor (a horn may even poke out an eye), and legs and horns get thrust through the side slats of the truck (with the pounding movement, a leg or horn may even break when stuck in the slat). Depending on the market of origin, usually in the middle, west, or north of the country, the trip could take from 5 to 12 hours.

The torture continues during offloading at the slaughterhouse. Cattle are prodded and their tails are twisted to get them to stand up and move, and in the worst cases, fire is used to chase the injured animals out of the truck. Of course, watching a slaughter operation is never pleasant, but without prior stunning by captive bolt pistol (CBP) and under the very basic conditions at the Kampala slaughterhouse, it's a daily massacre.

I often wonder why there hasn't been a demand—from farmers, middlemen, butchers, and meat buyers—for better trucks. Most people involved in the

livestock chain are aware that cattle in good condition bring in more money, and that the taste of meat is affected when cattle are killed under highly stressful conditions.

I also wonder why there hasn't been a greater outcry from the public for improvements. No matter the route the trucks take, they travel through downtown Kampala, and are often stuck in traffic so it's hard to miss the cows hanging from their necks in the trucks.

If there were a measure of relative cruelty, the transport of livestock would be off the scale compared to other animal cruelty. The solution is multi-faceted, and will take a long-term sustained focus and a committed source of funding; perhaps it's so daunting, we feel helpless in the face of that. But when the USPCA took a survey several years ago to find out which animal welfare issues were important to Ugandans, livestock transport came out—by a wide margin—as the top concern. We know it's wrong, we know it can be fixed, we know there's support for it to be fixed. In this age of social media, where many lesser injustices are exposed and addressed, it's time to make this cruel transport and slaughter a thing of the past.

Karen Menczer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Thank you for another excellent issue and especially for the review of E.A. Johnson's book *Ask the Beasts*. The words are in fact not God's but Job's and form part of his answer to the accusations of Zophar. The quotation is from Job 12:7. I find the creation story in Job the best in the Bible, of course there are others notably in the Psalms and of course Genesis. I love the horses in Job and wonder if they were Job's own. I love and value horses and ponies and have enjoyed encouraging others to love and value them too. I have ordered the book and will enjoy reading it while on holiday.

Mike Cooper

Dear Editor

It's hard being an animal lover in Africa! Frequently, I find myself driving behind a motorbike taxi with either a trussed up live pig, goat or calf strapped on the back seat or half a dozen live chickens, legs tied together, swinging from the handlebars upside-down. And oh – those cattle trucks!! Inwardly I fume. If I do protest vocally I am greeted with either laughter or verbal abuse. There appears to be no thought or feeling that these creatures are suffering terribly.

It was therefore with great relief that by I spotted a leaflet in a Kampala tourist shop advertising the USPCA: the Uganda Society for the Protection and Care of Animals. Samantha Chandler has written an introductory article about them in the Summer 2014 edition of *Animalwatch* and I can expand this a little from personal experience.

I have been living and working in Uganda, for Mukono Diocese, since September 2009, after retiring as a teacher in the UK. It is a very beautiful country with a great climate and some wonderful, resilient and mostly very needy people. The biggest blot, for me, is their attitude towards the welfare of animals.

Dogs and cats are seldom household pets. Most dogs (largely given a wide berth for fear of rabies) are locked into small, windowless boxes during the daytime, without water, in the mistaken belief that this makes them more aggressive and better guard dogs when they are released at night. Other dogs are chained up

all day with no thought of shade or water being provided. Stray dogs and cats are routinely poisoned by the Police in an attempt to cut down the numbers. It was with great relief that I found the USPCA shelter, The Haven, in Kampala, with like-minded, caring staff who always respond to a plea for help and accept a stray or abused animal. I have taken many stray dogs and cats there, all of whom have been welcomed on arrival, vaccinated, de-wormed, treated for fleas and later neutered. The shelter is full to bursting. All the animals are treated with kindness and new homes are checked out. There is an excellent vet on site, who trains student vets alongside him.

A friend of mine from the UK donated funds for the USPCA, enabling them to finance a Mobile Clinic in February 2014. It was a real witness, and many human contacts were made through involvement with their animals. I believe it is a very worthwhile area of ministry. All the USPCA staff are committed Christians. We are now welcomed into schools where we are hopefully educating the next generation about animal welfare. Sadly, whenever I mention ASWA or the USPCA to the clergy, I am met with peals of laughter and not taken seriously at all.

It is wonderful to be able to join with fellow-workers at the USPCA. I often hear "You're there for the PEOPLE first and foremost," and yes, this is true, but I strongly feel we have a responsibility to educate folk about God's animal creation as well and help them to see that these are sentient beings with whom we must share his world.

