

OCPA E-Alert April 2005



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- Friday, April 29th – OCPA EarthDay/Meatout Event at Foothill High School

Good News for the Animals!

Bill Passes to Make Computer-Assisted Hunting Illegal in California

The bill to make computer-assisted hunting illegal in California and prohibit the importation of animals killed remotely recently passed the Senate. SB 1028 was supported by both animal advocates and sport hunters (who objected to giving computer users the ability to shoot real live animals with a simple mouse click). The National Rifle Association (NRA) and other pro-hunting organizations oppose Internet hunting because it violates the ideals of fair chase and sportsmanship. Opponents are also working with Congress to introduce a similar bill at the federal level.

PETCO Agrees to End Sale of Large Birds

PETCO has finally agreed to end the sale of all large birds including parrots and cockatoos (who can live longer than 50 years) and make some changes to benefit rats and mice, including separating the animals by gender to prevent breeding. Hopefully, other retailers across the country will follow suit.

Foie Gras Ban Passes Illinois Senate

Legislation in Illinois to ban the cruel force-feeding of birds for foie gras unanimously passed the state Senate. SB 413 will now move to the House and hopefully pass there also.

Geese/Duck Force Feeding Illegal in Israel

The Israeli Supreme Court ruled on August 2003 that the force-feeding of geese and ducks is in violation of the Animal Welfare Act, and that the regulations that had allowed this practice were invalid. The court allowed an extension of 1-1/2 years – and recently rejected a request by the Ministry of Agriculture to extend the delay by an additional year. Israel is the world's fourth largest producer of foie gras, and most of its production is designated for export to the European Union and Japan.

AB 418, CA Bill to Ban Dog Ear Cropping Approved

The California bill to ban ear cropping of dogs, AB 418, was approved by the Assembly Committee earlier this month. Approximately 30 animal advocates – including several veterinarians, veterinary students from UC Davis and Western University of Health Services – representatives of several animal organizations and dog rescuers turned out to support the bill. The opposition was represented by a smaller group (approximately 15 individuals) of dog breeders.

Dog Abuser Sentenced to Five Years in Prison

Last Chance for Animals' Most Wanted, Thomas Spencer, was sentenced to 20 years – five of which are to be served in prison – for the beating of a four-month old puppy. Spencer must also undergo psychiatric treatment, maintain his drug therapy, and refrain from ownership of any animals for the length of his sentence.

Action Items – Your Letters/Calls Needed

Immediate: Support AB 1587 to Stop Inhumane Killing Methods for Farm Animals

We apologize for the late notice on this important action item. Under current law, unconscionable killing methods for farmed animals – such as burning, grinding and drowning – are not explicitly illegal in California. This has resulted in excruciating deaths for countless animals. For example, in 2003, approximately 30,000 hens in San Diego County were thrown into a wood chipper in a cruel attempt to kill them. It is also standard egg industry practice to kill unwanted chicks from hatcheries by grinding them up or suffocating them while they are still conscious.

California State Assembly Member, Lori Saldana, has introduced a compassionate measure, AB 1587, which will prevent a tremendous amount of suffering by prohibiting the killing of farmed animals by burning, drowning, suffocating, grinding, burying or freezing. Naturally, the California Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, California Egg and Poultry Association, and California Poultry Federation believe it is inappropriate to outlaw any method of killing animals and are lobbying the Assembly Committee on Agriculture to oppose the bill.

If you haven't done so already, please contact the following IMMEDIATELY to express your support for AB 1587:

- The Honorable Lori Saldana, California State Assembly, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-319-2176 (fax);
- Teri Barnato 530-219-7192
- lauren Ornelas 530-759-8482
- Kim Sturla 707-449-4814

Support HR 1329, The Captive Primate Safety Act

This bill will prohibit monkeys, marmosets, lemurs, chimpanzees, orangutans and other nonhuman primates from being shipped across state lines for the pet trade. No matter how cute, friendly and human-like they may seem, nonhuman primates are wild animals and behave unpredictably, as exhibited in the recent mauling of a California man by two chimpanzees at a sanctuary. These animals do not make suitable pets; however, there are an estimated 15,000 nonhuman primates living in domestic situations across the U.S.

Please contact your U.S. Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor HR 1329. Remind them that chimps, monkeys and other nonhuman primates belong in the wild, not in people's homes. For legislator contact information, visit the OCPA website at: <http://ocpausa.org/legislation>.

Help Pass a Pro-Endangered Species Act Resolution in Your Community

Due to the extraordinary political threats to the Endangered Species Act recently, we need to show broad public support across the country for the Act and for our nation's environmental laws. One of the ways to demonstrate this support is to introduce and pass pro- Endangered Species Act resolutions in city councils, county commissions and state legislatures. These resolutions will show that concerned citizens, communities and local governments across the country support the Endangered Species Act and strong protections for endangered species, their habitats, and the environment as a whole. They can be a striking juxtaposition to attempts by Congress and the Bush administration to weaken the ESA.

