Pennsylvania
Allegheny County: In May, a witness reported the driver of a dark, possibly blue, four-door sedan pulling into an abandoned house’s driveway, letting a dirty, emaciated dog out, throwing a ball she chased, and driving off. Police took the dog, renamed Crescent, after Crescent Township where it occurred, to Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh, which offered $5,000 for information leading to the driver’s arrest, prosecution and conviction. HARP reports that Crescent is recovering, but needed several teeth extractions. She needs to gain some more weight, then can be adopted. Township police indicated the need for more material and practical resources for law enforcement to handle animal cases. https://news.yahoo.com/crescent-township-police-looking-car-020141929.html; video: Humane Animal Rescue gives positive update on dog that was neglected, abandoned (msn.com).

Crawford County: Update: 9 aggravated cruelty charges were filed against an as-yet unnamed suspect for shooting 9 German Shepherds, 7 of whom died. Felony charges filed against suspect who allegedly shot 9 dogs in Pennsylvania (msn.com). (See June’s Animal Law News.)

Lebanon County: According to Lebanon City Police, Gunner, a rescue dog, got out of his yard with his canine housemate. A caller reported them to the LCP. Officers called the Lebanon County Humane Society and the Pennsylvania Dog Warden’s office for assistance, which was not immediately available. Gunner did not have a collar. After failing to identify his owner, officers spent approximately one hour trying to solve the situation without using a catch pole. They then decided to use a taser. Using the catch pole, they tried to calm him. Gunner became aggressive; officers “reasonably believed” that, if he escaped, he would attack. As a "last resort," they shot him once; he died. His owner, Jacklyn Shughart, posted that Gunner was "murdered." She believes a trespasser let her dogs loose; she found her other dog before Gunner was killed. Residents held a walk for Gunner, and protested the police’s actions. Police shoot rescue dog in Lebanon yard; now the dog’s owner wants justice (msn.com); https://www.wgal.com/article/residents-in-lebanon-hold-protest-over-dog-shot-police/40607734; https://www.abc27.com/news/local/lebanon/walk-to-remember-lebanon-dog-shot-by-police/. (Gunner’s killing reiterates the need for better training and equipping of police in handling dog incidents and better coordination by law enforcement and humane authorities in responding, and the need for collars with ID.)

The Pennsylvania Game Commission authorized the Bureau of Wildlife Management to develop the American Marten Reintroduction and Management Plan. The American marten was commonly found in portions of Pennsylvania until about the 1920s and 1930s, when deforestation damaged its core range in northcentral Pennsylvania, known as the PA Wilds. A large majority of the public supports reintroduction, which is estimated to take 5 years. PGC moves closer to reintroducing American marten | |
United States – Federal


**Center for Biological Diversity v. Raimondo** (D.D.C., July 8, 2022). District Judge James E. Boasberg, opening his Memorandum Opinion with the closing line of Herman Melville’s *Moby Dick*, granted CBD’s summary judgment motion against the National Marine Fishing Service (NMFS), the Secretary of Commerce and intervenors including the Maine Lobstermen’s Association. Fishing gear, used to catch lobsters, is the greatest human threat to North Atlantic right whales, of whom 370 remain. NMFS must file a Biological Opinion finding that any new fishery will not threaten them. Its 2021 Biological Opinion violated the Endangered Species Act because it did not satisfy the Marine Mammal Protection Act’s (MMPA) “negligible impact” requirement; its Final Rule violated the time requirements. Accordingly, both were invalid. Given potential effects on the lobster industry and Maine’s and Massachusetts’ economies, and the statutory and regulatory environment, Judge Boasberg directed further briefing to propose alternatives. Memorandum Opinion: [https://www.docketalarm.com/cases/District_Of_Columbia_District_Court/1--18-cv-00112/CENTER_FOR_BIOLOGICAL_DIVERSITY_et_al_v._ROSS_et_al/219](https://www.docketalarm.com/cases/District_Of_Columbia_District_Court/1--18-cv-00112/CENTER_FOR_BIOLOGICAL_DIVERSITY_et_al_v._ROSS_et_al/219); see [https://lawstreetmedia.com/news/agriculture/enviro-land-use/court-opinion-says-endangered-whales-not-protected-enough-from-harm-of-lobster-fishing-gear](https://lawstreetmedia.com/news/agriculture/enviro-land-use/court-opinion-says-endangered-whales-not-protected-enough-from-harm-of-lobster-fishing-gear).

**Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.**, Case 2:22-cv-02258-TC-TJJ (D.Kansas, filed June 30, 2022). S.C., a former Hobby Lobby employee, needs a service dog, to assist with her PTSD, depression and anxiety, protected conditions under the Americans with Disabilities Act. After starting her new job, she told her manager she was getting the dog. She provided a letter from her health provider and met with HR; Hobby Lobby denied her request, citing “safety hazards and the overall nature of the business.” This was contrary to store policy for customers with service dogs. When S.C. returned to work, she brought her dog and again requested ADA reasonable accommodation. The manager sent her home; she was fired for “abandonment of work.” The EEOC tried to negotiate resolution with Hobby Lobby; when that failed, it sued on S.C.’s behalf. [Hobby Lobby wouldn’t let Kansas worker use](https://www.docketalarm.com/cases/District_Of_Columbia_District_Court/1--18-cv-00112/CENTER_FOR_BIOLOGICAL_DIVERSITY_et_al_v._ROSS_et_al/219) a service dog to assist with PTSD, depression and anxiety. **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.**, Case 2:22-cv-02258-TC-TJJ (D.Kansas, filed June 30, 2022). S.C., a former Hobby Lobby employee, needs a service dog, to assist with her PTSD, depression and anxiety, protected conditions under the Americans with Disabilities Act. After starting her new job, she told her manager she was getting the dog. She provided a letter from her health provider and met with HR; Hobby Lobby denied her request, citing “safety hazards and the overall nature of the business.” This was contrary to store policy for customers with service dogs. When S.C. returned to work, she brought her dog and again requested ADA reasonable accommodation. The manager sent her home; she was fired for “abandonment of work.” The EEOC tried to negotiate resolution with Hobby Lobby; when that failed, it sued on S.C.’s behalf. [Hobby Lobby wouldn’t let Kansas worker use](https://www.docketalarm.com/cases/District_Of_Columbia_District_Court/1--18-cv-00112/CENTER_FOR_BIOLOGICAL_DIVERSITY_et_al_v._ROSS_et_al/219) a service dog to assist with PTSD, depression and anxiety.
This summer, four pets died during transit by the Air Force’s Patriot Express, operated by its Air Mobility Command, for pets of military personnel and families. General Mike Minihan, AMC’s head, apologized to their owners. AMC is investigating these incidents and researching improvements for its services. https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-air-force/2022/07/16/air-force-general-apologizes-after-3-pets-die-in-flight-during-moves/; https://www.stripes.com/branches/air_force/2022-07-15/air-mobility-command-dogs-death-6657566.html.

Other States
California: In 2020, police confronted Orlando Vela pushing a shopping cart containing a dog he stabbed and set on fire; he was "aggressive, combative, yelling," refused to obey them, drew a 12'' dagger and walked into traffic. More police arrived; Vela swung at them, was taken to ground but continued to resist, attempting to bite officers. The dog died; post mortem showed it was alive when set on fire. A jury convicted Vela of arson, animal cruelty and brandishing a deadly weapon at police; he faces up to 31 years in prison. Man convicted of stabbing and lighting dog on fire (msn.com).

California and Mexico: Mexican officials raided Black Jaguar-White Tiger, a big cats sanctuary operated by The Black Jaguar-White Tiger Foundation, a California charity, and Eduardo Serio. They removed 190 lions, tigers, jaguars and other animals from “deplorable conditions.” Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office announced that Serio “is wanted for the extreme abandonment and mistreatment of hundreds of large felines.” The nation’s Association of Zoos, Breeders and Aquariums, AZCARM, denounced Black Jaguar-White Tiger and its operator for “extreme abandonment and mistreatment of hundreds of big felines that are in various states of extinction." Animals devoured themselves to avoid starvation,' investigators alleging mistreatment at sanctuary say (msn.com).

Indiana: A witness told police that Carl Cooper was in her apartment building lobby with a small dog, got upset when the dog wouldn’t come when called, picked it up and threw it against a wall. She confronted him, saying she was going to call the police; Cooper told her he would kill her if she did, then left with the dog. Apartment residents saw Cooper toss the dog into a dumpster; bystanders rescued it. Surveillance footage captured the incident. Cooper was arrested and charged with torture of an animal, intimidation and criminal trespass. Police: Man arrested after throwing dog against wall & in dumpster (msn.com).

