OCPA E-Alert January 2005



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Good News for the Animals!

Detroit Zoo's Elephants to Transfer to Sanctuary

After a showdown between the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Detroit Zoo's director, two Asian elephants, Winky and Wanda, are being relocated from Detroit to the PAWS sanctuary in California. Let's hope that this is the beginning of a trend to end a practice long accepted – keeping large wild animals in close confinement to the detriment of their health and lives, all in the name of human entertainment.

New Jersey Bear Hunt Halted

A unanimous Supreme Court of New Jersey recently halted a black bear hunt scheduled to launch in early December in New Jersey. As you may remember, last year more than 300 bears including cubs were killed for sport for the first time in New Jersey in 33 years. Thankfully, the Department of Environmental Protection commissioner refused to issue bear hunting permits based on his judgment that a bear hunt could not be conducted safely and that it would conflict with the state's non-lethal bear management strategies.

Large Hog-Dog Fighting Operation Shut Down

Law enforcement authorities across four states recently shut down the nation's largest hog-dog fighting operation in Arizona, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia. Hundreds of animals were seized and several of the fighting ring's organizers were arrested on a variety of felony charges including animal cruelty. According to South Carolina's attorney general, the practice of staging fights between pit bulls and captured hogs is illegal – and like dog fighting, these activities are barbaric, inhumane and must be stopped.

Action Items - Your Letters/Calls Needed

Shop at Whole Foods on January 25th to Support Animal Welfare

Whole Foods Market has launched a new and exciting program to advance farm animal welfare. As you know, billions of farm animals are currently raised for food using cruel and inhumane methods. Of course, we would like to see a day when animals are no longer viewed as food. Until then, anything that helps raise awareness of the animals' plight and promotes compassion is a step in the right direction.

So if you can, shop at Whole Foods on January 25th to help support the creation of the Animal Compassion Foundation. This foundation will promote compassionate animal farming methods and serve as a resource center and forum for global technology exchange. The foundation will focus on the physical needs, natural behaviors and wellbeing of animals.

Urge Legislators to Oppose AB 87 for California Wildlife

Assembly member Rudy Bermudez has once again introduced a bill (AB 87) that will exempt structural and non-structural "pest" control operations from the requirements of needing to procure a Department of Fish and Wildlife license when they provide trapping services for profit. This same piece of legislation was introduced – and defeated – last year as AB 1926. So let's defeat it once again for the sake of California wildlife.

Contact your assembly member immediately (before February 6th) and ask him/her to oppose AB 87. Refer to the sample letter at this end of this e-alert; please remember to change it by using your own words. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: http://ocpausa.org/legislation.

Protest Airing of Trophy Hunting Show

Believe it or not, the Safari Club International has announced the launch of a new television series that will showcase the planned pursuit and killing of exotic animals. The new series is set to air in September and is the product of a partnership between the Outdoor Life Network, Comcast Television, Orion Multimedia and Image Works, Inc.

Many Safari Club members shoot captive, often semi-tame animals in canned hunts on preserves or farms in North America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Gunning down helpless animals in the name of "sport" is deplorable and should be stopped – and reputable media firms should not encourage or promote this unnecessary and cruel practice. For more information about canned hunting, visit our site at http://ocpausa.org/hunting.htm.

Contact the Outdoor Life Network today and urge the company to disassociate itself from the Safari Club and a television series with this organization. Request that future programs not include the killing or inhumane treatment of animals: Outdoor Life Network, Two Stamford Plaza, 281 Tresser Boulevard, 9th Floor, Stamford, CT 06901. Viewer hotline: 203-406-2613; www.olntv.com/feedback.asp.

Recent OCPA Activities

Fur-Free Friday Protest - November 26th

OCPA members joined IDA, LCA, PETA and others for the annual fur-free Friday demonstration against the making, selling and buying of fur on November 26th in Beverly Hills. While it's heartening to know that more and more retail stores are no longer carrying fur items, we will not give up the fight until they **all** stop selling it...

OCPA Holiday Party - December 3rd

The OCPA annual holiday party was again held at the beautiful Ayers Country Inn and Suites Hotel in Costa Mesa, and featured a vegan dinner, live music, and OCPA's annual "peace for animals" community ceremony. A good time was shared by all; thanks to everyone who attended. And for those who didn't, we look forward to seeing you at the next one!

