

OCPA E-Alert February 2007



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- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 4th 1:00 p.m. at Sydney's Vegetarian Café in Fullerton
- OCPA Supports Corona Del Mar High School Vegetarian Week, March 19th
- FARM's Annual Meatout – OCPA Event at Foothill High School in Tustin, March
- *Behind the Mask* Screening – Saturday, May 26th 1:00 p.m. in Irvine

Good News for the Animals!

So far in 2007, we've seen several companies end – or promise to end – abusive animal practices or the sale of animal products. This is testimony that no matter how long it takes, persistent action does (and will continue to) produce positive results for the animals. So keep making calls, writing letters, sending e-mails and signing petitions!

U.S. Court Upholds Law Banning Sale of Horsemeat

In mid-January, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit finally upheld a 1949 Texas law banning the sale of horsemeat for human consumption. The Humane Society of the United States had filed an amicus brief in the case in March 2006, arguing in favor of the state law banning horse slaughter. Two of the three existing horse slaughter facilities in the United States are located in Texas, and as soon as the ruling goes into effect, Illinois will stand alone as the last state where American horses are slaughtered for foreign diners.

This issue is one that is really dragging out. In the 109th Congress, the U.S. House voted five times and the U.S. Senate voted once to stop horse slaughter, but time ran out before the legislation crossed the finish line. Now, at the beginning of the 110th Congress and with this major Texas court ruling, we are poised for a big push to protect all American horses from this horrible fate. We are coming at the horse slaughter industry from all directions, and they are operating on borrowed time.

Last month, U.S. Representatives Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), John Spratt (D-SC), and Nick Rahall (D-WV), and U.S. Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and John Ensign (R-NV) introduced H.R. 503/S. 311, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. This legislation would ban horse slaughter in the U.S. and stop the export of horses for slaughter across our borders.

You can send an automated e-mail via HSUS's website at:
https://community.hsus.org/campaign/FED_2007_horse_slaughter.

Smithfield Foods to Phase Out Gestation Crates

Smithfield Foods, Inc., the nation's largest pork producer, announced that it will phase out the use of gestation crates at all of its company-owned sow farms over the next decade. Smithfield will replace the crates with group housing, where the animals can socialize with one another. The move comes as a result of pressure from Smithfield customers such as McDonald's, Burger King, Safeway and Wal-Mart. Arizona voters also recently passed an initiative that requires farmers to house sows in pens larger than gestation crates. In 2002, Florida passed a similar regulation. And gestation crates are banned in Europe.

CareerBuilder to End Primate Ads

CareerBuilder recently announced plans to end its abusive primate ads. In 2005, CareerBuilder, an employee recruitment agency, began running a series of advertisements that featured chimpanzees dressed in suits and ties mimicking human behavior in an office setting. Due to public opposition to the ads, CareerBuilder is finally doing the right thing by discontinuing the ads.

POM to End Cruel Animal Tests

Last year, PETA discovered that POM was funding outrageous experiments on animals in order to make health claims about its products. After a full-fledged boycott campaign, POM has decided to stop funding and conducting animal tests. This is a huge victory for animals being tortured and killed in laboratories, and it exposes just how ridiculous the vivisection industry is as a whole, torturing animals to promote fruit juice. With this announcement, POM joins other compassionate juice companies like Welch's, Naked, Frutzzo, Old Orchard, Lakewood, and others affirming that they do not fund or conduct any experiments on animals.

Marcho Farms to Phase Out Veal Crates

One week after Smithfield Food's announcement to end the use of gestation crates, one of the largest U.S. veal companies – Marcho Farms – announced plans to phase out veal crates. Cruelty to animals violates basic humane principals and industrial farming operators are now being forced to recognize this.

Virginia Makes Cockfighting a Felony

Legislation to make cockfighting a felony offense passed a Virginia Senate committee vote and now goes to the full state Senate.

CA's Boxer Co-Sponsors Animal Bills

California's U.S. Senator, Barbara Boxer, has co-sponsored three important bills regarding animal welfare:

- S. 311, legislation to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling or donating of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption.
- S. 261, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007, which amends the federal criminal code to prohibit most activities involving animal fighting and increases the penalties to a fine and up to three years' imprisonment for violations.
- S. 394, which would help to ensure more humane treatment of nonambulatory or "downed" livestock. This bill would prevent these downed animals from being transported to slaughterhouses for eventual human consumption and would mandate that they be humanely euthanized in the field.