Mary Mills

Dear Editor

May I express my concern about the practice of farming rabbits for meat? Rabbits kept for meat suffer in wretched living conditions. Modern intensive rabbit farms subject animals to bare wire cages with wire floors. In fact, rabbits in domesticated conditions have complex needs, and need to interact in a pair or group, must be fed on a full diet of hay, grass, safe garden plants, vegetables and fruit, and are active enough to need a really spacious hutch (ideally 6ft x 2ft x 2ft) and as much enclosed outdoor space as possible, preferably attached to the hutch for free access.

This just does not happen in intensive rabbit meat farms.

If we interpret "man's dominion" as a duty of care, respect and responsibility towards God's creatures, we must address this issue involving a species now known to have complex behaviour patterns and biological attributes.

Katherine Watson

POETS' CORNER

Poet's Corner continues to generate positive feedback from our readers. If you have an original poem that you would like to submit for consideration, please do send it to the editor (see contact details in 'Hello and Welcome', p3). Please note that poems must be the contributor's own work. If previously published, evidence that the author retains copyright and right to republish must be provided.

New Dog

There's a new dog living in the house
I'm starting to love him, and
I feel a bit guilty about that.

The cat isn't happy, of course
No longer having the house to himself
And some of my guilt lies in the fact
That I've forced this noisy, bouncy
creature
On him.

But I trust he'll eventually come round
Get used to the situation and settle
down.

It's been a long time since we've had
a dog in the house
Seven years since the last dog died;
I always said he was unique, one of
a kind –
The best and impossible to replace
But now I've brought in
This newcomer
This interloper
To fill the space of one who never
really left me.

There's a new dog living in the house
He hasn't been here very long
But I can't imagine
Our home without him.

J. Brown

LIVE TRANSPORT: AUSTRALIA



From small beginnings in the mid-1800s, the live export trade in Australia grew until the 1970s. Middle Eastern countries needed food, and Australia met the need. Exports of sheep peaked in 1987, with 7.2 million being exported, half of which went to Saudi Arabia. Similarly, the demand for cattle grew in southeast Asia, and exports peaked in 2002 with more than 970,000 cattle sent overseas. Now Australia is the world's largest exporter of sheep and cattle.

However, the trade has a troubled history. As far back as 1980, over 40,000 sheep were killed in a fire aboard the *Farid Fares*. In 2003, after Saudi Arabia refused to take a shipment of some 57,000 sheep, the *Cormo Express* was forced to remain at sea for months. Extreme temperatures killed 6,000 sheep. Not long after, it was reported that Australian cattle in an Egyptian abattoir had had their eyeballs and genitals stabbed with knives and their leg tendons slashed in attempts to subdue them. Tragedies of this sort continue. The industry cannot convince animal welfare groups, the community and a growing number of politicians that the trade should continue. The export of cattle

to Indonesia was suspended following an important investigation by Animals Asia that found extreme cruelty to Australian cattle in Indonesian abattoirs. These findings were aired on a high-profile Australian current affairs TV programme. The images were beyond shocking and the public outcry forced the Government to suspend the trade. Although this boycott was lifted, the industry has been unable to rebuild public confidence.

Over the years mechanisms have been put in place to try to control the cruelty, within Australia, aboard the ships and in the importing countries. The latest strategy is ESCAS - Exporters Supply Chain Assurance System. This puts the onus on exporting companies to prove overseas slaughtering meets international standards. This measure is ineffective as Australia has no control in foreign abattoirs. Breaches of regulations by exporters continue, frequently ignored by the Australian Federal Government. Millions of animals every year are exported on vessels, usually overseas registered and with foreign crews. At destination the animals are killed almost always without pre-stunning. Images are "disturbing", to use government-speak. This is a fight for the animals that MUST be won.

These sea journeys into hell are not necessary. There is capacity in Australia to slaughter the animals here with pre-stunning and meeting Halal requirements. Indeed, there is already a flourishing export of boxed meat which accounts for 2.4% of Australia's

income. Live exports account for only 0.3%.

So why doesn't Australia transition away from the live trade? In 1985 a Government Committee recommended that live exports should be phased out on animal welfare grounds. Nothing was done. There seems no rational reason to persist with live exports. The industry provides jobs for around 13,000 people, and moving to boxed meat would be likely to create more employment, as there would be opportunity for value-added products.

