

## Primates as Pets

### An Interview with Dr. Shirley McGreal

Chadwick Bovée chats with Dr. Shirley McGreal OBE,  
Founder and Chairwoman of the International Primate Protection League.



Igor, 1980, at a research lab in NYS. <http://www.ippl.org/igor.php>

CB: Over the years you have helped put animal smugglers in jail and had a huge impact through policy change, like a primate export ban in India that has kept wild animals where they belong. In addition to having representatives in more than 30 countries and supporting projects around the globe, you work from the IPPL gibbon sanctuary in South Carolina. How did this come about for you, the focus on gibbons? And what is your population like today?

Dr. McG: We started IPPL in 1973 when I was based in Thailand where the gibbon is indigenous, and I was just always drawn to them. They are difficult animals to maintain in captivity and once we had the property in South Carolina they began coming to us from every direction. We care for 32 right now. They come from every background you can imagine, many having spent years or decades in laboratories. We give them the chance to live as natural a life as possible, swinging by their long arms, climbing high and singing their very distinct song. You can meet them all at [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org).

CB: When people consider the women of your generation who have most improved the landscape for the world's primates, I think they talk of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Shirley McGreal. Dr. Jane is on your advisory team, as was Dian until her murder in 1985. What can you tell us about Fossey and her gorillas that we don't already know thanks to the Sigourney Weaver film "Gorillas in the Mist" and the like?

Dr. McG: Dian was our colleague and friend. The IPPL library is full of her correspondence. I miss her every day. I think it's important to remember all

that she did and where we might be without her. But I take note of those who were Dian's sudden friends after she was killed. We must never believe and trust everything we read or hear. And, realistically, that which Dian fought against still goes on. A baby gorilla was just confiscated a few weeks ago from a bag of laundry in the Congo. That usually means a family dead in the jungle, for a baby that could have brought \$20,000 or more - all because there is a market.

CB: There has been a lot of sudden attention this year given to the subject of primates as pets following the case of Travis the chimpanzee, who was shot after brutally attacking a friend

of his owner in Connecticut. What is your reaction when a case like this arises?

Dr. McG: Unfortunately it seems to take cases of attack and injury to really draw the kind of attention the issue deserves. It's going to require laws banning primates as pets to do justice for the animals and to protect the public. It's something the public needs to bring up as often as possible until real legal change is written. This is a situation where public outcry can have a true impact. If there is a market for animals, people will be breeding them or trying to steal them from the wild, leading to more attacks.

CB: So the huge media coverage we have seen around this is helpful, right?

Dr. McG: It will be helpful if it motivates the public to force their lawmakers to act. Unfortunately, the media cannot always be trusted to do the right thing. Following Travis, the national news programs were running around the country interviewing other chimp owners they were trying to hold up as

### Primates

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## Think About the Animals on the Fourth of July

By E.M. FAY



In January in Florida, a rare red-browed Amazon parrot was found dead at the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF) with severe head and face injuries. It was obvious from the bird's injuries that the prolonged and terrifying noise from New Year's Eve fireworks had caused him to thrash himself to death against his enclosure, said Dr. Paul Reillo, Conservation Director.

Birds and other animals always get spooked by fireworks, but this is the first time an animal has been known to react so violently.

"We're doing everything we can to save these species, but fireworks are undoing our best efforts," Reillo said. "In the middle of the night, they're not

expecting blasts, fireworks, and gunshots. It's getting worse every year."

All but two of the entire North American population of the red-browed Amazon lives at the conservation center. The male parrot that died was healthy and "essential to the breeding program," Reillo said. "Its genetics were well-documented. He could have lived to be 50 or 60 years old and could have produced a generation of wildlife. The tragedy is that this animal's life is sacrificed for absolutely no reason."

Reillo pointed out that educating the public to the dire consequences of fireworks is essential if we are to minimize the risk of panicking animals and the threat of fire, which endangers humans and animals equally. Unfortunately, the fireworks industry is usually able to mobilize far greater financial resources than the private citizens and municipalities who try to enforce existing legislation against private displays.

A nearby resident said she stayed in the stable with her horse Kapoen this New Year's night, fearing a repeat of the "major issues" she had this summer. "The Fourth of July was like bombs going off," she said. "He went berserk."

