

OCPA E-Alert March 2005



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Good News for the Animals!

Connecticut Considers Ban on Traveling Elephant Exhibits

A bill was recently introduced in Connecticut that would prohibit the use of elephants for entertainment purposes by traveling shows, theatrical exhibitions and circuses.

Cockfighting Ban Passes in New Mexico

House Bill 878 to ban cockfighting in New Mexico passed with a 50-15 vote without debate or the presence of cockfighting proponents.

Tel-Aviv Bans Animal Circus Acts

The Municipality of Tel-Aviv banned animal circus acts and will avoid any future contracts with circuses that use animals of any sort in their shows. This great achievement was a result of an Anonymous for Animal Rights campaign that incorporated public campaign and political lobby. Hopefully, other cities in Israel and abroad will follow Tel-Aviv's humane and enlightened decision.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Stop Rabbit Slaughter in Mission Viejo

It was brought to OCPA's attention recently that residents at Casta del Sol, a senior gated community in Mission Viejo, have recently received authorization to shoot rabbits using pellet guns. OCPA board members sent a letter to the Mission Viejo City Council voicing our objection to the senseless murder of "nuisance" animals. The letter follows at the end of this e-alert.

Please write the Mayor and City Council as soon as possible, reminding them that there are other, non-lethal and humane methods of dealing with wild animal overpopulation in communities such as Casta del Sol: Mayor Patricia Kelly, Members of the City Council, 200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691.

Support SB 662, Humane Slaughter of Poultry Amendment

The California Animal Association is sponsoring an important bill. SB 662, the Humane Slaughter of Poultry Amendment, which seeks to amend California's method of slaughter law to include spent hens and small game birds. OCPA has joined over a dozen other California humane organizations to create a cohesive force on behalf of the animals.

Please contact the Senate Committee on Agriculture and your Senators as soon as possible and ask them to support this important bill. Remind them that all animals used for human consumption should be provided humane oversight and regulation. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

- Senator Jeff Denham, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, State Capitol Building, Room 3076, Sacramento, CA 95814; Senator.Denham@sen.ca.gov.
- Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814; Senator.Ducheny@sen.ca.gov.
- Other Senate Committee on Agriculture members include (use same address and e-mail naming convention as above): Senator Wesley Chesbro, Senator Dean Florez, Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, Senator Abel Maldonado, Senator Deborah Ortiz, Senator Charles Pochigian, and Senator Edward Vincent.

Help Save Elephants at L.A. Zoo

Many elephants suffer and die premature deaths due to arthritis, chronic foot infections and other conditions caused by an inappropriate environment.

IDA is working with the L.A. City Council and others, informing them of the fact that elephants in captivity sicken and die prematurely due to lack of space. Even with the L.A. Zoo's plan to spend \$12 million to renovate the elephant exhibit, they could never provide the vast amount of space necessary for keeping elephants healthy and alive.

- Please contact your city council member and let them know that you would like to see the elephants in the L.A. Zoo released to a sanctuary and for the zoo to permanently close its elephant exhibit. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.
- Please also contact L.A. City Councilmember, Tom LaBonge, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 480, Los Angeles, CA 90012; phone 213-485-3337; fax 213-624-7810; email Labonge@council.lacity.org.

Support Bill to Ban Dog Ear Cropping in CA

An Assembly Member introduced AB 418, a bill that would ban the cropping of a dog's ears, unless for therapeutic purposes, in the state of California. If passed into law, it would be the first ear cropping ban in

the U.S. The bill was introduced on behalf of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights that represents more than 3,000 veterinary members nationwide.

Despite past opposition from dog breed clubs, the bill is expected to receive support from the veterinary profession, the animal welfare community and the public.

Please contact Committee Chair Mark Leno and express your support for AB 418 by April 4th. The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair, Committee on Public Safety, P.O. Box 942849, Room 3146, Sacramento, CA 94249-0013; assemblymember.leno@assembly.ca.gov.

Recent OCPA Activities

February 27th – OCPA Learning Session at The Living Temple in Huntington Beach

OCPA held another Learning Session at The Living Temple on Sunday, February 27. Long-time members met with new members to share information on animal advocacy. Robin Jones, the owner of The Living Temple, spoke about the health aspects of being vegan.

