

OCAPA E-Alert September 2004



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Good News for the Animals!

Governor Signs SB 1548 Into Law (Bill Requires Vets to Report Animal Abuse)

Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1548 into law. This important bill requires any person 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. Since several studies have shown a strong link between animal cruelty and violence against humans, this bill will help protect both from abuse.

BBB Refers Animal Care Certified Case to FTC

Last month, the Better Business Bureau officially referred the “Animal Care Certified” egg labeling case to the Federal Trade Commission for possible law enforcement action against the United Egg Producers. The egg industry has been misleading consumers about its routine abuse of egg-laying chickens by conveying the message that its hens are raised under caring and humane conditions...when that is definitely not the case.

AB 1857 Preventing Declawing of Exotic Cats Passes Senate

This important bill is now awaiting Governor Schwarzenegger's signature – and will put an end to the painful and crippling amputation surgery practiced on many captive wild and exotic cats, such as lions and tigers. Declawing often results in permanent lameness, arthritis and other long-term complications and is illegal in several countries.

USDA Cites UCSF for Animal Abuse

Federal regulators recently filed a complaint against UC San Francisco alleging 60 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. According to the USDA, the violations could result in civil or criminal penalties, revocation or suspension of a medical research license.

Vegetarian Food Sales Doubled Since 1998

According to Forbes, Vegetarian food sales have doubled since 1988, reaching \$1.6 billion in 2003. The market is forecast to grow another 61% by 2008. This growth has thankfully forced many mainstream food producers to offer veggie food products. Studies show that more than one-third of the U.S. population is trying to reduce the amount of meat in their diet due to obesity and other health problems. Hopefully, as more consumers become educated about the many benefits of a vegetarian diet, more people will decide to eliminate animal products from their meals.

Britain's House of Commons Votes to Ban Hunting with Dogs

Britain's House of Commons recently approved a bill to ban the cruel hunting of foxes, deer, hares and mink with dogs. Pro-fox hunt protesters burst in and interrupted the debate on the bill – but it won by a vote of 356 to 166.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Contact USDA Regarding Care and Treatment of Birds, Rats and Mice

The USDA is requesting public input by November 1st before proposing the necessary new regulations that will cover certain birds, rats and mice under the Animal Welfare Act. The minimum protections afforded under the Act have been denied to these species for far too long – mainly due to pressure from the research community not to define birds, rats and mice bred for research as “animals.”

Please contact the USDA via <http://comments.aphis.usda.gov> or e-mail: regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comments must be contained in the body of the e-mail (no attachments); use “Docket No. 98-106-4” in the subject line. You can also mail a letter (with three copies) to: Docket No. 98-106-4; Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD; APHIS, Station 3C71, Unit 118; 4700 River Road; Riverdale, MD; 20737-1238.

Support American Wild Horse Preservation

Wild horses are being eradicated from public lands, even though this violates the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. Special interests including the cattle industry have been successful in pressuring the government to remove wild horses from public lands.

The goal of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign is to obtain a moratorium on round-ups – pending an independent census of the remaining herds – and obtain the implementation of management policies that reflect the intent of federal law and the will of the American people. With your help, AWHPC will urge Congress to manage wild horses in the **wild**.

Please sign the petition that supports a congressional hearing on this issue at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/166841148>.

Urge Representatives to Support HR 1473, Don't Feed the Bears Act

HR 1473 would ban bear-baiting hunters from setting out large piles of human food, hiding in nearby hunting blinds, and killing bears while they eat the meats, fruits and pastries set out for them as a trap.

Please contact your Representatives and ask him/her to support this bill to ban this horrible practice. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Support Puppy Protection Act

The Puppy Protection Act (HR 3484) modestly amends the Animal Welfare Act to provide protection for puppies and their mothers. Currently, there are no standards regarding how old female dogs must be before they are bred, or how often they are forced to mate. This legislation would prohibit people who maintain four or more breeding female dogs from breeding a dog before she reaches one year old and also prevent people from mating female dogs more than three times within two years.