The cruel death of the RSCF's rare red-browed Amazon parrot is but one of countless wildlife tragedies that occur because of the use of fireworks. While it may seem a harmless way to celebrate our nation's birthday and other occasions, illegal fireworks actually represent a "terrible cost" to animals, Reillo said.

### Fourth of July

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## THE WILDLIFE WATCH BINOCULAR IS GOING ONLINE ONLY!



Due to the skyrocketing costs of paper, printing and postage, the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** will be going online only, at least for the next summer issue. In the fall, we will revisit this decision.

**To be notified of new issues, and other information of interest, please e-mail us your e-mail address, so that we can make sure you continue to receive the Binocular.**

Please e-mail [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net) and enter **BINOCULAR** in the subject line. We'll be sure to put you on our e-list. If you are a regular subscriber without a computer, please notify us and we will send you a printed copy.

Thank you for following our newsletter and supporting Wildlife Watch. We will keep you informed of our decision to return to printed material in the future.

Thank you for being humane, for promoting humane standards, for experiencing the joys of wildlife non-consumptively. Thank you for caring about our wild friends who share our planet.

As we would protect those less able to defend themselves, we get great satisfaction from extending that help to the most defenseless of all - our animal brethren.

Best wishes,  
Anne Muller, Editor

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In addition, we at WildlifeWatch note that legal fireworks are just as damaging and dangerous to animals as illegal ones.

Dr. Reillo may be reached by visiting: [www.rarespecies.org](http://www.rarespecies.org).

Dr. Reillo wrote:

The following is a prepared response to some of the feedback we received in January. You are most welcome to use any or all of this communication for your newsletter. Please feel free to contact me anytime—and many thanks again for your interest and support.

Paul R. Reillo, Ph.D., Director, Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, (561) 790-5864

[paulreillo@rarespecies.org](mailto:paulreillo@rarespecies.org) [e-mail]; [www.rarespecies.org](http://www.rarespecies.org) [web site]

We appreciate the many heartfelt expressions of concern regarding the terrible loss of an endangered parrot at our facility due to the illegal use of fireworks on New Years Eve. This is the first such death at our facility, clearly and directly attributable to illegal fireworks use.

RSCF is a 30-acre wildlife conservation center, not a public zoo. We are buffered on all sides by dense foliage, and are located in a secluded, rural area. All of our birds are housed in large, free-flight aviaries and are raised and treated as wildlife. These birds are some of the rarest in the world and our core objective is species recovery in the wild. RSCF is the only facility in North America to successfully breed and maintain the Red-browed parrot, and we have set the highest standard for husbandry,

The original story may be seen at:

[www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local\\_news/paper/2009/01/01/0101deadbird.html](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/paper/2009/01/01/0101deadbird.html)

E.M. Fay is Associate Editor of the *Wildlife Watch Binocular*.

*protection and conservation of this species, both ex situ and in situ. We reiterate—the stress of capture and confinement to these birds is incalculable and they are caught-up only under the most dire of circumstances.*

*... Wildlife conservationists are not alone in our frustration. The equestrian communities have long protested the use of fireworks by private individuals... and have registered many formal complaints and petitions to enforce existing ordinances and prohibit the public's access to fireworks.*

*The management and staff of RSCF are devastated by what happened Wednesday night, and we are outraged by a history of inaction by law enforcement and the legislature, both of which have been aware of the dangers and legal contradictions for years.*

*The loss impacts us personally and the species as a whole. Ironically, some of the first public responses have placed blame with those of us struggling to preserve what humanity has imperiled, rather than directing energy and attention to the root problem. We encourage all interested parties to join the fight to eliminate private fireworks possession and use, once and for all.*

*We invite those seeking more information about our organization and conservation programs to visit us at [www.rarespecies.org](http://www.rarespecies.org)*

**Primates**

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success stories. The Today Show, for example, visited a home where two chimps sleep with their owner, who defended the issue. But these very same chimps had escaped the house months earlier and one of them bit a neighbor. Was that reported? Absolutely not.

CB: Can you give us an example of a new issue you are working on right now that people may not know about yet?

