

OCPA E-Alert February/March 2008



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Recent OCPA Activities

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- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 2nd 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods

Action Items

- Urge USDA to Improve Enforcement of Downer Rule
- Oppose Plan to Remove Wolves from Federal Protection
- Urge Donna Karan and Burberry to Stop Selling Fur
- Ask Lowe's to Stop Selling Cruel Glue Traps
- Help Stop Slaughter of Yellowstone's Wild Bison

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- OCPA's Meatout/Earth Day High School Outreach – March/April (TBD)
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley
- OCPA Joining Forces with UCI on Anti-Vivisection Campaign
- Worldfest 2008 – Saturday, May 10th in Encino

Good News for the Animals!

Nearly 800,000 Signatures Collected for Farm Animal Ballot Initiative

Volunteers collected close to 800,000 signatures in support of adding an initiative to the November 2008 ballot in California (just over 400,000 were required). If passed, the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act would ban veal crates for calves, battery cages for egg-laying hens, and gestation crates for breeding pigs.

Special acknowledgement and thanks to all of you out there who went above and beyond the call of duty to make this happen – including Julie Meskell who collected the highest number of signatures in Orange County and Dina Kourda who collected the third largest number of signatures in Orange County.

For more information on the initiative and how you can help spread the word to gain support for its passing, visit <http://www.humanecalifornia.org>.

City of Los Angeles Passes Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance

Despite an enormous turnout of animal breeders, the L.A. City Council recently approved the Spay and Neuter Ordinance.

This ordinance requires mandatory sterilization of most dogs and cats at the age of four months or older, with licensed breeders, show animals and service animals able to receive an exemption. Los Angeles now moves one step closer to finally helping to put an end to the pet over-population problem in the city.

U.S. Government Labs to Move Toward Non-Animal Testing Methods for Chemical and Drug Safety

Three agencies – the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Toxicology Program and the National Institute of Health – recently announced a program that could lead to the end of animal testing to evaluate the safety for humans of new chemicals and drugs. Although the full transition could take a few years, the agencies hope to instead rely on human cells grown in test tubes and computer-driven testing machines to examine potentially toxic compounds in the lab rather than injecting them into animals.

Although the agencies' long overdue decision to move away from animals is based on accuracy, time and expense, all of us in the animal rights movement view this as a milestone for animals tortured and killed in the name of science.

Undercover Video Revealing Slaughterhouse Downer Cruelty Hits Mainstream Media; USDA Closes Slaughterhouse; Largest Beef Recall in U.S. History

It began with an undercover video taken by the HSUS that revealed what most of us already know – how animals too sick to move or stand are continually tortured, beaten and forced into kill lines destined for the human food chain. For years, animal groups have been trying to get legislation passed that would outlaw and prevent this standard industry practice.

The undercover video revealed shocking abuses of downed dairy cows at the Hallmark Meat Packing Company slaughter plant. Once the video and story appeared in the Washington Post and other mainstream media outlets, the USDA shut down the plant and then issued the largest recall of beef in U.S. history – 143 million pounds, much of which had already been consumed by public schools and other consumers.

Refer to the *Action Items* section of this e-alert for information on how you can help urge the USDA to improve enforcement of the downer rule – and conduct investigations into other slaughterhouses across the country.

Clothing Retailer Stops Purchasing Wool from Farmers Performing Cruel Mulesing Mutilations

H&M, a large clothing retailer, announced that it will no longer purchase wool from farmers who perform the gruesome mutilation known as mulesing, where a sheep's flesh is carved while the animal is still conscious. The retailer's compassionate decision sends an important message to other clothing companies who still obtain wool from animals subjected to this cruel industry practice.

Safeway Initiates New Animal Welfare Plan

Safeway, the second-largest grocery chain in North America, recently announced its plans to initiate a new animal welfare plan making them one of the grocery industry leaders (along with Whole Foods) in improved animal welfare standards. The company has agreed to encourage all of their egg suppliers to ban battery cages, implement a purchasing preference for pork that was produced without cruel gestation crates, and favor poultry suppliers that use controlled-atmosphere killing (the least cruel method of slaughter) instead of electric stun baths and throat-slitting.

New Jersey Prohibits Product Tests on Animals When Federally Approved Alternative Exists

New Jersey recently joined California to pass a law that prohibits product tests on animals when a federally-approved alternative exists. The practice of restraining and subjecting a rabbit's shaved skin to chemicals to check for corrosiveness will now be done via a human skin equivalent – a protein membrane designed to function like skin.

2008: Unusual Number of Pro-Animal, Pro-Veg*n Diet Articles Seen in Mainstream Media

OCPA has noticed an unusually high number of pro-animal, pro-veg*n diet articles appearing in the mainstream media so far this year and we are very happy to see open debate and positive light shed on what we already know: How a plant-based diet benefits not only the animals, but human health and the planet as well.

