

OCPA E-Alert

October / November 2009



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- OCPA Holiday Party – Friday, December 11th, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

Special Note: If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of outreach and volunteer opportunities – and local demonstration information – 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.

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) and [Facebook page](#). We also have a new meetup page: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/>. Check them out often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

Good News for the Animals!

California Bans Tail Docking of Dairy Cows

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 135, making California the first state to ban the tail docking of dairy cows.

Prior law made it a misdemeanor for any person to cut the solid part of the tail of any horse in the operation known as "docking." The tails of dairy cows typically are severed without anesthetic, either by tying them off and letting the flesh atrophy or by simply amputating them. This mutilation causes serious problems for the cows, including distress, pain and increased fly attacks. This bill likewise prohibits the docking of cattle, as defined, but excludes from the application of the crime of docking emergency veterinary treatment performed. By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill imposes a state-mandated local program.

Other California bills recently signed into law include: AB 242 (increases penalties for being a spectator at a dogfight), AB 708 (increases penalties for illegal poaching), SB 318 (allows for forfeiture of property connected with dogfighting), and SB 428 (protects seals in La Jolla). Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the following bills: AB 241 (limits number of intact animals a person can maintain), AB 243 (prohibits a person convicted of animal cruelty from owning an animal), and AB 1122 (prohibits the roadside sale of live animals).

Michigan Bans Cruel Battery Cages, Gestation Crates and Veal Crates

Michigan just signed legislation to ban cruel battery cages, gestation crates and veal crates. Michigan is now the second state to ban battery cages, following the example set by California last year with the passage of Proposition 2. It is also the fifth state to ban veal crates and the seventh to ban gestation crates.

Santa Barbara Pet Shop Stops Selling Dogs from Breeders

Thanks to the efforts of Last Chance for Animals and other animal advocates, the Montecito Pet Shop in Santa Barbara will no longer purchase pure breed puppies from breeders and will instead only re-home shelter dogs.

Declaw Ban Passes in San Francisco

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted 9-2 in favor of a ban on the declawing of cats. [more?]

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Congress to Support Pet Safety and Protection Act (S 1834/HR 3907)

The federal Pet Safety and Protection Act (S 1834/HR 3907) would prohibit Class B Dealers and unlicensed individuals from selling dogs and cats to research laboratories.

Class B Dealers are people who collect dogs and cats to sell to the research industry. They sometimes obtain their animals through illegal or unethical means, such as by responding to "free to good home" ads in newspapers, falsifying records to keep the true origins of the animals unknown and stealing pets kept outside in yards. They also buy animals in bulk from "bunchers," whose methods are even more questionable. Eliminating Class B Dealers will also take away the profit motive of bunchers, providing a much-needed safety net to ensure beloved pets are not stolen or acquired under false pretenses and sold to facilities that test on animals.

Please urge your U.S. senators and representative to support the Pet Safety and Protection Act to help animals. Visit [ASPCA's Advocacy Center](#) to send an automated message or the [OCPA website](#) to locate your legislator contact information.

Ask U.S. Representative to Support the HAPPY Act (HR 3501)

The [Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years \("HAPPY"\) Act](#) is legislation that will allow individuals to claim tax deductions for qualified pet care expenses. The bill would allow any taxpayer who legally owns one or more domesticated animals to take an annual income tax deduction of up to \$3,500 for pet care expenses, including veterinary care costs.

To contact your U.S. Representative and send an automated message, visit [ASPCA's Advocacy Alert](#) page or the [OCPA website](#) to locate your legislator contact information.

Tell Max Mara to Go Fur-Free

Max Mara Fashion Group, one of the biggest retail companies worldwide, sadly continues to feature real animal fur in its collections year after year.

Fur used in modern fashion is a symbol of cruelty and disrespect for animals. With beautiful faux fur alternatives widely available there is no need torture and kill animals to make a fashion statement or turn a profit.

For more information, visit [Born Free's website](#). Then [tell Luigi Caroggio](#), CEO of Max Mara USA, that there is nothing fashionable about cruelty to animals and that you will boycott his stores until the company adopts a fur-free policy.

Contact Congress Re: Bill to Protect Wildlife on Refuges (HR 3710)

"Wildlife Refuge" conjures images of a safe space that allows wild animals to live without fear of human encroachment. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. A staggering 54% of the refuges within the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) allow trapping on refuge grounds.

