Wild Crimes: 
The Exploitation of our 
World’s Most 
Vulnerable Animals

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Webinar Description

• Non-human animals hold the status of property under the law, and many are considered to be exploitable “natural resources”. Human moral attitudes play a significant role in which species are protected and which harms against wildlife are classified as “crimes”. The capitalization and legal exploitation of animals coincides with illegal acts committed against them. Viewing wildlife as something for human exploitation rather than sentient beings with intrinsic value shapes the nature of wildlife protection, the regulation of human-wildlife interaction, and their subsequent victimization. We will consider alternative possibilities and the impact this can have on wildlife protection, environmental preservation, and human health.
Wildlife Crime Defined

“Acts committed contrary to national laws and regulations intended to **protect** natural resources and to administer their management and **use**”. - The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)

- Illicit exploitation of natural resources (poaching, illegal logging, etc.)
- Processing of fauna and flora into products and their transportation, offer for sale, sale and possession
- Concealment and laundering of the financial benefits made out of these crimes
- Violations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild flora and fauna (CITES)

Serious about wildlife crime: (1 minute)

https://youtu.be/jILZhvx_zfI
Combating Wildlife Crime

Typical focus on:

• Producers, suppliers, consumers in illegal wildlife trade
• Security implications of the illegal wildlife trade: Links to Organized Crime, Terrorism, Drug, Weapons and Human Trafficking – Illegal trafficking of wildlife and wildlife parts is fourth largest transnational crime
• Complexity and challenges of enforcement
• Inadequate national laws
• Capacity building to deal with these formidable challenges (lobbying, facilitating coordination, threat and needs assessments, outreach, enforcement tools and training, understanding impacts of confounding threats on biodiversity)
• Work with Local, National and International Authorities (Interpol/police, customs, judiciary, wildlife authorities)
• Strategic enforcement areas (airports/ports/container ports freight, border posts, key markets)
• Identification of key stakeholders (NGOs, Transporters, Producers, Suppliers, Consumers)
MANY harms impacting wildlife are LEGAL...

- Harmful behavior = codified into law = illegal = regulated and enforced
- Legal Status – Non-human animals are property under the law
- Commodification and exploitation for human “use” coincides with violent legal and illegal acts committed against them
- Shapes nature of wildlife protection and human-wildlife interaction
- Results in victimization of billions of sentient beings by humans who are viewed as “something” rather than “someone”
Some major threats that harm wildlife include...

- Climate Crisis
- Ocean Acidification
- Pollution
Biggest Threats Against Wildlife: Overexploitation and agricultural activity

- Overexploitation and agricultural activity are the most prevalent threats facing 8,688 threatened or near-threatened species (Aldred, 2016).
- **Overexploitation** (logging, hunting, fishing, poaching, trafficking)
- **Agriculture** (crop farming, animal agriculture, deforestation, timber plantations, pesticide use, aquaculture)

- Aldred, J. (2016). Agriculture and overuse greater threats to wildlife than climate change - study
Zemiology: A social harm-based approach to crime and justice

- From the Greek word Zemia (harm)
- Branch of Criminology that studies social harm caused by actions of nation states and corporate systems rather than “individual based harms”
- Advocates for Zemiology as an independent field of study (separate from criminology) that studies the harms that affect marginalized individual’s lives that are not considered to be criminal or rarely criminalized
- Connects harmful behavior to the need for codification of the behavior into law (reconnects crime and harm)
Assessing Individual and Systematic Harm

Is the activity:
legal or illegal?
sustainable or not sustainable?
for subsistence or market?
for livelihood or profit?
small scale or large scale?
Green Criminology