Here are a few encountered within just one week:

- USA Today, "[Animal Rights Fight Gains Momentum: Groups Report Increase in Membership as High-Profile Incidents Make Headlines](#)," January 28, 2008.
- The New York Times, "[Rethinking the Meat-Guzzler](#)," January 27, 2008.
- The Wall Street Journal, "[The 247 lb. Vegan](#)," January 25, 2008.
- Newsweek, "[Finding Meaning in Each Mouthful: Saving the World or Fitting Into Your Jeans? Two new books urge us to eat more plants, for glamour or for good](#)," January 28, 2008.
- USA Today, "[Veganism is Taking Root, but is it Healthy?](#)," January 28, 2008.
- AlterNet (not exactly "mainstream media", but...), "[Eating As If the Climate Mattered](#)," January 23, 2008.
- Philadelphia Inquirer, "[Learning to Eat, and Like, His Veggies](#)," January 20, 2008.

Let's hope this positive coverage continues and gains even more momentum throughout the year (and beyond). Letters to local or national newspapers/television networks urging more coverage on these topics is encouraged.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge USDA to Improve Enforcement of Downer Rule

As you know, an investigation by the HSUS at a cattle slaughterhouse has led to the largest beef recall in U.S. history. Animals too sick or injured to stand or walk—called "downers" by industry—were being kicked, beaten, dragged with chains, shocked with electric prods, sprayed in the face with hoses, and rammed by forklifts in efforts to get them to their feet to pass USDA inspection.

This unacceptable cruelty potentially puts the food supply at risk—at least 12 of the 15 identified cases of mad cow disease in North America to date have reportedly been downers. Despite claims that downers

were being eliminated from the food supply, downed animals are obviously still being mistreated and entering the food chain due to lack of agency oversight and enforcement.

Contact the USDA and demand they make the change necessary to ensure this dangerous and inhumane practice is ended. Visit the following HSUS site for an action alert:

https://community.hsus.org/campaign/CA_2008_investigation

Note: You can also view the slaughterhouse video from this link, if you have the stomach for it.

Oppose Plan to Remove Wolves from Federal Protection

The Bush/Cheney administration has just eliminated federal protections for wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies, opening the door to the slaughter of hundreds of America's most beloved wolves. This decision leaves the region's wolves at the mercy of outrageous state management plans that could lead to the killing of all but 300 wolves – eliminating 80% of all the wild wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies. Idaho's governor plans to allow a large-scale wolf eradication through hunting and aerial gunning, while Wyoming plans to allow 16 of the existing 23 packs of wolves in the state to be killed on sight by poisoning, trapping and shooting them.

The government must not be allowed to destroy all of the progress made in reintroducing wolves to the Northern Rockies. Please sign the following petition of protest and demand that the Bush/Cheney administration reverse its misguided decision and continue protecting Greater Yellowstone wolves under the Endangered Species Act: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/806854919>.

Urge Donna Karan and Burberry to Stop Selling Fur

Despite the fact that Donna Karan promised to stop using fur in her designs in the past, PETA has learned that she continues to use and sell fur. PETA has asked Karan to join other top designers and retailers—including her top competitors Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Polo Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and others—who have already adopted permanent fur-free policies.

Karan knows about the suffering that goes into every fur-trimmed coat, hat, and bag, yet she continues to use and promote real fur. Please urge Karan to discontinue the sale of all fur items and to institute a permanent fur-free policy. Let her know that until she stops, you will not buy any of her designs:

http://getactive.peta.org/campaign/donna_karan_fur

Burberry may be best known for its distinctive plaid, but its use of real fur is making the design house synonymous with cruelty to animals. Burberry continues to use fur in its designs despite the fact that leading clothing retailers like Selfridges, Harvey Nichols, Ann Taylor, Polo Ralph Lauren, and others have pulled fur from their stores forever.

Contact Burberry and tell them that you'll be boycotting the chain—and also ask all your friends and family members to do the same—until it pledges to stop supporting cruelty to animals and adopts a permanent fur-free policy. Please send a letter to Burberry CEO Angela Ahrendts and tell her that you are outraged that Burberry still uses the skins of tortured animals in its clothing. Urge her to discontinue the company's use of fur and let her know that you won't buy from Burberry until it stops selling real fur.

Contact: Angela Ahrendts, CEO, Burberry Group PLC, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 4DQ, United Kingdom, angela.ahrendts@burberry.com; phone: +44-20-7968-0000. Also contact the local Burberry in OC: South Coast Plaza, 3333 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; 714-556-8110.

Ask Lowe's to Stop Selling Cruel Glue Traps

Glue traps are among the cruelest pest-control devices on the market today. Animals who get stuck to them suffer for days before they finally die of starvation, dehydration, self-mutilation, and shock. Patches of skin, fur, or feathers are torn from their bodies as they frantically struggle to escape the relentless adhesive.