H.R. 3710, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act, will put a stop to that by banning all body-gripping traps — snare, Conibear, and steel-jaw leghold — from being used on National Wildlife Refuges. If passed, the bill would make it illegal to trap on National Wildlife Refuges, thereby creating a safe haven for wildlife to dwell without unnatural, and cruel, threats.

Please visit [Born Free's website](#) to learn more about this issue and to send a message to your representative.

Recent OCPA Activities

OCPA Meetup: Compassionate Cuisine – Friday, October 9th 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden in Long Beach

Animal advocates enjoyed a fun evening benefiting the animals at Animal Acres on Friday, October 9th from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, 1701 Earl Warren Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815.

This Compassionate Cuisine event featured drinks, food, comedy and music. The beautiful ambiance of the Japanese garden added to enjoyment of the evening. Attendees sampled vegan drinks and foods from 20 local restaurants and vendors, while supporting Animal Acres and World Vegetarian Day. The Irvine Young Symphony, fresh from playing at the Sundance Festival and Beijing Olympics, provided the evening's musical entertainment, along with Comedian Carol Leifer, a long-time animal advocate.

For more information on Compassionate Cuisine or Animal Acres visit: <http://www.compassionatecuisine.net/>.

Anti-Fur Demo at Nordstrom's – Sunday, October 11th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

OCPA members and animal advocates met again on Sunday, October 11th between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. to leaflet in front of Nordstrom's at South Coast Plaza (Sunflower Street entrance) against the selling of fur items in its stores.

Nordstrom's is likely to drop fur, as its owners claim to be animal lovers; they've already dropped their own line of fur, but still sell fur by other makers. It would be a huge victory for the animals if a major retailer like Nordstrom's drops **all** fur items from its stores.

Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment – International Day of Climate Action – Saturday, October 24th 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Irvine

On October 24th people in 181 countries came together for the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history. At over 5,200 events around the world, people gathered to call for action on the climate crisis. OCPA participated in the International Day for Climate Action by joining the local event sponsored by Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE) held at the Irvine Regional Park Outdoor Education Center.

For more information about this fun event, visit <http://www.ocice.org>.

Climate Action Day was organized by Bill McKibben and 350.org. 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. It's close to 390 now. Check out some amazing photos of the creative ways that people all over the world are sending out the message of 350: www.350.org.

World Go Vegan Week – October 25-31st – Various Events and Locations

The 4th annual World GO VEGAN Week took place this year from October 25th through 31st.

This week was a celebration of compassion and a time to take action for animals, the environment and everyone's wellbeing, and an opportunity to educate communities about the vegan lifestyle as a compassionate, sustainable, and healthy way of eating and living.

Promoting veganism through outreach events and the media, the annual World GO VEGAN Week is helping to make the word "vegan" a household word, universally recognized as meaning love and compassion for all living beings. Veganism enables people to live in balance with all of Earth's creatures and promote freedom from exploitation for animals as part of their everyday lives. Modern animal agriculture is cruel and violent toward the chickens, cows, pigs and other creatures used to make meat, milk and eggs.

For the health of people, the environment, and farmed animals, veganism is the best choice. World GO VEGAN Week encourages people 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 this link to discover some ways in which World GO VEGAN Week was celebrated and acknowledged: <http://www.worldgoveganweek.com/>.

Behind Science of Animal Testing – Wednesday, October 28th 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at UCLA

Behind the "Science" of Animal Testing was presented by Dr. Ray Greek on Wednesday, October 28th between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. at UCLA to discuss the effectiveness of using animals in research.

Board certified in anesthesiology, Dr. Greek is now the president and co-founder of Americans for Medical Advancement, and has taught at medical schools in addition to running his own private practice. He explained the scientific reasoning behind pursuing alternatives to the animal model in today's medical research.

For more information on Dr. Greek, visit: www.curedisease.com; for Bruins For Animals, visit: www.bruinsforanimals.org.

Jane Goodall Global Leadership Awards – Friday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills

OCPA members attended the Jane Goodall Global Leadership Awards on Friday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. Board member, Julie Meskell, approached both Jane and LA mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa, asking them both to consider veganism, while Dina Kourda handed *Why Vegan* literature to Ed Begley, Jr., bringing to light the contradictions between saving chimps while still consuming dairy products.

The Jane Goodall Institute operates the largest sanctuary for chimpanzees in Africa, the Tchimpounga Rehabilitation Center. Tchimpounga is in the heart of the Congo Basin's illegal bushmeat corridor. JGI ensures that illegally held chimpanzees are confiscated from poachers or market vendors and placed in sanctuaries across Africa.