Both RSPCA Australia and WSPA commissioned reports from major research companies as to the impact and adjustments that would be needed to phase out live exports. These reports were provided to every Federal MP, along with a statement from the President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, stating that frozen/chilled product was well accepted in Islamic countries.

There is growing demand for meat worldwide, and unless some health or environmental catastrophe occurs, or a moral awakening, I do not believe there is anything to be gained for the animals by closing our eyes to reality. What is needed is a commitment that cruelty must be eliminated. I believe it would make a huge difference if the Christian churches, with a declared commitment to care for creation, spoke out against cruelty to animals.

Olga Parkes

OBITUARIES

It is with sadness that we report the death of

Mrs Diana Parry
of Battersea, London.

Dr Peter Pollitt
of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Miss J.H. Smith
of Eynsham, Oxfordshire.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

From Linda Bodicoat

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards, hymn leaflets and price list available directly from Linda J Bodicoat, Rose Cottage, 51, Highfield Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7HS Or by email – linjbrosecottage@aol.com. Please use "ASWA/Prayer Cards" as a subject heading if using email.

Animal Welfare Prayer Cards & Hymn Leaflets are also available from the ASWA website.

NOMINATIONS

Names of those wishing to stand for election to the Committee must reach the Secretary by Friday 9 January 2015. Any nominations for the position of treasurer are due on the same date.

BOOK REVIEWS

A FATHER'S PRIDE By Matthew Payne

CreateSpace
ISBN 978-1-492-80606-6
158pp Paperback
Price £6.00



This novel is a gripping story about a young boy, William, and his father who live on a farm in eastern South Africa. William loves the many wild animals on the farm, and he is horrified and distressed when he finds out what eventually happens to them.

His determination to change things, and especially to save the young white lion (Matimba), creates a very dramatic ending to the story.

This exciting story is easy to read, because it is divided into short sections within the chapters. It is suitable for anyone over the age of 10. Its message is simple, yet thought-provoking.

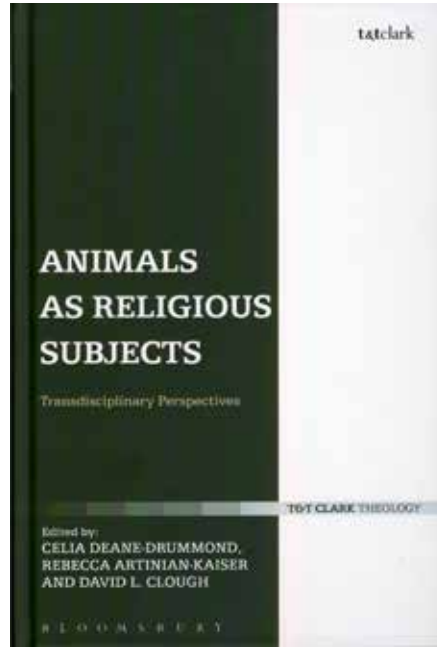
Highly recommended for anyone who is passionate about the conservation of our magnificent lions. The author is dedicating 10% of the profits from this book to Lion Aid, a lion conservation charity (www.lionaid.org).

Anne Hemmings

ANIMALS AS RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS

By Celia Deane-Drummond,
Rebecca Artinian-Kaiser and
David L Clough (editors)

Bloomsbury (T&T Clark)
ISBN 978-0-567-10564-8
310pp Hardback
Price £75.00



This fascinating book brings together authors from a variety of disciplines to explore how animals have been used by and portrayed in religion. The first chapter, by Stephen R. L. Clark, explores the possibility that animals themselves have the potential to be religious, that is, to engage in religious behaviour. From that provocative start, the following chapters explore the role that animals play as symbols and metaphors within different religions, both pagan and monotheistic. The chapter on the praying mantis is especially interesting, putting forward as it does the theory that the praying mantis has influenced human imagination in relation to demons, fairies and aliens.

The chapter on Linnaeus and his binomial classification of animals is also extremely interesting. In contrast to the modern myth of antipathy between science and religion, in this chapter, David Clough shows that Linnaeus developed his system of classification as an attempt to return to Eden and, in Clough's words, "to regain the innocence lost in the edenic

exile." This was (as was often the case in the 17th and 18th centuries) religiously motivated science. Clough goes on to discuss the difficulties inherent in classifying animals. He ends with Basil of Caesarea, and his attempt at classification. He shows the contrast between Basil and Linnaeus. Where Linnaeus was attempting to create a way for humans to put animals in their proper place, thereby exercising human dominion over them, Basil shows how the rich variety of life puts humanity in our place and reminds us of the wonder of God's creation.