Dr. McG: I am very troubled right now by new information coming out of Ethiopia. The government there has planned to raise the fees charged to trophy hunters beginning in July 2009. It's a country with dozens of species endangered as a result of environmental degradation, a 17-year civil war and the second highest human population in Africa. If there is going to be hunting, I see no development more important than the government's intention to triple fees. But what is happening? Behind the scenes, Safari Club International has stepped in to put pressure on the government to halt the increases by claiming that, if there is less hunting, it will have a negative impact on the economy. That's a scare tactic that we can't let fly under the radar, when the protection of even one animal in Ethiopia will do nothing but improve the economy now and in the future. The president of Safari Club wrote that these fee increases



Igor at IPPL eating bamboo

should be stopped, especially in light of the global economic recession, as if we're talking about surplus new automobiles or the price of televisions at Walmart. Ethiopia needs support for this fee increase right now. Better yet stop the slaughter!

CB: You were born and raised in England and in 2008 you went to Buckingham Palace where Queen Elizabeth awarded you the Order of the British Empire in recognition of your life's work. That is the highest honor someone working in the sciences can receive from the Queen and I have read a lot of media coverage where you have been very modest about this. But what was that experience like and what does the honor mean to you?

Dr. McG: IPPL has been lucky to have been supported over the years by a friendship with Prince Philip but the OBE announcement on New Year's Day last year came as a complete shock. I didn't think it real at first. It means a great deal to us because it is really all about

the work of IPPL and not about me as an individual. It recognizes at the highest level the work IPPL continues to do and the struggles out there facing monkeys and apes and their habitat. The experience at the Palace was like something out of a history book and I was lucky to have my sister and others with me to share it. After our arrival in London I was contacted and invited to meet privately beforehand with Prince Philip to talk about his support of our work. It made for a very special day and the Queen could not have been more interested or kind. She carefully inspected a gibbon pendant I always wear – and she looked fabulous at 82!

Chadwick Bovée was a reporter for Newhouse before going to work for a variety of animal advocacy organizations beginning in the early 1990s. He resides in New York.

**FIREWORKS ARE NO FUN FOR ANIMALS**

BY LINDA BRINK

I spend every Fourth of July, and every New Years Eve, with my old blind mare, Ellie. It's a torturous time for her, because she has overridden her flight response to survive. Even with the barn closed up, and cotton in her ears, she freaks at the racket—which always seems to go on and on, particularly on the Fourth. The people across the road are big into fireworks, guns, and noise in general. When you try to explain the negatives, they tell you, it's their right to set them off. And sadly, it is. A human right conferred without the approval of any other species—so goes it for the world, in reality.

I used to love fireworks, because they're really pretty to look at. Then, I was too close one time, and the ash or

whatever it was I breathed in had me coughing out a fine dust for days. With that, I started thinking about the incredible racket, the flashes of light, the smoke and debris—like so many human playthings, fireworks are just so overall stupid, intrusive, and harmful to other species. Truly, I wish they were illegal.

Perhaps one day, when the pros and cons are weighed by the logical minds of caring people, they will be.

Linda Brink is Founder and Director of Sunnyskies Bird and Animal Sanctuary in Warwick, NY. She may be reached at

[Info@sunnyskiesbirds sanctuary.com](mailto:Info@sunnyskiesbirds sanctuary.com)

Please let us hear if you have a 4<sup>th</sup> of July account. You can email: [wildwatch@verizon.net](mailto:wildwatch@verizon.net)

**SPACE PIONEER PRIMATES AND DR. CAROLE NOON**

The 150 chimpanzees who live in a unique Florida sanctuary received some special visitors on April 30. Two retired human astronauts, Bob Crippen and Scott Carpenter, came to tour the natural habitat that shelters the primates, among them, some fellow NASA veterans of the early space program.

Crippen and Carpenter said they had come to honor the "space chimps" who had been part of scientific tests in the 1950s and '60s to determine how space travel might affect human anatomy. "We're paying them back for their service," said Carpenter. And Crippen noted that, "It's really nice to give them a nice place to retire."

The 200 acre sanctuary, divided into islands, is run by Save the Chimps, a privately financed non-profit organization which was established by Carole Noon, one of the world's leading primatologists, who tragically passed away from pancreatic cancer just 3 days after the astronauts' visit. The sanctuary is the world's largest for captive chimpanzees; and Carole lived

amongst her beloved chimps on the sanctuary grounds in Fort Pierce, Florida.

