

OCPA E-Alert October 2004



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Good News for the Animals!

Federal Animal Fighting Bill Approved by Committee

HR 4264, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, was approved by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill establishes felony penalties for those who violate the federal animal righting law (covering cockfighting and dogfighting) and will ban interstate/foreign commerce in the weapons cockfighters strap to birds' legs. The bill is now poised for consideration by the full U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. Please contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to support this bill. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Massachusetts Proposes to Ban Use of Exotic Animals in Circuses

Citing reports of abuse by trainers, Senator Robert Hedlund is calling on Massachusetts to become the first state to ban circus animals. Hedlund's proposal calls for a statewide ban on the use of non-domesticated exotic animals in circuses. Many cities and towns prohibit circus animals, but there is no statewide ban as of yet.

Federal Court Upholds California Ban on Traps and Poisons

The federal court in northern California issued a ruling on Proposition 4, adopted by California voters in 1998 to protect pets and wildlife from cruel traps and poisons. The court dismissed the claims from the National Trappers Association about the legality of Proposition 4, noting that the trappers do not have a standing to sue that the law should stand.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Vote No on Proposition 64!

Animals do not have legal standing (they cannot engage in litigation) and sadly, district attorneys frequently do not enforce animal cruelty laws against corporations. Over the years, California's unfair business practices statute has allowed humane organizations the opportunity to end the cruel treatment of animals through litigation, but Proposition 64 would remove this provision. Proposition 64 would prohibit private parties from challenging unfair business practices, including animal cruelty.

Proposition 64 is a ballot initiative, not a bill introduced by the legislature. Therefore, it is entirely up to the voters to address this issue in November. Please vote NO on Proposition 64.

Urge Congress to Crack Down on Canned Hunts

A bill was recently introduced in the House of Representatives to ban the interstate transport of captive mammals for the purpose of shooting them in canned hunts. The coalition of groups opposed to this cruel and unethical form of "hunting" is diverse and includes animal protection, hunting, environmental, zoological, and conservation organizations.

Please contact your Representative and ask him/her to support the bill to ban this horrible practice. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Help California Seals

Seals in La Jolla are in terrible danger because of a misjudgment by the La Jolla City Council and the federal government. The city council removed the protective barriers and signage surrounding Children's Pool, a unique cove where seals have been resting and raising their young for decades. Since that time, seals are being harassed and injured.

Please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service and La Jolla City Councilperson Scott Peters. Ask them to put back the rope and signs and prevent people from harassing and harming the seals – and to develop a plan to designate this area as a protected seal reserve. Contact: Cathy Campbell, National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest, Regional Office, 562-980-4060, email: Cathy.E.Campbell@noaa.gov. Contact: Councilman Scott Peters, 619-236-6611, email: ScottPeters@sandiego.gov.

Recent OCPA Activities

OCPA Welcomes Dr. Alison Stanley to the Board

OCPA is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Alison Stanley to the Board of Directors. Alison Stanley holds a doctorate in psychology from Claremont Graduate School. She is employed by the California Department of Mental Health, consulting to forensic mental health outpatient programs. She spends most of her free time engaged in animal activism. She serves as co-director of California Lobby for Animal Welfare, a local political action committee that seeks passage of anti-circus ordinances. Dr. Stanley lives in Long Beach with her many beloved rescued dogs and cats. We look forward to working with her and benefiting from her experience in local animal rights and welfare issues.

Saturday, October 23rd – Caring for Creation Conference

On Saturday, October 23rd, OCPA took part in Caring for Creation at Aldersgate Methodist Church in Tustin. Caring for Creation is a conference created by Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. OCICE'S mission is to bring the environmental and faith communities together to work toward common environmental concerns. Duane Elgin, author and speaker gave an inspiring talk- "World at the Tipping Point, Collective Wisdom for a Positive Future."

A wide range of workshops were offered throughout the day including one on Creation Spirituality, A Diet for Those Who Care, The Plastics Plague, and Environmentally Friendly Landscaping. Over 200 people attended the annual Caring for Creation Conference, which is held every October. OCPA members Susan Estrella and Julie Meskell tabled at this event for OCPA and the Christian Vegetarian Association.

OCPA Learning Session Featuring George Eisman from Farm Sanctuary – Sunday, October 24th at 5:30 p.m.

George Eisman, registered Dietician and founder of Vegedine, spoke at the Living Temple as part of his tour for Farm Sanctuary. This tour is in response to the growing numbers of animals who are suffering due to the surge in the high-protein diet craze. Dr. Eisman addressed the issue of high-protein, Atkin's style diets and made recommendations for following a healthy, vegan diet. Dr. Eisman pointed out the limited good parts of the Atkin's Nutritional plan, which include the requirement to drink at least 8 glasses of water, and to avoid drinking cow's milk. He believes the latter recommendation is made to keep people on the diet, which they may not stick to if they have all the horrible symptoms, like bloating, diarrhea, etc. that are associated with ingesting cow's milk.

George Eisman created the first accredited program in Vegetarian Studies and has been inducted into the Vegetarian Hall of Fame. For information on George Eisman's latest book, " *A Basic Course in Vegetarian and Vegan Nutrition*," go to <http://www.vegforlife.org>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

October 29-31st – National Student Animal Rights Conference in Berkeley

Attention students: Sponsored by the Students Animal Rights Alliance (SARA), the national student animal rights conference is being held in Berkeley from October 29th through 31st. Registration is only \$20 and there are travel grants available. Visit the SARA website at <http://www.DefendAnimals.org> for more information including a list of this year's speakers.

Monday, November 1st – World Vegan Day in Tarzana

Come to Tarzana to participate in the World Vegan Day celebration on Monday, November 1st, between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. This event is free and all vendors will sell only vegan products. Enjoy food, music, speakers and the 60th birthday bash for the word vegan and the first vegan society!

Location: St. Herman's Hall, 5657 Lindley Avenue, Tarzana, California 91356.

Friday, November 26th – Fur-Free Friday

Check our website throughout the coming month, and the November e-alert, for anti-fur demonstrations planned for your area. <http://www.ocpausa.org/events.htm>.

Thank you for everything you do for the animals!

Orange County People for Animals is a Southern California-based 501(c)3 non-profit animal advocacy organization founded in 1988 to help create a compassionate, healthy and peaceful planet for all living beings.

For more information about OCPA, visit our web site at <http://ocpausa.org>. To become an OCPA member or to make a donation using a secure online form, visit <http://ocpausa.org/join.htm>.

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