

STUDY FOUND THAT HUMAN-MODIFIED LANDSCAPES SHRINK MAMMAL MOVEMENTS BY UP TO HALF

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM FIELD MUSEUM

PLEASE VISIT THE LINK FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE AUTHORS AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS.
[HTTP://SCIENCE.SCIENCEMAG.ORG/CONTENT/359/6374/466](http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6374/466)



Human beings take up a lot of real estate — around 50-70 percent of the Earth's land surface. And our increasing footprint affects how mammals of all sizes, from all over the planet, move.

A study recently published by *Science* found that, on average, mammals living in human-modified habitats move two to three times less far than their counterparts in areas untouched by humans.

What's more, this pattern persists globally: from African forest elephants to white-tailed antelope squirrels in North America, the human footprint infringes upon the footprints of mam-

HUMAN-MODIFIED LANDSCAPES

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Evidence of Rodenticides Found in California Owls

BY M.R.GUERCIO

Anticoagulant rodenticides (AR) are poisons that are unfortunately used to kill rodents, such as rats and mice, and are widely available for use by farmers, homeowners, and large agribusiness alike. A paper published in *Avian Conservation and Ecology* examined the effect of ARs on populations of northern spotted owls and barred owls in remote forest lands of northern California. Many similar studies have focused on the presence of ARs in wildlife that live in urban or agricultural settings, where it was believed rodenticide use would be more prevalent. **This study, though, found increasing amounts of ARs present in remote forest settings**

where it is hurting non-target forest carnivores. The route of exposure for such animals is by consuming a rodent who has been exposed to the poison. The study found that 40% of barred owls and 70% of northern spotted owls that they tested were exposed to at least one of eight ARs. Also, the use of what are called second generation ARs is prohibited in agricultural settings without human dwellings, yet there were owls collected in such areas that tested positive for secondary AR. While most of the ARs detected in the owls were at trace levels and not the cause of death, it is still alarming that this poison is being found in these remote areas and that secondary ARs are being used illegally. **Even more alarming is that the northern spotted owl is listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act and listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act, and is being further negatively impacted. There are plenty of non-lethal effects of ARs which include reduced clutch and brood size, fledgling success, slower blood clotting time, and residual AR transfer to eggs that lead to the suffering of many owls and other birds of prey.**



RODENTICIDES

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mal species both big and small. **The study, led by Marlee Tucker of the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre in Germany, is the first of its kind to log movement behaviors for such a wide range of mammals globally.**

"All organisms need space," Bruce Patterson, a co-author of this study and MacArthur Curator of Mammals at The Field Museum in Chicago, explained. "They need space to gather their resources, find mates, and perform their ecological services." For instance, bats need room to find and consume insects and pollinate plants (which amount to \$3.5 to 50 billion worth of agricultural labor annually in the US alone), and apex predators need room to hunt and control other species' populations.

In the study, more than 100 researchers contributed information on 803 individual mammals representing 57 species in total. Patterson offered up data on the movement of lions in a pristine wilderness area of Tsavo, Kenya. From 2002-09, he followed three lions using high-tech collars that continuously tracked individuals' movement via GPS — the data he contributed to the *Science* study. One of those lions, in its natural habitat, patrolled an area twice the size of Chicago (1400 km²) to find food, attract mates, and repel intruders.

But habitat loss and fragmentation disrupt these critical animal

behaviors. Clearing rainforest is an example of habitat loss — the destruction and loss of usable area for a given species. Constructing a road through the savannah, on the other hand, constitutes habitat fragmentation — the division of habitat area into smaller, discontinuous spaces. When suitable habitat spaces become too small or too isolated, animals can no longer afford to visit them, changing their space use.

As habitats become compromised, resources like food and living space that animals rely on become scarce. Sometimes, when resources are limited, animals traverse larger areas to get what they need — if there's not enough food in a five-mile radius, they might move to a ten-mile radius. However, this study shows that on the whole, that sort of additional movement tends not to be an option — if there's no uninterrupted landscape available, then the affected animals simply can't live there.

To that end, the *Science* study found "strong negative effects of the human footprint on median and long-distance displacements of terrestrial mammals." Patterson put it more simply: "Human dominion over Earth's landscapes gets in the way of animals doing their thing." Some species, like mice, can make do with less room, but animals that need lots of space, like lions, tigers, and elephants, simply can't live in areas with lots of humans.

