

## OCPA E-Alert 3-15-04



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## Good News for the Animals!

### ***New Jersey Reconsiders Black Bear Hunt for 2004***

Governor James McGreevey of New Jersey is apparently urging the Fish and Game Council NOT to hold another bear hunt in 2004. McGreevey received thousands of letters against the hunt last year – a volume of correspondence never before seen for any other issue. Your letters and calls DO make a difference for the animals!

### ***OC Jury Values Dog at \$30K in Vet Malpractice Suit***

In a precedent-setting verdict, an Orange County jury found Veterinarian Craig Bergstrom of All-Care Animal Referral Center guilty of veterinarian malpractice. For the first time, a court of law has awarded a guardian more than the "market value" of a companion animal. The plaintiff, Marc Bluestone, was awarded \$9,000 to reimburse the overpayment of vet bills – and \$30,000 for the unique value to him of his dog, Shane, who was misdiagnosed and overmedicated to the point of death.

## ***University of Virginia Ends Live Dog Labs***

The University of Virginia has joined the growing number of schools to permanently end the use of live dog labs. Letters from activists also helped stop a lab session scheduled in mid-February that would have resulted in the unnecessary and cruel deaths of 100 beagles.

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

### ***Oppose SB 1207; Protect Species from Commercial Exploitation***

Senator Hollingsworth introduced Senate Bill 1207, which would remove safeguards established for species such as kangaroos, tigers, leopards, polar bears and ocelots under California's list of protected species. Existing law protects these animals from being imported into the state for commercial purposes – to “possess with intent to sell the dead body or part or product thereof.” SB 1207 would require that these animals first be listed as *endangered* before receiving protection from commercial exploitation by gourmet food, fashion and sporting wear industries under California law. In other words, kill them to the brink of extinction *before* protecting them!

Please contact your senators and ask them to oppose SB 1207 and retain protections for these animals from commercial exploitation. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

### ***Ask County Commissioners to Close Pet 4 Pet “Rescue”***

Pet-4-Pet Rescue, based in Pennsylvania, operates as a rescue/sanctuary, but in reality is anything but a sanctuary for the dogs that end up there. The dogs live outside in filthy pens and often go without fresh food or water, suffer from fleas/ticks and life-threatening maladies, and often fight among themselves to the death.

Please write or call the county commissioner's office immediately, encouraging the three commissioners to close down this awful place and ensure the couple running it are not allowed to profit from future animal-related endeavors. Call 304-822-5112 or fax 304-822-4039.

### ***Support S. 1072 Aimed at Reducing Roadkill***

The surface transportation reauthorization bill, S. 1072, contains a provision that would reduce habitat fragmentation and wildlife/vehicle collisions. The provisions in the bill would require states to formally consider the need for wildlife crossing structures when improving or constructing highways. This provision is vital to not only save millions of animals from losing their lives while crossing highways for food or mates, but to also increase public safety.

Please contact your U.S. Representative and ask him/her to ask the Transportation Committee Chairman, Don Young, and ranking Democrat, James Oberstar, to include the wildlife crossing provisions approved by the Senate in the Committee's transportation bill. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

## **Recent OCPA Activities**

### ***Laguna Beach 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriots Day Parade***

What a beautiful day we had in Laguna for this great event! Approximately 30 activists joined OCPA for the parade entry, “*Friends of Animals and the Earth*.” The classic 1931 Ford AA stake truck, graciously provided (and driven) by Bob Penney, was adorned with streamers, flags and pro-animal/pro-veg\*n posters and messages. Volunteers also carried signs and distributed literature to the receptive crowd –

and next year, we'll triple or quadruple the amount of brochures on hand for this event so we don't run out...

### ***KFC Demonstration***

Following the Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade, OCPA joined volunteers from Action for Animals, ADL-LA and Peta2, and distributed literature to parade goers and pedestrians outside KFC on PCH in Laguna Beach. Action for Animals and PETA are conducting an ongoing campaign to bring awareness about the extremely cruel practices of KFC in the "processing" of their birds for food. Action for Animals meets regularly on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. at this KFC location in Laguna Beach. E-mail Timmy to check scheduled dates for this and other AR events: [visionliberation@aol.com](mailto:visionliberation@aol.com).

### ***OCPA 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting and Volunteer Drive***

OCPA had a good turnout at the rustic Irvine Ranch Water District's Duck Clubhouse in Irvine for the first quarterly meeting and volunteer drive of the year. The vegan spread was delicious and everyone enjoyed listening to the emcee, Bob Linden of Go Vegan (<http://www.GoVeganRadio.com>). Thank you to Bob and everyone who attended for making the evening a success. Check the OCPA website at <http://ocpaua.org> soon for a schedule of upcoming tabling/leafleting events and volunteer information.

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

### ***Dr. Michael Greger Speech – Whittier Law School – Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>***

The ALDF at Whittier Law School is hosting Dr. Michel Greger, a physician and internationally recognized speaker on a number of important public health and social justice issues, this Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Greger will address "*Corporate Globalization: Trading Away Our Rights to Protect Animals*," and share his research about how global trade agreements and institutions such as GATT, NAFTA and the WTO have affected animals.

