

## OCPA E-Alert 1-15-04



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## Good News for the Animals!

### ***Spago Says “No” to Veal***

Spago Restaurant in Chicago decided to remove all veal items from its menu due to consumer concerns about the cruel veal industry.

### ***Victoria’s Secret and Ross Stores Stop Selling Fur***

For the first time, Victoria’s Secret recent holiday catalog did not feature any fur or fur-trimmed items. And Ross Stores recently announced it will no longer sell fur coats. This is a wonderful step in the right direction; now to convince Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom’s and other fur-selling retailers to follow suit...

### ***Captive Wildlife Safety Act Signed Into Law***

President Bush recently signed the Captive Wildlife Safety Act into law, prohibiting the interstate and foreign commerce of dangerous exotic animals including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and cougars as pets.

## ***USDA Announces Ban on Downer Cows in Food Supply Due to Mad Cow Discovery***

Well, it finally happened: The first confirmed case of Mad Cow disease was reported in the U.S. late last month. Following the discovery, the USDA announced that all downer cattle are banned from the human food chain. Let's hope that the administration declares the ban permanent and follows up with stricter testing policies and other measures to ensure both public safety and better treatment toward animals raised for food.

## **Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed**

### ***Urge DA to Drop Charges Against Rodeo Protestor***

Julie Meskell, an Orange County mother of two and activist opposed to rodeos, was arrested Oct. 10, 2003, while peacefully handing out literature at the annual Industry Hills Rodeo. This arrest is just the latest incident in a long history of harassment and intimidation by the City of Industry, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the rodeo interests.

Please e-mail or fax the District Attorney assigned to this case and urge her to drop these charges against Julie Meskell who was exercising her right to free speech (see last page of this e-alert for a sample letter): Ms. Donna Hollingsworth, District Attorney, West Covina Superior Court, 1427 West Covina Parkway, West Covina, CA 91790; [Dhollingsworth@DA.co.la.ca.us](mailto:Dhollingsworth@DA.co.la.ca.us); phone: 626-813-3301; fax: 626-814-9001.

### ***Stop Pro-Trapping Postage Stamps; Save Spay/Neuter Stamp***

Unbelievably, the U.S. Postal Service is currently considering a pro-trapping postage stamp! And regretfully, the USPS apparently decided not to reproduce the popular spay/neuter stamps.

Please contact the national Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee and ask them NOT to promote animal cruelty but to instead continue the production and distribution of the popular and educational spay/neuter stamps: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamp Development, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670, Washington, DC 20260-2437.

### ***Ask AK Governor to Stop Aerial Wolf Shootings***

Alaska's governor approved a plan that would allow citizens to shoot wolves from airplanes in a misguided attempt to boost moose and caribou populations for hunters. Many animal organizations have pledged a tourism boycott should this plan move forward.

Please urge the governor to cancel this barbaric and unnecessary aerial shooting program: Governor Frank Murkowski, P.O. Box 11001, Juneau, AK 99811; [governor@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.ak.us); phone: 907-465-3500; fax: 907-465-3532.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***OCPA Holiday Party –December 13<sup>th</sup>***

The OCPA annual holiday party was held at the Ayers Country Inn and Suites Hotel in Costa Mesa, and featured a vegan dinner, silent auction, live music, guest speaker, and OCPA's annual "peace for animals" community ceremony. A good time was shared by all; thanks to everyone who attended.

## ***Cox Cable Advertising Promoting Vegetarianism***

OCPA-sponsored pro-vegetarianism advertising will soon appear on local Cox Cable (airing throughout Tustin, Irvine, Newport Beach and Corona del Mar). These 30-second advertisements were created by NARN – the Northwest Animal Rights Network, and will air in upcoming months on various networks including CNN, Lifetime, Animal Planet, the Food Network and others.

## **Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other**

### ***Support OCPA's Board Member Against False Arrest and Protect First Amendment Rights***

Please come to Julie Meskell's hearing to show your support for Julie and free speech. Your presence will also make a bold statement in opposition to the cruelty of the rodeo and the suppression of First Amendment rights of activists.

When: 8:30 a.m., Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>; Where: Division 7, West Covina Superior Court, 1427 West Covina Parkway, off the 10 Freeway, several miles west of the 57 Freeway.

### ***Join Vegan Toastmasters***

Join local vegans, animal rights and environmental activists the first and third Saturday of every month, between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon in Santa Monica. Vegan Toastmasters is specifically for vegans who wish to improve their speaking and leadership skills in a supportive, fun atmosphere.

Meeting location: Ken Edwards Center, 1527 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 105, Santa Monica. Park in structure or on street. Contact Dave at 310-480-2039 with any questions.

## **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/support\\_us/support\\_us.htm](http://ocpausa.org/support_us/support_us.htm) (will soon change to <http://ocpausa.org/join.htm>).

To subscribe to this list, e-mail [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) with the word "ADD" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.

**Sample letter to West Covina District Attorney:**

Ms. Donna Hollingsworth  
District Attorney  
West Covina Superior Court  
1427 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA 91790

Dear Ms. Hollingsworth,

I am writing to urge you to drop all charges against Julie Meskell, the Orange County resident who was wrongfully arrested at the Industry Hills Rodeo on October 10, 2003. What was done to Ms. Meskell at the hands of L.A. County Sheriff's officers and the rodeo interests was pure harassment intended to chill free speech, oppress her peaceful protest and discourage her and other concerned citizens from lawful dissent in the future.

This rodeo is infamous for its attempts to stifle the exercise of free speech. I ask that you look into this rodeo's past and you will clearly see a history of intimidation used against those who come to lawfully demonstrate. There are protests at virtually every other rodeo in the region and people are not hassled and harangued the way they are at the City of Industry.

Prosecuting Julie Meskell wastes the taxpayers' money and tears the fabric of our state and federal constitutions. Instead of this misuse of funds, why doesn't the L.A. County Sheriff's enforce animal anti-cruelty laws? Why does the City ignore the State of California's Humane Education Code by bussing children to an event that teaches them that violence and animal cruelty are acceptable?

Please dismiss these false and harassing charges brought against a decent, law-abiding citizen. There has not only been a great injustice done to an innocent, caring mother, but also to the rights guaranteed to every person by the blood of the people who fought for our rights.

Sincerely,