Wal-Mart to Stop Selling Live Fish

In response to consumer demand, Wal-Mart recently announced it would stop selling live "pet" fish at some U.S. stores.

Giant Eagle to Stop Selling Foie Gras

Following in the footsteps of Whole Foods, grocery chain Giant Eagle recently announced it will no longer sell foie gras – a "delicacy" made by force-feeding ducks and geese – in any of its 230 stores. The state of California, city of Chicago and 16 nations worldwide have banned the production of foie gras.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Ask Representative to Join Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus

Your help is needed to increase membership in the **Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus**. The caucus, a bipartisan coalition of U.S. House of Representatives, is reconvening during this session of Congress and is seeking new members to better address animal issues.

This caucus is meant to serve as a platform and forum to aid in getting much-needed animal protection legislation enacted. The more members the caucus has, the more effective it can be in achieving its aim.

Please contact your Representative via letter and/or email followed by a phone call. Tell him or her that you are a constituent, that you care about animal issues, and politely ask the Representative to join the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus if he or she has not done so already. Let your Representative know he or she should contact the offices of either Rep. Christopher Shays or Rep. Tom Lantos if interested in becoming a member of the caucus.

Visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to locate your representative's contact information.

Support PA's Efforts to Regulate Puppy Mills

Known as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East," Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the United States. At last, the state's Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement have introduced regulations that could help put an end to some of the inhumane practices considered "routine" at these high-volume dog-breeding facilities.

The great news is you don't have to live in Pennsylvania to weigh in on this issue. Visit ASPCA's site at: <https://secure2.convio.net/aspca/site/Advocacy?pagename=homepage&id=2099&JServSessionIdr001=1f6q88qae1.app23b> for a letter of support that you can print, sign and send to Pennsylvania's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.

Urge Morningstar to Stop Using Eggs

Morningstar Farms, owned by the Kellogg company, uses eggs from battery-caged hens in its products. Battery-caged hens are jammed into tiny wire cages in filthy buildings and their lives are totally miserable. For information about battery-caged hens, visit http://www.upc-online.org/battery_hens.

Join United Poultry Concerns, Compassion Over Killing, Vegan Outreach and other concerned activists by asking Morningstar Farms – a leader in providing delicious vegetarian foods – to remove the eggs from its products. Tell them that many vegan consumers – would-be customers – await this positive change. Ask them to follow Gardenburger, which last year announced it has taken eggs out of all of its products except for one private-sourced item.

Call the Kellogg customer feedback hotline at 1-800-962-1413 or write to Morningstar Farms, c/o Kellogg Consumer Affairs, PO Box CAMB, Battle Creek, MI 49016.

Urge Congress to Support HR 891 to Stop Use of Dog Fur in Garments Sold in U.S.

Recent HSUS tests showed that animal fur is frequently mislabeled or marked as faux fur and is found on jackets trimmed with dog fur sold by some of the biggest names in fashion.

Protect consumers and animals by stopping the sale of fur from raccoon dogs—a member of the dog family sometimes skinned alive in China—and requiring all fur garments to be labeled.

Please ask your U.S. Representative to support and co-sponsor HR 891, the Dog and Cat Fur Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007. This important bill would require all fur-trimmed garments to be labeled, which would help prevent dog fur from slipping into the country. It would also prohibit the sale of fur from raccoon dogs, members of the dog family were seen being skinned alive in undercover video footage.

You can reach your Representative by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or visit <http://ocpausa.org/legislation.htm> to find your Representative's office phone number. You can also send an e-mail via HSUS's action alert site at: https://community.hsus.org/campaign/FED_2007_fur_labeling.

Recent OCPA Activities

Appreciating Diversity Day at Corona Del Mar High School – January 16-19th

Appreciating Diversity Week is a one-week long event held annually. Throughout the week, a club or school organization is assigned a day to do whatever they want on that day. Wednesday was the Animal Rights Day and Voices of Compassion: Animal Liberation (VOCAL) set up an exhibit with posters, free food samples, free buttons, informational tables, all corresponding to the theme of "it's all relative." The theme showed the relativity to humans and animals by saying that we all cry, suffer, love, etc, and we should therefore respect our fellow earth dwellers.

The day after the event, the cafeteria sold veggie burgers (and continues to do so). Thursday was the Human Relation Council's Day featuring posters combating stereotypes. On Friday, a myriad of speakers, including OCPA, spoke to different assemblies about diversity and unity. Some were speakers from religious panels, while others were from Overeaters Anonymous and other groups.

