

Scimitar Horned Oryx, Addax and Dama Gazelle Update

I know that many of you have been confused by the rumors floating around the country concerning the three species, [Scimitar Horned Oryx, Dama Gazelle and Addax] and could not figure out why the Exotic Wildlife Association could not get something more definitive out to our membership. I can now tell you that your board of directors and staff have been working extremely hard over the last few weeks to represent, what we believe is best for our membership and best for the three species themselves. The decision in this matter has not been an easy one. Legal action is very costly but in reaching their decision the EWA Directors decided that the time we all knew would come one day has finally arrived. The ruling made by Judge Kennedy, in the case, was much more than a ruling against the three species. This was a ruling against our very right to do what we do. Every single person, whether you have one of the three species or whether you just support private property rights should be very concerned about the judges ruling. Without going through all of the legal language in this ruling the result is that the three species, those that are born and raised in the United States, will not be exempted from their listing on the endangered species list; although Judge Kennedy did agree that what we have done for the Scimitar Horn Oryx, Dama Gazelle and Addax has been a good thing, and he further agreed that the plaintiffs in this matter (Humane Society of the United States and Friends of Animals) have not been damaged in any way. The crucial part of his ruling is that these species will remain on the Endangered Species list and be subject to all the restrictions of that act. He stated that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did not have the authority to exempt animals from the permitting process or the public comment period.

The Exotic Wildlife Association's Board of Directors, through a unanimous vote of its Executive Committee has decided to appeal the judge's decision. EWA has retained the services of one of the most respected private property rights law firms in the country by hiring the firm of Marzulla and Marzulla located in Washington D.C. The appeal was filed Wednesday, August 12th and will take several months to be heard by the three judge panel in Washington D.C.'s Circuit Court of Appeals.

We believe we have an outstanding chance at reversing the lower court's opinion.

Over the next few months we will be asking for our member's support in this legal battle to save these as well as other species that the Humane Society of the United States and the Friends of Animals have targeted. Remember these groups have never contributed one dime to the welfare of any animal.

The EWA is asking all of our members to refer any inquires or questions to Charly Seale at (830) 928-3158. By having a designated spokesman our message stays consistent. As you well know the media and any and all anti's will use any misstatement to their benefit as an attempt to hurt our objectives.