

OCPA E-Alert

February / March 2009



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- Ask UCI to End Animal Experimentation
- Contact U.S. Senators to Support Captive Primate Safety Act (S. 462) and U.S. Representative to Support Great Ape Protection Act (HR 1326)

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Great American Meatout – On and/or around Friday, March 20th
- Shelter Dog Blanket Making Potluck Party – Sunday, March 22nd in Buena Park
- Genesis Awards – Saturday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills
- Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, April 5th 1:00 p.m. at The Secret Spot in Huntington Beach
- HSUS Animal Care Expo 2009, April 6-9th, Bally's Las Vegas
- Orange County Pet Expo – April 17-19th
- World Week for Animals in Laboratories Events – April 16 – 25th
- UCI Anti-Vivisection Demonstration – Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:00 p.m.
- Conference on Animals and Religion Featuring Karen Dawn, Friday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m. in Orange
- OCPA Write-In, Saturday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine
- Veggie Pride Parade, Sunday, May 17th, 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. in NYC

Special Note: If you would like to receive occasional email notifications of outreach and volunteer opportunities, please respond to julie.meskell@ocpaua.org to have your e-mail address included in a separate contact list. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you out and about this year on behalf of the animals.

Good News for the Animals!

U.S. House of Reps Passes Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 80)

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 80) by an overwhelming vote. This legislation prohibits the import, export and interstate commerce in nonhuman primates destined to be kept as "pets."

Please visit the [Action Items](#) section of this e-alert to help ensure swift action in the U.S. Senate for this important legislation to end the pet primate trade.

More Local Restaurants Agree to Stop Serving Foie Gras

Recent foie gras demonstrations organized by the Animal Protection and Rescue League has resulted in more local restaurants promising to stop serving the cruel cuisine, foie gras. Bernardo's in San Diego and Frenchy's in Laguna Beach both just pulled foie gras from the menu.

Obama Restores Endangered Species Review Rule

President Obama restored a key protection for endangered species, rolling back a last-minute Bush rule change that left it up to government agencies to decide on their own whether new dams, logging or mining operations posed a threat to endangered species or their habitats. Now this important decision will again fall to government biologists from the Fish and Wildlife Service or other agencies to determine whether development poses a threat to species.

Morningstar Farms and Lightlife to Use Even Fewer Eggs in 2009

Both Morningstar Farms and Lightlife Foods recently announced plans to use even fewer eggs in 2009 than previously stated. Morningstar Farms has now committed to reducing its egg usage by an estimated 500 thousand eggs in 2009, in addition to the already 1 million fewer eggs in 2008. And egg whites are being removed from two more Lightlife products – the veggie burger and mushroom burgers are being converted to vegan products with a completion date of June 1, 2009.

U.S. Department of Agriculture to Ban Downers from Food Supply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is officially putting a stop to non-ambulatory cattle being mishandled in order to get them into slaughter plants. President Obama also formed a new Food Safety Working Group to look into food safety laws and recommend improvements, and ordered the Food and Drug Administration to employ more food inspectors.

Animal Cruelty Laws Gain Ground in the U.S.

In line with the growth of university animal law courses, animal cruelty laws are also gaining ground in the U.S. In many states, new laws take animal abuse just as seriously as drunk driving. Read a [recent MSNBC article](#) for more information about the fast-growing animal cruelty laws in this country.

Boca to Stop Using Eggs by End of 2009

Boca recently announced that it is going to eliminate eggs in all of its products by the end of 2009. For more information and/or to send Boca a thank you, visit boca-egg-facts.com.

Primary Importer Claims it Will Stop Transporting Live Pigs to Hawaii as of April 2009

The primary importer of pigs to the island of Oahu – Hawaii Food Products – recently agreed to stop importing live pigs to Hawaii as of April 2009. For more information, visit [Born Free's action page](#).

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Olympic Organizing Committee to End Baby Seal Slaughter

Year after year, animal activists around the world have urged the Canadian government to end their bloody seal massacre, yet in a few short weeks this devastating slaughter of seals for their skins is scheduled to start again.