Kentucky: Law enforcement responded to a report of Greg Rigdon having dogs that were not being fed or watered. They found dogs severely malnourished, with no food or water. Some had rotting animals or animal bones in their cages; Rigdon stated he put them there for the dogs to eat. He reportedly had one empty dog food bag and stated that no other dog food was on the property. He was charged with 5 counts of Cruelty to Animals 2nd Degree. Thereafter, Animal Control reported to the Sheriff's Office that
there were more dead dogs. It located a “mummified” dog, in a doghouse, still wearing a collar and chain, but with no signs of food or water. Other collars were found with dogs’ skeletal remains. Rigdon was then charged with Torture of a Dog/Cat with Serial Physical Injury or Death. This was the third incident for which he was charged with Cruelty. **Skeleton remains, malnourished dogs found at man’s home, third incident of animal cruelty for suspect (msn.com).**

Minnesota: Staphanie Hope Smith, co-CEO of Peace Bunny Foundation, faces counts including animal cruelty, torture and abandonment, after police, responding to her landlord’s report, found 47 dead rabbits in a rented barn and dozens of others needing care. A veterinarian came on-site and euthanized two rabbits; dozens of dead rabbits were in the barn. The veterinarian reported two litters of orphaned bunnies and 19 rabbits needing immediate attention. There were also 50 caged rabbits and 150 photographed for injuries. Smith stated that her son founded the rescue as a 4-H project, agreed that conditions were not appropriate, and said most of the bunnies were to go to a different group. She claimed the barn was being redone, so the bunnies were moved, creating a crowding issue. **Rabbit nonprofit CEO faces animal cruelty charges after 47 bunnies found dead in barn (msn.com).**

Tennessee: Former Goldrush Stables employees asked owner Peggy Wilson to fire David Allen Whaley after they caught him on video whipping a horse. Wilson said they posted the video as retaliation because she fired them. She said she learned of the video in May, “scolded” Whaley but kept him on staff. With the video posted, she fired him. Whaley was arrested for animal cruelty. Law enforcement stated that the horse was checked and appeared to have no injuries. **Former employee describes horse whipping incident at Pigeon Forge stables (msn.com).**

Texas: Like other humane organizations, El Paso, Texas, Animal Services and the Animal Rescue League of El Paso report a severe increase in abandoned and stray dogs and cats and decreases in adoptions. The El Paso Animal Shelter Advisory Committee is composing an animal welfare issues list and proposed legislative solutions to recommend to the City for its state legislative agenda; the next Texas Legislature begins in January 2023. Suggestions include increased penalties for abandoning pets, stricter rules to obtain breeding certificates, grooming regulations, and requiring the spaying and neutering of pets. **https://www.arlep.org/; Animal Services, rescues overloaded with abandoned dogs, cats - El Paso Matters.**

International

French Polynesia: Rimatara, a French Polynesian island, has a complex of efforts to save the Rimatara lorikeye, critically endangered with only 1,500 in the wild. The major threat is rats, an invasive species which arrives by boat and cargo ship; habitat destruction and nest competition are also threats. In 2007, 27 lorikeyets were relocated from Rimatara to Atiu, in the Cook Islands, in a project by Rima Ura (a conservation organization), the Cook Island Natural Heritage Trust and government and international partners; Atiu’s lorikeyet population is now at least 400. **How one tiny island is rallying to save a critically endangered parrot (nationalgeographic.com).**
Germany: A species protection sniffer dog at Leipzig/Halle Airport found 844 endangered seahorses, dried, being smuggled to be used as "natural Viagra" according to “traditional medicine.” The package, weighing about 5 kilograms, was reportedly in transit from Senegal to Laos. Customs Dog Sniffs Out Hundreds of Endangered Seahorses at Airport (msn.com).

Mozambique: Zinave National Park welcomed its first white rhinos in 40 years when 19 arrived from South Africa under an initiative to restore wildlife and boost the local economy. Park wildlife was decimated by Mozambique's long civil war, which ended in 1992, and by poaching. Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) led the project. Zinave is now the only Mozambique park to house all "Big Five" African game animals: elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo. Since 2015, 2,400 animals from 14 species have been released into the park. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies the white rhinoceros as near-threatened; the African black rhino is listed as critically endangered. PPF plans to more than double the park's rhino population over the next three years, adding to both species. White rhinos return to Mozambique park after 40 years (msn.com).

Research, Publications and Other Media

Non-Legal News
A TikTok user started a “frog army” with eggs from a pond near his home. He claims to have more than 1.4m eggs that hatched into tadpoles in his backyard pool, and to plan a pond for 10m frogs. Another user claimed to have released 100m ladybugs in Central Park. Their posts have hundreds of millions of views. CBD biologist Tierra Curry noted the risks of relocating species, to both the relocated and native species. Scientists note that human relocation of frogs is a top threat: one fungus introduced by humans redistributing amphibians caused a “mass extinction” of more than 90 species. TikTok's platform and business model were criticized regarding these activities. In addition, the frog and ladybug releases could be illegal, based on applicable national and state laws. (The frog TikTokker claims to be in the UK.) Similar posts should be reported to wildlife agencies. TikTok ‘frog army’ stunt could have grave consequences, experts warn (msn.com).