"The whole week is about promoting appreciation of the diversity all around us. We were really excited to have animals be put into the equation for the first time this year, and hope to do so next year as well."

Melyssa Griffin, Corona Del Mar student and president of VOCAL

OCPA Foie Gras Campaign Kickoff Meeting, Veggie Grill in Irvine, January 29th

OCPA held a kickoff meeting for its foie gras campaign on January 29th at the Veggie Grill in Irvine.

Several activists including UCI students attended the meeting and discussed strategies for approaching local restaurant managers/owners that offer this cruel as a menu item. Stay tuned for more information and action items in future e-alerts as this new campaign unfolds.

If you would like to become involved with the campaign, send an e-mail to information@ocpausa.org with *Foie Gras Campaign* in the subject line and your name and contact information (including phone/cell number) in the body of the e-mail.

Sustainable Table Screening and Dr. Will Tuttle Speech at Native Foods in Costa Mesa, February 10th

On February 10th, several members of OCPA joined other concerned activists for a screening of the feature documentary, *Sustainable Table*, written and produced by Mischa Hedges as a senior project at Chapman College.

The movie provided an unadulterated look at how our food is produced, from the despair of the slaughterhouses to the dismal lives of battery hens and milking cows.

Preceding the screening, Dr. Will Tuttle gave an illuminating talk about his groundbreaking book, *The World Peace Diet*. Dr. Tuttle clearly made the argument that our unceasing oppression of the animal kingdom is inextricably linked to the violence and war that ravages this planet. Dr. Tuttle suggests that the adoption of a vegan diet is the first step towards a world free of human domination; and the principal step that will ultimately save the human species from further suffering.

For more information about the *Sustainable Table* documentary, visit: <http://www.sustainabletablemovie.com/home.html>. And for more information about Will Tuttle, *The World Peace Diet* and related upcoming seminars, visit: <http://www.willtuttle.com>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 4th 1:00 p.m. at Sydney's Vegetarian Cafe in Fullerton

Come out and join us at our monthly veggie/vegan luncheon club on Sunday, March 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Sydney's Vegetarian Cafe in Fullerton, 108 W. Wilshire Ave. Fullerton, CA 92832; phone (714) 525-5111.

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. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

And mark your calendars for our April luncheon, held on Sunday, April 1st 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market in Huntington Beach, 19770 Beach Blvd, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; phone: (714) 963-MOMS (6667).

OCPA Supports Corona Del Mar High School Vegetarian Week, March 19th

Vegetarian Week at Corona del Mar High School will take place the week of March 19th to coincide with the annual MeatOut Day. Volunteers will distribute recipes and literature on Monday, March 19th after school at 3:00 p.m. and will take part in a question and answer period on Tuesday, March 20th during lunch.

If you'd like to join this effort, please contact Melyssa at melyssagriffin@gmail.com or Julie at julie.meskeill@ocpa.usa.

"Our sincere hope with this project is that our participants will see that being a vegetarian is not difficult and that there are substitutes for nearly everything. We also plan to give them a vegetarian starter kit and plenty of handouts and facts showing them how a vegetarian diet is not only good for animals, but also for their health and the environment. VOCAL is extremely dedicated to animal rights and have already made strides to educate our peers."

Melyssa Griffin, Corona Del Mar student and president of VOCAL

FARM's Annual Meatout – OCPA Event at Foothill High School, Tustin – TBA

OCPA will again sponsor a free vegan lunch in honor of Meatout at Foothill High School in Tustin during the third or last week of March.

If you would like to volunteer with this effort, please contact Julie at julie.meskell@ocpa.usa.

For more information about the Great American Meatout, registered events and information about FARM, visit <http://www.meatout.org> or call 1-800-MEATOUT.

Behind the Mask Screening – Saturday, May 26th, 1:00 p.m. in Irvine

OCPA will sponsor a screening of *Behind the Mask* on Saturday, May 26th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Goddess Temple, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine.

Behind the Mask is a unique documentary focusing on those individuals who take direct action to save animals. For more information about the film, visit: <http://www.uncagedfilms.com>.

Tickets for this event are \$10.00 (at the door or prepaid by check) and include a delicious vegan lunch. There will also be a cash bar available for beer and wine. Please RSVP to OCPA's hotline at 714-751-6272 or send an e-mail RSVP to information@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/join.htm>, e-mail donations@ocpausa.org or subscription@ocpausa.org for additional information.

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