

OCPA E-Alert May 2007



In This OCPA E-Alert

Good News for the Animals

- AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act, Passes Both Assembly Business and Professions Committee and Appropriations Committee
- President Signs Animal Fighting Bill into Law
- Pepsico and Coca-Cola Agree to Stop Animal Tests
- U.S. House Votes to Restore Ban on Commercial Sale and Slaughter of Wild Horses and Burros; Senate Committee Passes Similar Bill
- Chico Goes Fur-Free
- Alaskan Beluga Whales to be Protected
- Connecticut Considers Bill to Ban Bullhooks
- Ruby Leaves L.A. Zoo for PAWS
- UK Article Promotes Veganism for Environment

Recent OCPA Activities

- World Week For Animals in Labs Demo, UCLA – Monday, April 23rd 11:00 a.m., Los Angeles
- Meatout/Earth Day Vegan Lunch at Foothill High School, Tustin - Wednesday, April 25th at 12:00 p.m.
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 6th 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach
- Health Faire – Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Stanton Park, City of Stanton
- *Behind the Mask* Screening – Saturday, May 26th 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine

Action Items

- Urge Assemblymember to Support AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act
- Ask Assemblymember to Support AB 477, Elephant Protection Act
- Ask State Assemblymember to Pass AB 1614 to Require Vets at Rodeo Events

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 3rd 1:30 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, July 1st 1:30 p.m. at Zen Vegetarian Restaurant in Westminster
- AR 2007 National Conference – July 19-23rd at the Westin LAX

Good News for the Animals!

AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act, Passes Both Assembly Business and Professions Committee and Appropriations Committee

The California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) passed the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and then passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee. This bill would require that every dog and cat in the state of California be spayed or neutered and will create healthier pets, safer communities, and taxpayer savings. The bill now heads to the full assembly for a final vote (refer to the [Action Items](#) section for more information).

President Signs Animal Fighting Bill Into Law

President Bush signed the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act into law, which takes effect immediately. This new law provides felony penalties for interstate commerce, import and export related to animal fighting activities, including commerce in cockfighting weapons. Criminals will have a more difficult time engaging in dogfighting and cockfighting operations and each violation may now bring up to three years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

Pepsico and Coca-Cola Agree to Stop Animal Tests

Pepsico (the multibillion-dollar parent company of brands like Pepsi-Cola, Frito-Lay, Tropicana, Quaker Oats, and Gatorade) agreed to no longer conduct or fund experiments on animals. Coca-Cola also agreed to stop conducting its invasive and deadly animal experiments or directly fund animals tests.

U.S. House Votes to Restore Ban on Commercial Sale and Slaughter of Wild Horses and Burros; Senate Committee Passes Similar Bill

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to restore a 34-year-old ban on the commercial sale and slaughter of America's wild horses and burros. At about the same, the bill to ban the sale and transport to slaughter of all American horses cleared a critical Senate committee. The momentum continues in the fight to restore protections to wild horses and burros, to shut down the horse slaughter industry in the U.S., and to stop horses from being exported to other countries for slaughter.

Chico Goes Fur-Free

Trendy clothing retailer Chico FAS (which owns Fitigues, White House/Black Market and Soma by Chico's) recently agreed to ban fur from its stores. Chico FAS joins the growing list of retailers (including J. Crew, Jones Apparel, Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, and Ann Taylor) who have adopted permanent fur-free policies.

Alaskan Beluga Whales to be Protected

After receiving thousands of comments, the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to protect the imperiled Cook Inlet beluga whale by listing the rare species under the Endangered Species Act.

Connecticut Considers Bill to Ban Bullhooks

Connecticut could be the first state to ban the use of bullhooks in the management of elephants if a new bill, HB 7019, is passed. Bullhooks are the equivalent of torture devices used by circus trainers to control elephants' behavior and force them to perform unnatural acts for the sake of "entertainment," and they should be outlawed. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus officials have stated that they will no longer bring their traveling show to Connecticut if HB 7019 becomes law. Visit the [Action Items](#) section of this e-alert for similar legislation pending for the State of California against the use of bullhooks.

Ruby Leaves L.A. Zoo for PAWS

The 46-year-old African elephant Ruby made an historic journey from her tiny, off-exhibit enclosure at L.A. Zoo to her new home at the [PAWS Sanctuary](#) in Northern California, where she will live on more than 70 acres of rolling, grassy hills. With [Dulary having arrived](#) at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee from the Philadelphia Zoo just weeks ago, Ruby is the second elephant this month to be transferred from a zoo to a sanctuary.

UK Article Encourages Veganism for Environment

The Daily Telegraph of the UK included an article headed, "Go vegan to help climate, says Government agency." The environment agency agreed to the environmental benefits of a vegan diet and is also considering recommending eating less meat as one of the key environmental behavior changes needed to save the planet.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Assemblymember to Support AB 1634, California Healthy Pets Act

After recently passing both the Assembly Business and Professions Committee and the Appropriations Committee, the California Healthy Pets Act (AB 1634) now moves to the full assembly before June 8th for a final vote.

The California Healthy Pets Act will save taxpayers millions and provide a humane alternative to euthanizing hundreds of thousands of unwanted animals who end up in local shelters. This law would require that nearly every dog and cat in the State of California be spayed or neutered, with certain exemptions provided. Hundreds of supporters for the bill made the trek to the State Capitol in support of this critical legislation.