Whittier Law School is located at 3333 N. Harbor Blvd. in Costa Mesa (right off the Harbor exit on I-405). A light dinner will be provided and parking is free. The event is free and donations to the student chapter of ALDF are always welcome. For more information and to RSVP, please e-mail: [whittier\\_nlg@hotmail.com](mailto:whittier_nlg@hotmail.com).

### ***Great American Meat-Out – Orange High School – Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>***

The annual Great American Meat-Out is officially on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and the FARM website lists registered events and other Meat-Out information at: <http://www.meatout.org/>.

OCPA is serving a free vegan lunch at Orange High School on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 a.m. Volunteers should arrive by 10:30 to help set up the food and literature. If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please contact Julie Meskell at [julie.meskill@ocpaua.org](mailto:julie.meskill@ocpaua.org) for more details.

### ***Peaceable Kingdom Move Premiere – Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>***

Join LCA and other animal rights activists and celebrities at the West Coast premiere of *Peaceable Kingdom* at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

*Peaceable Kingdom* is the second film from producer James LaVeck and director Jenny Stein; their first acclaimed documentary, *The Witness*, screened at 25 film festivals worldwide. Weaving together themes of respect, forgiveness, commitment and healing, *Peaceable Kingdom* offers a vision of a more peaceful world that is well within our reach.

Order tickets at [www.tribeofheart.org](http://www.tribeofheart.org) or 1-888-GET TKTS - \$15.00 for general seating, \$10.00 for groups of five or more, or \$75.00 for premium seats. The Writers Guild Theater is located at 135 S. Doheny Drive in Beverly Hills.

### ***The Genesis Awards – Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>***

This annual event is the Academy Awards of animal rights held on Saturday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. Don't miss this amazing evening of movie stars and inspirational stories that will make you proud to be one with the animal rights movement. Sit with your friends and colleagues at the OCPA table for \$250.00. Book now by sending your check today to OCPA, 18032-C Lemon Drive, Suite 623, Yorba Linda, CA 92886, as there are limited seats available at the reserved table. You can also purchase tickets on your own for other seating through the HSUS, Hollywood Office (formerly the Ark Trust); contact Leigh at 818-501-2275 or visit the website at: <http://www.hsusHollywood.org>. See you there!

### ***OCPA's Board Member Fight Against False Arrest – Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>***

Please come to Julie Meskell's *third* hearing to show your support for Julie and free speech. Your presence will also make a bold statement in opposition to the cruelty of the rodeo and the suppression of First Amendment rights of activists.

When: 8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 1st; Where: Division 7, West Covina Superior Court, 1427 West Covina Parkway, off the 10 Freeway, several miles west of the 57 Freeway.

In the mean time, please write to the new DA in this case, Ms. Joan Chrostek, and urge her to drop the charges against Julie Meskell – who was only exercising her right to free speech by peacefully distributing literature at the annual Industry Hills rodeo last fall. Contact Ms. Chrostek at [Jchrostek@DA.co.la.ca.us](mailto:Jchrostek@DA.co.la.ca.us); phone 626-813-3301; fax 626-814-9001. Refer to the sample letter at the end of this e-alert for key points to mention and the DA's mailing address.

### ***UCI's Earth Day Celebration – Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>***

OCPA has been invited to participate in UCI's annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. We're looking for volunteers to work in shifts throughout the day, so if you're available and would like to volunteer for this fun event, please contact Julie at [julie.meskell@ocpausa.org](mailto:julie.meskell@ocpausa.org). Check the OCPA website soon at <http://ocpausa.org/events.htm> for additional information.

## **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>.

To subscribe to this list, e-mail [subscription@ocpausa.org](mailto:subscription@ocpausa.org) with the word "ADD" in the subject line. To unsubscribe, reply to this message with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line.

**Sample letter to West Covina District Attorney:**

Ms. Joan Chrostek  
District Attorney  
West Covina Superior Court  
1427 West Covina Parkway  
West Covina, CA 91790

Dear Ms. Chrostek,

I am writing to urge you to drop all charges against Julie Meskell, the Orange County resident who was wrongfully arrested at the Industry Hills Rodeo on October 10, 2003. What was done to Ms. Meskell at the hands of L.A. County Sheriff's officers and the rodeo interests was pure harassment intended to chill free speech, oppress her peaceful protest and discourage her and other concerned citizens from lawful dissent in the future.

This rodeo is infamous for its attempts to stifle the exercise of free speech. I ask that you look into this rodeo's past and you will clearly see a history of intimidation used against those who come to lawfully demonstrate. There are protests at virtually every other rodeo in the region and people are not hassled and harangued the way they are at the City of Industry.

Prosecuting Julie Meskell wastes the taxpayers' money and tears the fabric of our state and federal constitutions. Instead of this misuse of funds, why doesn't the L.A. County Sheriff's enforce animal anti-cruelty laws? Why does the City ignore the State of California's Humane Education Code by bussing children to an event that teaches them that violence and animal cruelty are acceptable?

Please dismiss these false and harassing charges brought against a decent, law-abiding citizen. There has not only been a great injustice done to an innocent, caring mother, but also to the rights guaranteed to every person by the blood of the people who fought for our rights.

Sincerely,