

## OCPA E-Alert February 2005



### In This OCPA E-Alert

#### Good News for the Animals

- /// Class B Dealer Permanently Out of Business
- /// Foie Gras Bill Introduced in Illinois
- /// Mercedes-Benz Offers Non-Leather Interiors

#### Recent OCPA Activities

- /// Benefit 5 Band Concert for Activism - January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- /// Humane Education at Schools in January

#### Action Items

- /// End Elephant Rides at California State Fair
- /// Protest Against Canada's Barbaric Seal Hunt
- /// Help Protect California's Seals
- /// Contact Albertson's on Behalf of Ducks

#### Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- /// February 27<sup>th</sup> – OCPA Learning Session at The Living Temple in Huntington Beach
- /// Week of March 20<sup>th</sup> – Annual Great American Meatout
- /// April 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Worldfest in Van Nuys

## Good News for the Animals!

### ***Class B\* Dealer Permanently Out of Business***

Last Chance for Animals announced that its ongoing undercover investigation of Class B dealer\* C.C. Baird's Martin Creek Kennels and Pat's Pine Tree Farms provided evidence used to close both businesses for good. The licenses of C.C. Baird, his wife and their two daughters have been permanently revoked and the USDA/APHIS also imposed maximum fines. The torturing and killing of dogs and cats at these kennels has finally come to an end...

\* The Class B license is a permit issued by the USDA allowing someone to obtain companion animals from auctions, pounds or through classified ads – and then sell them for use in research laboratories.

### ***Foie Gras Bill Introduced in Illinois***

Following the successful passage of legislation in California that will ban the force feeding of birds for foie gras, several other states are now also considering similar humane legislation. In addition to recently introduced bills in New York and Massachusetts, a bill was just introduced in Illinois that will prohibit foie gras cruelty if passed.

## ***Mercedes-Benz Offers Non-Leather Interiors***

According to a recent article in USA Today, Mercedes-Benz is offering to shed the skins when it comes to leather seats on its ritziest models in the name of animal rights..." Until now, its most expensive vehicles have come with leather as the only alternative. Hopefully, other car manufacturers will follow this compassionate and practical lead.

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

### ***End Elephant Rides at California State Fair***

The California State Fair in Sacramento has featured elephant rides in the past and is considering a repeat for the 2005 fair. As you know, this practice is not only cruel to the elephants but also dangerous to the public. Animal advocates have met with the fair board and requested changes in its Animal Welfare Handbook including the permanent ban on elephant rides or exhibits, permanent ban on any wild or exotic animal acts or exhibits, and changes in the fair's rodeo policy and events.

This issue is on the agenda for the fair's marketing and advertising committee this Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, so time is of the essence.

Norbert Bartosik, General Manager/CEO, California Exposition and State Fair, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815; email: [nbartosik@calexpo.com](mailto:nbartosik@calexpo.com).

Michael Bradley, Chief, Bureau of Exhibits, California Exposition and State Fair, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815; email: [mbradley@calexpo.com](mailto:mbradley@calexpo.com).

For more information about the cruelty of using wild and exotic animals for public exhibits, circuses and rides – or for talking points and facts about animals used in entertainment including rodeos – visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/entertainment.htm>.

### ***Protest Against Canada's Barbaric Seal Hunt***

Canadian hunters are once again preparing to kill hundreds of thousands of seal pups off the Newfoundland coast this spring. Most of the seals killed are under one month old, unable to escape from the bludgeoning and clubbing because they have not yet learned to swim. Canada exports seal fur to 11 countries with the largest number of skins sold to Norway, Germany, Greenland and China. Seal fur exports have increased nearly **thirty fold in three years** – from 10,377 in 2001 to 280,140 in 2004.

Please write, phone and/or fax these following leaders and urge them to STOP the seal hunt:

Pamela Wallin, Canadian Consulate General, 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020-1175, phone: 212-596-1628; fax: 212-596-1790.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A2; fax: 613-941-6900.