If you have not already done so, please urge your assemblymember to support AB 1634. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate legislator contact information or visit <http://www.cahealthypets.com> for more information.

Ask Assemblymember to Support AB 477, Elephant Protection Act

AB 777, the Elephant Protection Act, prohibits the use of an ankur or bullhook on an elephant and also prohibits the chaining of elephants except for medical treatment. This bill sets minimum care standards for elephants housed in stationary facilities including the ability to walk an average of five miles a day and access to a pool, bath or lake.

Contact your assemblymember as soon as possible and urge him/her to support AB 477. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information.

Ask State Assemblymember to Pass AB 1614 to Require Vets at Rodeo Events

Legislation to require a veterinarian on call or on-site at rodeos with three or more events recently passed the committee level in California and is now being considered by the full California State Assembly.

AB 1614 would expand the current requirement for a veterinarian at rodeos with four or more events and would include Mexican-style rodeos. Animals used in rodeos often endure stressful conditions and injuries and it is important to have a veterinarian available to help treat injuries and reduce suffering.

Contact your assemblymember as soon as possible and urge him/her to support AB 477. Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate contact information or visit the HSUS's action page to send an email at https://community.hsus.org/campaign/CA_2007_protection_rodeos2.

Recent OCPA Activities

World Week for Animals in Labs Demo, UCLA – Monday, April 23rd, 11:00 a.m. in Los Angeles

Activists from OCPA, SAEN, LCA, IDA and other organizations gathered at UCLA for a demo against UCLA vivisection to kick off the World Week for Animals in Labs campaign on Monday, April 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. in Los Angeles.

Hundreds of brochures were distributed during the demonstration to help inform students, faculty and the press of the behind-the-scenes atrocities of vivisection occurring daily to animals at UCLA and everywhere.

Meatout/Earth Day Vegan Lunch at Foothill High School, Tustin – Wednesday, April 25th at 12:00 p.m.

OCPA again sponsored a free vegan lunch in honor of Meatout and Earth Day at Foothill High School in Tustin on Wednesday, April 25th.

We served vegan tacos, sandwiches and other vegan food items to approximately 300 students – and also distributed veg*n literature to the students and answered their questions about adopting a healthy veg*n diet to improve their health, help the animals and protect the environment.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the MeatOut/ Earth Day a huge success. Also thanks to Whole Foods and Trader Joe's for their generous food donations.

For more information about the Great American Meatout, registered events and information about FARM, visit <http://www.meatout.org> or call 1-800-MEATOUT.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, May 6th 1:00 p.m. at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, May 6th at the Good Mood Food Café in Huntington Beach for our monthly lunch get-together. We all enjoyed this mostly raw restaurant.

Visit the Good Mood Food Cafe for breakfast, lunch, or dinner located at 5930 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92649; 714-377-2028; <http://www.goodmoodfood.com>.

Health Faire – Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Stanton Park, City of Stanton

OCPA distributed literature promoting a veg*n lifestyle at the Health Faire sponsored by the city of Stanton on Saturday, May 12th.

We look forward to increasing our presence at events of this nature throughout Southern California in the future. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, contact us at information@ocpausa.org and include your contact information and availability.

Behind the Mask Screening – Saturday, May 26th, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine

OCPA sponsored a screening of *Behind the Mask* on Saturday, May 26th, between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the Goddess Temple, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine. This was a sold-out event with standing room only for well over 100 guests.

Behind the Mask is a unique documentary focusing on those individuals who take direct action to save animals. Shannon Keith, the producer and director of the film, presented the screening, with special guest, Peter Young (imprisoned for liberating mink). For more information about the film, visit: <http://www.uncagedfilms.com>.

Our special thanks to OCPA member, Bob Penney, for his superior coordination and organization skills that helped make this event such a huge success.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, June 3rd 1:30 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach

Come out and join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, June 3rd at 1:30 p.m. at the Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach, 501 Main Street, Suite E, H.B. 92648; (714) 969-9500; <http://www.bodhitreecafe.net>.

We'll also have a special celebration for Wanda Ballard's 70th birthday...

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch. 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.

Note: The lunch will be held at 1:30 p.m. and not 12:00 p.m. as stated in the recent newsletter sent via snail mail.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, July 1st 1:30 p.m. at Zen Vegetarian Restaurant in Westminster

Also join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, July 1st at 1:30 p.m., at the [Zen Vegetarian Restaurant - Quan Com Chay Viet Nam](#), 9329 Bolsa Ave, Westminster, California 92683 (between Moran and Bushard in Little Saigon, Orange County); (714) 895-3637 – “vegan-friendly, Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai.”

AR 2007 National Conference – July 19-23rd at the Westin LAX

You won't want to miss the largest animal rights conference in the U.S., AR 2007 National Conference, held between July 19th and 23rd at the Westin LAX.

The conference features over 100 sessions including workshops, raps and reports, 80 speakers from all sectors of the animal rights/welfare movement, vegan meals, free exhibits, videos and much more.

OCPA plans to have a table at the conference. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us ASAP at information@ocpausa.org with *AR 2007 Volunteer* as the subject heading.

Call 800-632-8688 today to register for this great event, or visit FARM and register online at <http://www.arconference.org>.

Special Note:

If you are interested and available for tabling (distributing veg*n, OCPA and animal rights literature) on Thursdays between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at Orange Coast College, contact Evelyn at (714) 846-7081 for arrangements.

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.