This compassionate retirement home is for chimpanzees who have been rescued from medical research facilities, the entertainment business, and other horrific situations. They are permitted to roam out-of doors in a natural setting, and given professional care and companionship for the rest of their lives.

An anthropologist, Dr. Noon had been inspired by the work of the renowned primatologist Jane Goodall. Noon established her sanctuary in 1997 after pursuing, with Goodall's help, a successful lawsuit against the US Air Force, which was planning to ship their no-longer-wanted space chimps to an infamous biomedical research lab, where the primates would surely have suffered any number of experimental horrors.

An animal rights advocate literally since childhood, Dr. Noon specialized in the socialization of captive chimps. The professional caregivers at her refuge take great care to integrate gradually



Dr. Carol Noon

each new resident – whose previous lives were essentially isolated – in order that they assimilate to their new setting successfully. Jen Feuerstein, the sanctuary's interim director, emphasized the importance of making introductions patiently, one at a time, to ensure that each incoming resident feels comfortable with his or her new companions in the semi-wild refuge environment.

Ah, now if only schools would do that, it could change the world. We at Wildlife Watch mourn the passing of Carole Noon.

Synopsized by E.M. Fay  
More details: [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/science/07noon.html?\\_r=4&emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/07/science/07noon.html?_r=4&emc=eta1)

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We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

**R.O.C.K. -  
REHABBERS OFFER CARE AND KINDNESS**

**Olivia and The Kangaroo Conservation Center**

By MARTHA SULLIVAN

If you're a kangaroo and you're not living in the wilds of your native Australia, hopefully you're at least lounging in the resort-like accommodations of the Kangaroo Conservation Center at Dawsonville, GA. [www.kangarooconservationcenter.com](http://www.kangarooconservationcenter.com)



We visited the Center in mid-January, 2009. Earlier in the Fall, we had solicited donations and purchased "Olivia", a kangaroo, from a petting zoo owner in Upstate, New York who was closing down and auctioning off all his animals to the highest bidder. No screening of prospective owners for suitability, no trying to find the best possible homes for the animals - this auction was only about maximizing profits. Olivia was destined for a roadside zoo, for a lifetime of unnatural confinement and isolation. Her entire six years of life had already been spent that way. She deserved so much better.

Through online searches we had discovered the KCC and the more we read and learned about it the more we became convinced it was the only place we wanted Olivia to go. We just had to convince them to accept her.

Olivia had no medical history or medical records of any kind. Although her owner had identified her as a "Red"

kangaroo, there were no written records of her birth or her parentage. She had grown up on a rag-tag diet of rabbit pellets, parrot food and corn, supplemented with cheese-peanut butter crackers. In the warm months she was kept in a small dirt enclosure equipped with only a dog crate where she slept at night and which she used to keep out of the rain. During the winter months she was confined to an even smaller enclosure in the dark cellar of her owner's house. Unfortunately, this is a common scenario in the underground world of buying, selling and keeping exotic animals.

The KCC on the other hand, is a sophisticated conservation facility, dedicated to the preservation of kangaroo

species through captive breeding programs and public education. It is privately owned and funded by Debbie and Roger Nelson, wildlife specialists. In addition to other staff they employ a full-time veterinarian and six vet techs, as well as a full-time horticulturalist to care for the many acacia and eucalyptus trees, bamboo and other Australian flora they cultivate on the property. It really does feel like Australia! They have over 200 kangaroos of 9 different species, and they keep meticulous and copious notes on each animal's medical history, behavior and dietary habits. To take in an animal with no known medical history or background information of any kind goes against everything they stand for. In the end, it was their compassion and sympathy for Olivia's plight that won out. We reached an agreement, and it's here that she has her "forever" home.

And she is doing great. Where as before her coat had been dull and mangy, now it's beautifully thick and glossy. Her gums and teeth are healthy, her eyes are bright. She had arrived at the KCC over-weight and out of shape due to lack of proper exercise. At the time of our visit she was still adjusting to her new "hopping" lifestyle and they were



monitoring her activity level to prevent muscle strain and injury. She obviously discovered "freedom" and she loves it.