"It is important that animals move, because in moving they carry out important ecological functions like transporting nutrients and seeds between different areas. Additionally, mammalian movements bring different species together and thus allow

for interactions in food webs that might otherwise not occur. If mammals move less this could alter any of these ecosystem functions," says lead author Marlee Tucker.

Across the wide array of species its data encompasses, the study points to a singular, and grim, conclusion: For mammal species, the effects of habitat loss and habitat fragmentation don't discriminate by geographic location, body size, or where that species sits on the food chain — **the human footprint threatens most other mammals.**

Still, Patterson remains hopeful that the *Science* study can guide further research and change our approach to human land use. "Ultimately, it would be good to know whether there are critical thresholds in the human footprint for the species living around us. Are there specific points beyond which resources become limiting and species are excluded?" he asked. "As we continue to transform the landscape and as the human population expands, we're limiting the space and resources that other mammals need to live."



<https://tinyurl.com/alligatorgolfcourse>

Wildlife Watch thanks Jim Robertson for obtaining permission to reprint the article. Photos are the addition of Wildlife Watch.

DID YOU KNOW?

Raccoons and opossums that find themselves onto our properties usually move along due to their nomadic nature. However, if you find that these critters are posing a hazard to your property and themselves, a great natural repellent to keep them away is a simple solution of about 1 part cayenne pepper, about 8 parts water, and a drop of dish soap. Spray this on lawns, around vegetable gardens, and around trash cans. The sensitive noses of these animals will be deterred by the spice. This is just one way to live in harmony with our wildlife. From the Facebook page of SBWCN.

www.facebook.com/SBWCN/?hc_ref=ARTJRMf4mGUC3gGr7ySz6jNSqU72DUt1lbrppw6C3wWBri4AvzoZnqA7BGHHOPk&fref=nf

RODENTICIDES

Continued from page 1

Earlier studies concerning ARs have found extremely high concentrations in fishers, and have linked this exposure to thousands of illegal marijuana cultivation sites on public and tribal lands. Heading into the future as marijuana becomes legalized, this is something to be concerned about and warrants examination for a safer alternative to poisoning animals that are simply living and behaving as they naturally should. **A creative alternative to rodent "problems" in agricultural settings is being implemented by California's Hungry Owl Project, founded and directed by former wildlife rehabber Alex Godbe. In 2013 Godbe had groups of barn owls in 25 vineyards working to naturally reduce the rodent population that had been damaging their crops, without the use of rodenticides. This can be the case for other predators too such as coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons and opossums, to name a few. A good point made by Godbe is that we are killing off nature's own rodent control by the second-hand poisoning of rodent eating predators (Williams).**

While the use of pesticides such as ARs is a large issue

that may sometimes seem out of our direct control, there are still things we can do in our daily lives that can either lessen or add to the existing problem. Pesticides have a wide-reaching effect that isn't always in the forefront of a person's mind when they decide to use them. Before you use Ars, keep in mind that you are killing not only mice that live in or around your home, but you are potentially poisoning many other animals and their offspring as well. Friendly options are available that are safer for humans and animals such as catch and release mouse traps. For more detail, please visit:

Gabriel, Mourad W., et al. "Exposure to Rodenticides in Northern Spotted and Barred Owls on Remote Forest Lands in Northwestern California: Evidence of Food Web Contamination." Avian Conservation and Ecology, vol. 13, no. 1, 2018, doi:10.5751/ace-01134-130102.

Williams, Ted. "Poisons Used to Kill Rodents Have Safer Alternatives." Audubon, 2013, www.audubon.org/magazine/january-february-2013/poisons-used-kill-rodents-have-safer.

Marissa Guercio is a biology graduate from SUNY New Paltz who is interested in conservation and animal behavior.

EYE ON THE NEWS BOILING LOBSTERS ALIVE IS BANNED IN SWITZERLAND



CNN reports that the Swiss government has banned throwing lobsters into boiling water while they are still conscious. They also have banned keeping lobsters on ice while still alive.

That has been done based on studies that "suggest" lobsters are sentient with advanced

nervous systems that "may" feel pain. [Those of us at Wildlife Watch KNOW that lobsters feel pain.] The painful solution? Knock them out first!

These changes in law are based on a series of experiments by **Professor Robert Elwood**, Emeritus Professor in Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Environmental Economics at Queens University, Belfast.

Wildlife Watch reached out to Prof. Elwood, but has not yet heard back. We have many questions and will report in the next issue if we do hear from him.