Undoubtedly, animal breeders will try to prevent this bill from becoming law – as violators could have their license suspended and these more humane standards would cut into their profits.

Please contact your Representatives and ask them to support HR 3484. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.]

Recent OCPA Activities

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

OCPA giraffe member, Bob Penney, hosted a summer film festival and vegan barbecue bash in Laguna Beach on Saturday, September 11th. This party was a smashing success and guests enjoyed a fun evening of veggie BBQ food, drinks (including vegan beer and wine), music and films. Thank you, Bob, for throwing this party and being the host with the most.

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 attendees enjoyed a delicious vegan luncheon, silent auction, presentation and other entertainment; received a CD containing pre-written animal advocacy letters addressing current issues; and had the opportunity to mingle with like-minded guests.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

“Create an Animal Altar” Seminar – This event has been postponed until March 2005

Ava Park will lead this seminar showing attendees how to create an animal altar for beloved companions. Stay tuned for additional information including registration details.

Saturday, October 2nd – World Farm Animals Day

Launched in 1983, World Farm Animals Day brings animal activists together to end the unnecessary suffering and death of farm animals in the world's factory farms and slaughterhouses.

Walks are scheduled in Santa Ana (Anaheim@walkforfaranimals.org) and Venice Beach (losangeles@walkforfaranimals.org) - or visit <http://www.wfad.org/> to find an event near you.

October 8-10th – Healthy Lifestyle Expo in L.A.

Held on the weekend of October 8-10th at the Los Angeles Sheraton Gateway Hotel near LAX, the Healthy Lifestyle Expo features speakers, vegan food and more. The cost for the entire weekend lineup of speakers is \$120; admittance for exhibitor booths is free. For more information, visit <http://www.healthy lifestyle expo.com> - or purchase tickets via <http://www.vegsource.com/expo/tickets.htm>.

Saturday, October 23rd – Caring for Creation Conference

The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE) is sponsoring the 7th annual Caring for Creation Conference on Saturday, October 23rd, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch and is \$25 for adults, \$15 for students. Visit <http://www.OCICE.org> for additional information.

Location: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1201 Irvine Boulevard, Tustin, CA 92780.

Saturday, October 23rd – Party Animal Fun-Raiser

The Association to Save Abandoned Pets (ASAP) is sponsoring its party animal fun-raiser on Saturday, October 23rd, from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Marina Del Rey. This event will offer good food, music, dancing, prizes, and lots of people who love and support animals. The cost is \$25 per person, \$40 per couple and/or \$5 per children over 10 years old. For additional information, call 310-306-8166 or visit <http://www.asapnokill.org>.

Location: Pacific Mariners Yacht Club, 13915 Panay Way, Marina Del Rey, CA. Free and valet parking available; club does not allow pets at events.

OCPA Learning Session Featuring George Eisman from Farm Sanctuary – Sunday, October 24th at 5:30 p.m.

OCPA's next learning session is scheduled for Sunday, October 24th at 5:30 p.m. at The Living Temple in Huntington Beach. 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.

Location: The Living Temple, 7561 Center Avenue, #24 (in the Old World Village), Huntington Beach, CA 92647; 714-891-5117; <http://www.thelivingtemple.com>.

October 29-31st – National Student Animal Rights Conference in Berkeley

Attention students: Sponsored by the Students Animal Rights Alliance (SARA), the national student animal rights conference is being held in Berkeley from October 29th through 31st. Registration is only \$20 and there are travel grants available. Visit the SARA website at <http://www.DefendAnimals.org> for more information including a list of this year's speakers.

Monday, November 1st – World Vegan Day in Tarzana

Come to Tarzana to participate in the World Vegan Day celebration on Monday, November 1st, between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. This event is free and all vendors will sell only vegan products. Enjoy food, music, speakers and the 60th birthday bash for the word vegan and the first vegan society!

Location: St. Herman's Hall, 5657 Lindley Avenue, Tarzana, California 91356.

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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