

# OCPA E-Alert

## March / April 2008



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#### **Recent OCPA Activities**

- Susan G. Komen Protest at the Natural Products Expo – March 15<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim
- OCPA's Meatout High School Outreach – Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Beckman High School in Irvine
- Circus Vasquez Demonstration – Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Huntington Park
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley

#### **Action Items**

- Urge Canadian Prime Minister to Permanently End Seal Slaughter
- Contact USMC Regarding Marine Throwing Puppy Over Cliff
- Urge U.S. Representative to Co-Sponsor Two Important Acts for Animals
- Contact TNT Regarding Ringling Brothers Reality Show
- Ask Loehmann's to Go Fur-Free

#### **Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other**

- Circus Vazquez Demonstrations in Panorama City April 7<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> and Anaheim April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>
- OCPA's Earth Day High School Outreach – Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Beckman High School in Irvine
- World Lab Animal Liberation Week – April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Avanti Café in Costa Mesa
- Worldfest 2008 – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in Encino

**Special Note:** Spring and summer bring with them an increase in local animal-related events, tabling activities and demonstrations. If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of these special outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to [information@ocpaua.org](mailto:information@ocpaua.org) to have your email address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

## **Good News for the Animals!**

### ***Discovery Science Center Cancels Planned Elephant-in-Bubble Publicity Stunt***

The Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana cancelled plans for an elephant-in-bubble publicity stunt after animal welfare/rights groups in California and across the U.S. asked them to stop these inhumane plans. Fortunately, Tai – an 8,800-pound Asian elephant held captive by Have Trunk Will Travel and already subjected to a life of confinement and cruelty – escaped being exploited by yet another ridiculous and unnecessary form of “entertainment.” Unfortunately, the ignorant “artist” has high hopes of entering the Guinness Book of World Records for placing the earth’s largest living land mammal inside a bubble, and plans now to go to India to put a bubble around an elephant there instead.

### ***Aerial Wolf Control Stopped in Part of Alaska***

An Alaskan Superior Court judge invalidated the aerial killing of wolves in several small areas of Alaska (about a quarter of the predator control area), while issuing a ruling that took a look at the state’s wolf “control program.” Friends of Animals, Defenders of Wildlife and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance had filed a lawsuit against the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game in 2006 in hopes of ending the aerial wolf control program.

### ***Philip Morris Cuts Research at UCLA and Other Universities***

Philip Morris USA, a major tobacco company, decided to stop funding for external research projects using animals at a variety of universities including many projects in the University of California.

### ***Increased Penalties for Animal Fighting Passed in Virginia***

H.B. 656, legislation to increase the penalties for animal fighting, passed the House and Senate in March. The strengthening of Virginia's anti-dogfighting law—to crack down on spectators and ban possession of fighting dogs—was not unexpected. But the upgrade in the laws against cockfighting was perhaps the most important and long-sought reform. The HSUS had rated Virginia's anti-cockfighting law as the second-worst in the nation—in fact, cockfighting was legal as long as the activity involved no gambling. Virginia's cockfighting enthusiasts have long bullied lawmakers to back off of reforms, and major cockfighting pits operate throughout the state. This year, the cockfighters hired heavyweight lobbying firms, but their influence was overwhelmed by the HSUS's own efforts and the growing animus toward staged animal fights. About a dozen major cockfighting pits will now have to be shut down, or face the law.

### ***San Francisco Art Institute Suspends Animal Snuff Video Exhibit***

A contemporary "art" exhibit entitled "Don't Trust Me" was temporarily suspended by the San Francisco Art Institute as a result of an overwhelming outcry from animal activists. The exhibit consisted of six televisions displaying video images of six different animals -- a doe, a goat, a horse, an ox, a pig, and a sheep -- being bludgeoned to death with a large sledgehammer. Concerned people contacted the president of the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), the installation's sponsor, urging him to shut it down immediately on the grounds that animal abuse is not art, but merely a cruel and self-serving bid for attention.

### ***Oprah Highlights Cruel Puppy Mill Industry***

Last Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Oprah Winfrey Show aired a special episode highlighting the cruel realities of puppy mills. Millions of Oprah show viewers were shocked to learn of the underhanded tactics and deplorable practices used to mass produce purebred puppies and designer dogs. If you didn't get a chance to check out the show, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/2cvs6g>.