The Institute's Roots and Shoots Program involves young people in 110 countries who want to make a difference. Roots and Shoots encourages young people to make positive changes for their communities, for animals and the environment.

For more information, visit: <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/> and/or <http://www.janegoodall.org/>.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club Meeting – Sunday, November 1st at 6:30 p.m. at The Green's Café in Irvine

A great turnout of 17 OCPA members and friends met on Sunday, November 1st at 6:30 p.m. at The Green's Café in Irvine; http://www.the*greenscafe*.com.

Green's Cafe was created with a vision that all beings could live in peace, love and harmony with each other and the planet. It is an invitation to gourmet cuisine made with wholesome vegan ingredients, offering an accessible starting point for those making the noble transition to a plant-based diet.

We meet every first Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at a different vegetarian/vegan restaurant. Stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future. And a special thanks to Dave Simon for announcing OCPA events at the <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA> site.

Animals Asia Presentation – Wednesday, November 4th in El Segundo

OCPA board members, Dina, Charlotte, and Julie, attended an Animals Asia presentation in El Segundo on November 4th.

This event featured Jill Robinson, founder of AAF, who showed footage of moon bears in China and Vietnam that are trapped in cages barely larger than the size of their bodies. They often suffer in these cramped cages for decades. More than 11,000 intelligent moon bears are trapped for the extraction of bile on brutal farms. So far, 260 bears have been liberated and released into care at the rescue center in Sichuan.

Many vegans, including OCPA members, attended this event and asked Animals Asia to make their events all vegan in the future. They agreed that going vegan for the sake of all animals makes sense.

You can help by going to www.animalsasia.org. Write a polite letter to your nearest Chinese embassy (visit: www.travelguidechina.com); also write your U.S. legislators and the Obama Administration to demand pressure on China to stop this practice and to expose this tragedy on American airways. (The U.S. is the only country that has not aired a recent documentary on the plight of the moon bears.)

Justice 4 Karley Vigil – Saturday, November 7th in Riverside

Approximately 20 supporters of the Justice 4 Karley campaign met on Saturday evening, November 7th in Riverside for a candlelight vigil. An hour-long taping of a radio show was also aired during the vigil; the Pauze Cauze Radio Show conducted a live interview of several people at the vigil including board member, Dina Kourda.

The trial for Karley is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, November 10th (refer to the [Upcoming Events](#) section of this e-alert for more information). Karley justice defenders have started another petition and Karley needs you on this one too! Please petition for the maximum prison term of four years if Glynn Johnson is convicted. We are hoping he will be convicted of felony animal cruelty. Please visit the following link for the new petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/justice-4-karley-convict-glynn-johnson>.

For more information on this campaign, visit <http://justice4karley.com/>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) and [Facebook page](#). We also have a new meetup page: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/>. Check them out often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events. A special thanks to Tracey Turner, Jennifer Tan and Dave Simon for their help in setting up and maintaining these pages/sites for OCPA.

Foie Gras Demonstration – Friday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. at The Winery in Tustin

APRL and OCPA will hold another peaceful demonstration against the serving of foie gras on Friday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. at The Winery.

The Winery is located at 2647 Park Avenue, Tustin, CA 92782; phone: 714-258-7600.

Foie gras is created by forcibly restraining ducks three times a day while a rough steel pipe is shoved down their throats to overfeed them to the point that their livers swell to more than 10 times the normal size. "If those who purchase and eat this product could only see the diseased organ inside the body of a filth-encrusted duck, the last place they would put this "delicacy" is in their mouths," writes Holly Cheever, DVM, animal cruelty inspector.

The foie gras campaign has resulted in several local restaurants, such as Five Feet, the Sky Room, Mr. A's, Laurel's and Hamamori, removing foie gras from the menu.

For more details about this event, visit: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/calendar/11716341/>. For more information about foie gras, visit: <http://www.aprl.org/foiegras.html> or <http://banfoiegras.com>. And visit APRL's [Facebook](#) page for information about upcoming demonstrations in our efforts to achieve a foie gras-free Orange County.

Justice 4 Karley Trial – Tuesday, November 10th at 8:30 a.m. in Riverside

Supporters for the Justice 4 Karley campaign will meet on Tuesday, November 10th, at 8:30 a.m. in Riverside at the Riverside County Courthouse, 4100 Main St. Riverside, 92501, for the opening day of the trial.

