

OCPA E-Alert

October / November 2008



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- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Santa Ana

Special Note: If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to julie.meskell@ocpausa.org to have your e-mail address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

Good News for the Animals!

Proposition 2 Passes in California!

In a historic victory, California voters overwhelmingly approved the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act/Proposition 2, a landmark measure that bans three of the cruelest factory farming confinement systems [battery cages](#), [veal crates](#) and [gestation crates](#) -- in the state by 2015. By a vote of more than 60 percent, Californians sent a clear message to big agribusiness that cruelty to animals is unacceptable.

While Prop 2 will curtail the suffering of millions of animals in California, the repercussions throughout the country promise to be even more profound: As California goes, so goes the rest of the nation. California's

new law against farm animal cruelty holds the potential to spark an unstoppable precedent for change in the way farm animals are treated nationwide.

Although veal crates, gestation crates and battery cage confinement systems have been banned throughout Europe, they remain common across most of the U.S. With the passage of Prop 2, California becomes the 5th state to outlaw gestation crates (joining Florida, Arizona, Oregon and Colorado) and the third to outlaw veal crates (joining Arizona and Colorado). Perhaps most significantly, it becomes the first state to ban battery cages for laying hens who are killed in far greater numbers than either pigs or calves.

The impact of California's passing of Prop 2 will be significant, and the efforts of animal protection advocates across the country toward its passage will continue to send ripples across the nation.

Thank you to everybody who gave their time and energy to help achieve this phenomenal victory. And a special thanks to OCPA's board members, Julie Meskell and Dina Kourda; who were out there in the trenches gathering signatures (#1 and #3 spots for most signatures gathered in Orange County, respectively) to help make this vital legislation land on the ballot.

[Check out more information on this monumental victory!](#)

Massachusetts Bans Dog Racing

Another victory for the animals from the voting booths earlier this month is the [Massachusetts ban on dog racing](#). In 2000, a similar ballot measure was narrowly defeated, and attempts to get the question included on the 2006 ballot were unsuccessful. With the ban's recent passage (57 percent to 43 percent), commercial dog racing will be phased out in Massachusetts by 2010. There are two dog tracks in the state—each of which is believed to currently house about 1,000 greyhounds. Because the phase-out will occur over a period of 14 months, greyhound advocacy groups such as [Grey2K USA](#) are confident that they will be able to find homes for any racing dogs who become available for adoption.

Pig Farm Employees Face 22 Counts of Neglect/Abuse

A recent PETA undercover investigation on an Iowa pig farm that breeds piglets to supply Hormel revealed that pregnant pigs were confined to barren gestation crates, beaten with metal gate rods, and kicked by farm workers. Workers were documented shocking pigs and spraying toxic paint around their eyes and up their noses, and one supervisor even raped a pig with a cane.

The Greene County Sheriff recently stated in a news release that six individuals employed by the farm at the time of PETA's investigation now face a total of [22 counts of livestock neglect and abuse](#). Fourteen of the counts are aggravated misdemeanors—the stiffest possible charges under Iowa state law for crimes committed against farmed animals—and each carry up to two years behind bars. Such charges are unprecedented.

Beluga Whales Placed on Endangered Species List

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently decided to place 375 imperiled beluga whales of Alaska's Cook Inlet on the endangered species list. Beluga whale population has plummeted due to the industrialization of Alaska's most populated and fastest-growing waterway. The beluga's newly won protection will help scientists deal with the many dangers now facing the whales: oil and gas exploration, increased pollution, and plans for massive new projects that could endanger their survival.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urgent: Ask L.A. Zoo to Close Elephant Exhibit/Send Billy to Sanctuary

Join LCA and help close the elephant exhibit permanently at the Los Angeles zoo.