Humane Education and Outreach to Students in March

OCPA Board member, Julie Meskell, hosted 30 art students from U.C. Riverside for a screening of "The Witness" at The Living Temple on Saturday, March 12th. Many students expressed their frustration with the apathy of the public when it comes to cruelty to animals. Others were shocked to learn about the extent of animal abuse in our society. Most were in agreement that it is necessary to have awareness of these issues if we expect to affect any change. After the discussion, the students gathered for dinner at the Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach.

Julie Meskell also presented a "Circle of Compassion" presentation to the Students for Animal Rights at Foothill High School on March 22nd. She will be returning on April 13th for another presentation and for MeatOut/EarthDay planning with the students and faculty.

Please contact Julie if you would like her to speak to your club or class on animal rights or the environment. julie.meskell@ocpausa.org.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

March 31st – April 5th – Anti-Vivisection Protest in San Diego (Join OCPA Carpool on Sunday, April 3rd)

OCPA will join the San Diego Animal Advocates for a demonstration against vivisection in San Diego on Sunday, April 3rd. For carpool information to San Diego, call Evelyn at 714 846-7081

The San Diego Animal Advocates has planned the following activities:

- **Saturday, April 2:** Leafleting and public outreach at the San Diego Convention Center
Time: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Meeting location: The plaza at the Gaslamp Quarter Trolley Station (station #33), 5th Avenue and Harbor Drive (next to the Tin Fish restaurant; look for the sign that says "SDAA")
Details: They'll provide leaflets for volunteers to distribute to the public and to convention attendees. If anyone would like to remain there after 2:00 pm and continue to leaflet, please do so! Please scroll down to read their note on transportation.
- **Sunday, April 3:** Demonstration and street theater at the San Diego Convention Center
Meet at: 11:00 am
March and demonstration: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm
Meeting location: The plaza at the Gaslamp Quarter Trolley Station (station #33), 5th Avenue and Harbor Drive (next to the Tin Fish restaurant; look for the sign that says "SDAA." Please scroll down to read their note on transportation.

Details: The theme will be "The Mad Scientists," and the SDAA will provide about 30 white (and "bloodied") laboratory coats and monster masks for participants who wish to wear them, as well as plenty of signs, banners, and leaflets for everyone. If you prefer to do your own "monster vivisector" makeup, please do; SDAA encourages everyone to be creative and express themselves here. If you happen to have them, please bring any LARGE stuffed animals that could represent lab animals-- monkey, dog, cat, rabbit, mice, etc.--and they will put them in 'cages' as part of the demonstration. In addition, we have planned a piece of street theater that will require about 10 reliable volunteers. Nothing scary; it will just involve a short ride in a car, then walking across the street to join the protest...in an extremely entertaining fashion. If you would like to participate in this, please contact info@animaladvocates.org so they can confirm who will be there.

- **Monday, April 4:** Press conference in front of the Convention Center with Mike Budkie of Stop Animal Exploitation Now! (www.all-creatures.org/saen). Location, time, and details are still being planned, but keep in mind this won't be a demonstration so they don't need a large turnout of volunteers for this--although having some supporters onsite to hold a sign or banner would be appreciated.

A note on transportation: SDAA STRONGLY encourages San Diego attendees to take the trolley to the location, which is trolley station #33, "Gaslamp Quarter" station. For info, visit www.sdcommute.com/Rider_Information/trolley/trolleymap.asp. Parking is extremely difficult downtown. SDAA strongly encourages out-of-town visitors to arrive in plenty of time to look for street parking (meters are free on Sunday, but not Saturday) or paid lot parking near the meeting place (expect to pay around \$12).

Here's a map and directions to the San Diego Convention Center: www.sdccc.org/maps/.

For information on the conference itself, visit www.iups2005.org. PLEASE HELP SDAA INFORM THE VIVISECTORS THAT THEY'RE NOT WELCOME IN SAN DIEGO!

San Diego Animal Advocates, P.O. Box 230946, Encinitas, CA 92023-0946, Phone: 760-943-0330, Email: info@animaladvocates.org, web: www.animaladvocates.org.

OCPA Meatout Activities Postponed Until Late April

Our annual Great American Meatout outreach activities at Foothill High School have been postponed until late April. We'll provide additional information about this event next month.

Sunday, April 17th – Annual Worldfest in Van Nuys

The annual Worldfest is being held on Sunday, April 17th at Woodley Park in Van Nuys from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come experience this exciting event that will include great live music, ethnic and vegetarian foods, celebrity guests, empowering speakers, kid's activities, hundreds of exhibits with non-profits and planet-friendly vendors, and animal adoptions.

