

OCAPA E-Alert November 2005



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Good News for the Animals!

Five Cities in Croatia Ban Animal Circus Performances

Velika Gorica, Rovinj and Split are the latest Croatian cities that banned circuses with animal performances, joining Mursko Sredisce and Varazding that adopted such bans recently. The five cities follow the example of Venice, Vienna, Barcelona, Rio de Janeiro and hundreds of other cities all over the world that have declared circuses unwanted within the city limits. It is expected that other Croatian cities will join the initiative. The bans were provoked by the immense cruelty of methods used by circuses to train, transport and accommodate the animals.

Lawsuit Filed in New Jersey to End Factory Farming Abuse

A broad coalition of humane organizations, farmers, veterinarians, and environmental and consumer groups filed legal papers in the Superior Court of New Jersey alleging that the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has failed to establish humane standards for farm animals. This lawsuit goes beyond any previous legal action taken on behalf of farm animals in that it seeks a judicial declaration that most common factory farm practices are inhumane under New Jersey law.

Trader Joe's Brand Eggs Converts to Cage-Free

Trader Joe's has agreed to purchase only cage-free eggs for its own brand of eggs sold in more than 200 stores nationwide. An estimated 380,000 laying hens who provide the more than 100 million Trader Joe's brand eggs sold in a year will be spared the lives of suffering in tiny battery cages. Trader Joe's has joined Whole Foods and Wild Oats in taking a positive step that will have a meaningful impact on animal welfare. Hopefully, Trader Joe's will next decide to adopt a total cage-free egg policy and refuse to carry eggs from other battery hen egg producers.

Rome, Italy Establishes New Humane Pet Ordinance

Rome, Italy introduced a new ordinance which no longer allows goldfish confinement to bowls or given away as contest prizes, the display of pets for sale in store windows, choke and electrical collars, declawing of cats, or clipping of dog tails and ears for cosmetic reasons. Let's hope other cities follow suit and adopt similar humane laws!

Philadelphia Zoo Postpones Elephant Exhibit Expansion

After failing to raise the \$22 million needed to expand its outdated elephant quarters into a 2.5-acre "savannah," the Philadelphia Zoo recently announced that remodeling of the 1940s-era exhibit will have to be put off until at least 2009. Local activists are trying to persuade the zoo to send the elephants at the zoo to sanctuaries instead of other zoos.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Ask National Zoo to Send Ailing Elephant to Sanctuary vs. Euthanization

The National Zoo announced that one of its Asian elephants, Toni, has arthritis and will be euthanized if her condition does not improve. Asian elephants have a natural lifespan of 60 to 70 years; unless urgent action is taken, Toni may not live to see her 40th birthday.

Please click the following link and urge decision makers to transfer Toni to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee where she can have a second chance of life.

<http://ga0.org/campaign/NationalZooElephant/xnd36d295ibww7?>

Urge Congress Not to Support the Sportsmanship in Hunting Act of 2005

The Sportsmanship in Hunting Act of 2005 was introduced earlier this year, purported to crack down on canned hunts – the horrible practice of confining tame, exotic animals in enclosed spaces and shooting them at close range. However, the bill does not prohibit the stalking and killing of any birds nor any native animals, such as white-tailed deer or elk. If passed, the bill would not forbid killing exotic (non-native) mammals in enclosures of less than 1,000 acres. If passed, the bill would provide a cover of legitimacy to trophy hunting ranches over 1,000 acres and would also glorify the hunting industry with the label of "sportsmanship." The bill also does nothing to impede hunters from frequenting private hunting ranches.

Please contact your members of congress and ask them not to support this bill, as it does not send the right message and does not go far enough to protect ALL animals from ANY form of canned hunting. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpaua.org/legislation>.

Ask Montana Governor to Cancel Upcoming Bison Hunt

Since 2001, more than 900 bison have been slaughtered in Montana as they crossed out of Yellowstone National Park into Montana on their annual winter migration. Under provisions of the Interagency Bison Management Plan, government officials shoot bison at close range standing around grazing, virtually motionless and defenseless. This hunt was proposed and cancelled in 2004 due to bad publicity. Yet the state is trying again this year with the hope of making a better impression and the hunt is scheduled to go ahead as planned.

Please urge Montana's governor to immediately cancel the upcoming hunt and protect the lives of the bison migrating into Montana.