As you may be aware, the Endangered Species Act and our other environmental laws are under threat from developers and the politicians they give money to. In fact, some members of Congress have announced that one of their top priorities for this session is weakening the Endangered Species Act. They have already introduced one bad bill, the misleadingly named "The Critical Habitat Enhancement Act," sponsored by Rep. Dennis Cardoza. This bill would weaken critical habitat protections for endangered species and make any endangered species habitat protection discretionary rather than mandatory. This bill ignores both science and common sense. We know that one of the best ways to help imperiled species to recover is to protect their habitats: the places they live, depend on for food and shelter, and raise their young.

OCPA invites you to join us and other groups to help pass a pro- Endangered Species Act resolution in your city, county or state. Stop Extinction will work with conservation organizations, native plant societies, scientific associations, religious organizations, hunting and fishing associations, hiking clubs, student groups and community centers to pass resolutions. In addition, a number of national organizations, including the Endangered Species Coalition, the Native Plant Conservation Campaign, the Center for Biological Diversity and Earthjustice are supporting this effort.

For information on these pro-ESA local resolutions, please visit the ESA Local Resolutions Action Center at <http://www.stopextinction.org/Team/TeamList.cfm?c=38>. There you can find materials to help citizens and organizations pass Endangered Species Act resolutions. If you decide to move forward with a resolution in your community, please contact Stop Extinction so that they can put you in touch with others in your area interested in working on a resolution.

Recent OCPA Activities

March 31st – April 5th – Anti-Vivisection Protest in San Diego

OCPA members supported SDAA in a huge vivisection protest of the International Congress of Physiological Sciences at the San Diego Convention Center on Sunday, April 3rd.

The theme of the protest was "Mad Scientists." Demonstrators adorned monster masks and wore lab coats covered with fake blood. The weekend of action concluded on Monday with a press conference with Michael Budkie with Stop Animal Exploitation Now.

Congratulations to SDAA for putting on a well-organized and peaceful protest!

Sunday, April 17th – Annual Worldfest in Van Nuys

The annual Worldfest was held on Sunday, April 17th at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. Attendees enjoyed live music, ethnic and vegetarian foods, celebrity guests, empowering speakers, kid's activities, hundreds of exhibits with non-profits and planet-friendly vendors, and animal adoptions.

OCPA was an exhibitor there and distributed literature and spoke to many table visitors about the plight of animals in our society. We look forward to next year's event and hope to see those of you who couldn't make it out for this pro-environment, progressive and veg*n-promoting event.

Upcoming Events – OCPA and Other

Friday, April 22nd – Newport Beach Film Festival, Peaceable Kingdom Screening/OCPA Presentation

Join OCPA, Tribe of Heart and other animal rights advocates for the screening of "Peaceable Kingdom" on Friday, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at the Newport Beach Film Festival, followed by a brief overview of OCPA presented by Dr. Alison Stanley, one of OCPA's board of directors:

Edwards Island 6 (inside the Fashion Island mall)
999 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA
Website: <http://www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com>

About the Newport Beach Film Festival:

Set in beautiful Newport Beach, California, a few blocks away from spectacular coastline and less than an hour South of Los Angeles, The Newport Beach Film Festival is proud to treat its audience to World and U.S. premieres, Academy Award entries, Sundance Selections, a Spotlight Series, and Children's Festival, from both the independent and studio worlds.

About Peaceable Kingdom:

This documentary presents riveting stories of people struggling with their conscience around some of our society's most fundamental assumptions. An inspiring story of personal redemption, compassion, healing and hope, Peaceable Kingdom is described by many of its viewers as "a life changing experience." For more information about the film, visit: <http://www.tribeofheart.org/pk.htm>.

Saturday, April 23rd – Earth Day for the Animals with Bob Linden/Go Vegan in San Diego

Check out "Earth Day for the Animals – It's Their Planet Too," on Saturday, April 23rd, 1:00 p.m. – midnight at Kung Food Restaurant 2949 5th Ave, San Diego. This fun event will feature two of San Diego's most exciting and popular reggae bands - SHOCK THE MIGHTY and IRIESIDE> with a special menu of earth-grown, earth-saving, life-saving global vegan favorites. Organic wine and beer will also be available. Enjoy a complimentary Whole Soy Smoothie and sample their new Soy Spread.

Please invite all your "meat-eating environmentalist" friends to enjoy this spectacular outdoor event where the theme is "being kind to animals (and not eating them) is the kindest thing we can do for Mother Earth!"

Cost: \$20 admission at the door includes music and food, video presentations and speakers - hosted by Bob Linden, a benefit for GO VEGAN RADIO. If you will be attending, please rsvp to Bob@GoVeganRadio.com so that he can estimate the amount of food to prepare.

OCPA will also have a table at this event and arrange a carpool to San Diego; please contact Evelyn to volunteer for tabling and/or the carpool at 714-846-7081.

Friday, April 29th - OCPA Earth Day/Meatout Event at Foothill High School

Our annual Earth Day and Great American Meatout outreach activities will be held next Friday, April 29th, at Foothill High School. We will provide a vegan lunch, literature, video presentation and other interaction with students to help them consider more compassionate, animal and earth-friendly choices in their daily diet and other areas of their lives.

Stay tuned for other upcoming events including the Sacred Animal Altar workshop led by Ava Park on Saturday, May 28th in Irvine. Check the OCPA website throughout the month for additional information on this and other local activities and events: <http://www.ocpausa.org/events.htm>.

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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