High School Outreach - December 6th/7th

OCPA spoke to an animal rights club at Mission Viejo High School on December 6th and then returned to speak to an environmental club on December 7th. Additional presentations are scheduled at several elementary schools during the week of January 24th and January 31st in Fullerton and Yorba Linda. We plan to continue this outreach to students throughout the year.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

January 22nd (tomorrow) – Benefit 5 Band Concert for Activism in Laguna Beach

This fun benefit concert features five bands including the PD Band, 8th Day Fall, Chris Wissler, Matheu's groovy rock project and Alec Marken/Deep Stirrings.

A suggested \$7 donation will go toward the legal fees for Julie Meskell's fight against a false arrest and charges that occurred while exercising her freedom of speech rights at a rodeo. As she goes through the court proceedings and appeals process, this is an opportunity to thank her for being out on the front lines on behalf of the animals.

So come out and enjoy this great music and fun event this Saturday evening (tomorrow, January 22nd), 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Congregational Church, Bridge Hall (upper level), 340 St. Ann's Drive, Laguna Beach, CA; 949-494-8061. Parking available on Glenneyre between St. Ann's and Cleo streets.

January 20th – February 24th – Feral Cat Caretaking Workshop in Long Beach

We apologize for the late notice on this great workshop!

The Feral Cat Caretakers' Coalition (FCCC) is now conducting its first feral cat caretaking workshop hosted by the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control. Location: Long Beach, 5898 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA. Deputy Ron Edwards, Animal Control Manager, will attend the classes.

This is a six-week certification course held from 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays for a suggested donation of \$10.00.

You may still be able to attend the six-session series running between January 20th and February 24th; call the FCCC at 310-820-4122 or e-mail <u>FeralCatCr@aol.com</u>. Also stay tuned for additional information on future FCCC workshops this year.

Week of March 20th - Annual Great American Meatout

We are currently planning our annual Great American Meatout outreach activities. We will likely again provide vegan meals to local high school and/or college students. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Julie Meskell at julie.meskell@ocpausa.org. The more volunteers we have, the more locations and events we'll arrange. Look for additional information in our next e-alert or visit our website at http://ocpausa.org/events.htm in coming weeks. Help spread the word about the many benefits of a vegan diet...for humans and animals.

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.

To subscribe to this list, e-mail subscribe with the word "ADD" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.

Sample AB 87 Opposition Letter

| January, 2005 |
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| The Honorable State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814 |
| Re: Opposition to AB 87 |
| Dear Assembly Member: |
| I urge you to oppose AB 87, a bill that will modify Section 4005 of the Fish and Game Code by exempting certain pest control operators from the requirements of procuring a Department of Fish & Game license when they provide trapping services for profit. |
| Current law is intended to ensure that persons who trap for profit are competent, proficient, knowledgeable, and skilled in the field of nuisance trapping of furbearers and non-game species designated by the Fish and Game Commission. If AB 87 passes, then pest control operators conducting trapping services will not learn the trapping laws and regulations and they will not understand the proper methods for setting traps. As a result, they will not be tested on their skill, knowledge, and proficiency at these practices. |
| The Department of Fish and Game is the trustee for California's fish and wildlife. As trustee, the Department of Fish and Game should be the entity licensing persons who trap, whether for profit or for commercial or recreational purposes. The entities seeking exemption are not in the business of trapping. The Structural Pest Control Board is concerned with businesses that focus on extermination of rats, mice, pigeons, and structural pests with pesticides, insecticides, and fumigants, and not with our native wildlife. The Department of Pesticide Regulation is concerned with protecting human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use and fostering reduced-risk pest management, and not with our native wildlife. Therefore, the Department of Fish and Game is in the best position to determine the competency and proficiency of pest control operators who trap wildlife. |
| I respectfully request that you oppose AB 1926 when it is offered for a vote. Because this issue is so important to me, I look forward to hearing what your position is on this matter. |
| Thank you. |
| Sincerely, |

If you can, please forward a carbon copy of your letter to:

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee Analyst 1020 N Street, Room 160 Sacramento, CA 95814 916-319-2196 fax

[Your name and address]