

OCPA E-Alert 2007 Year End



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- OCPA Annual Holiday Party – Saturday, December 15th 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County
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Good News for the Animals!

Alaskan Zoo Elephant Sent to California Sanctuary

After 25 years, Maggie finally made the move from a tiny enclosure at the Alaska Zoo to her new home at the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) elephant sanctuary in Northern California. The trip included a five-hour flight in a temperature-controlled crate aboard a United States Air Force C-17 cargo plane from Alaska to Travis Air Force Base, followed by an 85-mile drive in a flatbed truck to PAWS. For too long, Maggie suffered extreme deprivation at the Alaska Zoo from lack of space, frigid temperatures, and a decade of solitude as the only elephant in the state.

Maggie is the third elephant to move to a sanctuary this year. With Maggie's departure, Alaska Zoo becomes the 13th U.S. zoo – including those in major cities like Detroit, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and New York – who have closed or plan to close their elephant exhibits.

Japan Dolphins Spared from Life in Marine Park

The Japanese dolphin slaughter industry was dealt two big blows recently as they kicked off their annual massacre of dolphins and whales. First, the Dominican Republic cancelled the proposed export of twelve live dolphins ("the Taiji Twelve") from Taiji, Japan to Ocean World theme park. The government's decision came after a months-long campaign by the [Save Japan Dolphins Coalition](#) to stop the deal.

There is a definite financial connection between Japan's dolphin slaughter industry and the export of live dolphins for marine parks. The slaughter of dolphins for meat is subsidized by the high profit margin fishermen get from selling live dolphins to aquariums and "swim-with-dolphins" programs around the world. A dead dolphin is worth about \$600 on the Japanese market for meat, while live dolphins sell for \$50,000 or more.

The second blow came when Ric O'Barry (Marine Mammal Specialist for the Save Japan Dolphins Coalition and former trainer of TV star Flipper) joined champion pro surfer David Rostovich to lead a group called [Surfers For Cetaceans](#) to Taiji for a dramatic confrontation with the slaughterers. Six surfer-activists, among them Rostovich and [Hayden Pantierre](#) from the hit TV series "Heroes," paddled into the lagoon to where a pod of about 30 dolphins were held captive in a netted corral awaiting slaughter. Before they could reach the dolphins, they were cut off by fishermen who used their boat's propellers and a long boathook to keep the surfers at bay. Even though the surfers were forced to retreat after about 10 minutes and the dolphins were probably killed, producer Louie Psihoyos of the Oceanic Preservation Society captured the entire conflict on film for his documentary "Secret Dolphin Cove," scheduled for release next summer. Segments of his footage, as well as graphic dolphin slaughter, have already aired on major TV networks around the world, exposing the bloody horrors that the drive fisheries are trying desperately to hide from the outside world.

Bebe Agrees to Go Fur-Free in 2008

Fashion retailer, bebe, agreed to pull fur from their shelves in 2008. Their corporate policy on the sale of fur proclaims that the company "strongly believes in the humane treatment of animals." With the majority of mall shops and top designers dropping fur, it is increasingly obvious that fur is becoming more of a nightmare for retailers than a fashion must-have. Over the past few years, labels such as Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, Forever 21, Wet Seal, Kenneth Cole, Gap, and J. Crew have all chosen not to sell anything made from real animal fur because of the inherent cruelty involved in its production.

Join IDA's campaign and urge bebe to pull fur from its shelves NOW (vs. continuing to sell it throughout the holiday season) at <http://www.furkills.org/bebe.shtml>.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Help Collect "Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act" Petition Signatures

Californians for Humane Farms must collect *650,000* signatures to place a measure on the California ballot to prevent cruelty to calves raised for veal, pigs during pregnancy and egg-laying hens. They must collect these signatures and submit them for verification by the end of February 2008, which is less than 12 weeks away!

Join thousands of volunteers at <http://www.humanecalifornia.org/volunteer> and help collect signatures from registered California voters all over California.

