

OCPA E-Alert 8-15-03



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It's been a while since we've released an e-alert – we're back on schedule now and plan to distribute them once or twice every month again.

Good News for the Animals!

Ringling Bros. Lawsuit Moves Forward

The U.S. District Court for D.C. ruled against Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. This ruling allows the lawsuit to move forward, charging the circus with violations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for its alleged routine abuse of endangered Asian elephants. Witnesses and groups including the Fund for Animals can now present their testimony and videotaped evidence of circus cruelty.

Big Cat Protection Act Heads to House and Senate

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee recently passed S. 269. This legislation would ban interstate commerce in tigers, lions and other big cats exploited for the exotic "pet"

trade. A companion bill, H.R. 1006, was recently approved and both bills are ready for a vote by the full House and Senate.

AVMA Reconsiders Its Gestation Crate Endorsement

Recently, the AVMA voted to more carefully examine whether gestation crates jeopardize the welfare of breeding sows. Last year, the AVMA voted to endorse the two-foot-wide enclosures where pigs are confined for months at a time. The AVMA recently recognized that last year's endorsement required further investigation.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed!

Downed Animal Protection Act Still Alive – S. 1298

Although the related House bill was narrowly defeated, the Senate bill, known as S. 1298, the Akaka Downed Animal Protection Act, will soon head to the Senate for a vote. As you probably know, downed animals are those too sick or injured to walk. These animals are abused by any method available to get them into the slaughterhouse for human consumption. “Downers” are routinely beaten, dragged, bulldozed, kicked and shocked to get them to the killing floor.

Act now to prohibit this abuse and require that sick or injured animals are immediately and humanely euthanized instead. Contact your two U.S. Senators and urge them to co-sponsor this important bill. You can obtain their contact information via <http://www.congress.org>.

Stop Antibiotic Overuse on Factory Farms – S. 1460 and H.R. 2932

Introduced recently by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Representatives Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), these bills would stop the massive, routine feeding of antibiotics to cows, chickens, pigs and other animals used in agriculture. Antibiotics are currently used to make animals grow faster and keep them in inhumane, stressful, overcrowded and filthy conditions. This unnecessary use of antibiotics in farm animals renders the drugs less effective for treating sick animals and people since antibiotic overuse leads to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Act now to help put an end to the agribusiness practice of abusing both animals and antibiotic usage. Contact your two U.S. Senators to co-sponsor S. 1460 and urge your U.S. Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2932. You can obtain their contact information via <http://www.congress.org>.

Factory Farm Trespassing – S. 993

This bill originally pertained to threats of death or bodily injury against another person, with no reference to animals. It was recently changed to involve criminal trespass and is a thinly disguised industrial farming protection bill that makes it a misdemeanor to enter buildings or land where animals are kept. Under this proposed legislation, criminal charges could be brought against a person photographing acts of animal cruelty, rather than against the animal cruelty itself.

SB 993 passed the Senate and has been rushed to the Assembly floor for a vote. Please write immediately and encourage your Assembly member to oppose SB 993. You can obtain their contact information via <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Gala event – May 2003

This fund-raising event was a definite success where approximately 35 attendees enjoyed interesting speeches from Doctors Against Dog Labs and entertainment. Many donated items were sold in a silent auction; proceeds are slated for future OCPA events, literature and administration. We also provided CDs with write-in materials for current animal issues. *Note:* Anyone interested in obtaining a CD should contact us at: information@ocpausa.org.
Great American Meatout – June 2003

We provided free vegan lunches, literature and other information to high school students at Sage High School in Newport Beach and Foothill High School in Tustin. Many students were receptive to the vegan message and some expressed an interest in starting an animal rights group at school.

The 2nd Quarterly OCPA Meeting – June 2003

Our 2nd quarterly meeting was held at Julie and Steve Meskell's beautiful home in Tustin. We had a great turnout and enjoyed a delicious vegan meal, socializing and music provided by Alec Christopher Marken/Deep Stirrings.

Tabling at Farmer's Market, UCI Irvine

Since June, we've been tabling every weekend at the Farmer's Market near UCI Irvine, handing out pro-vegan/vegetarian literature and other animal rights educational materials.

Animal Rights 2003

This was an exciting event with the who's who of animal rights in attendance. OCPA sponsored a table throughout the conference, met with other activists, distributed our brochures, and recruited future volunteers and members.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

The 3rd OCPA Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, September 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in Huntington Beach featuring the musical talent of Alec Christopher Marken/Deep Stirrings. Check our web site at <http://ocpausa.org/events.htm> for additional details.

Grief Release Workshop for Animal Rights Advocates

Saturday, November 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Irvine facilitated by Ava Park, Founder of OCPA. Check our web site at <http://ocpausa.org/events.htm> for additional details (reservations required by 10/1/03).

Worldfest – Los Angeles, CA

Sunday, September 28th, at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. Enjoy a full day of music, speeches and vegan food. Visit <http://www.worldfestevents.com> for more information.

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/support_us/support_us.htm.

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