### ***Help Protect California's Seals***

The San Diego City Council voted to overturn a city ordinance and remove the protective barriers and warning signs that protect seals in a small cove, which is the only nearby habitat seals have used to rest and raise their young for decades. Since that time, seals have experienced human-related injuries and death. Even though these seals are legally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and any harassment or violence by humans is a violation of both state and federal law, the city council and National Marine Fisheries Service have thus far ignored pleas for protective action.

Please contact the following individuals and urge them to take direct action to enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act and protect these seals.

Mayor Dick Murphy/San Diego City Council Members, 202 C Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Diego, CA 92101; e-mail: [DickMurphy@sandiego.gov](mailto:DickMurphy@sandiego.gov); phone: 619-236-6330; fax: 619-229-7228.

Vice-Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, 14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128, Washington, DC 20230; email: [contrad.c.lautenbacher@noaa.gov](mailto:contrad.c.lautenbacher@noaa.gov); fax: 202-408-9674.

### ***Contact Albertson's on Behalf of Ducks***

Contact Albertson's and urge them to stop selling factory-farmed duck meat. These ducks are raised at Maple Leaf Farms and its subsidiary, Woodland Farms, and are suffering, deprived of water to bathe and rinse their eyes in, among other abuses.

Larry Johnson, CEO, Albertson's, 250 Parkcenter Blvd., P.O. Box 20, Boise, ID 83726; phone: 877-932-7948.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***Benefit 5 Band Concert for Activism – January 22<sup>nd</sup>***

This fun benefit concert featured great music from five bands including the PD Band, 8th Day Fall, Chris Wissler, Matheu's groovy rock project and Alec Marken/Deep Stirrings.

All donations went to help relieve the legal fees for Julie Meskell's (OCPA board member) fight against a false arrest and charges that occurred while exercising her freedom of speech rights at a rodeo in October 2003.

### ***Humane Education at Schools in January***

OCPA spoke to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Fern Drive Elementary school on January 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> about companion animals. We plan to continue this outreach to students throughout the year.

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

### ***February 27<sup>th</sup> – OCPA Learning Session at The Living Temple in Huntington Beach***

Please come and join animal rights and health advocates for the first OCPA learning session of 2005 at The Living Temple in Huntington Beach on Sunday, February 27, 2005, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

This is an informal discussion group and will provide an opportunity to share experiences and information with each other on our path to greater health and compassion. We will also probably show a short film or documentary at this event.

This event is FREE to attend, but we do ask that you please RSVP by Saturday, February 26, since space is limited. Location: The Living Temple, 7561 Center Drive #24, Huntington Beach, CA 92647; phone/RSVP: 714-891-5117.

### ***Week of March 20<sup>th</sup> – Annual Great American Meatout***

We are currently planning our annual Great American Meatout outreach activities during the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will likely provide vegan meals to local high school and college students at both Foothill High School in Tustin and Saddleback College. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Julie Meskell at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org). The more volunteers we have, the more locations and events we'll arrange. Look for additional information in our next e-alert or visit our website at <http://ocpausa.org/events.htm> in coming weeks. Help spread the word about the many benefits of a vegan diet...for humans and animals.

## ***April 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Worldfest in Van Nuys***

The annual Worldfest is being held on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Woodley Park in Van Nuys from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come experience this exciting event that will include great live music, ethnic and vegetarian foods, celebrity guests, empowering speakers, kid's activities, hundreds of exhibits with non-profits and planet-friendly vendors, and animal adoptions.

OCPA is in the process of becoming an exhibitor and having a table at this event, so we're currently looking for volunteers to help at the table throughout the day (we'll break it into shifts). Please contact Julie Meskell at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org) if you'd like to volunteer at this event.

For more information and directions, visit <http://www.worldfestevents.com>. We'll see you there!

---

## **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](mailto:donations@ocpausa.org) or [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) for additional information.

To subscribe to this list or submit an e-mail address change, e-mail [pamela.kurp@ocpausa.org](mailto:pamela.kurp@ocpausa.org) with the word "ADD" or "CHANGE" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, include the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.