OCPA will be an exhibitor and have a table at this event, and we're looking for more volunteers to help at the table throughout the day (we'll break it into shifts). Please contact Evelyn at 714-846-7081 to volunteer at this event.

For more information and directions, visit <http://www.worldfestevents.com>. We'll see you there!

Saturday, April 23rd – Earth Day for the Animals with Bob Linden/Go Vegan in San Diego

"Earth Day for the Animals – It's Their Planet Too," on Saturday, April 23rd, 1:00 p.m. – midnight at Kung Food Restaurant 2949 5th Ave, San Diego. This fun event will feature two of San Diego's most exciting and popular reggae bands - SHOCK THE MIGHTY and IRIESIDE> with a special menu of earth-grown, earth-saving, life-saving global vegan favorites. Organic wine and beer will also be available. Enjoy a complimentary Whole Soy Smoothie and sample their new Soy Spread.

Please invite all your "meat-eating environmentalist" friends to enjoy this spectacular outdoor event where the theme is "being kind to animals (and not eating them) is the kindest thing we can do for Mother Earth!"

Cost: \$20 admission at the door includes music and food, video presentations and speakers - hosted by Bob Linden, a benefit for GO VEGAN RADIO. If you will be attending, please rsvp to Bob@GoVeganRadio.com so that he can estimate the amount of food to prepare.

OCPA will also have a table at this event and arrange a carpool to San Diego; please contact Evelyn to volunteer for tabling and/or the carpool at 714-846-7081.

Stay tuned for other upcoming events including the Sacred Animal Altar workshop led by Ava Park on Saturday, May 28th in Irvine. Check the OCPA website throughout the month for additional information on this and other local activities and events: <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>, e-mail donations@ocpausa.org or subscription@ocpausa.org for additional information.

To subscribe to this list or submit an e-mail address change, e-mail pamela.kurp@ocpausa.org with the word "ADD" or "CHANGE" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, include the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.



March 28, 2005

Mayor Patricia Kelly
Members of the City Council
200 Civic Center
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Re: Killing Rabbits with Pellet Guns

Dear Mayor Kelly,

We were horrified to learn of the Council's action to approve a variance for pellet gun use in the firearms ordinance in order to kill rabbits at the Costa Del Sol senior community. The fact that this action passed unanimously gives us great pause. If local government fails to promote conscientious and humane treatment of wildlife, then the community is also unlikely to consider other, non-lethal options to similar challenges.

In a recent email from Council Member MacLean to one of our members, he stated that a variety of alternatives has been attempted in the past to control the rabbit population at Costa Del Sol. However, a quick search of available information reveals that methods such as that approved by the Council are cruel and short-sighted. If they are killed, rabbits from the surrounding area will soon replace any removed.

In fact, many of the rabbits living in colonies at golf courses, on college campuses, and in urban parks around the country are actually domestic rabbits, released by their former guardians when they no longer wanted them. Like wild rabbits, domestic rabbits will breed prolifically, and can cause damage to plants. Unlike American wild rabbits and hares, domestic rabbits (who are descended from European rabbits), will burrow, creating elaborate warrens underground.

If there is a population of feral rabbits who are most likely domestic (i.e., they may be colors other than brown, and they are living at least part time underground), these rabbits should be captured with humane traps and brought to a local humane society or rescue organization. House Rabbit Society (www.rabbit.org), a national rabbit rescue and education organization, provides information on humane capture, and has chapters across the country that may be able to help solve these kinds of problems. In some areas, volunteers have been able to catch, spay or neuter, and re-release these rabbits into the

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areas in which they were living. While this may not solve the problem, it at least eliminates the population explosion that results from rabbits being released into the wild.

Other methods include using rabbit-proof fencing around gardens by burying fencing one foot beneath the ground, three feet high, and wrapping trees with wire mesh as well. Other solutions include purchasing non-lethal repellent and spraying it around any garden areas to discourage rabbits from feeding there.

We urge you to contact Protect R Wildlife at ProtectRWildlife@aol.com as well as the Humane Society of the United States at www.hsus.org for alternate, more humane solutions to the rabbit overpopulation situation at Costa Del Sol.

It takes the same amount of effort to buy and use pellet guns and remove dead rabbit carcasses as it does to find and implement a humane solution. The difference is in the long term outcome, both in terms of the rabbit population and the example set for your community.

Sincerely,

Alison E. Stanley, Ph.D.
Board of Directors

Thank you for all you do for the animals!

OCPA Board of Directors

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