

OCPA E-Alert March 2006



In This OCPA E-Alert

Good News for the Animals

- Pier 1 Drops Feathers from Pillows
- UK Intends to Prohibit Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses
- Arizona Animal Activists Defeat Agribusiness Attempts
- Ohio State University Ends Chimp Research
- Canadian Retailer Goes Furless

Recent OCPA Activities

- Cat and Dog Fur Demonstrations – January 26th and February 12th
- Unitarian Church Outreach Event – February 26th
- Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade Leafletting – March 4th
- New Veg Lunch Pilot Program at Foothill High School in Tustin – Ongoing

Action Items

- Urge Congress to Support SB 1578, Dog Tethering Bill
- Tell Canada to Stop Seal Hunt and Alaska to Stop Aerial Wolf Hunt!
- Support Bill to Ban Rabbit Blood Sport

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

- Vegan Support Group Luncheon at New Wheel of Life in Huntington Beach – April 1st
- Meatout/Earth Day Event at Foothill High School in April – Volunteers Needed
- Compassion in Action Club in Newport Beach – Volunteers Needed

Good News for the Animals!

Pier 1 Drops Feathers from Pillows

Pier 1 announced a “strategic business decision” to no longer carry feather-filled pillows in the future and to carry only fiber-filled pillows. Our continued pressure on companies to stop exploiting animals for profit continues to produce results – and kudos to United Poultry Concerns and Viva!USA for this successful campaign.

UK Intends to Prohibit Wild Animals in Traveling Circuses

The British government recently announced its intention to prohibit the use of some species of wild animals in traveling circuses – namely elephants, bears, big cats and other species. These regulations are part of the UK's new Animal Welfare Bill, widely considered Britain's most significant piece of animal welfare legislation since the Protection of Animals Act was passed in 1911.

Arizona Animal Advocates Defeat Agribusiness Attempts

An industry attempt to undermine a citizens' ballot initiative in Arizona was defeated in committee, so the initiative that will prohibit inhumane factory farming practices moves forward.

Ohio State University Ends Chimp Research

Following the lead of other institutions, Ohio State University recently announced plans to close its chimpanzee research program. The university will relocate its chimpanzees to Primarily Primates, a sanctuary located in San Antonio, Texas.

Canadian Retailer Goes Furless

Joining other retail chains (such as J. Crew in the U.S.), Jacob and Bedo – a Canadian retailer – recently decided to go fur free. Visit <http://www.api4animals.org> for action alerts for their campaign to convince Tristan & America (a men and women's wear retailer selling rabbit fur) to also go furless.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Urge Congress to Support SB 1578, Dog Tethering Bill

OCPA is supporting SB 1578, a bill to ban dog chaining/tethering in California. This bill will prohibit a person from tethering, fastening, chaining, tying, or restraining a dog to a dog house, tree, fence, or other stationary object for an unreasonable period of time.

Please contact your senators and urge them to support this important piece of legislature. Remind them that not only is chaining dogs inhumane and unsafe for the animals, it can also create a public safety threat. Chained dogs can become aggressive due to intense confinement, lack of socialization, and the inability to escape from perceived threats. SB 1578 can help animal control representatives provide additional protection and prevention to citizens by reducing the number of dog bites and dog attacks in communities, as well as protect our canine companions from long-term neglect.

For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Tell Canada to Stop Seal Hunt and Alaska to Stop Aerial Wolf Hunt!

Despite ongoing activist efforts, the barbaric slaughters of seals and wolves continue in Canada and Alaska. So that means we need to increase our efforts until we persuade them to stop.

After a brief reprieve in January, Alaska's wolves are once again being targeted by gunners in airplanes. Wolves are chased – even mothers and babies – to the point of exhaustion and killed. This is a brutal and unnecessary slaughter of animals in the name of profit and to pacify local moose hunters. Visit <http://www.wolfcampaign.org> or <http://www.friendsofanimals.org> for additional information on the issue and how you can help put a stop to this hunt once and for all. There's also a campaign to boycott Alaskan travel at: <http://www.boycott-alaska.com>.

And then there's the annual seal "hunt" underway where 300,000 baby seals are bludgeoned to death in front of their mothers – all in the name of profit. If you haven't already, please get involved and join the collective campaign to put an end to this senseless slaughter. Please contact the following individuals and urge them to stop the 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 Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2, fax: 613-941-6900.

- The Embassy of Canada, 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2114, phone: 202-682-1740, fax: 202-682-7619.
- Fisheries of Oceans (Ottawa, Canada); phone: 613-993-0999.

For more information on this issue, to send action alerts and/or to join the Canadian seafood and other related boycotts, visit these sites:

http://www.hsus.org/protect_seals.html
<http://www.harpseals.org/>
<http://www.canadiansealhunt.com/>
http://www.seashepherd.org/seals/seals_seal_hunt_facts.html

Support Bill to Ban Rabbit Blood Sport

A bill to ban live open field coursing, AB 2110, is scheduled to be heard on March 28th. In open field coursing, packs of specially trained dogs are set loose in a field to chase and kill wild jackrabbits flushed out by spectators. This bill, if passed, would ban this cruel "sport" in California – one of the few states in America where this sport remains legal.