## **Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed**

### ***Urge Canadian Prime Minister to Permanently End Seal Slaughter***

Despite animal activists' efforts every year and throughout the year – and the EU ban on seal products in 2006 (see [http://www.hsus.org/marine\\_mammals/marine\\_mammals\\_news/eu\\_seal\\_ban.html](http://www.hsus.org/marine_mammals/marine_mammals_news/eu_seal_ban.html)) – the Canadian government once again sanctioned the mass slaughter of up to 275,000 helpless baby harp seals this spring season.

Even though this horrible, barbaric hunt has already begun, if you haven't already, please sign a petition demanding a permanent end to the annual slaughter of seals at the following link: [http://getactive.peta.org/campaign/seal\\_08\\_dev](http://getactive.peta.org/campaign/seal_08_dev). You can also write to Prime Minister Stephen **Harper** (how ironic), stating your objections to this bloody hunt and refusal to travel to Canada or purchase any Canadian goods until this annual seal slaughter is halted once and for all.

The Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1A 0A2; email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca); phone: (613) 992-4211; fax: (613) 941-6900.

### ***Contact USMC Regarding Marine Throwing Puppy Over Cliff***

A video was posted on YouTube in March depicting a terrible act of animal cruelty committed by a U.S. Marine in Iraq. The video begins with a soldier in combat uniform holding a tiny puppy by the scruff of her neck. Joking with the cameraman, he says "Cute little puppy" in a childlike voice, then hurls the yelping dog off a precipice to certain death.

Many have called for the soldier who did the deed to be dishonorably discharged and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. However, the disturbing video raises questions about what charges the soldiers would face if found guilty, because the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not specifically prohibit or punish animal cruelty.

Please visit IDA's action page at <http://ga0.org/campaign/deptdefense/nafm6t3bt?> and urge Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to ensure this incident is promptly investigated and the culprits fully prosecuted, and to amend the Uniform Code of Military Conduct to explicitly outlaw acts of animal cruelty.

### ***Urge U.S. Representative to Co-Sponsor Two Important Acts for Animals***

Two important pieces of legislature have been introduced to provide protection for animals: The Bear Protection Act and the Captive Primate Safety Act.

The Bear Protection Act, H.R. 3029, would protect bears by prohibiting the import, export, and interstate commerce of bear gallbladders and bile. Currently there is no national legislation governing this trade. Rather, a complicated patchwork of state laws is in place, which makes law enforcement and successful prosecution of offenders difficult.

The Captive Primate Safety Act, H.R. 2964, will amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to include nonhuman primates as a prohibited wildlife species under the Act. It will thus outlaw the interstate and foreign commerce of these animals for use as "pets." This bill will help reduce the number of animals that suffer from neglect and abuse at the mercy of the exotic "pet" trade.

Please contact your U.S. representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor these bills. For more information, visit: <http://www.api4animals.org/actionalerts.php?p=1547&more=1>. And for legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

## **Contact TNT Regarding Ringling Brothers Reality Show**

TNT recently announced plans to air a reality show featuring Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. We all know how horribly the animals held captive in the name of "entertainment" are treated. Now Ringling is trying to ramp up its PR/marketing campaign to paint a pretty picture of the circus and whitewash the heart-breaking realities these animals face every day, spending up to 11 months of the year traveling, caged or chained for up to 21 hours per day, and physically forced to perform unnatural and often painful tricks.

Please contact TNT president Steve Koonin, and producers Mark Wolper and Al Hassas, and politely urge them to abandon plans to air the Ringling reality show. Let them know you are incredibly dismayed to hear of this business decision, which will likely keep the actual reality of life for circus animals hidden from public view.

Remind them that after learning of the abuse inherent in animal circuses, major corporations such as Denny's, Lukoil, General Mills, Burger King, Liz Claiborne, MasterCard, Visa, and Sears, Roebuck & Co. ended their promotions of circuses like Ringling Bros.