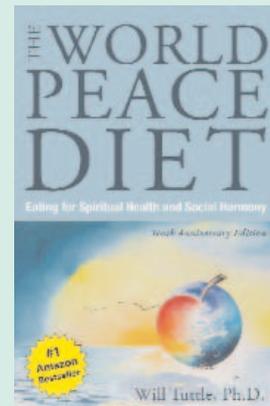
Recently, I was in a supermarket and witnessed a lobster reaching up to the worker who seemed to be playing with him by pulling at him with tongs. The photo we chose here shows what the lobster looked like. To me, he looked like a child asking to be helped, not realizing that he was asking for help from someone who regarded him merely as food.

Wildlife Watch believes that the best solution to cruelty is veganism, a plant-based diet. Veganism alone would relieve much suffering of our wild land, water, and air animals.

This is a good time to once again introduce the *World Peace Diet* by Dr. Will Tuttle.

Please visit:
<http://www.worldpeacediet.com/>

It can change your life and health,
and certainly make the world a better
place for the animals.



**Please watch a YouTube
video of Dr. Will Tuttle's and
Madeleine Tuttle's amazing
work to spread veganism
across the globe!**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKreXWObN04&feature=youtu.be

BREEDING CATASTROPHE IN ADELIE LAND

Terre Adélie (Adélie Land) in eastern Antarctica is home to a significant



colony of Adélie penguins. **The over 18,000 pairs of penguins have recently suffered a breeding catastrophe in which all but two of the colony's chicks have died.**

The cause of this tragic event is most likely abnormally vast amounts of sea ice surrounding the colony, thus forcing the adult penguins to travel farther for food, said the World Wildlife Fund. "The impact of this catastrophic event is confined to this specific colony of Adélie penguins, predictions are that the Antarctic will get warmer and this may pose different challenges in the longer term" said Rod Downie, Head of Polar Programs at WWF. As if the penguins didn't have enough to worry about, and this is not the first time for disaster to strike the colony. Four years ago, every one of the colony's chicks froze to death when a cold snap followed a rain event. We are hopeful that there may be a light at the end of this bleak tunnel for the Adélie penguins. Environmental groups and officials are meeting to discuss the creation of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) for the waters off eastern Antarctica. **If this protection zone were to be enacted, it would make the area off limits to krill fisheries which is great news for the penguins since krill is an important part of their diet.** This protected area would ultimately form a safer breeding ground for the penguins, something that it seems they are in much need of these days. According to Yan Ropert-Coudert, lead researcher on the Adélie Penguin Program at France's National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the breakup of the Mertz glacier since

2010 is causing other environmental changes in the region as well. Ropert-Coudert said "An MPA will not remedy these changes but it could prevent further impacts that direct anthropogenic pressures, such as tourism and proposed fisheries, could bring." This is good news considering research by oceanographers at the University of Delaware found that 60% of Antarctica's Adélie penguin habitat may become unsuitable by the end of the 21st century due to warm-

ing seas and rain.

Please see the full article *Penguin catastrophe leaves thousands of chicks dead with only two survivors* by Manisha Ganguly here:

www.cnn.com/2017/10/13/world/antarctica-penguin-chicks-die/index.html

Summarized by M.R.G

Photos from National Geographic:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/2017/10/13/antarctica-penguin-chicks-die/>



SAD FOLLOW-UP:

PROPOSED MARINE PROTECTED AREA GETS DENIED AT 2017 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

BY M.R.GUERCIO

Above, we featured a story about a colony of Adélie penguins who tragically lost all but two of their chicks. A hopeful proposition to create a new **Marine Protected Area (MPA)** around eastern Antarctic waters would lessen anthropomorphic stressors on the areas that the penguins breed and fish in. At last year's meeting the Ross Sea MPA, which is the largest in the world, was successfully negotiated and CCAMLR was hopeful that this positive momentum would carry the decision to approve another large MPA covering one million square kilometers in eastern Antarctic waters. **Not only would this MPA be beneficial for Adélie penguins, but also would protect unique marine ecosystems. Unfortunately, this proposition was denied during this year's meeting due to the lack of consent from Russia and China.** The meeting of representatives from 24 countries plus the European Union, must all be in agreement in order for the MPA to be approved.