Several nonhumans have held or run for political office: https://www.interestingfacts.com/animals-political-office/YoLZn1uKogAHE3i2.

FedEx helped transport 7 rescued chimpanzees from the path of California wildfires to Save the Chimps, a sanctuary in Fort Pierce, Florida. https://savethechimps.org/;
Cheddar, a female, extremely rare orange lobster rescued from a Red Lobster restaurant, is acclimating at Ripley's Marine Science Research Center in Myrtle Beach; she will have a new home at Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach. [1-in-30 million rare lobster spared from steamer after Red Lobster employees discover her in shipment (msn.com)].

Feline Rowdy escaped from her carrier at Boston's Logan International Airport on June 24, apparently while being unloaded from a flight from Germany. She was presumed to be in the cargo area, hence contained. She evaded capture for three weeks. On July 13, she was captured and returned to her owners, Pati Sahli and her family. [Cat Lost in Boston Airport Found After Evading Capture for 3 Weeks: 'I'm Kind of in Disbelief' (msn.com)].


The Nevada Humane Society, with Best Friends Animal Network, offered a free adoptions day to address the decrease in adoptions and increase in pet surrenders. [Nevada Humane Society offers free adoptions to help with influx of pets (msn.com)]. (Nationwide, there are reports of increased pet dumping and surrenders, due to inflation, surrender of “pandemic pets” and landlord refusals to allow pets.)

The Oklahoma City Zoo welcomed Katara, a female fishing cat, from North Carolina's Greensboro Science Center, as part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan for these cats. Native to South and Southeast Asia, the International Union for Conservation Nature considers them vulnerable. Wetland destruction is their greatest threat, followed by hunting and fishing. She joins the Zoo's three males, Chet, Boon and Puddles. [OKC Zoo welcomes new fishing cat to the Zoo family (msn.com)].

The Morristown, Tennessee, Fire Department rescued a kitten from a Walmart Pepsi vending machine. A store employee on lunch break heard her “screeching”; she and other employees had tried to get her out. Lindsey Russell, who discovered her, is involved in rescue work with her mother. She kept the kitten, and is considering Pepper, Pepsi and Pep as names. Video: [https://www.wvlt.tv/2022/07/01/kitten-rescued-vending-machine-by-morristown-woman/]; Kitten rescued from a vending machine by a Morristown woman (msn.com); [Tennessee firefighters rescue kitten stuck in ... a Pepsi vending machine? (msn.com)].
In June 2021, Wes Milner, a Grapevine, Texas, animal services officer, started setting humane traps, feeding areas and cameras after reports of a stray dog. He named the Australian Shepherd-Lab mix Ghost and caught him early in 2022. Ghost had emotional and behavioral issues after his long abandonment, and needed work. Finally, Jonathan Kaing and his wife adopted Ghost as a partner for their Husky Athena. Video: Dog abandoned at North Texas lake now has a forever home after living on his own for 7 months (msn.com).

On July 4, Jill, a Pittie mix, found her new home after 10 years at the Clay County, Texas, animal shelter. Brought in as a 1-year-old stray, she had heartworms. She then had difficulty getting adopted because of her escape-artist talent; she was adopted once, but escaped her fenced yard and was returned. In addition, she faced landlords’ prohibitions on Pitties, a problem as most residences in the area are rentals. However, Keelie Blassingame’s landlord does not prohibit breeds, but will meet a prospective adopted dog to determine its personality. Jill won him over. Independence Day: Sweet Pit Bull Mix Jill Finds Forever Home After 10 Years in Shelter (msn.com).

Fishermen at Lake Vygozero, in the Russian Federation near the Finnish border, rescued 2 bear cubs from the Lake. Their mother tried to carry them to another land location, but had to shake them off as she weakened in the freezing water. The fishermen saw the cubs from their boat and approached. The cubs tried to get onboard using their claws and teeth; the fishermen helped with a net. They carried them to shore, risky as they did not see the mother, and hoped that the family reunited. Adorable Bear Cubs Saved by Fishermen After Being Abandoned - page 1 of 41 - The Journaylist.

Kira, a wolf-Malamute hybrid in Kira, Russian Federation, plays with Bogdan, her human brother, and also plays with neighborhood dogs; she also gets along with her feline sibling. Video: HOWL’S ABOUT A CUDDLE? Pet Wolf Who Just Wants To Play | Watch (msn.com).