Note: The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act is not an online petition. The California Secretary of State requires actual signatures of registered California voters. These must be collected on individual county petitions, verified by election officials and later submitted to the Secretary of State to qualify for the ballot.

Read The Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act at http://ag.ca.gov/cms_pdfs/initiatives/2007-08-09_07-0041_Initiative.pdf.

Please mail petitions with more than three signatures every Monday to the regional office closest to you:

Californians for Humane Farms Californians for Humane Farms
P.O. Box 417190
Sacramento, CA 95841

6311 Van Nuys Blvd; #438
Van Nuys, CA 91401

268 Bush Street; #3149
San Francisco, CA 94104

302 Washington Street; #148
San Diego, CA 92103

Urge U.S. Senators to Support Three Farm Bill Amendments

With the Senate poised to recess for the year, the 2007 Farm Bill—a massive piece of legislation that will set policy on all aspects of agriculture for the next five years—has reached a critical juncture and may be debated over and voted on by senators next week. The livestock industry is already lobbying hard to protect its interests, so the time is ripe for you to contact your senators too and share your input on three potential amendments—which could profoundly affect the lives of farm animals.

1. The FRESH Act (vote YES)
The [FRESH Act \(S.2228\)](#), sponsored by Sens. Lugar (IN-R) and Lautenberg (NJ-D), will help rectify the current imbalance that gives huge government subsidies to the meat industry, while virtually shutting out producers of fruits and vegetables. By setting aside funds to boost fruit and vegetable production and to supply schools with more fresh produce for healthier lunches, the Fresh Act could potentially lead to a decrease in meat consumption.
2. [The Mikulski-Specter Cloning Amendment](#) (vote YES)
Sens. Barbara Mikulski and Arlen Specter have drafted Amendment No. 3524 to help keep products from cloned animals out of the human food supply. This amendment will ultimately benefit farm animals by helping to prevent the further mechanization and industrialization of factory farming.
3. Veal production subsidies (vote NO)
Earlier this year, the House of Representatives removed a \$12 million subsidy to veal producers in its version of the Farm Bill. Veal producers are certain to try and recover it now with an amendment to the Senate's version of the bill. In order to hold on to our prior victory over the veal industry, we must fight to keep any subsidies to these producers out of the Senate version of the Farm Bill.

Visit [Farm Sanctuary's site](#) for more information, talking points and a sample letter. And for U.S. Senator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm>.

Urge State Senator to Oppose HR 767, Refuge Ecology Protection and Immediate Response Act

H.R. 767 (also known as **Refuge Ecology Protection and Immediate Response Act**) is a bill that is possibly the “most sweeping feral animal extermination mandate ever put before congress,” according to Merritt Clifton, the editor of *Animal People*. This bill allows the federal government to kill whomever it deems a “harmful, non-native species” within our national wildlife refuge system. As Lee Hall notes, “so many plants and animals, such as humans, can be considered invasive, yet people choose to kill certain species and not others.” The bill unanimously passed the House of Representatives on October 23, 2007, and is currently in committee (Committee on Environment and Public Works; if passed through this committee the bill would then pass to the Senate for a vote).

Animal activists must oppose this bill. Please call, write and/or e-mail your senator now. Let them know you oppose this bill, and request that they oppose it as well. If you choose to call your senator's office, it's

important to be aware that the person on the phone might attempt to put a different spin on the spirit of the bill. Be sure to mention specific concerns such as the fact that feral cats and other animals are indeed not protected. For legislator contact information, visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> or http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

Recent OCPA Activities

Orange Coast College Tabling – Ongoing

Once the school year resumed, OCPA began distributing literature at an information table at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.

OCPA is always on the outlook for dependable individuals who can join us on a weekly basis to pass out literature to college students on animal issues. If you can devote a couple of hours per week to changing the lives of animals (human and non-human animals) through education, please contact us. And please let us know if you are aware of other venues where we can have an information table. Tuesdays and Thursdays are currently the preferred days for us, but we are flexible.

