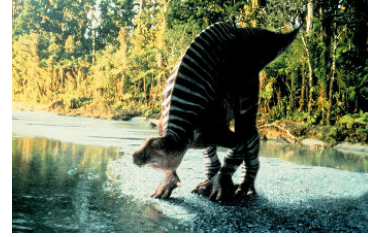


## **Blue Iguanodon<sup>1,2</sup>**

**VAST CONTEST 2007 SOLUTION**

**7<sup>th</sup> TSG Dataset**

**Mark Whiting, Carrie Varley, Jereme Haack  
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**Figure 1**

**<http://www.lucernewworldclass.ch/photos/iguanadon.jpg>**

This scenario focuses on the activities surrounding Luella Vedric, a New York socialite, animal rights champion, and a secret marketer of illegal exotic animals, a trade that provides her with a sizeable income.

Luella is a friend and supporter with Catherine “Collie” Carnes, who is also the president of the “Society for the Prevention Of Mistreatment of Animals” or SPOMA. SPOMA is an activist group that advocates civil disobedience against the fur industry, in particular, and recruits high profile media stars to support their cause. SPOMA is linked to PETA and ALF, but do not engage in active sabotage or raids of farms or laboratories. But they do protest at fur retailers with graphic signs depicting animal cruelty, as in figure 2.



**Figure 2**

**<http://photosc.msspro.com/pic/fur20055.jpg>**

Collie acknowledges (and quietly supports) a more radical animal rights group called the Animal Justice League (AJL). The AJL performs more violent protest activities, and maintain a leaderless, Internet-enabled organization. Collie knows Faron Gardner, a techno-saavy activist, known for his out-of-the-box techniques to make a point about animal rights.

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<sup>1</sup> The Iguanodon lived in the early Cretaceous period (about 135-125 million years ago). Iguanodon means “Iguana Tooth”. The Iguanodon lived in every continent except for Antarctica. It was a herbivore and was at least 30 feet long and 16 feet tall. The Iguanodon was said to run at least 15-20 km/hr. Back in 1829 the Iguanodon fossils were very common and are found in many different museums, especially in Belgium, England, Germany, North America, and in the USA. (Taken from various web resources.)

<sup>2</sup> The Blue iguana (*Cyclura lewisi*) is a critically endangered animal that lives on the island of Grand Cayman. It is currently estimated that only a mere 25 animals still survive; the wild population is expected to be extinct within the first decade of the twenty-first century. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue\\_Iguana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Iguana)) There is one (or maybe more) area within the iguana range that produce predominantly blue iguanas. These iguanas, when happy, exhibit a beautiful turquoise blue color. When they are cold or stressed, they are green... These iguanas, which may come from Peru, should not be confused with the many baby iguanas from all over the range who show lots of blue when they are hatchlings. For a year so so, there was a flood of "blue iguanas" in the pet trade, with dealers snapping them and selling them for 3-4 x the price of the "regular" green iguanas. The people who paid more for these "special" iguanas found to their dismay that by the time their "blue" iguana reached a year of age, they were just as green as any other iguana. The true "blue" iguanas look exactly like the green iguanas when the are babies, so picking a blue hatchling is no guarantee that it will retain any blue as it matures. (<http://www.anapsid.org/iguana/skincolor.html>)

Luella markets three kinds of exotics: African (everything from giraffes to tigers to primates), South American rodents, and South American fish.

One of Luella's most colorful customers is "r'Bear"<sup>3</sup>, a millionaire singing performer who owns a vast collection of exotic animals in a southern California sanctuary, called Shraavana. r'Bear's collection consists of 2200 animals including hippos, rhinos, and zebras. None of Luella's transactions go directly between her and r'Bear, there is a mysterious Madhi Kim who is the intermediary who arranges for the air freight shipments and takes cares of all other details.

African animals come to Luella's customers through a connection she had made long ago with a Jordanian circus owner named Abu Hassan. Abu travels his circus through several African countries under the name "Professor Assan and his Amazing Animals." Species that have mysteriously been added to or removed from their collection include chimpanzees, lions, tigers, pythons, and parrots. Countries that the circus has traveled to include Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique. It has not been allowed to perform in all of these countries. Abu works import/export issues through Madhi Kim.

South American animals come to Luella's customers through another connection named Mercurio Navarro. Navarro works two trade routes: one for South American chinchillas through New Orleans, the other for exotic fish through Miami. His connections for the chinchilla trade is Rosalind Baptista. His connections for the fish are Martin Nieve and Paco Cuero, but these are *missing links* in the data. Navarro works through Kim for freight details, although he is known to interact directly with Luella on occasion.

Nieve and Cuero obtain fish, such as the Tigrinus Catfish (sells for \$500 USD) from Brazil and Peru and other Amazon Basin areas. A nastier aspect of the exotic fish importing is that they are also smuggling liquid cocaine from Peru into the U.S. via the water in the fish containers. The clever scheme has the packaging comprising two clear plastic bags, with the lining between the inside and outside bags containing the liquid cocaine. This water is tinted blue to disguise any precipitation that may occur in transit. They have rigged the containers so that 80% of the containers do not have any drugs, minimizing their chances of getting caught if packages are inspected.



**Figure 3**  
[http://www.planetcatfish.com/catalog/image.php?image\\_id=469](http://www.planetcatfish.com/catalog/image.php?image_id=469)

Ortiz and Baptista obtain rare species of wild Chinchilla from Chile (selling for up to \$500 USD), skirting export laws, and taking advantage of a recent swell in chinchilla popularity among pet owners. Chinchilla ownership had become a new fad and chinchilla were the Playstation 3 of the times. However of note:

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<sup>3</sup> R'Bear is aka roBear, roBert, and r!Bear.