Please call the major and city council members TODAY; tell them you do not want to see millions of taxpayer dollars wasted on the construction of the elephant exhibit at the zoo. Motion 08-2850 will stop

the proposed \$40 million expansion that would not provide the necessary space that the earth's largest land mammals require and will only perpetuate the suffering of elephants at the zoo. This is a great opportunity for Billy to get out of his small, miserable zoo enclosure and begin a new life in a specious, natural-habitat sanctuary.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Ph: 213- 978-0600

Fax: 213- 978-0750

mayor@lacity.org

District 1 - Ed Reyes

Ph: 213-473-7001

Fax: 213-485-8907

councilmember.reyes@lacity.org

District 2 - Wendy Greuel

Ph: 213-473-7002

Fax: 213-680-7895

councilmember.greuel@lacity.org

District 3 - Dennis P. Zine

Ph: 213-473-7003

councilmember.zine@lacity.org

District 4 - Tom LaBonge

Ph: 213-473-7004

Fax: 213-624-7810

councilmember.labonge@lacity.org

District 5 - Jack Weiss

Ph: 213-473-7005

Fax: 213-978-2250

councilmember.weiss@lacity.org

District 6 - Tony Cardenas

Ph: 213-473-7006

Fax: 213-847-0549

councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org

District 7 - Richard Alarcon

Ph: 213-473-7007

Fax: 213-847-0707

District 8 - Bernard Parks

Ph: 213-473-7008

Fax: 213-458-7683

councilmember.parks@lacity.org

District 9 - Jan Perry

Ph: 213-473-7009

Fax: 213-473-5946

jan.perry@lacity.org

District 10 - Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Ph: 213-473-7010

Fax: 213-485-9829

councilmember.wesson@lacity.org

District 11 - Bill Rosendahl

Ph: 213-473-7011

Fax: 213-473-6926

councilmember.rosendahl@lacity.org**District 12 - Greig Smith**

Ph: 213-473-7012

Fax: 213-473-6925

councilmember.smith@lacity.org**District 13 - Eric Garcetti**

Ph: 213-473-7013

Fax: 213-613-0819

councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org**District 14 - Jose Huizar**

Ph: 213-473-7014

Fax: 213-847-0680

councilmember.huizar@lacity.org**District 15 - Janice Hahn**

Ph: 213-473-7015

Fax: 213-626-5431

councilmember.hahn@lacity.org

If you're unsure of your district, visit this site: <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/council.htm>. For more information on the issue, visit <http://www.fightback4elephants.com>.

And if you can, please attend the L.A. City Council meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, November 19th at 10:00 a.m., Los Angeles City Hall, John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 320, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Urgent: Tell FDA to Open Public Discussion on GE Animals

Genetically engineered animals may be heading to your local supermarket faster than you think. Though creating animals in a lab sounds like science fiction, it's happening right now: Genetically engineered super salmon, which grow twice as fast as normal farmed salmon, goats engineered with spider genes to produce silk in their milk, and pigs engineered with mouse and bacterial DNA to improve digestion.

In the waning days of the Bush administration, FDA officials are rushing to clear the way for biotech companies to genetically engineer animals for food and other uses. Tens of millions of animals suffer in labs every year in genetic engineering experiments. More than 99 percent of the time, the experiments go wrong. While it is good that the government recognizes that this cruel technology needs to be regulated, the FDA's guidance on genetically engineered animals falls far short of protecting animals, people, and the environment from the risks associated with genetic engineering. Under the FDA's plan, the majority of animals would not receive any protection, ethics would not be considered, and the entire process would be shrouded in secrecy.

The FDA is currently accepting public comments on its draft guidance for the commercialization of such GE animals, opening the way for grocery stores to sell food made from genetically engineered animals. And the agency is proposing that these products be sold to you without your knowledge. The jury is still out on whether food from these animals is safe for humans or the environment. And the ethics of such changes have yet to be considered. In fact, FDA says the ethics of engineering animals for food production cannot even be considered in its decision-making! FDA says they will conduct a safety review before these foods can be sold for human consumption. But consumers won't know if they're buying food from genetically engineered animals, because the agency is refusing to require labeling—robbing us of our right to know what's in our food.