If you can help, call Evelyn at (714) 846-7081.

10th Annual Caring for Creation Conference – Saturday, October 27th

OCPA participated in the 10th Annual Caring for Creation Conference at the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Orange on October 27th.

Keynote speakers were Ed Begley, Jr., actor and Reverend Peter Kreidler, Minister to the Environment, the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Los Angeles. Both speakers discussed the urgency of switching from a meat-based diet to a plant-based diet. Ed Begley Jr. talked about his journey to veganism and living lightly on the Earth. Reverend Kreidler talked about his SOS plan (save our souls) to save the planet, which involves taking on the "sacred cows" that are killing the planet: Industrial agriculture (the meat industry) and the auto industry, as well as other industries that emit massive amounts of toxins into the environment were singled out. A lively question and answer period followed.

Workshops were also held on issues ranging from Global Warming to water pollution and plastics in the oceans. Participants enjoyed a vegetarian or vegan lunch. Next year the organizers promised to try to provide an all vegan lunch for the event. Most participants signed OCPA's ballot initiative to reduce cruelty to farmed animals sponsored by Californians for Humane Farms and the Humane Society of the United States.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, November 4th 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Huntington Beach

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, November 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Huntington Beach. We were joined by several health minded-people including Joni Newman, author of a new vegan cookbook, *Cozy Inside*, delicious cruelty-free comfort food. Her book can be ordered through <http://www.lulu.com> or www.justthefoodblogspot.com.

Foie Gras Campaign – Ongoing

Throughout most of 2007, OCPA participated in an anti-foie gras campaign and met with several local restaurant managers/owners to educate and inform them of the cruelty and inhumane treatment to geese and ducks used for this so-called "delicacy." If you would like to get involved in this campaign to help change this cruel market – or would like more information about it – please contact us at information@ocpausa.org.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, December 2nd 1:00 p.m. at the Bodhi Tree in Laguna Beach

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, December 2nd at 1:00 p.m., at the Bodhi Tree in Huntington Beach.

Bodhi Tree Café, 501 Main St, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; (714) 969-9500;
<http://www.bodhitreecafe.net>.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch. 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.

OCPA Annual Holiday Party – Saturday, December 15th 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County

You are invited to the OCPA annual holiday party to be held on Saturday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Goddess Temple of Orange County.

Come enjoy a festive gathering of like-minded individuals. Start the evening with live music during a festive cocktail hour complete with silent auction items and raffle, followed by a gourmet vegan dinner. Bob Linden will be our guest speaker. Long-time member, Bob Penney (who shared *Behind the Mask* with us this summer), has selected some short films to share including a nostalgic peak at animal rights media from years gone by. Our founder and gracious hostess of the evening, Ava Park, shall conclude the evening with a special program for the animals.

Please RSVP by December 13th to our hotline at (714) 751-6272 or email to information@ocpausa.org with the number attending and to receive payment option information. *Note:* We cannot guarantee dinners for those who do not RSVP.

Holiday party tickets cost \$25. Profits from this event will help support both OCPA and Go Vegan Radio. Hosted by Bob Linden, Go Vegan Radio is the first show of its kind streaming animal rights and vegetarianism content into mainstream America on 27 stations including AirAmerica and numerous local radio shows. Go to www.goveganradio.com for listings.

We hope to see you there!

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, January 6th 1:00 p.m. at Thuyen Vien in Garden Grove

January's outing will be at Thuyen Vien in Garden Grove. We'll meet at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 6th.

Thuyen Vien, 11080 Magnolia St, Garden Grove, California 92841 (at Katella); phone: (714) 638-8189.
Type of Food: Vegan, Vietnamese, Asian, take-out; menu offers many choices including various soy meats, baby lotus salad, asparagus soup, spring rolls, and more. Website:
<http://www.thuyenvien.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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