- Sub-area of Criminology - looks at environmental and animal issues, expanding a traditionally anthropocentric viewpoint in the field of criminology – “its just an animal”
- Promotion of specific “wildlife criminology” – “the harm and crime committed by humans does not only affect humans” (Nurse and Wyatt, 2020)
- Shifts concepts of harm and crime toward non-human species and develops criminological thinking in respect to the importance of non-human animals in law and order discourse
- Recognizes that victimization is not restricted to human animals and studies the human caused suffering of non-human animals and the environment
- Expands current criminological focus on wildlife trafficking and LINK Violence
<table>
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<th>Zemiology and Green/Wildlife Criminology</th>
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**FOCUS ON CRIME AND HARM** – BECAUSE MUCH OF HARMFUL BEHAVIOR HUMANS PERPETRATE TOWARD ANIMALS IS PERFECTLY LEGAL

**VICTIMIZATION OF NON-HUMAN ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT/VICTIMOLOGY**

**MUCH WILDLIFE IS PERCEIVED AS HUMAN PROPERTY FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AS FOOD, SPORT, OR ENTERTAINMENT**

**REFLECTS SPECIESISM** – WITH A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT OF WHICH SPECIES ARE “WORTHY OF PROTECTION” – A TYPICAL NARRATIVE OF VICTIMHOOD

**SOME CHARISMATIC FAUNA ARE DEEMED WORTHY OF HUMAN ATTENTION AND PROTECTION** – A FORM OF “OTHERING” BASED ON HUMAN PREFERENCES

**GENERALLY CONCERNS OF NON-HUMAN ANIMALS ARE MARGINALIZED IN PUBLIC POLICY, LEGAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL HARM DISCOURSE**
Systems of Oppression Create, Reinforce and Expand Each Other

- Violent oppressive systems reinforce, support, and expand other violent oppressive systems because their root cause and purpose/function is the same – to reinforce a mindset of fabricated social status hierarchy - regardless of who the violence is perpetrated against - be it humans, animals, or the environment.

- This fabricated hierarchy is then knowingly and unknowingly applied to justify oppression and impacts every area of our lives and social institutions – including those that create laws and social policy that allow some groups to prosper and other groups to be victimized.

- Theoretical lens to understand and examine connections of oppression: Zemiology, Structural/Cultural Violence, Intersectionality/Intersectional Theory and Humane Pedagogy.
Intersectionality

- Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989) – Scholar, Attorney, Civil Rights Advocate
- The study of overlapping or intersecting social identities and related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination
- Intersectionality holds that the classical conceptualizations of oppression within society—such as racism, sexism, classism, ableism, speciesism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia and belief based bigotry do not act independently of each other. Instead, these forms of oppression interrelate, creating a system of oppression that reflects the “intersection” of multiple forms of discrimination
- All of these conceptualizations are socially created to categorize sentient beings based on “race”, “gender”, “animality” etc.
- Used to categorically value or devalue each other and create a “story” that the human brain can “make sense of”. These “stories” must be challenged and rewritten in order to benefit us all
Structural Violence

- Refers to invisible form of violence where social structure or institutions harm humans (and non-human animals) by preventing them their basic needs
- Affects humans (and non-human animals) differently dependent on social status, closely linked to social justice
- Avoidable violence and limitations society places on low status groups that constrains them from achieving a quality of life that could have otherwise been possible
- Caused by and can be corrected by human decisions rather than natural causes
Cultural Violence

• Aspect of culture that can be used to justify or legitimize direct and structural violence

• May be exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science

• Makes direct and structural violence look or feel “right”, or at least not wrong (Galtung)

• Highlights ways acts of direct and structural violence are legitimized and made acceptable in society
Speciesism – Part of the Human “Story” of Animality and Worth
Philosopher Richard Ryder/Popularized by Peter Singer

Denotes discrimination based on species membership; involves treating members of one species as morally more important than members of other species

Assumption of human superiority leading to the commodification and exploitation of animals
Anthropocentrism

- Belief that humans are the most important entity
- Interprets or regards the world in terms of human values and experiences
- The term can be used interchangeably with humanocentrism, and some refer to the concept as human supremacy or human exceptionalism
- Profoundly embedded in many modern human cultures and conscious acts
- Major concept in the fields of environmental and animal ethics philosophy
- Often considered to be the root cause of victimization and suffering of non-human animals and the environment created by human action
Humane Education/Pedagogy

