

OCPA E-Alert September 2006



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Good News for the Animals!

Critical Animal Legislation Passes

- AB 450, the bill to help animals during emergencies, requires that the Office of Emergency Services approve, adopt and incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) program into the standard emergency management system. Now this bill just needs [Governor Schwarzenegger's signature](#) and it becomes law.
- SB 1578, the bill to ban dog chaining as the primary means of confinement, recently passed both houses of the state legislature, was just signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and now becomes law.
- AB 2862, the bill that will protect animals in pet stores by establishing minimum standards for the housing, sanitary conditions, and veterinary care, has now passed both houses of the California state legislature and awaits [Governor Schwarzenegger's signature](#) to become law.

- HR 503, a bill that will ban the slaughter of horses, passed the House of Representatives recently. Refer to *Action Items* section of this e-alert to urge the Senate to approve their version (S 1915) of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.

Ben and Jerry's Adopts Cage-Free Egg Policy

Ben & Jerry's has recently declared that it will adopt an exclusively cage-free egg policy for the eggs it uses in its ice cream. This decision will improve the welfare of tens of thousands of chickens annually. Ben & Jerry's has also pledged that all of its cage-free eggs will only come from sources that meet the animal care standards of Humane Farm Animal Care. [Send a thank you](#) and request them to also create a line of vegan dessert alternatives.

European Union Adopts Resolution to Ban Seal Products Trade

In a historic move, the European Union has adopted a resolution calling for a ban on all trade in harp and hooded seal products. Over 400 members of the European Parliament endorsed the resolution – the highest number of signatories on any written declaration in its history. In the 1980s, a similar European ban on the import of products from newborn seals brought Canada's commercial seal hunt to a virtual standstill – until the Canadian government allowed sealers to slaughter baby seals as young as a few days old. This recent resolution is a crucial step toward achieving legislation that will save millions of seals from a horrible fate by eliminating a major market for the Canadian commercial seal industry and helping to end the world's largest slaughter of marine mammals.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Last Chance to Protect First Amendment Rights – Urge Representative/Senators to Oppose the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, HR 4239 and S 3880

Believe it or not, a bill is now pending in the House and Senate (HR 4239 and S 3880) 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. **And this bill may be voted on this week!**

Join Last Chance for Animals, HSUS, OCPA and other organizations that vehemently object to this legislature; 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 for points to include in your contact.

Urge Senate to Pass S 1915 Version of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (HR 503) That Just Passed House

S 1915 is one of the most important animal welfare bills ever to reach the Senate. If it becomes law, the slaughter of equines for human consumption and the domestic and international transport of live horses or horse flesh for this purpose will be outlawed in the U.S. The House version of this bill just passed (HR 503).

Please follow this link to take immediate action and urge your Senators to support S 1915: <http://ga0.org/campaign/SenateHorseBill>. Or visit the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org/legislation> for your senator contact information and send a letter asking her to support this important bill.

Ask Capital One to Stop Sponsoring Fear Factor

If anyone ever watched Fear Factor in the past, you're probably aware of the many ways in which the show exploits animals for entertainment value. In a recent episode, the "challenge" for the contestants was to dip their heads in buckets full of filthy water that contained pig hooves and transport as many hooves as possible, one by one, in their mouths to a bucket on the other side of a cage that was also packed with live pigs crammed so tightly that they were squealing in pain as the contestants pushed and prodded them out of the way. These intelligent animals (the pigs) were obviously very confused and scared inside the cage with abusive humans, while other contestants on the sidelines added to the confusion and chaos with loud screams.

The producers of this show have probably received letters from animal rights people in the past since Fear Factor was on the air for years humiliating and torturing animals, humans and other living creatures. These apparently did not deter the producers of the show from continuing to air inhumane material. Therefore, a different approach is necessary by contacting the sponsors of the show, mainly Capital One.

Please cancel any business you may have with that company and inform them about why you are no longer willing to conduct business with them. If you don't have any credit cards, loans, or insurance accounts with Capital One, please send them a quick e-mail to let them know why you won't do business with them. Fear Factor has been exploiting animals on prime time TV (NBC) for years now, and they must to be stopped – original programming and/or reruns. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to others.