As we prepared to leave the facility we walked over to the fence hoping to catch one more glimpse of her and to say goodbye. As if on cue, she hopped over to us and began rolling in the grass, rolling, rolling, rolling, back and forth, from one side to the other, over and over and over. Wow. What a gift. What a perfect goodbye. It felt like she was saying, "thanks." Who could ask for anything more?

Editor's Note: Wildlife Watch first came into contact with Martha Sullivan over the animal protection lists that we're a part of. Martha and her friend Diane DiGravio, wanted to rescue animals from Grandpa Bob's Animal Park auction in

Mexico, NY. Along with Olivia, who's featured here, they rescued guinea pigs, chinchillas, a bunny, foxes, pony, fallow and sika deer. Their expenses were staggering, but money was raised thanks to many people, including Linda Brink and Carol Eiswald who helped to lead the charge for the freedom of these animals. Thank heavens for people like Martha.



Here's Olivia several months younger in her temporary quarters. Photo: Diane, Olivia, Martha.

**EYE ON THE NEWS**



Megan Howard and Willie

**WILLIE THE QUAKER PARROT TO THE RESCUE**

A Quaker parrot named Willie saved the life of a toddler choking on her breakfast by flapping his wings excitedly and repeatedly crying "Mama, baby!" Willie and his owner, Megan Howard, live in Denver, where Howard was babysitting a friend's daughter, Hannah. Howard had left the girl alone in the room while she was eating. When she heard Willie's cries and rushed back in, she saw that the child had already turned blue. Howard was able to perform the Heimlich maneuver successfully, but she gives full credit to Willie as "the real hero," for alerting her in time.

Willie was awarded the local Red Cross's Animal Lifesaver Award with Denver's Mayor and the Governor of Colorado in attendance. <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/29858577/>

All Eye on the News items are synopsized by E.M. Fay

Barry Schwartz has long been an advocate for Quaker Parrots. He is hoping to have them become "protected birds" to prevent their destruction by electric companies that destroy them and their nests, which are often built on electric poles and lines.

Please visit [www.brooklynparrots.com/2009/03/breaking-news-pro-parrot-resolution.html](http://www.brooklynparrots.com/2009/03/breaking-news-pro-parrot-resolution.html) to see how you can help Quaker parrots. Also, while you are at it, visit the main site: [www.brooklynparrots.com](http://www.brooklynparrots.com)

**A Memorial to Charlotte**

By CAROL EISWALD

We recently lost our dear Charlotte. (aka "Charlotte the Biter") Charlotte was a grand old girl, whose early behavior was less than exemplary, but we loved her from Day One.

Charlotte's history was extremely sad - she had good reason to be aggressive. Rescued

as a piglet from a research lab, she ended up in a brutal place where she was hit with a 2x4 when she "got nasty." Time and affection at



**The Tusk and Bristle** did their magic, and she blossomed into quite the sweetheart. Charlotte was a memorable girl and will never be forgotten.

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Carol Eiswald, **The Tusk and Bristle**,  
[www.tuskandbristle@aol.com](mailto:www.tuskandbristle@aol.com)

**A Memorial To Two Conure Parrots: Skye And Firecracker**

By BARRY SCHWARTZ

These two birds represented, to Gayle and me, and to Feathered Friends Parrot Adoption Services, Inc. (formerly Maspeth Bird Haven, Inc.), that you can come to a mutual and happy existence, even with parrots that spent most of their lives in what seemed to be a non-interactive and far from "intimate" situation. In the wonderful two years they spent with us, from October 2006 to August 2008, they had something to teach us, yes, teach us. They taught us that if we respected the degree of freedom they were used to (regardless of the condition they

were kept in at Catskill Game Farm), that if we respected their "space", they in turn would cooperate with our simple instructions and training.

We had expected this bonded pair, Skye (a male Blue-crowned Conure) and Firecracker (a female Cherry-headed Conure) to be with us a long, long time. They were wonderful parrots, exciting to observe, to interact with. They died on August 19, 2008, due to human error, due to the administration of a formulation of a drug (a suspension vs. a solution) while under treatment for suspected



latent lead/zinc poisoning. They are buried together in our backyard. They brought much joy to our household and to our rescue efforts."