Fishing is a common excuse used by parties who oppose the creation of protected waters, as it can be used to exert power and geopolitical control over this neutral area of the

world. It is important to note, that the proposal for the Eastern Antarctic MPA did not explicitly ban all fishing in the protected area, and accommodations for fishing have been made in the past in other protected areas - - in spite of the fact that the ecology will suffer along with the individual sea animals.

However, there were positive strides made in protecting Antarctic waters at this year's meeting which include protection of exposed waters after the Larsen C ice shelf split (Larsen A collapsed entirely in 1995 and Larsen B did the same in 2002); approval of an MPA around the Arctic Peninsula, and the approval of a research and monitoring plan for the Ross Sea MPA.

If you wish to look into this more, please read the articles below:

Why are talks over an East Antarctic marine park still deadlocked? By Cassandra Brooks

<https://theconversation.com/why-are-talks-over-an-east-antarctic-marine-park-still-deadlocked-86681>

Plans rejected for East Antarctic Marine Park By April Reese

<https://www.nature.com/news/plans-rejected-for-east-antarctic-marine-park-1.22913>



...AND IN THE NORTH POLE, STARVING POLAR BEARS HAVE ALMOST NO PLACE LEFT AT ALL

In the Arctic, polar bears are dying because they are being forced to travel farther, which results in loss of body fat relative to their caloric intake. Global warming or climate change caused by CO2 emissions are the problem.

Polar bears are particularly susceptible to changes in sea ice because of their hunting strategies: the bears eat as much as they can in the spring and early summer, when seals are having their pups, putting on lots of fat that will help



them get through pretty much the rest of the year. But if sea ice is missing or is thinner, drifting longer distances, polar bears can't catch as many seals, using more energy than they take in. That affects their health and their ability to make new pups: the number of polar bears in the Beaufort Sea has already declined by 40 percent from 2004 to 2007, likely because of changes in sea ice.

Contact GREENPEACE

www.greenpeace.org/archive-international/en/ and become involved in their amazing work. Here's one beginning: <https://www.greenpeace.org/archive-international/en/campaigns/agriculture/Things-You-Can-Do-To-Start-Eco-Food-Revolution/>

EYE ON THE NEWS

LARGEST MEAT PRODUCER BUYS VEGAN "MEAT" COMPANIES



RECENTLY, "FIELD ROAST," A COMPANY THAT PRODUCES VEGAN MEAT ANALOGS, WAS ACQUIRED BY CANADA'S LARGEST MEAT PRODUCER FOR

\$120,000,000. "LIGHTLIFE" WAS BOUGHT BY THE SAME COMPANY LAST YEAR FOR \$140, 000,000!

Maple Leaf Foods Inc, the largest distributor of packaged meats in Canada, has announced it has purchased U.S. vegan meat producer, the Field Roast Grain Meat Co, for \$120 million.

Michael McCain, Maple Leaf Foods' CEO, said this move is part of the company's shift toward achieving its vision of becoming a leader in sustainable protein.

"The acquisition of Field Roast complements and expands our portfolio in the fast-growing North American market for alternative proteins," McCain said in a statement. "It also aligns with our vision to be a leader in sustainable protein and create shared value through making a positive social

impact. Field Roast has built brand leadership through focusing on quality, craftsmanship and taste, and its acquisition will allow Maple Leaf to fuel growth in the category through investment, brand building and innovation."

Seattle-based Field Roast produces a range of vegan plant-based meats, including roasts, sausages, frankfurters, deli slices. The company also recently launched a line of nondairy cheeses called Chao, and frozen foods, including vegan mac and cheese.

Animal agriculture accounts for 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Field Roast is the second plant-based company Maple Leaf has acquired this year. In February, the packaged meats company bought another U.S. based plant-based protein company, *Lightlife Foods*, for \$140 million.

Lightlife Veggie Turkey Slices is my all time favorite! The slices are super thin, and make a great sandwich. **Best of all, my dog, Chico, LOVES it more than meat!! I wrap his heart medication in a quarter of a turkey slice and he gobbles it down without a struggle!!**

Visit:

<https://www.livekindly.co/field-roast-meat-company-acquires/>



WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital wildlife hotline service to the public. We receive calls from across the country and occasionally from Canada from people needing help with injured and orphaned wildlife. Our easy to remember number 877WILDHELP is recommended by veterinary offices, SPCAs, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we publish the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** to inform the public about animals and the people who help them, to promote wildlife watching, and to provide the understanding that all animals are individuals deserving of kinder treatment.