Contact: Capital One, 1-800-955-7070, webinfo@Capitalone.com; contact NBC, <http://www2.rresults.com/1809998/default.cfm?id=0&s=3&CFID=2542997&CFTOKEN=73027046>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, September 10th 1:30 p.m. at The Wheel of Life in Huntington Beach

On Sunday, September 10th, the veg*n lunch group met at The Wheel of Life restaurant in Huntington Beach to dine on delicious vegan food and to hear vegan radio talk show host, Bob Linden of www.goveganradio.com speak about the importance of a vegan diet for our health, for animals, and for the environment.

Our little group is growing. We had 21 people in attendance! Among the attendees were Kenneth Williams, vegan body builder and winner of the World Natural Body Building Championship who was featured recently on the cover of the *Veg News*' best selling issue of their magazine AND Rory Friedman, co-author of the diet and health book, *Skinny Bitch*.

Refer to the *Upcoming Events* section of this e-alert for information about the next luncheon.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, October 1st 1:30 p.m. at The Stand in Laguna Beach

The next luncheon will be held this Sunday, October 1st, at 1:30 p.m. at The Stand, 238 Thalia Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651; phone 949-494-8101. This restaurant serves multi-cultural food that is 100% vegan. Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch.

The Stand is located just a half block north of Pacific Coast Highway on Thalia on the left hand side of the street. There is outdoor seating only. We expect nice weather, but bring a sweater just in case and take time to enjoy a pleasant stroll on the beach after lunch.

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.

Mark your calendar for the next veg*n luncheon at Native Foods in Costa Mesa on Sunday, November 5th at 1:30 p.m.

Worldwide Vegetarian Day Celebration – Sunday, October 1st, 3-6:00 p.m. in Long Beach (Sponsored by Animal Acres)

Join Animal Acres and others to celebrate Worldwide Vegetarian Day in Long Beach on Sunday, October 1st, between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Feast on some of the best compassionate cuisine around while enjoying music by Makena at the beautiful 2nd City Council Gallery, 435 Alamitos Avenue, Long Beach 90802.

This special event benefits the farm animal friends at Animal Acres. Your ticket purchase will provide feed, housing and veterinary care for suffering farmed animals — what better reason, or better place, to celebrate world vegetarian day. The cost of the ticket is \$35 per person. RSVP is required.

Call 661-269-5404 to make a reservation(s) or [click here](#) to purchase them online. If purchasing online, please make a note in COMMENTS box on donation page FOR LONG BEACH EVENT. Hosted by Friends of Animal Acres-Long Beach. [Click here](#) for more information and a poster to download to spread the word.

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.

Intimate Evening with Three Leading Authors of Animal Protection Movement – Thursday, October 5th, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m., Hollywood

Meet the authors of *When Elephants Weep* (Jeffrey Masson), *Empty Cages* (Tom Regan) and *Dominion* (Matthew Scully) at an event to benefit the Animals and Society Institute, Culture and Animals Foundation and Farm Sanctuary.

This event takes place on Thursday, October 5th, between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at the home of Gene and Kay Baur in Hollywood. Cocktails and vegan hors d'oeuvres will be served. Tickets are \$75 per person. Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 3rd, by calling 607-583-2225 ext. 221 or [register online](#).

Caring for Creation Conference – Saturday, October 21st 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tustin

Join OCPA and others at the Caring for Creation Conference on Saturday, October 21st, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in Tustin.

The conference is sponsored by the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. It will be held at 1221 Wass Street, Tustin, CA 92780 and features several workshops including *Responding to Energy Vulnerability*, *Awakening to Kinship: Humans & Animals in World Religions*, *Ethical Consumption: Saving the World While You Spend*, *Protecting Current & Future Generations: Exposure to Toxic Chemicals And What We Can Do About It*, *Restoring the Earth's Resources* and more.

Tickets are \$40.00 in advance and \$50.00 at the door for adults; \$25.00 for students or seniors over age 65. Fee includes continental breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register online, visit www.ocice.org or call Margaret at 714-731-6775.

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.

[Note: Change accordingly for Senators – S. 3880]

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,