

OCAPA E-Alert Summer Edition 2004



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Good News for the Animals!

Austria Adopts New Animal Rights Laws

Austria recently joined other European countries including Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland and the U.K. in banning the use of cruel battery cages on egg farms. The new laws will allow hens to run free around barnyards. Lions and tigers will vanish from circus acts, and pet owners (guardians) will not be allowed to crop their dogs' tails or ears. Violators will be fined and their animals seized. This is a wonderful step in giving animals the respect and consideration they deserve.

San Francisco Votes to Move Two Remaining Elephants from Zoo to Sanctuary

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution calling for the last two surviving elephants at the San Francisco Zoo be transferred as soon as possible to an elephant sanctuary in California. The elephants at the zoo have suffered from degenerative health conditions for years and this will give them a wonderful opportunity to heal and live the rest of their lives in a much better environment.

Iceland Reduces Whaling Program

Iceland drastically reduced its whaling program and cancelled plans to kill 250 whales this year. However, they have not yet completely ceased their program, as they still plan to kill 25 minke whales. Hopefully, with continued contact to and pressure upon its government, the country will eventually cease the program altogether.

Petco Lawsuit Settled

After three years of citations and warnings, the city of San Francisco settled a two-year litigation against Petco. The settlement included a \$50,000 fine, the requirement that all Petco employees receive formal training in animal care, and all animals in Petco stores be visited by an independent veterinarian. In a separate settlement, Petco was ordered to pay a more than \$800,000 fine for misleading advertising and the mistreatment of animals by its employees.

AVMA Stops Support for Hen Starvation

The American Veterinary Medical Association recently voted to stop supporting the factory-farm practice of starving hens to manipulate egg production. Also known as forced molting, this practice is cruel and often makes the birds prey to diseases and causes many of them to die. Animal groups including United Poultry Concerns have been after the AVMA for years – and this recent victory shows that persistence can eventually pay off for the animals.

PETA's Poultry Slaughterhouse Cruelty Video Reaches Mainstream Media

Shocking undercover video footage displaying appalling cruelty at a West Virginia poultry slaughterhouse received extensive media coverage across several major news media outlets recently. Hopefully, this information will reach many people previously unaware of the cruelty and sadistic actions occurring at slaughterhouses – and how there are no federal regulations enforcing humane methods of slaughter for chickens, turkeys, ducks and other birds.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Six Flags to Close Elephant Exhibits at Marine World and Wild Safari

An elephant keeper was gored and critically injured by an elephant named Misha at Six Flags Marine World in California. Of 31 Six Flags theme parks in North America, just two facilities—Marine World and Wild Safari, New Jersey—exhibit elephants. Both facilities deprive these intelligent, sensitive animals of their most basic needs: walking great distances, foraging, exploring, playing, and socializing in a herd environment.

Please contact the following Six Flags executives: Kieran Burke, Chair, CEO and COO; Six Flags, Inc., 122 E. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10168; phone 212-599-4690; fax 212-949-6203 - and Jim Dannhauser, CEO and Director at the same address; jdannhau@sftp.com.

Urge Senators to Oppose AB 1926 – Harmful Bill for Wildlife

AB 1926 is a harmful bill that will provide an exception for structural and non-structural “pest” control operators from the provisions of SB 1645 – signed into law in 2002 and requires anyone who traps wildlife for profit obtain a trapping license from the California Department of Fish and Game. SB 1645 also requires trappers to pass a competency exam and it prohibits the sale of raw furs. AB 1926 would entirely circumvent the intent of the existing law, SB 1645, allowing pest control operators (PCOs) to trap and kill animals with inhumane methods, and sell any pelts of the animals they trap.

Please contact your Senator(s) and express your opposition to AB 1926. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Support HR 857 to Ban Slaughter of Horses

Despite the support of over 200 representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Rep. Bob Goodlatte of Virginia, is blocking HR 857, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. This important piece of legislation would ban the slaughter of horses in the U.S. and prevent their export for slaughter to foreign countries.

Please contact Congressman Goodlatte and urge him to release HR 857 out of his committee for a full vote on the house floor: 2240 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515; phone 202-225-2171; fax 202-225-9617.