Contact the FDA **today** and ask them to slow down, protect animal welfare, and [keep genetically engineered \(GE\) animals off the market!](#) Visit AAV's action page to send a quick e-mail to the FDA: <http://www.aavs.org/actionGE.html>.

Urge Riverside County DA/Sheriff and L.A. Fire Department to Pursue Justice for Puppy Beaten to Death

Karley, a 6-month old German Shepherd mix puppy, was fatally beaten by her neighbor, Los Angeles Fire Chief, Glynn Johnson.

Glynn Johnson now sits comfortably in his Riverside County home on paid administrative leave while the brutal beating of his neighbor's 6-month-old puppy, Karley – which resulted in a crushed skull, dislocated eye, broken jaw, and broken nose – is being investigated.

Unfortunately, the puppy had to be put down due to the degree of her suffering and the fact that she sustained permanent brain damage. The perp is claiming "self-defense" for his actions, but the evidence suggests otherwise. Visit [KTLA](#) or this [YouTube video](#) for more information.

Please join Karley's family and thousands of others by contacting the following persons to demand justice for Karley:

Los Angeles Fire Chief

Michael Freeman
(323) 881-2411

Riverside County District Attorney

(951) 955-5400

Riverside County Sheriff

Perris Station
(951) 210-1000 x1, x0
Ask for Investigator Ms. Blossfield

Recent OCPA Activities

11th Annual Caring for Creation Conference – Saturday, October 25th in Newport Beach

The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, OCICE, held it's 11th annual Caring for Creation conference on Saturday, October 25th at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

Several OCPA members were in attendance including Dina Kourda, Julie Meskell, Bob Penney, Tatiana Freitas, and Charlotte Cressey. Our OCPA exhibit attracted lots of attendees with its colorful posters, YES on Prop 2 signs and our caged chickens replica.

It was a fun gathering of concerned citizens that featured exhibits, an electric car, guest speakers, workshops, music, breakfast and lunch. Lunch this year included vegetarian and vegan sandwiches. We are happy to report that the board members of OCICE have promised to offer a 100% vegan breakfast and lunch for next year's event!

The keynote speaker was the nationally acclaimed author, educator, lecturer, and environmentalist, Bill McKibben. In 2006, Mr. McKibben ignited public awareness of the dangers of global warming. He founded "Step It Up 07" to demand that Congress enact curbs on carbon emissions that would cut global warming pollution by the year 2050. He organized over 1400 global warming demonstrations across the United States on April 14, 2007. This "Step It Up 2007" has been described as the largest day of protest about climate change in the nation's history. Check out Bill McKibben's website www.350.org to see how you can be part of the movement to help solve the climate crisis and plan to take part in the nationwide climate campaign scheduled for next October. 350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe

upper limit for carbon dioxide--measured in "Parts Per Million" in our atmosphere. 350 PPM--it's the number humanity needs to get back to as soon as possible to avoid runaway climate change.

OCPA was able to challenge the speaker to bring awareness to the major cause of global warming, the meat and dairy industries.

For information about next year's Caring For Creation event, which will highlight the 350 national campaign and day of action, visit <http://www.ocice.org>.

World Go Vegan Days Events – October 25-31st

IDA's World GO VEGAN Days is an annual event to educate people about the vegan lifestyle. Promoting veganism through outreach events and the media, our annual World GO VEGAN Days is helping make the word "vegan" a household term.

Here were a couple of local events in honor of World Go Vegan Days that occurred this year:

- **Farm Sanctuary walk** – Sunday, October 26th 11:30 a.m. in San Diego. OCPA members joined approximately 60 others for this annual walk to raise awareness of Proposition 2 and farm animal issues.
- **World Vegan Day Celebration at Animal Acres** – Saturday, November 1st, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Animal Acres. OCPA members handed out literature at a political rally to inform attendees of Proposition 2 and the plight of farm animals/benefits of adopting a vegan diet.