Please contact your Assemblyperson and ask them to support this important humane initiative, AB 2110 to ban open field coursing. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>. You can also participate in an online action alert by visiting: <http://ga0.org/indefenseofanimals/home.html>.

Recent OCPA Activities

Cat and Dog Fur Demonstrations – January 26th and February 12th

OCPA members joined other animal groups in Los Angeles for two recent demonstrations against China's cat and dog fur trade. These peaceful demonstrations drew hundreds of participants protesting the horrific and unspeakable treatment of dogs, cats and other wild species in China, the largest exporter of fur in the world where over two million dogs and cats are skinned alive every year.

Visit <http://www.furkills.org> for more information.

Unitarian Church Outreach Event – February 26th

The Unitarian Church of Anaheim held a service on Sunday, February 26th that was centered on the topic of veganism and world peace. Bob Linden, the vegan radio talk show host of Go Vegan with Bob Linden, www.Goveganradio.com (Sunday 1:30pm in LA on KTYM-AM 1460, Sunday 1:00pm San Diego KCEO-AM 1000), was the featured speaker.

OCPA members supplied delicious vegan lunch samples of soy turkey and soy salami sandwiches, and "anti-meat" pasta salad. Also on hand were veggie chili, baked tofu, soy ice cream sandwiches and other tasty dishes. The inspirational film, "Eating," was shown before Bob's talk. Afterwards, many declared they were ready to go vegan...

Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade Leafletting – March 4th

For the second year in a row, the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade board of directors has rejected an OCPA parade entry promoting a vegetable-based diet and kindness to animals. OCPA proposed a VeggieMobile for this year's entry; the parade board rejected us, claiming it was not "appropriate to the patriotic and family-community theme."

Nonetheless, volunteers met in Laguna Beach and distributed hundreds of brochures and Vegetarian Starter Kits promoting a veg*n lifestyle and compassion toward animals to parade spectators.

New Veg Lunch Pilot Program at Foothill High School in Tustin – Ongoing

OCPA has been working with the Tustin Unified School District to develop a vegetarian lunch pilot program at Foothill High School in Tustin. The school district food service director has responded to the needs of students who want healthier, compassionate food choices to be offered at lunchtime.

At least three vegetarian and one vegan entree will be offered daily. The Foothill Students for Animal Rights is supporting this effort by advertising and making colorful posters to draw the attention of all students. If the lunch program turns out to be a success (which we expect), the program will be expanded to other Orange County schools.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Vegan Support Group Luncheon at New Wheel of Life in Huntington Beach – April 1st

Since the Unitarian Church outreach event was such a great success (judged by the number of people who declared that they were ready to go vegan), OCPA has responded by starting a vegan support group. We will be visiting local vegan restaurants and going on shopping tours to natural food stores.

The first get-together luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 1st at 12:30 p.m. at new The Wheel of Life restaurant in Huntington Beach – 7251 Warner Avenue (at Goldenwest Street), Huntington Beach, CA 92647; phone: 714-375-9505.

Please join us on April 1st to support this new location – they really need our business because it's been slow...and stay tuned for upcoming e-alerts for information about more of these types of gatherings in the future.

Meatout/Earth Day Event at Foothill High School in April – Volunteers Needed

OCPA has been invited once again to join the Students for Animal Rights at Foothill High School in celebrating Earth Day this April.

We will serve soy tacos and other popular vegan goodies and will distribute OCPA's brochure (that illustrates all major animal issues) and *Why Vegan?* brochures.

We will be celebrating Earth Day during the third or fourth week of April, on a weekday between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., exact date TBA.

If you can help with food preparation or serving, please contact: Evelyn at (714) 846-7081 or Julie at (714) 544-9041, julie.meskel@ocpausa.org.

Compassion in Action Club in Newport Beach – Volunteers Needed

Compassion in Action (CIA) is starting a new club at Newport Harbor High School called "Compassion in Action." They are looking for speakers to come talk to the students. If you or someone you know would like to talk to high school students about veganism, please contact Karen Coyne at coynekaren@msn.com.

They invite you to take your lunch break and come listen to a talk or watch a video:

- 3/8/06, 12:15-1PM: Video, The True Cost of Food, <http://www.truecostoffood.org/>
- 3/15/06, 12:15-1PM: Kenneth Williams, Vegan Body builder, <http://www.veganmusclepower.com>
- 3/22/06, 12:15-1PM: Vegan luncheon, officer elections
- 3/29/06, 12:15-1PM: Author, "Plant Roots," Rex Bowlby, <http://www.plantrootsbook.com/contents-plantroots.html>
- 4/5/06, 12:15-1PM (tentative): Author, "Skinny Bitch," Rory Freedman

They are also looking for volunteers to help with this club and to borrow vegan-related videos. Compassion in Action (CIA) is a non-violent activist group whose goal is to organize fundraising events for the benefit of animals and to educate students and the public about the effects our daily diet has on all aspects of life, such as our health, the environment, and the welfare of animals.

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.

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