

OCPA E-Alert January 2008



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- OCPA Annual Holiday Party – Saturday, December 15th 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County
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Action Items

- Help Los Angeles Pass the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance
- Urge Federal Legislators to Support Several Critical Measures to Protect Pets in Final Farm Bill
- Ask AAA to Stop Corporate Promotions of Ringling Bros.
- Urge PetsMART to Stop Selling Birds

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Veggie Grill in Irvine
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 2nd 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods

Good News for the Animals!

Michael Vick Sentenced to Prison for Illegal Dogfighting

Michael Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison and three years probation for his role in the "Bad Newz Kennels" dogfighting operation and his participation in the brutal killing of several dogs that did not "perform well". During his sentencing the suspended football star apologized to the court and his family. However, Judge Henry Hudson told him, "You need to apologize to the millions of young people who looked up to you".

In August, Michael Vick entered a plea agreement stating that he took part in an illegal, interstate dogfighting enterprise. In documents filed, Vick said he knew dogs that did not perform well were killed. He said the fights involved gambling although he did not personally place bets. Judge Hudson called Vick's actions "cruel and inhumane" and said that Vick was a full partner in "Bad Newz Kennels" and was

therefore equally culpable in all crimes committed. Two of Vick's codefendants were also sentenced and received between 18 and 24 months.

Morningstar Farms to Use Fewer Eggs

In 2007, Compassion Over Killing (COK), Vegan Outreach (VO) and United Poultry Concerns teamed up with caring people everywhere in urging Morningstar Farms, a Kellogg subsidiary, to offer more vegan items by removing eggs from its products.

According to company spokeswoman Kathleen Eckler, in 2008 "Kellogg is reducing the amount of eggs we use in our Morningstar products by a minimum of one million eggs. We're committed to announcing even more new vegan products for our customers." By reducing Kellogg's egg usage by more than one million eggs per year, nearly 4,000 fewer laying hens will suffer in factory farms each year.

Senate Passes Farm Bill with Pet Safety & Protection Act Attached

The Senate passed its version of the Farm Bill with the Pet Safety & Protection Act (PSPA) attached as an amendment. (The House also passed the PSPA in July as part of the Farm Bill.)

The next step for the bill to move forward rests with the House and Senate Agriculture Committee Members who will go to conference to iron out any differences in the language of their respective bills. Refer to the [Action Items](#) section of this e-alert to learn how you can help with this final stage of the process.

All U.S. Medical Schools Now No Longer Kill Dogs

By February 2008, all American medical schools will have abandoned a time-honored method of teaching cardiology: operating on dogs to examine their beating hearts, and disposing of them after the lesson. Case Western Reserve School of Medicine was the last to use the method, but the dean said it would no longer do so after next month.

Among the 126 American medical schools, 11 still sacrifice animals other than dogs for teaching.

Denny's Ends Ringling Bros. Partnership

After months of letters, e-mails, calls, and demonstrations, Denny's has ended its partnership with notorious animal abuser Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Your letters, e-mails, and calls make all the difference in letting companies know that animal abuse is not tolerated by caring consumers.

This is a huge victory for elephants, tigers, and other animals who are dragged around the country in cramped boxcars and forced to perform silly and often painful tricks under the threat of beatings and punishment. With this announcement, Denny's joins other compassionate companies like MasterCard, Visa, Liz Claiborne, and Sears, Roebuck and Co., which all ended their sponsorship of Ringling after learning of the abuse inherent in circuses that use animals.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Help Los Angeles Pass the Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Earlier this week, the Public Safety Committee approved the spay and neuter ordinance for the city of Los Angeles – and it now goes to a full City Council vote this coming Friday at the Van Nuys City Hall.

If this very important legislation passes, the tragic pet overpopulation problem in Los Angeles will at long last be addressed.

Please call city council members and urge their support of this critical ordinance:

Alarcon (author of the bill, please thank him); 213-473-7007 (phone); 213-847-0707 (fax)
Greuel; 213-473-7002; councilmember.greuel@lacity.org
LaBonge; 213-473-7004; councilmember.labonge@lacity.org
Weiss; 213-473-7005; councilmember.weiss@lacity.org
Reyes; 213-473-7001; councilmember.reyes@lacity.org
Zine; 213-473-7003; councilmember.zine@lacity.org
Cardenas; 213-473-7006; Councilman.cardenas@lacity.org
Parks; 213-473-7008; councilmember.parks@lacity.org
Perry; 213-473-7009; councilmember.jan.perry@lacity.org
Wesson; 213-473-7010; councilmember.wesson@lacity.org
Rosendahl; 213-473-7011; councilmember.rosendahl@lacity.org
Garcetti; 213-473-7013; councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org
Huizar; 213-473-7014; councilmember.huizar@lacity.org
Hahn; 213-473-7015; councilmember.hahn@lacity.org
Greig Smith; 213-473-7012; Councilmember.smith@lacity.org

And if at all possible, please plan to attend the City Council meeting in Van Nuys this Friday at 9:30 a.m., Van Nuys City Hall, 14410 Sylvan St (at Van Nuys Blvd), Van Nuys, CA 91401.