World GO VEGAN Days celebrates what it means to be vegan. During World GO VEGAN Days, people are encouraged to become conscious of what - and who - they are eating, the effect it has on the world, and that a non-violent alternative exists.

Visit <http://www.worldgovegandays.com> to discover more information about various events that occurred and for ideas on planning an event next year.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Thankful Turkeys Thanksgiving Celebration – Saturday, November 22nd, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Animal Acres in Acton

On Saturday, November 22nd, between noon and 4:00 p.m., at Animal Acres in Acton, celebrate with fellow "veg pilgrims" and our honored feathered friends at a fun gathering to encourage people to feed a turkey, rather than eat a turkey.

Spend an afternoon meeting the sanctuary critters and enjoying a vegan meal, along with special guest presentations. Festivities begin with farm tours of the sanctuary and time to meet the sanctuary cows, pigs, chickens and other animals, while hearing about heartwarming rescues. At 1:30 p.m., gather for the "Feed the Turkey" Ceremony where it's the turkey's turn to enjoy salad, pumpkin pie and stuffed squash. Afterward, enjoy a mouth-watering vegan Thanksgiving dinner catered by One World Restaurant including veggie turkey and classic stuffing, mashed potatoes and mushroom gravy, hearty autumn vegetables, cranberry sauce, and homemade pumpkin pie. The guest speaker will be Colleen Patrick-Goudreau, founder and director of Compassionate Cooks and author of the award-winning cookbook, *The Joy of Vegan Baking*.

Animal Acres, 5200 Escondido Canyon Road, Acton, CA 93510; phone: 661-269-5404; for more information and reservations, visit: <http://www.animalacres.org/events.html>.

Gentle Thanksgiving Events – Various (Sponsored by FARM)

There's still time to participate in Gentle Thanksgiving by encouraging friends, family and community members to adopt compassionate alternatives to cruel turkey dinners.

Some ideas include hosting a public or private vegan dinner, educating co-workers with a workplace feed-in, donating vegan food to a homeless shelter, coordinating a video screening or distributing handouts.

For more details and other ideas, including registering an event or finding a list of local events in your area, visit: <http://www.gentlethanksgiving.org/action/index.htm>. Happy Turkey-Free Thanksgiving!

Fur-Free Friday – Friday, November 28th 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in L.A.

Join OCPA, IDA, LCA and others for the annual fur-free Friday demonstration, Friday, November 28th between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Los Angeles. Meet at the corner of Rodeo Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard. Contact infor@idausa.org with questions or visit <http://www.furkills.org/fff2008/index.html> for more information.

OCPA Holiday/Proposition 2 Celebration – Saturday, December 6th, 6:30 p.m. at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine

You are invited to the OCPA holiday/Proposition 2 celebration to be held on Saturday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County in Irvine, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92614.

Come enjoy a festive gathering of like-minded individuals to celebrate the holidays and the recent passage of Proposition 2. We'll start the evening with a cocktail hour (cash bar) with vegan appetizers followed by a vegan potluck dinner. Our special guest will be Rich McLellan, founder of California Animal Association; he will discuss upcoming animal legislation on the agenda for 2009.

Attendance to this event is free with a vegan dish/appetizer for six; otherwise, admission is \$10 at the door.

Please RSVP by December 1st to our hotline at (714) 751-6272 or send an e-mail to information@ocpausa.org with the number attending and whether you'll bring a vegan dish.

We hope to see you there for this fun celebration!

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Restaurant in Fountain Valley

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Restaurant, 16563 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: (714) 418-0658; <http://www.aulac.com>.

We have been alternating lunch and dinner meetings and would like to know which time is more convenient for most people. Please respond to julie.meske@ocpausa.org with your preference for either a 1:00 p.m. lunch meeting or a 6:30 p.m. dinner meeting.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise – is invited to join us for this vegan restaurant gathering. For more information or for carpooling, contact Wanda at (714) 995-4889 or Evelyn at (714) 846-7081. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Santa Ana

And join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen, 161 City Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705; <http://www.mothersmarket.com>.

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.

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