- **Humane Education/Pedagogy** uses education to nurture compassion and respect for all living things and examines the intersection of social justice issues with a focus on identifying **systemic problems and solutions**.
- Examines the “true price” of our relationship to other species and how it impacts all stakeholders in terms of:
  - Human Rights
  - Animal Protection
  - Environmental Stewardship
- **Asks is there an alternative behavior that will cause less harm?**

**Humane Education Training Links and Information:**

- Academy of Prosocial Learning: [https://www.prosocialacademy.org](https://www.prosocialacademy.org) (Stephanie Itle-Clark, EdD, CHES)
- Institute for Humane Education: [https://humaneeducation.org](https://humaneeducation.org) (Zoe Weil)
- Institute for Human-Animal Connection: [https://socialwork.du.edu/humananimalconnection](https://socialwork.du.edu/humananimalconnection)
- Humane Education Coalition: [https://www.hecoalition.org](https://www.hecoalition.org) (Megan Moon, CHES, AAT-C)
How can we clearly “SEE” non-human animals (and other humans) without the “story” of animality?

• Honestly examine our values around humanity’s relationship to each other, non-human animals, and the natural world

• Ask ourselves, do my values match my attitudes and behavior?

Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Program: [https://janegoodall.org/our-work/our-approach/roots-shoots/](https://janegoodall.org/our-work/our-approach/roots-shoots/)

Wellbeings: [https://www.wellbeingscharity.org/what-why-how](https://www.wellbeingscharity.org/what-why-how)
Interrelated Topics in Animal Protection

- Animal Emotions
- Animal Intelligence
- Animals as Companions
- Animals in the Wild
- Animals Used for Clothing & Accessories
- Animals Used for Entertainment
- Animals Used for Food
- Animals Used for Research/Testing
- Animals Used for Education
- Animals Used for Sport
- Carnism
- Endangered Species
- Factory Farming
- Speciesism
Resources for exploring humanity’s relationship to non-human animals

• Watch: Man’s relationship to the natural world (Man by Steve Cutts)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfGMYdalClU&noredirect=1

• Watch: Why are we here?
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBXYQGi8MgU

• Animals as products and props? Or friends and other sentient beings? We receive many mixed messages about non-human animals throughout the lifespan, and many of these schizophrenic beliefs are introduced and reinforced in childhood
Resources for Exploring Perspective

“I Dreamed a Dream” video – Wildlife Harm and Crime (Zombie Studio)

https://laughsquid.com/endangered-animals-sing-i-dreamed-a-dream/

Born Free Foundation Commercial: Canned Hunting (Link below in “Notes”)

What would the world look like if non-human animals had power over human animals?

We can be curious about where our own attitudes toward non-human animals lie on this continuum.

You can explore your own attitudes toward animals and consider....

• How you view them - for example, when you see other animals do you experience them as food or other products for your consumption, or as sentient beings deserving of your respect and care?

• Do you believe that your status as human entitles you to participate in the suffering of other animals? Where do these beliefs originate from?

• Are your beliefs helpful or harmful toward creating a more humane lifestyle and a kinder world?

• Would it benefit yourself and others, both human and non-human, to shift your attitudes, beliefs and behaviors? How?

Attitudes and actions of kindness, respect, and compassion expands and reinforces each other just as systems of violence and oppression do.
Understanding Harmful Attitudes and Beliefs: The Human Need to Differentiate Ourselves From Other Animals

• TJ Kasperbauer, in his 2019 book *Subhuman: The Moral Psychology of Human Attitudes Toward Animals*, deeply explored the role of animals as a contrast class to humans drawing from the literature on the *dehumanization* process.

• He reminds us that *dehumanization* and “animality” were used throughout history to justify cruel treatment of certain groups - for example, Nazis compared Jews to rats; black American slaves were compared to apes.