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[mysite.verizon.net/vzermrgu/](http://mysite.verizon.net/vzermrgu/)

**LET'S GO WILDLIFE WATCHING!**

**Wild Parrot Safari In Brooklyn, NY**

JUNE 6, 2009

E-MAIL: [steve@brooklynparrots.com](mailto:steve@brooklynparrots.com)

If you miss this one, e-mail steve for the next safari Excerpted from: <http://www.brooklynparrots.com/>

Attention all Urban Parrot fans: the next Wild Brooklyn Parrot Safari will happen on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at 11 AM. Please gather at Brooklyn College's Hillel Gate, which is at the intersection of Hillel Place and Campus Road. Our tour runs in two sections. You can attend either or both sections.

Please e-mail me [e-mail above] if you want to attend. Note: there is no rain date for this trip. I ordinarily do not cancel the tour unless the forecast is for sustained rain/snow in which birds will not fly.



# Renew Your Membership Today!

Won't you renew your membership today or send a contribution to Wildwatch. at P.O. Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561. A Visa or Master Card payment can be made by calling: 877-WILDHELP; or you can visit our website at [www.wildwatch.org](http://www.wildwatch.org) and click on the PayPal button.

Wildlife Watch fields hundreds of calls that come into our hotline number – 877-WILDHELP. Just one day can bring in 25 calls. Since the last newsletter, we've have calls for help for wildlife from as far away as FRANCE! We've been able to offer help to some caring veterinarians whose patients have brought them wild animals.

Many a fawn has been returned to his or her own Mom because of our phone help; many a robin fledgling has been allowed to learn to fly on the ground, fed by his parents, as nature intended.



girl in the photo. She reported that a squirrel had gotten into her apartment building, was on the second floor landing and was poised to jump down, but was too afraid. She was within range of our location and

Because of our determination on the phone, many youngsters and injured wild animals have been taken to noble wildlife rehabilitators by noble members of the public who are concerned for the individual animal's safety.

A number of months ago, we received a call from Nicole, the little

we went right over to find the little squirrel hovering in the corner above the staircase. We just placed a box beneath him, he jumped in and then jumped right out and scurried out the door.

Nicole was still concerned that the cats in the area would harm him (as much as she loved the cats, too) but she felt he'd be safe if he climbed to the rooftop where the cats couldn't reach him. I said he probably couldn't get up there, but she said she'd seen squirrels run up along a pipe on the side of the house. What a treat to meet a young person who cared so deeply about wild animals and spent a good deal of time observing their behavior. We thank Nicole for being there, and we thank humane children everywhere!!!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO: [Binocular@wildwatch.org](mailto:Binocular@wildwatch.org)

If you still need a paper copy, please call us at: 1-877-WILDHELP.

## Meet Your "Food": You Go, Girls!

By CONSTANCE YOUNG

The most recent runaway, a young black cow probably scheduled to become rib roast, went on the hoof on Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> from a slaughterhouse at 158th Street and Beaver Road in Jamaica Queens. The first reports came in about 2 PM that day that a cow was running through the streets; and for over an hour this brave girl circumvented traffic until she was corralled by the New York Police Department's Emergency Service Unit. The emergency workers then delivered the terrified cow to the Brooklyn shelter operated by the city's Animal Care and Control agency.

A New York Times article reported that day that the young cow did not have to be tranquilized when captured and that she came peacefully. They write also that the police were "apparently as uplifted as anyone about the cow's new lease on life" and say that they suspect that "the cow had acted to save her own life." Duh! Anyone who thinks that cows are dumb, think again. This plucky heifer knew rescue from danger. Animals sense danger. Temple Grandin, the autistic scientist who has studied animal behavior and slaughterhouses, and who has been called "the woman who thinks like a cow," has written about the fear and panic animals experience at



Molly & Wexley

slaughterhouses as they hear the cries of the animals before them screaming in pain while being pushed and prodded by poorly paid, trained, and debased employees and cruel and insensitive systems.

Moreover, isn't there some irony here? The police and public, who rejoiced at the cow's capture and liberation from slaughter, probably wouldn't think twice about eating her more placid sisters and brothers. As is usually the case, no one came to claim Molly [her new name]. This lucky heifer now lives on a 60-acre organic farm called "The Farm" in Calverton, Long Island owned by Rex and Connie Farr. Molly now shares space with her new BFF - a steer named Wexley. Her neighbors include two rescued burros, more than a dozen goats, several sheep and ponies. There is no genetically modified feed on the menu and Molly will graze on old corn. The Farris raise organic vegetables and eggs and also grow grapes. In recent years, the animal lovers also turned their farm into a sanctuary and they promise that Molly's new life will be peaceful and stress-free.