**Will you help our work?
YES**

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

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Anne Muller, Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

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

The Wildlife Watch Hotline – 877-WILDHELP receives hundreds of calls every year from across the country, and a few from Canada. Police departments, conservation agencies, SPCAs, veterinary offices, and federal, state, and municipal offices have referred callers to

Wildlife Watch for help.

Your contribution to Wildlife Watch will help us to expand our volunteer service by allowing us to cover phones 24/7 and update our lists as new wildlife rehabilitators come on the scene.

WHO WILL HELP THE WILDLIFE WHEN THERE'S FIRE, MUDSLIDES, AND DEATH? THE SANTA BARBARA WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK (SBWCN)

Thank you to **Julia Parker of SBWCN** for filling us in on the nightmare that torched the Santa Barbara area and the mudslides that buried homes, people and wildlife.

We reached out to the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network and asked to know more about the state of the wildlife there. Julia Parker who returned our call was kind enough to write the following from the frontlines.

*During this challenging time within our community, multiple species of wildlife have been directly impacted by the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides. **SBWCN has received reports from the public about deer that are challenged as grazing areas are now barren. Predator species have also been significantly impacted, losing a large amount of lucrative hunting area as many species are forced to move into alternate territories due to the catastrophic events. The Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network has received reports of dead bears found on local beaches as well as mountain lion sightings close to individuals' homes. To date, the SBWCN has admitted a gull and raccoon for rehabilitation that were both found in the Montecito area post Thomas Fire and mudslide.***



The raccoon in care has burn lesions on his paws and tail. He was discovered in Montecito by a fireman after the mudslide. With the vast amount of land now void of vegetation, chaparral, oaks and grasses, surviving wildlife must relocate in search of new habitat, food, and shelter while competing with established wildlife in these areas.

The native Western pond turtle (WPT) has been found on local beaches, after being carried away from their habitats during the mudslide. Five WPT are in care, one with burns on his leg and another healing from a broken leg.

Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network is the only general wildlife rehabilitation center in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, the region affected by the disaster. We are entering our 30th year and have noticed that the need for our

work to rescue wildlife increases every year.

We cannot yet comment on the repercussions to songbird and raptor populations, as surviving species will have to establish new territories on the heels of the breeding season that is quickly upon us. We suspect that this domino effect for wildlife in the loss of habitat, food supply, shelter, and territories will have a significant impact on our local ecosystem for years to come.

*National Geographic has titled 2018 to be the "Year of the Bird", in recognition of the centennial anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act. For the team at the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, this description could not be more fitting. **Now more than ever, our attempt to preserve wildlife species in Southern California will be invaluable while our community continues to repair their lives in the wake of this disaster.***

Please visit the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network at: <https://www.facebook.com/SBWCN/> Not only will you see the extraordinary rescues done by the SBWCN, but you will also see videos of ANIMALS RESCUING OTHER ANIMALS!

On the SBWCN Facebook page you will see the innovative and life-saving work of **Dr. Jamie Peyton** of the **UC Davis Veterinary College**. She treated this poor bear and other wild burn victims the way human burn patients are treated, with fish skin mainly from tilapia. Dr. Peyton said that its use for bears was for the first time. She and her colleagues stitched tilapia fish skins on the animals' feet to sooth the burns. She said the bears soon were up and walking around in their bandages and will be released as soon as they are ready.



Photo from the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife Watch is happy to report that **synthetic skin** is now being developed in the US and Australia for treatment of severe burns, but as of now it is not available for use.

Let's Go Wildlife Watching IN GEORGIA

Savannah Coastal Ecotours provided by Fran and Kathryn Lapolla

Captain Fran Lapolla operates small boats for the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and acts as part-time naturalist and host for The Ossabaw Island Foundation. Kathryn Lapolla is a Georgia native and an avid kayaker and is trained in coastal interpretive tours..

For more information: 912-220-6092; sceboating@gmail.com or scekayaking@gmail.com

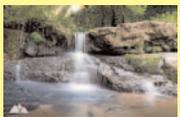


Ebenezer Creek, kayaking through ancient bald cypress.

If you wish to stay closer to Atlanta and yet enjoy nature and wildlife, please visit Cascade Springs Nature Preserve Trail at this link:

www.atlantatrails.com/hiking-trails/cascade-springs-nature-preserve

It is described this way: Inside the park's 120 acres of green space, a wide trail network explores a tumbling waterfall, a wildlife-filled forest, and trickling springs that feed the park's many streams. The hilly forest is a retreat from the surrounding city, and home to wildlife including deer, birds, and turtles.



