

OCPA E-Alert August 2006



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Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, September 10th, 1:30 p.m. at The Wheel of Life in Huntington Beach
- World Farm Animals' Day – October 2nd

Good News for the Animals!

SB 1806 (Protects Companion Animals in Hot Cars) Passes California Senate and Assembly

SB 1806 – a bill that will make it unlawful to leave a companion animal unattended in a motor vehicle – recently passed both the California Senate and Assembly. The bill now moves to Governor Schwarzenegger for his signature on this important bill. Refer to the *Action Items* section of this e-alert to contact the governor and ask him to sign this bill.

AB 2862 (Helps Animals in Pet Stores) Passes California Senate

AB 2862, a bill that addresses gaps and weaknesses in state law governing the care of animals in pet stores, also recently passed the California Senate. The bill now moves back to the state assembly for a concurrence vote. Refer to the *Action Items* section of this e-alert to contact your assemblymember and ask them to support this bill.

AB 2485 (Saves California Sea Otters) Passes State Senate

AB 2485, the bill to save California sea otters, recently passed the State Senate. This bill now also moves to Governor Schwarzenegger for his signature. Refer to the *Action Items* section of this e-alert to contact the governor and ask him to sign this bill into law.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge U.S. Representative to Support HR 503 – the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA)

A vote is expected on the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (AHSPA/HR 503) when Congress returns from its recess the week of September 6th.

If the AHSPA passes, the slaughter of horses for human consumption and the domestic and international transport of live horses or horseflesh for the same purpose will be outlawed in the U.S. Every year, more than 90,000 horses are either killed in one of three foreign-owned slaughterhouses in Texas and Illinois or shipped to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. Polls indicate that the vast majority of Americans want the slaughter of horses for human consumption banned.

Please follow this link to take immediate action and urge your U.S. Representative to support HR 503: http://www.hsus.org/legislation_laws/. Click on “It’s Time for a Permanent Ban on Horse Slaughter” section to send a message. Or visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your representative contact information and send a letter asking him/her to support this important bill.

Urge Governor Schwarzenegger to Sign SB 1806 (Protect Companion Animals in Hot Cars) and AB 2485 (Save California Sea Otters)

SB 1806 has passed both the Senate and Assembly and now awaits Governor Schwarzenegger’s approval and signature. Once signed, this bill will make it unlawful for anyone to leave a companion animal unattended in a motor vehicle under conditions that could endanger the health of the animal.

For SB 1806, visit IDA’s action center page to contact Governor Schwarzenegger via e-mail at <http://ga0.org/indefenseofanimals/home.html>.

AB 2485, the bill to save California sea otters, also passed the State Senate and awaits governor approval and signature. Sea otters were once nearly hunted to extinction and still face a perilous road to recovery. Only about 2,700 sea otters now live in California, but their journey back from the brink has stalled in recent years. Threats from oil spills and other pollution, habitat degradation, and disease continue to plague these wonderful creatures. But the legislation on Governor Schwarzenegger’s desk will help provide the added protection our sea otters desperately need to survive.

For AB 2485, visit Defender of Wildlife’s action page to contact Governor Schwarzenegger via e-mail at https://secure2.convio.net/dow/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=543&autologin=true&s_einterest=C3C4&s_Affiliate=act_&JServSessionIdr006=isuopri6q2.app20a.

Or send the governor a letter urging him to sign these humane bills: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Building, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249.

Contact Assemblymember for Concurrence Vote on AB 2862 (Helps Animals in Pet Stores)

AB 2862 is a bill that will strengthen state law governing the treatment of animals at pet stores by setting specific standards of care, filling gaps in the law, and providing tools for improved enforcement of pet store laws. This bill has passed and has now passed the Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and moves back to the Assembly for a concurrence vote.

To send an e-mail to your assemblymember using ASPCA's alert center, click <https://secure2.convio.net/aspca/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=1947&JSerVSessionIdr006=5m9nh5iwl1.app26b>. Or visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your assemblymember contact information and send a letter asking him/her to support this important legislature that will help ensure a safer environment for California's pets.

Download, Print and Send OCPA Letters to Help Animals

Visit our website at: <http://ocpausa.org/>. Click "Join Our Letter Write-In Campaign" for instructions on how to download, print and send letters on a wide range of animal issues – from current legislature pending votes to local issues such as encouraging restaurants to stop serving foie gras/veal and U.S. cosmetic companies to cease testing their products on animals.

Protect First Amendment Rights – Urge Representative/Senators to Oppose the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, HR 4239 and S 1926

Believe it or not, a bill is now pending in the House and Senate (HR 4239 and S 1926) that would devastate the animal rights community. This bill – also known as the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act – would effectively make it a crime to engage in non-violent actions and make it illegal to cause a loss of profits to any business considered an "animal enterprise." This includes factory farms, vivisection labs, circuses, fur farms and other businesses which routinely inflict unimaginable suffering and pain on animals who cannot speak to defend themselves. Even if the loss in profits to the company results from peaceful protests, effective boycotts or media campaigns, under the language of this law, it could be interpreted as a violation that could impose a hefty prison sentence of several years.

This bill is clearly unconstitutional and violates First Amendment freedom of speech. We cannot allow our government to silence our voices for the animals.