• We can understand human psychological thought and attitudes toward animals when we look at how animal comparisons are used to demean other human beings by identifying them as non-human and labeling them as inferior.
Understanding Harmful Attitudes and Beliefs: The Human Need to Differentiate Ourselves From Other Animals

• People typically differentiate themselves from other animals in order to exploit and use them, and also as a way to provide a sense of place for themselves in the world that is above animals in a socially created hierarchy of status.

• Children often have difficulty believing humans are animals even when explicitly taught.

• This benefits all humans, regardless of where they may fall on the spectrum of privilege compared to other humans, and can be considered an adaptive need to elevate one’s humanity and/or justify cruel behavior - long history of this (eg. colonialism).

• Human moral evaluations of animals are often determined by this need.
Understanding Human Emotional Responses to Other Animals

- Human emotions have been studied deeply by many researchers over prolonged periods of time.
- Emotions are largely processed *unconsciously* and greatly impact human psychology, moral judgments, and ethical behavior.
- Emotions can be difficult to detect, hard to change, and are often resistant to rational control.
- They drive people to become *cognitively rigid* and defend their initial reactions, rather than revisiting them, *even in light of new information received*.
- Our emotions around animal (and human) suffering are influenced by situational factors that impact our judgments and biases. However, these unconscious cognitive experiences *can be brought to the surface of awareness and examined, influencing our attitudes and expanding our critical thinking*. 
Transforming Harmful Attitudes, Beliefs, Emotions, and Behavior Toward Animals

• Research on racist and misogynist attitudes can assist in transforming both individual and systemic speciesist behavior toward animals

• Decolonialism/connecting issues of social justice (eg. gender/race - Carol Adams, Aph Ko, Breeze Harper, Will Tuttle)

• This research demonstrates that moral change has many emotional and situational obstacles that are the main drivers of attitudes and beliefs (cognitive dissonance)

• Typically, people must be put into situations that are very different from what they would normally experience in order to demonstrate a shift in implicit and explicit biases and judgments
Transforming Harmful Attitudes, Beliefs, Emotions and Behavior Toward Animals

- While emotions can be modified with effort and support, the desire to change an emotional response and even making an effort to do so is often insufficient in creating sustained attitudinal and behavioral change.

- Instead, some type of properly informed external support, such as support that can be offered by likeminded others, supportive family members and friends, etc. is often required to deal with the challenge of external pressures humans experience when shifting behaviors.

- This is particularly true when a desired behavior does not conform with dominant social norms and expectations.

- Even people with innately high intelligence cannot consistently control automatic emotional processes without some form of external assistance.

- The self-regulation and goal setting that is required for behavioral change is also more difficult to achieve when human mental resources are depleted.
“After 2,500 Studies, It's Time to Declare Animal Sentience Proven” – Ethologist Marc Beckoff:

The obstacle of cognitive rigidity despite overwhelming evidence

- We barely know anything about the human brain, let alone the brains of other species
- Precautionary principle
- Scientists DO know that individuals from a wide variety of species experience emotions ranging from joy and happiness to deep sadness, grief, and post-traumatic stress disorder, along with empathy, jealousy and resentment
- Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness was publicly proclaimed on July 7, 2012:

The scientists behind the declaration wrote, "Convergent evidence indicates that non-human animals have the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states along with the capacity to exhibit intentional behaviors. Consequently, the weight of evidence indicates that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness. Non-human animals, including all mammals and birds, and many other creatures*, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates.”
Speciesist Beliefs Impact Laws and Enforcement; Laws Impact Beliefs and Behavior

- Focus typically on regulation of human use of other species rather than true protection

- Law simultaneously reflects and shapes human moral attitudes and behavior – a dynamic relationship

- Here lies hope and possibility:

- **Nonhuman Rights Project:** “Humans are not the only animals entitled to recognition and protection of their fundamental rights”  [https://www.nonhumanrights.org/](https://www.nonhumanrights.org/)

Unlocking the Cage book and documentary:
[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5016028/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5016028/)

Additional Resources:

- **Animal Legal Defense Fund:** [https://aldf.org](https://aldf.org)
  [https://aldf.org/project/us-state-rankings/](https://aldf.org/project/us-state-rankings/)

