

## OCPA E-Alert 11-15-03



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#### Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

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- Fur-Free Friday – November 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. in Beverly Hills
- OCPA Holiday Party – Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in Costa Mesa

### Good News for the Animals!

We normally include three good news items in the monthly e-alert. However, this past month has seen more good news than usual for the animals – very heartening to all of the hard-working activists out there and hopefully a sign of changing attitudes toward animals in our society. Let's keep up the great work for the animals!

### ***L.A. Unified School District Votes to Mandate Vegetarian Options***

The L.A. Unified School District voted to mandate vegetarian options at every school. The plan bans the sale of junk food and requires that each school meal include at least one vegetarian option. The plan also directs schools to provide salad bars in all district high schools within two years and all elementary schools within six years. Soymilk will also be piloted at five school sites. With approximately 700 schools, this is the second largest school district in the nation; hopefully, other districts and states will follow Los Angeles' lead.

### ***U.S. Senate Passes Captive Wildlife Safety Act***

The U.S. Senate passed S. 269 that prohibits the interstate transport of lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars used as pets. The next step is to pass the similar bill, H.R. 1006, in the House of Representatives. (See Action Items.)

### ***U.S. Senate Approves Amendment Banning Sale of Downed Animals***

The U.S. Senate approved an amendment banning the sale of downed livestock – animals too sick or injured to walk or stand. Although the House of Representatives defeated a similar amendment in July, a House-Senate conference committee will now determine the final outcome. (See Action Items.)

### ***U.S. Senate Approves Amendment Establishing Felony Penalties for Animal Fighting***

The U.S. Senate approved an amendment that would make it a felony to ship animals across state lines for the purpose of fighting – along with transporting razors and other implements linked to animal fights. A conference committee will now make the final decision to retain the anti-cockfighting language. (See Action Items.)

### ***Whole Foods Plans to Adopt Humane Animal Treatment Standards***

Whole Foods Market announced plans to become the first major grocery chain to adopt humane animal treatment standards. This is most likely due to intense pressure from animal rights activists and increased national consumer interest in animal rights issues. The majority of Americans say animals deserve some protection from harm and exploitation...

### ***Two Young Men Sentenced to Eight Years for Murdering Two Lambs in California***

Two 22-year old men were sentenced to eight years in prison after being charged with felony burglary, vandalism and animal cruelty for bludgeoning and stabbing two lambs to death. The Deputy D.A. argued for a lengthy prison sentence; the judge told the defendants that they showed a disrespect for life, property and the feelings of others and referred to the crimes as "great depravity."

### ***Both Western University College of Veterinary Medicine and University of California, Davis, Stop Performing Fatal Operations on Dogs/Cats***

In October, the new Western University College of Veterinary Medicine in California shunned dissection in favor of useful operations on animals in need. This month, University of California, Davis, announced its veterinary students will no longer perform fatal operations on dogs and cats from the Sacramento County animal shelter.

## ***U.K.'s Cambridge University May Not Build Primate Research Centre Due to "Lack of Funds"***

The University of Cambridge announced it may be forced to cancel plans to build a primate research centre as a result of "financial miscalculations." A member of the university's governing body believed that this is a face-saving attempt to drop the plan quietly, since the research community is worried that the loss of the centre would be seen as a victory by the animal rights lobby...

## ***Columbia University Suspends Stroke Experiments on Baboons***

Columbia University announced it has indefinitely suspended its horrific stroke experiments on baboons, although it continues to perform equally inhumane tests on other animals.

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

### ***Support Legislation Introduced to Protect Yellowstone Buffalo***

U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Charles Bass (R-NH) have introduced HR 3446, the Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act. This bill would stop the Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and two Montana state agencies from hazing, capturing and sending buffalo to slaughter.

Please contact your U.S. representative and urge him/her to co-sponsor HR 3446. For legislator contact information, visit our web site at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

### ***Contact Conference Committee Regarding Downed Animal Provision***

After passing the U.S. Senate, final approval of the downed animal Akaka amendment now depends upon a House-Senate conference committee vote.