As the world turns its attention to Canada when it hosts the 2010 Winter Olympics, we all have an excellent opportunity to make a real difference. This may be our best chance to push the Canadian government to end this slaughter once and for all.

OCPA is lending its support to PETA's year-long campaign and encourages you to help show Canada the world is against this barbaric massacre. Please visit [PETA's action alert](#) for more information about the campaign and to contact the Olympic Organizing Committee calling for an end to the horrific slaughter of baby seals.

Ask UCI to End Animal Experimentation

Through monthly demonstrations at the campus, OCPA is working with UCI, PETA and others to help inform UCI students and faculty of the unnecessary cruelty behind the ongoing animal experimentation conducted in the name of "education" at the university.

In September 2008, PETA filed a complaint with the U.C. Irvine animal experiment oversight committee and launched a campaign to urge the school to replace their rat and frog classroom biology laboratories with humane, non-animal learning methods. PETA has recently learned that in response to their complaint, U.C. Irvine reviewed the experiments and "determined that the justification for the use of live animals in this teaching lab is not adequate" for both the frog and rat exercises, yet the experiments continue.

In the experiments, undergraduate students cut and drill into the heads of healthy rats and inject chemicals to damage their brains. Students also use needles to destroy the brains of living frogs, and the animals are cut up while their hearts are still beating. As many as 350 frogs and 200 rats are killed each year at U.C. Irvine for these experiments.

Please contact U.C. Irvine Chancellor, Michael V. Drake, and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education, Dr. Sharon V. Salinger (<http://getactive.peta.org/ct/VdM0H-n1CE92/>). Politely ask them to end these experiments and implement humane, non-animal teaching methods in the university's science courses.

And to participate in OCPA's monthly on-campus demonstrations, contact Julie.meskell@ocpauusa.org or visit [OCPA's myspace page](#) for up-to-date event information.

Contact U.S. Senators to Support Captive Primate Safety Act (S. 462) and U.S. Representative to Support Great Ape Protection Act (HR 1326)

The recent swift House action to pass the Captive Primate Safety Act (HR 80) comes in the wake of the Travis chimpanzee **tragedy** in Connecticut, where a pet chimpanzee attacked a 55-year-old woman and was shot by police as a result.

Keeping **primates as pets** involves enormous suffering and threats to human safety. Chimpanzees, macaques, baboons, and other species may have their teeth or fingernails removed to make them seem less dangerous. *We can no longer allow animals to be mutilated in the name of companionship.* Furthermore, nonhuman primates can carry harmful diseases such as Ebola, tuberculosis, and herpes-B. The bottom line is this: Wildlife belongs in the wild.

Please visit [Born Free's action page](#) to send an e-mail to your U.S. Senators encouraging them to support the Captive Primate Safety Act (S. 462).

Congress also recently reintroduced the Great Ape Protection Act (HR 1326). This bill would put an end to invasive research, defined as any experiment that may cause death, bodily injury, pain, distress, fear, injury or trauma, including psychological experiments of social deprivation and isolation.

The Great Ape Protection Act already has bipartisan backing in the House of Representatives, but it needs more support to move forward. Please ask your U.S. Representative to co-sponsor this important legislation that would end invasive research on great apes. Let him/her know that this bill is an important step towards more effective and humane science and that similar bills have already been passed in European countries.

To contact your U.S. Representative, visit [AAVS' action page](#).

Recent OCPA Activities

Anti-Fur Demonstrations at Bizaki Fur Salon in Tustin – February 1st and 14th

We had a great turnout at the Bizaki Fur Salon in Tustin on both February 1st and 14th to speak up for the millions of animals who are gassed, poisoned, electrocuted, or skinned alive for their fur every year. Signs were provided by In Defense of Animals and PETA.