Another companion bill, S 2352, was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate. Please contact your senators and ask them to support the bill to stop horse slaughter. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Support SB 1548 the Veterinary Reporting Act

Senator Liz Figueroa introduced SB 1548, the Veterinary Reporting Act. This important bill would require any individual licensed under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act to promptly report any animal abuse or cruelty to the appropriate law enforcement authority whenever there is reasonable cause to believe an animal under his or her care has been a victim of animal abuse or cruelty. This bill would also make it a misdemeanor to crop the ears of a dog – a portion of the bill currently under attack.

Please contact the following and ask them to support all aspects of this important animal bill: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone: (916) 445-2841, press 7; Fax: (916) 445-4633; email: www.govmail.ca.gov. Also contact Assembly Appropriations Chairperson Judy Chu, phone: (916) 319-2081 (Sacramento); District Office (323) 981-3426 (Monterey Park); fax: (916) 319-2149; email: Assemblymember.chu@assembly.ca.gov.

Avoid Hartz Flea and Tick Products

A nationally sold pet product may be harming or even killing pets. The flea and tick drops sold by Hartz is apparently causing cats to go into convulsions and seizures, unable to walk or control their muscles. According to the EPA, there have been over 7,000 complaints about this product within the past five years. Since Hartz has downplayed the severity of the situation, PETA and HSUS are currently working with the EPA and Hartz to either solve the problem or pull the product from the shelves.

Recent OCPA Activities

OCPA Learning Session #1 – “The Vaccine Scam” on May 30th

OCPA's first learning session, “The Vaccine Scam,” held on May 30th was a great success. Attendees learned more about the lie told to people for so long that society as a whole believes it to be the truth. Everyone learned ways to personally stop this multi-billion dollar business – one of the worst forms of human and animal abuse around.

UCI Tabling in June

In June, OCPA members and volunteers tabled at UCI, speaking to students about animal rights issues and handing out literature. Many students signed up for future volunteer work – OCPA plans to maintain a regular tabling presence at UCI.

Veggie Peace Festival on July 31st

Several members of OCPA joined Bob Linden and other peace-loving vegans (and future vegans) in Venice for the Venice Midsummer Dream-of-Peace Veggie-Q. Everyone enjoyed the vegan spread, mingling, live music, lectures and movies including PETA's Chew on This and Peaceable Kingdom.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Summer Film Festival and Vegan BBQ Party – Saturday, September 11th in Laguna Beach

OCPA giraffe member, Bob Penney, is hosting a summer film festival and vegan barbecue bash in Laguna Beach on Saturday, September 11th. This fun party begins at 5:00 p.m. (until midnight) and will include veggie BBQ food, drinks (including vegan beer and wine), music and films. Address: 32102 S. Coast Highway, Laguna Beach 92651. Contact Bob at repenney@earthlink.net or 949-677-4354.

OCPA's Annual Write-In Party – Sunday, September 19th in Costa Mesa

Held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Costa Mesa on Sunday, September 19th at 2:00 p.m., OCPA's annual write-in party is a great way to meet other like-minded individuals and help the animals. Enjoy a delicious vegan luncheon, silent auction, speaker and other entertainment – and receive a CD containing pre-written animal advocacy letters addressing current issues. Contact information@ocpausa.org for additional information – or check the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org> for more details on how to register for this fun event.

“Create an Animal Altar” Seminar – Saturday, October 23rd at

Ava Park will lead this seminar showing attendees how to create an animal altar for beloved companions on Saturday, October 23rd, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Stayed tuned for additional information including registration details.

OCPA Learning Session Featuring George Eisman from Farm Sanctuary – Sunday, October 24th at 2:00 p.m.

OCPA's next learning session is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th at 2:00 p.m. Come join the company of like-minded people, and enjoy scrumptious snacks and desserts. **There is NO charge for this session.** George Eisman of the Farm Sanctuary is the speaker for this event; he will talk about the benefits of a vegan diet and the dangers of the popular high-protein diets. Additional details will follow in the next e-alert and/or the OCPA website at <http://ocpausa.org>.

Location: The beautiful home of Evelyn Oynebraaten, 5841 Lancefield Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 (close to Talbert and Springdale). Call Wanda at 714-995-4889 with any questions, or if lost, call Evelyn at 714-846-7081.

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>.

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