Contact: The Honorable Brian Schweitzer, Governor, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801; phone: 406-444-3111; fax-406-444-5529; web response form: <http://governor.mt.gov/contact/comments.asp>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Caring for Creation Conference – October 29th

Members of OCPA attended a Caring for Creation Conference in Tustin sponsored by the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. The conference featured a keynote address and eight different workshops including Food Choices and Their Effects on the Environment, Habitat Destruction and Urban Sprawl, Our Human Future – Returning to Wholeness, Media Influence and more.

This conference is an annual event; if you missed it this year, mark your calendars for next year's conference.

OCPA Speaker Event in Orange – November 19th

OCPA hosted a speaker event focused on environmental issues impacting animals. Susan Chamberlain, the founder of Sacred Ecology, presented information on the destruction of wild animal habitats and other environmental issues impacting animals. Attendees also enjoyed vegan food and an opportunity to mingle and network with like-minded individuals.

Stay tuned for additional gatherings in 2006 featuring speeches by noted leaders in the animal rights movement. These events will also include vegan food, beverages and volunteer opportunities for those of you interested in becoming more active in helping animals. We'll provide details in upcoming e-alerts and on our website at <http://www.ocpausa.org>. Also, if you have a suggestion for a specific speaker and/or topic, please contact us at information@ocpausa.org with speaker contact/topic details.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Vegan Thanksgiving Potlucks and Events in Southern California

The following are some of the vegan Thanksgiving potlucks and events occurring throughout Southern California in the coming week:

- **Thursday, November 24th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
Rancho Park, West Los Angeles (on Motor Avenue south of Pico)
Music, speakers and fun – free event (picnic potluck – bring vegan food item)
Additional information: <http://www.SoCalVeg.org>
- **Thursday, November 24th, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
Gentle Barn in Santa Clarita
Live music, hay rides, raffle and delicious vegan feast - \$100/person; children under 17 free
Additional information: <http://gentlebarn.org>; RSVP 661-252-2440
- **Thursday, November 24th**
Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley
Vegan "turkey" dinner with all the trimmings
Additional information: 16553 Brookhurst; phone: 714-418-0658

- **Thursday, November 24th, 1:00 p.m.**
San Clemente Beach next to the pier
 Picnic potluck (bring vegan food item)
Additional information: RSVP Delta at 949-413-9393; deltaart@cox.net
- **Thursday, November 24th, 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Native Foods in Costa Mesa
 All you can eat meal for \$30 (\$15 for children 12 and under) including Native Wellington with shallot mushroom gravy, Willie's wheat berry waldorf salad, green salad with grilled fennel and pomegranate balsamic dressing, butternut squash and pumpkin seed pesto, roasted garlic mashed potatoes with caramelized leeks, seared green beans with shitake mushroom almondine, chestnut stuffing, corn bread, cranberry-orange relish, warm apple cobbler with almond cream, cheesecake with candied pecans, pumpkin pie with ginger cream
Additional information: 2937 Bristol Street in The Camp, 714-751-2151

Fur-Free Friday Demonstration – November 25th

Join OCPA, LCA, PETA and other activists for the annual Fur-Free Friday demonstration, held on Friday, November 25th between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills.

The demonstration aims to educate people about the horrors suffered by fur-bearing animals and tries to encourage shoppers to support only fur-free department stores. Organized originally in 1986 to abolish the fur trade, Fur-Free Friday has grown to become one of the most widely attended demonstrations of the animal rights movement.

Please join us as we march through the streets of Beverly Hills ending at Neiman Marcus, one of the country's largest luxury retailers of fur garments. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Beverly Gardens Park at the northeast corner of Santa Monica Blvd. At Rodeo Drive. Posters and brochures will be provided – or bring your own.

If you'd like to participate in a carpool from Orange County to Beverly Hills, contact us at information@ocpausa.org.

OCPA Holiday Party at Native Foods Costa Mesa – Wednesday, December 14th

Join members and guests at the annual OCPA holiday party held this year at Native Foods in Costa Mesa on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m.

This fun evening will feature live music, silent auction and a delicious vegan spread including appetizer platters of chicken wings and edamame, Caesar salad, the Wellingtons with mushroom gravy, dessert platters, coffee, tea and red/white organic vegan wine.

The ticket price for this fun holiday celebration is \$45. Please visit our website at <http://ocpausa.org/events.htm> for additional information, registration form and payment; we're requesting RSVPs by December 9th. We'll also send an invitation to you via e-mail soon. What a great opportunity to visit with fellow animal activists in a festive atmosphere, while also supporting a wonderful Orange County vegan business.

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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