Presentation at Chapman University – Wednesday, February 11th

OCPA volunteer Charlotte Cressey gave a presentation to students at Chapman University during their Awareness Week event. She spoke to students about the health and environmental aspects of a vegan diet and also talked about the cruelty involved in a meat and dairy-based diet.

Thank you, Charlotte, for spreading the message of compassion to local college students.

Puppy Store-Free Orange County Kick-Off Meeting, Sunday, February 15th

Best Friend's Puppy Store-free Orange County campaign held a kick-off meeting in Mission Viejo on Sunday, February 15th.

OCPA board member, Julie Meskell, participated in the kick-off meeting. The campaign is starting at the shops of Mission Viejo Mall where Barkworks sells puppies.

If you would like to table for this campaign on a Saturday or Sunday at the Mission Viejo Mall, please contact Barb Holcomb at gregandbarb@cox.net.

Vegan Outreach/Club Day, Patriot's Day at Beckman High School – Friday, February 20th, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Irvine

On Friday, February 20th, Beckman's Reaching Out For Animal Rights Club served food from Veggie Grill to students between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. at Beckman High School, 3588 Bryan, Irvine, CA 92602; phone: (714) 734-2900.

OCPA once again sponsored ROAR's (Reaching Out for Animal Rights) Patriot Day at Beckman High School. This was a Club Day event in which each high school club was represented at this festival and sold food and drinks to benefit their individual clubs. OCPA delivered delicious sandwiches and carrot cake prepared by the Veggie Grill in Irvine. The students were very interested in the literature distributed on a range of animal issues, especially factory farming and veganism.

Thank you to Veggie Grill for their generous donation and to volunteer, Cera Lane, for her hard work and enthusiasm in getting out the vegan message to students.

March on Mall Anti-Fur Demo – Saturday, February 28th at 12:00 p.m. in Costa Mesa

OCPA helped bring awareness about the atrocities of the fur trade to shopping mall attendees on Saturday, February 28th at 12:00 p.m. for its March on the Mall to protest stores that sell fur.

Our anti-fur campaign returned to South Coast Plaza to remind the public and retailers that selling fur is unacceptable. We created our own t-shirts by writing various anti-fur slogans on organic cotton t-shirts that OCPA purchased. "Fur is Cruel" and "Fur is Torture" were written on many of the shirts. After we finished making our t-shirts, we walked as a large group throughout the mall stopping at stores such as Bloomingdales and several other stores, telling the managers how we felt about them selling fur and asking them to pass along our message to the company owners. Approximately 30 people attended this demonstration.

For more information about future demonstrations of this nature, contact Robyn at animalprotectionlb@yahoo.com.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, March 1st at 6:30 p.m. at That's Amore in Cerritos

On Sunday, March 1st, OCPA dined at the new Italian (mostly vegan), fully vegetarian restaurant, That's Amore, in Cerritos, for dinner at 6:30 p.m.

That's Amore, 13349 Artesia Blvd., Cerritos, CA 90703; phone: 562-926-2112; located off the 91 Freeway on Artesia Blvd. Take the Carminita Blvd. exit and head north about 1-1/2 miles to Artesia. Continue through the intersection of Carminita and Artesia and turn left into the Farmer's Market shopping center. That's Amore is on the right.

Foie Gras Demonstrations – March 7th and 13th

The Animal Protection and Rescue League and OCPA once again joined forces and held two recent anti-foie gras demonstrations in L.A. and Orange County.

On Saturday, March 7th, the groups met outside of the Sky Room located in Long Beach. Approximately 25 people showed up and the event was covered by one news station. And on Friday, March 13th, the groups met outside Laguna Beach's French 75 restaurant to help educate diners and local residents of the cruelty behind foie gras.

Visit the [OC Register article](#) for more information and photos covering the March 13th demonstration. And you can also call these restaurants and politely ask the owners to please remove the foie gras from their menu. The Sky Room, Long Beach; (562) 983-2703 and French 75, Laguna Beach, (949) 494-8444.