- Steve Koonin, President Turner Entertainment Networks, 1050 Techwood Drive, Atlanta, GA 30318; phone: 404-827-3933; fax: 404-575-5294; email: [anne.smith@turner.com](mailto:anne.smith@turner.com) (his assistant).
- Mark Wolper, President The Wolper Organization, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 14, Room 200, Burbank, CA 91522-0001; phone: 818-954-1421; fax: 818-954-1593; email: [kathleen.doise@wbtprod.com](mailto:kathleen.doise@wbtprod.com) (his assistant).
- Al Hassas, Executive Producer Collective Media, 9100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700, West Beverly Hills, CA 90212; phone: 310-888-1522; fax: 310-888-1555; email: [al@thecollective-la.com](mailto:al@thecollective-la.com).

## **Ask Loehmann's to Go Fur-Free**

After being contacted by animal groups such as Born Free USA and Animal Protection Institute recently, Loehmann's – a national discount fashion retailer with more than 65 stores in 17 states – refused to stop selling fur. This is despite the fact that leading clothing retailers like Selfridges, Harvey Nichols, Ann Taylor, Polo Ralph Lauren, and others have pulled fur from their stores forever.

Please contact Loehmann's and urge them to stop supporting cruelty to animals and adopt a permanent fur-free policy: Loehmann's, 2500 Halsey Street, Bronx, NY10461; phone: 718- 409-2000; email: [insider@loehmanns.com](mailto:insider@loehmanns.com). Remind them that with so many beautiful faux-fur alternatives widely available, there is no need to use animals to make a fashion statement or to turn a profit.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***Susan G. Komen Protest at the Natural Products Expo – March 15<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim***

A small group of OCPA volunteers handed out hundreds of fliers at the ThinkVitality Fashion Show supporting Susan G. Komen, which funds animal experimentation by giving money to the National Cancer Institute, universities, and non-profit groups that conduct experiments on their behalf.

The catchy flier picturing a woman holding her breast juxtaposed against a mouse being injected by a vivisector read in part, "Please THINK TWICE before supporting the THINKVitality Fashion Show this evening. Orange County People for Animals and many concerned citizens ask that you RETHINK this support, as the results of your efforts will benefit the Komen Foundation, which unfortunately practices cruel, antiquated, and scientifically invalid animal experimentation and testing." Quotes were included from renowned medical doctors expressing their opposition to animal experimentation. For example, Robert Mendelson, MD said, "The reason why I am against animal research is because it does not work. It has no scientific value. One cannot extrapolate the results of animal research to human beings and every good scientist knows that."

Fliers were also passed out to the natural products companies at the Expo who were shocked to learn that many charities support animal experimentation.

### ***OCPA's Meatout High School Outreach – Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Beckman High School in Irvine***

OCPA teamed up with the Veg Kids Club of Beckman High School in Irvine to celebrate the first day of spring and Meatout on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The group passed out literature and samples of healthy, plant-based foods to club members.

Veggie Grill donated two large platters of an assortment of meatless burgers for the students to enjoy sampling. Members of the Veg Kids Club were thrilled to discover that Veggie Grill will be opening a new restaurant at the Irvine Spectrum in October.

### ***Circus Vasquez Demonstration – Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Huntington Park***

A small group met in Huntington Park on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to demonstrate against Circus Vasquez and the inherent cruelty found in all circuses involving animals. The group distributed literature to attendees.

Along with three elephants, the circus included tigers, camels, zebras, three small horses and a dog.

Refer to the **Upcoming Events** section of this e-alert to participate in other demonstrations against Circus Vasquez over the coming months.

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley***

The Veg\*n Lunch group met on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley for dinner. *Note:* The later time was intended to accommodate those who can only join us later in the day.

Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant, 16563 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: (714) 418-0658; located at the corner of Brookhurst Street and Heil Avenue across from Mile Square Park; website: <http://www.aulac.com>.

## **Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other**

### ***Circus Vazquez Demonstrations in Panorama City April 7<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> and Anaheim April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>***

Join local activists in demonstrating against the cruelty of animals exploited in circuses on the following dates and locations:

- Panorama City, CA - April 7 - 24
- Anaheim, CA - April 28 - May 8
- Bloomington, CA - May 12 - 22
- Fresno, CA - May 26 - 30 Salina, CA - June 2 - 6
- San Jose, CA - June 9 - 13
- Oakland, CA - October 13 - 23

For more information on these demonstrations, contact Julie Meskell at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org).