Urge Federal Legislators to Support Several Critical Measures to Protect Pets in Final Farm Bill

Several measures to protect pets are being considered for inclusion in the final Farm Bill: Measures that would stop the use in research of random source dogs and cats obtained through "Class B dealers," stop the importation of puppies from foreign puppy mills for commercial sale, strengthen the federal law against dogfighting, increase the maximum penalties for Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations, and require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to resume providing annual reports on its AWA enforcement efforts.

Visit https://community.hsus.org/campaign/FED_2008_farmbill_amendments to participate in the Humane Society's action alert or call/write your federal legislators as soon as possible. For legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

Ask AAA to Stop Corporate Promotions of Ringling Bros.

Travel agency AAA is teaming up with infamous animal abuser Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus by offering discounted tickets to Ringling events.

Please take a minute to tell AAA that compassionate consumers are outraged when any company promotes Ringling. Also let the travel agency know that Ringling has earned universal condemnation by animal protection organizations, elephant experts, and animal advocates.

After learning of the abuse inherent in animal circuses, major corporations like Denny's, General Mills, Burger King, Liz Claiborne, MasterCard, Visa, and Sears, Roebuck and Co. ended their sponsorships of circuses like Ringling and UniverSoul, another circus that forces animals to perform confusing and often painful tricks. Now it's time for AAA to do the same.

For more information, visit PETA's action page to send a message to AAA:
http://getactive.peta.org/campaign/AAA_ringling_promos.

Urge PetsMART to Stop Selling Birds

PETsMART has temporarily suspended the sale of birds in approximately 775 stores in 44 states across the U.S., after birds in 23 PETsMART stores tested positive for avian chlamydiosis (also called psittacosis) — a disease that is transmittable to humans. The disease is suspected to have originated with a major bird vendor/distributor in Florida — where birds are mass-produced and shipped all over the country to stock pet shops. This includes major pet shop chains PETsMART, Pet Land, and Superpetz.

Of further concern in this case is that it has been revealed that the Florida distributor (with approval from PETSMART) uses antibiotics as a prophylactic treatment — dosing birds with antibiotics whether the birds have the bacteria or not. But only birds confirmed to be sick should be treated for disease.

Now is the time to help turn PETSMART's temporary suspension of sales into a permanent change. Urge PETSMART to stop selling birds in its stores, and to instead work exclusively with bird rescue groups and/or to refer customers interested in birds directly to the rescue groups.

Contact PETSMART, 19601 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; email: customercare@petsmart.com.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, December 2nd 1:00 p.m. at the Bodhi Tree Café in Huntington Beach

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at the Bodhi Tree Café in Huntington Beach.

The Bodhi Tree Café features foods free from all animal products and is located at 501 Main Street in Huntington Beach; 714-969-9500; <http://www.bodhitreecafe.net>.

OCPA Annual Holiday Party – Saturday, December 15th 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County

OCPA held its annual holiday party on Saturday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County.

Like-minded individuals gathered to enjoy live music provided by Alec Marken and Tommy O'Callaghan of *Deep Stirrings* during a festive cocktail hour complete with silent auction items and raffle, followed by a gourmet vegan dinner. Our special thanks to Alex and Tommy, Bob Linden (guest speaker, www.goveganradio.com), Bob Penney and Ava Park for helping to make this event a memorable one.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, January 6th 1:00 p.m. at Thuyen Vien in Garden Grove

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, January 6th at 1:00 p.m. at Thuyen Vien (meditation garden) in Garden Grove, 11080 Magnolia St, Garden Grove, California 92841 (at Katella); phone: (714) 638-8189.

Attendees enjoyed a menu offering many choices including various soy meats, baby lotus salad, asparagus soup, spring rolls, and more. Website: <http://www.thuyenvien.com>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, February 3rd 6:30 p.m. at the Veggie Grill in Irvine

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, February 3rd at Veggie Grill Restaurant in Irvine for dinner at 6:30 p.m. *Note:* The later time is intended to accommodate those who can only join us later in the day.

Veggie Grill, 4213 Campus Dr, Irvine, CA; phone: (949) 509-0002; hours 11am - 10pm; located in the University Center, across from UC Irvine, next to Trader Joe's; <http://www.veggiegrill.com>.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch. For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at 714-995-4889 or Evelyn at (714) 846-7081.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 2nd 1:00 p.m. at Mother’s Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods

On Sunday, March 2nd, we’ll meet at our regular time of 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods.

Mother's Market & Kitchen, 24165 Paseo De Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA; phone: (949) 768-6667; located off El Toro Road and the I-5 freeway; <http://www.mothersmarket.com>.

Stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

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.