This link exposes the issue of foie gras: [<http://banfoiegras.com/page.php?module=photos&article_id=33>](http://banfoiegras.com/page.php?module=photos&article_id=33)

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming demonstrations at French 75, Pascals in Newport Beach, and Hush in Laguna Beach.

Walk/Vigil for Karley – Sunday, March 15th at 1:00 p.m. in Huntington Beach

On Sunday, March 15th, OCPA held a walk and a special vigil for Karley starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Huntington Beach Dog Beach.

Check [OCPA's myspace.com](#) page for further details on the ongoing *Justice 4 Karley* campaign.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

OCPA now has a new [Myspace.com page](#) (thanks to Tracey Turner). Check it often for the latest details on local OCPA demonstrations and other animal-related events.

Great American Meatout – Friday, March 20th at Various Locations

On (or around) March 20 — the first day of spring — thousands of caring people in all 50 U.S. states and two dozen other countries get active to host educational Meatout events. Activities include colorful festivals, lectures, public dinners, feed-ins, cooking demos, food samplings, leafleting, information tables and more.

The occasion is Meatout, the world's largest and oldest annual grassroots diet education campaign. **This year is the 25th annual observance!** Every spring, thousands of caring Meatout supporters educate their communities and ask their friends, families, and neighbors to pledge to "kick the meat habit (at least for a day) and explore a wholesome, compassionate diet of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains."

For more information on local events – or to register your own event and receive supplies – visit <http://www.meatout.org/>. Check out the following link about [meatout.org](http://www.meatout.org/)'s events on or around March 20th. (There are events to join in Newport, Orange, and Los Angeles; <http://www.meatout.org/events/mevents02.htm#CA>.)

Shelter Dog Blanket Making Potluck Party – Sunday, March 22nd in Buena Park

Come out and enjoy the first annual Sewing Blankets for Shelter Dogs Potluck Party, Sunday, March 22nd at 12:00 p.m., at the Blanca Luz Academy of Performing Arts, 7975 La Mesa Way, Buena Park, CA 90620. For more information, visit <http://www.meetup.com/Animal-Rights-Vegan-Avec-Mes-Amis/calendar/9805011/>.

Genesis Awards – Saturday, March 28th at 5:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills

Celebrating animals. Celebrating the media. The Genesis Awards is a star-studded ceremony attracting representatives from the news and entertainment media, social business and humane communities. The annual event honors those in the media who spotlight animal issues, and is taped to be aired at a later date as a national TV special.

The Genesis Awards will be held this year on Saturday, March 28th, at 5:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills. For more information, visit <http://www.humanesociety.org/genesisawards>.

Veggie/Vegan Luncheon/Dinner Club – Sunday, April 5th at 1:00 p.m. at The Secret Spot in Huntington Beach

On Sunday, April 5th, OCPA will meet and dine at the Secret Spot in Huntington Beach, at 1:00 p.m.

The Secret Spot, http://www.happycow.net/north_america/usa/california/huntington_beach/#12228, (vegetarian-friendly restaurant), 3801 Warner Avenue, Suite B, Huntington Beach, California 92649; phone 562-592-4494.

The Secret Spot is a non-vegetarian restaurant that has many vegan options like burritos and vegan pancakes. We are trying to get them to go toward a vegan menu by showing them that there are more and more of us vegans everyday who would like to see more vegan choices on their menu.

We meet every first Sunday of the month at a different vegetarian/vegan restaurant. Every few months we meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there! Everyone – vegetarian, vegan, or otherwise – is invited to join us for this vegan restaurant gathering. Email Julie if you'd like to carpool to this event: juliemeskell@cox.net. And stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

HSUS Animal Care Expo 2009 – April 6-9th at Bally's in Las Vegas

HSUS's Animal Care Expo 2009 will be held between April 6th and 9th at Bally's in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information about this event, visit: <http://www.animalsheltering.org/expo/>.

Orange County Pet Expo – April 17-19th

Come out and join the launch of the new Pet Homeshare program for dogs and cats at the Orange County Pet Expo, April 17th through 19th in Costa Mesa. For more information, visit <http://www.petexplooc.com/?gclid=CPXpucmXt5kCFRo-awodsAcW6g>.