Please contact the following two key members of the conference committee today and urge them to retain the Senate's downed animal provision in the final Agriculture Appropriations bill: Henry Bonilla, Chairman, House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee; phone: 202-225-4511; fax: 202-225-2237; e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> - and Robert Bennett, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee; phone: 202-224-5444; fax: 202-228-1168; e-mail: [bennett.senate.gov/e-mail\\_form.html](mailto:bennett.senate.gov/e-mail_form.html).

### ***Contact Committee Members to Retain Animal Fighting Provision in Final Bill***

The Senate approved an amendment that will establish felony-level penalties for federal animal fighting violations (both dogfighting and cockfighting). The amendment is only contained in the Senate version of the Healthy Forests bill, S. 736, while the House version of the bill (HR 1904) does not currently contain the language.

Please contact the key conferees and urge them to retain the animal fighting provision in the final Healthy Forests bill: Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee; phone: 202-225-5431; fax: 202-225-9681; e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/goodlatte/contact.htm> - Charles Stenholm, Ranking Democrat, House Agriculture Committee; phone: 202-225-6605; fax: 202-225-2234; e-mail: <http://www.house.gov/stenholm/contact.htm> - and Jim Sensenbrenner, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee; phone: 202-225-5101; fax: 202-225-3190; e-mail: [sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov](mailto:sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov).

## ***Support the Fire Disaster Relief for Animals***

Shannon Keith and Staci Howard created a fire disaster relief fund for the many animals misplaced due to the recent wildfires in Southern California. They are looking for extra blankets, toys, food and/or monetary donations. You can contact them via e-mail at [animalliblawyer@aol.com](mailto:animalliblawyer@aol.com) (Shannon Keith) or [stacihoward@aol.com](mailto:stacihoward@aol.com); or mail a donation to Staci Howard, 11684 Ventura Blvd., PMB #545, Studio City, CA 91604. They'll send you a receipt.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***Grief Release Workshop for Animal Rights Advocates – November 1<sup>st</sup>***

This workshop was filled and provided attendees with good processing work and many useful techniques for future grief release work. Ava Park will offer another workshop focused on animal altars in early 2004.

### ***False Arrest of OCPA Board Member at Rodeo Protests***

An OCPA board member, Julie Meskell, was arrested for trespassing at the Industry Hills Pro Rodeo in October held for school children in the City of Industry. Julie believes the arrest was illegal/false and that the school district is in violation of the California Humane Education Code by sponsoring these annual rodeos. We'll send more information about how you can support Julie in her fight against this wrongful arrest – and how we can work together to put a stop to rodeos in the future.

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

### ***Vegan Thanksgiving – November 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. in West Los Angeles***

Join other vegans for a Thanksgiving potluck buffet on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. at Rancho Park in West L.A. (off Pico Boulevard, east of the 405). Bring your own washable cloth napkin and reusable plate/cup/bowl/utensils; a vegan dish to serve 8-10 people (with a notecard listing ingredients used); a musical instrument to play (if you'd like); and your friends and family.

### ***Fur-Free Friday – November 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. in Beverly Hills***

Join other activists at IDA's 15<sup>th</sup> annual fur-free Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. at Rodeo Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills. This is the biggest shopping day of the year and a good opportunity to re-educate people about why they should never purchase fur. You can join OCPA at the new Native Foods restaurant in Costa Mesa at 2937 Bristol Street at 10:00 a.m. to carpool up to Beverly Hills. Contact Julie at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) for additional information.

### ***OCPA Holiday Party – Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. in Costa Mesa***

Join us on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, for the OCPA annual holiday party. The party will be held at the Ayers Country Inn and Suites Hotel in Costa Mesa, and will feature a delicious vegan dinner, silent auction, live music, guest speaker, and OCPA's annual "peace for animals" community ceremony. For more information and a registration form, visit <http://ocpausa.org>.

## **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>).

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