EYE ON THE NEWS ATLANTA, GEORGIA, POLICE OFFICER WANTS TO HELP ANIMALS, THE COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE

After a young boy was killed by a dog who was running loose, the dog

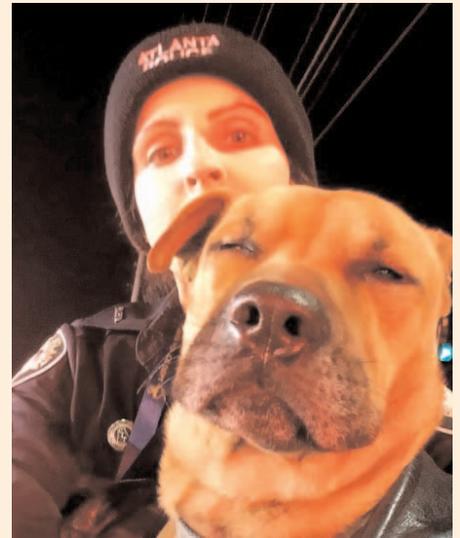


was shot and the dog's "owner" and abuser was charged with manslaughter. **Amy Soeldner, who is with the Atlanta Police**

Department, thought of a way to help. Not by banning or killing dogs, but by stopping cruelty and irresponsible people from having dogs.

*She said, **I want to educate officers on using nonlethal methods on animals. And I also want to educate them and the public about the link between animal cruelty as a precursor to more violent crimes such as domestic violence or school shooting. If someone abuses an animal and they're not punished or caught or redirected, it emboldens them to go onto other crimes.***

She'll be investigating any kind of cases of animal cruelty. Her love for animals started when she found a dog in a box with a broken leg. She was able to get him veterinary care, and he became her companion animal for 16 years!



Officer Amy Soeldner, Courtesy of Atlanta Police Department

When we emailed **Carlos Campos, Director of Public Affairs of the Atlanta Police Department**, for permission to use the photographs, not only did he send us other photos, but he added this heartening response:

As an animal lover myself and proud dad to two dogs, I can tell you Amy's passion, care and love for animals is unmatched. And so is her belief that people who abuse animals will also abuse humans. So this is important work.

Wildlife Watch totally agrees!

Visit:

www.atlantamagazine.com/news-culture-articles/meet-the-atlanta-police-officer-whose-job-is-to-end-animal-cruelty/

WHAT HAPPENED TO VINNY NUNU?

Thank you to **Lauren Straw** who reached out to Wildlife Watch following the article that appeared in People.

Vinny Nunu, was a little bear in NYS who was nursed back to health after he was hit by a car that also killed his mom.

Sadly, the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) removed him from the rehab facili-



ty where he was staying and he has not been heard from. We hope this mystery can be solved by the next issue.

Noble and compassionate wildlife rehabilitators need to be able to protect the wildlife that they are caring for without interference and the oppressive authority of those in the business of seeing the value of wild animals only for hunting.

To help our work,
please donate here.

Donate



**NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHEL(P)
(1-877-945-3435)**

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed at our discretion up to the amount available.

You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail:
Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box
562, New Paltz, NY 12561

NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER JACINDA ARDERN'S POLYDACTYL CAT, PADDLES, KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT

Just as we were delighted to hear the news about the animal-friendly, newly elected Prime Minister of New Zealand, and felt a certain glow upon learning that her cat, Paddles, had been adopted, and just as this was to be an upbeat story about the antics of Paddles in the inner circle of the government of NZ, our follow-up revealed some sad news: Paddles had been killed by a car shortly after she became First Cat.

Is it better to let a cat have freedom to run and roam in spite of the dangers they both face from other animals and pose to other animals? Does the danger from cars or humans outweigh the freedom I wish for them? Following several heart-stopping near misses, and one fatal side-swipe of our adorable cat rescue "Smudge" with his sloppy milk-mustache on otherwise all black fur, I resolved not to let our cats out again. That and the little animals they would bring back dead or severely wounded led to this decision. I've committed to caring for my rescues inside. One thing that helps them to stay occupied is having another cat or two or three around.

We were so sorry to hear about Paddles and hope that the NZ PM will think about another adoption after the grief related to losing Paddles fades.



Here's Paddles showing off his beautiful paws on the left, and the Prime Minister and Paddles on the right: