Pennsylvania
Allegheny County: Kelly Gebhardt and Donald Podczerwinski face 36 counts, each, of cruelty, 129 misdemeanor and 137 summary charges after 43 horses, 2 donkeys, 1 minihorse and 1 pig were rescued from their property; as of reporting, an alpaca remained as law and humane enforcement could not catch it. Animals were found without food or water, starving, standing in manure and needing hoof and other care; 3 dead horses were decomposing in the open; one report stated a dead horse was found shot 3 times in the head. 2 horses and 1 donkey were in such condition that a veterinarian recommended euthanasia on site. Neighbors Marlene and Stephen Blazczak claim Podczerwinski treated the animals well. Pair face hundreds of animal cruelty charges after nearly 50 horses found starving in West Deer | TribLIVE.com.

Armstrong County: Keri Beth Wolfe’s trial was continued to May 9. She is charged with 198 counts of cruelty and neglect after 22 dead animals – dogs, cats, birds and rabbits – were found around her house, with trash, feces and overflowing litter boxes, in March 2021. Several cats and dogs were rescued. Trial Date Continued for Newbie Woman Facing Nearly 200 Counts of Animal Cruelty, Neglect After 22 Dead Animals Found in Madison Township Residence :: exploreClarion.com.

Philadelphia County:
A neighbor found 3 kittens in a bag tied closed in a dumpster. Stray Cat Blues, a rescue and TNR, advises that Peanut, Walnut and Cashew, are recovering and will be adoptable. Stray Cat Blues Rescue Takes in 3 Kittens Who Were Trapped in Philadelphia Trash Can | Daily Paws.

Several Pennsylvania rescues are taking in many pets adopted during the pandemic. Philly animal rescues overwhelmed as families return their pandemic pups en masse (msn.com).

Federal – National

ESI Energy pled guilty to 3 violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It admitted that at least 150 bald and golden eagles were killed at its facilities since 2012. ESI will pay $1.9M fines, $6.2M restitution and up to $27M to mitigate risks of eagle deaths. It must also apply for federal permits for its 50 facilities across the United States where eagle deaths have been proven or are predicted. Wind developer admits killing 136 bald and golden eagles in $35M settlement (msn.com).
Los Padres Forestwatch v. United States Forest Service (C.D.Cal., filed April 27, 2022). Ventura County, the City of Ojai and several environmental organizations sued the USFS over its approval of the Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project (logging project), alleging in part that the Project will harm several endangered and sensitive wildlife species. [https://lawstreetmedia.com/news/agriculture/city-county-and-conservation-groups-sue-usfs-over-reyes-peak-project](https://lawstreetmedia.com/news/agriculture/city-county-and-conservation-groups-sue-usfs-over-reyes-peak-project); Complaint: Reyes Peak Project [biologicaldiversity.org](http://biologicaldiversity.org).

Indiana: Bald eagles were removed from the federal endangered species list in 2007, and from Indiana’s in 2008. They recovered from harm from pesticides, but face increasing risk of lead poisoning from ammunition in animals they take or scavenge. [Indiana bald eagle population growing, but facing lead poisoning threat](courierpress.com).

Almost 250,000 Monarch butterflies visited the Pacific Coast this Winter, a 100-times increase from last year’s total, according to The Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Pesticides, habitat destruction and climate change remain risks; other butterfly species in Western States are disappearing as the region becomes hotter and drier. Numerous private efforts are seeking to contain these losses. [With a little human help, this butterfly is back — at least this year](msn.com).

Other States
Alabama: Coots is recuperating after being shot in the face by Deionterrius Thompson, who broke into his owner’s home; security video captured the incident. Thompson was arrested while in jail after another arrest. He is charged with burglary, firearms discharge and animal cruelty. [‘Heartless burglar’ accused of shooting dog during break-in arrested by Mobile Police](msn.com).

Florida:
22 dogs and 1 pig were rescued from an Alachua County residence. Some were in locked cages, crawling over dead dogs; 2 dogs were caged without food or water; skeletal dog remains were also found. An injured dog was found trying to get her puppies under a car and out of the sun. 8 persons were charged with a total of 232 counts, including felony aggravated animal cruelty and misdemeanor unlawful disposal of a dead animal. The animals are receiving veterinary care; all are expected to recover and be adoptable. [8 charged after malnourished and dead dogs found at Florida property](gainesville.com).

Wildlife contractor Philip Hayes was charged, according to reports, with inhumane slaughter of livestock, torture-inflict pain, causing serious injury or death and cruelty, for shooting a loose donkey. Emmily Girardot, who was nearby, offered a halter. Hayes, who was feeding the animal by hand, told her to leave. She refused; he shot the donkey in front of her. There is evidence that a law enforcement representative had been on scene, but Hayes said he had the matter under control so that person could leave, and that he called in to say he was going to put the donkey “to sleep,” which law enforcement interpreted as tranquilizing. The major crimes unit is investigating; news coverage and local and social media reaction have been extensive. [Outrage grows over donkey shot, killed by Santa Rosa County contractor](msn.com); Sheriff’s Office claims livestock
contractor used 'euphemisms' before killing donkey (msn.com); Deputy left scene before Florida contractor killed donkey (msn.com).

Georgia: Dylan Staples was charged with misdemeanor battery family violence and felony aggravated animal cruelty for killing the family’s 1-year-old dog, with his hands, in front of his child. His wife notified police, also reporting that he physically abused her for years. Georgia man arrested after admitting to killing family dog (wicj.com); Georgia man admits killing 1-year-old family dog because it went to the bathroom inside the house (msn.com).

Idaho: Rex and Jared Baum, father and son, were sentenced to jail, fines, penalties, reimbursable damage assessment and probation after Jared killed a grizzly sow, protected under the Endangered Species Act. Jared stated he thought she was a black bear; realizing his mistake, having already shot her, he followed her to kill her, then threw his guns into a pond. Her cub died in their den. Rex Baum is banned from hunting for 10 years; his son is banned for life in Idaho and 47 other states. Idaho’s, Montana’s and Wyoming’s governors are seeking to have grizzlies removed from ESA protection. After shooting a grizzly to death, Idaho father and son will get jail time, hunting bans (msn.com).

Illinois: John Fazzini was charged with aggravated cruelty, reckless discharge of a firearm and criminal damage to property for shooting Jameson, neighbors’ dog walking with his family, when Jameson slipped from his harness and crossed the street toward Fazzini’s dog, who was off-leash and barking at him. Fazzini shot Jameson in the head from a 4’ distance, in front of his family, Megan Peterman, Zack Zeciroski and Zeciroski’s 10-year-old daughter, then fled. Jameson is recovering. Man walking his pup ‘shoots neighbor’s dog in front of 10-year-old girl’ (msn.com).

Sara Gorski was sentenced to 3 years after she pled guilty to 3 cruelty counts for starving her 3 dogs, 2 of whom died; the third was treated and is recovering with a foster family. Gorski’s co-defendant, Andre Norris, was already sentenced to 3 years. Hoffman Estates woman sentenced to 3 years for starving her dogs to death (msn.com).

Indiana: Connor Lapin was charged with torturing or mutilating a vertebrate animal and failing properly to dispose of a dead animal for drowning 2 puppies acquired from a rescue. Lapin bragged about it; police questioned him while he was in jail on unrelated charges. It is alleged he held the puppies under water in his bathtub until they were near death, let them up to breathe, then submerged them again. He poured bleach on their bodies, wrapped them and buried them in the woods. He attributes his conduct to methamphetamine use and pleaded not guilty. Man Drowned Rescue Puppies in Tub, Bragged About It Before Arrest: Police (msn.com).

Louisiana: Candace Alexander is advocating for better protocols after she reported a feral cat, Calcasieu Animal Services also picked up her cat, Wobbles, and euthanized him before she knew he was missing. Wobbles was named for a neurological disorder which affected his gait. Animal Services Manager Claire Terracina stated that the facility may
euthanize animals brought in if they are injured or sick and suffering. Owner of “Wobbles” the cat asks for better screening before euthanasia (msn.com).

Maine: Jacob Knowles caught a pregnant lobster, tagged her, gave her 2 fish and released her. Lobsters can lay up to 100,000 eggs. Maine law has protected them since 1872; keeping a tagged “breeder” can result in fines and loss of license. Fisherman Catches Pregnant Lobster, Gives Her Two Fish and Throws Her Back (msn.com).

Maryland: Governor Larry Hogan (R) signed a bill, effective in October, banning declawing cats except for “therapeutic purposes”; this is the second state after New York to do so. Maryland Becomes 2nd U.S. State To Ban Declawing Cats (msn.com); bill information: Legislation - HB0022 (maryland.gov). Some United States cities, such as Denver, Los Angeles and San Francisco, outlaw it, as do some Canadian Provinces, Australia, Israel, New Zealand and several Western, Central and Eastern European nations. Places Where Declawing is Illegal - Countries that Outlaw Declawing - Declawing.

Massachusetts: The state settled an action against Monterey Financial Services LLC for “dog leasing” or “pet leasing,” where owners buy pets on installments, but the lender may “repo” the pet for a missed payment. The settlement includes $930,000 debt relief. Massachusetts and 7 other states ban such transactions. AG Healey Secures More Than $930,000 in Debt Relief and Restitution in Illegal Dog Leasing Case | Mass.gov.

Mississippi: Donald White was charged with aggravated cruelty and shooting inside city limits for shooting neighbors’ Corgi with a shotgun, allegedly because the dog got into his yard. Police: Children cry after their corgi is shot and killed by 71-year-old Natchez neighbor (msn.com).

Ohio: Waylon Wilson was placed with a new family. He was rescued in March when Chaquana Morgan was seen dragging him on a leash; she awaits trial on cruelty charges. Dog adopted by family while alleged abuser awaits trial (msn.com).

Cynthia Temple-Colburn was sentenced to 180 days in jail, 200 hours community service, $3,000 in fines and restitution, and may never own another companion animal. She was convicted of cruelty for dragging a puppy on a leash behind her car for 1 mile; the puppy died. Reports state these were the maximum possible penalties; the local humane society stated that it was happy to see the court send a message about cruelty. Ohio woman sentenced to jail for dragging leashed dog to death behind vehicle (msn.com).

Oklahoma: Veterinarian Aaron Stachmus, and Bryson Anglin, were charged after 168 animals, from chicks to a horse, ostriches, emus, tortoises and hairless cats were rescued from their property, variously suffering infections and no proper access to food and water. The pair face charges from 2021, when a search of another property they own resulted in rescue of over 356 animals, including foxes and lemurs. Reports indicate the recently
rescued animals were placed with fosters and rescues and are undergoing veterinary care. Norman seizes over 160 animals from veterinarian's home (msn.com).

Tennessee: The Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department is investigating the County animal shelter and its Director, Terry Kissell, after reports of dogs being shot rather than medically euthanized, puppies put in a freezer or cold closet while still alive, and other cruel treatment and conditions. Humane Association says Tennessee shelter put down dogs by shooting them (msn.com).

Texas: Michael Ruperto Uriegas was charged with felony cruelty to non-livestock torture/kill, after beating a relative’s puppy to death for urinating on him. He claimed that he threw the puppy into its kennel, then tried to help it when he saw it was injured. A necropsy revealed five sites of blunt force trauma. Texas man arrested for beating dog to death (msn.com).

A game warden and his K-9 partner found 381 shark fins and 29.2 pounds of frozen fins at an as-yet unnamed San Antonio seafood restaurant. Police state that the restaurant is not being named because the investigation is in progress. Shark “finning” is illegal in the United States; selling fins is illegal in Texas. Police find almost 400 illegal shark fins in Texas restaurant (msn.com).

International
People’s Republic of China: Fisheries and County officials and rescuers worked 20 hours to rescue a stranded sperm whale, including a “bucket brigade” to keep its skin moist and care for minor injuries. With high tide, they pulled him out to sea. The sperm whale is a “first class protected animal” under Chinese law. Stranded sperm whale rescued in East China's Zhejiang (ecns.cn); A 20-hour race to rescue stranded whale - Global Times.

Research, Publications and Other Media

Scientists at the Scottish Association for Marine Science are studying and cataloging the vocal calls of the Atlantic white-sided dolphin, a pelagic species not as well-known as the common and bottlenose dolphin, which are coastal species, to increase understanding of the Atlantic’s movements and behavior. Why marine scientists are studying sounds made by this rare breed of dolphin - Talker.

Joan Garcia-Porta et al., Niche expansion and adaptive divergence in the global radiation of crows and ravens, nature communications, April 21, 2022, Niche expansion and adaptive divergence in the global radiation of crows and ravens | Nature Communications. The article demonstrates that, and how, crows and ravens are expanding their territories
to the Arctic and tropical rain forests. Scientists explain how crows and ravens are taking over the world (msn.com).

Janneke Elisabeth van der Lann et al., Evaluation of hair cortisol as an indicator of long-term stress responses in dogs in an animal shelter and after subsequent adoption, Scientific Reports, April 21, 2022, Evaluation of hair cortisol as an indicator of long-term stress responses in dogs in an animal shelter and after subsequent adoption | Scientific Reports (nature.com). Research shows that shelter dogs suffer stress even after a short time, shown by increases in their cortisol levels.

Non-Legal News
Report on ratings of pet insurance companies. 10 Best Pet Insurance Companies of 2022 | ConsumersAdvocate.org.

On Earth Day, April 22, construction began on the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which will go over 10 lanes of I-101 near Los Angeles. The Crossing will be the largest in the world, the first of its kind in California, and a model for similar projects worldwide. World's Biggest Wildlife Crossing Breaks Ground on Earth Day (goodnewsnetwork.org).

The Humane Society of Tampa Bay started a program to place feral cats with businesses and residences for rodent control, to save their lives and provide natural pest control; sometimes the smell of cats deters rodents. HSTB handles medical care, and the cats can become attractions to a business. With video: Humane Society of Tampa Bay saves feral cats by putting them to work | Watch (msn.com).

Ethan, a mastiff abandoned near death in the Kentucky Humane Society parking lot, recovered and now works at KHS, interacting with other animals needing support; he lives with KHS staff member Jeff Callaway. Ethan was nominated for a 2022 American Humane Hero Dog Award. Once-Neglected "Ethan the Dog" Now Nominated for Prestigious Hero Dog Award (msn.com).