"She's gone from being seconds away from becoming hamburger to living on an organic farm," Farr said.

**Other Brave Cows.** In February 2002, a 1,100-pound cow jumped a 6-foot fence to escape a meatpacking plant and then ran free in a Cincinnati park for 11 days. After her capture, famed New York artist Peter Max offered to keep her at Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen, New York where she is now named "Cinci Freedom" and is the subject of the book *Cinci Freedom: A Cow's Story*. In exchange, Max promised to donate paintings worth \$180,000 to help in the expansion of the Hamilton County, Cincinnati SPCA.

There is no more fitting ending, however, than the story of Emily the cow, who on November 14, 1995 escaped from a slaughterhouse in Hopkinton, Massachusetts and was captured and taken to the multi-faith retreat center, Peace Abbey Sanctuary at Sherborn, Massachusetts in December 24, 1995. Emily lived there for eight happy years until she died on March 30, 2003. Fittingly, Emily was buried behind a statue of Gandhi on April 2, 2003 where a bronze statue of her greets visitors.

Those who knew Emily say that she was a loving symbol of courage, inner wisdom and survival. The Holstein also encouraged many to embark on the road to vegetarianism and cruelty-free living and inspired people to appreciate the sacredness of all life. For other information and to purchase a book about Emily and her life at Peace Abbey, go to the website, <http://www.peaceabbey.org/index.html>.

For more photos, visit: [http://www.nypost.com/photos/galleries/news/regionalnews/pp\\_20090508\\_cow/photo14.htm](http://www.nypost.com/photos/galleries/news/regionalnews/pp_20090508_cow/photo14.htm)

Constance Young is a medical writer and nature writer.



## BOOK REVIEW:

### The Stony Point Whisker Club

My Travels with Cato from the Hudson Valley NY to Mid-coast Maine

By Don Loprieno \$14.95

REVIEWED BY ANNE MULLER

If you have ever lived with a cat from the cat's youth to old age, you will identify with the scenes described in this riveting diary. For those of us who've experienced the pure joy of bonding with a free-spirited cat – as cats usually are – you will find yourself on a see-saw of emotions created by a very talented writer.



Mr. Loprieno reveals much of himself and even a small, generally unknown, piece of our country's history in his delightful book about Cato, a cat who became part of his family (after he indifferently shot and killed his mother).



I don't know how the book came to my attention, but I'm glad it did, and what a coincidence: I lived in the northern-part of Stony Point during some of the years that Don Loprieno was there with

Cato, but never knew him. Not only was the town a coincidence, but I lived with a cat named Abby who

looked and acted much like Cato. I'm placing both Abby's photo and Cato's side by side so you can see what I mean.

Abby is on the top and Cato is on the bottom. Abby was ill at the time I took this photo. She was about 19 years old.

Dan writes in his Epilogue: ..

*...we still mourn Cato and will never forget him. He was our steadfast companion – the kitten romping by the forsythia, the feline of regal bearing gracing our presence, the staid, older cat spending his last years with us, the kindred soul intertwined with our own.*

*Now there remains only one thing left to do. Cato told Judy [an animal communicator] that he wanted me to write a book about our journey together. That book has now been written.*

I highly recommend *The Stony Point Whisker Club* as a gift for any cat lover.

You can order *The Stony Point Whisker Club* from P.O. Box 281, 142 Quail Run Road, Bristol, ME 04539; Phone 207-677-6614 or email: [donloprieno@yahoo.com](mailto:donloprieno@yahoo.com); Website: [www.thestonypointwhiskerclub.com](http://www.thestonypointwhiskerclub.com)

Anne Muller is the Editor of the *Wildlife Watch Binocular*.



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1-877-945-3435**

Wildlife Watch maintains a Wildlife Help Hotline to help humane folks who have found an injured or orphaned wild animal. We maintain lists of wildlife rehabilitators throughout the country, and we will do our best to help you find the wildlife care professional closest to you. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