### ***OCPA's Earth Day High School Outreach – Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Beckman High School in Irvine***

OCPA is in the process of formalizing plans for another outreach event in honor of Earth Day at Beckman High School in Irvine to educate high school students on the horrors of factory farming (animals raised for food) and the many benefits of a plant-based diet.

This event coincides with the Veg Kids' Club Day on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:55 p.m.

If you'd like to help with this event by passing out literature or serving food, contact Julie ASAP at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org).

### **World Lab Animal Liberation Week – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

Over 20 million animals suffer and die in U.S. laboratories every year. These innocent victims are subjected to addictive drugs, caustic chemicals, ionizing radiation, chemical and biological weapons, electric shock, deprivation of food and/or water, psychological torture and many other horrors. In the United States, approximately 1,100 labs still experiment on animals every day. During 2006, the number of primates used in experimentation reached an all time high of 62,315. These animals are depending on us to fight for their freedom and need us now more than ever. Please come out and show your support for the animals.

World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week (April 20th - 26th) is the time when activists come together to make a difference for these animals.

Join Last Chance for Animals (LCA), In Defense of Animals (IDA), Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) and activists all over the world for World Laboratory Animal Liberation week and the fight to end animal abuse in the laboratories at UCLA.

(For more information on the types of research going on at UCLA, please visit <http://www.all-creatures.org/wlalw/index.html>.)

- Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
UCLA, corner of Le Conte and Westwood, Westwood Village
- Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
Cedars Sinai Hospital, corner of Beverly Blvd. and San Vicente, Los Angeles 90048

#### **Directions to UCLA**

From 405:  
Exit Wilshire and head east  
Turn Left/North on Westwood

From Sunset heading west:  
Turn left on Hilgard  
Right on Le Conte

Public parking is available on Le Conte (turn left on Le Conte for parking from Westwood).

#### **Directions to Cedars Sinai**

From 405:  
Exit Santa Monica Blvd and head east  
Turn right (east) on W. Beverly Blvd.

From 10:  
Exit S La Cienega Blvd and head north  
Turn left (west) on Beverly Blvd.

\$2 parking is available for Cedars Sinai in the Beverly Center (entrance on San Vicente).

For more information on the vigil please contact: [saenlosangeles@yahoo.com](mailto:saenlosangeles@yahoo.com).

*Note:* These are peaceful demonstrations. Although the police are always present at events at UCLA, we will endeavor to ensure all activists safety and no illegal activity is planned. All interactions with the public

and the police department should remain civil and be directed to SAEN, LCA, IDA representatives present or the legal observe.

Please wear walking shoes and bring water/sunscreen/hat.

### ***Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Avanti Café in Costa Mesa***

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Avanti Café in Costa Mesa for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Avanti Café, 259 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627; phone: 949-548-2224.

We will be commemorating United Poultry Concern's Kindness to Chickens month.

Please help us to encourage Avanti to offer more vegan dishes on their menu: <http://www.avantinatural.com>.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch/dinner. For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at (714) 995-4889 or Evelyn at (714) 846-7081. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

### ***Worldfest 2008 – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in Encino***

After taking a break last year, Worldfest is scheduled this year for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at Woodley Park in Encino, California.

Worldfest 2006 featured over 5,000 people in attendance, 120 exhibitor booths, 30 bands on three sound stages and a vegan food court. Worldfest is the area's largest Earth Day Festival and the only solar-powered celebration of music, environment, the animals, health and social consciousness. This year's festival will be hosted by cartoonist, comedian and artist, Dan Piraro. It will feature bands on multiple stages, empowering speakers, an EcoTent, Healthy Hut, poetry festival, Kids' World, food court, hundreds of great exhibitors and animal adoptions. For more information, visit: <http://www.worldfestevents.com>.

OCPA is sponsoring a booth at this event and is looking for volunteers to help with various shifts throughout the day. If you are interested, please send us an email at [information@ocpausa.org](mailto:information@ocpausa.org) and include your contact information and time(s) available to help at the booth.

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## **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](mailto:donations@ocpausa.org) or [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) for additional information.

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