Join Last Chance for Animals, HSUS, OCPA and other organizations who vehemently object to this legislature; write, call and/or e-mail your senators and representatives NOW to urge them to oppose these unconstitutional bills! Visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your senator/representative contact information. A sample letter is included at the back of this e-alert.

Recent OCPA Activities

OC Fair Rodeo and Elephant Ride Tabling – July

OCPA tabled at the Orange County Fair throughout the month of July, distributing literature and enlightening the public about the cruelty of the business of the elephant rides and the rodeo, as well as pony rides, the petting zoo, farmed animals and other animal exhibits or forms of animal "entertainment."

We plan on an even stronger presence next summer and hope more of you will join us in peaceful literature distribution and discussions with fair attendees in July 2007.

Ringling Brothers Circus Demonstration – Arrowhead Pond, Saturday, July 29th 6:00 p.m.

The Most Terrible Show on Earth (Ringling Brothers) returned to the Pond this summer. OCPA and others held peaceful demonstrations to try to educate more circus attendees to the cruelty inherent in this form of "entertainment."

For a local college newspaper article about the circus and demonstrations against it, visit: http://www.dailytitan.com/home/index.cfm?event=displayArticle&uStory_id=bcf41f6a-0a49-4a85-a990-273d1ae7179a.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, August 6th 1:30 p.m. at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach

The Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club met on Sunday, August 6th at The Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach on Main Street. Attendees enjoyed the vegetarian/vegan fare and discussions about the many benefits of adopting a plant-based diet.

Annual Write-In and Member Get-Together – Saturday, August 12th, 6:00 p.m. in Orange

Several OCPA members convened at the beautiful home of OCPA president, Tina Locklear, in Orange on Saturday, August 12th to enjoy vegan fare and receive a packet of write-in letters focused on local, national and international animal-related issues and legislation.

Refer to the *Action Items* section of this e-alert for information on how you can download, print and send these letters to help the animals.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, September 10th 1:00 p.m. at The Wheel of Life in Huntington Beach

Our next veggie/vegan luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 10th at 1:30 p.m. at The Wheel of Life Restaurant, 7251 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach – located at the corner of Warner and Goldenwest across from Oceanview High School, near Friar Tux. Tel: 714-375-9505. Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch.

We're honored to have as our speaker the world-renowned vegan radio talk show host, Bob Linden of Go Vegan Radio. Bob will answer all of your vegan, environmental, and health-related questions in his informative, witty and entertaining style. Visit www.GoVeganRadio.com for more information about Bob Linden and Go Vegan Radio.

Following the lunch, we will go on a short field trip to The Living Temple, a health and environmental shop located about five minutes away from the restaurant. The owner, Robin Jones, will escort us on a tour of the store filled with vegan products including books, DVDs and raw vegan goodies. Educational events on a variety of topics are hosted here weekly.

The Living Temple, 7561 Center Avenue, #24, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Tel: 714-891-5117.

We hope to see you there! For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at 714-995-4889. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

World Farm Animals' Day – October 2nd

In honor of Gandhi's birthday, visit the following sites for information about local activities celebrating World Farm Animals' Day: www.wfad.org or Farm Sanctuary's Walk for Farm Animals – www.walkforfarmanimals.org.

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.

Honorable [Representative name and address]

I am concerned about pending legislation that challenges America's foundation of free speech. As your constituent, I respectfully ask you to oppose the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (H.R. 4239), a bill drafted to shield animal-use corporations from legal protest. If H.R. 4239 is enacted, non-violent objection and civil disobedience, boycotts, and even influential media campaigns would become terrorist activities if linked to "loss of profits" for agribusiness, research laboratories, fur farms, circuses, and other "animal enterprises."

Please do not support H.R. 4239, introduced by Rep. Thomas Petri [R-WI], or any companion bill in the Senate that outlaws dissent if it leads to "economic damage." Under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, citizens who exercise their First Amendment rights to free speech, free assembly and free expression are labeled terrorists and face significant time behind bars. Moreover, the subjective phrase "loss of profits" apparently includes overhead to restore lost or damaged property or records, expenses for duplicating suspended or invalidated experiments, etc. Will H.R. 4239 focus on property crimes alone or criminalize lawful whistleblowers and undercover cruelty investigators as well?

I fail to understand the purpose of this bill. Disciplinary measures already exist for vandalism, trespassing, or other unlawful behavior. The overwhelming majority of animal protection advocates never engage in illegal activity. But even if they did, they should be prosecuted under present laws.

I do not view demonstrations against animal experimentation facilities or distribution of literature outside an animal circus as terrorism any more than I view anti-war or women's health protests as terrorism. Will Congress propose similar Terrorism Acts to cover all areas of opposition?

Exposing animal cruelty may upset business and slow revenue, but it's hardly a form of terrorism. This unconstitutional bill establishes a model for repressive legislation to silence all social justice movements. I sincerely hope you are among those legislators who disagree with this shameful attempt to equate activists with terrorists. H.R. 4239 is an insult to the true victims of terrorism.

No animal activist in the U.S. has ever caused grave human injury or death. I am baffled as to why my government representatives believe I need the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act to feel safe. In fact, I would feel far more secure if the Department of Homeland Security focused on legitimate domestic security threats. Thank you for your valuable time and consideration in this serious matter.

Sincerely,