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Exploitation for the fur trade to markets in Europe and North America started by the onset of the 19th century and demand for the pelts continues today. Requiring a hundred pelts per coat, this fur is among the most expensive and rarest in the world. "In 1928, a coat made of Bolivian pelts cost half a million gold marks" (Bickel, 1937). In 1992, a domestic chinchilla fur coat on sale at Elan Furs (Indianapolis, Indiana) cost \$22,000. (<http://sapphire.indstate.edu/%7Edeanea/conserv.html>)

Yet, the pet trade made up the bulk of the excitement over these new animals. Baptista has been captured in photos depicting illegal wild chinchilla harvesting in Chile. Articles concerning illegal wild chinchilla harvesting have appeared in the Animal Rights digest

However, the new fad has made some people upset. Cesar Gil (cn: Amarillo) is a chinchilla distributor for Kim in the Los Angeles area (a large chinchilla market). Gil is also a member of the AJL and is distressed by the harvesting of wild chinchilla in Chile and has decided to thwart the fad and make a statement about man's destruction of nature. He begins to run a significant sized effort to infect chinchilla with monkeypox. He believes that he must sacrifice a few domestic chinchilla (and people) to save the wild breed, since people will not buy chinchilla that are infected. He does this by mixing infected prairie dogs (obtained from mid-west AJL members) with the chinchilla and distributing sick chinchilla to the public. r'Bear becomes one of the first victims. Gil also provides cut rate chinchilla to other pet stores and distributors and is able to provide a large number of chinchilla before officials track down the problem to his farm and he is forced to close down. His plan is remarkably successful, as people do not have immunization against smallpox (having been eradicated some years ago) which would have protected against monkeypox. He also got lucky -- the strain of monkeypox he propagates is more virulent than the Midwest strain.



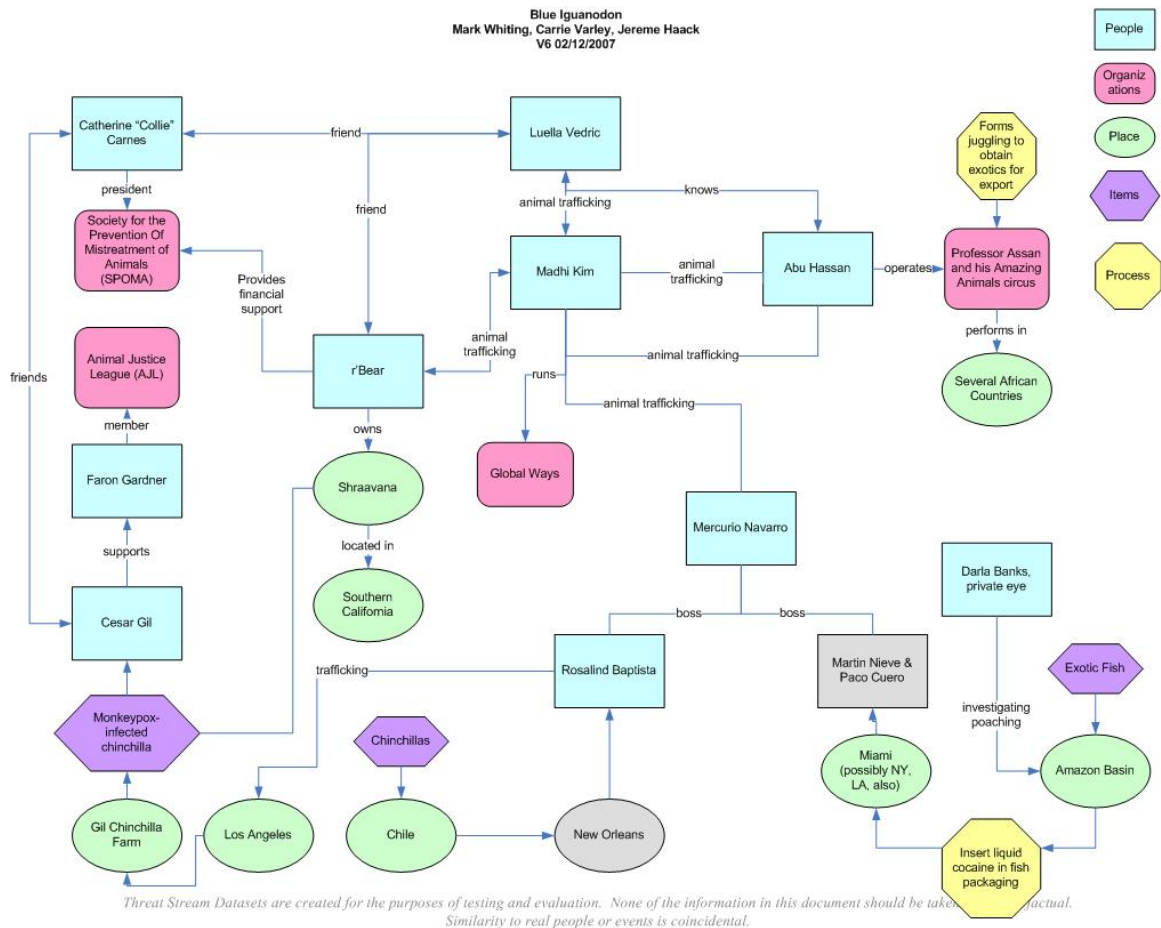
**Figure 4 See? Told you they were popular.**  
<http://www.chinchilla-fanclub.de/01010013.jpg>

### **Social network diagrams:**

NOTES: this diagram was used to provide the judges with a baseline. We expect that teams will propose better representations of the data.

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