Pennsylvania
York County: Fox43 investigated challenges with responding to suspected cruelty reports. It reported that Officer Otto Cruz is the County’s sole humane officer, who must respond to almost 1,000 reports annually; he is hampered by limited resources, but is assisted by other local law enforcement. The report featured the case of two Pitties, one pregnant, subjected to cold weather and physical abuse before being rescued; they, and the new puppy, are now in shelter care. An SPCA representative stated that their former living conditions were technically legal; the report also noted “many gray areas” in the state’s cruelty laws. Resources stretched thin for animal cruelty investigations in Pa. | fox43.com.

Federal
The Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act (TEAPSPA), S.3220, introduced November 17, would end the use of exotic animals, as defined, in traveling shows, with exceptions for accredited zoos, sanctuaries and rodeos. It was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. S.3220 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.

H.R.2811, the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, has not moved since June 16, when it was referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife. The Act would also require including skates and rays in the Seafood Traceability Program. H.R.2811 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress; Seafood Traceability Program | NOAA Fisheries; see also Seafood Import Monitoring Program | NOAA Fisheries.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fined two tourists in Hawaii $500 each for touching Hawaiian monk seals, protected under the Endangered Species Act. The tourists posted videos of the incidents, which led to their identification. Both paid the fines and apologized. Approximately 1,400 of the seals remain; protection has increased their numbers slightly, and they are considered one of the most endangered seal species. Tourists in Hawaii Given $500 Fine for Touching an Endangered Monk Seal (msn.com).

In Montana, the Blackfeet Tribe, working with other tribes, the Wildlife Conservation Authority and the Canadian Park Service in the Buffalo Initiative, is returning bison to the eastern border of Glacier National Park. In 1907, the Blackfeet sold some bison to the Canadian government, to protect the species from hunting in the United States. Blackfeet Tribe make return of buffalo a reality (kpax.com).

Other States
California: The Animal Legal Defense Fund has sued Foster Poultry Farms, alleging that its “live hang” slaughter method, where chickens are immobilized by electrocution, violates California’s Constitution regarding water rights and use by excessive use of

Colorado: Parks and Wildlife is offering a reward for the person who shot a mother bear, leaving two orphaned cubs. Her body was found in July; her killer did not harvest her body. Colorado has Operation Game Thief, an anti-poaching program, which lets witnesses provide information without giving their names or being required to testify. The cubs were placed with Wet Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation, which hopes to teach them to retain a natural fear of humans so that they can live in the wild. Person Who Fatally Shot Bear, Orphaning Cubs, Wanted by Police (msn.com).

Florida: James Miller is charged with cruelty for killing his fiancé’s, Rose Beasley’s, kitten the day before Thanksgiving. He allegedly told her he would kill it if it did not stop “whining.” He stated he suffers from early-onset Parkinson’s disease and is prone to falling, and that he tripped and his foot came down on the animal. Beasley found him holding the dying kitten, started an argument and grabbed a knife, and Miller was cut during a struggle. She was charged with assault, but Miller made a written statement to clear her of that charge. ‘I wish it hadn’t happened’: Florida man charged in kitten death claims it was an accident (msn.com).

Indiana: Muncie Animal Care and Services found a crate containing 15 cats and kittens, some only one week old, near a river. They are being cared for, through community outreach for supplies and funds, and Animal Care is seeking information on who dumped them. Crate Full of Cats and Kittens Found Abandoned With No Food or Water (msn.com).

Massachusetts: The Massachusetts Environmental Police arrested three persons for shooting at a deer decoy from their vehicle, after legal hunting hours, on private property, and using a spotlight; after seeing that it was a decoy, the trio attempted to flee. MEP observed deer legs, in plain view, protruding from their truck bed. That deer had been illegally shot. Additional charges are pending for conduct in another state. After shooting decoy, charges pile up for suspected deer poachers (msn.com).

Nevada: Garrett Higbee pleaded guilty to a felony for illegally killing a bull elk in 2018, and a gross misdemeanor for illegally killing a doe antelope; he was sentenced to 90 days and faces $14,000 in penalties. He also faces charges for killing a mule deer. Jordan Crtys was found guilty of a gross misdemeanor for illegally killing two mule deer, and was sentenced to 14 days and $5,000 fines. NDOW: 2 Nevada men convicted of poaching | Crime-and-courts | elkodaily.com.

International
Namibia: Reconnaissance Energy Africa (ReconAfrica) allegedly bulldozed for a test oil well in a protected wildlife area without proper approvals; two local officials stated that the Canadian company offered bribes for their silence. A complaint was filed with the United States Security Exchange Commission, alleging that ReconAfrica misled regulators and
investors about its activities. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) have called for a Congressional investigation. Oil company accused of drilling in African wildlife reserve, offering jobs for silence (msn.com); Members of Congress urge investigation into Okavango oil exploration (nationalgeographic.com).

United Kingdom: The government, British Veterinary Association, RSPCA and other animal welfare organizations are investigating breeders who are offering to crop dogs’ ears, in response to a social media trend in which owners post pictures of their dogs post-crop. Cropping is illegal under the UK’s Animal Welfare Act unless medically necessary, but importing or selling dogs with cropped ears is not, so that these breeders offer fake “dog passports” stating that the dog was imported from, or the cropping was performed in, a non-UK nation. Dog breeders offering to mutilate puppies as part of social media trend (msn.com).

Non-Legal News
Maine: Bill Coppersmith caught a “cotton candy” lobster, thus called because of its rare coloring, which results from a rare genetic mutation. The mutation is harmful because it prevents the lobster from blending into its environment. Coppersmith named his catch Haddie, after his granddaughter; the crustacean Haddie will live out its life at an aquarium. Rare "cotton candy lobster" caught in Maine (msn.com).

New Jersey: Hansel, then a 7-weeks-old Pittie, was rescued from a Canadian fight ring. Despite his age, and not having yet fought, he was scheduled for euthanasia. A Florida shelter took him, and he was then taken by Throw Away Dogs Project, which trains K-9s for law enforcement in the Philadelphia area. Firefighter Tyler Van Leer, of Millville FD, found Hansel, who now works in arson detection and community outreach, including dispelling the Pittie stereotype. Hansel the Pit Bull Escaped Euthanasia, Now Arson Investigator for Millville Fire Department | Daily Paws; https://throwawaydogsproject.com.

Ohio: Fossy, a German Shepherd who assists Afghanistan veteran Nick Rankin with his PTSD, ran off a week after Rankin moved from New York to Boardman. The community, through local and social media, helped Rankin look for him, and Rankin set humane traps, baited with food, near areas where Fossy was reported to have been seen. Fossy was found by another resident after approaching one of the traps. Despite his approximately week-long adventure, Fossy was in good condition. Army Vet Reunited With Dog Who Helps Him Manage PTSD on Veterans Day (msn.com).

Peru: A previously unknown tanager species was discovered near Manu National Park by Daniel Lane, of Louisiana State University. Lane and seven colleagues published a paper about the bird in Ornithology. They named it the inti tanager; inti means “sun” in the indigenous Quechua and Aymara languages. Article with interview of Lane: Indignity Vol. 1, No. 40: Tanager of the Year - by Tom Scocca - INDIGNITY (substack.com); Introducing the Inti Tanager – a genus and species of bird new to science! | Kevin J. Burns Lab (kevinburns Lab.com); abstract of Ornithology paper: new genus and species of tanager (Passeriformes, Thraupidae) from the lower Yungas of western Bolivia and southern Peru | Ornithology | Oxford Academic (oup.com).