STEWART SIGNS OFF

// BY KAREN E. LANGE

THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART started as comedy in 1999 and continued for 15 years as a satire of current events, even as it became a main source of news for a growing number of viewers. Stewart covered issues HSUS members care about—including farm animal welfare, the treatment of captive elephants and orcas, and the ivory trade. His final show is scheduled for Aug. 6 on Comedy Central, but his animal advocacy will continue. Stewart and his wife, Tracey, bought a New Jersey property where they plan to take in rescued farm animals. Here are a few of Stewart's not-so-serious takes on animal welfare.

“It’s harder to eat meat when you know the animal’s name.”
—INTERVIEW WITH GENE BAUR, FARM SANCTUARY, APRIL 6, 2015

“At what point do you think to yourself, ‘Oh, this is a sentient creature and what I’m doing isn’t right’? … Even going there you rationalize. While you’re [at SeaWorld] you say, ‘That’s a pretty good size swimming pool.’ Not for a whale [though]. Is it possible to have this kind of thing in a humane way, or are we kidding ourselves?”
—INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HARGROVE, FORMER SEAWORLD TRAINER, MARCH 26, 2015

“Chicken without antibiotics? Well, now I’m conflicted. I want healthier food. But I’ll miss treating my ear infections with the Buffalo Ranch McChicken.”
—SEGMENT ON MCDONALD’S ANNOUNCING IT WILL NO LONGER USE CHICKENS RAISED WITH ANTIBIOTICS, MARCH 17, 2015

“It’s easier to keep them in these tiny confined boxes—like shoes that can feel pain. … What’s so great about extending your limbs, anyway?”
—SEGMENT ON PROPOSED NEW JERSEY LAW TO BAN GESTATION CRATES FOR BREEDING PIGS, NOV. 19, 2014

“Our insatiable hunger for ivory trinkets is having a catastrophic impact on the ivory’s original owners. … Either we as humans can decrease our consumption of ivory by no longer buying trinkets we don’t even need, or elephants can change this two-year gestation thing and start shooting out pups like a T-shirt cannon. … Clearly, we’re not going to save elephants because it’s the right thing to do.”
—SEGMENT ON IVORY TRADE, NOV. 12, 2014

+ ON THE IPAD: Watch clips of some of Stewart’s best segments on animal welfare.

THIS HEARTWARMING adoption story follows Gigi, a young white terrier mix, as she goes from a hungry, lonely stray dog to a cherished pet with plenty of good food and a soft, warm bed. The Tail of Gigi uses fun, easy language to introduce children to the adoption process and the vital work of local shelters. With cheerful, whimsical illustrations by author Maureen Skaggs, who was diagnosed with autism as a child and found great companionship with her own pets, these pages will entertain audiences of all ages. The perfect read before visiting the shelter to pick out a new family member or to inspire the next generation of animal caregivers.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATOR J.A. Mills’ harrowing journey to expose the illegal bear trade in China revealed an even more horrific reality: thousands of tigers farmed for their parts. Mills chronicles their shocking and sorrowful fate in Blood of the Tiger: A Story of Conspiracy, Greed, and the Battle to Save a Magnificent Species. China has banned the trade in tiger bone parts, but approximately 6,000 tigers currently suffer in cages. They are forced to breed at unnatural rates and the sick are left to die, all for frivolities such as rugs and tiger bone wine. Mills’ provocative, heart-stopping account will educate, enrage and inspire her readers, gripping their attention with the very first sentence and never letting go—even long after they’ve finished the last page.

WHAT’S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?
Email us at allanimals@humanesociety.org and tell us what animal-inspired books you’re reading.