Please petition for the maximum prison term of four years if Glynn Johnson is convicted. We are hoping he will be convicted of felony animal cruelty. Please visit the following link for the new petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/justice-4-karley-convict-glynn-johnson>.

For more information on this campaign, visit <http://justice4karley.com/>.

Dog-Fighting Demonstration – Sunday, November 15th at 11:00 a.m. at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego

Join OCPA and other local animal advocates on Sunday, November 15th at 11:00 a.m. in San Diego for a peaceful dog fighting demonstration to help educate the public.

We'll meet at the Green line trolley station at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego when the Chargers play the Philadelphia Eagles. We'll provide signs, banners, and literature and will split the demonstration near the trolley station and along Friars Road.

For more information, contact information@ocpausa.org.

Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck– Thursday, November 26th at 4:00 p.m. in Anaheim Hills

This year, let's celebrate a cruelty-free Thanksgiving – potluck -style!

Join other vegans for a festive Thanksgiving potluck on Thursday, November 26th at 4:00 p.m. in Anaheim Hills. This is the chance to showcase your favorite vegan recipe and a good time to give thanks for vegetables, grains and Tofurkey.

We'll meet in Steve M.'s beautiful home in Anaheim Hills with views of the mountains and city lights (address and directions provided after you RSVP). Space is limited, so please RSVP early to ensure a spot. If you RSVP "yes" and your plans change, please change your RSVP so that someone can take your spot.

For more information and to RSVP to this fun event, visit:

<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/calendar/11752080/> ASAP (limited seats available).

Fur-Free Friday Demo – Friday, November 27th in San Diego and Other Locations

This year, OCPA will join APRL for the annual Fur-Free Friday demonstration at Fashion Valley Mall in San Diego on Friday, November 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Fashion Valley Mall is located at 7007 Friars Road, San Diego, CA 92108, next to the Cheesecake Factory. Please keep in mind that this is the busiest shopping day of the year, so plan for parking accordingly. Contact Pam at 858-525-2988 for more information.

Other Fur-Free Friday demonstrations will also be held in Los Angeles and various other locations throughout Southern California. For more information about a demonstration near you, visit: <http://www.furfreefriday.com/> for updates and details about this fun and successful annual outreach event.

Evergreen Holiday Party – Saturday, December 5th at 8:00 p.m. in Newport Beach

Help represent OCPA at Orange County's biggest sustainability-themed holiday party! More than 350 attendees are expected at the first annual Evergreen Holiday Party, a collaborative effort of more than 15 sustainability-focused organizations (including OCPA), on Saturday, December 5th beginning at 8:00 p.m. in Newport Beach.

To get into the party, just bring one lightly-used children's gift and pay \$20 in advance (\$30 at the door). Once inside, you'll get two free drinks, and all the free appetizers and desserts you can eat. Many vegan options will be available! This will be a Zero Waste event - using reusables, food scrap composting, and other green measures.

Have fun while doing good – for more details or to purchase tickets, visit

<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/calendar/11798484/>.

Charity Dinner to Benefit OCPA – Sunday, December 6th 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Handmade Galleries in Sherman Oaks

Come out and enjoy a tasty vegan dinner while supporting OCPA on Sunday, December 6th between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. at Handmade Galleries, 14556 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.

Note: This event is in lieu of OCPA's monthly veggie/vegan dinner club meeting that was to be held at Mother's Market in Anaheim Hills.

The food and meeting space are donated, so your dinner contribution will completely benefit OCPA. (The amount you donate is completely optional.) This event is presented by Prabhat Gautam and Handmade Galleries.

For reservations and information including carpooling, visit

<http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/messages/boards/thread/7962413>.

For more information on Prabhat's tireless efforts for the vegan community, visit:

<http://www.positivetelevision.org/events.php>.

OCPA Holiday Party – Friday, December 11th 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

Join OCPA members and friends for a fun holiday party on Friday, December 11th between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa.

We've reserved an area for the party located upstairs from Gingers Garden (no elevator access), 2488 Newport Blvd., Suite A1, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, located just south of Monte Vista Avenue behind Visions and Dreams (with plenty of free parking available).

This event is a potluck dinner - \$5 admission with a vegan dish to share with 6 to 8 people or \$15 without a dish. Singer Alec Marken of Deep Stirrings will provide background music.

For more details about this event, visit: <http://www.meetup.com/OCPAUSA/calendar/>.

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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