

NEW YORK INVADED BY WILD BOARS

This sounds like a possible script for a new slasher movie, but apparently an invasion of wild boars in Central New York State is not fiction. The feral swine are a non-native species suspected of escaping from game farms. It's reported that as many as a couple of hundred are roaming the state.

"In the absence of aggressive professional management, these populations will likely continue their expansion and become entrenched in New York State with potentially devastating consequences to natural resources, agriculture, and human health and safety," according to an official report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

While an exact picture of the wild boar population in New York State is unclear, a report from the USDA said the swine were successfully breeding in the three counties and producing litters averaging four to six piglets. Reports indicate that shooting the boar needs to be precisely executed. Local farmers believe that the boars skulls are so thick that bullets 'glance off' the skull.

AUSTRALIAN PET OWNERS ENCOURAGED TO HUG THEIR PETS FOR WARMTH IN WINTER

"Snuggle up under a rug, snuggle with your family or cuddle your favourite pet. You could avoid the TV and snuggle up in bed with a good book or with someone who's read one lately," is the advice given by the Australian Government's **Living Greener** website (<http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/>). Other advice suggests ditching a warm shower and standing under a heat lamp instead or warming a bathrobe. The website is geared to modifying lifestyles before power bills are expected to jump 10 percent when the carbon tax begins next July.

MELBOURNE ZOO ACCUSED OF TREATING ORANGUTANS POORLY

A recent report from the *Borneo Post* has a Palm Oil Council chief executive slamming the treatment of Orangutans at Melbourne Zoo. The one-sided report (Melbourne Zoo representatives were not quoted, nor was there any suggestion that they were contacted), has many quotes from the Palm Oil Council's Dr Yusof Basiron citing extreme cruelty towards the captive Orangutans.

Dr Yusof Basiron told the Borneo-based paper that he made a "quick visit to the Melbourne Zoo to check out the anti-palm oil signs outside the Orangutan enclosure."

Palm oil farming has long been considered the reason why Malaysia's population of Orangutans has been steadily declining.


Dr Yusof was quoted, "Australians must visit our Orangutan sanctuaries in Malaysia and see how well the animals are taken care of."

What Dr Yusof doesn't explain is the reason why Malaysia has had to set up sanctuaries in the first place—because of their diminishing natural environment due to farming and poaching.

TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES—BUT NOT FOR SOME PETS

The late fashion designer, Alexander McQueen left £50,000 in his will for the care and continued opulent lifestyle for his dogs. McQueen is not the only British pet lover to bequeath large amounts of money to their pets. A recent survey by a UK pet insurance company found that over 27 percent of pet owners leave generous legacies to their pets or intend to.

"Pet owners are naturally concerned about the long term care of their pets, and many are taking the necessary steps to make sure they are provided for in their wills," company chief John Ellenger said.

Half of the pet owners who included pets in their wills said they did so because they didn't want their pet to end up in a rescue centre. When considering their pet's future, 70 percent of owners made arrangements with family, friends and neighbours, the survey found, while 19 percent intended to make provision in their will for a full time pet sitter. 

The food of choice for Australia's wildlife protection dogs...



As seen on 60 Mins & 7.30 Report

Steve Austin Australia's Leading Dog Trainer pictured above with Springer Spaniel "Ash" and one of Macquarie Islands many seals. "Ash" is one of around 8 dogs trained over a 2 year period to sniff out rabbits and rodents at the world heritage listed Macquarie Island – a sub Antarctic environment south of Tasmania.

The project will be the largest island eradication program for rabbits, rats or mice ever attempted, and one of the largest conservation projects in Tasmania. The dogs are expected to be working at Macquarie Island for 6 years with an aim to restore the island to its natural habitat, ensuring the perpetuation of many animal species including penguins and seals.

Nutrience Active is the food of choice for the Macquarie Island dogs providing high quality protein with low allergen formulas and no by-products, wheat or fillers.

For more details on this amazing project go to www.parks.tas.gov.au



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