The final chapters of the book look at animals as the subjects of religious ethics. Robert Song's chapter on transgenic animals and ethics is both incredibly interesting and also very pertinent, as the techniques for genetic modification become more sophisticated. The final chapter, by Charles Camosy, asks the question, "Are non-human animals persons?" and seeks to show, using a Thomist approach, that personhood can be ascribed to non-human animals.

Overall, this is an important addition to the literature on theology and non-human animals. Although some individual chapters might pose some difficulty to readers outside the author's academic discipline, the majority are very accessible. The price of £75 reflects both the fact that this is an academic work and a hardback. A paperback edition, priced at £23.99 is due out in December of this year, however, which might be more attractive to a general audience.

Jennifer Brown

NATIONAL OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SERVICE WILDLIFE AWARD 2014

For the fifth year, ASWA once again teamed up with Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA) to sponsor and present the Prisons Wildlife Award. This year it was won by HMP and YOI (Youth Offender Institute)Hollesley Bay in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Samantha Chandler from the ASWA committee made the trip to the prison for the Awards ceremony along with Chris Fegan from CCA. The awards were presented by the Prison Governor and the Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, Bishop Alan Hopes.

HMP and YOI Hollesley Bay works together with the RSPB on a number of projects, including work on Botany Marshes planting reeds for habitat. Other important habitats were those for adders and stag beetles. The prisoners were very much involved in the development of these projects.

We were given a full tour accompanied by both staff and prisoners.

Many of the prisoners who had been involved in the scheme joined us for a BBQ lunch after the tour, where both vegetarians and vegans were catered for, and it was both moving and interesting to be able to talk to them about their experiences with the project.

The Prisons project is all about rehabilitation. Biodiversity and conservation projects encourage prisoners to think about others, about wildlife and the world around them. ASWA is pleased to be able to be involved in this valuable project.

Samantha Chandler



Bishop Alan Hopes, Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia, awarding the prize to Gwyn James of HMP Hollesley Bay

RABBITS – THE FORGOTTEN ONES

Those of you who are also supporters of Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) will probably be familiar with the current campaign they are calling the 'Rabbit Revolution'. In a nutshell, three-quarters of commercial rabbit farming in the EU takes place in France, Spain and Italy. The unfortunate rabbits are intensively farmed in small wire, barren cages. Rabbit meat available in the UK that is not labelled otherwise will have been farmed in this way. Currently rabbits have no species-specific protection under EU welfare laws and have been left out of an important part of the new EU slaughter regulations. This means that they are vulnerable to horrific treatment as witnessed in a recent CIWF investigation. You can read the details and watch the film on the CIWF website (www.ciwf.org.uk).

Rabbit suffering is not only confined to commercially farmed rabbits, however. There are also major issues in the pet industry, with rabbits currently being named as the third most popular pet after dogs and cats. The large pet shop chains,

superstores and even some garden centres that sell rabbits seem to have little understanding for their specific needs and 'cute baby bunnies' are readily available all year round.

I was recently contacted by a family in my church and asked to help. I have acquired the unofficial title of 'animal enthusiast' in my church so that any animal-related challenges are usually passed my way! This particular episode involved the rehoming of two female rabbits. It was an all too familiar tale of a family buying two female rabbits for their children, but knowing very little about the welfare requirements of the animals. After a few months, the female rabbits became very hormonal and began to fight and became so aggressive that it was impossible for the children to handle them. After many phone calls and research on the internet, I managed to place them with a wonderful rescue organisation who have separated the two female rabbits, had them both spayed and they are now settled and living with neutered 'husbands' and are most content.

This whole saga did, however, highlight to me the horrendous suffering of hundreds of rabbits, here in the UK, kept in totally unsuitable conditions. Rabbits are social, intelligent animals and yet are often kept alone or in same-sex pairs (they will nearly always fight unless neutered/spayed), and in hutches that are far too small. Rabbits need a lot of space and lots of stimulation. In fact, to my mind, they are totally unsuitable pets – particularly for young children. Every rescue centre I contacted had huge waiting lists of at least 60 to 100 rabbits looking for new homes. The free ads and 'pre-loved' type market places are full of unwanted rabbits. It is high time that pet shops stopped promoting these animals as pets and we all realised that life in a small hutch is a miserable existence for a rabbit.

Samantha Chandler



ASWA ANNUAL SERVICE

Cathedral of St Woolos,
Stow Hill, Newport NP20 4EA, Wales
Sunday, 5 October 2014 10.30am.

Preacher: The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, OGS

Please note that this is **NOT** an animal blessing service.

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