Animal Law News – June 2020

One elephant is illegally killed every 15 minutes. At the current rate, they will be extinct in 20 years. – FactRetriever.com.

Coronavirus
New FDA video on coronavirus and pets:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHMYC5Comio.

Sea of Troubles: Covid-19 has led to a pandemic of plastic pollution, The Economist, 6/22/20:

Pennsylvania
Strengthening of cruelty laws is having effects:

Federal
Captive Primate Safety Act, H.R.1776/S.2562. The bills would amend the Lacey Act to prohibit the interstate and foreign trade of nonhuman primates in the “wild pet” trade; there would be exceptions for zoos, sanctuaries and research institutions. On June 25, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, held hearings on the House bill; on September 26, 2019, the Senate bill was referred to that body’s Committee on Environment and Public Works.

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League v. Ross, (D.S.C., 2/18/20). In 2016, the former Administration decided not to allow exploration leases off the East Coast. The new Administration resumed issuing leases. 10 States, including South Carolina, its Small Business Chamber of Commerce, 19 South Carolina municipalities, and several environmental groups challenged. Claims in the consolidated cases included under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act. They included that loud air gun blasts used to map potential oil and gas reserves disturbed and injured marine life. The District Court denied the Department of Interior’s motion to dismiss, finding South Carolina could sue the federal government over drilling along the Coast and seismic blast-testing. An Executive Order, alone, could not remove the subject property from protection designated by the prior President. In January 2020, the court again ordered the agencies to show how they arrived at their permit decisions for seismic testing. The

International
France: legislative and litigation reactions to increasing conflict with urbanites moving to the countryside and objecting to normal “country life” sounds and scents, including a lawsuit against Maurice, a cockerel, for allegedly crowing too early. (Maurice prevailed.) Townies v. Tractors, The Economist, June 20, 2020:

France’s national and local legislatures and other bodies have enacted or are considering laws to protect citizens like Maurice, and to protect natural sounds and scents as the “sensory heritage of the countryside”: https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/MPs-in-France-to-debate-bill-to-legally-protect-the-noises-and-smells-of-the-countryside-following-complaints-and-lawsuits-from-tourists-and-second-home-owners.

Italy: the Coast Guard rescued an endangered sperm whale tangled in an illegal fishing net near Lipari. Lipari is the largest Aeolian island, off Sicily’s Northern coast:
https://weather.com/science/nature/video/italian-coast-guard-frees-sperm-whale-from-net. (The Weather Channel’s Science/Nature videos include animals rescued from human-created dangers, often plastics, but also provide humor breaks of stories without harm or risk of harm.)

Publications and Media

The Divide, Lindsay Stern, photographs by Kevin Miyazaki, Smithsonian, July-August 2020. Article about Kanzi, a bonobo raised by psychologist Sue Savage-Rumbaugh to study bonobo cognition.


Non-Legal News