  [https://api.worldanimalprotection.org/](https://api.worldanimalprotection.org/)

- **Our Hen House Animal Law Podcast:** [https://www.ourhenhouse.org/animallaw/](https://www.ourhenhouse.org/animallaw/)
Harms that Impact Wildlife

- Harms against non-human animals (and some humans depending on their social status “story”) are seen as:

  Normal
  Natural
  Necessary (Melanie Joy, Ph.D. [https://www.melaniejoy.org/](https://www.melaniejoy.org/))

- Global Wildlife trade
- Legal institutionalized forms of violence perpetrated against certain species and their habitats
- Human Wildlife Conflict
- Animal Agriculture
- Wildlife Killing Contests
- Public Health – COVID19
Global Wildlife Trade

• Worth billions annually
• U.S. is the largest importer of wildlife and wildlife products
• Significant risk to wildlife worldwide due to:
  - extinction
  - spread of disease
  - introduction of invasive species into delicate ecosystems
  - fuels the exotic “pet” industry
  - endless array of products for human consumption - ranging from “bushmeat” (meat of wild mammals such as apes and monkeys) “fashion” (fur and skins) “medicine”
Global Wildlife Trade and Legal Institutionalized Violence Against Wildlife

• Vivisection
• Experimentation
• Hunting (including Trophy and Canned Hunting) - Fishing – Trapping
• Killing as part of wildlife management/conservation programs
• Fur farms/skins for fashion industry
• Entertainment - Wildlife Killing Contests – stocking zoos, circuses, aquariums – exotic “pet” keeping
• Wild animal body or body part uses
Legal Wildlife Trade

- Millions of live animals enter the US each year without disease screening for consumption, biomedical research, pets, along with countless pathogens and zoonotic disease maximizing public health risks - not unique to the US, global problem
- Legal wildlife trade enables illegal wildlife trade - provides cover to unlawful trade
- Permitting any legal trade creates channels of wildlife commerce that make it difficult for consumers and authorities to distinguish between legal and illegal shipments and transactions
- Legal loopholes through which illicit wildlife trafficking operates exist in the channels of commerce connecting supply and demand
- Schizophrenic government response - invests in sting operations to root out smuggling to places like China and Vietnam, but grants import permits to trophy hunters like Corey Knowlton (who carried a black rhino carcass home from Namibia) - reinforces the market perception that animals are worth more dead than alive (National Geographic 2020 article)
Human Wildlife Conflict

“Every day, animals are bought and sold as easily as a cup of coffee or a pair of jeans. This is the face of one of those animals, in a powerful photo”...”another sad example of humans and wild animals clashing over dwindling resources...”

Wildlife photographer: Jabruson (in Kenya)
Crimes Against Wildlife: Trafficking

• The illegal trafficking of wildlife is now one of the world’s largest criminal industries, with repeated links to terrorism networks

• Legal trafficking of wildlife makes illegal trafficking harder to detect

Resources: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ending-wildlife-trafficking-will-help-the-fight-against_b_58e8f5f4e4b06f8c18beec46
Watch: http://www.lastdaysofivory.com/
The Pangolin is the most trafficked mammal in the world

• Used for scales and meat in traditional medicine, luxury food items and pet trade

• Measured by the ton

Resources:
Vice: Exotic pet trade https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSQ8bICdAtA 17 min
https://eia-international.org/wildlife/helping-pangolins/
https://pangolinconservation.org/about-us/
https://eia-international.org/news/commercial-pangolin-farming-will-very-likely-have-a-negative-impact-on-pangolin-conservation/
LINK Violence – focus on companion animals

- **Most basic form the progression hypothesis – link between non-human animal abuse and inter-human violence**
- **From http://nationallinkcoalition.org/**

“Animal abuse, cruelty and neglect are often considered isolated incidents wholly separated from other forms of family violence. Today, professionals involved with victims of family violence are not surprised when they learn that often these acts are linked, and that various agencies are working with the same families.

They no longer excuse animal cruelty as “boys will be boys” or “it was only a cat.” Instead, they see animal abuse as a sentinel indicator, “the tip of the iceberg” and often the first sign of other family and community violence.

Intentional abuse in any form should be taken seriously. Knowing that there is a Link, agencies involved in preventing family violence need to work together for a more effective, species-spanning response.”
Kurt Duncan, 56, plead not guilty to 125 misdemeanor charges and possible jail time, accused of poaching wolves, eagles and other animals in Michigan.

It's alleged that Duncan told DNR officers he killed the animals because he could and “likes to do it.”

Duncan, who was served four search warrants in March, faces up to 90 days in jail and $1,000 fine for each wolf; up to 90 days in jail and $1,000 fine for each eagle; restitution of $1,500 per eagle and $500 per wolf; up to 90 days in jail and $500 fine each for the other wildlife crimes.
Link violence and all animals – Developing language and thought

• Ethologist Marc Beckoff asks if trophy hunting should be called trophy murder

• Piers Bierne confronts the speciesism underlying the legal definition of murder to exclude non-humans in his 2018 book Murdering Animals and suggests the term “theriocide” be used to describe the murder of animals by humans
Slaughterhouses and violent crime

• Research on slaughterhouse communities has established a correlation between slaughterhouse employment and violent crime

• The location of slaughterhouses has been associated with increases in total arrest rates, arrests for rape, and arrests for offenses against the family in comparison to counties without a slaughterhouse

• Additional support for the relationship between the violence of killing nonhuman animals and violence towards humans

• Including when violence is state sanctioned; psychological impact on workers

• Long history – photos represent 1904 research by Upton Sinclair for The Jungle “progressed to current methods of “efficiency”
Animal Agriculture – Impacts of harm on Humans, Animals, Environment

ANIMALS

9 BILLION
farmed land animals are slaughtered for food each year in the U.S.\(^1,2\)

300 MILLION
unwanted male chicks are killed by the U.S. egg industry each year.\(^3\)

0 FEDERAL LAWS
protect animals on factory farms.*

OUR PLANET

More than two-thirds of land deforested in the Amazon is now used as cattle pasture.\(^7\)

It takes upwards of 2,500 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef.\(^8\)

Seventy percent of the grain grown in the U.S. is fed to farmed animals.\(^9\)
Animal Agriculture – Impacts of harm on Humans, Animals, Environment

- Mental and physical health of workers (including non-documented immigrants and unreported crimes committed against them in the workplace)
- Health of consumers and people living near industry suffering from pollution impacts
- Antibiotics use in animals that is passed on to consumers
- Palm Oil in feed destroying old growth forest habitats, inciting land grabs
- Contributes to hunger – inefficient to feed grow crops to feed animals that are then slaughtered for consumption rather than consuming the crops without the animal as “middleman”
- Specific impact on wolves – killed for attacking “livestock” – makes problem worse, no pack hunting – must solo hunt – attack vulnerable “livestock” instead
Animal Agriculture
Harms and the Law

• Slippery slope argument – a powerful industry that lobbies against all laws to protect any animals

• Laws protect industry Ag-gag bills seek to make it difficult or impossible for whistle blowing employees or animal advocacy groups to expose animal cruelty or safety issues

• Any activity that disrupts profits to industries that harm exploit animals can be labeled as domestic terrorism under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act – (see link to the documentary Animal People in notes for more)

• Harari – CAFOs one of the “worst crimes in history”:
  “The march of human progress is strewn with dead animals”
  “What makes the existence of domesticated farm animals particularly cruel is not just the way in which they die but above all how they live”

  Eg. gestation crates, debeaking, knocking are all “standard industry practice”, thereby making these acts legal
Animal Agriculture: Resources

- Watch:
  Earthlings documentary: http://www.nationearth.com/
  Farm to Fridge: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfk63fJODRw
  Melanie Joy/Carnism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MddTB5Spm0k

- Resources to take action:
  https://mercyforanimals.org
  https://animaloutlook.org
  https://freefromharm.org/animalagriculture/
Wildlife Killing Contests

• Organized events legal in 45 states

• Participants compete for prizes — typically cash or hunting equipment — for killing the most and/or largest animals within a specified time period

• Contests may also be judged by a system that allocates a number of points for each species, by gender, such as “largest male” or “smallest female” or by characteristics such as “biggest ears” or “mangiest mutt.”

• Animals commonly targeted in these contests include: Bobcats, coyotes, foxes, prairie dogs, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, woodchucks, and in some western states even mountain lions and WOLVES.

• Gray wolves (who were protected under the Endangered Species Act for almost 50 years after they were hunted to the brink of extinction) are now being trophy hunted in several states.

General information:

• [https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/facts-about-wildlife-killing-contests](https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/facts-about-wildlife-killing-contests)

• Action Alert: [https://secure.humanesociety.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&pg=](https://secure.humanesociety.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&pg=)UserAction&n=7510

LOCAL, NATIONAL, FEDERAL LAWS
FEDERAL – ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (BEING DISMANTLED)
CITES - THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA) - INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS
GLOBAL NATURE – DEMANDS COLLABORATION - INTERPOL

HTTPS://WWW.BORNFREEUSA.ORG/2018/07/31/WILDLIFE-RANGERS-NEED-OUR-HELP/

CORRUPTION - CONFLICT AWARENESS PROJECT - ARMS TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATOR KATHI LYNN AUSTIN - TRACED WEAPONS TO THE TOP OF S. AFRICAN POWER STRUCTURE:
HTTPS://WWW.CONFLICTAWARENESS.ORG/

DEMAND – HEALTH REMEDIES, FOOD, STATUS – HUMANS SUFFER = NON-HUMAN ANIMALS SUFFER MORE
COVID19 Pandemic
“The bottom line: When nature is sick, we’re sick”.

• In May 2019 the UN Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services announced that ONE MILLION land-based, freshwater and marine species are at risk of extinction because of human activity in the past 50 years.

• One year later, in May 2020, National Geographic article by Rachael Bale refers to that report and makes the connection between the human assault on nature and COVID19, as did many others. She writes:

“The pandemic is a result of humankind’s destruction of the planet....rampant deforestation, uncontrolled expansion of agriculture, intensive farming, mining and infrastructure development...exploitation of wild species have created a ‘perfect storm’ for the spillover of diseases from wildlife to people... Future pandemics will happen more frequently, will kill more people, and will cause greater economic damage unless we start recognizing the inextricable links between human health and the health of the planet, its ecosystems, and its nonhuman living creatures. This is not a radical concept. The framework of OneHealth, recognized by the CDC, the World Health Organization, and governments and organizations around the world, does just that”.
One Health Model

CDC website: “One Health is an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. One Health is not new, but it has become more important in recent years. This is because many factors have changed interactions between people, animals, plants, and our environment.”

- Human populations are growing and expanding into new geographic areas. As a result, more people live in close contact with wild and domestic animals...animals and their environments provides more opportunities for diseases to pass between animals and people.

- The earth has experienced changes in climate and land use, such as deforestation and intensive farming practices...Disruptions in environmental conditions and habitats can provide new opportunities for diseases to pass to animals.

- The movement of people, animals, and animal products has increased from international travel and trade... As a result, diseases can spread quickly across borders and around the globe.

- These changes have led to the spread of existing or known (endemic) and new or emerging zoonotic diseases, which are diseases that can spread between animals and people.
Take Action:
EcoHealth Alliance

- [https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/](https://www.ecohealthalliance.org/)
- One Health Model
- Wildlife conservation
- Pandemic Prevention
- Deforestation
- Biosurveillance
Shifting Attitudes and Laws to Protect Non-human Animals Benefits Humans

• “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated” – Mahatma Gandhi

• "We should have respect for animals because it makes better human beings of us all" - Jane Goodall

• “We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals...For the animals shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more compete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth”. -Henry Beston, Naturalist Writer, The Outermost House (1928)
Solutions: “Value nature, not stuff”

• Conscious living: what we eat, buy, throw away, energy we consume, systems we support with our dollars. Stay informed, think critically, understand how our behavior impacts the world, pressure systems with our consumer choices

• Get political!

• Give and get supported from likeminded individuals and groups

• Intelligent, creative design and innovation exists and will keep evolving – take the challenge to find solutions to the problems caused by interrelated harms

• Support organizations working to protect wildlife like the Wolf Conservation Center, Ecohealth Alliance etc., contribute to fundraising

• Acquire and apply your skills and passions to contribute to helping the problem as a volunteer or career

• “In order to safeguard a healthy planet, society needs to shift from a sole focus on chasing economic growth” (United Nations Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
Animal protection is a social justice issue, connected to and intersected with all social justice issues

- “The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.” —Paul Farmer
- "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead
- “Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act.”– Albert Einstein
- Be a Hummingbird - video (2m Wangari Maathai, activist, founder of the Greenbelt Movement and first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize ) Hummingbird: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGMW6YWjMxw
- Including animals in social justice discourse:

"The reason I dedicate myself to helping animals so much is that there are already so many people dedicated to hurting them." ~ unknown
The World Will Change If We Do All Life Matters When Creating a Just, Healthy, Equitable and Sustainable World

• It is an illusion that humans are disconnected from each other, other species and our environment. We are all intricately connected.

• When we connect the disconnect and cultivate empathy and compassion for all beings, especially those we are indoctrinated into disregarding, using, disliking, and consuming, we will move toward creating a truly equitable, healthy, sustainable and safe world for us all.
A Call to Action for ALL Animals: Get Political - From Animal Wellness Action

When people with views hostile to animal protection win public office, they are a threat to animals and the health of our society.

We know that animal cruelty is bound up with other social ills. Only a handful of organizations in animal welfare study the records of candidates and issue recommendations based solely on their animal protection performances and pledges.

In November, the most important race we’ll all pay attention to is for President. Animal Wellness Action will be publishing detailed analyses of the records of Vice President Biden and President Trump to inform you about their work.

At the same time, it’s essential that we remind them that Americans deeply care about these issues. They and other national politicians need to step up their game on animal protection.

That’s why, this week, AWA launched petitions to both candidates – for Vice President Biden and for President Trump – to demand that they address these issues more meaningfully and transparently. Thus far, neither Vice President Biden nor President Trump has set forth his vision for animal protection.

Animal protection is perhaps the most underestimated issue in American politics. One survey indicated it is the top non-profit cause in America, as measured by the number of individual donors and volunteers. Yet this set of issues does not attract the attention it deserves from many national politicians. We hope to change that between now and November.
WE can make 2020 the year that brings in an era of peace and respect for all life

Sign the petition (to one or both candidates) urging them to articulate their views on animal protection for the American public to hear and heed.
https://animalwellnessaction.org/2020/05/30/where-trump-and-biden-stand-on-animal-issues/?emci=93e77663-cca5-ea11-9b05-00155d039e74&emdi=4efb58db-eaa5-ea11-9b05-00155d039e74&ceid=518422

Donate to AWA so that (they) can do the research to make informed decisions in so many critical races and push issues onto the national legislative agenda that compel politicians to act on them.

Additional voting and political action resources:
Humane Society Legislative Fund: https://hslf.org/
Local (NYC): Voters for Animal Rights: https://vfar.org/
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1856262.Get_Political_For_Animals_and_Win_the_Laws_They_Need

Truth for All Interconnected Social Justice Issues Including Animal Protection:
Without laws, we cannot stop cruelty. Without good lawmakers, we cannot hope to enact those laws.

This year has brought us unprecedented environmental disasters, a global pandemic, continued tragedy along with loud opposition to a long history of racial oppression.

We can also make 2020 the year that brings in an era of peace and respect for ALL life!

Stay in Touch! kspanjol@iona.edu