PETA has presented Lowe's with graphic photos and video footage of small animals, including birds, who suffered painful injuries and died lingering deaths after being ensnared by the cruel traps. But so far, not this, nor the fact that other companies—including CVS, Rite Aid, Albertsons, and Safeway—have banned glue traps because they are so cruel has persuaded Lowe's to do the right thing and get rid of them once and for all.

Please visit the following link to send an automated letter to the CEO of Lowe's urging him to stop selling glue traps: http://getactive.peta.org/campaign/lowes_glue_traps.

Help Stop Slaughter of Yellowstone's Wild Bison

The 23 bison that somehow escaped the mass extermination that took place during the westward expansion of America in the 1870s found refuge from extinction in Yellowstone, the world's first national park. Today, their descendents have grown to nearly 4,500 in number, and continue to live in Yellowstone.

Tragically, they remain under siege in the 21st century, because Yellowstone park rangers now capture the bison and send them to slaughter as they migrate to lower elevations outside of Yellowstone with milder weather each winter and spring. Using snowmobiles and helicopters, government agents haze terrified animals out of the park where it is legal to round them up, and then send them to slaughterhouses or a quarantine research facility. Since 1985, more than 5,000 of these animals have been massacred under provisions of the Interagency Bison Management Plan, as well as state and treaty hunts, while some have also been captured for use in experiments. American taxpayers fund this unjustified violence to the tune of \$2.8 million a year.

Why is this happening? Because Montana ranchers grazing their livestock on public land surrounding Yellowstone (at a fraction of market value) say bison compete with cattle for grazing resources. They also falsely claim that wild bison will infect their cattle with brucellosis (a bacterial cattle disease), even though there has not been a single documented instance of this ever occurring.

Rather than killing wild bison, governmental agencies should be protecting these majestic animals and allowing them safe passage on their migratory journey. The [Buffalo Field Campaign \(BFC\)](#) is actively working to stop the killing of bison in Yellowstone, and has proposed [real alternatives](#) to the cruel scapegoating of this native species. Please help end the slaughter now by contacting Montana's governor, Brian Schweitzer, at (406) 444-3111, and urge him to stop killing bison.

Recent OCPA Activities

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Veggie Grill in Irvine

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Veggie Grill Restaurant in Irvine for dinner. *Note:* The later time was intended to accommodate those who can only join us later in the day.

Veggie Grill, 4213 Campus Dr, Irvine, CA; phone: (949) 509-0002; hours 11am - 10pm; located in the University Center, across from UC Irvine, next to Trader Joe's; <http://www.veggiegrill.com>.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods

The Veg*n Lunch group met on Sunday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at Mother's Market and Kitchen in Laguna Woods.

At this luncheon meeting, diners learned how they can help the plight of suffering farmed animals and also discovered information about OCPA's new anti-vivisection committee partnership with activists from UCI to put an end to animal experimentation on that campus and others in Southern California.

Mother's Market & Kitchen, 24165 Paseo De Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA; phone: (949) 768-6667; located off El Toro Road and the I-5 freeway; <http://www.mothersmarket.com>.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

OCPA's Meatout/Earth Day High School Outreach – March/April (TBD)

OCPA is in the process of formalizing plans for its annual school outreach in honor of both MeatOut and Earth Day to educate high school students on the horrors of factory farming (animals raised for food) and the many benefits of a plant-based diet.

We'll keep you posted on this event as more plan details are confirmed. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Julie Meskell at julie.meskell@ocpausa.org.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon Club – Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley

Join us at our monthly veggie/vegan club on Sunday, April 6th at Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant in Fountain Valley for dinner at 6:30 p.m. *Note:* The later time is intended to accommodate those who can only join us later in the day.

Au Lac Vegetarian Restaurant, 16563 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: (714) 418-0658; located at the corner of Brookhurst Street and Heil Avenue across from Mile Square Park; website: <http://www.aulac.com>.

We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise – is invited to join us for lunch/dinner. 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 Joining Forces with UCI on Anti-vivisection Campaign

OCPA is joining forces with students at UCI to put an end to the unnecessary cruel experimentation on hundreds of cats, pigs and rats still taking place on various campuses throughout Southern California. The kickoff meeting recently occurred and plans are moving forward. Watch for upcoming meetings and activities to raise public awareness of what is going on in our own back yard.

If you would like to participate on the anti-vivisection committee, please contact us at information@ocpausa.org.

Worldfest 2008 – Saturday, May 10th in Encino

After taking a break last year, Worldfest is scheduled this year for Saturday, May 10th, at Woodley Park in Encino, California.

Worldfest 2006 featured over 5,000 people in attendance, 120 exhibitor booths, 30 bands on three sound stages and a vegan food court. Worldfest is the area's largest Earth Day Festival and the only solar-powered celebration of music, environment, the animals, health and social consciousness.

For more information, visit: <http://www.worldfestevents.com>.

OCPA plans to sponsor a booth at this event and is looking for volunteers to help with various shifts throughout the day. If you are interested, please send us an email at information@ocpausa.org and include your contact information and time(s) available to help at the booth.

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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