World Week for Animals in Laboratories Events – April 16th – 25th at Various Locations

Join Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) and Last Chance for Animals (LCA) in their continuing efforts to expose the waste of taxpayer's money funding cruel animal experimentation in the UC system during World Week for Animals in Laboratories, April 16th through the 25th.

As the world falls into recession, we have an amazing opportunity to call into question the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on futile animal experiments. It is time for each and every one of us to do what we can to bring this controversial issue back into the public eye.

- **Benefit at the Whisky A Go Go in Los Angeles, Thursday, April 16th at 8:00 p.m.**
Hosted by VHI Ambre Lake, featuring Corey Feldman and the Truth Movement, Rikki Rocket of Poison, Faded and more
Tickets are \$10/person and available from the Whisky Box Office, 310-652-4202
- **Screening of Behind the Mask with Shannon Keith, Monday, April 20th**
TBC, talk with Michael Budkie of SAEN, UCLA Animal Law Society
- **UCLA/UCI Rally and Demonstration, Wednesday, April 22nd 10:30 a.m.**
UCLA, corner of Westwood and Le Conte (bus provided to transport participants to UCI for the afternoon demo and return to L.A.)

For more information on how you can get involved to help the animals during World Week for Animals in Laboratories, April 16th through 25th, visit <http://www.wwa2009.com>; email [saenlosangeles@yahoo.com](mailto:safenlosangeles@yahoo.com) or call LCA at 310-271-6096, ext. 27.

UCI Anti-Vivisection Demonstration – Wednesday, April 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

OCPA has been joining with UC Irvine students to protest the use of tens of thousands of animals that are being experimented on at the university in fraudulent and unreliable animal studies.

Please join us in a return trip to UC Irvine on April 22nd at 3:00 p.m. to continue to bring awareness about this important issue.

Refer to our website, <http://www.ocpausa.org> and our new [Myspace.com page](#) for updates on this event and others occurring during World Week for Animals.

Conference on Animals and Religion Featuring Karen Dawn – Friday, April 24th at 9:00 a.m. in Orange

Join animal advocates and others at the Conference on Animals and Religion, Friday, April 24th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Chapman University in Orange.

The conference will include an opening interreligious ceremony; keynote speaker, Jay McDaniel, prominent eco-theologian; workshops; exhibits; a bookstore with book signings; delicious vegan banquet with keynote speaker, Karen Dawn, author of *Thanking the Monkey: Rethinking the Way We Treat Animals*.

For more information, visit: <http://www.chapman.edu/chapel/animalconference/>.

OCPA Write-In – Saturday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine

OCPA will hold a write-in for the animals on Saturday, May 9th, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Irvine at the Goddess Temple of Orange County in Irvine, 17905 Sky Park Circle, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92614.

This fun event will feature a vegan potluck buffet, beverages, silent auction, speaker, raffle and offer pre-written letters available on a CD addressing approximately one dozen critical animal-related action items (covering local, national and international issues).

Save the date and look for more information in next month's newsletter and/or on OCPA's website at <http://ocpausa.org>.

Veggie Pride Parade – Sunday, May 17th at 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in NYC

The First Veggie Pride Parade in America took place in Greenwich Village, New York City, in May 2008. A repeat performance is scheduled for May 17, 2009.

Just as last year, the parade will launch in Manhattan's Olde Meat District (where 9th Ave., Gansevoort St., Greenwich St., and Little West 12th St. intersect) at 12 Noon. Line-up will begin at 11 a.m. and culminate in

Union Square Park (northern end) where a festival of music, speakers and exhibitors will take place. And again, just as last year, parade participants will wear costumes and carry sign boards announcing their pride in their vegetarian lifestyle. Local restaurants and veggie and veg-friendly groups will represent themselves with banners.

For more information about this event, visit: <http://www.veggieprideparade.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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